

MONTHLY REPORT:

APRIL 2018

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
Aerial Reconnaissance	76 (307 for year) Average 116km p/h of low level flight	8,806 (36,488km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
Ground Activities (Joint KWS / TT)	Protection teams: 60 days (240 for year) Monitoring teams: 23 days (152 for year)	Protection teams: 5,312 km (25,576 for year) Monitoring teams: 3,413 km (21,394 for year)
	No. Observed	
Big “Tuskers”	7 Tuskers - 6 bulls (4 Super Tuskers & 2 emerging Tuskers) & 1 cow	
	No. Recovered	
Ivory recovered	5 elephant tusks (63 for year to date) – (largest tusk 38kg / 84lbs)	
Elephant carcasses	Fresh (less than 3 weeks old)	Recent (less than 3 months old)
	Nil	3 (2 natural, 1 unconfirmed)
Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown	1 every 25 hours of flight	
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh - 3	Recent - Nil
Arrests	6 – by KWS / TT – (1 bushmeat poacher, 3 illegal livestock, 2 carvers – 11 to date)	
Snares/traps recovered	34 (by Tembo Teams – 317 for year to date)	
Response/support to KWS - armed incidents	Nil	
Other Illegal activities	25 cattle bomas (10,460 + cows, 1,000 shoats, 50 people)	
Written reports to KWS	62 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
General & significant notes	23 & 25/4/18: Tsavo experienced serious flooding along the Athi & Galana River, where several tourist camps were washed away 7th to 24th Apr18: joint KWS / TT / Big Life & DSWT operations carried out in CHNP for Marijuana plantations destruction where several hectares were destroyed - Aerial & ground support to Rhino Program in TWNP & TENP, ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL. 11 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS	

The Galana River, TENP, in full flood on 25th April 2018. This is the highest flood waters experienced along the Athi / Galana River in recent history with several tourist camps washed away totally.



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 7 different individual Tusker’s were observed from ground and air coverage.
- 4 bull Super Tuskers – 11 different sightings.
- 2 Emerging bull Tuskers – 4 sightings.
- 1 iconic cow Tuskers – 1 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 16** (this low number is attributed to the widespread rains where elephants have dispersed far and wide, Tembo 2 team was also on leave, making it difficult to locate the Tuskers).
- **Weather conditions:** TT HQ rainfall: **103.5mm**. Total rainfall at Tsavo Trust HQ to date: 409.5mm – double for the whole of 2017!
- **Elephant mortality: 3 carcasses located (3 recent):** 1 carcass unconfirmed c of d and 2 natural deaths.
- **Rhino security:** Regular aerial recces in support of KWS over TWNP rhino areas in partnership with ZSL. 11 rhino specific air recces resulted in 3,746km flown over 33 hrs (8 TW & 3 TE).
- **Elephant collaring exercise:** Ongoing monitoring from ground and air taking place by KWS / TT teams.

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 and in difficult area to locate him
WS1	3	Physically seen, but located daily by Sat. collar
IL1	2	In same general area, looking old
SL1	1	Normal location. In Musth
MM1	1	New emerging Tusker added to database on 13/4/18 (mono right tusk)
KI1	3	Back to normal location
COWS		
F_XT1	1	Moved big distances with the rains
TOTAL	6 bulls, 1 cow: 16 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.		

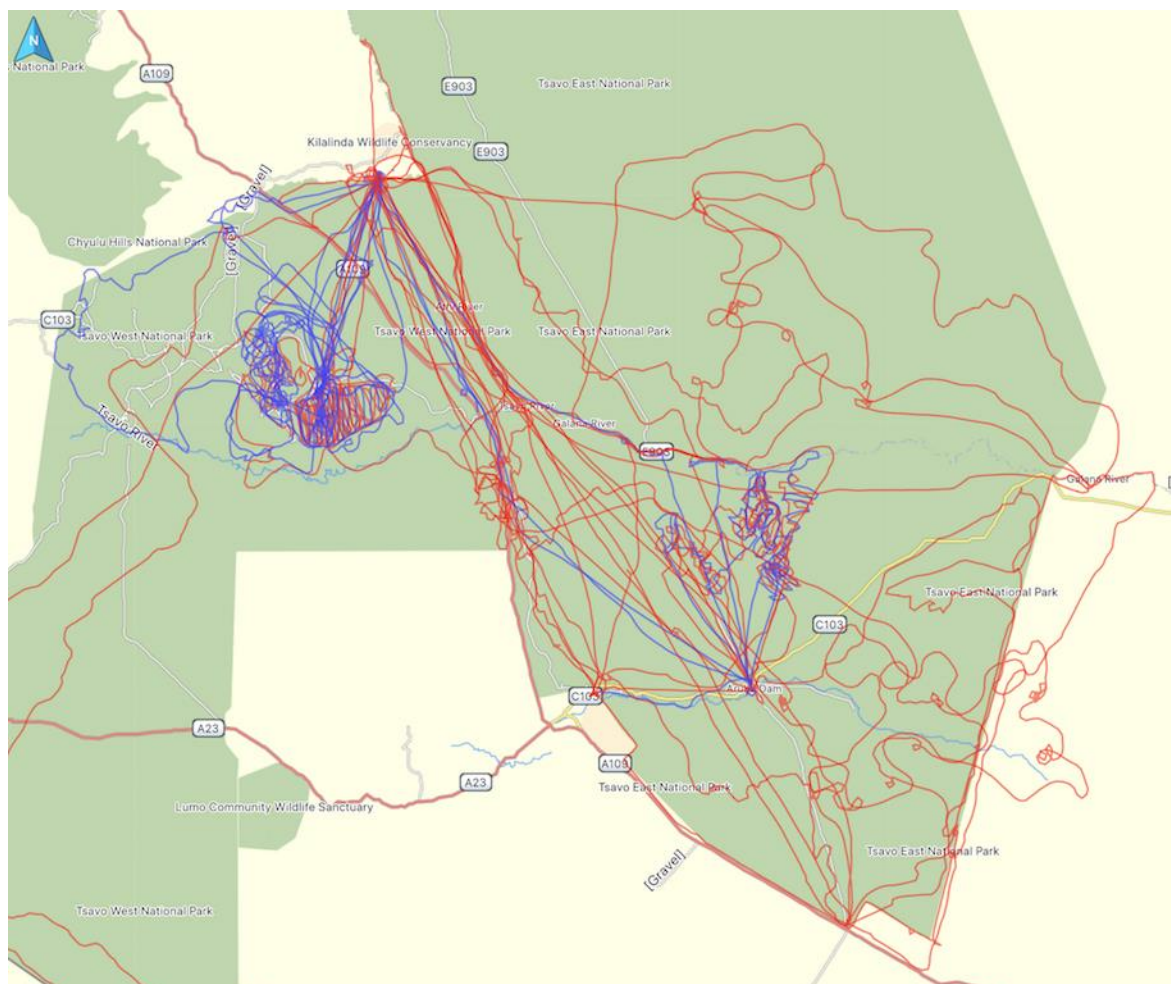


Photo shows emerging Tusker coded as MM1, with single mono right tusk on 13th April 2018.

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, Mangalet, Kamboyo, Kisimeka, Chyulu south, Mtito lugga, Mungai Hill, Finch Hattons, Mzima Springs, Shetani volcano, Severin, Kilaguni, Ndawe, Tsavo River Southern Sector – Murka, Maktau, Ziواني, Serengeti plains, Kanjaro, TZ / Kenya border Central Sector – IPZ, Rhino Valley, NRS, Tsavo River, Kinyek, Maji ya Chumvi (north & south), Ziواني, 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 – Rombo, Ziواني, Salaita 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 (2 aircraft) over the TCA for this month. The red path is for aircraft 5Y TTZ and the blue for 5Y NRF. 76 hours flown covering 8,806 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS: **Air & ground activities; Big Tusker monitoring; Locating illegal activities; Wildlife monitoring; Aerial census and tracking.**



COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

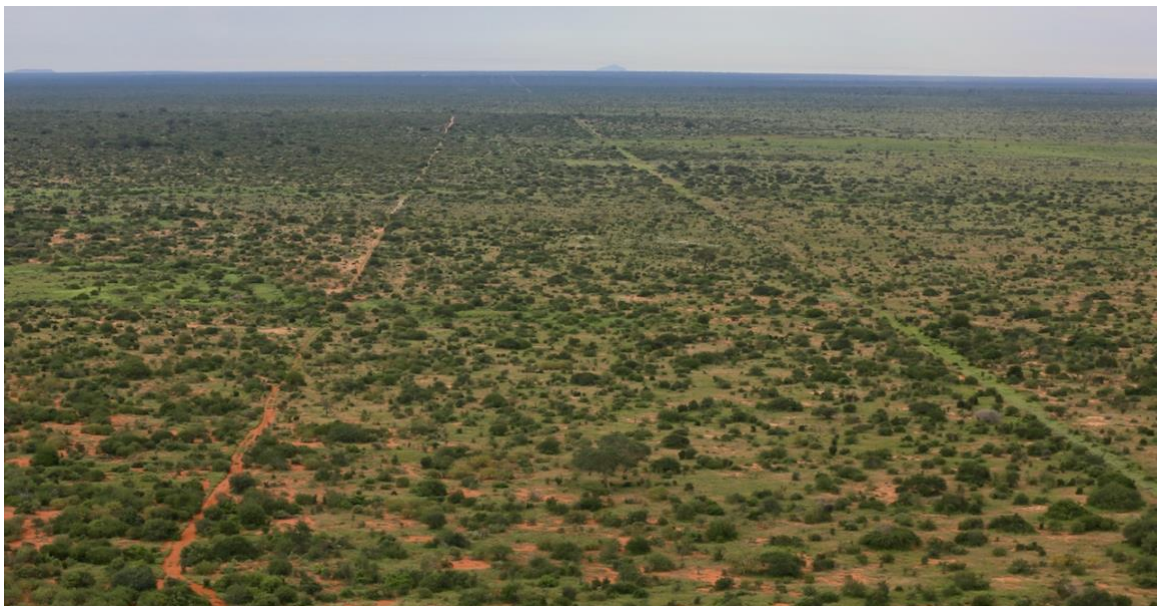
“KAMUNGI CONSERVANCY”:

- ✓ **Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy (KC)** (bordering northern boundary of TENP – Triangle).
- ✓ **Employment:** Between Tsavo Trust and its partners 36 permanent staff and 23 casual staff were employed generating over \$ 9,000 (Ksh. 900,000) of income into Kamungi per month.
- ✓ **Kamungi Water Project:** 4,550 litres of water was issued from the water dispensing kiosk at Ngiluni Village. This figure is low due to the excessive rains enjoyed in this area in April.
- ✓ **HWC – Elephant Bee Fences** – 5 x 1-acre bee fences, total 75 bee hives with 22 are occupied. Plans to carry out the first harvest in the coming months after 11 hives have been fitted with the super box’s.
- ✓ **HWC** – 19 cases were recorded around Kamungi Conservancy, mainly elephants crop raiding (8) and leopard (7) conflict with smaller livestock. 1 cow was also killed by lion.
- ✓ **Kamungi Forestry Project** – a tree nursery is now being set up at Ngiluni water station to promote the re planting of indigenous trees having been decimated in the area from charcoalers.
- ✓ **Snake anti-venom** - supply for venomous snakes – Tsavo Trust provides and pays for 5 vials of top grade anti-venom (from South Africa). This is held by a Senior Doctor at the Voi District Hospital. This is a collaborative venture with James Ashe Anti-venom Trust / Bio-Ken Snake Farm, Watamu who are the anti-venom suppliers.

“DAKOTA / SHIRANGO COMMUNITY PROJECT”:

- ✓ **Dakota / Shirango community engagement** – in its infancy, a partnership between Tsavo Trust and the Watha communities of Dakota / Shirango is fast evolving (although discussions have been ongoing for over 4 years). Through the CLO, employed by Tsavo Trust, this once alienated community is now starting to embrace the “Conservancy” concept and plans are underway to roll out further activities here.
- ✓ **Employment** – Tsavo Trust employs 8 staff from this community including a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to spear head activities. This equates to over \$ 1,200 (Ksh. 120,000) of income generation every month to this community as a result.
- ✓ **Training** – Currently there are 6 members of this community undergoing 3 months Community Scout Training at KWS Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) at Manyani, following the relevant vetting process. Following this training, all these men will be active in wildlife related law enforcement in the Dakota / Shirango buffer to TENP. Pass out is due in early June 2018.

Photo shows the boundary between TENP and the Dakota / Shirango community, clearly showing the continuous and similar habitat between the areas that is most appropriate for wildlife space and expansion.



Unusual Photo of the Month:

Photo taken at sunset on 23rd April 2018 of the flooded Galana River having broken its banks (credit - Nick Trent).



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), USAid / 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 Jebsen, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, The Davies Family, Leopardess Foundation (Nicole Honegger), Paul Block, International Elephant Foundation (IEF), Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Ndovu Trust (UK), Mike Kirkland/Torben Rune - Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa), Tropical Ice Ltd, Askari Project – Australia, Salama Fikira, Origins Safaris, Ker & Downey safaris, Scott Family Fdn., JW Seagon Insurance, The Art of BAS & Oak Furniture Land, Howard Saunders, Sandor Carter, Sean Dundas, 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, Spidertracks, Michael Cheffings, Pembroke House School and numerous other individual supporters.

Report compiled by Richard Moller – Chief Executive Officer, Tsavo Trust
All photographs ©Richard Moller / Tsavo Trust 2018