

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
Aerial Reconnaissance	75.5 (350 for year) Average 114km p/h of low-level flight	8,627 (41,000km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
Ground Activities (Joint KWS / TT)	Protection teams: 79 days (409 to date) Monitoring teams: 38 days (237 to date)	Protection teams: 8,332 km (39,846 to date) Monitoring teams: 5,639 km (30,616 to date)
	No. Observed	
Big “Tuskers”	13 Tuskers - 3 Super Tusker bulls, 10 emerging bulls, Nil cow Tuskers = 41 individual observations	
	No. Recovered	
Ivory recovered	Nil elephant tusks (26 for year to date)	
Elephant carcasses	Fresh (less than 3 weeks old)	Recent (less than 3 months old)
	2 – (c of d: 1 poached)	Nil (c of d: nil)
Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown	1 every 9.3 hours of flight	
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh - 1	Recent - 1
Arrests	10 – by KWS / TT – (1 bushmeat, 9 illegal grazers - 17 to date 2019)	
Snares/traps recovered	20 (by Tembo Teams – 156 for year to date)	
Support to KWS-armed incidents	Nil	
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	39 cattle bomas (15,850 + cows, 200 shoats, 65 people)	
Written reports to KWS	68 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
General & significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner to KWS to assist in implementation of the TCA Management Plan 2019 – 2029 • Partner to KWS & ZSL in the Tsavo’s in line with KWS Rhino Strategy – RII Project • 10/5/19: Removal of poisoned arrow from Tusker coded WS1 • 14/5/19: Located fresh rhino carcass (natural death) from air, recvd. both horns KWS/TT 	



Photo shows removal of poisoned arrow from an immobilized elephant on southern boundary of TENP on 21st May 2019.

This was 1 of 3 elephants to have arrows removed on the same day. Tsavo Trust’s Tembo 1 team located these elephants and called in the KWS Tsavo Vet Unit who acted swiftly.

The operation was carried out jointly by KWS / Tsavo Trust and DSWT who all played their parts in this successful operation.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

“Big Tusker Project”- aerial and ground mobile teams:

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

- Total of 13 different individual Tusker’s were observed from ground and air coverage.
- 3 bull Super Tuskers – 16 different sightings.
- 10 Emerging bull Tuskers – 25 sightings.
- Nil Iconic cow Tusker – Nil sightings.
- **Total sightings – 41**
- **Weather conditions:** TT HQ rainfall: **34mm**. Total rainfall at Tsavo Trust HQ to date: **46.5mm**.
- **Elephant mortality: 2 carcasses located (2 fresh):** C of D – 1 poached, 1 natural.
- **Elephant treatment: 4** poisoned arrows removed from 4 separate elephant, all along the south boundary of TENP on 10th May (1 arrow) and 21st May (3 arrows). Tusker coded WS1 was one of the 4 with arrow successfully removed on 10th May 2019.
- **Rhino security:** Regular aerial reces with KWS over TWNP & TENP rhino areas in partnership with ZSL. Fresh carcass of male TW IPZ rhino *Irene* located during aerial recce (KWS/TT). Ground team later recovered both horns. Cause of death – natural. 9 rhino specific air reces resulting in 3,113km flown over 26.5 hrs (7 TW & 2 TE).
- **Hirola monitoring:** Ongoing key stakeholder with KWS in line with Hirola Recovery Strategy.
- **Collared Elephant:** Ongoing – 19 observations (ground and air) by joint KWS / TT teams.
- **Carnivore monitoring:** Ongoing partner to KWS TCA Research for carnivore monitoring.
- **Critically Endangered Raptor monitoring:** Ongoing.

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

Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Brief Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	5	In good health, back to his regular range
WS1	10	Poisoned arrow removed on 10May19. Recovering well
IL1	1	Moved big distance with rains
MM1	1	Normal location
SO1	1	Normal location
BL1	7	Normal location
BU1	1	Same area
SH1	5	In worrying location outside Park
TS1	2	Normal location
VO1	2	Same location
KM2	2	Normal location
KI1	3	Back to normal location
FH1	1	Moved big distances with rains
COWS		
Nil		
TOTAL	13 bulls & Nil cows: 41 different sightings	

Close working relationship between KWS and Tsavo Trust (aerial and ground units) is without doubt adding to elephant security / safety of the big Tuskers and other elephants in Tsavo through meaningful and joint teamwork.



Photo shows Tusker coded as WS1 up on his feet having just had a poisoned arrow removed from his left flank on 10th May 2019.

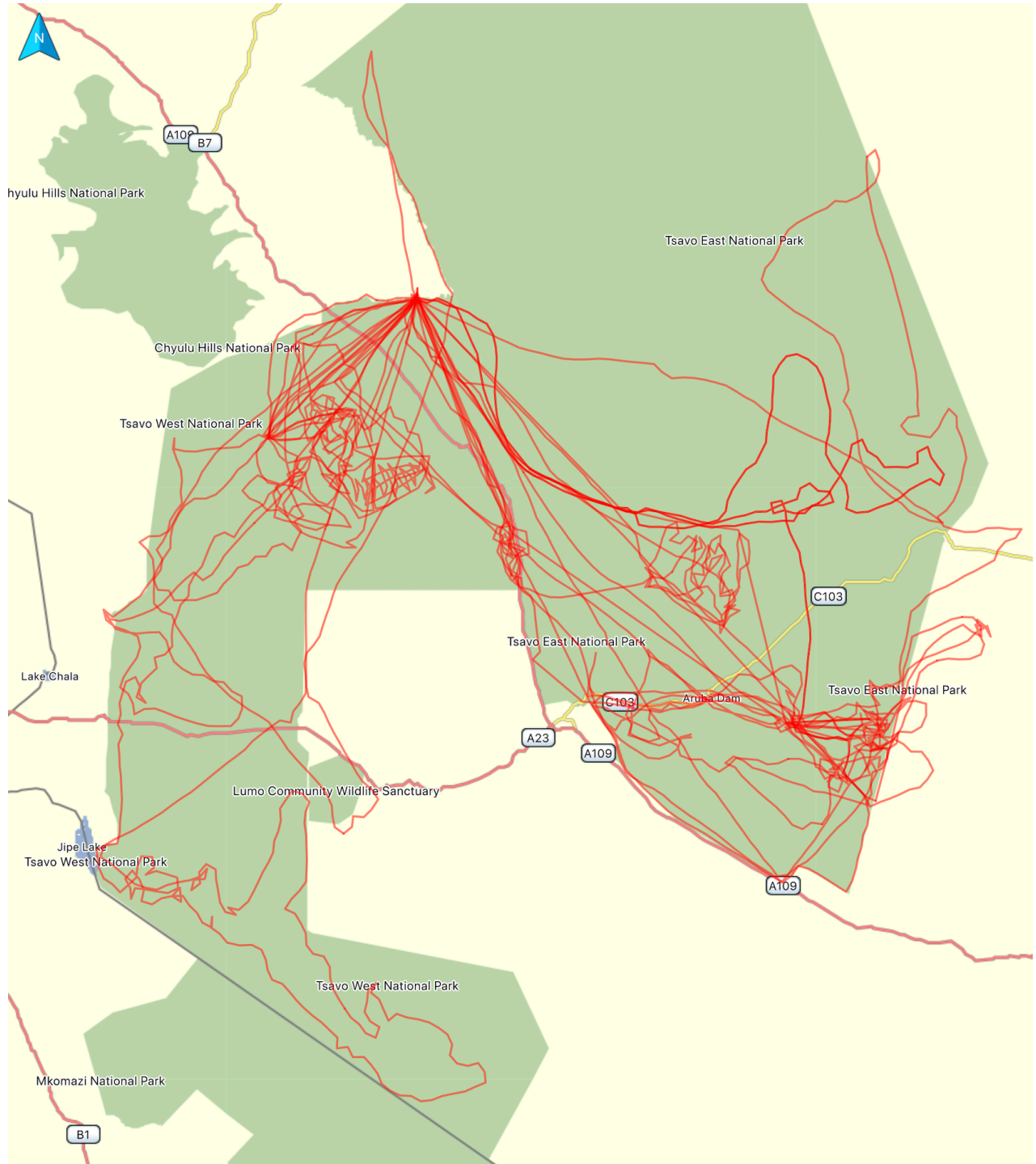
This was a successful operation where Tsavo Trust found and located WS1 and called in the TCA KWS Vet Unit who is in turn supported by DSWT.

A positive collaborative outcome

Aerial Reconnaissance - Areas Covered:

- This vital conservation tool provides “*eyes in the skies*” over Tsavo and directional guidance to ground units.
- 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.

Map below shows Tsavo Trust’s flight paths over the TCA in May 2019. 75.5 hours flown covering 8,627 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS: Air & ground activities; Big Tusker monitoring; Locating illegal activities; Wildlife monitoring; Aerial census and tracking.



*Photo shows a critically endangered White-Headed vulture (*irigonocepts occipitalis*) in TWNP on 18th May 2019. There are thought to be only 2 breeding pairs in the Tsavo's. They are listed on the Red List of IUCN threatened species where their population has dropped by 96% in just 45 years! It is Tsavo's vast wild space that allows such threatened species to have hope into the future.*



Photo shows an arrested hardwood / bushmeat poacher on 23rd May 2019 within Tsavo Triangle.

It was very interesting to note the ingenious improvised shoes this poacher wore to conceal his tracks. They were made from dried sticky burrs stuck onto plastic bags tied around his feet (as shown).

There was no way at all to see his tracks / foot prints on the sandy paths. A brilliant idea.

But the joint KWS / TT Tembo 3 team did manage to catch up with him and recovered snares as well as harvested hardwood.

Field Mobile Units:

Tsavo Trust's mobile field teams work alongside KWS, who take the lead role, on a daily basis. **Tembo 1, 3, 5 teams & Kamungi Scouts** are habitat protection / de-snaring focused whilst **Tembo 2 & 4 teams** are wildlife monitoring based. All teams provide further "eyes and ears on the ground".

Habitat Protection / De-snaring teams:

Table 7: Shows outcomes from field activities from Tembo 1, 3, 5 & Kamungi Scouts teams:

De-snaring teams	No. Field days	No. Arrest	No. Ivory recvd.	No. Snare recvd.	Bushmeat recvd.	Poachers equip. recvd.	No. Poacher camps	No. HWC Cases	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 1 (TENP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	17	Nil	Nil	3 All for small game	Nil	4 poisoned arrows	Nil	1	2,313
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	9 Illegal cattle grazers	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3,393
Tembo 5 / Kamungi (TWNP) 14 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 Bushmeat & hard wood poacher	Nil	17 2 for medium & 15 for small game	Nil	1 bicycle, 1 panga, 2 spotlights, 1 saw, 2 logs, 8 h/w timbers	1 Recent	Nil	2,626
TOTALS	79	10	-	20	As above	As above	1	1	8,332
Total 2019	409	7	6	156	40kg	-	15	8	39,846

Monitoring & Evaluation teams:

Table 8: Shows activities carried out by Tembo 2 & 4 teams – monitoring & evaluation:

Monitoring teams	No. Field days	Activities	Endangered species records / sightings	Operating locations	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 2 (TENP) (3 TT staff + 2 KWS)	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tusker monitoring Hirola monitoring Grevy's zebra monitoring Carnivore monitoring Carnivore scat collection for analysis – hair content Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys Camera trap surveys Fixed point photos Collared elephant reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuskers – 12 sighting Hirola – 7 Grevy's Zebra – 1 Large Carnivores – Lion 8, Cheetah 2, S/Hyena 3 Road & Rail kills – Nil Elephant carcasses – Nil Rain gauge readings Collared elephants – 11 Carnivore scat collect - 7 	TENP, Ndololo, Kandechea, Kanderi, Aruba, Satao, Mukuaju, Voi, Kono Moju, Dida Harea, Ndara, Ngutuni, Dika plains, Bachuma, Dakota, Msa – Nbi road between Voi & Bachuma, KMC Ranch, Kupule Nek, Manyani, Irima, Mudanda, Ndi	4,096
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 2 KWS)	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tusker monitoring Rhino monitoring in IPZ Carnivore monitoring Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys Rainfall data collection Camera trap surveys Fixed point photos Collared elephant reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuskers – 3 sighting Rhino monitoring IPZ NRS night census – Nil Large Carnivores – Wild dog 1, Lion 59, S/Hyena 3 Road & Rail kills – Nil Elephant mortality - 1 Rain gauge readings Collared elephants – 1 Kamungi Cons. Game census transects – 14 species 	TWNP, Kamboyo, Mangaleta, Kilaguni, Mungai, Poachers lookout, Kitani, old Chyulu gate, Mzima, Shetani, Finch H, Ziwani, Tsavo River, Rhodesia Hill, pipe line, Rhino Valley, Ndawe, Ngulia, Kenani, Kyulu, Manyani, IPZ, NRS	1,543
TOTALS	38	As above	As above	As above	5,639
Total 2019	237	-	-	-	30,616

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:



- ✓ **Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy (KC)** (bordering northern boundary of TWNP – Triangle). KC is located in Makueni County; Kibwezi Sub county; Mtito Andei Division; Mtito Andei Sub-location; Ngiluni Village.
- ✓ **Employment:** Between Tsavo Trust and its partners 38 permanent staff and 23 casual staff were employed generating over \$ 10,000 (Ksh. 1,000,000) of income into Kamungi every month.
- ✓ **Community Meetings:**
 - 14th May19 – Chiefs meeting in Mtito Andei re- Nyumba Kuni leaders and Huduma cards.
 - 20th May19 – MP Kibwezi East meeting at Nthunguni village re-County Govt. Development.
 - 24th May19 – County Govt. CEC Water/environment delegation meeting at Tsavo Trust HQ with CEO, CLO etc. Discussed HWC and need for fund raising for fence due to elephant crop raids from the Park to the community.
 - 25th May19 – KWS / ZSL / TT meeting with Mangaleta community (north TWNP boundary) re involvement of this community into conservation.
- ✓ **Kamungi Membership:** Through a registered CBO KC membership represents 73 families & 730 individuals. This is likely to rise as more people apply (25 families registered in March19).
- ✓ **Kamungi Water Project:** 25,760 litres of water was issued from dispensing kiosk at Ngiluni Village. Several days of no water due to low water table. *Tsavo Trust is looking to other alternatives and funding.*
- ✓ **Ngiluni Dispensary:** *Tsavo Trust is looking for funding for a water bore hole here to support this vital healthcare outlet in this region.*
- ✓ **Education:** Tsavo Trust has paid for 2 teachers (1 at Ngiluni & 1 at Kamunyu School within KC) for the last 6 years. This is ongoing.
- ✓ **Training:** Patrick Mutua ongoing training at Bio-Ken Snake Farm, Watamu, for *Snake handling and identification.*
- ✓ **HWC – Elephant Bee Fences** – 7 x 1-acre bee fences, total 105 bee hives with 11 currently occupied. Due to the poor rains in this area, the bees have not made the honey we had anticipated and in fact many have vacated hives.
- ✓ **HWC** – 25 cases were recorded around Kamungi Conservancy this month. HWC cases: 8 elephant cases, 1 lion, 4 Leopard, 3 hyena, 8 baboons, 1 genet.
- ✓ **Kamungi Forestry Project** – Seedlings have been re planted and ongoing.
- ✓ **Snake anti-venom** – Supply for venomous snakes – Tsavo Trust partners with the James Ashe Anti-venom Trust (JAAT)/ Bio-Ken Snake Farm, Watamu who are the top-quality anti-venom suppliers. No cases this month. (Tsavo Trust currently holds 4 vials for emergency use).
- ✓ **Wildlife Census Transects:** Ongoing – taking place 2 times per month along set transects within KC to give base line data on wildlife trends. 14 different species were identified this month (75 observations).



Photo shows Kamungi Conservancy community members drawing water in Ngiluni village on 28th May 2019.

This water project is a Tsavo Trust initiated project in partnership with Kamungi Conservancy.

“SHIRANGO COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY”:

- ✓ **Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust and Shirango Conservancy (SCC)** (bordering onto southern boundary of TENP – Voi River area). Total area 270km². SCC is located within Kilifi County; Ganze Sub-location; Bamba Ward; Mitangani location; Gede Sub-location.
- ✓ **Employment** – Tsavo Trust employs 8 staff from this community including a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to spear head activities. This equates to over \$ 1,600 (Ksh. 160,000) of income generation every month to this community as a result.
- ✓ **Community Meetings:**
 - 8th April19 – Chiefs Office to discuss planned water project and Shirango Conservancy
 - 14th April19 – Shirango Village – to discuss community engagement in development projects as well as wildlife conservation as it is this avenue that could uplift livelihoods. Gede sub-location community was engaged. Conservancy membership was also discussed.
 - 18th April19 – Shirango Village – observing bore hole drilling operation that revealed 2 dry bore holes. Tsavo Trust has brought in the hydrologist again to re survey for water as this project MUST go ahead.
- ✓ **Shirango Membership:** CBO name change to **Shirango Community Conservancy (SCC)** is in process and approved by the Board (was *Shirango Community Development Project*). Draft SCC Constitution is being reviewed now. Members come from 5 villages on the fringes of Shirango Community Conservancy: Shirango; Gede Jira/Garbiti; Ngambo/Baisa; Dabaso; Chamamba. Members registration is ongoing – at least 2,000 to date, mainly come from the Watha and Giriama ethnic groups. Ongoing.
- ✓ **Shirango Water Project:** Bore hole drilling rig arrived at the site on 16th April until 25th April. 2 holes were drilled at significant expense, but unfortunately both holes were totally dry. It happens in these arid environments. Tsavo Trust has already completed another hydrological survey and plans for a further bore hole drill are in progress.
- ✓ **Shirango Conservancy land tenure:** Ongoing - CLO is regularly following this up in the Kilifi County Govt. offices.
- ✓ **HWC:** There is very significant conflict in Shirango that needs recording: 12 cases recorded: elephant 8; hyena 3, leopard 1.



Photo shows a community baraza (meeting) at Shirango Conservancy near the remote Dabaso village on 30th May 2019.

Various discussions were held regarding the imminent water project, elephant poaching's, bushmeat poaching and more.

Shirango Conservancy is still in its infancy of development with Tsavo Trust playing a stewardship role in this important project.

Unusual Photo of the Month:



*Photo, taken on 7th May 2019 in TENP, shows a magnificent herd of over 58 individual Fringe Eared Oryx (*Oryx beisa callotis*).*

This herd is showing good signs in that the herd composition contains young, sub adults and adults. In certain parts of Tsavo there are healthy populations of Oryx.

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