



Kasigau Corridor



Aerial Surveillance and Wildlife

Quarterly Report

March - May 2018

REF: KE_WW_02

By Keith Hellyer



Overview:

Total recorded hours flown: 161.1

5Y-CBU – 100.1

5Y-BRD – 61

Distance covered: 9,527 km recorded (see Appendix 1 for flight paths)

Summary: This quarter saw a positive start with heavy rains throughout the ecosystem and surrounding areas. With no limit to food or water supplies, elephants were able to spread out across the ranches, giving the aerial team a much broader area to cover during this time. This was very important in elephant security because giving ground teams the herd locations allows for proper deployment of security personnel to key areas rather than focusing on sections of forest where no elephants are present. The heavy rains also reduced the pressure on surrounding communities from elephant invasions.

Elephants Deaths:

| Elephant Deaths | Number |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Poached, found inside the project area | 0 |
| Poached, found neighboring the project area | 0 |
| Related to Human Wildlife Conflict | 0 |
| Death from Natural Causes, Unknown or Drought | 1 adult / 1 juvenile |
| Total deaths within the project area | 1 adult |
| Total Tusks Recovered | 2 |
| Elephants Injured & Treated | 1 euthanized |
| Responses to Armed Situations | 1 |

Notes on deaths and injuries: 05/03/18 a juvenile elephant carcass was found being protected by its mother with 300+ elephants in the immediate area, on Bungule reserve bordering the project area. Heavy storms had occurred the night before which may have caused the mortality. 18/04/18 a 20-25-year old male elephant was reported by the aerial team to be thin and not moving. KWS veterinarians diagnosed an internal complication and the bull was euthanized. 29/05/18 an injured elephant was reported by tourists inside TENP, aerial team confirmed the location of a young elephant with a leg injury. KWS and DSWT teams concluded the elephant was known and has an old untreatable vehicle collision injury. The elephant is, however, keeping up with the herd and is in otherwise good condition.

Elephant Activity: (see Appendix 2 for elephant distribution map)

We are happy to report that no elephant poaching was found this quarter. Well-planned aerial patrols combined with heavy effort from ground teams paid off with this very calm period for the herds. In early April an armed gang of 6 people were reported by herders on Dawida ranch. Air and ground teams responded but with no sightings of the gang or any carcasses. Air and foot patrols were conducted in that area over a two-week period with no further reports or outcome. Elephants on the western ranches concentrated were on Mgeno and along the Mwatate river for the first few weeks of March. With the heavy rains the majority of those elephants moved south into TWNP, and Mbale and Koranze ranches. By the month of May almost all elephants had left the western ranches. Rukinga, Taita and Amaka ranches hosted high numbers of elephants this quarter. Koranze, Wushumbu and Amaka had the highest concentrations of up to 350+ individuals moving between them from the middle of March to early May. The end of the quarter had Koranze hosting the highest numbers with Rukinga and Wangala following. It has also been observed by the aerial surveillance team that several crossings have taken place by elephants back and forth between Rukinga ranch and TENP via the SGR 5/5 wildlife corridor.

Collared Elephants recorded:

| Elephant Seen | Date | Location and details |
|---------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Taita | 01/01/18 | 16 elephants, Kisima forest Taita ranch – 07:55am 0489346 9574608 |
| Rob | 01/03/18 | 7 elephants, Lokidori area Rukinga ranch - 09:06am 0469921 9588352 |
| Jojoba | 01/03/18 | 12 elephants, Juliana forest Rukinga ranch – 09:17am 0473106 9589651 |
| Rukinga | 01/03/18 | 18 elephants, Juliana forest Rukinga ranch – 09:18am 0473198 9590556 |
| -- | 02/03/18 | 26 elephants, collar seen- ID not confirmed, Choke ranch – 09:40am 0436514 9592917 |
| Jojoba | 05/03/18 | 12 elephants, Magwede area Rukinga ranch – 08:03am 0469139 9591262 |
| Rob + Salama | 05/03/18 | 300+ elephants, Bungule reserve. Note: 1 juvenile carcass 08:21am 0471093 9569464 |
| Maktau | 07/03/18 | 18 elephants, 0 km water, Mkuki ranch - 08:09am 0418303 9592934 |
| Kivuko | 21/03/18 | 50+ elephants, 1km water / 1 km livestock. Koranze ranch – 07:58am 0456884 9537070 |
| Salama | 21/03/18 | 14 elephants, 3 sub adults, 1 juvenile, Bungule reserve – 08:33am 0470831 9569478 |
| Kamtonga | 22/03/18 | 25 elephants, TWNP, photo taken, 0.5km water / No cattle – 07:50am 0424712 9581606 |
| Sagalla | 22/03/18 | 4 elephant bulls total, Sisal/Mgeno border, photo taken – 0.5km water / 0 cattle - 08:22am 0438153 9601098 |
| Salama | 26/03/18 | 80+ elephants, Rukinga/Taita ranch boundary, 0.5km water / 0 cattle 09:22am – 0479031 9576355 |
| Salama | 03/04/18 | 80+ elephants Nyago forest Taita ranch, 100m water / 3km livestock 07:46am 0478902 9572046 |
| Salama | 17/04/18 | 80+ elephants Pikapika forest Taita ranch, 0m water / 2km livestock – 07:17am 0484823 9575019 |
| Maungu | 04/05/18 | 100+ elephants, TENP, Maungu bogani – 300m water /0 livestock - Note “Ndara” also in area, no visual. 0483547 9601150 |
| Sagalla | 08/05/18 | 12 elephants, 4 juveniles, TWNP, 0.5km water / 5km livestock – 07:45am 0434852 9572793 |
| Kivuko | 11/05/18 | 60+ elephants, Koranze ranch, 300m water /livestock + charcoal 0.5km – 09:05am 0469543 9533930 |
| Rob | 16/05/18 | 150+ elephants, Koranze ranch, 0.5km water / livestock +charcoal 1km – 0472485 9544964 |
| Rob | 17/05/18 | 150+ elephants, Koranze ranch, 0.5km water / livestock +charcoal 1km – 08:11am 0473548 9541047 |
| Salama | 16/05/18 | 7 elephants, with 13 elephants 0.5km away, Koranze ranch, 0.5km water /1km livestock + charcoal – 09:22am 0473025 9541768 |
| Rukinga | 20/05/18 | 1 elephant total, TWNP, 0.5km water / 0 livestock – 07:57am 0425042 9571622 |
| Salama | 28/05/18 | 5 elephants visual, Amaka ranch, 1/5km water / 800m livestock – 09:09am 0477895 9564631 |

Poaching Activity:

Bush meat poaching was the primary concern this quarter. Three giraffe carcasses were located due to poaching along with 18 other plains game meat seized.



(Left: Poached / Butchered giraffe on Taita ranch)



(Right: “Rukinga,” Rukinga ranch)

Charcoal and Illegal Activity Located:

| Activity | Number |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Log piles / Posts | 104 |
| Charcoal Kilns | 51 |
| Charcoal Bags | 4 |
| Charcoal Camps | 1 |
| Arrests Made | 7 |
| Bush Meat Carcasses | 20 |
| Snares Collected | 7M / 6L |
| Poaching Arrests Made | 2 |

Bush meat seized: March: On 16/03/18, 11 dik-diks and 2 impala were seized in an ambush, resulting in the arrest of a bushmeat poacher. OB# 19/16/03/2018. On 11/04/18, 4 dik-diks were seized and a bushmeat poacher was arrested. OB# 52/11/04/2018. Additionally, during this quarter, 3 poached giraffe carcasses were found, 2 of which were inside the project area. This quarter 7 charcoal burner arrests were made, only 1 was prosecuted the others released with warnings.

Confiscated items: 4 bicycles, 9 machetes, 4 torches, 4 horns, 6 axes, 2 shovels, 1 handcart.

Grevy Zebra: Grevy Zebra were primarily seen on the northern section of the project on Jojoba, Rukinga, Wangala, LMD and Taita ranch. **(See Appendix 3 for Grevy distributions)**

Other Events this Quarter:

- Pilots and rangers from partner organizations took part in a “Air to Ground” communications course, conducted by LEAD Ranger. The course was attended by rangers from Wildlife Works, Big Life and David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. The course outlined procedures for both ground teams and pilots to easily communicate security threats and how to approach each situation safely. It will help pilots and rangers to communicate to partner organizations in real life scenarios.
- The marking and reporting of obstructed corridors along the SGR was conducted and reported to county authorities. Local politics has threatened the wildlife corridor between Rukinga and

the SGR underpass. The attempt to illegally subdivide the corridor took a lot of ranger and pilot focus. Several people taking part in the sub-dividing were nearly injured by elephants within the corridor during the start of the tree cutting, which was later halted after talks by the Wildlife Works team to plan meetings with the proper authorities.

- The counting and locating of all cattle camps, mining sites, and water points within the project area was conducted in preparation for the REDD+ verification audit in May.
- Rangers on Kambanga ranch were ambushed by a gang of 11 charcoal burners. One ranger was injured and their vehicle was damaged. Air support was required to secure the area and regroup the teams before pursuing the gang.
- The aerial surveillance team was requested on multiple occasions by KWS to locate livestock and illegal bomas inside the national parks.

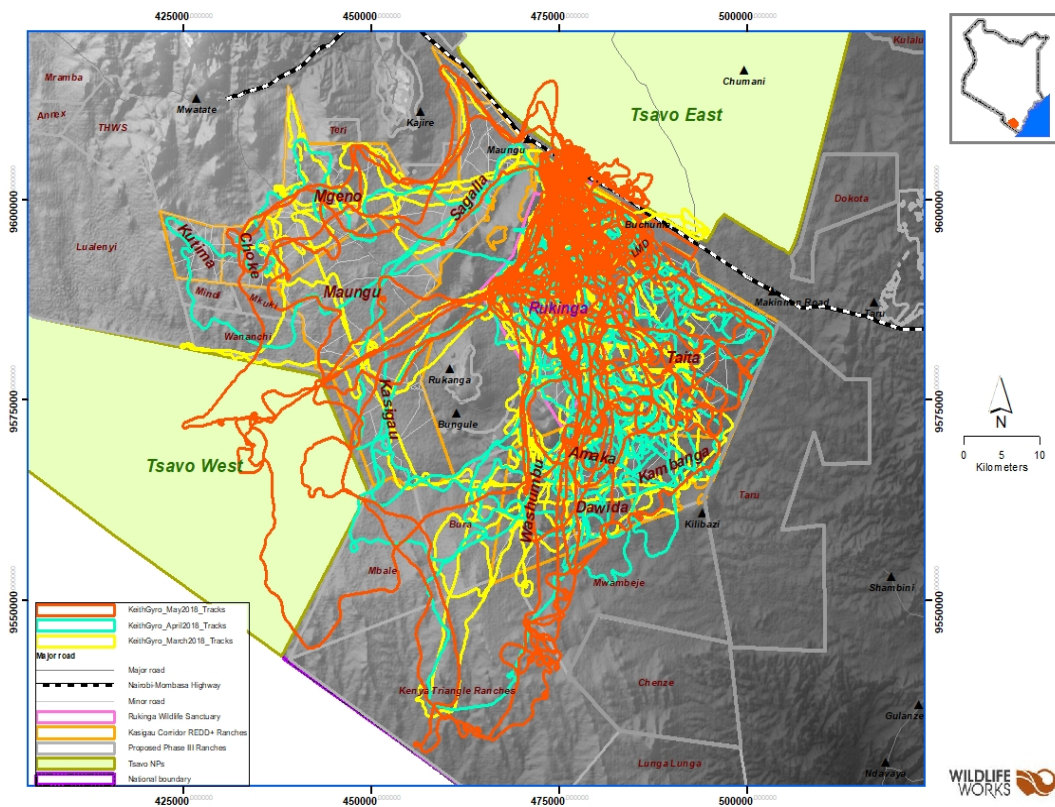


(Above: Elephants at Sagana dam, Taita ranch.)

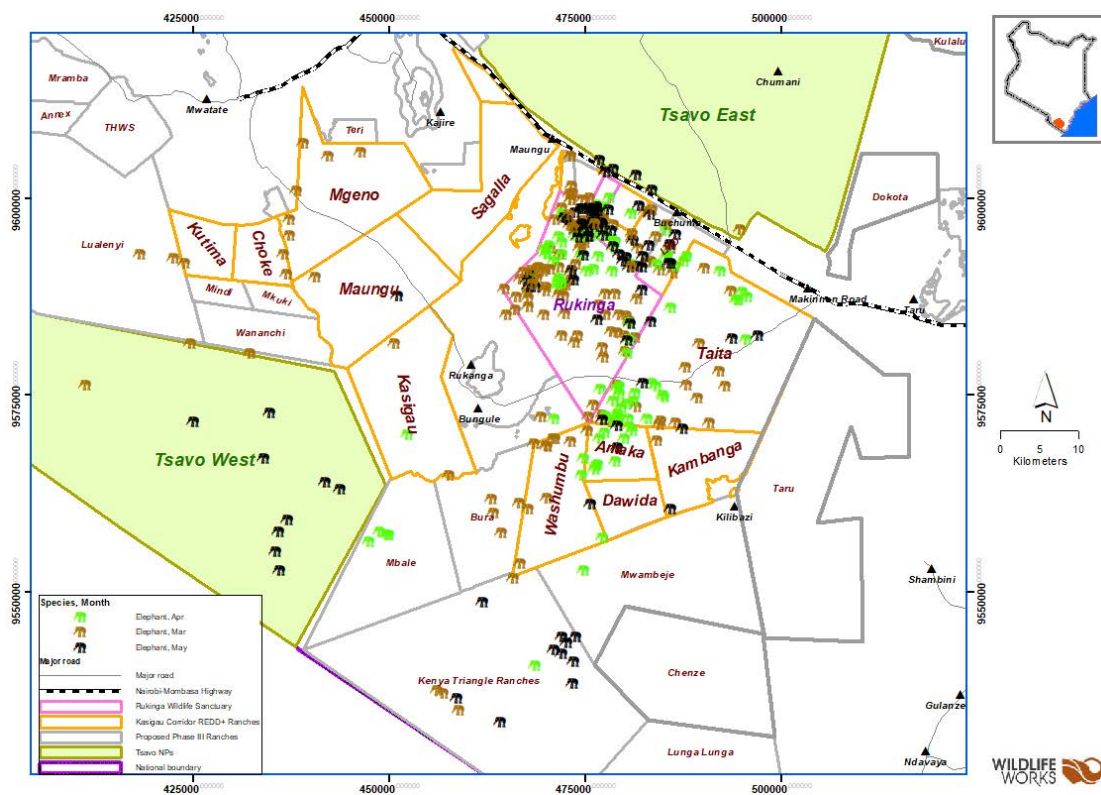


(Above: Mother elephant protecting dead calf, Bungule reserve 05/03/18)

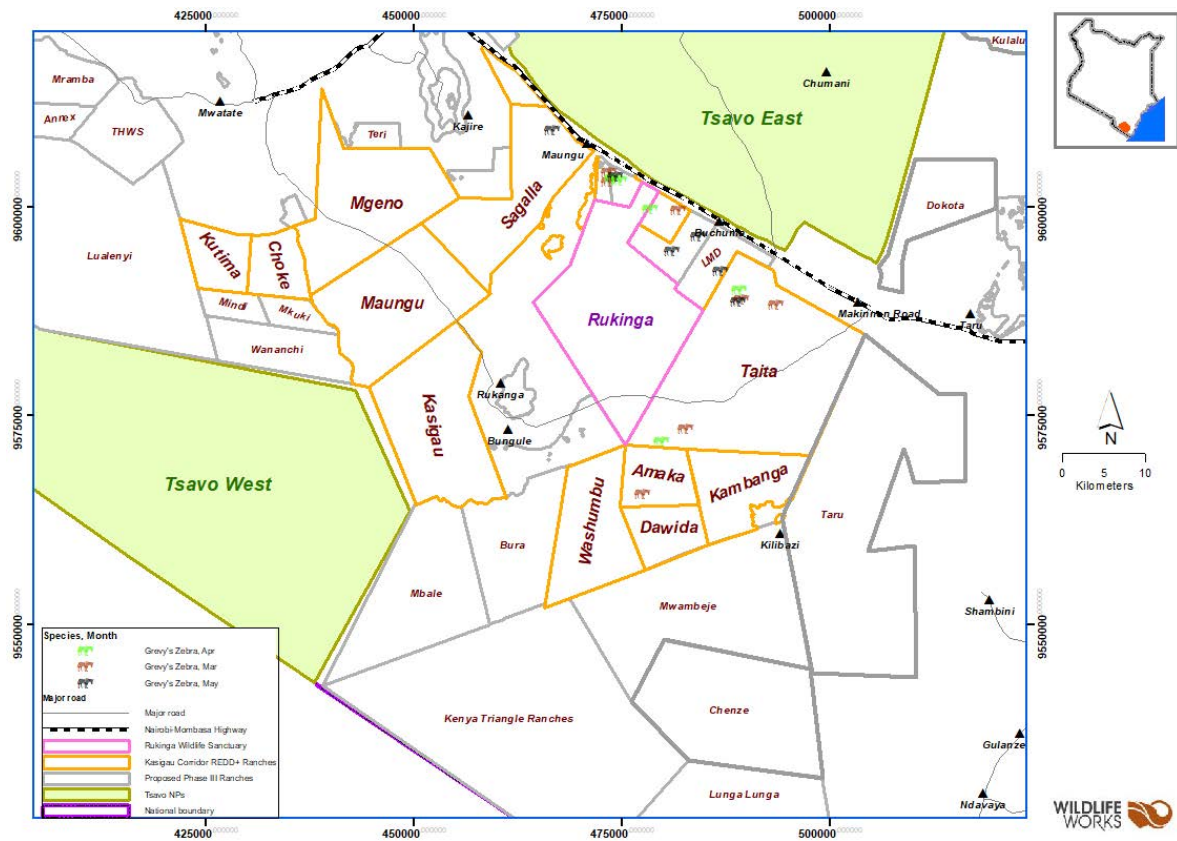
Appendix 1: Recorded Patrol Tracks March-May 2018



Appendix 2: Project Area Elephant Distribution this Quarter



Appendix 3: Grevy Zebra Distribution



Thank you for your support!