

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	60 (476 for year) Average 75 mph of low level flight	4,509 (35,742 for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
No. Observed		
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	10 Tuskers - 8 bulls (4 Super Tuskers & 4 emerging Tuskers) & 2 cows	
No. Recovered		
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	Nil elephant tusks (46 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: 3 natural)	Nil
<i>Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown</i>	1 every 20 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	Fresh - Nil	Recent - Nil
<i>Arrests</i>	29 - by KWS / TT – (7 bushmeat poachers, 22 livestock – 75 for year to date)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	43 (by Tembo Teams – 388 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil (5 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	69 cattle bomas (32,200 + cows, 3,700 shoats, 450 camels, 126 + people seen)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	39 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
<i>General & significant notes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock incursions into the Tsavo Parks are incredibly high and on the increase but later part of month saw much needed livestock drives taking place with TT participation • 20/6/17 – Albino baby elephant spotted, TENP • 24/6/17 – During an aerial recce; 1 emerging bull Tusker, 400 plus elephant, 2 different prides of lion, 1 leopard & 5 hyena spotted for an interesting and unusual flight • Aerial & ground support pertaining to rhino security ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL rhino program. 11 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS 	

Photo below shows what appears to be an albino male elephant calf with his mother on 20th June 2017 in TENP at Mudanda water hole. Certainly, his skin colour and pigmentation is very different and pink in colour that resembles an albino elephant – a sight rarely seen.



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 10 different individual Tusker's were observed from ground and air coverage.
- 4 bull Super Tuskers – 4 different sightings.
- 4 Emerging Tuskers – 4
- 2 iconic cow Tuskers – 11 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 19**
- **Weather conditions:** Dry and strong winds.
- **Elephant mortality:** Number of carcasses found significantly down, with no poached elephants located, all 3 were natural deaths.
- **Rhino security:** 11 rhino specific aerial recces 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. 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	1	In good health but frequents an unsafe area!
IL1	1	In a worrying and unsafe location!
BA1	1	In a worrying and unsafe location!
KO1	1	Moved back to original location
SL1	1	Has moved big distances
MA1	1	Normal location
DR1	1	Moved out of Park!
KM2	1	Normal location
COWS		
F_VPL	4	Back to normal location. Looking very old and thin, often alone!
F_MU1	7	Normal area. Looking very old and thin. Always seen with her s/adult calf
TOTAL	8 bulls, 2 cows: 19 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>		



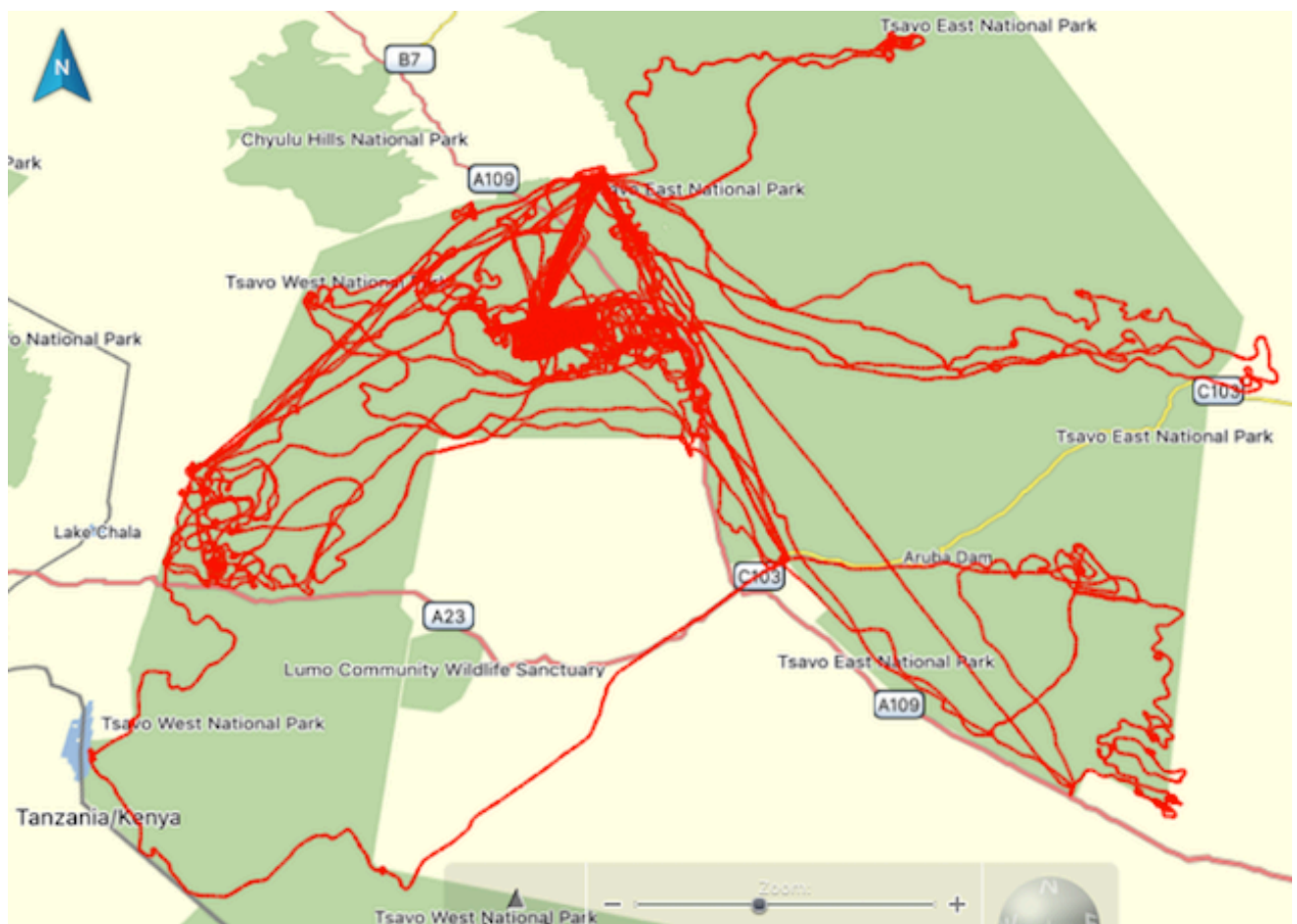
Photo shows one of Tsavo's magnificent and iconic cow Tuskers coded as F_MU1 on 20th June 2017, TENP.

She is looking very old and it remains a big worry if she will pull through this dry spell over the next 4 months?

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, Tiva River, Roka</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, Kamshari, 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 and Lualenyi</p> <p>Chyulu Hills NP - Nil</p> <p>Taita Ranches – Nil</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 June 2017 where 60 hours were flown in support to KWS for anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring and aerial census operations covering 4,509 miles over the Tsavo’s.



Field Mobile Units:

All Tsavo Trust mobile field units work alongside in support of KWS on a daily basis. *Tembo 1 & 3 teams* are anti-poaching focused whilst *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	15	Nil	Nil	20	Nil	1 spade	Nil	2,874
Tembo 3 Kamungi	30	7	Nil	Nil	5 dikdiks 1 lesser Kudu 39kg meat	Cooking equips	Nil	3,421
Others Chui team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	45	7	Nil	43	As above	As above	Nil	6,295
Total 2017	322	26	42	388	-	-	28	36,687

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	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tusker monitoring • Endangered species – database records • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuskers – 12 sightings • Hirola – 4 sightings • Grevy’s Zebra – 9 sightings • Large Carnivores – 22 • Road & Rail kills - 5 	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	4,257
TOTALS	25	As above	As above	As above	4,257
Total 2017	114	-	-	-	19,379



Photo shows Tembo 2 field monitoring unit observing one of Tsavo’s iconic cow Tuskers coded as F_MU1 in TENP on 20th June 2017

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) continues in varying ways:

- Kamungi Water Project - bore hole solar equipment and pump is now installed and digging of the delivery pipe line to Ngiluni village, 2.5km away is also under construction.
- Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) – Elephant & Bees Project is ongoing and working well.
- HWC – Crocodile Attack – 15-year-old Betty Wambua (reported on in last month’s report) is out of hospital and recovering well.

Photo below shows Kamungi Conservancy bore hole pump and solar power system, funded through Tsavo Trust by its supporters. A stone wall is being built around this unit to help protect it against elephants. This water source for the local community could not be more timely given the continual droughts that this area experiences. It will help to create awareness within Kamungi community and with this create a protective “buffer” to the TENP that forms Kamungi’s southern boundary.



Aerial photo below shows one of the Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) - Elephant & Bees fenced plots within Kamungi Conservancy. Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy have partnered with Save The Elephants through Dr. Lucy King who pioneered this concept with considerable success.



Animal Welfare Program: LEOPARD RELEASE PROGRAM:

- Dotty the female leopard is now 14 months old and continues to thrive in her home in TENP. She has spent several days and nights at a time away from her release boma and has clearly come into contact with other wild leopards and has made her own kills. All good signs for her future.
- Tsavo Trust has recently taken on a second orphaned female leopard for release into Tsavo, from KWS, called “Sophie”. The lengthy process of rehabilitation has started well.

Unusual Photo of the Month:



Back to the unusual sight of a possible albino baby elephant, again this photo was taken on 20th June 2017 in TENP of a rarely seen albino elephant calf.

This photo clearly shows the extreme colour variations between mother and calf as they have both just come out of Mudanda water hole and all sets of legs have been washed clean that shows the clear colour variance.

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