

YANKARI GAME RESERVE

QUARTERLY CYBERTRACKER PATROL REPORT

January - March 2014



Second Elephant Fitted with a Satellite Collar in Yankari

Nachamada Geoffrey

WCS Acting Project Manager

SUMMARY

This report describes the law enforcement efforts and ranger patrols supervised by WCS in Yankari Game Reserve for the period January to March 2014. WCS is now responsible for the management and supervision of law enforcement and camping patrols have now fully resumed. However a lack of vehicles, firearms and funds (for allowances and rations) means that only two camping patrols per week are organized – woefully inadequate to protect the entire reserve. Eleven faulty firearms were repaired which has increase the number of usable firearms available for operation from 5 to 16. Only one elephant carcass was recorded this quarter. There were sixteen people arrested for various offences including the collection of wild fruits (2), trading in bushmeat (2), livestock grazing (8), and hunting (4). The Ambassador of the Czech Republic accompanied by the director of Zlin Zoo visited Yankari to discuss possible partnerships to support conservation. Illegal cattle grazing is a major problem and we have insisted on a policy of zero tolerance as the only possible means to combat this problem - numerous cows have been shot as a result. A large gang of seventeen armed poachers was reported to have been seen in the reserve by fishermen, and it was alleged that they were looking for rangers. The ranger barracks at Wikki has been fully renovated by Bauchi State Government. The WCS project manager, Gilbert Nyanganji, resigned his position with WCS and was appointed as Senior Special Adviser for Conservation to the Governor of Bauchi State. A second elephant was fitted with a satellite collar in a collaborative effort involving State House and the North Carolina Zoo. The satellite collar helped us track an elephant herd that left the reserve and to direct rangers to the area. The long-awaited Memorandum of Understanding between WCS and the Bauchi State Government has not yet been signed. Joint patrols were organized between the army and Yankari rangers. WCS provided kit-bags for rangers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

All ranger patrols at Yankari Game Reserve supported by WCS Nigeria are based on the CyberTracker program. For reasons of personal safety it was ensured that every ranger on patrol had a functional firearm with sufficient ammunition, although this standard now limits the number of patrols that can be organized at any one time. Members of the Bauchi State House of Assembly had a retreat in Yankari; and the need to update the Bauchi State wildlife law was discussed with them. The penalties and fines currently contained in the law are weak and insufficient to act as a deterrent to offenders. Currently, there is only one functional vehicle in the reserve- this is a major constraint on effective management and protection of the reserve. Five broken down game-viewing vehicles were taken out of the reserve for repairs.

The WCS project manager (Gilbert G. Nyanganji) resigned his position with WCS after almost four years dedicated service and has been replaced by his assistant (Nachamada Geoffrey) who is now the acting project manager. The long-awaited MOU between Bauchi State Government and WCS, providing WCS the mandate to oversee law enforcement and conservation in the game reserve, has not yet been signed. WCS Country Director (Andrew Dunn), Dr Aisha

Abubakar (ACP State House) and Dr Mike Loomis (Chief Veterinarian from NC Zoo) with local support fitted a second satellite collar on an elephant to help us monitor herd movements, elephant activity patterns and habitat utilization as well as providing support for elephant anti-poaching. Only one elephant carcass was found this quarter although we suspect that more elephants may have been killed and their carcasses have not yet been discovered. There is information that the bushmeat market is growing in Alkaleri and other surrounding villages. Unfortunately, the management of Yankari has yet to fully understand the threat to the reserve from hunting and instead focus greater efforts on the issue of livestock grazing. With support from the UNEP African Elephant Fund, WCS provided rangers with kit-bags to facilitate camping patrols (see below).



Yankari rangers posing with their new kit-bags

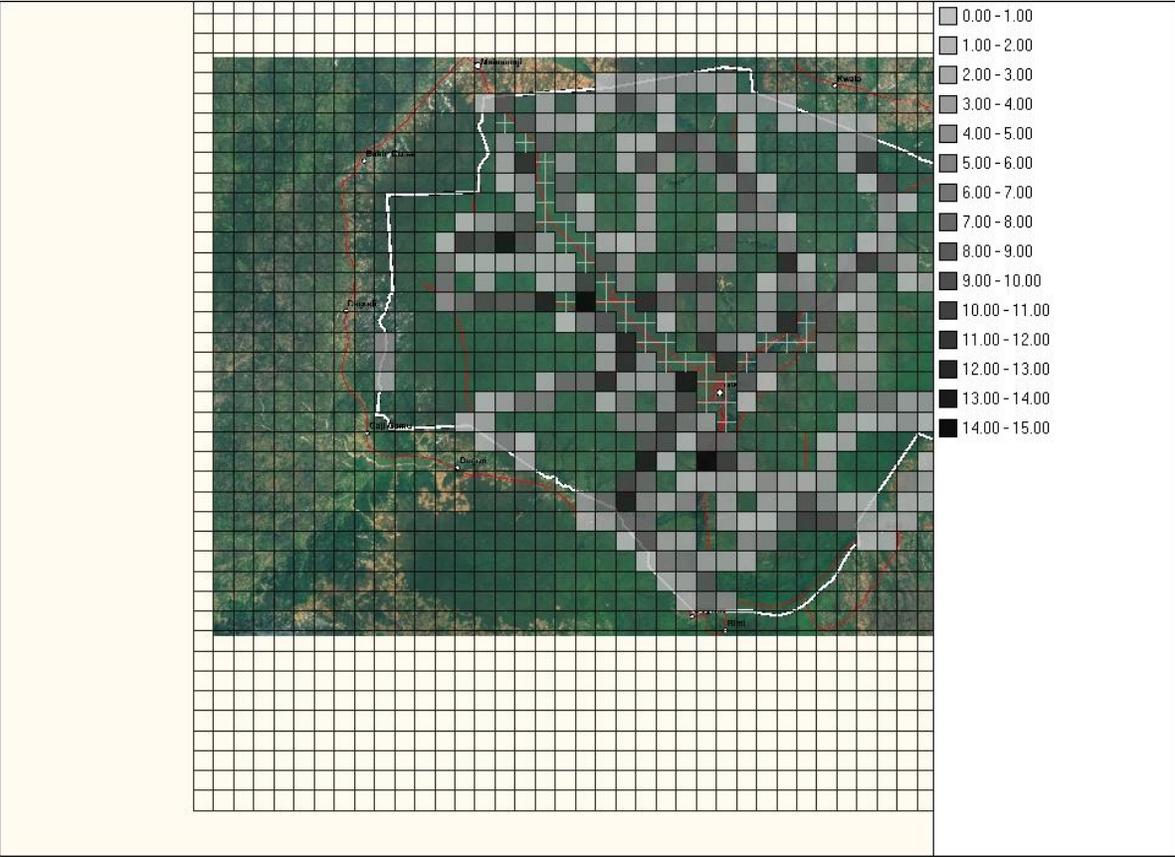
PATROL STRATEGY AND CAMPING PATROL SCHEDULE

The level of discipline amongst rangers has improved since WCS was delegated to manage and supervise the rangers independently from the Interim Management Committee. One of the first steps WCS took after taking charge was to collect all the old and damaged firearms and persuade the management to repair them so as to increase the number of functional firearms in order to support camping activities. The subsequent repair of eleven additional firearms has increased the number of rangers we can now send out on patrol. The regulation that all rangers on patrol now *MUST* possess a fully functional firearm and sufficient ammunition is strictly enforced. In future greater effort and attention is required towards firearm maintenance and more regular repairs. WCS has continued to look at ways the police in 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. Sports fishermen reported seeing a gang of seventeen armed poachers who sent a message to Wikki that they were hunting for rangers; this encounter has instilled fear in our rangers and it has been difficult to maintain small teams on camping patrols and keep them in entirely different locations. The rangers are worried because even when they are killed or injured by poachers, the poachers are not dealt with and injured rangers don't receive the required medical support which most times they cannot afford. Two teams have been operating around the same general location on camping patrol except when there are emergencies.

PATROL EFFORT

In *Map 1*, 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.

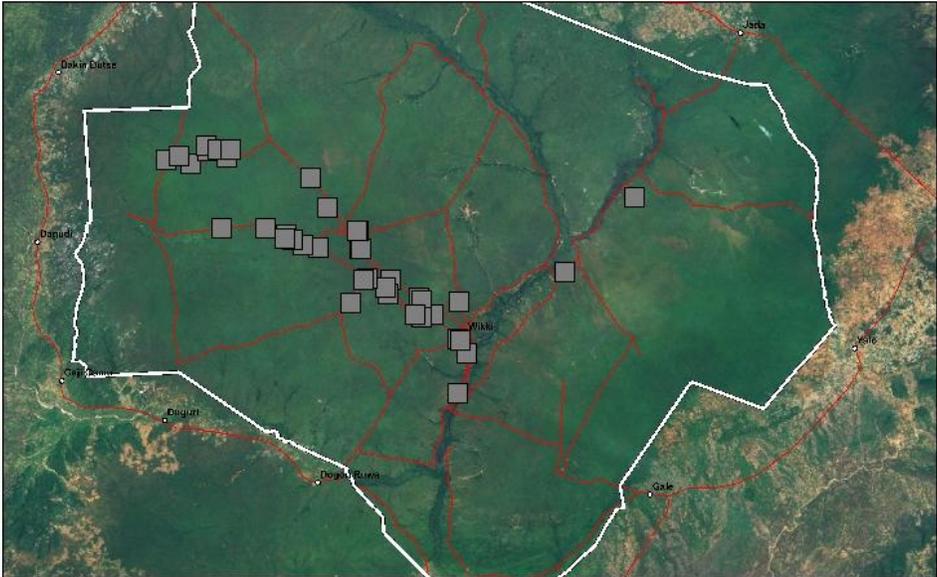


Map 1: Patrol Coverage January-March 2014

ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

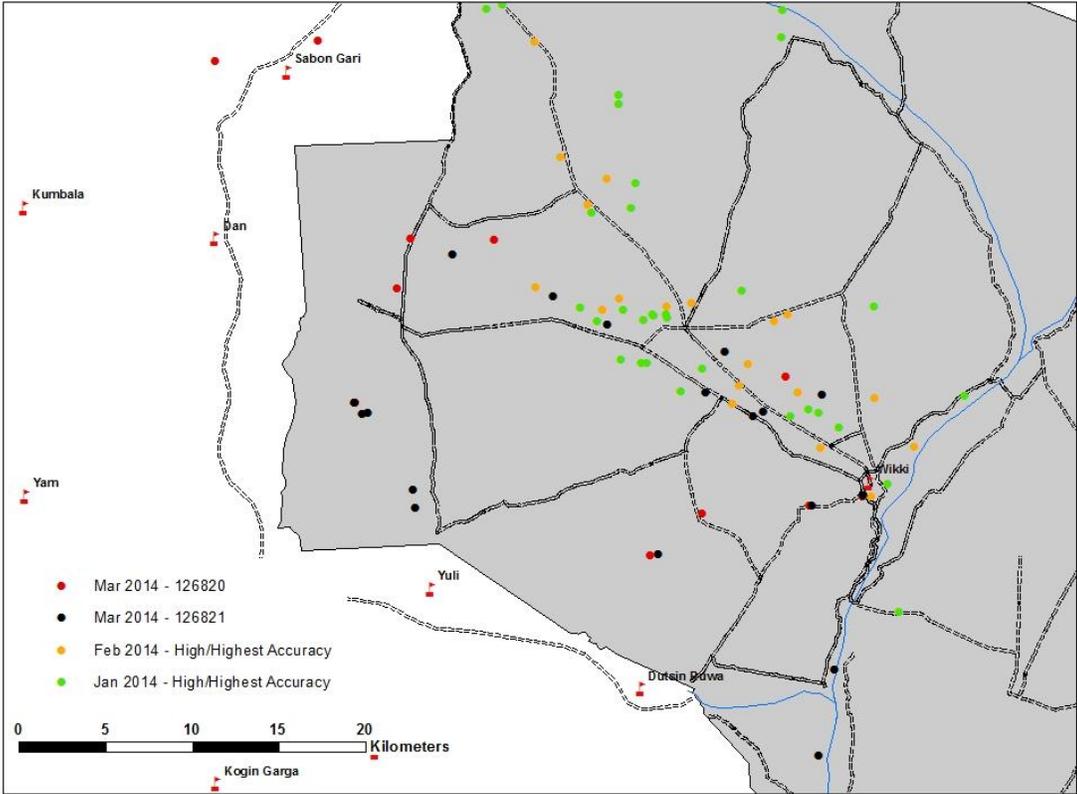
Since we are in the dry season and most of the farming around the reserve is wet season farming, there were no reported cases of elephant crop raiding this quarter. However, one elephant herd did leave the game reserve and rangers were deployed with Dane guns to physically scare them back into the reserve. Elephant activity has continued to be concentrated around the north-

western part of the reserve (see Map 2 below). Similarly, data from the two elephant herds fitted with satellite collars shows comparable movement pattern (see Map 3 below).



Map 2: Fresh Elephant Activity January-March 2014

Yankari Q1 Locations - High/Highest Accuracy



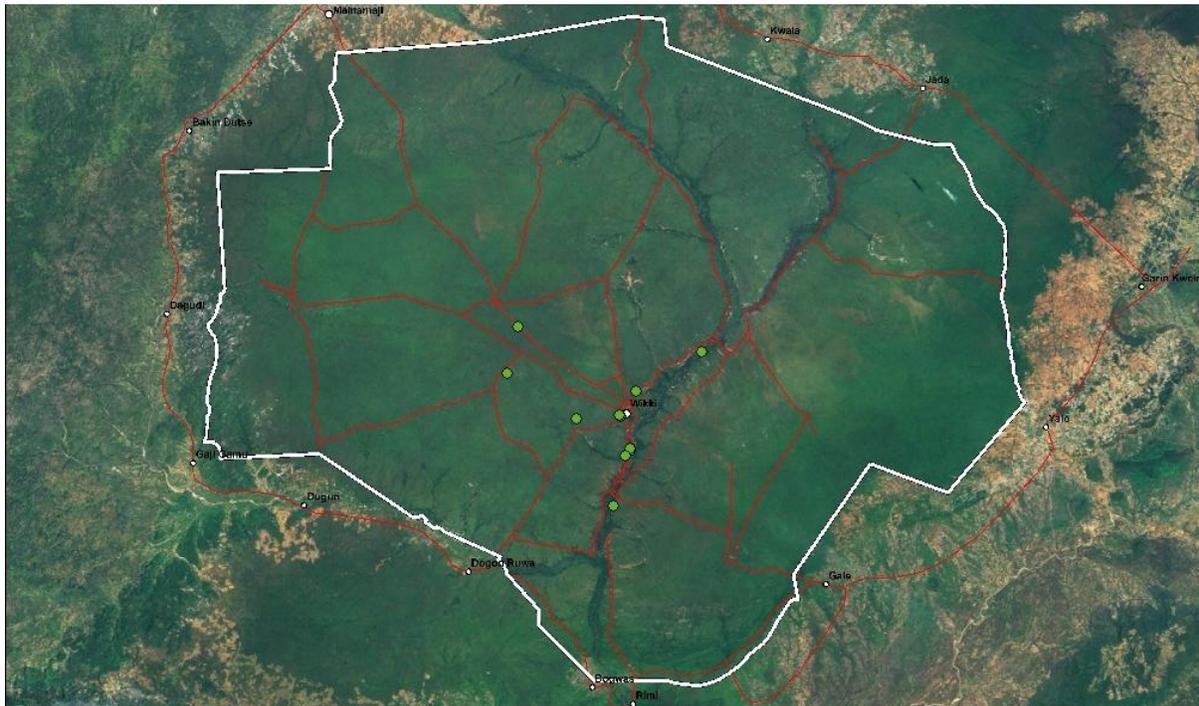
Locations of Two Elephant Herds January-March 2014



Elephant herd in Yankari

LION CONSERVATION

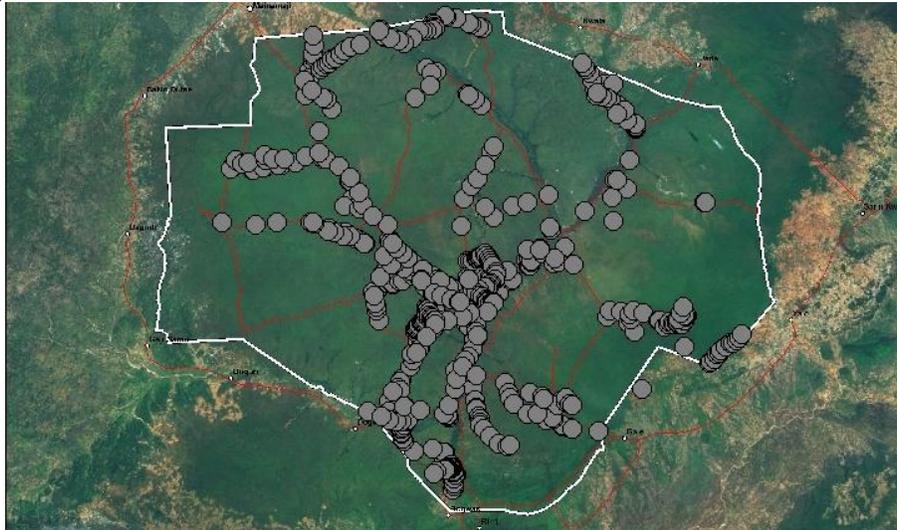
Lion activities recorded were centered in the core area of the reserve. There were nine lion sightings recorded during this quarter (see Map 4). There were several lion sightings reported around Wikki including a recent sighting of four adults. A pride of three individuals with two adults and one juvenile was sighted on the Dogon Ruwa road. Lion activities and foot prints were observed at salt lick B; tourist visiting the reserve also sighted lions during the late evenings along the Mainamaji road close to Wikki.



Map 4: Lion Activity January-March 2014

ALL OTHER MAMMAL SIGHTINGS

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



Map 5: Location of All Other Mammal Sightings

HUNTING EVIDENCE

Hunting signs recorded this quarter are show in Map 6 below. There were also reports of poacher foot prints around the Gaji River and around salt lick A. Rangers were mobilized to the area but missed the poachers. Alkaleri has been reported as a major market for bushmeat and other wildlife trophies. According to reports, poachers supply bushmeat to Alkaleri for dealers to collect. Aside the poachers that were arrested; poacher’s foot prints, poachers’ camps and fire places were found. Other evidence was gunshot heard and fresh poacher’s resting shed. On one instance, a patrol was sent out to ambush poachers but the poacher(s) set fire to the dry vegetation and covered up their footprints. We have changed the camping strategy to target vulnerable areas rather than just covering the reserve to match our very limited resources.



Map 6: Hunting Evidence

ELEPHANT CARCASS DATA

Only one elephant carcass was encountered during the quarter. The tusks had already been removed, perhaps some time after death.



Skull from elephant carcass recorded

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Large number of cattle and grazers continue to come into the reserve. The zero tolerance strategy towards cattle found inside the reserve has proved to be effective reducing the number of cattle sighted around Wikki. This is an ongoing problem within the reserve and with limited resources (vehicles and firearms) it has been difficult to combat grazing and poaching at the same time.



Zero tolerance towards all cattle found in the reserve

Some local poachers who also double as Danga security men have threatened the life of the ranger Ibrahim Shehu who reported information concerning the involvement of Danga security men in poaching within the reserve. The case was reported to the State Security Service where an undertaking was written by the accused in favor of the ranger's safety.



Poacher arrested with Dane gun

COURT OUTCOME

Two poachers who were caught with Dane guns and bushmeat were sentenced to six months in jail or pay a fine option of one hundred thousand naira each. They were both unable to meet the fine option and have been taken to prison. The poacher shown above with a Dane gun but who was not in possession of bushmeat was charged six months in prison or a fine option of thirty thousand naira. One of the women arrested for trading in bushmeat and trophies (Aishatu Alkali) claimed to have a valid license (see Appendices) allowing her to do so. The same woman had been previously arrested with elephant ivory but won her case in court. This time she was persuaded to write an undertaking to desist from such activity in future (see Appendices). The second woman arrested on a joint patrol with the army in Gajin-Duguri with bushmeat was carried away by the army.

CHALLENGES FACED

Insufficient firearms and functional vehicles has 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. Broken down bridges that connect the road network has also been a great challenge. Insufficient support to apprehend poachers responsible for killing rangers have been neglected and this tends to demoralize rangers. This is an appalling indication that rangers can be killed while on duty by poachers and justice will not prevail nor their killers brought to book. In order to encourage these poor rangers, a reinvestigation into this matter has to be reopened 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 receive appropriate legal sanctions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Urgently purchase more firearms and increase patrol area coverage as soon as possible.
2. Purchase vehicles to provide essential support for patrol and monitoring/supervision.
3. Monitor the bushmeat markets surrounding the reserve such as Alkaleri, Duguri and Dagudi.
4. Review the Bauchi State wildlife law and strengthen the existing penalties.
5. There is need to use political power and liaise with the appropriate security personnel to ensure that all wanted poachers are arrested brought to book.
6. Facilitate a call-up survey for lions.
7. Investigate options for an elephant census including line transects and a genetic analysis of dung/mark-recapture study.
8. Refresher training for all rangers for more effective law enforcement, particularly drill/discipline and firearm safety/marksmanship.
9. Rangers to mount road blocks and check points for wildlife and trophy trafficking.
10. Maintain continuous discipline of rangers to reduce opportunities for corruption.
11. Provide prompt healthcare support to rangers shot or wounded during patrol.
12. Review game-fishing in the reserve: aims and objectives as well as it's long term impact.
13. Facilitate regular joint patrols with the army.

APPENDICES

Table 1: Poachers Arrested January-March 2014

Date	Name	Location	Offence	Outcome
12/01/14	Babangida Idi	Tukurwa area	Gathering muruchi	
12/01/14	Danladi Mallam Sabitu	Tukurwa area	Gathering muruchi	
08/02/14	John (Gaskay) Daniel	Dagudi area	Poaching	Six months in jail or fine of one hundred thousand naira
08/02/14	Markus Emmanuel	Dagudi area	Poaching	Six months in jail or fine of one hundred thousand naira
12/02/14	Ori Nasiru	Dogon Ruwa	Grazing	Not recorded
12/02/14	Bello Jabbi	Dogon Ruwa	Grazing	Not recorded
12/02/14	Mohammed Kiri	Dogon Ruwa	Grazing	Not recorded
13/02/14	Aisha Magaji	Yelwan Duguri	Bushmeat trading	Wrote and undertaken
03/03/14	Yakubu Alh Danrani	Ahmadu Bello	Grazing	Thirty thousand naira fine or six months in prison
03/03/14	Dangogo Alh Danrani	Ahmadu Bello	Grazing	Thirty thousand naira fine or six months in prison
03/03/14	Isa Alh Danrani	Ahmadu Bello	Grazing	Thirty thousand naira fine or six months in prison
05/03/14	Usman Alh Jemma	Ahmadu Bello	Grazing	Thirty thousand naira fine or six months in prison
05/03/14	Abudullahi Musa	Kwala	Poaching	Thirty thousand naira fine or six month in prison
21/03/14	Ahmadu Alh Aliyu	Ahmadu Bello	Grazing	Thirty thousand naira fine or six months in prison
21/03/14	Muhammadu Alh Yunus	Ahmadu Bello	Grazing	Thirty five thousand naira fine or six months in prison

Table 2: Yankari Patrols January-March 2014

Patrol Type	Area	Patrol Start	Patrol end	Number on patrol
Daily	Vehicle and foot patrol round the reserve	2/01 /14	13/01/14	10
Camping	Guruntum, Demil,	14/01/14	19/01/14	7
	Tungan ndutsa,	14/01/14	19/01/14	6
	Rowan Rakumi	14/01/14	19/01/14	6
Camping	Shoushou	20/01/14	25/01/14	6
	Dogon kurmi	20/01/14	25/01/14	6
	Tungan kifi	20/01/14	25/01/14	6
Camping	Bultu	26/01/14	31/01/14	6
	Kuka	26/01/14	31/01/14	6
	Gale area	26/01/14	31/01/14	6
Camping	Sky	04/02/14	09/02/14	7
	Pali	04/02/14	09/02/14	6
	Kalban	04/02/14	09/02/14	6
Camping	Shaman	11/02/14	16/02/14	6
	Dogon ruwa	11/02/14	16/02/14	6
Camping	Tungulu	18/02/14	23/02/14	6
	Buri	18/02/14	23/02/14	6
Camping	Shaman	25/02/14	25/02/14	7
	Rakumi	25/02/14	02/03/14	7
Camping	Dogon ruwa	04/03 /14	10/03/14	7
	Duki wells	04/03/14	10/03/14	7
Camping	Tungan dutse	10/03/14	17/03/14	5
	Rimi	10/03/14	17/03/14	5
Camping	Bultu	18/03/14	24/03/14	8
	Tungulum	18/03/14	24/03/14	7
Camping	Gaji River	25/03/14	30/03/14	6
	Guruntum/Bultu	25/03/14	30/03/14	7

Table 3: Elephant Carcass Data

Date	GPS Long	GPS Lat	Carcass age	Age	Sex	Death cause	Meat taken	Status ivory	hec_situation	comment
07/03/14	10.24'35.6	9.51'10.6	Fresh	Adult	Female	Unknown	No	missing	Non reported	Tusk was removed after decomposition

EXP 19/07/2014

ORIGINAL

THE WILD ANIMALS LAW, 1963 (No. 16 OF 1963)

THE WILD ANIMALS (TROPHIES) REGULATIONS, 1975

TROPHY DEALER'S LICENCE

O. % WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AND CONTROL SECTION

Nº 28671

The holder of this trophy dealer's licence is hereby authorised to trade and deal commercially in trophies as provided under the Wild Animals Law 1963 and regulations made thereunder.

Name... Alishadu Maigagi

Address... Bauchi State Wub. Market Road

Place of Business... Bauchi State

Licence Number... 17682 Date... 19/07/2013

Issued By... Naltran Absalom Kushi

Revenue Collectors Receipt No... 28671 of ₦ 5,000 = 00

O. % WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
GPM 1440/1975/1000 AND CONTROL SECTION

12 - 02 - 14

UNDERTAKING

I, Aishatu Magaji hereby undertake today the 12th day of February, 2014 not to whatsoever buy, sell or howsoever trade in bush meat or any other animal or animal part any where within or outside Bauchi State.

I also undertake not to front any body to act for me in respect of the same trade.

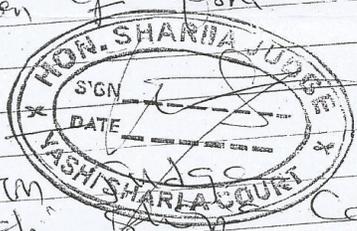
Today 12-02-2014
Signature

Aishatu Magaji

In the presence of
A) Patrick O. Eze
B) Abou Samuel

[Signatures]
12/02/14

NB This undertaking is deed in presence of Yashu Shona Com



Sign
Hm
Yashu Shona Com