



INTERIM REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

March 2016



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The funding from the International Elephant Foundation to the Northern Rangeland Trust's anti-poaching efforts since 2011 has played an enormous role in drastically reducing poaching of elephants in the conservancies that are found in northern and southern regions of northern Kenya's landscape. NRT recorded a proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) of 38% in 2015 compared to 81% recorded in 2011, representing a marked reduction of 43% for the five(5) year period. This has been achieved through the efforts of our well trained, dedicated and equipped 9-1/9-2 anti-poaching teams, who work day and night to ensure that our elephants are protected and reduction in the cases of road banditry and livestock thefts that is rampant in the northern region. The first three months of 2016 was characterized by few reported elephant deaths across the NRT conservancies with a total of 17 (seventeen) elephants carcasses.

Specialized training of the anti-poaching teams in weapons handling, combat operations and advanced first aid conducted early in the year ensured the teams were well prepared for a broad range of incidents. NRT is also rolling out a jigsaw system (VHF radio communication network) that will allow recording and sharing of poaching and security incidents across all the 33 conservancies with law enforcement agencies through KWS. The system is crucial in recording and providing relevant information and data on potential poaching hotspots for effective deployment of the anti-poaching teams in close collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Engagement with respective community conservancies also played a great role in arrest and recovery of illegal firearms and trophies. Technical support from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (KWS) in the form of reinforcements, sniffer dogs and aircraft enhanced the effectiveness of the teams' response to poaching incidents.

Northern Rangelands Trust hereby appreciates the contribution from the International Elephant Foundation towards safety and protection of wildlife in our landscape.



2. CONSERVATION NEEDS

The conservation area in the north and south of Ewaso System is approximately 14,900 square kilometers. The region is known to host the second highest number of elephants in Kenya on one hand but also known for rampant cases of elephant poaching on the other. This trend has negative impact on security of wildlife, people and delayed development in the region.

Since the establishment of the 9-1/9-2 anti-poaching teams, the support by IEF in terms of salaries, rations and operational expenses has been instrumental in the team's effort to effectively respond to poaching incidents. Over a five(5) year period, NRT has recorded a 43% reduction in the number of cases of elephant poaching; from a PIKE of 81% recorded in 2011 to 38% in 2015. This has been attributed to close working relationship with Kenya Wildlife Service and conservancies in sharing and coordinating anti-poaching operations in the region. The anti-poaching operations has not only led to more effective protection of wildlife, but also plays a great role in ensuring peace and prosperous livelihoods for the communities living within NRT's landscape in northern Kenya

3. SUMMARY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 GOAL

To improve security for the wildlife and people residing in northern Kenya.

3.2 OBJECTIVE

To reduce elephant poaching, road banditry and livestock theft in northern Kenya's Ewaso Nyiro Ecosystem.

3.3 OUTCOMES/ OUTPUT

- Reduced elephant poaching as per the PIKE data.
- Reduced incidences of road banditry and cattle rustling
- Improved security of wildlife and people through effective collaboration with KWS and community conservancies.

3.4 ACTIVITIES

- Support to anti-poaching teams' salaries, rations and insurance cover
- Support to anti-poaching teams' operational allowances
- Support to motor vehicle running expenses (fuel and maintenance)
- Specialized training of anti-poaching teams



4. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Significant strides have continued to be made in the anti-poaching efforts, curbing of cattle rustling and road banditry as follows:

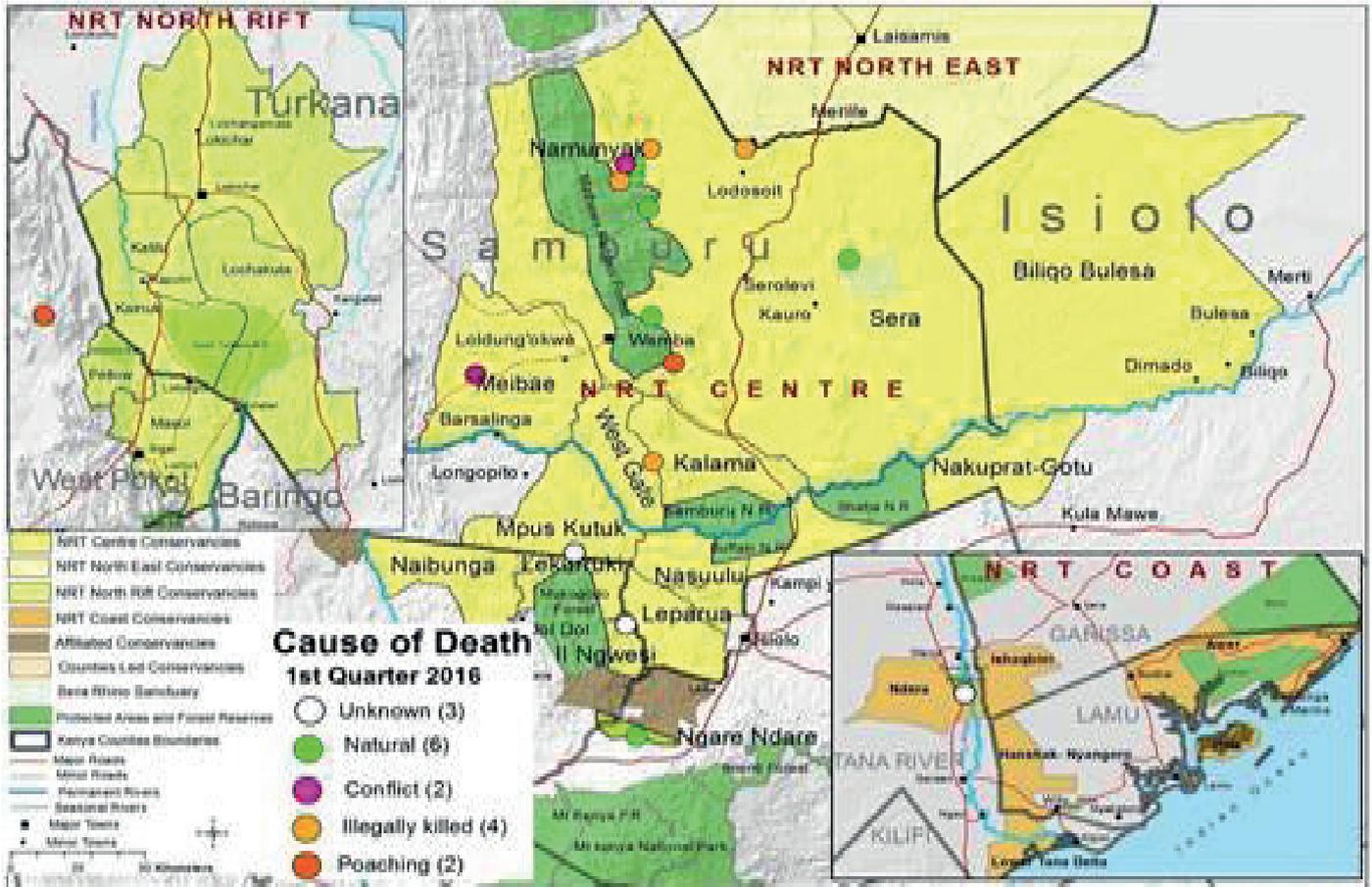
4.1 ELEPHANT MORTALITY

In 2015, NRT recorded 38% proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) from a total of 103 elephant mortality cases recorded based on the harmonized elephant mortality data consolidated through a participatory verification process lead by Kenya Wildlife Service and partners. However, in first quarter of 2016, a PIKE of 36% was recorded for the period Jan – March 2016.

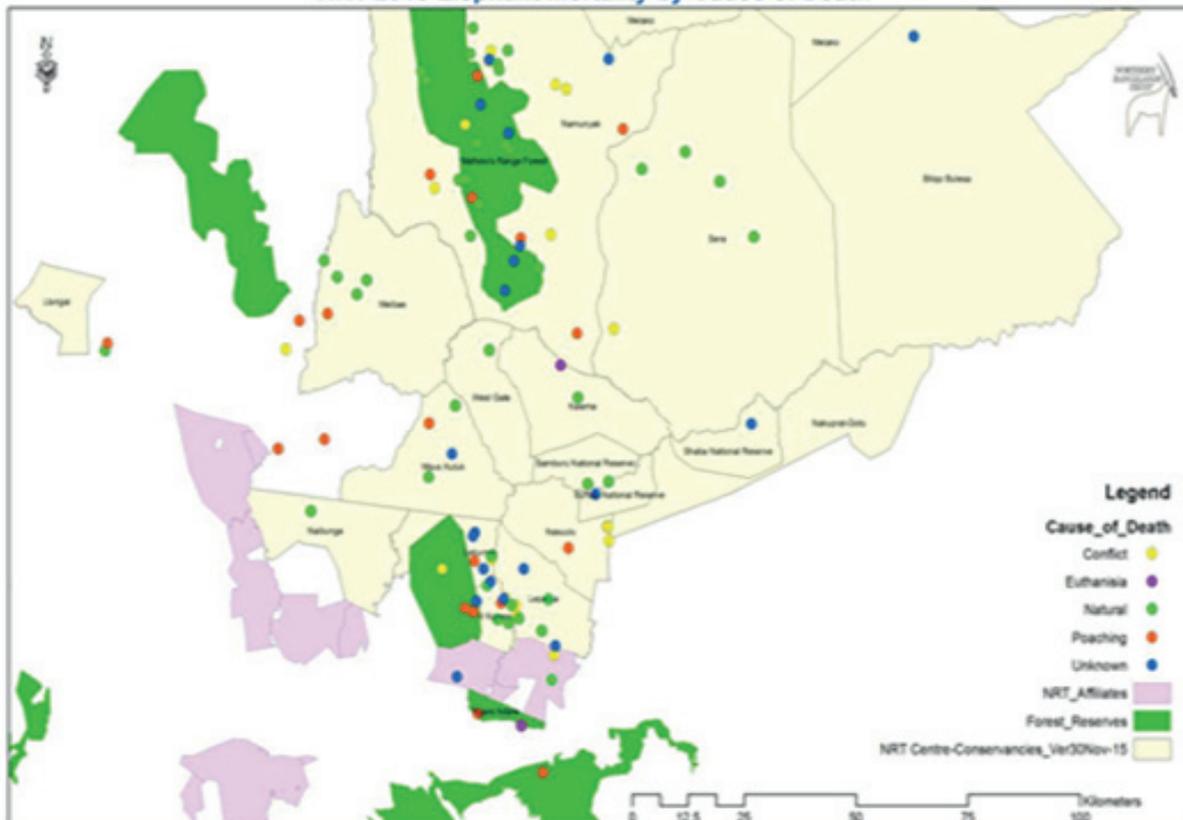
The use of Lewa's Mozaic Monitoring System and NRT's Wildlife-Conservancy Management Monitoring System (Wildlife-CoMMS) continue to allow the mapping of existing and emerging poaching hotspots and plan for the requisite patrol intensity. NRT continues to use GPS-GSM based implants to monitor and track movements of rhinos and elephants along the Ewaso ecosystem. Positions of tracked elephants and rhinos are relayed to ranger commanders to provide a guide to the wider distribution of herds and high-risk individuals. Immobility and unusual movement sends alarm GPS coordinates to a Centralized Communication Centre to facilitate rapid responses to potential poaching incidents. Additionally, a satellite tracking system is used to illustrate area of coverage of anti-poaching teams within the landscape.



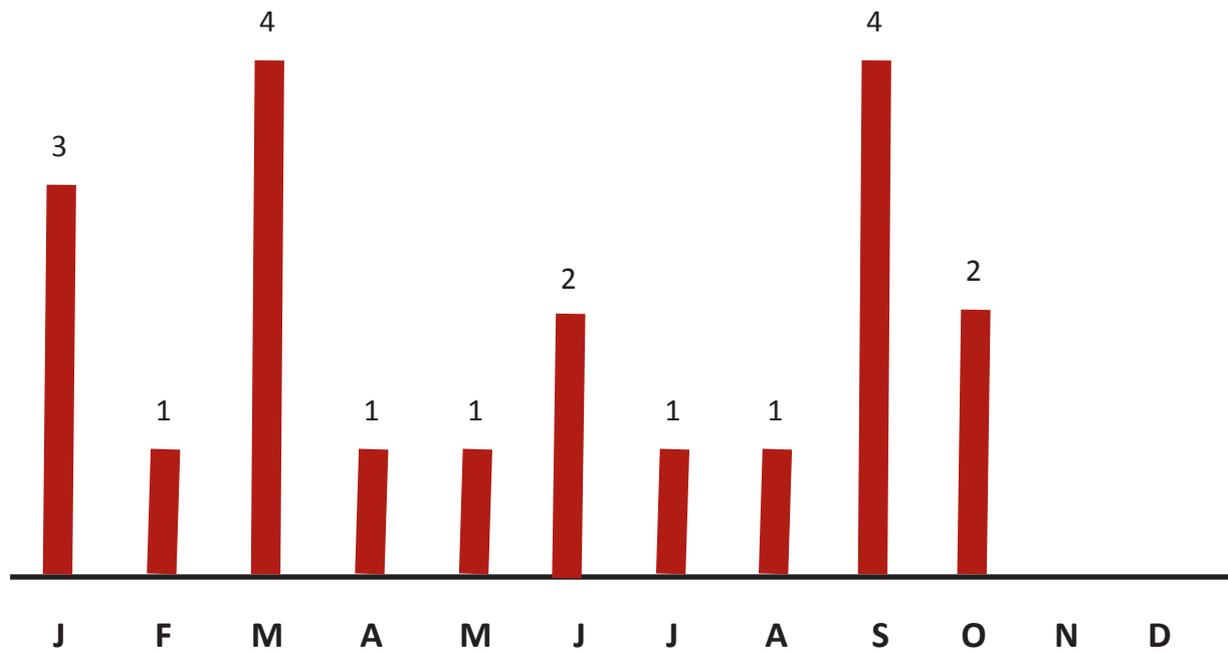
Summary Map - 1st Quarter - January to March 2016 on Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants



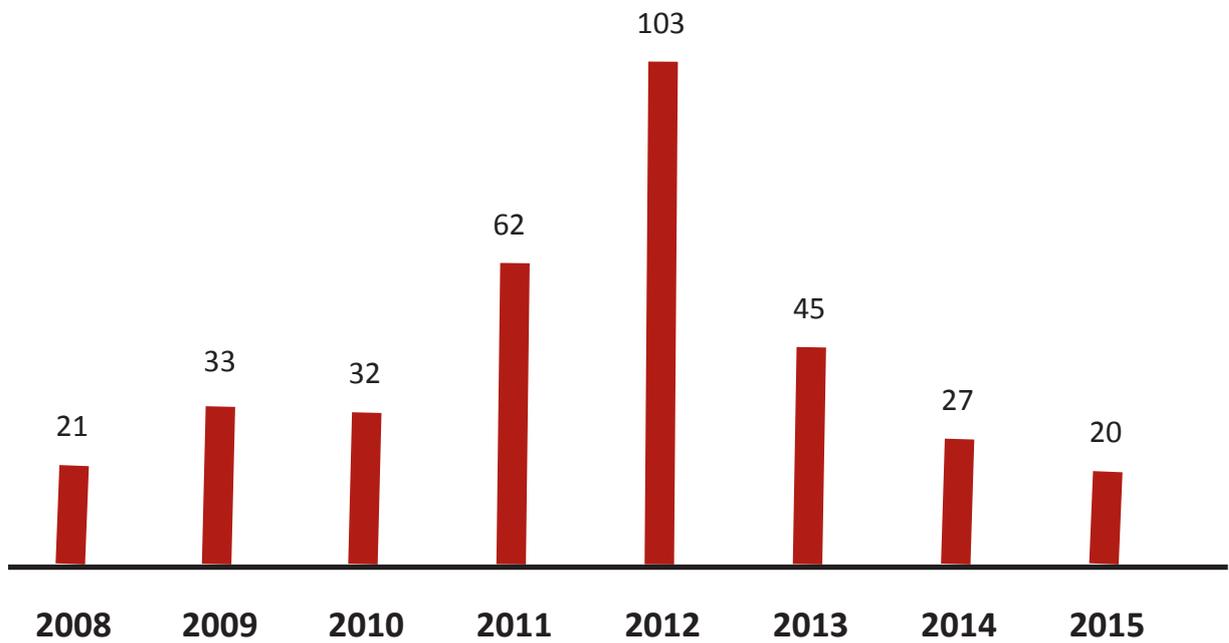
NRT 2015 Elephant Mortality by Cause of Death



Graph on Poaching mortality per month 2015



Graph on Total number of poached elephants reported by NRT Conservancies 2008 to 2015



4.2 DEPLOYMENTS, RECOVERIES AND ARRESTS

- The anti-poaching teams have been constantly carrying regular deployment in the areas prone to poaching and also partakes follow up and arrests of poaching cases with KWS. Recoveries during the period included 5 ivory and 3 firearms.
- Proactive engagement with KWS and community conservancies in gathering and sharing of intelligence on poaching led to arrest of 3 poaching suspects who were then availed to the law enforcement agencies for prosecution.
- Sniffer dog unit acquired in collaboration with Lewa has been instrumental in tracking and apprehending poaching suspects.
- Aerial support has been instrumental in providing back up that is required by the anti-poaching team in surveillance during anti-poaching and insecurity response operations. NRT's aircraft, 5Y-NRT is used in aerial support and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy deployed its helicopter upon request by NRT.
- Refresher course undertaken by the anti-poaching team to impart knowledge and skills on ambush, anti-vehicle ambush, and counter-terrorism training, have been effective in their within the northern Kenya landscape.



5. CONSERVATION OUTCOME

- Reduced poaching of elephants in the region as a result of effectiveness in security patrols and rapid operational response from the specialized anti-poaching teams
- Increased community awareness on wildlife conservation within and around Ewaso Nyiro ecosystem
- Improved intelligence gathering and information sharing on poachers and criminals by the community conservancies, KWS and the Kenya Police.
- Enhanced working relationship between the rapid response teams and government agencies; Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kenya Police Service.

6. MAJOR FINDINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The greatest achievement is the continuous reduction of elephant poaching in the northern area since 2012 when poaching was standing at 81%,2013 it stood at 59%,2014 was 46%,2015 it was 38%and our late standing since October 2015 to March 2016 is 36.8 % following this trend it shows that poaching has decreased by an average of 43 % in 5 years.
- Having successful training of our 9-1and 9-2 anti-poaching team .The training was able to equip our rangers with skills on how to handle their operations .with this training our rangers have been able to carry out an effective patrol pertaining poaching, road banditry, weapon handling and recovery of livestock.
- The recent introduction of Black Rhino into Sera Conservancy has helped to establish Sera as a security hub providing improved security for all wildlife across the region. By protecting wildlife the

Community conservancies are providing improved security for people allowing new commercial interest's to flourish. Elephant initially and now rhino have been the catalyst to allow this sequence of events to occur.

- On 11th March 2016 a female black rhino in Sera Community Rhino Sanctuary, Kenya, gave birth to a healthy calf, and made history. This is the first black rhino to be born on community land in northern Kenya for over 25 years, and demonstrates the strength of the growing community conservation movement.
- Thorough engagements of the communities in awareness creation on wildlife security, volunteer-intelligence gathering and information sharing on poachers and criminals with the community

conservancies, KWS and the Kenya Police has been contributory in combating elephant poaching and containing cattle rustling and road banditry incidents within the landscape.

- Effective deployment of rapid responses to potential poaching incidences has been enhanced by use of GSM – GPS technology in monitoring and tracking movement of elephants in the Ewaso ecosystem.
- Community policing initiative not only empowers the communities but also ensures their own security and the wildlife as an economic asset for transforming lives by enhancing their livelihoods through tourism ventures and source of employment for the locals.



7. EXPENDITURE REPORT

1ST MARCH 2015 – 28TH FEBRUARY

Incomes		Amount (USD)
Receipt - 7th July 2015		10,000.00
Receipt - 9th December 2015		10,000.00
	Total Incomes	20,000.00
Expenses		
Operations		14,773.40
Rations		5,174.49
Uniforms		603.05
	Total Expenditure	20,550.94
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(550.94)