

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	54 (651 for year) Average 72 mph of low level flight	3,866 (48,459 for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	No. Observed	
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	11 Tuskers - 9 bulls (3 Super Tuskers & 6 emerging Tuskers) & 2 cows	
	No. Recovered	
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	32 elephant tusks (97 for year to date - largest 53.5 & 52.5kg)	
<i>Elephant carcasses</i>	<i>Fresh</i> (less than 3 weeks old)	<i>Recent</i> (less than 3 months old)
	16 (c of d: 16 natural)	5 (c of d: 3 natural, 2 unknown)
<i>Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown</i>	1 every 2.6 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	<i>Fresh - 1</i>	<i>Recent - 2</i>
<i>Arrests</i>	6 - by KWS / TT – (1 bushmeat poacher, 5 livestock – 92 for year to date)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	89 (by Tembo Teams – 752 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil (6 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	40 cattle bomas (9,620 + cows, 6,250 shoats, 100 camels, 26 people)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	48 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
<i>General & significant notes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought conditions very serious. This month alone 21 elephant deaths recorded • Illegal livestock in the Tsavo Parks has mostly been driven out. Tsavo can breathe again • Aerial & ground support for rhino security ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL rhino program. 4 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS • 14/9/17 – 47 rhino & 1 Super Tusker observed in TWNP during aerial recce 	

Photo below taken on 18th September 2017, shows 25 freshly poached dikdikis confiscated from an arrested poacher by the joint KWS / Tsavo Trust Tembo 3 team who regularly operate along the TENP northern boundary (Triangle area). Half a dikdik carcass sells for just Ksh. 200 or US\$ 2.



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.
- 3 bull Super Tuskers – 13 different sightings.
- 6 Emerging bull Tuskers – 16 sightings.
- 2 iconic cow Tuskers – 3 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 32**
- **New emerging bull Tusker confirmed / coded SO1 on 9/9/17.** This elephant was first recorded in December 2014 but only now has he been 100% identified through distinguished marks.
- **Weather conditions:** Exceedingly dry in most parts especially TENP and strong winds.
- **Elephant mortality: 21 carcasses located (16 fresh, 5 recent):** Number of carcasses found was far higher than normal due to the severe drought. The main problem is not lack of water, as many might think, but a lack of food! 19 confirmed natural and 2 unknown deaths.
- **Rhino security:** 4 rhino specific aerial reces took place with KWS / TT aircraft in TWNP. Tsavo Trust’s - Tembo 3 and 4 teams continued in support to KWS in the TW IPZ, where a 3-way partnership; 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.

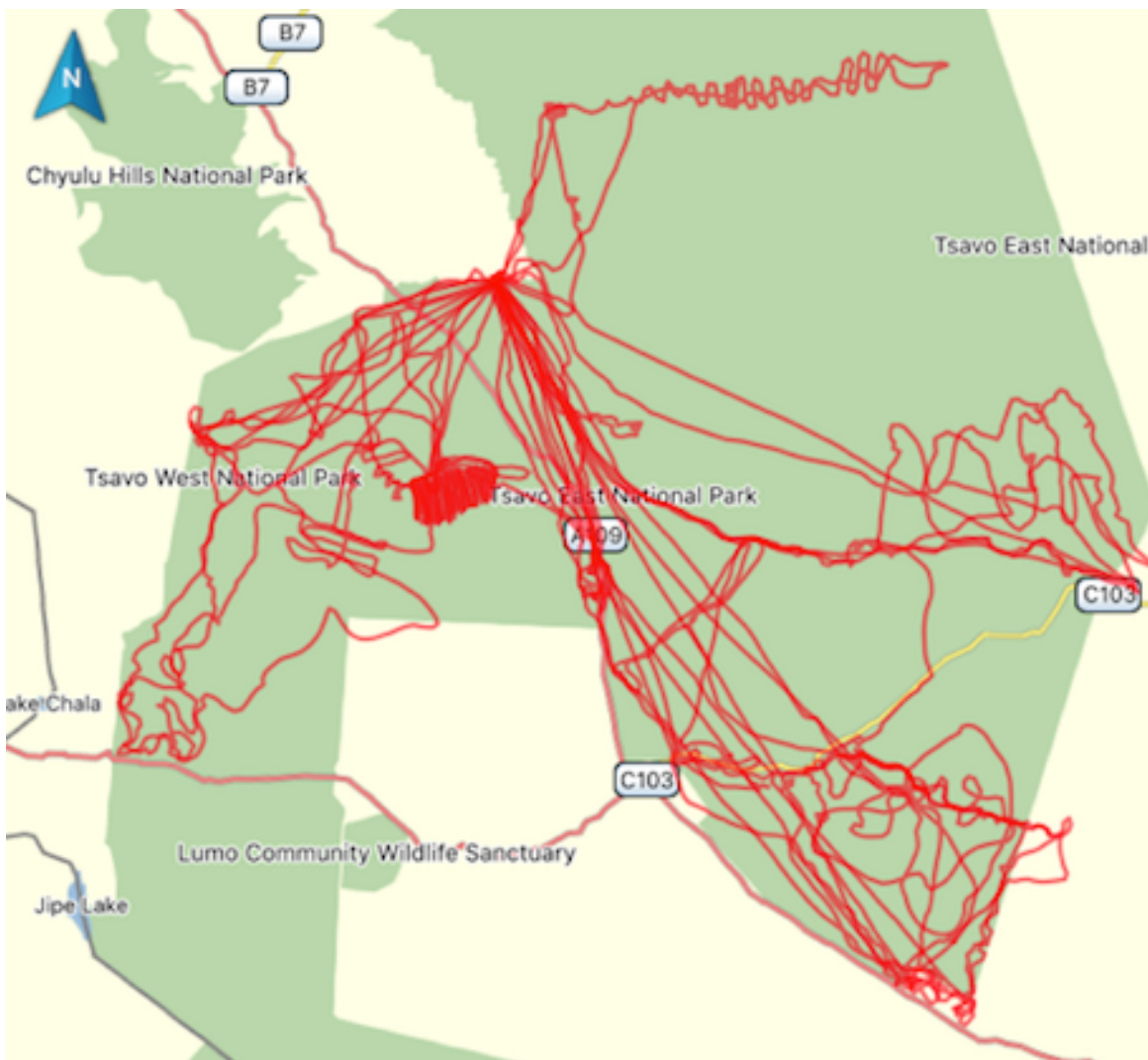
Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	4	In good health but frequents an unsafe area!
IL1	4	In a worrying and unsafe location on the Park boundary!
WS1	5	In a worrying and unsafe remote location outside the Park!
MA1	6	Normal location
KI1	5	Normal location
SO1	1	Although first photographed in Dec14, this is a new emerging Tusker on the BTP data base as from 9/9/17
DR1	2	Normal area
BU1	1	Normal area
MU1	1	In a worrying and unsafe location outside the Park
COWS		
F_DI1	1	Has not been seen for 5 months, back to normal location
F_MU1	2	Normal area. Looking very old and thin. Always seen with her s/adult calf
TOTAL	9 bulls, 2 cows: 32 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 newly identified emerging bull Tusker coded as SO1 in TENP (photo by: Tembo 2 team).



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, 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, Salaita, Toloa, Moare, Kanjaro, Kamshari, TZ border</p> <p>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</p>	<p>TENP border – Ngiluni/Kamunyu, Kulalu, Derea, Murondo, Magram/Dakota Ranch, KMC, Ngutuni, Kilifi & Galana Ranch</p> <p>TWNP border – Ziواني 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. 		



September 2017 flight paths:

- 54 hours flown
- 3,866 miles covered

Supporting KWS activities:

- Anti-poaching
- Big Tusker monitoring
- Illegal activities
- Wildlife monitoring
- Aerial census

Photo below taken on 29th September 2017 in TENP, showing one of the many juvenile elephant calves that were found to have succumbed to drought between the Kanderi to Aruba section of Voi River. 70% of elephant mortality observed in TENP in September 2017 occurred in close proximity to the man-made water points, where desertification of surrounding habitat is clearly visible and taking its toll!



Photo below shows a fresh elephant carcass, with ivory intact (later recovered by joint KWS / TT Tembo I team) being fed on by lion, on 8th September 2017. Lion prides have noticeable increased in size in recent months with plentiful fresh elephant carcasses to feed from, as a result of the severe drought that Tsavo East is facing. Tsavo lions are well known for preying on juvenile elephants and this is compounded during drought months when elephants are weakened. 21 carcasses were located in September alone and 38 tusks recovered jointly by KWS / TT teams.



Field Mobile Units:

All Tsavo Trust's mobile field teams work in support of KWS on a daily basis. **Tembo 1 & 3 (incl. Kamungi Scouts) teams** are anti-poaching focused whilst **Tembo 2 & 4 teams** are 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 (7 men + 3 KWS men)	20	-	16	29	125kg lesser kudu x 2, dikdik x 25, bushbuck x 1	1 bicycle, 1 panga, lamping horn, 2 lamping spot lights, cooking equip.	1	2,228
Tembo 3 / Kamungi (12 men)	30	1	-	60	61kg - 25 dikdik	1 lamping torch, 1 lamping horn, 1 knife	Nil	2,950
Others Chui team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	50	1	16	89	As above	As above	3	5,178
Total 2017	494	38	66	752	-	-	34	59,346

Photo of 1 arrested bushmeat poacher with 25 freshly poached dikdik on 18th September 2017 by joint KWS / TT Tembo 3 team (Kamungi Scouts) along the northern border of TENP – Triangle area.



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	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tusker monitoring • Hirola monitoring • Grevy’s zebra monitoring • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuskers – 11 sightings • Hirola – 5 sightings • Grevy’s Zebra – 4 sightings • Large Carnivores – 17 • Road & Rail kills - 2 	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Dakota, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Koitu, Emusaya, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	5,147
Tembo 4	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tusker monitoring • Rhino monitoring • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuskers – 16 sightings • Rhino – various & NRS night census • Large Carnivores – 9 • Road & Rail kills - 1 	TWNP, Kamboyo, Mangalete, Kilaguni, Mzima, Shetani, Finch H, Ziwani, Kitani, Tsavo River, Rhino Valley, IPZ, NRS	3,561
TOTALS	53	As above	As above	As above	8,708
Total 2017	227	-	-	-	38,431

Other Tsavo Trust Activities in brief:

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:
“KAMUNGI CONSERVANCY”:

Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy (bordering northern boundary of TENP – Triangle) continues to thrive in many ways; employment, HWC, water projects and much more. Tsavo Trust employs a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to help coordinate activities:

- **Kamungi Water Project** - bore hole, solar pump equipment, a 2.5-kilometer delivery pipe line to Ngiluni village and now a 100,000 litre water tank has been built. Final water dispensing “kiosk” is under construction before official opening.

Photo shows Kamungi Conservancy 100,000ltr water tank and dispensing “kiosk” under construction.



- **Human Elephant Conflict (HEC)** – Funding for a 5th elephant / bee fence has been received under the Elephant & Bees Project (pioneered by Lucy King and Save The Elephants). This new fence will be set up in October prior to the rainy season.

ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM:

LEOPARD RELEASE PROGRAM:

- **“Dotty”** the female leopard is now 17 months old. She has been fully wild and fending for herself for over 1 month now. Her satellite collar is providing extraordinary information and has enabled us to track her with relative ease. A component that is so vital given that her release area is largely road-less and harsh terrain, making it very challenging to know her movements without such a collar.
- **“Sophie”**, the second leopard under rehabilitation is growing fast and it is now becoming urgent to move her to her final release site in TWNP, pending final approvals. She will be held her for at least 6 months before a “hard release”.
- **Other orphans:** various other smaller mammals in our care (lesser kudu, duiker, dikdik, zebra, mongeese) are doing very well and as Tsavo Trust HQ borders directly onto TENP – Triangle it is naturally an ideal release location once these orphans grow to adulthood.

Unusual Photo of the Month:



On 10th September 2017 from a camera trap set at “Dotty’s” release boma in TENP – Triangle, this magnificent nocturnal striped hyena was photographed.

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