

Case study of anti-poisoning campaign in Kenya

Darcy Ogada
and
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With particular acknowledgement to Dr. Paula Kahumbu
who led the campaign

2007



Furadan use in Kenya and its impacts on birds and other wildlife: A survey of the regulatory agency, distributors, and end-users of this highly toxic pesticide



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Zoology Department
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January 2008

Furadan use in Kenya: a survey of the distributors and end-users of toxic Carbofuran (Furadan) in pastoralist and rice growing areas



A Report Submitted to: Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT)



Martin Odino and Darcy L. Ogada

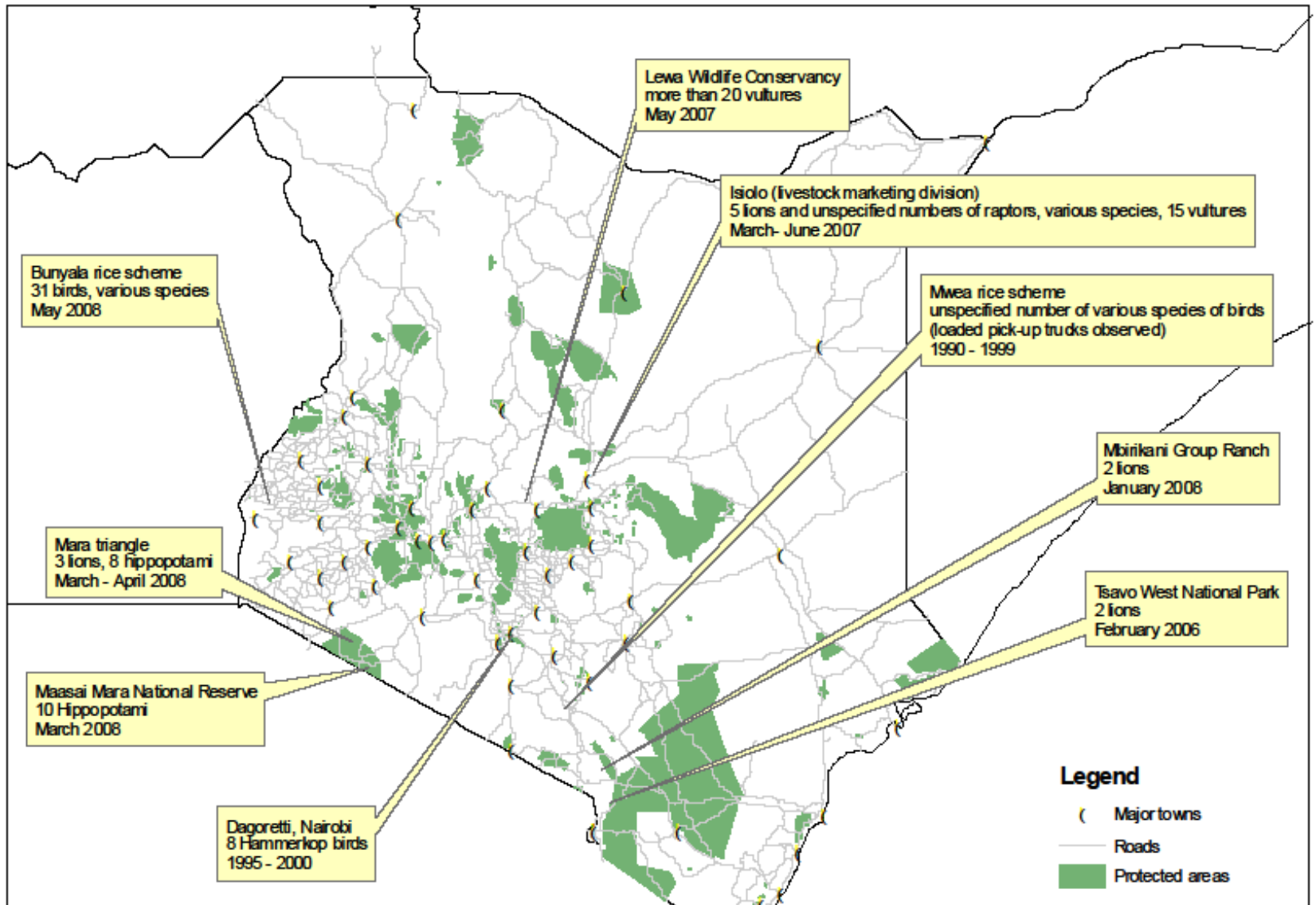
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July 2008

Stop Wildlife Poisoning Campaign

First meeting April 2008

- Led by Dr. Paula Kahumbu of Wildlife Direct
- Guest speaker Dr. Richard Leakey
- 8 presentations
- 50 people attended
- Stop Wildlife Poisoning Taskforce set up with 14 members



Map courtesy of Seamus Mclellan

Reporting and Monitoring of poisoning incidents

- Sent incident reports to:
 - Pest Control Products Board
 - Agricultural Association of Kenya
 - Kenya Wildlife Service
 - Ministry of Wildlife & Tourism
 - Ministry of Agriculture
- Developed poisoning database
- Developed and distributed poisoning reporting sheet
- Ministries demanded numbers of poisoned wildlife because they still didn't believe poisoning evidence

International publicity

March 2009

Program on lion poisonings in the Masai Mara aired on 60 Minutes one of the most watched television shows in the U.S.

News

Pesticides

Lion deaths could prompt carbofuran ban

Cath O'Driscoll

Unconfirmed reports of the poisoning of two lions in Kenya by the pesticide *Paradim* have led to the suggestion of a possible ban on the chemical in the region. Government laboratories have yet to determine the nature of the poison, but Dipesh Pabari, communications manager at Wildlife Direct commented that this was 'quite certain'. Analysis of dead vultures found in the vicinity of the dead lions has already revealed the presence of *Paradim* (carbofuran), according to Peter Otieno, a postgraduate student at the Kenya's Maseno University who carried out the analysis.

The case highlights what Kenyan wildlife experts say is a big problem with the misuse of *Paradim* by African livestock farmers and pastoralists to poison carnivores that prey on their animals. One of only a handful of people investigating the problem, Otieno estimates that about 90% of carnivore poisonings

and is currently trying to stimulate the sharing of information about *Paradim* online on its website.

The problems are exacerbated by the ease of availability of *Paradim* and ignorance of the risks, commented Martin Odino, a research assistant at the National Museums of Kenya. In a recent report on *Paradim* use in Kenya, Odino concludes that '*Paradim* is widely stocked by virtually all agro-vet distributors' and that 'pastoral communities widely abuse it to kill carnivores'. During interviews at two Kenyan conservancies, meanwhile, Otieno reports that the local communities confessed to using the pesticide to kill lions, dogs and jackals that kill their livestock and destroy crops.

'It is not easy to enumerate the number of lost wildlife since the vast majority of cases go unreported,' he added.

Scavenging birds that feed on poisoned carcasses are at particular risk, according to Simon Thomsett,

at risk of extinction, wildlife experts warn. Egyptian and White-headed vultures are also listed as endangered and vulnerable, respectively.

'There is also a potential risk to humans through the over- and misuse of carbofuran, warned Munir Virani of The Peregrine Fund.

'A vast number of people who administer the pesticide do not use any safety precautions.'

alternatives such as *Carbaryl* and *Propanolol* are available. *Mocap* is the ideally proposed pesticide by most distributors, citing it as less toxic, yet arguably this is even stronger in pesticidal effects than *Paradim*,' Odino says.



Murdered: Sangale, before being poisoned.

C&I Exclusive

April 2009 FMC representatives visit Kenya

- 1) Withdrawal and buy back (not ban) is taking place in Kenya. No more product is being distributed to Tanzania and Uganda.
- 2) After some time an assessment will be done in each country individually to decide on whether it can be re-introduced while ensuring that it will be used responsibly.
- 3) FMC noted that the method used by the Government Chemist lab was unreliable for testing Furadan.
- 4) Concern was raised about lack of trust between NGO's and some government agencies on reporting incidents.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TUESDAY JUNE 02, 2009 AT 2.30 P.M.

MOTIONS

The Member for Naivasha (Mr. John Mututho) to ask the Minister for Forestry and Wildlife:-

(a) If the Minister is aware of the airing of a damaging documentary on Kenya in the international Media on 14 April, 2009 by CBS, a television network in USA, regarding the death of lions in a Kenyan Park;

(b) If he can confirm that the pride of seven (7) lions found dead in the parks were as a result of Furadan poisoning; and

(c) When the Minister will, through NEMA, effect an immediate ban of Furadan chemical, pending further investigations.

Results of parliamentary debate

Setting up of inter-ministerial taskforce to include individuals from:

- Dept of Agriculture
- Dept of Tourism
- Dept of Livestock
- Dept of Environment
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Two conservationists



Immediate Release
Tuesday, 2 June 2009

Wildlife Poisoning in the Maasai Mara

An incident of wildlife poisoning occurred in the Mara on the evening of Saturday 23 May, 2009 at Oololaimutiak area barely 2 Kms away from Oololaimutiak gate but within the reserve. According to the KWS senior Scientist, Dr. Dominic Mijele, a pride of 5 lions reportedly killed 4 cattle. The local people chased the lion (s) away

Involvement of Prime Minister's office

- Prime Minister issues a directive for a new taskforce
- In particular investigating poisoning in Bunyala Rice Scheme
- Requested a report on poisoning problem

Evidence for revoking registration of carbofuran in Kenya

Report to the Ministry of Agriculture Task Force on the impact of Pesticides on Wildlife and the environment in Kenya.

Paula Kahumbu

5/17/2010

End of the Campaign

- Elections came
- Motivation on all sides declined
- Prime Minister's office was dissolved after the elections
- Issue of poisoning reverted to back to square one, no government involvement

Outcomes and Lessons Learned

- Consider starting with social surveys to understand the broader situation regarding poisoning and to identify potential hotspots

An Assessment of availability and use of Carbofuran and other Agro-vet chemicals used to Poison Lions, around Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA) and in Kampala, Uganda



Edward Okot Omoya and Andrew J. Plumptre



March 2011



Outcomes and Lessons Learned

- Buy-back program (not ban) was somewhat effective
- International pressure can work and may be one of our most effective strategies
- Creating awareness amongst conservationists, Government officials, and internationally
- We need government will to succeed