

July 2026 — Project Update

The Mount Elgon Elephant Project (MEEP), Kenya

Field Partner: Mount Elgon Foundation

I wanted to give you a mid-year update and express our thanks for your support for this project. As a reminder, this project is protecting a highly distinctive elephant population that inhabit an important water tower in East Africa and engage in "cave mining" for salt.

Key Achievements (first half of 2026)

Several elephant herds have been present intermittently in Uganda in the first half of this year. Consequently, efforts have focused on advancing a structured transboundary collaboration for data-sharing.

Daily patrolling using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) continues, and joint patrols of community scouts and KWS rangers have resumed.

Two elephant bulls were successfully collared in the Mt Elgon landscape in March 2026. This was led and funded by Mara Elephant Project, with Mount Elgon scouts providing logistical ground support.

Construction of the human-elephant co-existence hub in the village of Kongit began and is almost complete. With funding from the Elephant Crisis Fund, the hub will be used for honey processing, equipment storage and training.

Community Scout Patrols

During the first half of 2026, the scouts did 351 patrols covering a total distance of 3,947 km. Elephant sightings were infrequent, but tracks and occasional sightings confirmed their continued presence within the forest.

The regular presence of scouts continues to deter poaching and other illegal activities. Few wildlife carcasses were observed but snaring remains a concern within Mount Elgon National Park, and joint de-snaring patrols have been conducted with KWS.

Summary of data gathered from scouts' patrols:

- No elephant deaths reported. (great!)
- 12 elephant sightings totalling 144 elephants, including resights. The sightings were made in Kiptogot (1), Kabero (2), Chebombai (28), Laboot B (40) and Malakisi (73).
- 3 observations of human-elephant conflict, all involving crop destruction. One of the incidents occurred in community areas and two incidents were inside the forest reserve.



Beekeepers

With support from the Elephant Crisis Fund and the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation, construction of the "bee hub coexistence" facility began in March and is expected to be completed by August. The hub will serve as a community-managed facility for honey processing, storage, and human wildlife coexistence education and training. The Kongit Beekeepers Self-help Group will meet there to work on strengthening their capacity, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the beekeeping and coexistence initiative.



Above: Miss. Ndiwa (MEEP field coordinator) with crew to construct honey processing facility

Looking forward:

In June, Mount Elgon Foundation had initiated a strategic planning process to guide its next phase of growth. Supported by two independent advisers, the review will assess the Foundation's governance, management, partnerships, and long-term sustainability to strengthen its effectiveness and position it for future conservation impact and funding opportunities.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to chat about this project.

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