

MONTHLY REPORT:

OCTOBER 2017

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	60 (711 for year) Average 73 mph of low level flight	4,376 (52,835 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>	72 elephant tusks (169 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)
	42 (c of d: 41 natural, 1 poached)	1 (c of d: 1 natural)
<i>Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown</i>	1 every 1.4 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	<i>Fresh - 4</i>	<i>Recent - Nil</i>
<i>Arrests</i>	3 - by KWS / TT – (3 bushmeat poachers – 95 for year to date)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	91 (by Tembo Teams – 843 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	1 (7 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	3 cattle bomas (250 + cows, 1,000 shoats, 10 people)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	56 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
<i>General & significant notes</i>	• Serious drought conditions; 42 elephant deaths (natural) recorded from drought • 12/10/17: Cow Tusker called “Mudanda” died naturally from drought in TENP • Aerial & ground support for rhino security ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL rhino program. 10 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS	

Good bye “Mudanda”; this photo shows the splendor of late Cow Tusker called “Mudanda” in late August 2017 (courtesy of Will Burrard-Lucas). This magnificent elephant was first recorded by Tsavo Trust / KWS Big Tusker Project on 7th December 2014. Since then Mudanda had been observed 77 times which equates to 1 sighting every 14 days over the last 3 years. She sadly succumbed to the recent drought and was found dead on 12th October 2017. Both tusks were recovered by joint KWS / TT ground



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 10 different individual Tusker’s were observed from ground and air coverage.
- 4 bull Super Tuskers – 8 different sightings.
- 4 Emerging bull Tuskers – 15 sightings.
- 2 iconic cow Tuskers – 7 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 30**
- **12/10/17: Cow Tusker called “Mudanda” found dead having died naturally from drought conditions.** Both tusks were recovered by joint KWS / TT ground team. She first recorded by Tsavo Trust / KWS Big Tusker Project on 7th December 2014. Since then Mudanda has been observed 77 times which equates to 1 sighting every 14 days over the last 3 years.
- **Weather conditions:** Exceedingly dry in most parts especially TENP and strong winds. Buildup of rain in last week of month.
- **Elephant mortality: 43 carcasses located (42 fresh, 1 recent):** High number of carcasses found due to the severe drought. 42 confirmed natural death and 1 poached outside of Park.
- **Rhino security:** 10 rhino specific aerial reces took place with KWS / TT aircraft in TWNP covering 1,804 miles over 26 hours. Tsavo Trust’s - Tembo 3 and 4 teams sustained support to KWS rhino program in the TW IPZ, where a 3-way partnership; KWS / ZSL & TT continues.

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!
SL1	1	In a worrying and unsafe location on the Park boundary!
IL1	1	In a worrying and unsafe location on Park boundary!
WS1	1	In a worrying and unsafe remote location outside the Park!
MA1	4	Normal location
KI1	6	Normal location
HA1	1	Moves big distances
MU1	4	In a worrying and unsafe location outside the Park!
COWS		
F DI1	5	Normal location
F XT	2	Normal area
TOTAL	8 bulls, 2 cows: 30 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>		

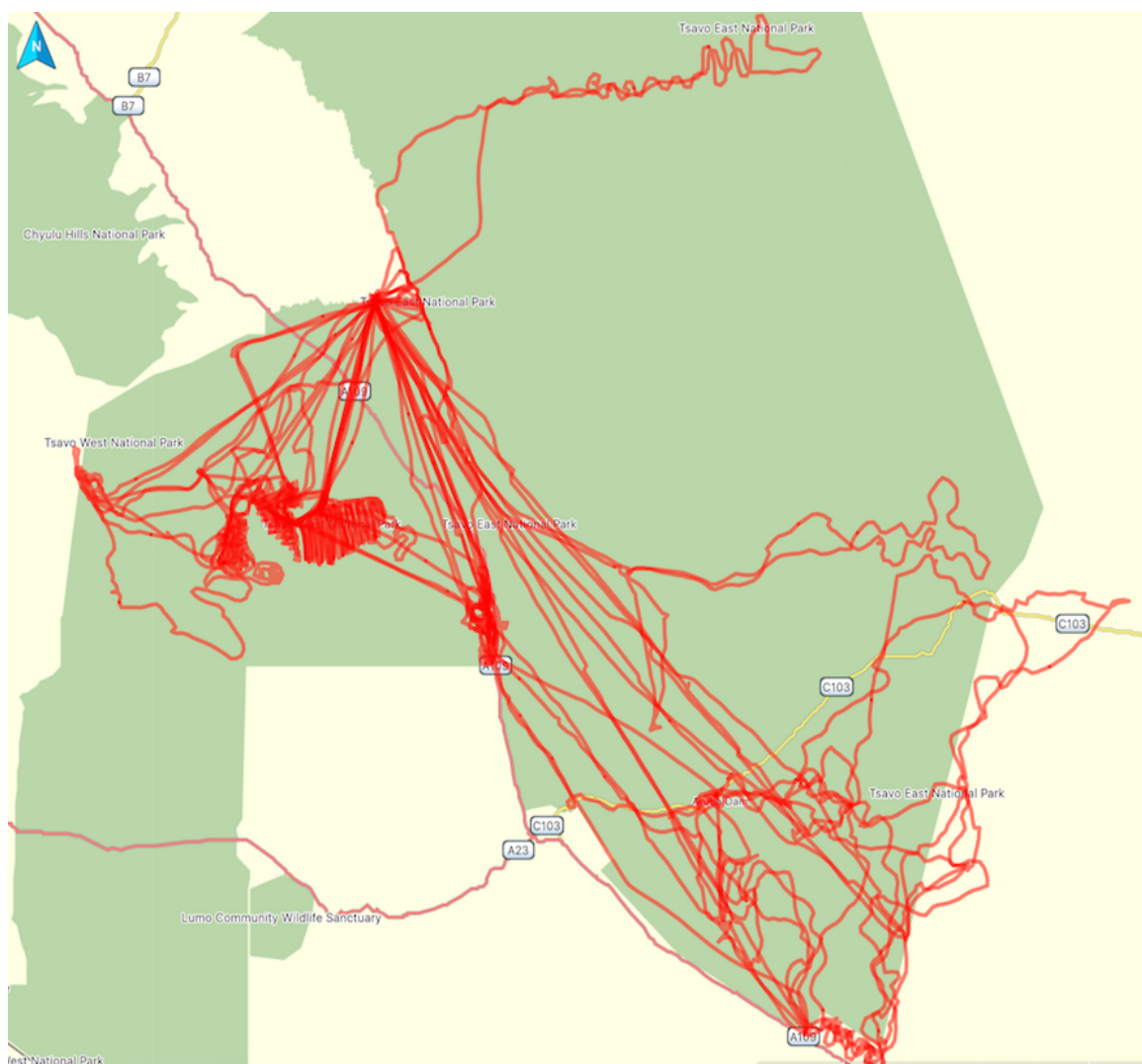


This grizzly photo shows 2 elephant carcasses by Aruba bore hole in TENP having died in the recent drought.

These were just 2 of the 18 found in this desolate area in October alone (nearly 50% of all carcasses located were found in this vicinity!)

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 – 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, KMC, Ngutuni, Kilifi & Galana Ranch TWNP border – Ziwani and Rombo 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.		



**October 2017
Flight paths:**

- 60 hours flown
- 4,376 miles covered

**Supporting
KWS
activities:**

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

Field Mobile Units:

All four of 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 TT men + 3 KWS men)	31	1	22	90	12kg dikdiks x 5	2 bicycles, 2 panga, 2 lamping horn, 2 lamping spot lights, cooking equip.	3	4,011
Tembo 3 / Kamungi (12 TT men + 3 KWS men)	31	2	-	1	46kg - 21 dikdiks, 1 impala	2 lamping torches, 1 slasher, 2 lamping horn, 1 knife	1	2,772
Others Chui team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	62	3	22	91	As above	As above	4	6,783
Total 2017	556	41	88	843	-	-	38	66,129

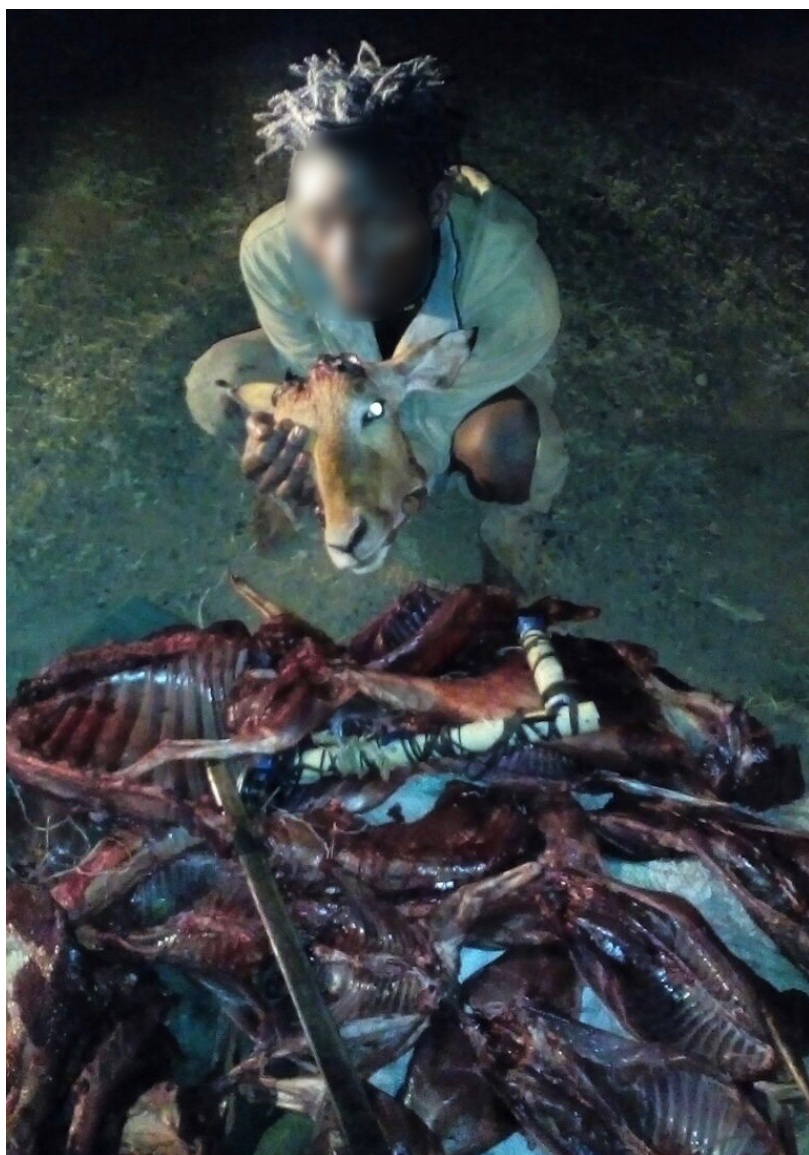


Photo of 1 arrested bushmeat poacher with 11 freshly poached dikdiks & 1 impala on 22nd October 2017 by joint KWS / TT Tembo 3 team (Kamungi Scouts) in TWNP.

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 (3 TT staff + 2 KWS)	25	• Tusker monitoring • Hirola monitoring • Grevy's zebra monitoring • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos	• Tuskers – 10 sightings • Hirola – 9 sightings • Grevy's Zebra – 6 sightings • Large Carnivores – 24 • Road & Rail kills - 2	TENP, Voi River, Satao, Buchuma, Dakota, Ndara, Aruba, Manyani, KMC, Lugards, Koitu, Emusaya, Galana River, Msa Rd., Dida Harea	4,535
Tembo 4 (2 TT staff + 2 KWS)	19	• Tusker monitoring • Rhino monitoring • Carnivore monitoring • Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys • Camera trap surveys • Fixed point photos	• Tuskers – 13 sightings • Rhino – various & NRS night census - 84 • Large Carnivores – 4 • Road & Rail kills - 0	TWNP, Kamboyo, Mangalete, Kilaguni, Mzima, Shetani, Finch H, Ziwani, Kitani, Tsavo River, Rhino Valley, IPZ, NRS	2,082
TOTALS	44	As above	As above	As above	6,617
Total 2017	271	-	-	-	45,048

Photo taken on 12th October 2017 of Cow Tusker known as Mudanda in TENP, near Aruba. She was spotted by the Tsavo Trust aircraft and a joint KWS / TT ground team was deployed to recover her ivory. Mudanda died as a result of old age during the extended drought that TENP has endured over recent months. She had been looking old and frail for several months.



Other Tsavo Trust Activities in brief:

New Tsavo Trust HQ:

Through generous funding support from the Oak Foundation, channeled through ZSL, and various other Tsavo Trust supporters, the Tsavo Trust's new headquarters are finally complete. Work on this started in early 2017 and we moved in at the end of October 2017. This fantastic new facility give a "face to Tsavo Trust" and provides ample office space, meeting area, operations room, strong room and storage to expand into. A vital step in Tsavo Trust's continued development.

Completed new Tsavo Trust headquarters, 31st October 2017.



COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM: **"KAMUNGI CONSERVANCY":**

Partnership between Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy (bordering northern boundary of TENP – Triangle) continues to thrive in many ways; employment (35 permanent employees and an average of 15 casuals employees monthly, all from this community), HWC, water projects and much more. Tsavo Trust employs a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to help coordinate activities:

- **Kamungi Water Project** – Official opening date has been set for 4th November 2017, but the important thing is water is flowing and available. This project has taken 9 months to complete at a cost of US\$ 70,000. Finally, the members of what is "Kamungi Conservancy" incorporating Ngiluni and Kamunyu villages have clean water on tap. Membership of Kamungi Conservancy now represents over 700 individuals and increasing.
- **Human Elephant Conflict (HEC)** – With the start of the rainy season kicking in elephant crop raiders are expected to increase once crops mature. This will be a serious challenge for KWS and Tsavo Trust along the Kamungi Conservancy boundary with TENP. The Kamungi Scouts and their vehicle will be kept busy at night for sure.



Photo shows 2 happy Kamungi kiddies enjoying water on tap for the first time on 31st October 2017 at the water dispensing kiosk at Ngiluni village.

A 100,000-litre water storage tank has also been constructed at this location and a half acre plot fenced off which will house a tree nursery before long.

ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM: **LEOPARD RELEASE PROGRAM:**

- **“Dotty”** the female leopard is now 18 months old. She has been fully wild and fending for herself for over 2 months 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. She has crossed the SGR and highway between TENP and TWNP and covered big distances, but always returns to her release boma. She has been camera trap photo’d here and looks in very good condition. A male leopard was also captured on camera trap on one of the same nights that Dotty visited so “something maybe in the air”.
- **“Sophie”**, is the second leopard under rehabilitation by Tsavo Trust. Approvals have been given to establish a release boma at an ideal location deep in TWNP. Materials for this have been purchased and construction will start in early November.

Unusual Photo of the Month:



Photo shows a Sand-Boa – a common, but not often seen, resident snake in the Tsavo region. This one having just caught a gecko. The snake quickly disappeared underground once the gecko had been eaten whole.

*Sand Boas (*Eryx colubrinus loveridgei*) are not poisonous and are constrictors.*

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