

MONTHLY REPORT: JANUARY 2017

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	83 Average 75 mph of low level flight	6,264 Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	No. Observed	
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	10 Tuskers - 7 bulls (4 Super Tuskers & 3 emerging Tuskers) & 3 cows	
	No. Recovered	
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	4 elephant tusks (largest 51 & 50.5kg)	
<i>Elephant carcasses</i>	<i>Fresh</i> (less than 3 weeks old)	<i>Recent</i> (less than 3 months old)
	6 (c of d: 3 poached, 1 natural, 1 hit by train, 1 hit by truck)	2 (c of d: 2 unconfirmed)
<i>Carcasses/hours flown</i>	1 every 10.3 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	5 (temporary camp)	1
<i>Arrests</i>	3 - by KWS / TT – (2 elephant poachers apprehended, 1 bush meat)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	21 (by Tembo Teams)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	1 (TENP elephant poaching gang)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	31 cattle bomas (15,900 plus cows, 2,700 shoats & 55 + people seen)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	29 (daily emails, SA2 Report & 1 monthly report)	
<i>General & significant notes</i>	4/1/17 – Fresh carcasses of “Tusker” SA2 found, ivory recvd. (51kg & 50.5kg). Unconfirmed cause of death but believed to be from poisoned arrow 17/1/17 – Joint KWS / TT contact with poachers, TENP, 2 apprehended, 1 AK47 recovered & 12 poisoned arrows, 3 bows & other equip. - Aerial support pertaining to rhino security in TW & TE as continued partnership with KWS / ZSL rhino program. 17 rhino specific flights carried out following TWNP / NRS rhino poaching (2) on 31/12/16	

It is with very deep regret that we report the death of one of Tsavo’s iconic “Tuskers” – SATAO 2



Left Photo: Shows iconic Tsavo Tusker known as Satao 2 on 9th December 2016, TENP.

Photo below: Shows Satao 2’s fresh carcass, found by joint KWS/TT aerial recce on 4th January 2017.

Joint KWS/TT Tembo 1 Team from Dakota Base recovered the ivory weighing 51kg and 50.5kg each (112lbs & 111lbs).



Big Tusker Project - aerial and ground mobile teams:

Loss of “Tusker” Satao 2:

During a joint KWS / TT routine aerial recce on 4th January 2017, very sadly, the fresh elephant carcass of one of Tsavo’s iconic “Tuskers” known as **Satao 2** was found, along the Voi seasonal river south of Satao in TENP. His ivory was intact and later recovered by the joint KWS / Tsavo Trust Tembo 1 ground team based from KWS Dakota outpost. His ivory weighed 51kg and 50.5kg respectively (112lbs and 111lbs). The cause of death is not 100% confirmed but it is believed he succumbed from an attempted poaching via poisoned arrow whilst he was feeding close to the TENP / Dakota Ranch boundary in late 2016. This location is both historically and currently a “poaching hot spot” for elephant poachers who use lethal poisoned arrows. There have been recent reports and information of a gang operating in this location in recent weeks and in fact 3 other freshly poached elephants have been located in the same area in early January suggesting the reports are indeed true!

Photo below shows the joint KWS / TT Tembo 1 team recovering these exceptionally large and long elephant tusks, belonging to the well known “Tusker” called Satao 2, on 4th January 2017 in TENP. His ivory weighed 51kg and 50.5kg (112lbs & 111lbs) respectively. This was an excellent example of ground and air teams working in tandem where this fresh carcass was located during a KWS / TT aerial recce and the KWS / TT Tembo 1 team was called in.

Following this finding, KWS & TT have worked closely to establish the whereabouts of an elephant poaching gang operating in this location. On 17th January 2017, this same combined team caught up with the gang deep inside the Park and a contact ensued. 2 notorious poachers were apprehended, 1 AK47 firearm recovered, 12 poisoned arrows, 3 bows plus other equipment recovered.



Although this is a very sad loss in every way, we can take some positive from this in that Satao 2's carcass was indeed found with the ivory intact and recovered before it could fall into the wrong hands and further fuel the illegal ivory market but also more importantly, this poaching gang that possibly tried to poach Satao 2 has been broken for ever. KWS acted swiftly and with support from Tsavo Trust and the informer networks in this area, the desired result was realized.

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

- Total of 10 different individual Tusker's were observed from ground and air coverage
- 3 bull Super Tuskers – 17 different sightings
- 3 emerging Tuskers – 9 sightings
- 3 iconic cow Tuskers – 7 sightings
- **Total sightings – 33**
- **Weather conditions:** Some very isolated and sporadic light rain in few parts of TCA.
- **Elephant mortality:** As reported above, there have been 8 fresh / recent carcasses found this month. The elephant poaching gang that was operating around the Satao / Voi River has been dealt with and this will hopefully bring reprieve to this location. There have been other poaching cases – see summary below.
- **Rhino security:** 17 rhino specific aerial reces took place with KWS / TT aircraft as well as Tembo 3 team joining KWS in ground operations in the IPZ following 2 rhino poached in TWNP, NRS on 31st December 2016. Strong and valuable 3 way partnership between KWS / ZSL & TT continues with specific focus on rhino protection.

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

Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	5	Crosses SGR regularly. Frequents an unsafe area!
SA2	-	Found dead 4/1/2017
KA1	3	Back to normal location
DI1	-	Not seen all month, which is VERY unusual, he is such a creature of habit!
WS1	8	Back to normal location
IL1	1	Same location
MU1	7	(Previously called SA80) Back to normal area
AR1	1	Back to normal area
KI1	1	Back to normal area
COWS		
F_SO1	1	Moving big distances
F_XT	3	Moving big distances
F_VPL	3	Back to normal location
TOTAL	7 bulls, 3 cows: 33 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.		

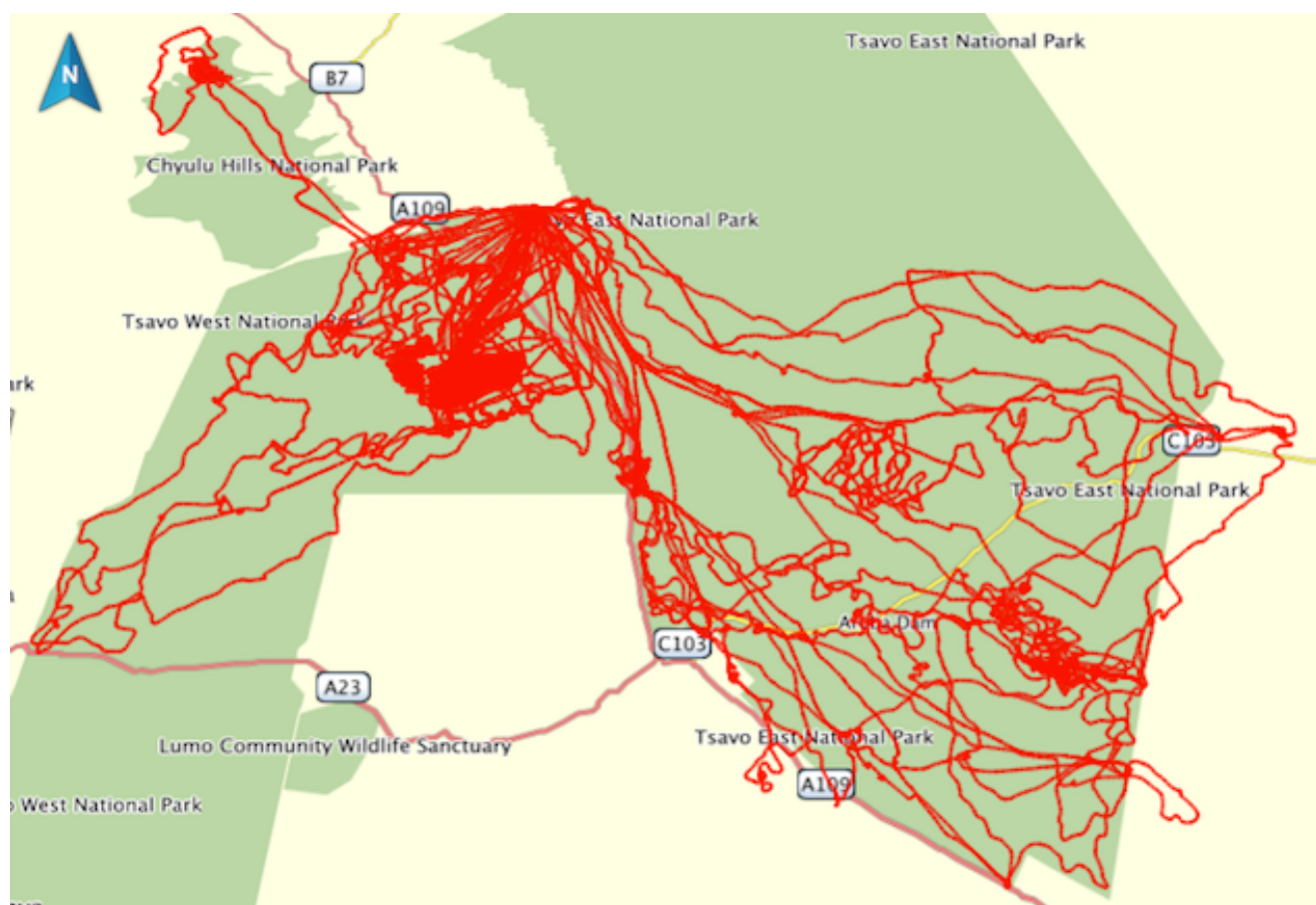


Photo shows super “Tusker” LU1 on 20th January 2017

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, Ithumba, Tiva River, 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 – Nil 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, Ngutuni, Galana Ranch boundary TWNP border – Ziwani, Rombo and Lualenyi Chyulu Hills NP – Mukururo Taita Ranches – Rukinga
- 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 flight paths for January 2017 where 83 hours were flown in support to KWS for anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring covering 6,264 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. Some are anti-poaching focused (*Tembo 1 & 3*) and some are monitoring and research dedicated (*Tembo 2*).

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	31	2	2	15	16 dikdik	1 AK47 rifle, 12 p/arrows, 3 bows, 1 axe, 1 panga, cooking equip	1	2,749
Tembo 3 Kamungi	31	1	2	6	4 dikdiks	1 horn/torch, 2 pangas, 1 knife	5	2,468
Others Chui team		-	-	-	-	-	2	-
TOTALS	62	3	4	21	As above	As above	8	5,217
Total 2017	62	3	4	21	-	-	8	5,217



Photo shows 4 freshly poached dikdiks on 29th January 2017 on the border of TENP, having been poached using the horn/lamping method at night. This form of poaching is very effective.

1 poacher was arrested and booked for this case.

Monitoring teams:

Table 8: Shows activities carried out by Tembo 2 team:

Monitoring team	No. Field days	Activities	Endangered species records / sightings	Operating locations	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 2	20	• Tusker monitoring • Endangered species – database records • Road and SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos • Predator monitoring	Tuskers – 17 sightings Hirola – 4 sightings Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting Predators – too many to mention	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	3,067
TOTALS	20	As above	As above	As above	3,067
Total 2017	20	-	-	-	3,067

Unusual Photo of the Month:



Photo (courtesy of Ranger Ali) shows an elephant that was hit by a train on the old Mombasa to Nairobi railway line on 26th January 2017.

These cases have increased in recent years as major transport infrastructure develops along this access route.

Underpasses are being constructed and in time elephants will learn how to traverse safely between TENP & TWNP.

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