

MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 2016

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Miles Covered
<i>Aerial Reconnaissance</i>	58 (576 hrs for year to date) Average 75 mph of low level flight	4,310 (43,465 miles for year to date) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	No. Observed	
<i>Big “Tuskers”</i>	16 Tuskers - 14 bulls (7 Super Tuskers & 7 emerging Tuskers) & 2 cows	
	No. Recovered	
<i>Ivory recovered</i>	12 tusks (55 for year to date)	
<i>Elephant carcasses</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	<i>Recent</i>
	7 (6 natural, 1 unconfirmed)	Nil (2 old carcasses with ivory found)
<i>Carcasses/hours flown</i>	1 every 8.3 hours of flight	
<i>Poacher camps/hides</i>	2 (camps)	Nil
<i>Arrests</i>	20 - Made by KWS with TT support – (all illegal livestock, TENP)	
<i>Snares/traps recovered</i>	78 (by Tsavo Trust/Kamungi Scouts – 850 for the year)	
<i>Response/support to KWS - armed incidents</i>	Nil (2 for year to date)	
<i>Other Illegal activities</i>	27 cattle bomas (29,650 plus cows, 5,000 shoats & 82 + people seen)	
<i>General significant notes</i>	• 1 & 3/10/16: Assisted KWS TENP with aerial support for cattle drive • 8/10/16: Assisted KWS SRS TENP with aerial recce over Galana Irrigation • 19/10/16: Amazing and very rare sight of a herd of 86 bull elephant including 1 Super Tusker & 3 emerging Tuskers, Galana River, TENP • Kamungi Scouts carried out 15 days of joint anti-poaching ops with KWS in TW & TE. 7 night ambushes after locating poaching activities • Aerial support pertaining to rhino security in TW & TE & continued partnership with KWS & ZSL re rhino programs in TCA • Ongoing joint KWS/TT predator & endangered species monitoring, TENP • CHNP largely on fire for most of month	



***Photo taken
on 19th
October 2016
showing just
2 of the last
12 free
ranging
black rhino
in TENP.***

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 16 different individual Tusker's were observed from ground and air coverage
- 7 bull Super Tuskers – 38 different sightings
- 7 emerging Tuskers – 18 sightings
- 2 iconic cow Tuskers – 2 sightings
- **Total sightings – 58**
- 19/10/16: An extra ordinary sighting of a single herd of 86 bull elephants together including 1 Super Tusker and 3 emerging Tuskers, TENP, Durusikale
- Conditions remain worryingly very dry and several elephant have succumbed as a result
- Cow Tuskers have been unusually difficult to locate due to long travels for browse and water
- **Rhino security:** Ongoing partnership between KWS, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Tsavo Trust regarding rhino areas within the TCA. 4 specific rhino recce flights took place covering parts of TWNP NRS, TW IPZ and TENP IPZ

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

Tusker Code	No. Times Seen / Month	Remarks
BULLS		
LU1	9	Crosses SGR regularly. Frequents an unsafe area!
SA2	8	Moved back to normal location
KA1	6	Moved back to normal dry season location
IL1	2	Lives in very difficult area to locate, no roads & lots of lava & thick bush
DI1	4	Normal area and a real creature of habit. Looking very old & frail
BA1	6	Moving large distances to water. Not in safe area!
WS1	3	Back to normal location
SA80	3	Back to normal area
AR1	4	Back to normal area
KI1	2	Back to normal location
EM1	1	Moves long distances to water. Not in safe area!
KO1	3	Moves long distances to water. Not in safe area!
SL1	3	Moves long distances to water. Not in safe area!
KM2	2	Normal location
COWS		
F_SO1	1	Moving big distances
F_XT	1	Moving big distances
TOTAL	14 bulls, 2 cows: 58 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 of 5 TWNP bull elephant with Tusker KA1 at the back of the line, October 2016



Areas Covered: Table below 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, Ithumba, Tiva River, 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, Mangaleta, 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, Mombasa Highway, Man Easters, Kenani, Kanga, Manyani north and west, SGR line	TENP border – Ngiluni/Kamunyu, Kilalinda, Kulalu, Derea, Murondo, Magram/Dakota Ranch, Ngutuni, Galana Ranch, Danisa/Bombi TWNP border – NIL Chyulu Hills NP – Il Talal, east & west side recce 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.		

Map below shows flight paths for October 2016 where 58 hours were flown in support to KWS for anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring covering 4,310 miles over the Tsavo’s.



Kamungi Conservancy:

Kamungi Scouts – As well as patrol effort within Kamungi Conservancy and its environs, the Kamungi Scouts were active on patrol alongside KWS, mainly in both TENP (Triangle area) and TWNP (northern boundary). Notable activities:

- ***Snares recovered: 78*** for small and medium game
- ***Arrests made:*** Nil
- ***Bushmeat recovered: 15*** freshly poached dikdik
- ***Poacher hide outs: 2*** (22nd & 26th Oct16)
- ***Night ambushes: 7*** (15th, 21st, 22nd, 26th, 27th, 28th & 29th Oct16)
- 11/10/16: 20 snares recovered, Lukenya
- 13/10/16: 40 snares recovered, Lukenya
- 15/10/16: Bushmeat poaching activities, TE Triangle
- 20/10/16: 18 snares recovered, Lukenya
- 22/10/16: Bushmeat poaching activities, Lukenya
- 26/10/16: Bushmeat poaching activities, TE Triangle
- 31/10/16: Recovery of 3 elephant tusks, jointly with KWS, following observations from the Tsavo Trust aircraft, TE Triangle



Photo taken on 22nd October 2016 in the TENP Triangle of 10 freshly poached dikdik. KWS/TT set ambushes for these poachers on 7 consecutive nights but were not successful this time round.



Photo of Kamungi Scouts having recovered 3 elephant tusks during a joint patrol with KWS Rangers in TENP, Triangle area on 31st October 2016.

Endangered species/Predator Monitoring – support to KWS/TCA Research Departments

Predators Observed from the air and Tembo 2 ground unit:

Date	Lion	Leopard	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Serval	Others	Remarks
8/10/16	3	-	-	-	-		TENP
13/10/16	12 (3M, 6F, 3cubs)	-	-	-	-		TENP
16/10/16	4 (2M, 2F)	-	-	-	-		TENP
20/10/16	9	-	-	6	-		TENP
22/10/16	6 + 4	-	3	-	-		TENP
26/10/16	6	-	-	-	-		TENP
27/10/16	-	1 (M)	-	-	-		TENP
29/10/16	-	1 (M)	-	-	-		TENP
Totals	44	2	3	6	-	-	

Critically Endangered Species Observed from air and Tembo 2 (not incl. rhino or wild dog):

Tsavo Trust's *Tembo 2 team* operates in partnership with TENP Research and Monitoring Unit and covers predator and endangered species monitoring as well as Big Tusker Monitoring. Grevy's zebra monitoring is regularly carried out, whereby information gathered from the field on rear right side strip patterns feed into the Grevy's zebra database for individual ID purposes. Tsavo also holds approximately 70 critically endangered Hirola, believed to be fewer than 500 individuals on the planet today.

Date	Hirola	Grevy's Zebra	Others/Remarks
7/10/16	15 + 10 (3 young)	-	TENP
19/10/16	18 (5 young)	-	TENP
24/10/16	3 (1 young)	-	TENP
26/10/16	1	-	TENP, Mukuaju
27/10/16	10	-	TENP, Konu Moja
Totals sightings	57	Nil	33 GZ positively ID'd to date

Photo below shows 3 very young Hirola in the shade of a bush in TENP on 7th October 2016 (courtesy of Joseph Kimaile – Tembo 2 team). 9 young Hirola calves have been observed in October 16 and it is worrying that the rains are late for this calving time of year.



Unusual Photo of the Month:

With the serious drought ravaging many parts of Tsavo, this photo shows the unusual habitat destruction that has taken place around the man made Aruba water hole fed by a borehole and windmill. It very clearly shows how desertification of the habitat that surrounds the eye of this water source has led to a micro environmental disaster over a relatively short space of time.



The question remains – are permanent man made water sources the right way to go in semi desert environments where large elephant numbers exist? 27th October 2016, TENP



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