



Ithumba Team

De-Snaring Report for May, 2011

Participants

Lemanten Labarakwe
Noah Lesimirdana
James Lodungokiyok
Stephen Musau
Patrick Mutuku

Areas Patrolled

Athi River
Gazi
Ithumba Hill
Kona Ya Nyati
Macho Kombo
Power Line
Tsavo East
Umma Umma

Arrests

5 Arrest(s) this month

Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	1	Gazi	14.29%	Commercial	No
Charcoal Burning , Charcoal Kiln	2	Gazi	25.00%	Commercial	Yes
Charcoal Burning , Charcoal Kiln	3	Gazi	37.50%	Commercial	No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	2	Gazi	15.38%		No



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Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	2	Tsavo East National Park	15.38%		No
Footprints , Fresh Tracks	1	Umauma	7.69%		No
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Hideout	1	Gazi	14.29%	Commercial	No
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Hideout	1	Power Line	14.29%	Commercial	No
Poachers' Hideout(s) , Fresh Hideout	1	Umauma	14.29%	Commercial	No
Bicycle Tracks , Fresh Tracks	1	Tsavo East National Park	33.33%		No
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	1	Buffalo Bent	14.29%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Fresh Hideout	1	Umauma	50.00%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	1	Gazi	14.29%	Subsistence	No
Poaching , Snaring - Small Game	1	Umauma	14.29%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Small/Medium Game	1	Buffalo Bent	33.33%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Tsavo East National Park	25.00%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Tundani	25.00%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Umauma	25.00%	Commercial	Yes



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Illegal Activities

Illegal Activity	No. Incidents	Location	Percentage	Scale	Arrests
Shooting Platform , Arrowing	1	Umauma	25.00%	Commercial	No
Shooting Platform , Fresh Hideout	1	Macho Kombo	50.00%	Commercial	No
Poaching , Snaring - Large Game	1	Taita Hills	9.09%	Subsistence	Yes

* '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	28
Thin Wire	Small	Line	11
Medium Wire	Medium	Line	27
Cable	Large	Scattered	3

Total Snares Collected:	69
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Monthly Summary



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Monthly Summary

This month's patrols were a follow up of the previous months work. The Team revisited areas with water as this is where poachers tend to seek out the wildlife, especially for big game as the animals come to drink water. In every waterhole the Team visited there was either a shooting platform or fresh poacher's footprints. From the information the Team is gathering, the poachers are visiting these areas either during the latter hours of the day or at night.

The Team camped at the power line where most of the waterholes are concentrated and managed to arrest a notorious elephant poacher with 28 poisoned arrows, 2 bows and 28 snares of which 4 were for big game. He had recently come out from prison after serving 11 years jail sentence after killing 3 elephants at Tundani area Tsavo northern area way back in the year 2002. His accomplice managed to escape; this man has been poaching for 25 years and has never been arrested. After interrogating the arrested poacher he informed the Team that there are around 10 poachers visiting the water holes daily, all of whom are only interested in big game. He even confessed that they sometimes use furidan which is a lethal pesticide to put in the waterholes when the water is almost dry in order to kill elephants. This information was confirmed towards the last week of May when two poachers ate elephant meat inside the park unaware that it had the lethal poison. One of them died instantly while the other poacher is fighting for his life in hospital.

During the second week operations the Team moved to the Gazi area where there was rampant charcoal burning inside the park. The Team managed to arrest 3 charcoal burners/poachers in this area in possession of 12 small snares. They had already cut most of the big trees along the Athi River and were found moving deep inside the park. There was an also illegal cattle grazing inside the park. A lot of consistent patrols and pressure is required in this area to deter these illegal activities. The Team lifted nearly 30 snares at Buffalo-bent which is a hot spot for poaching.



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Shooting platform at Tundani



28 poisoned arrows plus poison found with elephant poacher



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Snares lifted at buffalo bent



Arrested charcoal burner Gazi area



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Arrested poacher at Gazi area



Logging in Gazi area



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Shooting platforms at Tundani area



Illegal charcoal kilns



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Heavy charcoal burning and logging at Gazi area



Illegal cattle grazing along the Athi in Gazi area



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Arrested elephant poacher with his weapons



Poacher camp at Uma-uma area



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Team destroys shooting platforms

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