



MAASAI  
WILDERNESS  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST

QUARTERLY REPORT  
JAN - MAR 2020

Q1



# FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Dear friends of MWCT,

First of all I hope you are all well and safe. While here in Kenya, all of the MWCT family is fine, Antonella and I suffered serious deaths in our families in Europe.

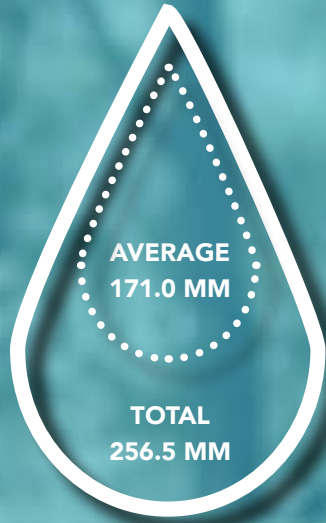
Covid-19 has caused us first of all to look after the health of our team and of course of the community we serve. We scaled all our programs to minimum and we have most of the team working from home. Who is left in the office or in the field is being simply amazing, working 3 times harder than before. And for less money, as we had decreased all salaries.

We are concerned the scaling down will have detrimental effects for all our programs: conservation, health and education. But, right now, we have no other options. We are still able to run our programs, even if in a more limited way.

Kenya had severe rains in March. We had a good amount, with no damages. Kilimanjaro is snow capped as we rarely saw before. More rains means more mingling of wildlife and livestock, near the bomas, which causes higher predation. A young lioness was killed in self defence, by a very young and brave Maasai boy, who defended his livestock. Overall for the quarter claims are identical to Q1 2019.

Thank you all for the continuous support. We will come out of this pandemic stronger and with a broader understanding of how critical Nature is for our wellbeing.

Best regards from the Green Hills of Africa,  
Luca Belpietro



RAINFALL

**IMPORTANT:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing regulations issued by the Kenyan Government, MWCT ordered their staff to be under lockdown starting mid-March. Stringent measures are put in place to ensure that everyone's health and safety are of the utmost priority. Any meetings, outreaches and programs that violate the social distancing parameters, are put on hold until further notice.

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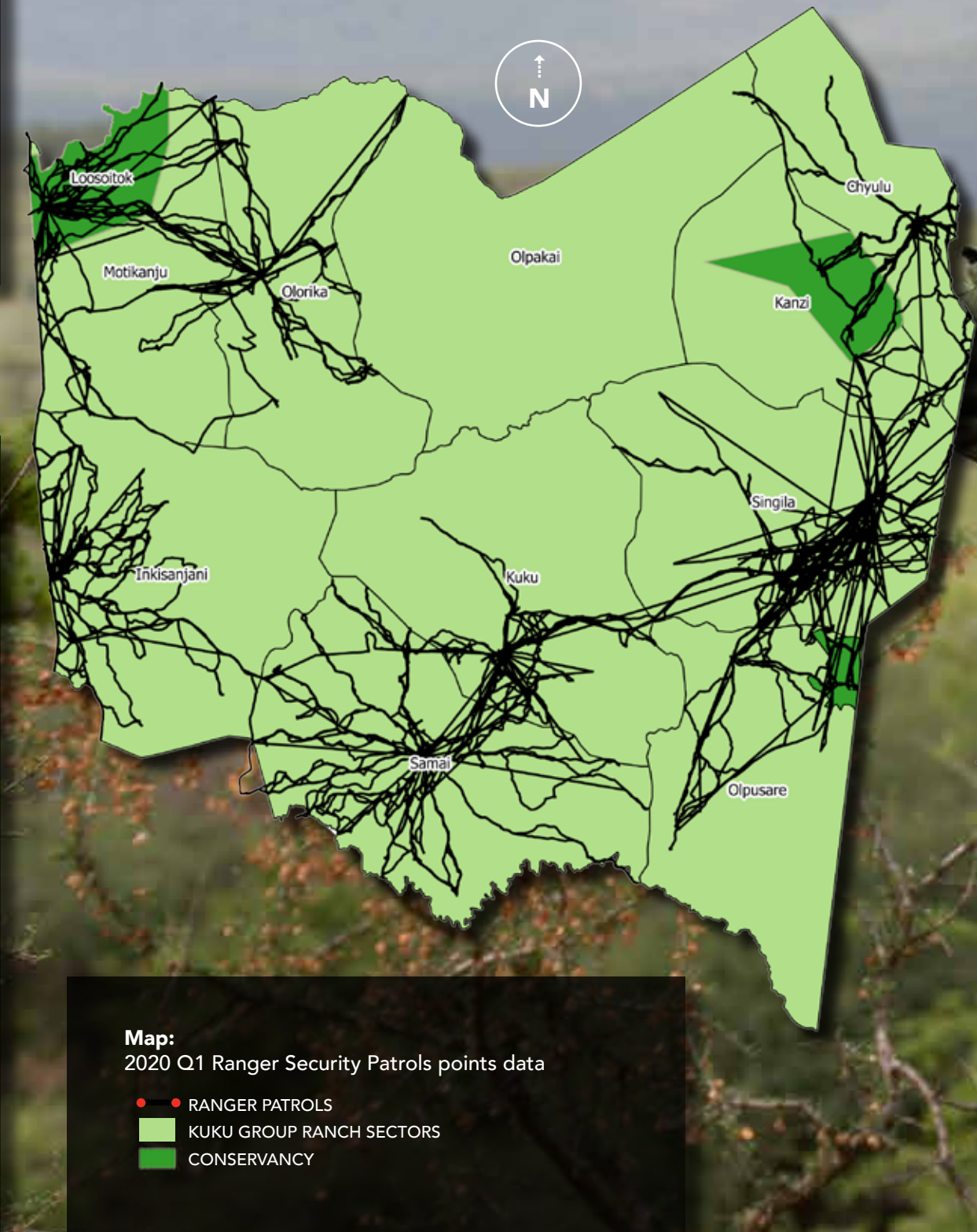
Achievements  
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## PARTNERS & SUPPORT





# WILDLIFE & HABITAT PROTECTION



Ittilal sector covered the greatest distance (1,204km). The team faced some technological challenges as we implemented a new version of SMART (connect), which had contributed to some data delays and lower statistics. The conservation team is currently rectifying this issue for next quarter.

SECTOR	ACTUAL DISTANCE (Kilometers)	TARGET DISTANCE (Kilometers)
Samai	834	867
Chyulu	438	601
Ittilal	774	1,204
Olpakai	762	294
Kuku	840	664
Motikanju	762	343
Inkisanjani	900	517
Loositok	600	64
Olpusare B	900	469
Olpusare D	900	721
Olorika	750	496
Total	8,460	6,240



SMART & Cybertracker  
Data Collection Trained



135  
RANGERS

13  
Sectors



6 to 8  
Rangers per sectors



92  
Dedicated Rangers for daily  
Kuku Group Ranch patrols



8,460  
Total kilometers covered  
on foot this Quarter  
↑33% ↓12%  
\*Q4 2019 \*Q1 2019





# INCIDENTS & CONFLICTS

## QUICK FACTS

### Lion incidents: 4

- 1 - Oltiasika spearing (self-defense)
- 1 - Iltlal hunt stopped
- 2 - Samai & Kuku Village hunts stopped

### Wood logging: 1

- 1 - Sandalwood harvest in Chyulu National Park



Speared lion in Oltiasika



MWCT Rangers confiscate sandalwood from culprit

## INCIDENT SUMMARIES

### LION INCIDENTS

#### JANUARY 5 - OLTIASIKA

Olpakai rangers reported that a sub-adult lion was speared and killed after entering into a boma in Oltiasika. The MWCT team, including our Wildlife Pays verifying officers, Simba Scouts, Rangers and the zone elder were deployed to the ground as soon as possible. Upon our arrival, the lion had already been killed after it killed a goat and a sheep in the boma. Our MWCT team along with Big Life Foundation (BLF) rangers, kept the scene of the crime protected until Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) from Amboseli arrived. All the information pertaining to the incident was given to KWS, who came to collect the lion carcass. The verification process was done (credit note number 16863) since the incident was confirmed as self-defense.

#### JANUARY 27 - ILTILAL

Mawoi's pride preyed on a goat at Oldepe a few meters from Iltlal. A group of eight Moran organized themselves to hunt the pride. Before they arrived on the scene, one of the eight Moran leaked the information to Masharen (one of our Simba Scouts), and the Simba Scout team responded and managed to stop the hunt. Three lions, including our collared lioness, Mawoi, were found at the carcass and mocked away to allow the verification of the incident.

#### MARCH 11 - SAMAI

A lion was reported to have been consistently breaking into bomas, killing several sheep and goats. Those that witnessed the incidents, claimed the lion also looked very old and weak. However, it then moved into Rombo Group Ranch and was not seen back in Kuku Group Ranch (KGR) since.

#### MARCH 9 & 21 - KUKU VILLAGE

A pride of lions attacked cattle while herding and injured a bull. The herder managed to scare away the lions, contacted our team to assist in the incident, and the bull was taken back to the herder's boma. The Simba Scouts, Community Rangers and Wildlife Pays Verification Officers acted swiftly to mitigate possible retaliatory hunts and were successful in doing so.

### WOOD LOGGING

#### FEBRUARY 21 - CHYULU NATIONAL PARK

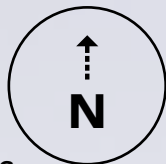
There were 3 suspects seen harvesting sandalwood in Chyulu National Park, so we formed a joint operation with the Iltlal and Kanzi sectors for about a week. Our team arrested all 3 suspects; Kooki Musyioki, Onesmas Mutua and Kyalo Muema on February 21st. They were taken to Mtito Police Station, OB 02/21/02/2020. The culprits were taken to court and fined 300,000 Ksh each. The case is still in progress.



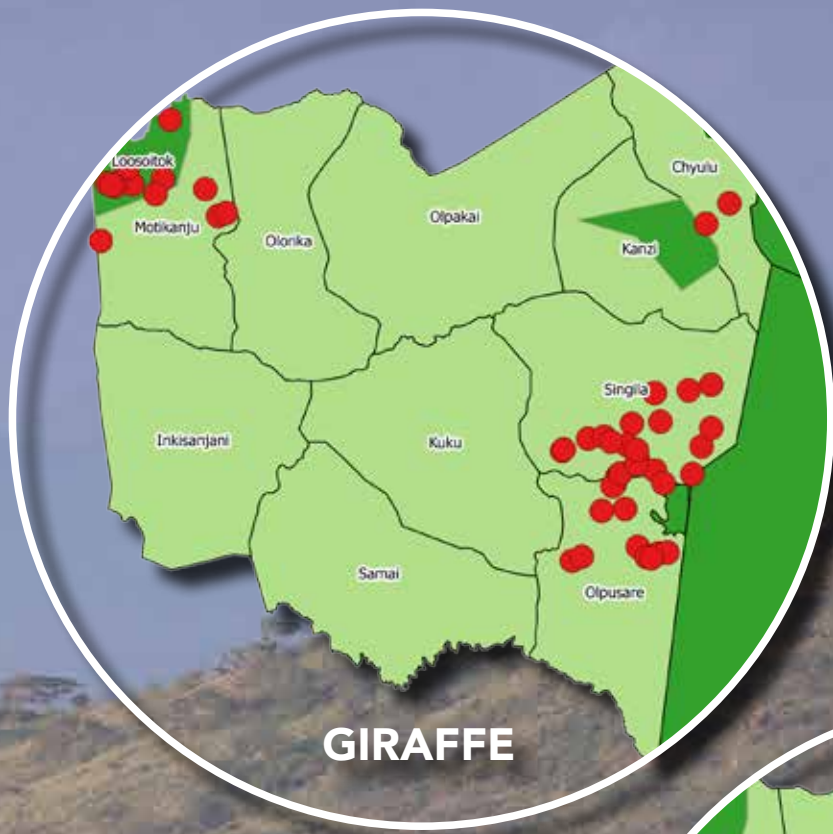
# WILDLIFE MONITORING

## LEGEND

- SIGHTINGS
- NATIONAL PARKS
- KUKU CONSERVANCIES
- RANGER SECTORS



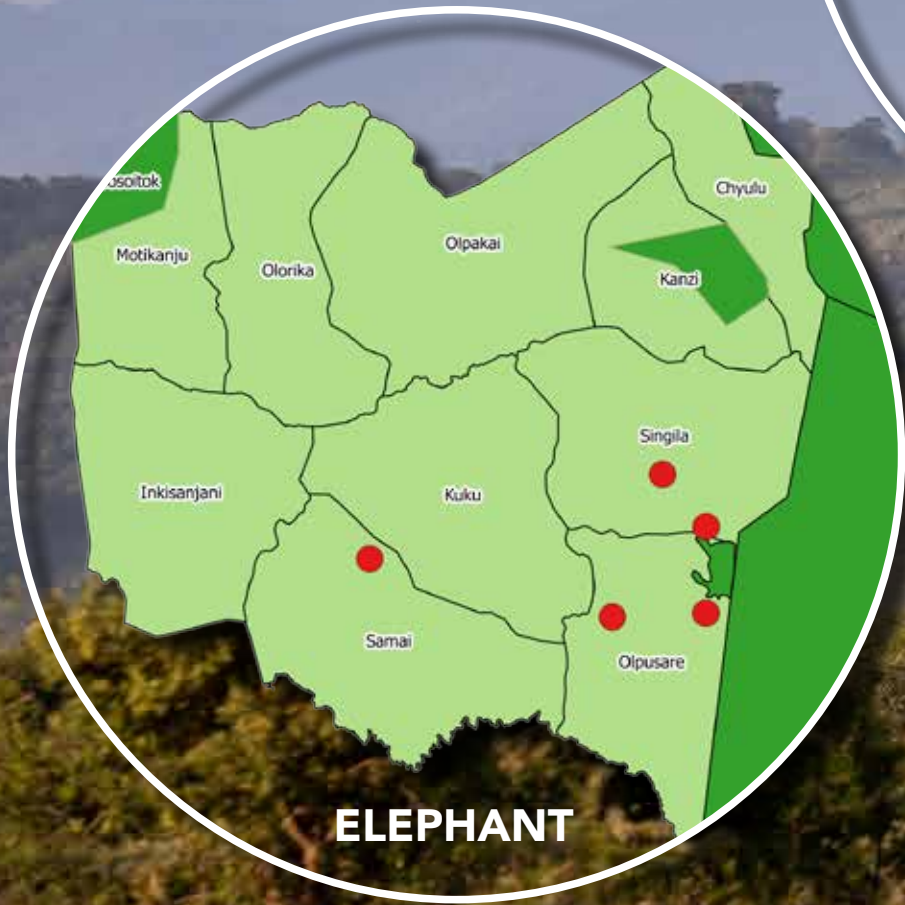
LION



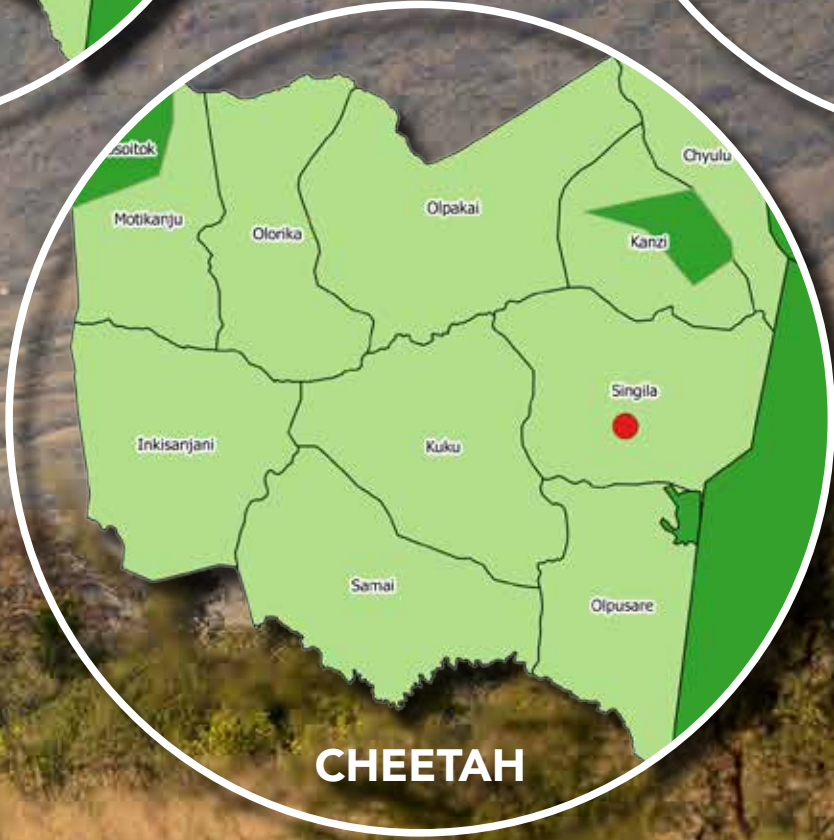
GIRAFFE



ZEBRA

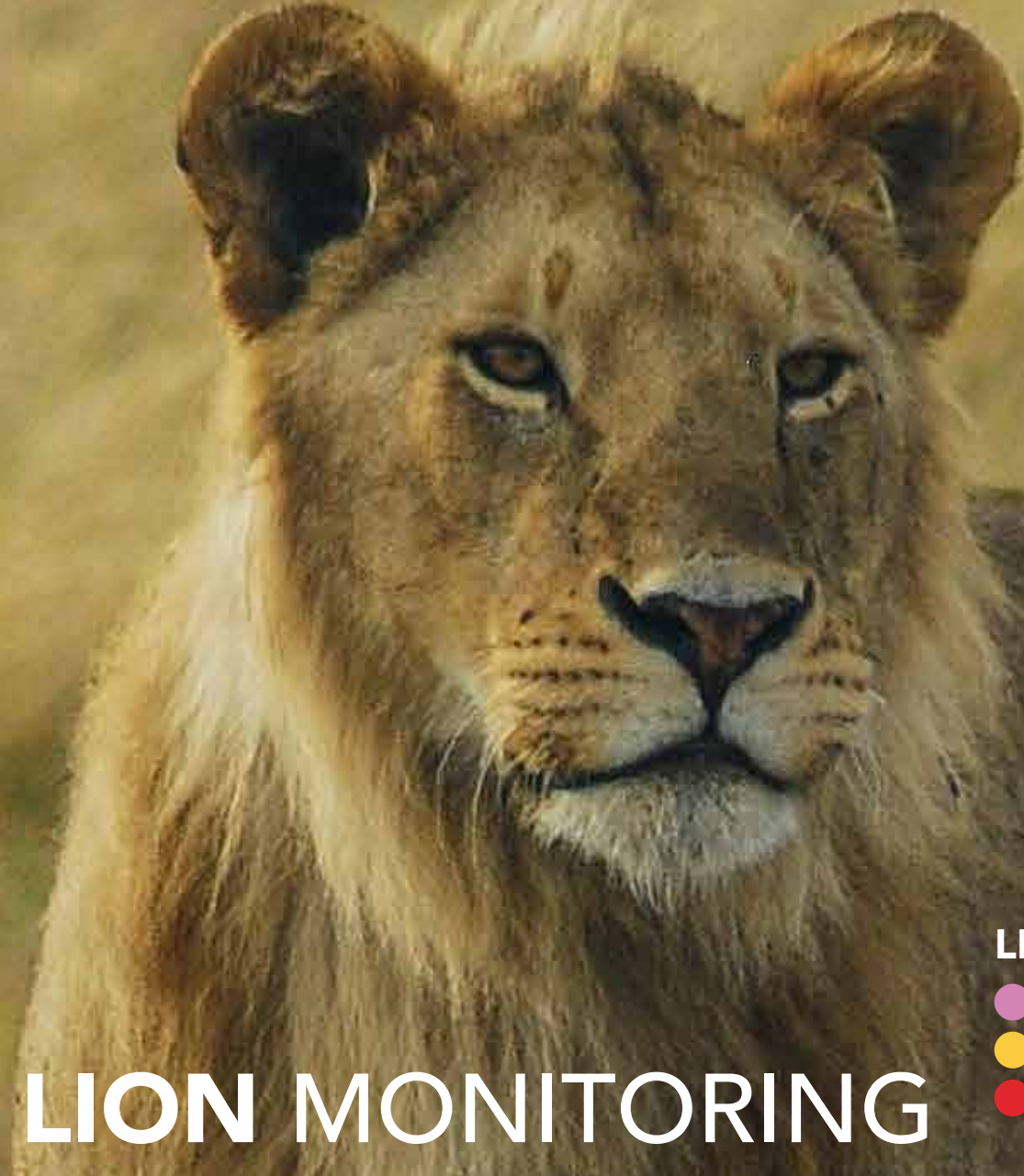


ELEPHANT



CHEETAH

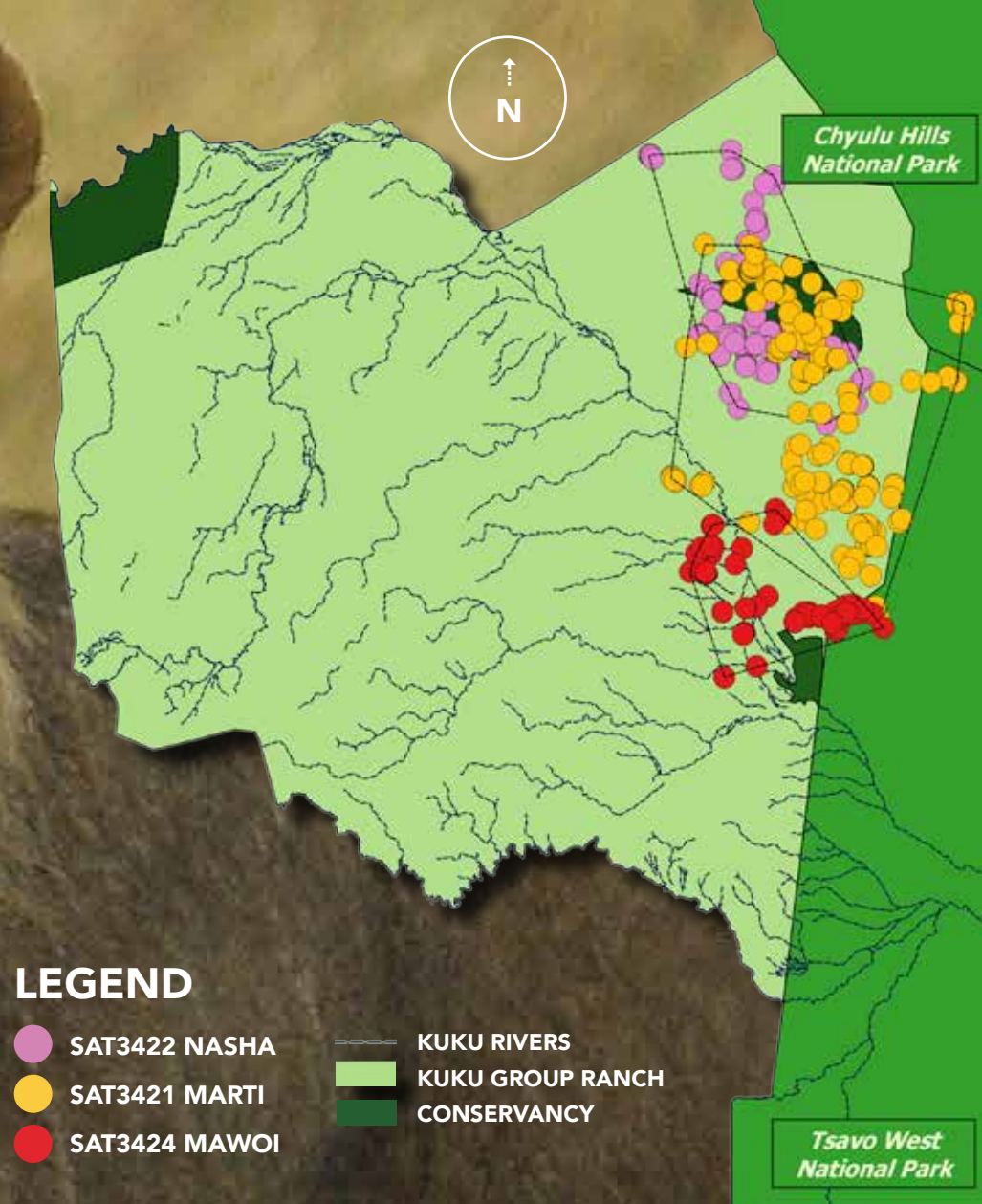




# LION MONITORING

**Collaring lions** is a critically important step towards mitigating human-wildlife conflict. **Seven** individual Lions on the Kuku Group Ranch (KGR) have been collared with GPS/VHF tracking collars and **3** of the pride's movement during **Quarter 1 2020** are illustrated in the descriptive map. The monitoring is also important as we are able to assess population growth rates and habitat utilisation on KGR.

\***Orkirikoi's** (male) & **Namunyak's** (female) collars did not transmit data through the satellite this quarter. **Nesambu's** (female) collar stopped working early April 2019. **Marti (male) was re-collared July 31, 2019. Mawoi (female) was re-collared October 26, 2019.** Namunyak's sister, **Nasha was newly collared on October 28, 2019.** We hope to use this to further track Namunyak as well and eventually de-collar her on the next collaring operation in 2020.

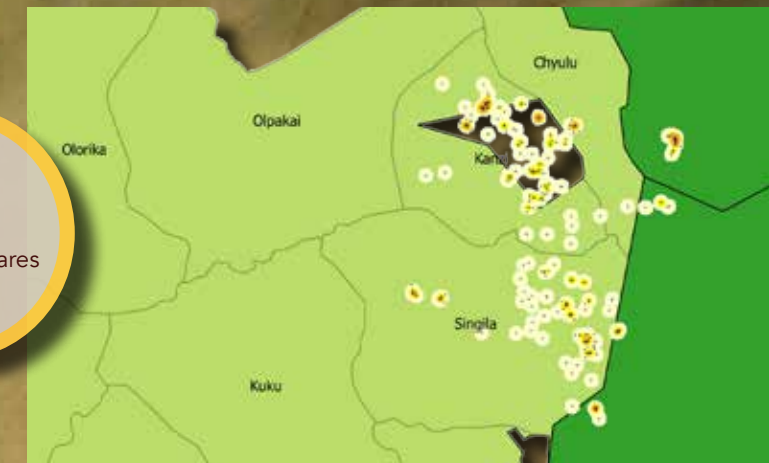


**MARTI (male)**  
has been seen with a pride of 8 pride members. He has been spending time around Loonkitok, Olkiloriti, Singila, and Kanzi. He was involved in livestock predations this quarter.

- LION POINT EVERY 3 HRS
- 10% CORE TERRITORY
- 50% TERRITORY
- 95% TERRITORY
- KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS
- NATIONAL PARKS



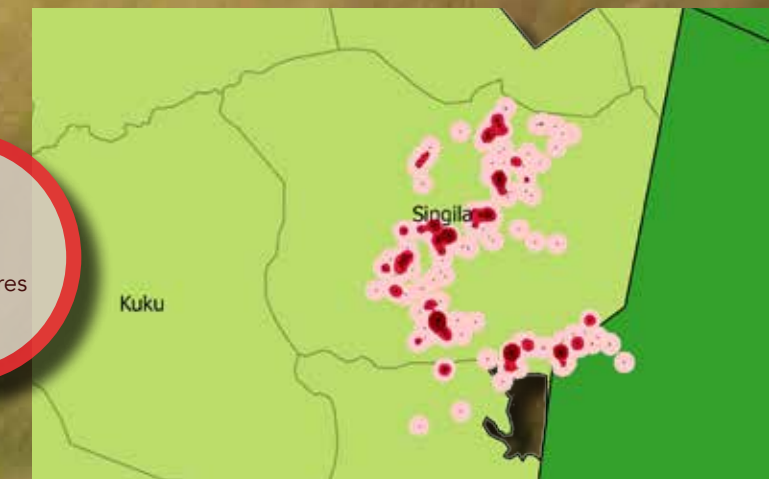
**MARTI**  
Q1 Territory  
15,858 hectares



**MAWOI (female)**  
is part of a pride of 8 members. She was seen spending time near Ittilal, Olpusare conservancy, and Tsavo West National Park. Her pride was involved in livestock predations this quarter.

- LION POINT EVERY 3 HRS
- 10% CORE TERRITORY
- 50% TERRITORY
- 95% TERRITORY
- KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS
- NATIONAL PARKS

**MAWOI**  
Q1 Territory  
5,153 hectares



**NASHA (female)**  
is part of a pride of 2 females. She spent most of her time in Kanzi, Mkao and Koikuma. She was last seen noticeably pregnant. Her pride was not involved in livestock predations this quarter.

- LION POINT EVERY 3 HRS
- 10% CORE TERRITORY
- 50% TERRITORY
- 95% TERRITORY
- KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS
- NATIONAL PARKS



**NASHA**  
Q1 Territory  
7,447 hectares





# SIMBA SCOUTS

This is a **dedicated team of 18 Maasai warriors** (morani), who day in and day out monitor GPS collared lions & other wildlife species. Data collected is analysed and used to gauge various aspects of different wildlife species such as their eating habits. The monitoring is also a very significant measure to mitigating human-wildlife conflict within the local Maasai communities.

## LION KILLINGS

There were many lions involved in livestock killings this quarter and a handful of lion hunt attempts, resulting in 1 sub-adult lion killed in Oltiasika. The incident was confirmed as self-defense and was verified under our Wildlife Pays Compensation Program.

## LION COLLAR ACTIVATION

MARCH 13 - 15

The Simba Scout team spent three days searching for Nasha by tracking her sister, Namunyak. After many hours, the team was able to successfully activate her GPS tracker.

Above: Nasha after her collar was successfully activated. Below: The Simba Scout team using telemetry to track Nasha.

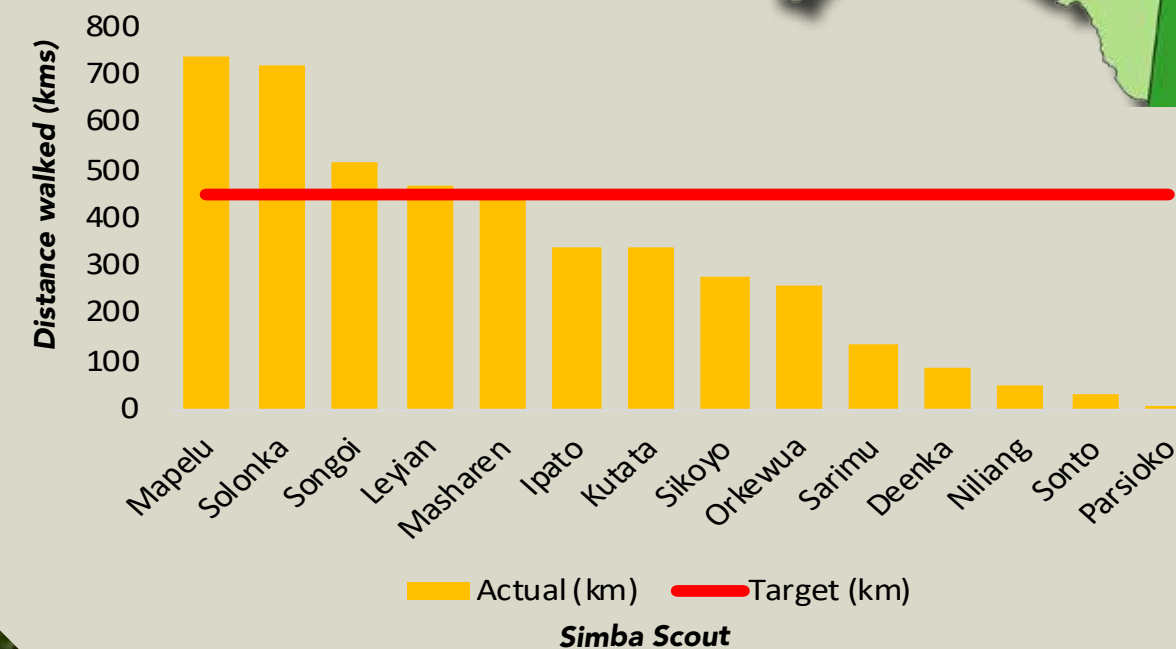
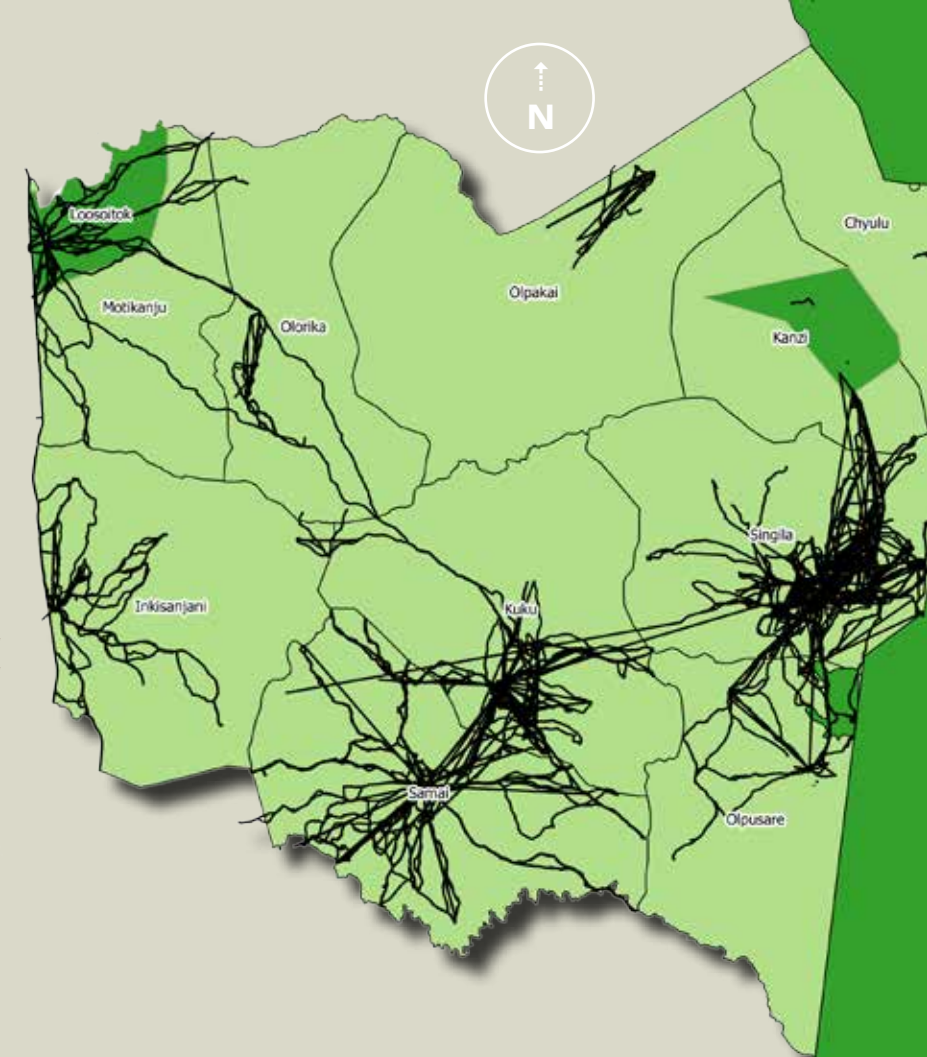


**4,415**  
Total kilometers covered  
on foot this Quarter  
**↑ 15%** **↓ 19%**  
\*Q4 2019 \*Q1 2019

MAP: Simba Scouts Patrol Points reached  
GRAPH: Overall graph depicting target  
distances and actual distances covered.

*\*Those that did not reach their targets had experienced health issues and SMART download issues or were concentrated on lion/wildlife conflicts in certain areas.*

RANGER PATROLS —  
KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS —  
CONSERVANCY —





# CAMERATRAP SIGHTINGS

- ✓ GIRAFFE
- ✓ ELEPHANT
- ✓ HYENA
  - Spotted
  - Striped
- ✓ WARTHOG
- ✓ LION
  - Female
  - Male
  - Cubs
- ✓ LEOPARD
- ✓ CHEETAH
- ✓ GAZELLE
  - Grant's
  - Thomson's
- ✓ BABOON
- ✓ IMPALA
- ✓ HARTEBEEST
- ✓ WILDEBEEST
- ✓ ZEBRA
- ✓ BUFFALO
- ✓ DIK DIK
- ✓ JACKAL
- ✓ MARTIAL EAGLE
- ✓ SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL
- ✓ PORCUPINE



# WET SEASON AERIAL WILDLIFE CENSUS

3,860  
TOTAL WILDLIFE

↑51%  
VS 2019

44,180  
TOTAL LIVESTOCK

↑44%  
VS 2019

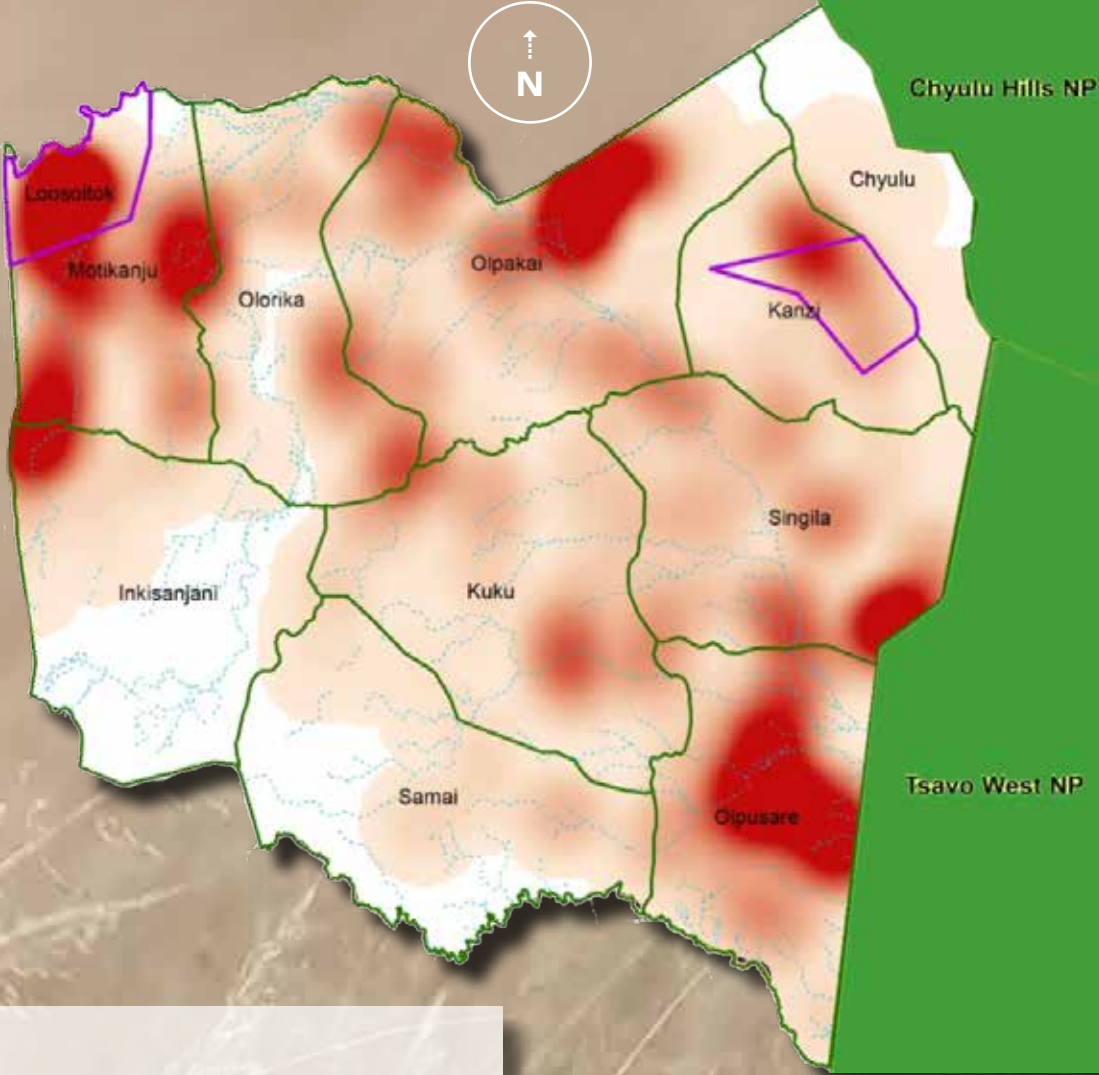
## OUR AIM:

To understand wildlife distribution/abundance on Kuku Group Ranch MWCT began aerial surveys in 2010 as part of a long-term ecological monitoring plan for the group ranch, and to inform decision making going forward. We monitor trends and changes over time, which is an important part of being able to develop appropriate conservation strategies to effectively implement adaptive management.

## JAN 22 '20

A total of 1,122 km of transects were flown systematically between 2 planes, following a north to south bearing at a height of 150-200 meters and at a speed of approximately 110 mph with a cumulative 6hrs of flight time.

Overall the wildlife population remains stable with both reductions and increases in various species population sizes.



## LEGEND

- HI wildlife density
- LO
- KUKU RIVERS
- KUKU GROUP RANCH
- NATIONAL PARK
- CONSERVANCY
- RANGER SECTORS



**\$17,621**

**TOTAL PAY OUT  
OF CLAIMS  
FOR Q1**

**↓22%**

**\*Q4 2019**

**313**

**INCIDENTS**

**↓2%**

**\*Q1 2019**

**3**

**AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF INCIDENTS  
PER DAY  
FOR Q1**

**1,300**

**MONTHLY KMS  
TRAVELLED PER  
VERIFICATION  
OFFICER**

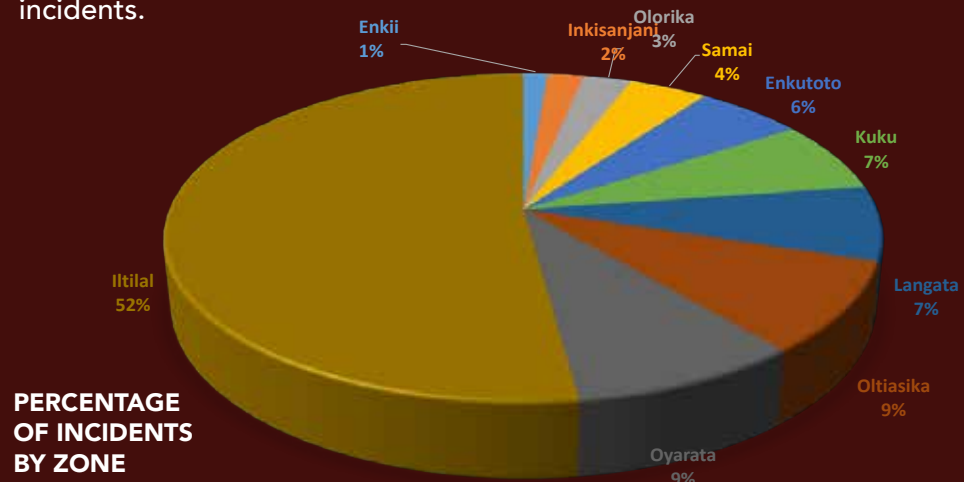
# WILDLIFE PAYS

MWCT, in conjunction with the employment of Rangers and Simba Scouts, protects the major predators of our ecosystem in Kuku Group Ranch, through the Wildlife Pays Compensation Programme. In contrast to many other predator compensation programmes, MWCT's initiative is fully sustainable as it is funded by the conservation surcharges that Campi ya Kanzi (our eco-lodge partner) leverages through tourism. This is a form of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and it does not rely on institutional or philanthropic funding.

Through a rigorous multi-layer system of verification and dedicated officers, Wildlife Pays is able to detect and prevent possible cases of fraud that might undermine the programme. Payments are made quarterly and compensation is based on four types of livestock losses to ensure the Maasai pastoralists utilize good husbandry practices to prevent greater or further losses. Community outreaches and meetings are also an integral part of our predator protection strategy. Rangers, along with prominent community figures and MWCT staff, conduct meetings with communities that are feeling increased pressure of predation, as well as with the young Maasai warriors (Morans), to prevent the groups from any lion killing in retaliation to livestock losses.

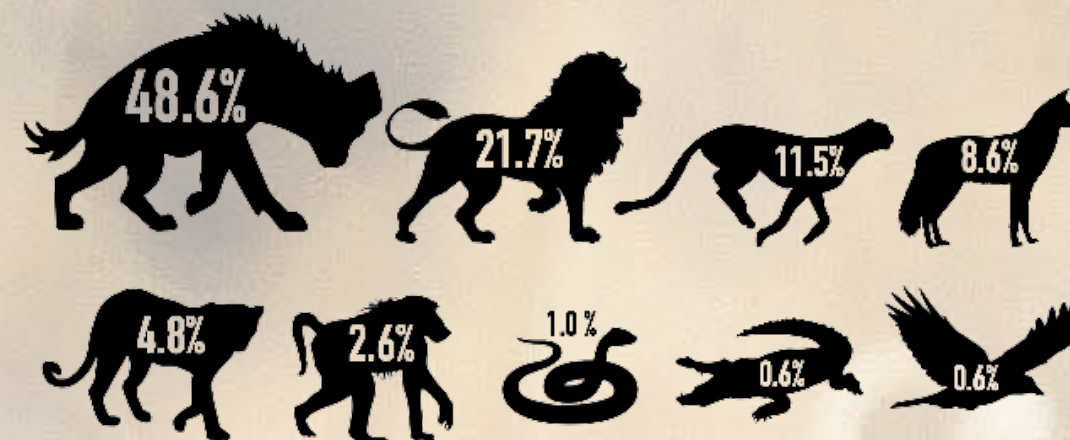
## 1ST QUARTER

For annual comparison purposes, this total of **313** claims is down from the 318 claims recorded during the Q1 of 2019. The Ittilal Wildlife Pays zone accounted for the highest number of incidents at 163 of the **approved 313**, equivalent to 52% of the total losses, while Enkii (4/1.3%) and Inkisanjani (6/1.9%) zones had the least number of incidents.



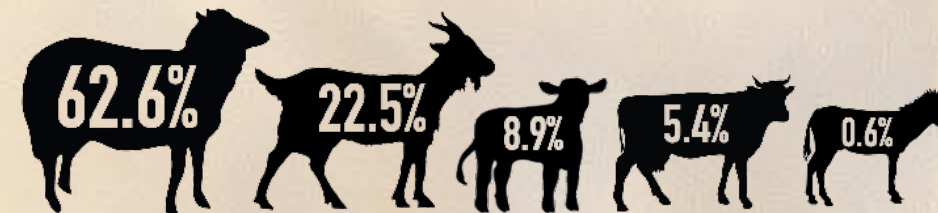
## PREDATORS / WILDLIFE SPECIES

The most livestock taken in relation to predators were due to Hyena (152) followed by Lion (68), Cheetah (36), Jackal (27), Leopard (15), Baboon (8), Snake (3), Crocodile (2) and predatory Bird (2). Specific percentages for the amount accounted for from each predator are reflected in the info graphic below.



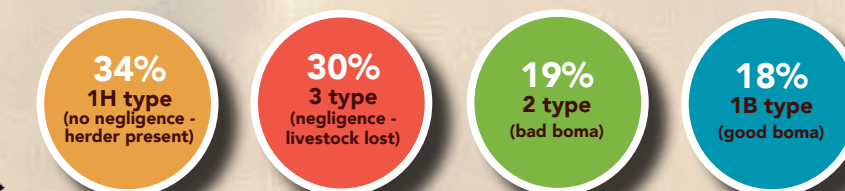
## HEADS OF LIVESTOCK

A total of **484** heads of livestock were killed this quarter. The majority of livestock killed by predators were sheep (303/62.6%), followed by the other livestock species seen in the info graphic below.



## CLAIMS & LOSS TYPES

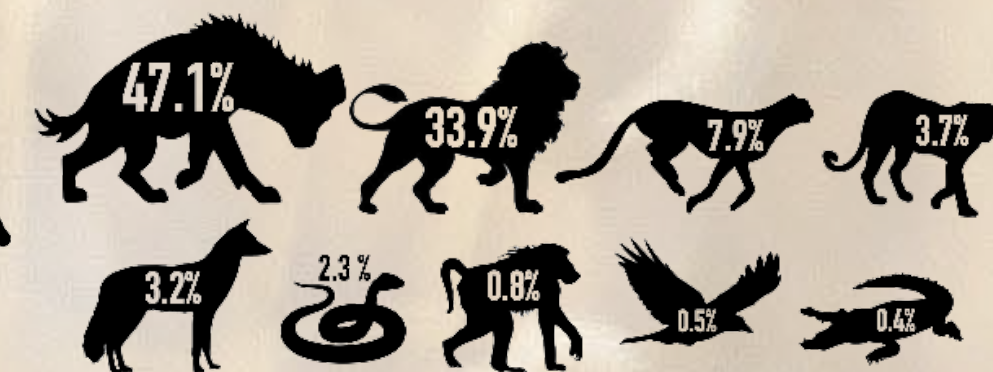
The total pay-out of claims was **1,876,200 Ksh** (USD 17,621), which is lower than the amount paid in Q1 2019 (1,937,900 Ksh) (USD 19,155).



Loss type 1H - the livestock was killed while a herder was present.  
Loss type 1B - the livestock was in the boma when the predator attacked and the boma is well constructed and maintained.  
Loss type 2 - Livestock was in the boma when the predator attacked but the boma was not of sufficient quality to protect the livestock within from predators.  
Loss type 3 - the livestock was lost when the predator attacked no herder was present.

Claims with loss type 1H or 1B receive the highest level of compensation. Loss type 2 claims have the second highest level of compensation and loss type 3 has the lowest level of compensation.

## PREDATOR PAY-OUT VALUE PERCENTAGES





# LAND RESTORATION

## OLPUSARE CONSERVANCY TREE NURSERY

Professor Walubengo from Forest Action Network delivered 1000 Acacia Xanthophloea seedlings and taught the team how to properly build suitable and efficient seed beds. Since then, 14 seed beds have been prepared for different species including acacia zanthophloea, acacia tortillis, acacia nilotica, acacia senegal, and juniperus procera. Several species of seeds and wildlings were also collected from the Chyulu Cloud Forest including, erythrina abyssinica, ficus sycamorus, kigelia africana, croton megalocarpus and vangueria apiculata. This quarter, the team has been carefully maintaining the nursery and moving germinated seeds into individual seedling pots before planting them into the larger plots to rebuild the forest. In March, the team built a new efficient seedbed and transplanted 300 seedlings into plots. They have continued to maintain the project by cleaning up the empty forest plots from grass and weeds to keep them ready for future plantation. There are now 986 seedlings in total that have been planted in the forest plots.



Professor Walubengo & MWCT Conservation Manager, David Okul, collecting wildlings & seeds from Chyulu Cloud Forest to be planted in the tree nursery.



Planting seeds in the new seedbeds.

# REDD+ CARBON PROJECT

## HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS FEB 14/15 & 21/22 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Surveyor training with Laura Perry, George Kingola (MWCT Operations) and Wilbur Mutua (Bee-Keeping Manager)

The household survey is part of our second REDD+ verification process. Interviews of the surveyors were conducted within 2 days in Loitokitok and Kibwezi towns and a week later, a training of the selected surveyors was conducted in Kibwezi town. The training was facilitated by Laura Perry of the University of Oxford. Consequently, the ten surveyors undertook a pilot household survey in the Western and Eastern Blocs of the project area for eight days that started on the 24th of February.

# BEE-KEEPING

## HIVE CHECKS FEB 26 - ENKII / INKISANJANI / CAMPI YA KANZI / CCRC

Wilbur Mutua (Bee-Keeping Manager)

In Enkii, all 15 hives are colonized, 1 was found fallen due to an elephant. Wilbur harvested 13 kgs of honey.

In Inkisanjani, all 15 hives maintained by the women's group are now colonized. The 15 hives maintained by the farmer will be harvested after rainy season.

In Campi ya Kanzi, 17kg of honey was harvested from 4 hives.

In CCRC (MWCT HQ), 5kg of honey was harvested for internal consumption.

# LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

MWCT supports **13 Maasai Women's Groups** to explore other income generating activities. While widespread illiteracy poses a challenge, MWCT pursues creative ways to build financial understanding and grow the capacity of the Maasai – especially women – to run profitable enterprises.

Inkisanjani Women's Group receiving their hippo rollers.

## 4 HIPPO ROLLER Outreaches (A hippo roller is a 90 liter water carrying device)

### Enkii Women's group

4 were distributed

**Supat ene Kahenja (52 yrs old):**  
"Water is life.... we are so grateful for such a device that will assist us fetching enough and clean water for our families thank you to MWCT for their continued support towards improving our life and health."

### Inkisanjani Women's group

4 were distributed

**Joyce Nanginyi Marine (30 yrs old):**  
"The hippo roller has brought a very big relief to us because with the device we used to use, we would spend half of the day fetching water. Now we are getting 90 liters of water at once, girls can also have time to do their homework because I am able to fetch all the water alone"

### Moilo Women's group

4 were distributed

50 were donated to MWCT this quarter by the Marshall family. The remaining hippo rollers will be distributed when the social distancing requirements have been lifted.



## RESTORATION PROJECTS

### Moilo Grass Seed Bank

10 Women members  
10 Acre project area  
80% Project area fully restored

### Inkisanjani Grass Seed Bank

16 Women members  
10 Acre project area  
90% Project area fully restored

### Enkii Grass Seed Bank

20 Women members  
10 Acre project area  
80% Project area fully restored

### Langata Grass Seed Bank

23 Women members  
10 Acre project area  
90% Project area fully restored

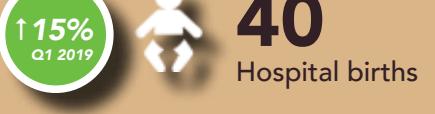
### Maintenance:

Due to Covid-19, all groups have been under strict social distancing requirements but have been slowly working on maintaining their seed banks. All the women worked on weeding and fence maintenance - improving the grass seed and hay yields during harvest. All groups have harvested but have yet to weigh the seeds, but will resume once the restrictions are lifted.



To ensure that the community benefits from our Health Programme, MWCT employs health staff, runs and supports several dispensaries and supplies medical equipment and essential drugs to the community.

\*there were reductions in numbers due to mobility and access difficulties.



**116 sanitary pad packs**  
purchased by MWCT were distributed to 52 female students, along with new underwear, during a menstrual health education seminar.

## 16 leaders & 92 community members

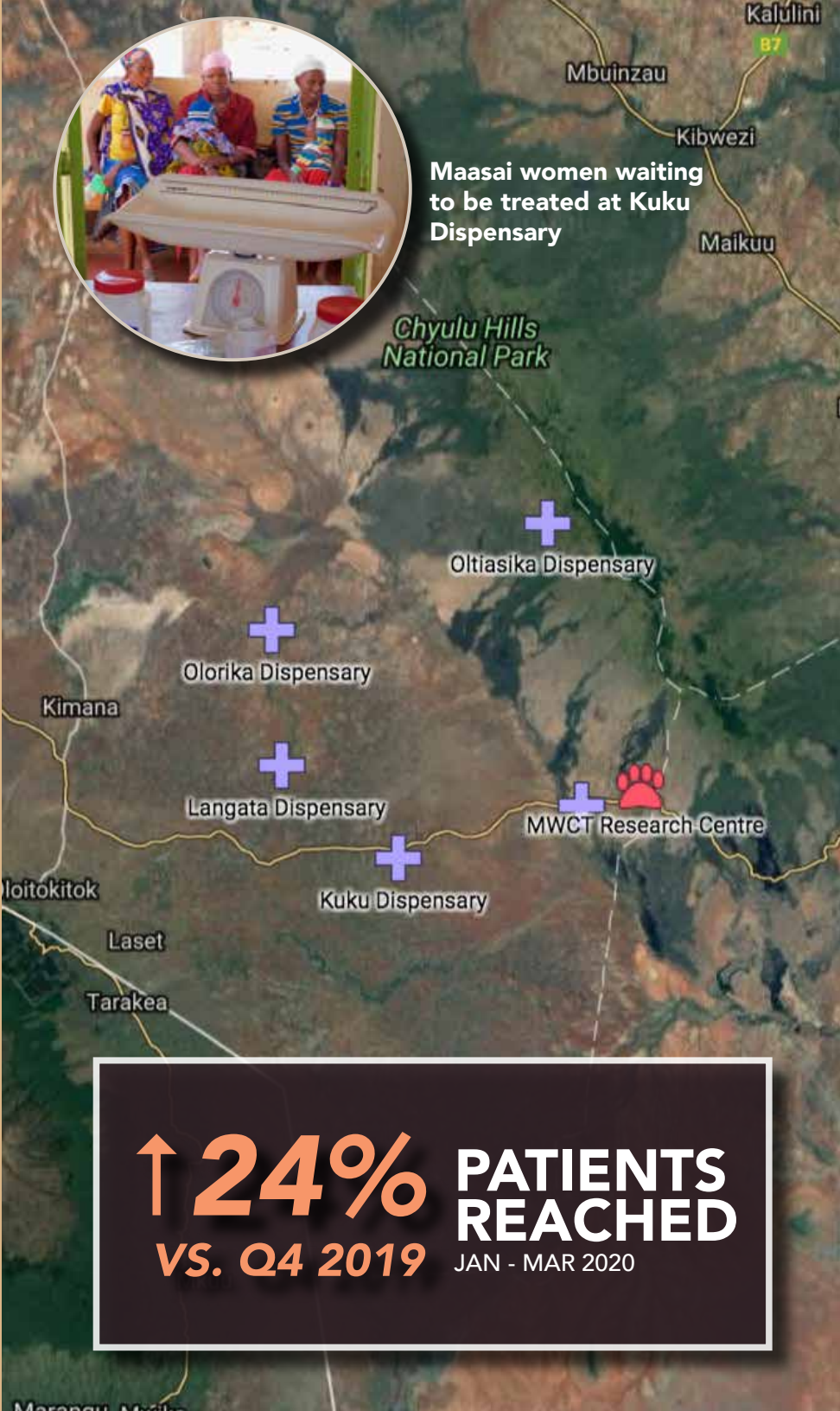
attended a Sexual/Reproductive Health and Rights workshop. 1 community meeting brought 12 Clinical Health Volunteers and 20 Leaders to discuss the Ilital Community-led Total Sanitation.



Dr. M.W. Kisika during a Sexual/Reproductive Health & Rights workshop.



Maasai women waiting to be treated at Kuku Dispensary



**↑ 24% PATIENTS REACHED**  
VS. Q4 2019 JAN - MAR 2020

# HEALTH PROGRAMME







**25**  
Schools supported



**61**  
Teachers employed



**13**  
Support staff



**9,467**  
Students enrolled  
**53%** Boys **47%** Girls



**64**  
Scholarships  
**19** Active



**207**  
Bursaries  
**54** Active

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Ittilal Kanzi primary school continues to have the highest enrolment of pupils, which stands at **1,272** with Inkisanjani and Elangata Enkima following closely with enrolments of **910** and **864** respectively.

We continue to meet all the operational costs of Ittilal Kanzi Primary School, which includes but not limited to employment of **13** teachers, supply of school stationery, provision of tapped water, provision of solar power etc.

## CHALLENGES

Some schools in Kuku Group Ranch such as Inkisanjani, Ittilal and Elangata do not have adequate classrooms to cater for their high enrolments. They are also experiencing shortage of teachers.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools closed down in early March. After the closure, schools have been attempting to continue their teaching through online platforms. However, Naisula school - where MWCT supports 6 students - are experiencing internet connection issues in their homes, so while learning is happening, WiFi challenges are proving difficult for completion.

Teachers remain ready to return until the Kenyan government requires them to resume. While bursaries and scholarships remain active (online applications ongoing), their processing is linked to the lifting of the school closures.

## ENROLLMENT

	School Name	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Ittilal Secondary School	40	41	81
2	Enkii Boys Secondary I	420	0	420
3	Oyarata Primary School	140	133	273
4	Nolasiti Primary School	159	179	338
5	Neiti Nursery School	58	40	98
6	Marlal Primary School	231	178	409
7	Enkii Primary School	228	270	498
8	Shokut Primary School	182	166	348
9	Enkolili Primary School	179	150	329
10	Leinkati Primary School	80	75	155
11	Elangata Enkima Primary	458	406	864
12	Olorika Primary School	339	311	650
13	Oltiasika Primary School	206	176	382
14	Inkisanjani Primary School	457	453	910
15	Olkaria Primary School	385	285	670
16	Kuku Primary School	152	206	358
17	Enkusero Primary School	113	147	260
18	Moilo Primary School	121	99	220
19	Ittilal Primary School	627	645	1,272
20	Loosoitok Primary School	104	102	206
21	Kaitoriori Nursery School	59	49	108
22	Samai Primary School	159	179	338
23	Oltonyo Lenkai Nursery	40	22	62
24	Manyata Nursery	66	38	104
25	Esoit Nursery	44	70	114
Total		5,047	4,420	9,467

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME



# PARTNERS & SUPPORT



**THANK YOU - ASANTE SANA**

We are grateful for the continuous support that we receive from our donors and partnered organizations that aid us in achieving our goals.





## MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PROTECTION AND  
PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, THRIVING WILDLIFE  
AND A VITAL ECOSYSTEM.

SINCE 1996

**MAASAIWILDERNESS.ORG**