



## Ithumba Team

### De-Snaring Report for April, 2011

#### Participants

Lemanten    Labarakwe  
Noah        Lesimirdana  
James       Lodungokiyok  
Stephen     Musau  
Patrick     Mutuku

#### Areas Patrolled

Ithumba Hill  
Kalovoto  
Kasaala fenceline  
Kyaе Rock  
Kyamanyenze  
Lagga Kungu  
Macho Kombo  
Mathae  
Power Line  
Tundani  
Umbi  
Umma Umma

#### Arrests

2 Arrest(s) this month

#### Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Shooting Platform , Fresh Hideout	1	Power Line	50.00%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Medium Game	1	Power Line	33.33%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Medium Game	1	Kyaе Rock	33.33%	Commercial	No



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#### Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Poaching , Arrowing	1	Umauma	33.33%	Commercial	Yes
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Hideout	1	Power Line	100.00%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Umauma	4.35%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Tundani	4.35%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Macho Kombo	4.35%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Lagga Kungu	4.35%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Kyamanyenze	4.35%		No

\* 'Percentage' indicates the overall percentage occurrence (encountered by all de-snaring teams) of that particular illegal activity during the selected month.

#### Snares Collected

Snare Type	Snare Size	Snare Description	No. Confiscated
Thin Wire	Small		54
Medium Wire	Medium		2
Cable	Large		4

**Total Snares Collected: 60**

#### Monthly Summary



## **Ithumba Team**

### **De-Snaring Report for April, 2011**

#### **Monthly Summary**

The team began its patrols on the 8th of April after reporting back from annual leave. However in the month of March the team came back in the first week to accompany filming crew which was at Ithumba. During this week the Team found that the shooting hideouts at the power line waterholes had been put back. The Team destroyed the all. The KWS Unit at Mutha area was informed of a poacher with bush meat. They informed the Team and a joint operation was carried out which resulted in the capture and arrest of the poacher with 35kgs of bush-pig and a cheetah skin. He was booked at Mutomo police station.

The poachers prefer this area because the water holes stay with water for long, drawing in more game. The poachers are trying out various tactics to pretend that they have moved out only to do a u-turn and come back. The Team managed to trace footprints of four poachers for four days moving along the power-line/Tundani area. At long last on 21/4/2011, the Team managed to arrest 2 notorious elephant poachers, sadly 2 more who were in their gang escaped narrowly. They were in possession of 18 poisoned arrows, 4 bows, 3 axes, 3 knives plus other personal belongings. After interrogating them, they informed the Team that there are many poacher groups criss-crossing the area interested in poaching elephants. They were booked at Mutomo police station. The Team spoke to the area chief to assist in apprehending the two escapees and hand over them to us when they show up in the villages.

The poaching trends have changed in the Northern are of Tsavo. The level of snaring has gone down, due to the fact that the poachers are putting snares, wait for the catch and later remove the snares and go home with them. This is to avoid them being lifted by the Team. The poachers find it harder to continue poaching when they have to acquire new snares, and hence don't tend to leave them for too long and risk loosing them to the Team. Most of the footprints seen were heading to the water holes where the poachers are after the big game especially elephants. Hence most of the patrols covered mainly the major water points.

The Team re-dominated these water holes this month, after being a away on leave. The intelligence information gathered, some of the poachers were seen in the villages in moving hastily after escaping from the park.

The meeting which had been postponed many times between the community, KWS, Provincial administration and The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was held on 24/3/2011. The meeting was to deliberate on the issue of the stealing of Solar panels from a borehole near Ithumba airstrip. The local District Commissioner sent the area District Officer. The Sheldrick Trust was represented by Benjamin [Ithumba Stockade Manager] because the Ithumba team was on its annual leave. The community declared that they will hand over the five poachers from the villages that are suspected to have stolen the solar panels. They are still at large since the time the tracking dog identifies their homes. The issue of having community wildlife scouts was also discussed at length to control poaching levels now that drought has set in.



## Ithumba Team

### De-Snaring Report for April, 2011



The community members listen to the leaders



Arrested poachers near rock-waterhole umauma



## Ithumba Team

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Poacher arrested with bushmeat and cheetah skin in Mutha



The Poacher's belongings being recorded before storage



## **Ithumba Team**

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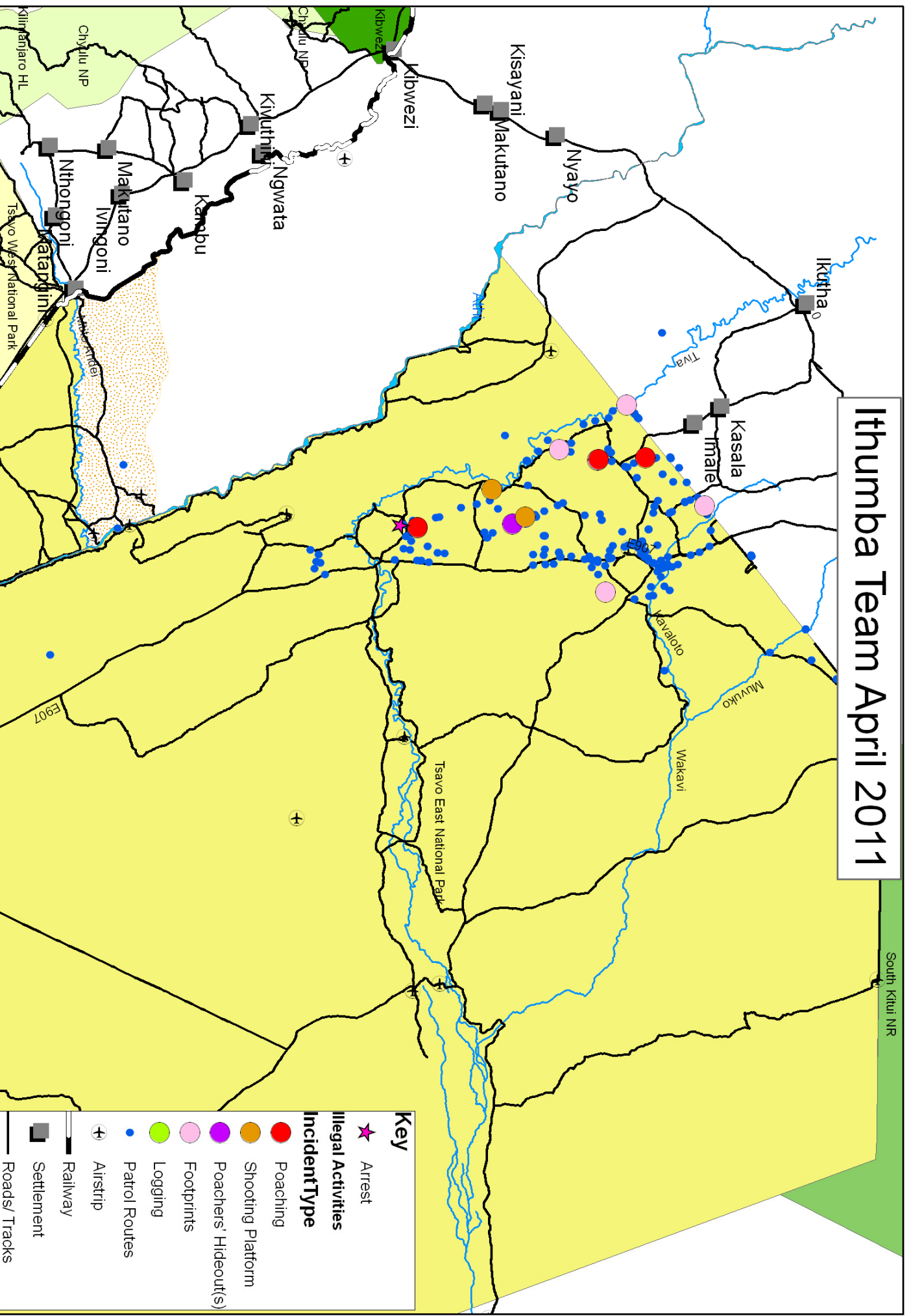


Poachers shooting hideouts near water sources in the park



Large cable snares used to target elephants and other large game

# Ithumba Team April 2011



**Key**

- ★ Arrest
- Illegal Activities**
- Incident Type**
- Poaching
- Shooting Platform
- Poachers' Hideout(s)
- Footprints
- Logging
- Patrol Routes
- ⊕ Airstrip
- Railway
- Settlement
- Roads/ Tracks

South Kivu NR