

MONTHLY REPORT:

DECEMBER 2017

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	70 (867 for year) Average 120km p/h of low level flight	8,414 (103,777km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
<i>Ground Activities</i> (Joint KWS / TT)	Protection teams: 61 days Monitoring teams: 43 days	Protection teams: 8,123 km Monitoring teams: 6,646 km
	No. Observed	
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	10 Tuskers - 9 bulls (3 Super Tuskers & 6 emerging Tuskers) & 1 cow	
	No. Recovered	
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	30 elephant tusks (241 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)
	2 (c of d: 2 natural)	13 (13 natural)
<i>Ele. Carcasses/hrs flown</i>	1 every 4.6 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	<i>Fresh - 1</i>	<i>Recent - Nil</i>
<i>Arrests</i>	3 - by KWS / TT – (3 illegal livestock – 101 for year to date)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	145 (by Tembo Teams – 1008 for year to date)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil (7 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	24 cattle bomas (13,700 + cows, 7,350 shoats)	
<i>Written reports to KWS</i>	58 (daily email reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
<i>General & significant notes</i>	- Decent rains have finally fallen over most parts of Tsavo E & W, relieving the pressure 5/12/17: Second Super Cub aircraft reg. 5Y NRF deployed to support KWS aerial activities over the TCA - Aerial & ground support in TWNP, Rhino Program, ongoing through partnership with KWS / ZSL. 7 rhino specific recce flights carried out with KWS	

Photo shows Tsavo Trust’s second Super Cub aircraft reg. 5Y NRF in action over Tsavo on 9th December 2017.



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. This was a very low number of recordings due to widespread dispersal due to rains.
- 3 bull Super Tuskers – 4 different sightings.
- 6 Emerging bull Tuskers – 9 sightings.
- 1 iconic cow Tuskers – 1 sightings.
- **Total sightings – 14**
- **Weather conditions:** TT HQ rainfall: Nil. Other parts and Tsavo greened up significantly.
- **Elephant mortality: 15 carcasses located (2 fresh, 12 recent & 1 old with ivory intact):** All confirmed as natural deaths related to drought and starvation.
- **Rhino security:** Regular aerial recces in support of KWS over TWNP rhino areas in partnership with ZSL. 7 rhino specific air recces resulted in 2,220km flown over 16.5 hrs.

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

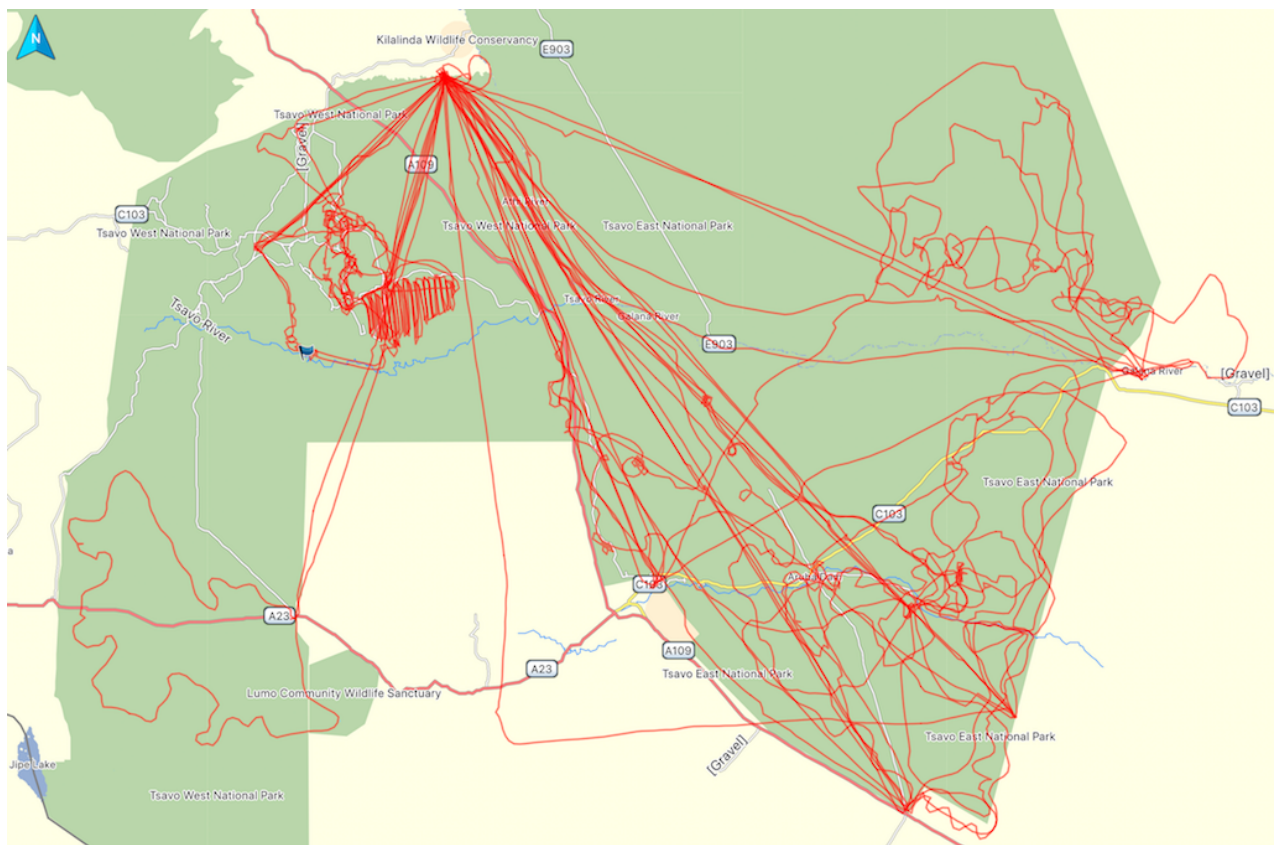
Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Brief Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	1	In good health and in Musth
KO1	2	Moved to safer location inside Park
IL1	1	Moved eastwards with the rains. In Musth
BU1	1	Normal location
MU1	1	Normal location. In Musth
EM1	1	Back to original location
GO1	4	Normal location. In Musth
TA1	1	Normal location
WA1	1	Normal location. In Musth
COWS		
F DI1	1	Normal location
TOTAL	9 bulls, 1 cow: 14 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 below shows the magnificent cow Tusker coded as F_DI1 with her family unit, December 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, 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 – Murka, Maktau 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.		



December 2017 Flight paths:

➤ 70 hours flown covering 8,414 kilometres

Supporting KWS activities:

- Air & ground operations, Big Tusker monitoring, Illegal activities, Endangered species monitoring, Aerial census work

Other Tsavo Trust Activities in brief:

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 casual employees monthly, all from this community)
- ✓ Kamungi Water project is fully functional providing water directly to Ngiluni Village
- ✓ Tsavo Trust employs a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to help coordinate varying activities as well as maintaining a record of all HWC between Mtito Andei and TT HQ
- ✓ HWC – Elephant Bee Fences – currently 5 x 1 acre plots have been fenced using this unique fencing design (by Dr. Lucy King and Save The Elephants)
- ✓ Management Plan – Kamungi Management Plan (5 years – 2018 to 2022) is in its final stages before going to print

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

- **“Dotty”** the female leopard (now at least 20 months old and an adult) has now been totally integrated back to the wild. Following her dropping her sat. collar in November 17, we have been unable to locate her for long enough to be able to re-fit her collar. Although this has curtailed the impressive and positive data we were collecting to that point, the previous 3 months of analysis (whilst she wore the sat. collar) clearly shows that leopard releases back to the wild can in fact work, given the right circumstances and commitment by those mandated to perform this activity. We are convinced *Dotty* is still doing well. In line with our partnership and agreement with KWS, a very detailed *Post Release Monitoring Report (Aug 17 to Nov 17)* was prepared by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Tsavo Trust that captures all the necessary details of *Dotty’s* release.
- **“Sophie”**, it is with a heavy heart that the second leopard under rehabilitation at Tsavo Trust, tragically and mysteriously died on 27th December 2017. Efforts to halt her rapid decline were not successful. We cannot be 100% sure, but the cause of her totally unexpected death could possibly be attributed to the venomous bite from a large brown spitting cobra (*Naja Ashie*) which are numerous in this area.

Unusual Photo of the Month:



Photo below taken by Josh Outram (Tsavo Trust) shows a magnificent young female leopard in the Tsavo Triangle, TENP, close to Tsavo Trust HQ on 21st December 2017.

With sincere thanks and appreciation to the Kenya Wildlife Service, Save The Elephants/Wildlife Conservation Network/Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Oak Foundation, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), US-Aid / DOI, Tusk Trust UK & USA, Stuart Herd, Sir Colin Southgate, Nick Southgate, Alex Graham, Dr. David K.P. Li, Nick Powell, James Robertson, International Foundation for Animal Welfare (IFAW), The Woodtiger Fund, Markus Jebsen, Ndovu Trust (UK), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, The Davies Family, Leopardess Foundation (Nicole Honegger), Paul Block, International Elephant Foundation (IEF), Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Mike Kirkland/Torben Rune - Satao Camp (Tsavo East) & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa), Tropical Ice Ltd, Askari Project – Australia, Salama Fikira, Origins Safaris, JW Seagon Insurance, The Art of BAS & Oak Furniture Land, Howard Saunders, Sandor Carter, Geri Bauer, Karen Laurence-Rowe, OnSafari-Kenya-Anthony Cheffings, Kathy Snowden, Saving the Survivors, Anadarko Kenya Co., Chris Acreman, Paul & James Wilson, Dutch Flower Foundation, Alex Hunter – Insiders Africa, Simon Herd, Spidertracks, Michael Cheffings, Pembroke House School and numerous other individual supporters.

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