

A SUMMARY OF RECENT WILDLIFE CRIME INCIDENTS

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) security officers in collaboration with other security agencies across the country have in the last sixteen days netted 88 kilogrammes of ivory in the hands of illegal dealers of wildlife products.

Timely and apt operations by the security formations has also yielded the arrest of eleven suspects, now under police custody awaiting or already arraigned before courts of law to face diverse charges related to illegal possession of ivory.

The latest was on Saturday June 9, 2018 in Mombasa County in Buxton area where eight pieces of ivory weighing forty five kilogrammes were netted. Two suspects, Abdullahi Yusuf and Abdikher Qababa were arrested and are being held at Makupa police station.

On Thursday June 7, 2018, following intelligence-led operation by KWS covert team, three suspects namely: Moses Mwita Robi, Joseph Nyaitangi, and Gabriel Mokami were arrested at Kehancha within Migori County while in possession of three pieces of elephant tusks weighing twenty-five kilogrammes. They were booked at Kehancha police station awaiting arraignment in court.

In Kwale County two suspects are being held at Kinango police station for being found in possession of four pieces of elephant tusks weighing thirteen kilogrammes. Their arrest followed an intelligence-led operation by KWS security officers.

In yet another intelligence-led operation by KWS security personnel, four suspects in possession of three pieces of ivory weighing five kilogrammes

were arrested in Kajiado County. The four confessed the ivory was from two elephants poached in Mosiro area of the county.

Other notable fruitful operations in the war against wildlife crime include the following:

- Felling of three poachers in Mt. Elgon National park on May 30, 2018. Two other armed poachers escaped with injuries during a shoot out with KWS officers. There were no casualties from the KWS side.
- Two suspects are being held at Emali police station for being in possession of two pieces of ivory weighing fifty kilogrammes. A vehicle that the suspects, Joseph Wambua Muia and David Mutua Kelly were using to ferry the ivory was impounded.
- Two suspects are being held at Namanga police station for being in possession of five kilogrammes of bush meat suspected to be of a gazelle. The two, Petro Luke Bize, a Tanzanian national and Samuel Gitonga were arrested at maili tisa trading centre in Kajiado County.

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