



Ithumba Team

De-Snaring Report for December, 2010

Participants

Lemanten Labarakwe
Noah Lesimirdana
James Lodungokiyok
Stephen Musau
Patrick Mutuku

Areas Patrolled

Chamanyenze
Kalovoto
Kanziku Gate
Kasaala fence
Kya Rock
Kyamanyenze
Lagga Kungu
Lesitau Dam
Mathae
Power Line
Shimola Shetani
Tundani
Umma Umma

Arrests

3 Arrest(s) this month

Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Hideout	1	Chamanyenze	33.33%	Commercial	No
Elephant Poaching , Arrowing	1	Power Line	50.00%	Commercial	Yes



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Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	2	Chamanyenze	7.41%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Ithumba	3.70%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	2	Kalovoto	7.41%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Lagga Kungu	3.70%		No
Elephant Poaching , Arrowing	1	Kasaala	50.00%	Commercial	Yes
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Shimola Shetani	3.70%		No
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Umauma	33.33%	Commercial	No
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Hideout	1	Kalovoto	33.33%	Commercial	No
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Old Hideout	1	Umauma	100.00%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Medium Game	1	Chamanyenze	16.67%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Small/Medium Game	1	Kalovoto	100.00%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Chamanyenze	33.33%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Tundani	33.33%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	2	Power Line	7.41%		No



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Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
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* '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	Cluster	11
Medium Wire	Medium	Cluster	33
Cable	Large		33

Total Snares Collected:	77
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Monthly Summary



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Suspected elephant poachers arrested



Logging in the Park



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Hyena dies after eating poisoned elephant carcass

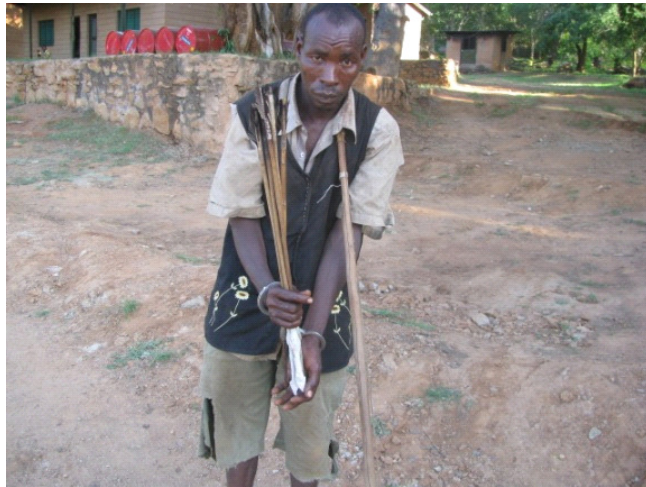


Poached elephant in the Park, killed using poison arrows



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Poacher arrested during the tracking of the theft of the solar panels



Poachers hideout at Kyae-rock



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Snared pregnant bushbuck dies at the Team member tries to rescue her.



Solar panels stolen at borehole site



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The tracker dog identifies the thieves homesteads



Tracker dog brought to assist with the investigation



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Monthly Summary

The team started its patrols from the 3rd of December. On patrolling power line the Team found an elephant carcass about 2 weeks old. The tusks were cut out. Near the deceased elephant was a dead hyena which had died after feasting on the carcass. The poison the poachers are using is very deadly because the elephant had only moved 30 meters from the small waterhole where it is believed to have been shot. The Team carried out an investigation and found that the source of the poison is from flower farms in Naivasha and Thika area. The Team moved swiftly to try and catch those involved and arrested the suspects. The 2 suspects were arrested in possession of five poisoned arrows and 30 snares. The Team went to search their homes for ivory but sadly they had already sold the ivory. It seems they were released just after a few days of being booked at the police station. The poachers come from Kimweli village which has some of the notorious poachers in the region.

Kyae-rock and Kyamanyenze seem to have had an increase in illegal activities. The Team found activities ranging from shooting platforms, fresh poachers camps, logging, and snaring. A snared pregnant bushbuck was also found still alive. The snare was removed but it seems too late as the animal died shortly after attempting to rescue it. The Team destroyed the shooting platform at kyae-rock, and found that the poachers came back after 2 days and put it back. Other areas where shooting platforms were found are Uma-Uma and along Tiva river.

Solar panels theft.

On 22/12/2010 thieves came and stole solar panels for the borehole at the airstrip dam. They dug an underground tunnel in order to evade the electric fence around the solar panels. They stole 2 solar panels and moved towards the community side at Kimweli. The DSWT called upon assistance from Richard Bonham who lives on the famous Ol Donyo Wuas reserve, he kindly assisted us with his special tracker dog. He responded quickly and flew in with his dog and together the investigation began. The Team followed footprints as well as the scent the dog had picked up on. The dog led us to a notorious poacher's homestead, the poacher unfortunately managed to escape capture. The Team is familiar with this man as he has crossed paths with the Law before and been arrested by the Ithumba Team. During the tracking process for the thieves, we managed to arrest a poacher who happened to cross paths with the investigation Team. He told us he was to camp around a waterhole near the dam for seven days. He had 33 snares and 6 poisoned arrows, indicating he may also be an elephant poacher. He was booked at Mutomo police station. The man who stole the Solar Panels remains in hiding; but the Team and KWS will stay hot on his heels and attempt to recover the stolen goods. Informers have led us to believe the Solar panels are still hidden in the area.

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