

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<b>Aerial Reconnaissance</b>	<b>60</b> (691 hrs for year to date) Average 75 mph of low level flight	<b>4,475</b> (52,090 miles for year to date) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	<b>No. Observed</b>	
<b>Big “Tuskers”</b>	<b>17</b> Tuskers - 14 bulls (6 Super Tuskers & 8 emerging Tuskers) & 3 cows	
	<b>No. Recovered</b>	
<b>Ivory recovered</b>	<b>32</b> elephant tusks (97 for year 2016)	
<b>Elephant carcasses</b>	<b>Fresh</b>	<b>Recent</b>
	<b>14</b> (12 natural illness, 2 poached)	<b>5</b> (4 natural, 1 poached)
<b>Carcasses/hours flown</b>	1 every 3 hours of flight	
<b>Poacher camps/hides</b>	<b>5</b> (temporary camp)	<b>1</b>
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>5</b> - by KWS & TT support – (all poachers)	
<b>Snares/traps recovered</b>	<b>42</b> (by Tembo Teams – <b>1,043</b> for the year 2016)	
<b>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</b>	<b>1</b> (3 for year 2016)	
<b>Other Illegal activities</b>	<b>44</b> cattle bomas (25,000 plus cows, 8,000 shoats & 263 + people seen)	
<b>General &amp; significant notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several fresh elephant carcasses (16 natural death) found in southern areas of TENP. It is unclear as to the cause of death but possibly some reaction from extreme drought to heavy rains and lush vegetation?</li> <li>• 13/12/16 – Aerial follow up to armed gang reported around Kanga, TWNP</li> <li>• 15/12/16 - Tembo 1 team permanently deployed to southeast TENP boundary. 6 elephant tusks recvd. On first day of deployment. Total of 10 elephant tusks recvd. Today by KWS/TT</li> <li>• Aerial support pertaining to rhino security in TW &amp; TE &amp; continued partnership with KWS &amp; ZSL re rhino programs in TCA</li> <li>• Ongoing joint KWS/TT predator &amp; endangered species monitoring, TENP</li> </ul>	

*Photo below shows the joint KWS/TT mobile TEMBO 1 Team, having recovered 6 elephant tusks on their very first day of operations on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in Tsavo East Nat. Park. These elephant carcasses were found during an aerial reconnaissance flight and then the TEMBO 1 team was deployed to verify cause of death and recovery the ivory before they fall into the “wrong hands”. All were natural deaths.*



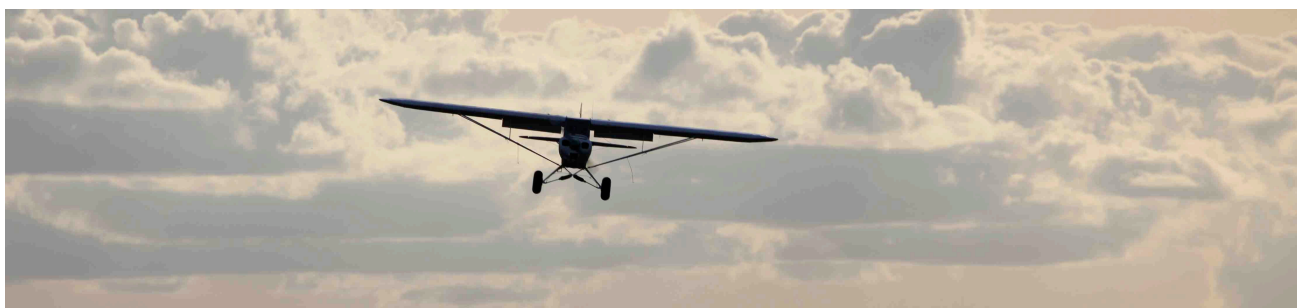
## **Big Tusker Project - aerial and ground mobile teams:**

The Tsavo Trust's Big Tusker Project (BTP) recorded the following details in the BTP database:

- Total of 17 different individual Tusker's were observed from ground and air coverage
- 6 bull Super Tuskers – 24 different sightings
- 8 emerging Tuskers – 17 sightings
- 3 iconic cow Tuskers – 4 sightings
- **Total sightings – 45**
- **Weather conditions:** Rains were sporadic with some parts receiving no rain at all. In general rains have been below average and have stopped early, which does not bode well for the next 3 months!
- **Elephant mortality:** Again several elephant carcasses (14) have been found in southern areas of TENP. This has been reported to KWS & Vet Unit. It is unclear as to the cause but possibly some reaction from extreme drought to heavy rains and lush vegetation? It is also worrying that 3 poached elephant (poisoned arrows) were also located in the same areas and a strong indicator that a gang is operating here!
- **Rhino security:** 2 black rhino poached (gunshot) in NRS TWNP. This is the first poaching in 2 years. Efforts by all stakeholders in this area have been increased. 6 rhino specific aerial reces.

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

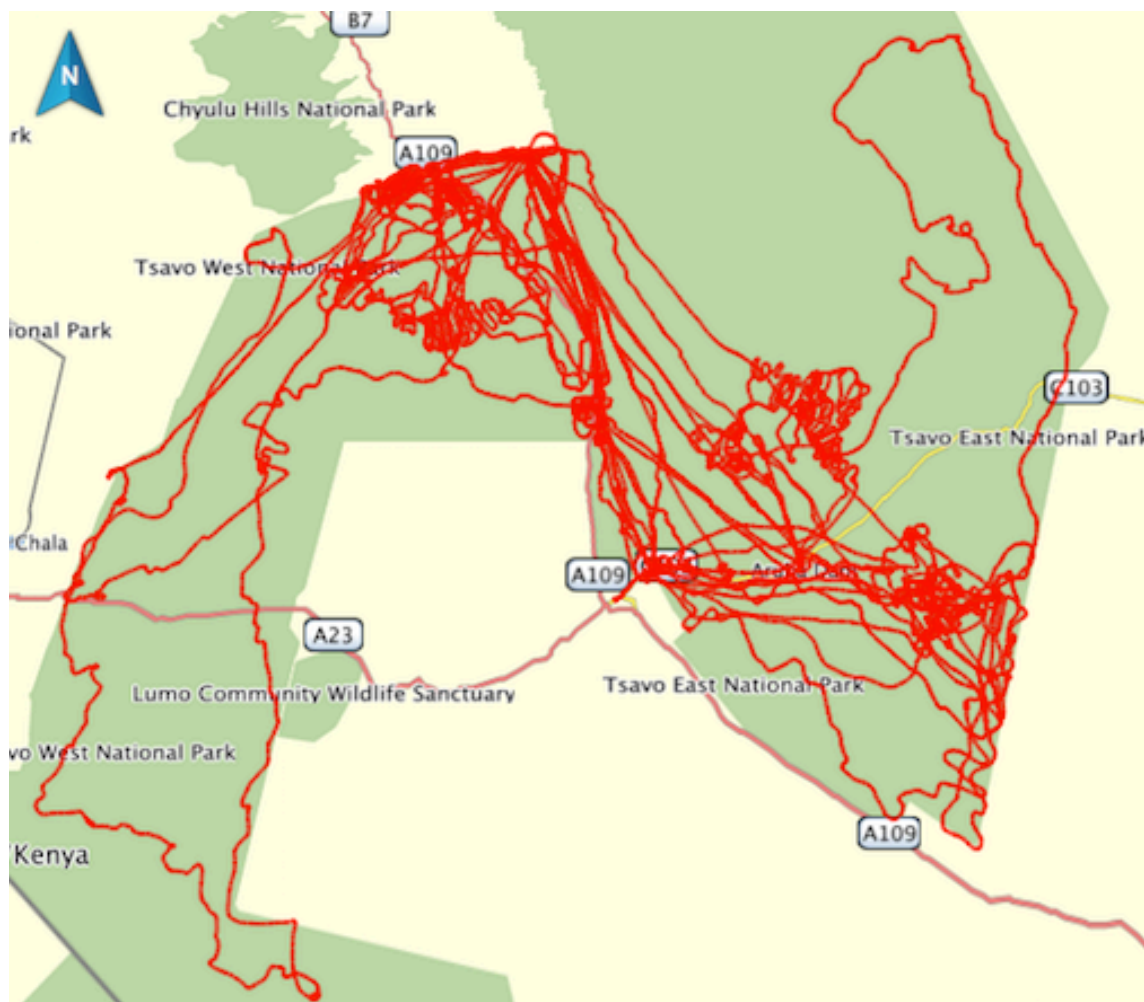
<b>Tusker Code</b>	<b>No. Times Seen / Month</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>BULLS</b>		
LU1	3	Crosses SGR regularly. Frequents an unsafe area!
SA2	6	Normal location
KA1	3	Moved with recent rains
DI1	2	Normal area and a real creature of habit. <b>Looking very old &amp; frail</b>
WS1	6	Back to normal location
IL1	4	Same location
SA80	8	Back to normal area
AR1	1	Back to normal area
MA1	1	Back to normal location
KI1	1	Back to normal area
KO1	1	Moves long distances to water. Not in safe area!
DU1	1	Not been seen for 8 months!
KM2	3	Normal location
BU1	1	Has moved with the rains. Not in safe area!
<b>COWS</b>		
F KA1	1	Moving big distances
F_XT	2	Moving big distances
F_ND1	1	Not been seen for 6 months
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 bulls, 3 cows: 45 different sightings</b>	
<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 &amp; Monitoring Departments.</i>		



**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><b>Northern Area</b> – Huri, Kone, Ya Kalicha, Ndiandaza, Masobo, Jimetunda, Dabaduke, Yatta Plateau, Durusikale, Garasamuke, Emusaya, Golf Charlie, Koitu, Sobo, Sangayaya, Dabaduke, Mufupa ya Ndovu, Ithumba, Tiva River, Roka</p> <p><b>Southern Area</b> – 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><b>Central Area</b> – 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 &amp; east, Galana River, Tsavo River and Yatta Central, SGR</p>	<p><b>Northern Sector</b> – IPZ, Mangaleta, Kamboyo, Kisimeka, Chyulu south, Mtito lugga, Mungai Hill, Finch Hattons, Mzima Springs, Shetani volcano, Severin, Kilaguni, Ndawe, Tsavo River</p> <p><b>Southern Sector</b> – Kanjaro, Toloa</p> <p><b>Central Sector</b> – IPZ, Rhino Valley, NRS, Tsavo River, Kinyek, Maji ya Chumvi (north &amp; south), Ziواني, Lesoito, Kyulu, Manda, Kishushe, Murka, Mombasa Highway, Man Easters, Kenani, Kanga, Manyani north and west, SGR line</p>	<p><b>TENP border</b> – Ngiluni/Kamunyu, Kilalinda, Kulalu, Derea, Murondo, Magram/Dakota Ranch, Ngutuni, Galana Ranch boundary</p> <p><b>TWNP border</b> – Ziواني, Rombo and Lualenyi</p> <p><b>Chyulu Hills NP</b> NIL</p> <p><b>Taita Ranches</b> – NIL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>		

**Map below shows flight paths for December 2016 where 60 hours were flown in support to KWS for anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring covering 4,475 miles over the Tsavo’s.**



### ***Field Mobile Units:***

All mobile field units work with and in support of KWS on a daily basis. Some are security focused (*Tembo 1 & 3*) and some are monitoring and research concentrated (*Tembo 2*).

- 15/12/16 – ***Tembo 1 team*** deployed to TENP as mobile anti-poaching support unit to KWS based from Dakota Base. Area of operations between Buchuma and Sala (south east TENP boundary)

#### ***Tembo 2 Team:***

- Big Tusker monitoring – results shown in table above
- Predator and endangered species monitoring. Grevy’s zebra and Hirola in particular
- Camera trap monitoring and analysis
- Fixed point photography at specific locations



***Photo shows 10 dikdiks having been poached on Dakota Ranch by poachers using the lamping method at night.***

***1 poacher arrested and his bicycle and other equipment confiscated by KWS/TT Tembo 1 team.***

***Table 7: Shows outcomes from anti-poaching activities from Tembo 1 & 3 teams:***

<b>Field mobile teams</b>	<b>No. Arrests</b>	<b>No. Ivory recvd.</b>	<b>No. Snares recvd.</b>	<b>Bushmeat recvd.</b>	<b>Poachers equip. recvd.</b>	<b>No. Poacher camps</b>	<b>Vehicle mileage Km</b>
<b>Tembo 1</b>	1	6	14	16 dikdik	1 bicycle, 1 panga, cooking equip	2	2,922
<b>Tembo 2</b>	-	16	-	-	-	-	2,655
<b>Tembo 3 (Kamungi)</b>	4	2	28	-	2 axes, 1 spade, 1 jembes, 2 pangas	-	1,772
<b>Others Chui team</b>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7,349</b>

### **Unusual Photo of the Month:**

*This photo was taken in TENP on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Note the up growing left tusk of this cow elephant whilst the right tusk has grown normally.*



**With thanks and appreciation** to Kenya Wildlife Service, Save The Elephants/Wildlife Conservation Network Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), Stuart Herd, Nick Southgate, James Robertson, US Fish & Wildlife Service, International Foundation for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Tusk Trust UK & USA, The Woodtiger Fund, The Oak Foundation, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Ndovu Trust (UK), US State Dept., Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Wines of the World Ltd, Africa Spirits Ltd, Mike Kirkland/Torben Rune, Satao Camp (Tsavo East) & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa), Tropical Ice Ltd, Salama Fikira, The Art of BAS & Oak Furniture Ltd (UK), Geri Bauer, Kathy Snowden, Simon Herd, Saving the Survivors, Karen Laurence-Rowe, Anadarko Kenya Co., Askari Project – Australia, Chris Acreman, Paul & James Wilson, Enable Green Energy, Eaton Electric, Michael Cheffings, Pembroke House School and numerous other individual supporters.

---

**Report compiled by Richard Moller – Chief Executive Officer, Tsavo Trust**  
All photographs ©Richard Moller / Tsavo Trust 2016