

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	54 (530 for year) Average 72 mph of low level flight	3,879 (39,621 for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
No. Observed		
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	9 Tuskers - 6 bulls (4 Super Tuskers & 2 emerging Tuskers) & 3 cows	
No. Recovered		
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	5 elephant tusks (51 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)
	2 (c of d: 1 poached, 1 natural)	1 (c of d: natural)
<i>Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown</i>	1 every 18 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	Fresh - 2	Recent - Nil
<i>Arrests</i>	3 - by KWS / TT – (3 bushmeat poachers – 78 for year to date)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	237 (by Tembo Teams – 625 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil (5 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	108 cattle bomas (22,300 + cows, 7,000 shoats)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	42 (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 Numbers of elephants outside TENP south & east boundary is very high (over 800), due to recent rain there. TT / KWS carried out several aerial & ground security patrols there 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 members of Kamungi Conservancy, located on TENP, Triangle northern boundary, enjoying clean water for the first time on tap. Tsavo Trust helped set up Kamungi Conservancy in 2014 and continues to play the pivotal stewardship role in its future development. Here, through donor funds raised by Tsavo Trust, a borehole, solar pump & panels, 2.5-kilometer pipeline and more are now in place. As a result of this project, already illegal activities such as bushmeat poaching and charcoaling have ceased to be a common threat along this section of TE National Park.



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 9 different individual Tusker's were observed from ground and air coverage.
- 4 bull Super Tuskers – 10 different sightings.
- 2 Emerging bull Tuskers – 2 sightings.
- 3 iconic cow Tuskers – 12 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 24**
- **Weather conditions:** Very dry and strong winds.
- **Elephant mortality:** Number of carcasses found remain low, with only 1 poached elephant located (snared), the other 2 were natural deaths.
- **Rhino security:** 8 rhino specific aerial recce's 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	5	In good health but frequents an unsafe area!
IL1	3	In a worrying and unsafe location!
BA1	1	In a worrying and unsafe remote location!
WS1	1	In worrying and unsafe location outside Park!
MA1	1	Normal location
DR1	1	Still outside of Park!
COWS		
F_VPL	3	Looking very old and thin, always alone now!
F_MU1	8	Normal area. Looking very old and thin. Always seen with her s/adult calf
F_XT	1	Back to normal location and in good health
TOTAL 6 bulls, 3 cows: 24 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>		

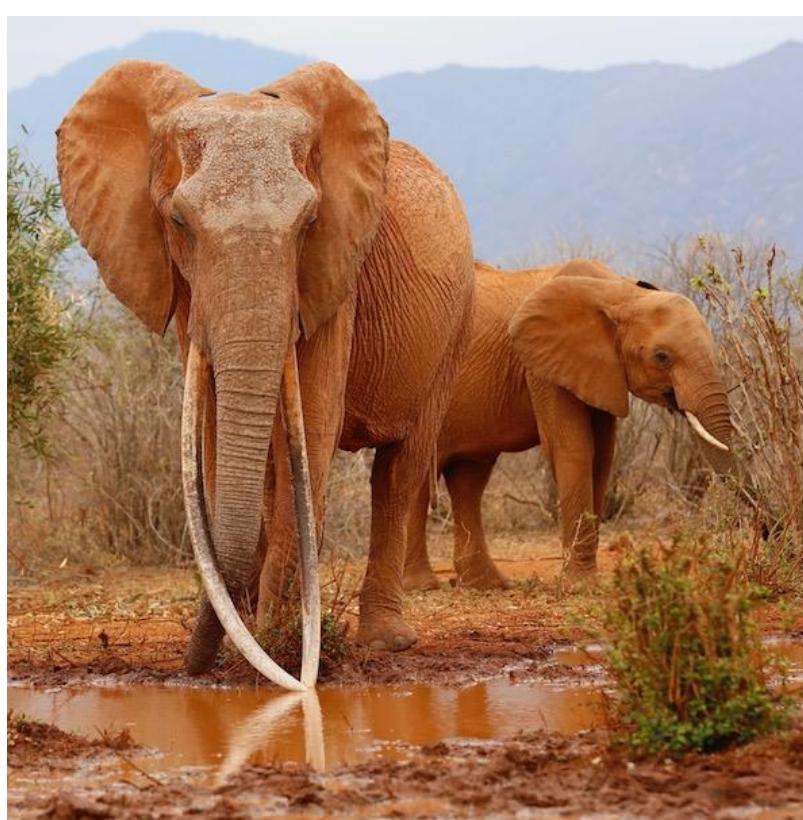


Photo shows one of Tsavo's iconic cow Tuskers coded as F_MU1 on 22nd July 2017, TENP, along with her calf.

Tsavo Trust has known F_MU1 well for 4 years now. She must be at least 50 plus years of age now and in her twilight years.

What a story she could tell?

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, Ndiandaza, Ya Kalicha, Roka</p> <p>Southern Area – Voi, Ndololo, Kanderi, Wagalla, Ndara Plains, Buchuma, Maungu, Murondo, Dakota, Voi River, Dika Plains, Satao, power lines, Aruba, Mukuju, 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, Salaita, 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, Dere, Murondo, Magram/Dakota Ranch, Ngutuni, Kilifi & Galana Ranch</p> <p>TWNP border – Ziwani and Luallenyi</p> <p>Chyulu Hills NP - Nil</p> <p>Taita Ranches – Nil</p>

- 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 July 2017 where 54 hours were flown in support to KWS for anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring and aerial census operations covering 3,879 miles over the Tsavo's.



Field Mobile Units:

All Tsavo Trust's mobile field teams work alongside and in support of KWS daily. **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 recv'd.	No. Snare recv'd.	Bushmeat recv'd.	Poachers equip. recv'd.	No. Poacher camps	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 1	30	1	Nil	55	29kg lesser kudu	1 bicycle, 1 panga, 2 knives, cooking equip.	2	3,067
Tembo 3 Kamungi	31	2	Nil	176	3 dikdiks	Cooking equips, 12 bags charcoal	Nil	2,764
Others Chui team	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	61	3	Nil	237	As above	As above	2	5,831
Total 2017	383	29	42	625	-	-	31	42,518



Photo shows a bushmeat poacher arrested with 2 poached lesser kudu by Tembo 1 team on 8th July 2017 on Giriama Ranch outside TENP, southern boundary.

He was later charged in court.

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	16	<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 – 5 sightings • Grevy's Zebra – 1 sightings • Large Carnivores – 19 • Road & Rail kills - 3 	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Dakota, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	2,806
TOTALS	16	As above	As above	As above	2,806
Total 2017	130	-	-	-	22,185

Photo taken by Tembo 2 monitoring team on 27th July 2017 of an injured elephant with an arrow head in his lower right foot. This elephant was close to the southern boundary of TENP and it is likely the elephant came from crops outside of the Park. KWS Vet Unit alerted and the arrow head removed.



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 pump equipment and a 2.5-kilometer delivery pipe line to Ngiluni village has been put in place. Testing has also been done and the residents of Ngiluni have clean water on tap for the first time. This is a “game changer” for this community as will assist KWS and Tsavo Trust in combating the Illegal Wildlife Trade in this area.
- Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) – A fourth elephant / bee fence has been set up under the Elephant & Bees Project (pioneered by Lucy King and Save The Elephants). There are now 60 bee hives within Kamungi Conservancy and we eagerly await the first harvest early next year.
- HWC – Crocodile Attack – 15-year-old Betty Wambua (previously reported on) is still in the recovery process. Incidentally one of the daily medical applications to this severe crocodile wound is honey, applied daily and this remedy is working well.

Animal Welfare Program: LEOPARD RELEASE PROGRAM:

- Dotty the female leopard is now 15 months old and continues to thrive in her home in TENP. Recently she spent 6 nights out and returned in good health and a full belly, showing she had fended for herself well. Her days of going fully wild are fast approaching as she reaches full adulthood. A GPS satellite collar has been purchased and will be deployed next month.
- 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.

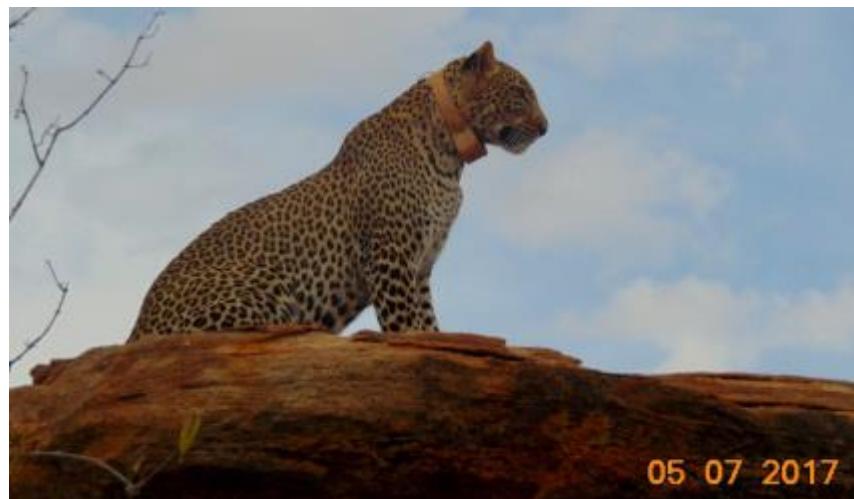


Photo shows Dotty, in top health, observing her territory in TENP, Triangle area on 5th July 2017.

She is spending longer and longer away from her release boma. In July, she spent 6 nights out in one spell.

TWNP Airstrip House renovation:

- In preparation for the deployment of Tembo 4 research and monitoring team to TWNP to support KWS in varying field activities, Tsavo Trust implemented the renovation of the Kamboyo Airstrip housing facility where Tembo 4 will be accommodated.



Photo below shows the Kamboyo airstrip building before renovation on 1st June 2017



Photo below shows Kamboyo airstrip building after renovation on 20th July 2017

Unusual Photo of the Month:



This unusual aerial photo, taken by Tsavo Trust's Josh Outram, shows an upside-down elephant skull, with ivory still intact, partially submerged in the Galana River, TENP on 11th July 2017.

As the river has receded it has now exposed the skull and ivory in this uncommon view.

Both tusks were later recovered.

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