



YANKARI GAME RESERVE

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY QUARTERLY REPORT: APRIL-JUNE 2014



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SUMMARY

This report describes the law enforcement efforts and ranger patrols supervised by WCS in Yankari Game Reserve for the period April to June 2014. Thirty-two camping patrols were completed by rangers during the period covering a total distance of 3,652 km. This is an increase compared to the previous three months when only 26 camping patrols were organized. As a result of these renewed efforts, ten poachers and twenty Fulani herders were arrested during the period. However, significant challenges remain, although the Memorandum of Understanding between WCS and Bauchi State Government was finally signed in March 2014 funds are yet to be released for the first quarter (April to June). Lack of vehicles, the deplorable state of the road network, insufficient firearms and inadequate funds (for patrol allowances and field rations) means that only three camping patrols can be organized each week – woefully inadequate to protect the entire reserve. Despite these constraints only two elephant carcasses were discovered this quarter, although other elephant carcasses could have been missed. Speeding by motorists along the Ahmadu Bello Way is a menace to wildlife as two waterbucks were killed in April and a duiker was killed in May. WCS supplied boots, raincoats, blankets, mosquito nets, and water bottles for rangers, and this has significantly improved morale.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All ranger patrols at Yankari Game Reserve are currently based on the CyberTracker monitoring program. For reasons of personal safety rangers are now only permitted to go on patrol provided that they are equipped with a functional firearm and sufficient ammunition. This new standard has reduced attacks on rangers by poachers but severely limits the number of patrols that can be organized at any one time. Notwithstanding, a total of 32 patrols were organized during the quarter (see Appendices 1 and 2 for more details). The high number of poachers arrested this quarter reflects recent improvements in the patrol strategy and renewed efforts and commitment by rangers. It is believed that the high number of arrests in April (and subsequent prison sentences imposed, see Appendix 3) may have acted as a strong deterrent signaling to poachers since no poacher was arrested during May and only one was arrested in June. Despite this apparent success there is an urgent need to increase the number of patrols to cover all areas of the reserve. The policy of zero tolerance on cattle has significantly reduced levels of livestock grazing within the reserve, and has allowed rangers to focus more on poachers and improving levels of protection. The lack of reliable vehicles (all reserve vehicles are old and in poor condition) to support ranger activities is a major constraint for more effective management and protection of the reserve.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WCS and Bauchi State Government was signed in March 2014 but is still awaiting implementation as the funds for the first quarter (April-June) have not yet been released.

- Two elephant carcasses were discovered this quarter. One of them was still fresh and with its tusks still intact. It was allegedly shot by the notorious poacher Baushe Bello, also wanted for the murder of Hussaini Pai (a loyal Yankari ranger) in 2012.
- Ranger morale is still not as high as it should be. One of the reasons for this is that rangers who have sustained injuries in the past while on patrol have not received the appropriate medical treatment. One ranger Saidu Adamu who was shot while on camping patrol last year is gradually losing the use of his right hand because he cannot afford the recommended treatment. As a result rangers feel neglected and are increasingly demoralized.
- Six elephant tusks were allegedly stolen from the Yankari store in April, although the results of the subsequent investigation are unknown. Rangers are understandably disillusioned by this theft and the lack of information concerning the investigation.
- The reserve's road network, developed over a long period of time and formerly a source of pride, has not been maintained for many years and is currently in a deplorable condition. The poor state of the roads, broken bridges and lack of reliable patrol vehicles provides loopholes for poachers and makes protecting the extremely difficult indeed.
- In June, a ranger patrol was attacked by a large group of Fulani grazers with bows and arrows. Fortunately all rangers were armed and they were able to repel the attack. The following day soldiers from the army battalion based in Bauchi were mobilized to join rangers for a joint patrol. Joint patrols act to reinforce protection and increase the confidence of rangers but also to remind the public that the reserve is a protected area and rangers have a duty to protect it.

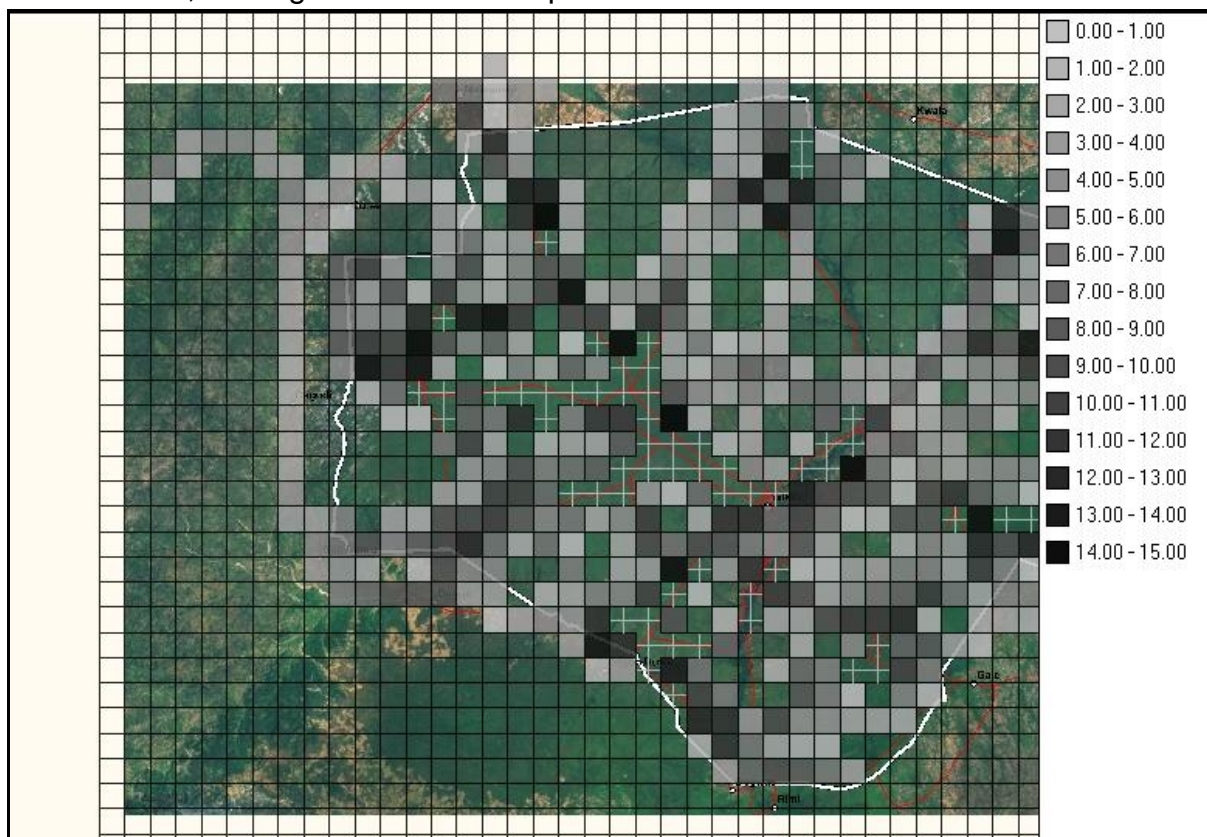
PATROL STRATEGY AND CAMPING PATROL SCHEDULE

Since WCS was delegated to manage and supervise the rangers their level of discipline has improved dramatically. The repair of broken firearms and the acquisition of new firearms increased the number of rangers we can now send out on patrol. The new regulation that all rangers on patrol *must* now possess a fully functional firearm and sufficient ammunition is strictly enforced. However with only 18 usable firearms currently available we can only organize three camping patrols each week. Although this is an improvement compared to the previous quarter, when only two patrols per week could be organized, it is still not enough. In future greater effort and attention is required towards firearm maintenance and more regular repairs. WCS continues to look at ways in which the police based at Wikki can be used to help support patrols,

unfortunately they are reluctant to participate on camping patrols and there are insufficient vehicles to support both camping and daily patrols. At the moment, the Police Hilux and the old 4x4 Ford are the only vehicles available to support ranger activities. Three teams consisting of six-seven rangers per team are sent out for a weekly camping patrol. There are no fixed camping locations, instead rangers change overnight locations continuously both to increase the area covered but also to minimize the risk of the camp being discovered by poachers and attacked. Due to insufficient firearms and vehicles, rangers based at the ranger stations on the edge of the reserve are no longer allowed to go on patrol. This is necessary to avoid further loss of life by rangers. Appendix 1 summarizes the patrol data for the quarter.

PATROL EFFORT

In *Map 1* below, the darker part of the grid map indicates areas that have been more frequently patrolled, the grey portion represent areas that were less patrolled while the un-shaded parts of the grid represents areas that were not patrolled. Due to a shortage of vehicles and firearms to operate sufficient patrols, large areas of the reserve were not patrolled at all, leaving hunters free to operate in these areas without fear of arrest.

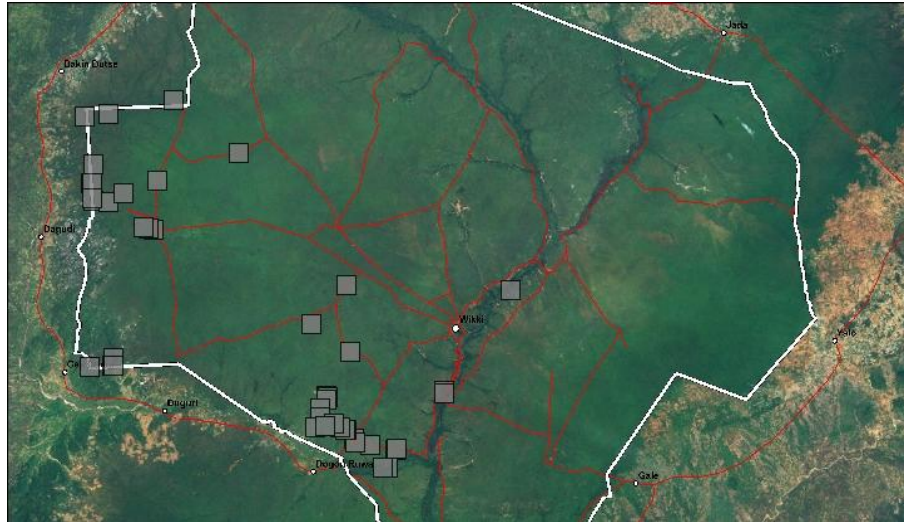


Map 1: Patrol Coverage April-June 2014

ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

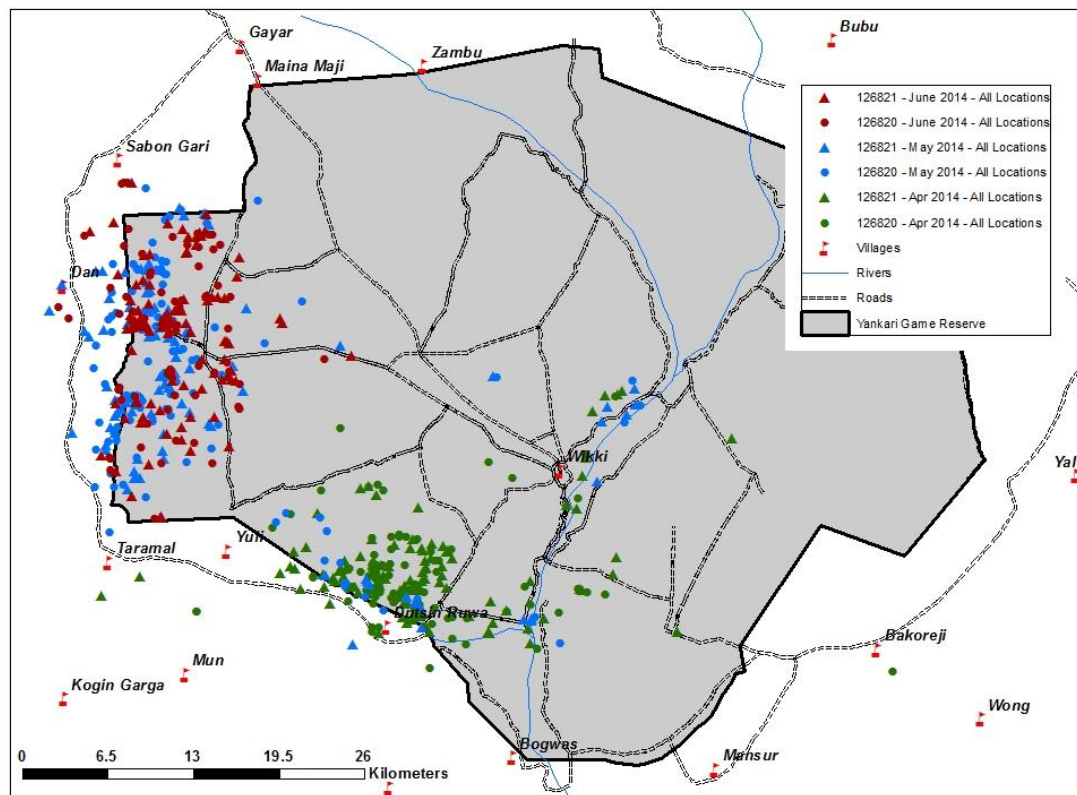
Elephant activity was recorded only towards the southern and western part of the reserve (see Maps 2 and 3 below). We are not yet certain if this represents all elephant

activity in Yankari or if there may be other elephant herds present. Data from the two elephants fitted with satellite collars 126820 and 126821 show similar movement patterns and for now the two elephants appear to be travelling in the same herd. As the wet season progresses we anticipate that this situation may change. Cases of elephant crop raiding were reported this quarter from the western edge of the reserve.



Map 2: Fresh Elephant Activity April-June 2014

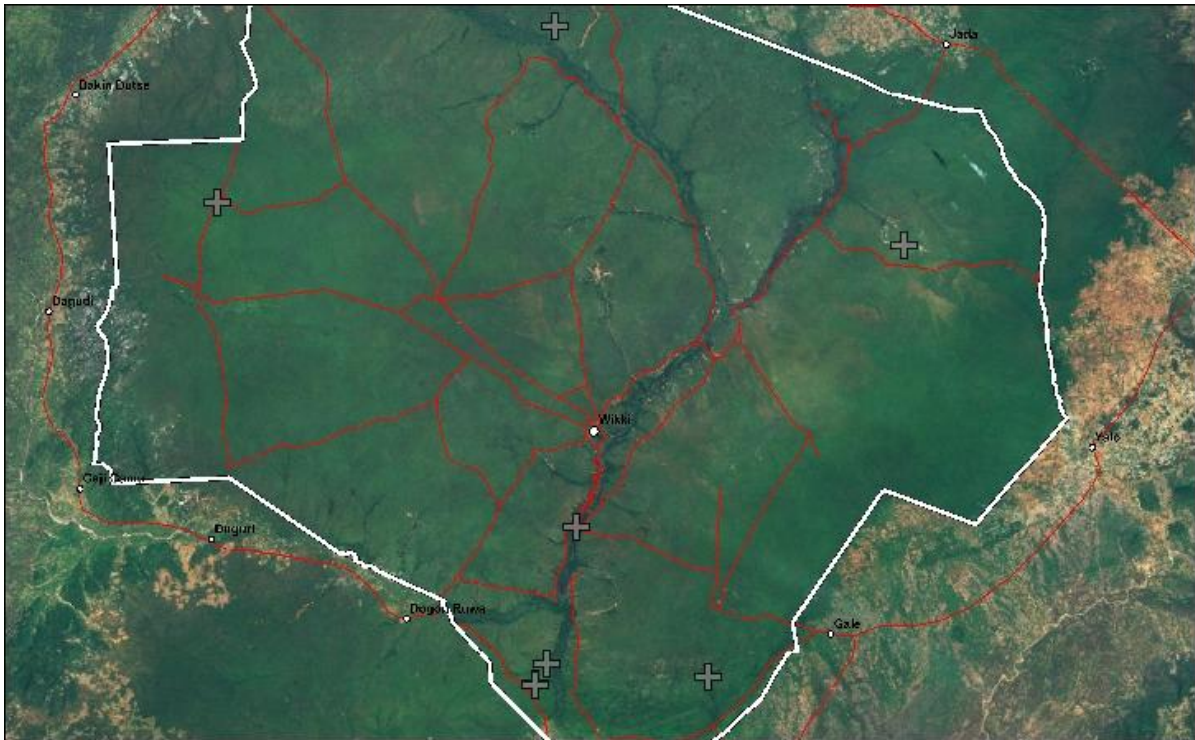
Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria: April - June 2014



Map 3: Locations of Two Elephants Fitted with Satellite Collars April-June 2014

LION CONSERVATION

Seven lion sightings were recorded this quarter, widely distributed across the reserve, see Map 4 below. Although most sightings were concentrated towards the south this may be due to the fact that more patrols were organized in the south compared to other areas. There were numerous lion sightings reported around Wikki (not shown on the map) and lions were frequently heard roaring from Wikki at night.



Map 4: Lion Sightings April-June 2014



Lion in Yankari

Various other large mammals were sighted within the reserve (see Map 5 below) including baboons, waterbuck, roan antelope, buffalo, hartebeest, patas monkey, tantalus monkey, hyena, bushbuck and warthog.



Hunting signs recorded this quarter are shown in Map 6 below. We believe that poaching activity has reduced but remains a significant problem. With very limited resources available we adapted the patrol strategy to target vulnerable areas rather than try to cover the entire reserve. This strategy has also enabled us to focus more attention on the elephant herd containing the two elephants fitted with satellite collars.



ELEPHANT CARCASS DATA

Two elephant carcasses were encountered during the quarter. One of the carcasses was very old and the tusks were missing while the other carcass was still fresh and its tusks were intact. It was allegedly shot by the notorious poacher, Baushe Bello, also wanted for the murder of a Yankari ranger in 2012. Detailed elephant carcass data is provided in Appendix 5.



Old elephant carcass recorded



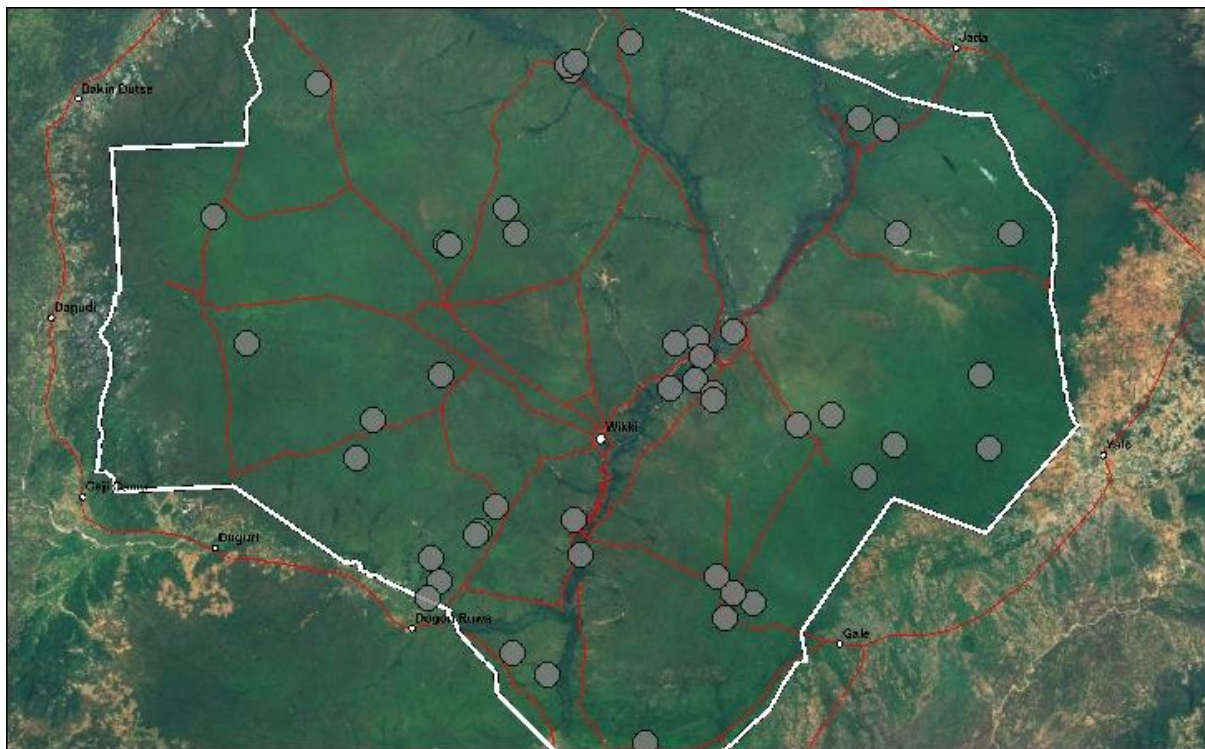
Fresh elephant carcass recorded (tusks removed by ranger)

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Illegal livestock grazing has been a major problem at Yankari for many years, and left unchecked for too long it quickly reached alarming levels. Map 7 below shows the extent of illegal livestock grazing with the reserve from April to June, although it is suspected that some of the grazing signs recorded were old, from before this period. With too few vehicles and firearms it has been difficult to combat the threats due to livestock grazing and poaching at the same time. With poor levels of supervision and widespread indiscipline it was inevitable that some rangers have been compromised in recent times by the presence of so many Fulani grazers on the edge of the reserve. Large numbers of cattle and Fulani grazers moved out of the reserve and surrounding areas in June. The zero tolerance strategy towards cattle found inside the reserve has proved to be effective, reducing opportunities for corruption and reducing the frequency of cattle sighted around Wikki. The zero tolerance policy must be maintained.

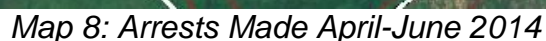


Cattle moving out of the reserve in June



Map 7: Livestock Grazing Recorded April-June 2014

Ten poachers and 20 Fulani herders were arrested during this period, see Map 8 below and Appendices 3 and 4 for more details. It is noticeable that almost all of the poachers arrested could not afford the fine option and so were sent to jail, whereas all the Fulani herders arrested were able to pay the fine option and so escaped imprisonment. These fines are relatively small for Fulani herdsman and do not serve as an effective deterrent against illegal livestock grazing within the reserve. A *new* law dating from 1989 was recently discovered which specifies that anyone arrested inside Yankari goes to prison for six months, without any option of fine. If implemented, this law would serve as a more effective deterrent against illegal livestock grazing and would reduce the need to shoot cows. However there are vested interests who would likely not want to see this law implemented.



Insufficient firearms and functional vehicles made it impossible to protect all areas of the reserve this quarter. The road network has not been maintained in recent years and is in a very poor state making it very difficult and sometimes impossible to do efficient patrols. Damaged bridges have not been repaired, isolating large areas of the reserve that quickly become poaching hotspots. Poachers responsible for killing rangers have still not been apprehended, and this neglect totally demoralizes rangers. This is an appalling indication that rangers can be killed whilst on duty and justice will not prevail nor their killers brought to book. In order to encourage these poor rangers, a reinvestigation into all past murders has to be opened in the long term interest and conservation of the reserve. Lack of support to finance medical treatment of rangers wounded or shot while on duty has been a problem in getting complete dedication for the job. Another area that needs attention is the strong follow up to ensure that elephant poachers and ivory dealers always receive appropriate legal sanctions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Purchase additional vehicles to provide essential support for patrol and monitoring/supervision.
2. Purchase additional firearms to increase the number of patrols that can be sent out each week.
3. The zero tolerance approach to livestock grazing inside the reserve is proving to be effective and should be maintained.
4. All poachers and herders arrested should be prosecuted using the 1989 special protection law. Removing the option of fines reduces opportunities for corruption and serves as a more effective deterrent.
5. Facilitate a workshop for police, magistrates and other government officials to raise awareness of the 1989 special protection law.
6. Liaise with the State Security Service to ensure that those persons responsible for the murder of rangers on active duty are arrested and brought to trial.
7. Liaise with the army to provide refresher training for rangers on weapons handling and shooting practice.
8. Provide refresher training for rangers in the use of CyberTracker.
9. Provide proper medical treatment for all rangers who have been wounded whilst on duty.
10. Provide proper orientation for all vehicles entering the reserve from the main gate so that the number of animals killed by careless or reckless driving is reduced.
11. Move all elephant ivory to a secure location and ensure it is properly documented to prevent any further thefts. Ideally the ivory should be destroyed.
12. Repair the road network and broken bridges in the reserve for more efficient patrolling.
13. Purchase tents or hammocks/bashas for use by rangers in the wet season.
14. Complete renovation of the ranger barracks at Wikki.
15. Renovate Powerchute for elephant monitoring and anti-poaching support.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: 32 Camping Patrols Completed April - June 2014

No	Area patrol	Patrol Start	Patrol End
1	Faliyaram area, Mai-Kwanakwani area, Randel, Shehu Maska,	01/04 /14	06/04/14
2	Shaman, Jan-Dutse, Kariyo, Tukuruwa	01/04/14	06/04/14
3	Shaman, Buri, Mai-Kogo, Dogon Kurmi, Jigawa	08/04/14	13/04/14
4	Mansur, Bye-pass, Dogon ruwa, Tungan Dutse, Tungan Kiyashi	08/04/14	13/04/14
5	Gurumtum, Gombaza, Mawulgo, Tungan Kiyashi	15/04/14	20/04/14
6	Mawulgo, Shashau, Buri, Kariyo	15/04/14	20/04/14
7	Faliyaram, Farin-Kasa, Tukuruwa, Tungan-Kiyashi, Kariyo-Hill,	22/04/14	27/04/14
8	Jar-Kasa, Tungan-Maliki, Adamu-Jumba, Yello track, Randel	22/0/14	27/04/14
9	Mai Bindiga, Dogon ruwa, Nata'ala, Faliyaram,	29/04/14	04/05/14
10	Kalban Hill, Shaman, Tungan Kiyashi, Kwala road	29/04/14	04/05/14
11	Gwambaza, Bur,Kalban, Buri, Kwala road, Bogwas, Buri, Ahmadu Bello way, Highway	06/05/14	11/05/14
12	Shashau, Faliyaram, Farar kasa, Layin giwa, Tungan Kiyashi, Dogon ruwa	06/05/14	11/05/14
13	Walakerol,Garin Kweri, Dogon ruwa, Jigawa	13/05/14	18/05/14
14	Bogwas, Buri, Mai-Konkoni, Dogon Kurmi	13/05/14	18/05/14
15	Tungulum, Kwala road, Tungan Kiyashi	13/05/14	18/05/14
16	Dagudi, Shashau, Dalamiri, Tungan Kiyashi, Duki Wells, Faliyaram	20/04/14	25/04/14
17	Hawan Kantanawa, Shaman, Mawulgo, Nata'ala, Dogon Ruwa	20/05/14	25/05/14
18	Mawulgo, Borkono, Kwala road,	27/05/14	01/06/14
19	Tungulum, Dogon ruwa, Gobur,	27/05/14	01/06/14
20	Gwalkahi, Tungan Kiyashi, Nata'ala	27/05/14	01/06/14
21	Gale, Randel, Kariyo,Kwanan Kirya, Duke well, Tungan-Maliki	03/06/14	08/07/14
22	Tantabara, Shashau, Kwarin Gadali, Dan	03/06/14	08/06/14
23	Nata'ala, Filin-Tsintsiya, Gobur, Shehu-Maska, Tungulum	03/06/14	08/06/14
24	Tungulum, Ruwan-Rakuma, Tungan Sarkin Mun, Paki	10/06/14	15/06/14
25	Dogon-Ruwa, Tukuruwa, Kashera	10/06/14	15/06/14
26	Shaman, Shashau, Kwarin-Gadali, Dan	10/06/14	15/06/14
27	Faliyaram, Tukuruwa, Gurumtum	17/06/14	22/06/14

28	Hawan Kantanawa, Shaman, Mawulgo	17/06/14	22/06/14
29	Tungan-Dutse, Kariyo	17/06/14	22/06/14
30	Ruwan-Gogo, Shaman, Dan, Tungan-Kiyashi,	24/06/14	29/06/14
31	Jada-road, Duke wells, Shashau, Dogon-Kurmi, Fali	24/06/14	29/06/14
32	Farar-Kasa, Dalamiri, Dagudi, Kwanan-Kirya	24/06/14	29/06/14



Rangers with new uniforms and boots



Rangers on camping patrol

Appendix 2: CyberTracker Patrol Data for April - June 2014

Date	Patrols	Distance covered (kilometers)	Time taken (hours)	Start time	Stop time
01/04/2014	2	20.47887	6.1611	14:36:52	17:41:42
02/04/2014	2	37.54023	19.9713	05:43:50	15:42:58
03/04/2014	2	60.17924	20.1816	05:18:24	15:23:49
04/04/2014	2	28.58218	14.3797	06:14:24	13:25:47
05/04/2014	2	9.89395	6.3172	16:27:07	19:36:38
06/04/2014	2	124.61881	22.6238	05:37:21	16:56:04
08/04/2014	2	138.32037	18.0638	11:41:00	17:55:31
10/04/2014	2	108.21429	26.6752	07:05:30	13:43:36
11/04/2014	2	39.5528	11.5822	07:11:40	12:59:08
12/04/2014	1	156.44175	12.63	05:04:49	15:28:22
13/04/2014	1	16.43395	6.8963	06:56:58	11:29:16
15/04/2014	2	45.31577	21.2597	06:33:37	17:11:25
16/04/2014	2	61.71524	11.135	06:55:15	12:29:11
17/04/2014	2	21.42173	13.8741	05:40:47	12:37:00
18/04/2014	2	31.35263	11.8744	06:18:01	12:14:15
19/04/2014	2	32.60252	19.0474	06:11:19	15:42:45
20/04/2014	2	30.44199	15.0419	11:12:07	17:22:54
22/04/2014	2	60.32641	16.2766	09:41:29	15:29:53
23/04/2014	2	42.61447	12.568	06:19:19	10:38:45
24/04/2014	2	28.63506	14.1369	05:37:46	12:39:48
25/04/2014	2	21.40303	12.8683	04:57:40	11:23:43
26/04/2014	1	32.15347	11.4261	05:17:38	16:43:12
27/04/2014	2	11.08281	7.6475	05:11:06	09:00:31
29/04/2014	2	35.28819	10.2911	12:09:13	17:17:57
30/04/2014	2	36.61738	22.8605	05:26:59	16:52:48
01/05/2014	2	31.53797	13.5302	07:19:42	14:05:37
02/05/2014	2	91.47969	18.9402	06:09:43	17:40:27
03/05/2014	2	53.45359	11.4038	05:48:54	10:39:30
04/05/2014	2	20.30643	13.4549	04:55:55	14:44:15
06/05/2014	2	80.5013	32.9086	09:25:50	15:49:20
07/05/2014	3	257.08208	32.5805	07:18:16	14:22:12
08/05/2014	2	28.61393	14.575	05:27:43	12:44:57
09/05/2014	2	49.11646	15.0919	05:20:46	12:33:36
10/05/2014	2	20.34711	9.4538	05:26:22	10:09:59
11/05/2014	2	24.92197	9.0638	05:48:23	10:17:28
13/05/2014	3	90.79126	27.8713	11:26:25	16:08:34
14/05/2014	3	37.20932	17.5066	07:27:37	13:17:45
15/05/2014	3	38.36758	16.6366	07:07:12	12:39:56
16/05/2014	3	96.81418	26.8652	05:50:07	14:47:25
17/05/2014	2	98.74658	36.4408	05:15:55	15:42:14
18/05/2014	3	18.68415	9.8225	09:31:06	12:10:28
20/05/2014	2	81.70423	21.6358	07:14:01	16:55:04
21/05/2014	2	34.27138	51.0722	05:33:31	11:19:02
22/05/2014	2	61.9342	11.9094	08:48:47	17:09:22
23/05/2014	2	8.91271	3.9361	05:29:45	07:27:49
24/05/2014	2	67.81162	24.2927	07:58:53	09:57:09

25/05/2014	2	21.91011	13.2202	06:21:42	12:00:36
27/05/2014	3	33.7078	15.9483	13:33:27	18:04:42
28/05/2014	3	69.20313	22.3463	06:28:30	13:55:25
29/05/2014	3	30.00252	10.9772	08:58:35	12:38:07
30/05/2014	3	20.0013	8.603	08:51:24	11:43:28
31/05/2014	2	44.49408	13.1794	06:29:05	13:04:28
01/06/2014	2	10.10432	9.3169	07:19:53	11:19:01
03/06/2014	3	51.56829	16.5472	10:30:16	16:01:12
04/06/2014	3	21.30319	8.9986	05:10:29	08:10:27
05/06/2014	2	35.30703	16.9222	05:13:39	13:41:17
06/06/2014	2	26.2455	12.9849	07:50:01	13:56:15
07/06/2014	2	57.53878	17.7722	07:10:14	16:03:23
08/06/2014	2	43.91288	5.6616	06:24:25	12:20:05
09/06/2014	1	13.30486	23.3466	04:54:33	05:43:16
10/06/2014	3	33.75302	21.7605	11:20:54	15:21:04
11/06/2014	3	34.10668	16.7699	07:32:54	13:07:34
12/06/2014	3	35.48842	17.443	08:53:18	14:42:10
13/06/2014	1	11.14107	5.5305	05:45:22	11:17:12
14/06/2014	3	40.13308	13.8666	07:44:08	12:21:28
15/06/2014	2	10.98727	9.5027	06:52:18	10:29:03
17/06/2014	3	93.58418	10.3305	12:26:42	15:53:19
18/06/2014	3	33.22283	7.8133	09:09:39	11:45:54
19/06/2014	3	77.53359	20.2016	07:21:19	14:05:21
20/06/2014	3	16.63975	6.8858	06:58:38	10:45:01
21/06/2014	3	58.39755	15.4155	07:32:01	12:35:16
22/06/2014	3	26.98559	9.1691	08:45:30	11:48:16
24/06/2014	3	4.43634	2.0577	16:27:17	17:08:27
25/06/2014	3	41.41432	15.8861	12:07:06	17:24:49
26/06/2014	3	52.36309	19.6924	08:09:15	14:43:06
27/06/2014	3	24.66947	11.9211	09:38:27	13:11:43
28/06/2014	2	55.13254	13.5283	09:11:54	15:57:45
	175	3652.42746	1198.3808	07:44:00	13:46:05

Appendix 3: Ten Poachers Arrested and Court Outcome April-June 2014

Date	Name	Location	Offence	Outcome
07/04/14	Wambai Alhaji	Tukuruwa	Poaching	He couldn't afford a fine option of N30,000 so he went for two months in jail.
07/04/14	Rilwanu Bala	Tukuruwa	Poaching	He couldn't afford a fine option of N30,000 he went for two months in jail.
09/04/14	Abdullahi Surajo	Shaman	Poaching	Outcome is pending.
24/04/14	Usman Alh Jemma	Walakerol	Poaching	He couldn't afford a fine option of N30,000 so he went for two months in jail.
24/04/14	Abudullahi Musa	Walakerol	Poaching	He couldn't afford a fine option of N30,000 so he went for two months in jail.
24/04/14	Ahmadu Alh Aliyu	Walakerol	Poaching	He couldn't afford a fine option of N30,000 so he went for two months in jail.
28/04/14	Kala Babawuro	Tungan-Maliki	Poaching	The third time he has been arrested. Sent to jail for a year.
28/04/14	Isiyaku Mohammadu	Tungan-Maliki	Poaching	The second time he has been arrested. Sent to jail for a year.
29/04/14	Abdullahi Garba	Buri	Poaching	He couldn't afford a fine option of N30,000 so he went for two months in jail.
06/06/14	Saidu Mohammed	Dogon-Ruwa	Poaching	He was given six months in jail or N40,000 fine option. He paid the fine.

Appendix 4: Twenty Fulani Herders Arrested and Court Outcome April-June 2014

Date	Name	Offence	Outcome
09/04/14	Sale AlhajiJabbi	Grazing	He had fine option of N40,000 or three months in jail. He paid the fine
12/04/14	Sale Gajere and Bello Dan Koroji	Grazing	Both had had fine option of N85,000 or six months in jail. He paid the fine
22/04/14	DangogoAdamu AdamuAlhKoroji Manu AlhAdamu MammanAdamu AhmaduLadan Yeti AlhLadan MatiAlhLadan	Grazing	Group of seven. First five were adults and were charged six months in jail or fine option of N40,000 each while last two were immature and were charged six months in jail or N30,000 each fine option. They all paid the fine.
15/05/14	Usman Alh Oro BubaAlhAti	Grazing	The first person is an adult and was charged six months in jail or N40,000 fine option while the second is immature so was charged six months in jail or N30,000 fine option
26/05/14	Usman Alh Oro BubaAlh Oro	Grazing	They were charged six month in jail per person or N40,000 fine option. Both paid the fine.
28/05/14	DunduAlhBoderi Moh'dAuwalu YusufuAlhBarti	Grazing	They were charged six month in jail per person or N40,000 fine option. They all paid the fine.
16/06/14	OriAlh Musa Jafar Musa Idris Saleh	Grazing	They were all charged six months in jail or fine option of N40,000 for the first person who is an adult and N30,000 each for the last two who are immature.

Appendix 5: Elephant Carcass Data April – June 2014

<i>Date</i>	<i>GPS Long</i>	<i>GPS Lat</i>	<i>Carcass age</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Death cause</i>	<i>Meat taken</i>	<i>Status ivory</i>	<i>HEC_situation</i>	<i>Comments</i>
3-May-14	10.16414	9.45567	Old	Adult	Male	Unknown	No	Missing	None-reported	Tusk was removed after it decomposed
24-May-14	10.3201	9.46283	Fresh	Adult	Male	Gunshot	No	Retrieved	None-reported	It ran with the gun shot from a long distance before it died