



## Ithumba Team

### De-Snaring Report for July, 2011

#### Participants

Lemanten    Labarakwe  
Noah        Lesimirdana  
James       Lodungokiyok  
Stephen     Musau  
Patrick      Mutuku

#### Areas Patrolled

Kalovoto  
Kanziku Gate  
Kasaala fence  
Kasaala Gate  
Kya Rock  
Kyamanyenze  
Lagga Kungu  
Macho Kombo  
Masobo  
Mathae  
Power Line  
Tiva  
Tundani  
Umbi  
Wamata  
Power Line  
Kasaala fence

#### Arrests

2 Arrest(s) this month

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#### Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
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## Ithumba Team

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#### Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Boma	1	Power Line	16.67%	Commercial	No
Charcoal Burning , Charcoal Kiln	1	Kyamanyenze	16.67%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Kasaala	3.70%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Macho Kombo	3.70%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Masobo	3.70%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Mukuka	3.70%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Power Line	3.70%	Commercial	No
Bicycle Tracks , Fresh Tracks	3	Umbi	75.00%	Commercial	No
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Boma	1	Mathae	16.67%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	1	Power Line	5.88%	Commercial	Yes
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Poisoned Spikes	1	Power Line	100.00%		No
Poaching , Snaring - Large Game	1	Kanziko	5.26%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Large Game	2	Mukuka	10.53%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Large Game	1	Tundani	5.26%	Commercial	No



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#### Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	2	Kalovoto	11.76%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	2	Kyae Rock	11.76%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Tiva	3.70%	Commercial	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	Scattered	177
Thin Wire	Small	Line	12
Thin Wire	Large	Line	31
Thin Wire	Large		1

<b>Total Snares Collected:</b>	<b>221</b>
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#### Community Work

Target Group	Target Group Name	Activity	Location
School	Bisaadi Primary School	Meeting	Kone
School	Bisaadi Primary School	Meeting	Kone
School	Kone Primary School	Meeting	Kone



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### De-Snaring Report for July, 2011

#### Monthly Summary

The Team has experienced a rise in the illegal human activities inside the park. At Umbi area there is very serious logging at night by use of moonlight. There are a lot of bicycle tracks moving in and out of the park, ferrying illegal goods to the market.

At Kanziko area there was much snaring of medium game and logging. This has not been the case historically. The poachers have made it much more challenging to tackle illegal activities, as they operate at very odd hours. They no longer put permanent poacher camps for fear of the Team arresting them or destroying their hideouts. One poacher escaped leaving behind his bush meat and 33 already set snares.

The current drought in the country is only worsening the situation in Kenya's protected areas. Most of the water points have dried and this means wild elephants have to come to the stockade to get a drink. The poachers who are trailing them at night follow them to the stockade. On the 12th of July 2011 a poacher shot one of the orphans which had been raised by the DSWT and released back into the wild. He shot the orphaned elephant with poisoned arrows. The poisoned arrow was still embedded in the orphans' leg by the time it was seen by Keepers on their way from cutting greens. The arrow was removed and treated. The orphan is making a good recovery.

Recent findings show that poachers are mostly targeting big game especially the elephants. It seems demand is high, and the price of ksh 10,000 per kg of ivory is too enticing, driving many people living in poverty conditions to enter the illegal poaching trade.

Following the incident of Kora (the orphaned elephant now living wild) being shot, the staff held a crisis meeting and the patrols were stepped up. The Team found six elephants at the start of the month along the river Tiva, all killed by poisoned arrows and snaring. There seems to be a repeat of the year 2002 when the situation deteriorated to very worrying levels. There is a poacher, who has previously been arrested by the Ithumba Team, who was recently released from 11 years of jail sentence for elephant poaching who is suspected to be heavily involved in these developments.

The snaring levels have steadily gone up and they are no longer being set in the usual hotspots. The Team found an elephant snare along a busy elephant trail on the edge of the Yatta towards Tiva. Bush meat was also found, being dried at poachers' camp, unfortunately the culprit managed to escape. At Wamata/ Mukuka area the Team followed 5 footprints the whole day and managed to recover 22 poisoned arrows, 5 bows and 50 kgs of unga (maize meal). The five poachers spotted the Team from afar and made a hasty retreat. All the same the Team laid ambush along the fence and arrested two poachers. One of them demonstrated to the Team how they cross the road by dragging a shrub to conceal footprints. He had 112 snares which were already set. They are also putting sacks on their feet to resemble Elephant footmarks.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Team organized two school trips to the Park. Both trips were for Kone Primary School. This is a community in the Tana Delta district and is a very isolated population. A school trip to the park leaves permanent positive memories in the students' minds and may affect their choices in future when it comes to their environments. The pupils as well as their parents were very excited about the trip. The parents all came to the school grounds which is unusual for the other schools. To the community, this was a very special occasion for other duties to be abandoned



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### De-Snaring Report for July, 2011



Bisaadi pupils enjoy watching the elephant orphans



The students & Teachers during their trip to the Park



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Snares lifted at Kanziko



Five poachers escape & leave their belongings at a hideout



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Poison arrows recovered



Bushmeat being dried at poachers camp



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Bushmeat being dried at poacher camp



Poached elephant at the Ttiva-power line area





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A shooting hideout



A dikdik rescued from a snare at kyaе rock



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Poached elephant carcass at Mukuka-tiva area



Lifting an elephant snare



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Lifting snares



Poacher camp at kyae rock



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



Poison arrow wounds in one of the elephant carcasses found

# Ithumba Team July 2011

