

MONTHLY REPORT:

JANUARY 2018

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	64 (64 for year) Average 120km p/h of low level flight	7,699 (7,699km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
<i>Ground Activities</i> (Joint KWS / TT)	Protection teams: 62 days Monitoring teams: 48 days	Protection teams: 7,420 km Monitoring teams: 7,486 km
	No. Observed	
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	11 Tuskers - 10 bulls (2 Super Tuskers & 8 emerging Tuskers) & 1 cow	
	No. Recovered	
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	29 elephant tusks (29 for year to date)	
<i>Elephant carcasses</i>	<i>Fresh</i> (less than 3 weeks old)	<i>Recent</i> (less than 3 months old)
	1 (c of d: 1 natural)	16 (14 natural, 2 unconfirmed)
<i>Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown</i>	1 every 3.76 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	<i>Fresh</i> - Nil	<i>Recent</i> - Nil
<i>Arrests</i>	Nil	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	48 (by Tembo Teams – 48 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	9 cattle bomas (5,150 + cows, 5,000 shoats)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	55 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
<i>General & significant notes</i>	29/1/18 – start of the joint KWS / STE / Tsavo Trust elephant collaring exercise (20 elephants) TE & TW for purposes of SGR & highway movements, HEC & security - Aerial & ground support in TWNP, Rhino Program, ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL. 6 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS	

Photo shows super Tusker LU1 in Musth (center), here with a cow calf herd and in the process spreading his valuable Tusker genes, mid-January 2018 in TENP. (photo courtesy of James Lewin)



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 11 different individual Tusker’s were observed from ground and air coverage.
- 2 bull Super Tuskers – 15 different sightings.
- 8 Emerging bull Tuskers – 12 sightings.
- 1 iconic cow Tuskers – 11 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 38**
- **Weather conditions:** TT HQ rainfall: Nil. Other parts drying out very fast.
- **Elephant mortality: 17 carcasses located (1 fresh, 16 recent):** 15 confirmed as natural deaths (drought related) and 2 unconfirmed c of d.
- **Rhino security:** Regular aerial recces in support of KWS over TWNP rhino areas in partnership with ZSL. 6 rhino specific air recces resulted in 1,662km flown over 15 hrs (5 TW & 1 TE).

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

Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Brief Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	10	In good health and in Musth
WS1	4	On boundary of Park
IL1	1	Moved eastwards with the rains
BU1	2	Normal location
MU1	1	Normal location. In Musth
GA1	1	Back to original location found
SO1	3	Normal location. In Musth
KU1	3	Outside of Park!
WA1	1	Normal location
KI1	1	Back to normal location
COWS		
F DI1	11	Normal location
TOTAL	10 bulls, 1 cow: 38 different sightings	
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.		

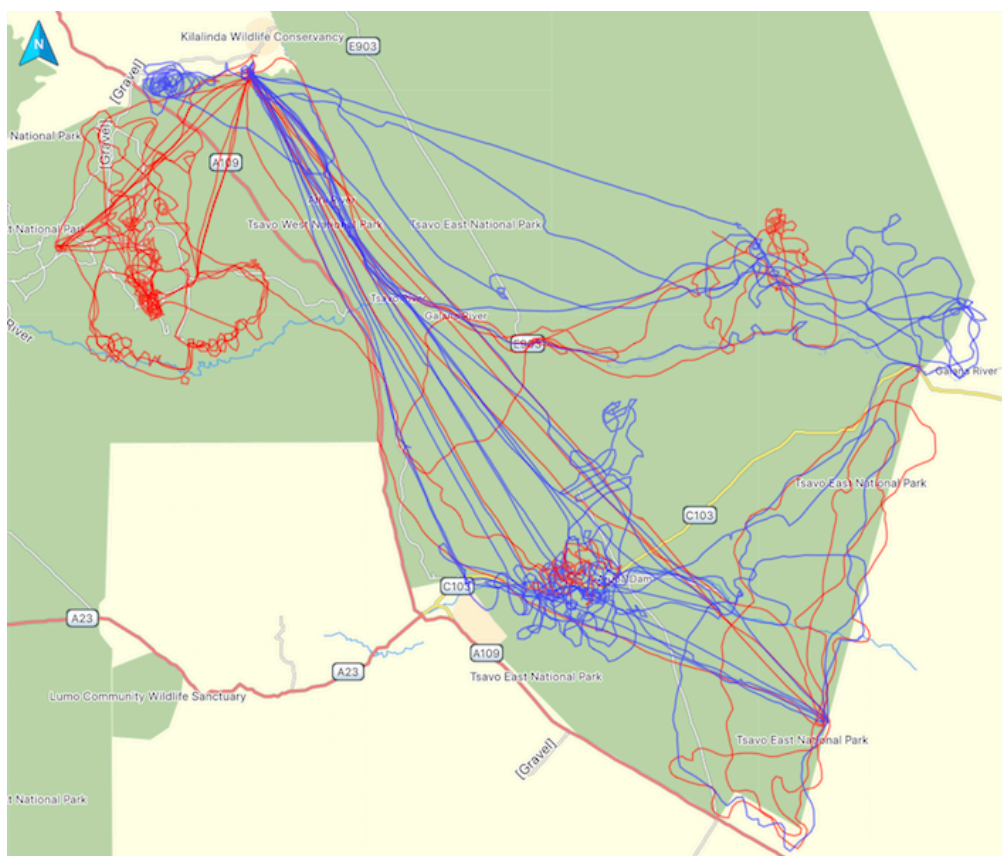
Photo below shows the magnificent long and slender ivory belonging to cow Tusker coded as F_DI1. As you can see these tusks scrape along the ground as she moves, 24th January 2018. She was observed bull 11 times this month by Tsavo Trust.



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

TSAVO EAST NP	TSAVO WEST NP	RANCHES & DISPERSAL AREAS
Northern Area – Yatta Plateau, Durusikale, Garasamuke, Emusaya, Golf Charlie, Koitu, Sobo, Sangayaya, Dabaduke, Mufupa ya Ndovu, Tiva River, Ndiandaza, Ya Kalicha, Roka 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 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	Northern Sector – IPZ, Mangalete, Kamboyo, Kisimeka, Chyulu south, Mtito lugga, Mungai Hill, Finch Hattons, Mzima Springs, Shetani volcano, Severin, Kilaguni, Ndawe, Tsavo River Southern Sector – Murka, Maktau, Ziwani, Serengeti plains 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	TENP border – Ngiluni/Kamunyu, Kulalu, Dere, Murondo, Magram/Dakota Ranch, KMC, Ngutuni, Kilifi & Galana Ranch TWNP border – Ziwani and Rombo Chyulu Hills NP - Nil Taita Ranches - Nil
- 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. - 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 for this month. The red path is for Super Cub aircraft 5Y TTZ and the blue path for 5Y NRF



January 2018 Flight paths:

- 64 hours flown
- 7,699 kilometers covered

Supporting KWS through:

- Air & ground activities
- Big Tusker monitoring
- Locating illegal activities
- Wildlife monitoring
- Aerial census and tracking

Field Mobile Units:

All four of Tsavo Trust's mobile field teams work alongside KWS on a daily basis. **Tembo 1 & 3 (incl. Kamungi Scouts) teams** are de-snaring focused whilst **Tembo 2 & 4 teams** are monitoring and research dedicated. These teams provide further "eyes and ears on the ground".

De-snaring teams:

Table 7: Shows outcomes from field activities from Tembo 1 & 3 teams:

De-snaring 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 (7 TT men + 3 KWS men)	31	Nil	4	42	Nil	1 bicycle	Nil	4,189
Tembo 3 / Kamungi (12 TT men + 3 KWS men)	31	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	3,231
Others Chui team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	61	-	4	48	As above	As above	1	7,420
Total 2018	61	-	4	48	-	-	-	7,420

Monitoring teams:

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

Monitoring team	No. Field days	Activities	Endangered species records / sightings	Operating locations	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 2 (3 TT staff + 2 KWS)	25	• Tusker monitoring • Hirola monitoring • Grevy's zebra monitoring • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos • Elephant collaring	• Tuskers – 22 sightings • Hirola – 9 sightings • Grevy's Zebra – 1 sightings • Large Carnivores – 12 • Road & Rail kills – 0 • Elephant carcasses – 8 • Rain gauge readings	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Dakota, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Koitu, Emusaya, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	5,356
Tembo 4 (2 TT staff + 2 KWS)	23	• Tusker monitoring • Rhino monitoring & capture exercise • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos • Elephant collaring	• Tuskers – 4 sightings • Rhino monitoring IPZ • Large Carnivores – 5 • Road & Rail kills – 2 • Elephant carcasses - Nil • Rain gauge readings	TWNP, Kamboyo, Mangalet, Kilaguni, Mzima, Shetani, Finch H, Ziwani, Kitani, Tsavo River, Rhino Valley, IPZ, NRS	2,130
TOTALS	48	As above	As above	As above	7,486
Total 2018	48	-	-	-	7,486

Other Tsavo Trust Activities in brief:

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM: **“KAMUNGI CONSERVANCY”:**

Partnership between Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy (bordering northern boundary of TENP – Triangle) continues to thrive in many ways;

- ✓ Employment (35 permanent employees and an average of 15 casual employees monthly, all from this community)
- ✓ Kamungi Water project is fully functional providing water directly to Ngiluni Village
- ✓ Tsavo Trust employs a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to help coordinate varying activities as well as maintaining a record of all HWC between Mtito Andei and TT HQ
- ✓ HWC – Elephant Bee Fences – currently 5 x 1 acre plots have been fenced using this unique fencing design (by Dr. Lucy King and Save The Elephants)
- ✓ Management Plan – Kamungi Management Plan (5 years – 2018 to 2022) is in its final stages before going to print

Unusual Photo of the Month:

Photo below taken by Vanessa Moller (Tsavo Trust) shows one of 7 wild dogs on a zebra kill in the TENP Triangle are on 14th January 2018, close to Tsavo Trust HQ.



With sincere thanks and appreciation to the Kenya Wildlife Service, Save The Elephants/Wildlife Conservation Network/Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Oak Foundation, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), US-Aid / DOI, Tusk Trust, Stuart Herd, Sir Colin Southgate, Nick Southgate, Alex Graham, Dr. David K.P. Li, Nick Powell, James Robertson, International Foundation for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Markus Jebesen, Ndovu Trust (UK), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, The Davies Family, Leopardess Foundation (Nicole Honegger), Paul Block, International Elephant Foundation (IEF), Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Mike Kirkland/Torben Rune - Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa), Tropical Ice Ltd, Askari Project – Australia, Salama Fikira, Origins Safaris, JW Seagon Insurance, The Art of BAS & Oak Furniture Land, Howard Saunders, Sandor Carter, Geri Bauer, Karen Laurence-Rowe, OnSafari-Kenya-Anthony Cheffings, Kathy Snowden, Saving the Survivors, Anadarko Kenya Co., Chris Acreman, Paul & James Wilson, Dutch Flower Foundation, Alex Hunter – Insiders Africa, Simon Herd, Spidertracks, Michael Cheffings, Pembroke House School and numerous other individual supporters.

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