

AERIAL & GROUND OPERATIONS (“Big Tusker Project”) SUMMARY:

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	78 Average 76 mph of low level flight	5,939 Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
No. Observed		
Big “Tuskers”	15 Tuskers - 10 bulls (3 Super Tuskers & 7 emerging Tuskers) & 5 cows	
No. Recovered		
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	9 elephant tusks (26 for year to date - largest 53.5 & 52.5kg)	
<i>Elephant carcasses</i>	Fresh (less than 3 weeks old)	Recent (less than 3 months old)
	3 (c of d: 1 poached, 2 unconfirmed)	Nil
<i>Carcasses/hours flown</i>	1 every 26 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	Fresh - 2	Recent - 6
<i>Arrests</i>	15 - by KWS / TT – (2 ivory dealers, 1 bush meat, 12 livestock – 37 for year to date)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	97 (by Tembo Teams – 325 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil (5 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	113 cattle bomas (34,500 plus cows, 5,500 shoats, 140 + people seen, 200 camels)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	39 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
General & significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informer networks are bearing fruit - 4th & 11th Ap17 total of 7 elephant tusks (58kg) recovered jointly KWS / TT resulting from tip offs. This is a major activity breakthrough • 17/4/17 – Tusker coded as ND1 has reappeared after 39 months. Last seen in TWNP on 18/1/14 and found by BLF scouts on slopes of Kilimanjaro • 2 newly identified emerging Tuskers added to BTP data base, HA1 & DR1 • Livestock incursions into the Tsavo Parks are incredibly high and on the increase • Aerial & ground support pertaining to rhino security ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL rhino program. 9 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS 	

Photo below shows the joint KWS / Tsavo Trust Tembo 1 team based on the southern boundary of TENP, here on 11th April 2017 with an arrested ivory dealer caught with 5 elephant tusks. This was one of two dealer arrests made in April where a total of 7 Elephant tusks were recovered weighing 58kg



Big Tusker Project - aerial and ground mobile teams:

The Tsavo Trust’s Big Tusker Project (BTP) recorded the following details in the BTP database:

- Total of 15 different individual Tusker’s were observed from ground and air coverage.
- Tusker coded as ND1, who has not been located in TWNP for the last 39 months (and was presumed dead) has been found on the slopes of Kilimanjaro (near Satao Elerai Camp) on 17/4/17 by Big Life Foundation scout. BLF immediately sent photos of ND1 and confirmed to be him. He was last seen in TWNP on 18/1/2014!
- 2 new emerging Tuskers identified and coded as HA1 (21/4/17) and DR1 (15/4/17) in TENP.
- 3 bull Super Tuskers – 11 different sightings.
- 7 emerging Tuskers – 10 sightings.
- 5 iconic cow Tuskers – 14 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 35**
- ***Weather conditions:*** Southern parts of TENP and much of TWNP some good rains.
- ***Elephant mortality:*** Number of carcasses found significantly down.
- ***Rhino security:*** 9 rhino specific aerial reces took place with KWS / TT aircraft in TWNP and TENP. TT - Tembo 3 team continued in support to KWS in ground operations in the TW IPZ. Continued strong and valuable 3 way partnership between KWS / ZSL & TT continues with specific focus on rhino protection in TWNP.

Table 1: Shows “Tusker” code, number of times observed during month and brief remarks.

Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	9	In good health but frequents an unsafe area!
WS1	1	In worrying and unsafe location
ND1	1	Not seen in 39 months. Great news he is still alive
MU1	2	Moved to a worrying boundary location following rain there
EM1	1	Moves big distances, but generally in unsafe and remote areas
MZ1	1	Same original location

DR1	2	New emerging bull seen before but now confirmed as a new bull to database
HA1	1	New emerging bull seen before but now confirmed as a new bull to database
KI1	1	Has moved far with recent rains
MA1	2	Back to normal area
COWS		
F_VPL	3	Back to normal location. Looking very old and thin, often alone!
F_MU1	6	Back to normal area. Looking very old and thin
F_DI1	2	Moves big distances with recent rain, had not been located for 5 months
F_KA1	2	Looking very, very old and thin. Seen alone!
F_XT1	1	Back to normal location
TOTAL	10 bulls, 5 cows: 35 different sightings	
<i>Close working relationship between KWS and Tsavo Trust (aerial and ground units combined) is without doubt adding to elephant security and safety of the big Tuskers and other elephants within the TCA through meaningful collaboration alongside KWS Security and Research & Monitoring Departments.</i>		

Photo shows newly identified emerging Tusker coded as HA1 on 21st April 2017, walking away in a desolate part of TENP



Photo shows newly identified emerging Tusker coded HA1 on 21st April 2017. Given just a few more years of life, this bull will certainly become a Super Tusker. Tsavo is blessed with a strong gene pool of such magnificent elephants.



Very exciting news – Tusker coded as ND1 reappears after 39 months!

This photo below (courtesy of Big Life Foundation scouts) was taken on 17th April 2017 near Satao Elerai camp, Amboseli, on the northern lower slopes of Kilimanjaro and Tsavo Trust has confirmed him to be the missing bull ND1.

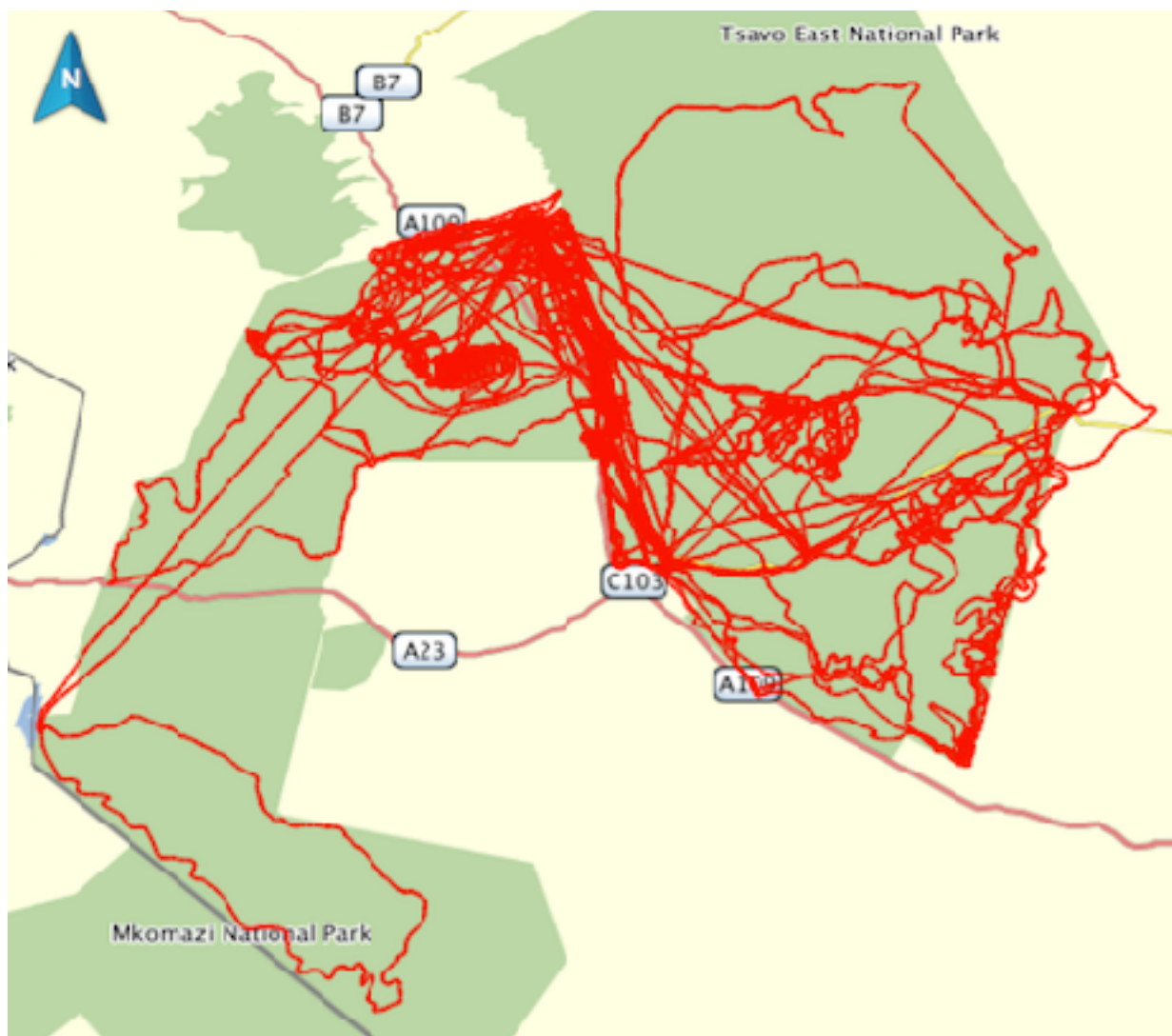
He was last seen in TWNP on 18/1/14, 39 months ago and was presumed dead.



Areas Covered: Table 2: Shows the main areas covered within the TCA for this month:

TSAVO EAST NP	TSAVO WEST NP	RANCHES & DISPERSAL AREAS
<p>Northern Area – Yatta Plateau, Durusikale, Garasamuke, Emusaya, Golf Charlie, Koitu, Sobo, Sangayaya, Dabaduke, Mufupa ya Ndovu, Ithumba, Tiva River, Roka, Ithumba</p> <p>Southern Area – Voi, Ndololo, Kanderi, Wagalla, Ndara Plains, Buchuma, Maungu, Murondo, Dakota, Voi River, Dika Plains, Satao, power lines, Aruba, Mukuaju, Dika, Konu Moja, Dida Harea, Balguda, Sala, Lali, Sobo, TENP boundary, Koitu, Galana River</p> <p>Central Area – TE R/S, IPZ, Manyani east, Punda Milia, Hatulo Bisani, Lugards, Mbololo lugga, Balguda, Irima, Mudanda, Maka Hill, Man-eaters, Triangle, Mtito Lugga, Zero Delta, Voi north & east, Galana River, Tsavo River and Yatta Central, SGR</p>	<p>Northern Sector – IPZ, Mangalete, Kamboyo, Kisimeka, Chyulu south, Mtito lugga, Mungai Hill, Finch Hattons, Mzima Springs, Shetani volcano, Severin, Kilaguni, Ndawe, Tsavo River</p> <p>Southern Sector – Lake Jipe, Toloa, Kanjaro, TZ border</p> <p>Central Sector – IPZ, Rhino Valley, NRS, Tsavo River, Kinyek, Maji ya Chumvi (north & south), Ziwani, Lesoito, Kyulu, Manda, Kishushe, Murka, Mombasa Highway, Man Easters, Kenani, Kanga, Manyani north and west, SGR line</p>	<p>TENP border – Ngiluni/Kamunyu, Kulalu, Derea, Murondo, Magram/Dakota Ranch, Ngutuni, Galana Ranch</p> <p>TWNP border – Ziwani, Rombo and Lualenyi</p> <p>Chyulu Hills NP - Nil</p> <p>Taita Ranches – Nil</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The locations mentioned above is only an indicator of flight paths taken, many other areas in between are also covered and in so doing providing “eyes in the skies” over Tsavo and directional guidance to ground units.</i> • <i>All flight paths are logged and recorded with all relevant real time observations relayed to KWS on a daily basis for their records as well as necessary rapid reaction.</i> 		

Map below shows flight paths for April 2017 where 78 hours were flown in support to KWS for anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring and aerial census operations covering 5,939 miles over the Tsavo’s.



Field Mobile Units:

All Tsavo Trust mobile field units work with and in support of KWS on a daily basis. *Tembo 1 & 3 teams* are anti-poaching focused *Tembo 2 team* is monitoring and research dedicated.

Anti-poaching teams:

Table 7: Shows outcomes from anti-poaching activities from Tembo 1 & 3 teams:

Anti-poaching teams	No. Field days	No. Arrest	No. Ivory recvd.	No. Snare recvd.	Bushmeat recvd.	Poachers equip. recvd.	No. Poacher camps	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 1	29	2	7	65	80kg plus	2 bicycles, 2 knives	2	3,089
Tembo 3 Kamungi	29	1	2	32	10 dikdiks	-	5	3,521
Others Chui team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	58	3	9	97	As above	As above	7	6,610
Total 2017	217	10	22	325	-	-	23	23,413

Photo shows an injured bull elephant, found by KWS / TT Tembo 1 team on 2nd April 2017 in TENP.

The KWS / DSWT vet unit was called to treat the elephant



Monitoring teams:

Table 8: Shows activities carried out by Tembo 2 team – research and monitoring:

Monitoring team	No. Field days	Activities	Endangered species records / sightings	Operating locations	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 2	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tusker monitoring • Endangered species – database records • Road and SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos • Predator monitoring 	Tuskers – 8 sightings Hirola – 9 sightings Grevy’s Zebra – 2 sighting Predators – 12 sightings of varying types and numbers	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	3,433
TOTALS	17	As above	As above	As above	3,433
Total 2017	67	-	-	-	10,989

Other Tsavo Trust Activities in brief:

Community Program: KAMUNGI CONSERVANCY:

Ongoing partnership and stewardship development between Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy (bordering northern boundary of TENP – Triangle) have continued in varying ways:

- Procurement of solar equipment and pump has been done and now awaiting installation.
- Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) – Elephant & Bees Project is working well and some hives are already over flowing with honey. This bodes well for the future of this project.
- HWC – Tsavo Trust employs a Community Liaison Officer who continues to maintain a database of HWC occurrences that have taken place along the north boundary of TENP – Triangle. Much of this falls within Kamungi Conservancy. In 2016 HWC averaged 20.4 incidents per month.

Photo below shows clearly how urgent the need is for the people of Kamungi Conservancy to enjoy clean water. Here water is being collected from a dirty water hole used by livestock and wildlife. The new water project put in place by Tsavo Trust will go along way to give this community clean and healthy drinking water, something they have never enjoyed before.



Leopard Release Program:

- Dotty the female leopard is now 1 year old and continues her slow rehabilitation process into the wild within TENP. She continues to grow very fast and is doing well in making her own kills and learning about her new environment.

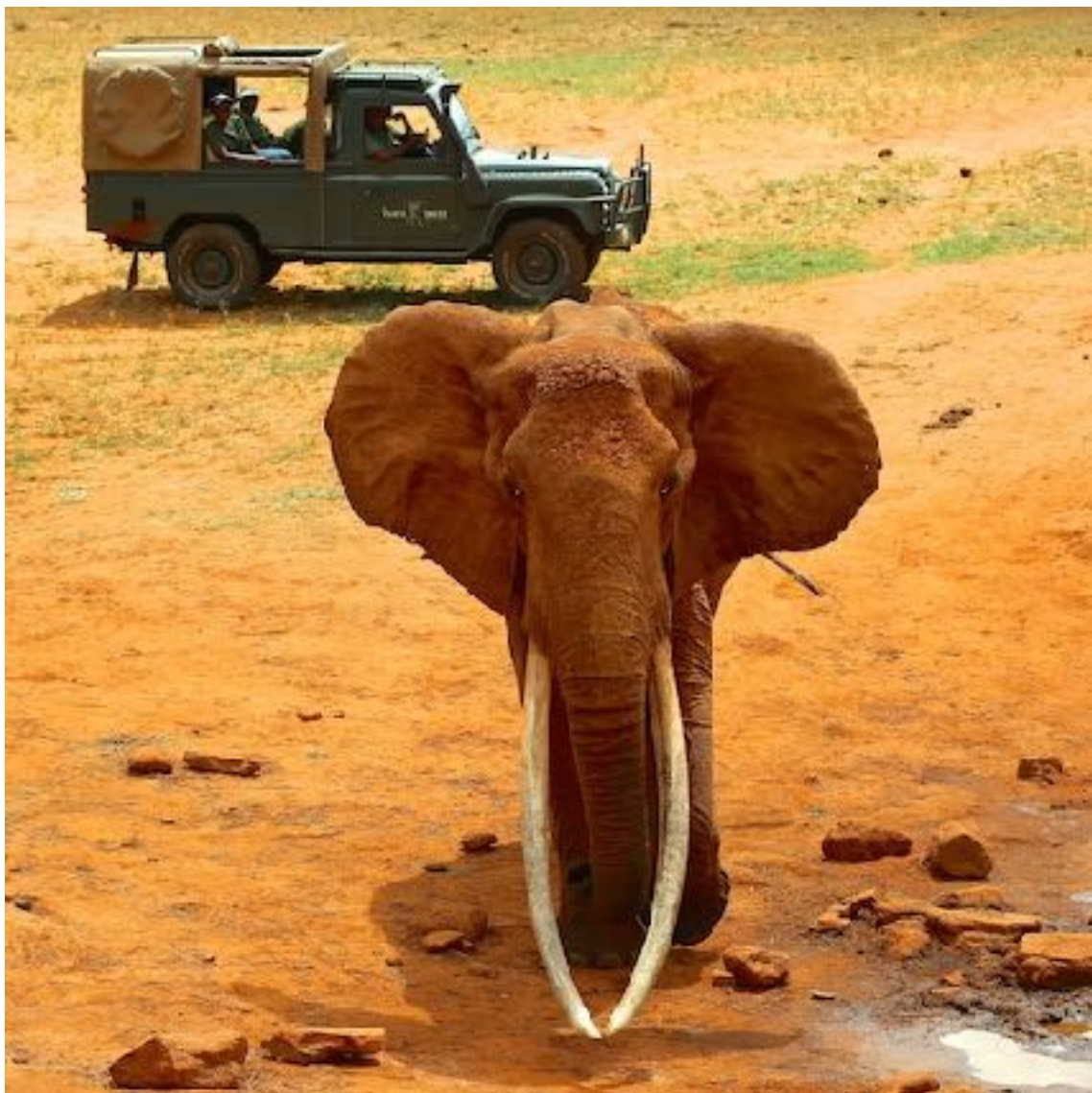
*Photo shows
“Dotty” out on her
daily walks in
TENP with one of
her dedicated
keepers, Kitheka.*

*Dotty has now been
roaming her area
of release for 5
months and so far
coping very well.*



Unusual Photo of the Month:

Photo below shows the Tsavo Trust's Tembo 2 research and monitoring team in the vehicle observing one of Tsavo's iconic cow Tuskers coded as F_VPL on 6th April 2017. Tembo 2 team works daily with KWS within TENP with a specific emphasis on Tusker monitoring but also gathering field data on endangered species (Grevy's zebra and Hirola) and predator monitoring including wild dogs.



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Report compiled by Richard Moller – Chief Executive Officer, Tsavo Trust
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