

# WILDLIFEWORKS

## ELEPHANT PROTECTION TRUST

### Air-Wing Funding Appeal

**Implementing Organization:** Wildlife Works Elephant Protection Trust (EPT)

**Address:** P.O. Box 310 Voi 80300

**Proposed Project:** Purchasing of 200-hour Magni M-24 Gyrocopter for Aerial Surveillance in the Kasigau Corridor, Kenya.

**Geographic location of operations:** Kasigau Corridor, Taita Ranches. Taita – Taveta County, Tsavo Kenya.

**Contact person:** Jamie Hendriksen, Trustee, [jamie@wildlifeworks.com](mailto:jamie@wildlifeworks.com)



#### **About the Elephant Protection Trust (EPT):**

The Elephant Protection Trust is a registered Trust in Kenya. In partnership with Wildlife Works, The Elephant Protection Trust raises funds to support the 100+ rangers who protect a vital area of 500,000 acres between Tsavo East and West National Parks called The Kasigau Wildlife Corridor. There are over 11,000 elephants and other endangered species in the Tsavo Conservation Area that are threatened by human-wildlife conflict.

The Elephant Protection Trust (EPT) was formed by Wildlife Works (WW) with the explicit task to increase elephant security in the Tsavo ecosystem, especially in the Kasigau Corridor. EPT works hand in hand with WW in implementing its activities and works alongside other stakeholders, including the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Taita ranches.

Jamie Hendriksen (Trustee) has an Advanced Diploma in Project Management and has been the Director of Regional Operations at Wildlife Works for 8 years. Eric Sagwe (Trustee) is the Head of Security at Wildlife Works, a position he has held for 10 years. Mike Korchinsky (Trustee) is the founder of Wildlife Works and CEO since 1997. Keith Hellyer (Pilot) has been a gyrocopter pilot for six years and worked in conservation in the Maasai Mara for 8 years after training as a FGASA Level 2 Guide.

**Funding History:** The Elephant Protection Trust was formed in November 2013. It has successfully carried out small scale handling of donations for the Greater Good Foundation and is currently handling two large projects for the Elephant Cooperation based in the USA. The EPT has received Aerial Surveillance operating funds from the Elephant Crisis Fund from 2016-2018.

#### **Description of the problem:**

The African elephant is the flagship species for Tsavo, an iconic symbol for attracting tourists to Kenya as well as being a keystone species. High demand for ivory has resulted in shocking figures of elephants being poached across Africa, and Tsavo has not been spared. Due to the high concentration of elephants

in the area, inadequate law enforcement presence, proliferation of small arms in Kenya as well as the proximity to Mombasa port, the continent's ivory trafficking hub, the TCA has been a prime target for poachers. In the middle of the TCA lies the Kasigau Wildlife Corridor, located between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Park and covering 2,000 square kilometers. The 14 group ranches that collectively make up this corridor provide an important habitat and dispersal area for wildlife between these two protected areas. Wildlife Works has been operating in partnership with these ranches for a number of years and provides security in the form of over 100 rangers on the ground.

The poaching figures are alarming, and notwithstanding Wildlife Work's dedicated ranger team and close collaboration with KWS, it is imperative to maintain surveillance and heighten protection. Combating elephant poaching and reducing the demand of ivory requires a multitude of measures, but improved protection in the field is the most immediate way to reduce elephant deaths. In this vast landscape, aerial surveillance is a key way to increase vigilance. For the last four years, the EPT has been working with Keith Hellyer and his Magni M24 Gyrocopter to carry out patrols over the vast dryland forest of elephant habitat that is the Kasigau corridor. The aerial surveillance has contributed to a dramatic reduction in the number of poaching incidents. The aircraft has now reached its limit and requires a complete rebuild. The engine, rotor blades, propeller, body frame and electronics all need to be refurbished which will be a long and slow process. In the meantime, aerial surveillance efforts are still required to continue and at the same time the reach of our impact needs to be expanded.

#### **Proposed solution:**

The EPT wishes to acquire a Magni Gyrocopter to provide continuous wildlife and security surveillance over the Tsavo conservation area. The purchase of the new gyrocopter would ensure no down time in patrols, keep eyes on the elephants and enable even more positive impact in the Tsavo ecosystem. It would allow the ongoing aerial surveillance of 45 hours a month, totaling 540 hours a year. This would ensure the consistent aerial monitoring of elephant movements over the Taita Ranches to inform Wildlife Works Rangers and KWS of elephant locations to help daily security decisions. These aerial patrols in turn improve ranger security by reporting potential threats to ranger safety, improve elephant protection and reduce habitat destruction. The project will allow the locating and reporting of illegal logging and harvesting of wood for charcoal production, as well as the locating and treating of injured or sick elephants and other wildlife. The aerial surveillance team will monitor key elephants such as large tuskiers, crop raiders and GPS collared individuals. Most importantly, the surveillance will help deter illegal activity with an active presence over the Taita Ranches.

An M-24 Gyrocopter (Kenya-registered 5Y-CBW) with a low 200 hours of engine time has been secured for purchase by the Elephant Protection Trust at a discounted price of \$60,000 USD. Comparatively the market value is \$80,000USD.





**Outcomes / Impacts expected and what can be measured:**

The overall expected outcome is the reduction in insecurity within the project area. This will lead to the reduced poaching of elephant and other wildlife. By preventing charcoal production and logging, the project will reduce the destruction and degradation of wildlife habitat. By anticipating elephant movements through monitoring, the project will ensure protective measures are put in place and there is a deterrent to potential threats. With any poaching that has occurred, best attempts can be made

to secure any ivory within the project to remove it from the black market. It will increase the likelihood of perpetrators being arrested and brought to justice.

**Training and outreach targets:**

The project would allow the continued training of co-pilots Simon Kipsang and Evans Machoke in their roll of aerial reconnaissance, pursuit, securing crime scenes and data recording. The project would also allow the continued training of Daniel Zuma through intermediate patrols and participation in maintenance. Daniel, the first native Kenyan gyrocopter pilot, will build up his flying hours assisting with the project.

**Reporting:**

The EPT will produce Aerial surveillance and Wildlife reports every quarter, as well as an Annual Report. Photos, videos, and other media can be provided on request.

**Thank you for your support!**

