

MONTHLY REPORT:

JULY 2020

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>		
Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
 Aerial Reconnaissance	58.5 (424 for year) Average 111km p/h of low-level flight	6,087 (46,868km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino specific flights	21 (154 for year)	2,419 (17,481km for year)
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
Ground Activities (Joint KWS / TT)	Protection teams: 93 days (699 to date) Monitoring teams: 57 days (289 to date)	Vehicle patrols: 4,858km (39,472km to date) Foot patrols: 653km (4,762km to date) Monitoring teams: 6,549km (31,403km to date)
 Big “Tuskers” observed	13 Tuskers - 6 Super Tusker bulls, 6 emerging bulls, 1 cow Tusker = 37 individual observations	
Ivory recovered	8 elephant tusks (24 for year)	
Elephant mortality	Fresh (less than 3 weeks old)	Recent (less than 3 months old)
	5 – (c of d: 3 Natural, 2 unconfirmed)	Nil (c of d:)
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh - Nil	Recent – Nil
Arrests	2 – by KWS / TT – 1 elephant poacher/dealer; 1 bushmeat 16 for year to date Bushmeat recvd: 654kg (1,358kg for year to date)	
Snares/traps recovered	97 by Tembo Teams: 337 snares to date 2020 (256 small; 52 medium, 18 large)	
Support to KWS-armed incidents	Nil	
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	2 cattle bomas (4,600 + cows)	
Written reports to KWS	49 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
General & significant notes	• Funding effects of COVID-19 has reduced TT operational activities (ground & aerial) • Bushmeat poaching continues to increase! • Serious bush fires engulf many parts of Tsavo, TT firefighting continues: ground & aerial • 25/7/20: 5th Kamungi members feeding assistance program - 140 households	
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:		
 Kamungi Conservancy North boundary TWNP	• Employment (through T/Trust): 25 permanent, 20 temporaries • Membership: 1,400 people • Community Mobilization meetings: 5; Board meeting on 24/7/20; HWC fence meeting 22/7/20 • Ongoing Projects: Water project; Dispensary support; Kamungi HQ construction; VSLA’s; feeding program; HEC-Mtito fence planning • Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC): 30 reports, mainly crop raiding elephants • Wildlife Counts: 2 sample transect counts • Security Ops: 1 arrest (bushmeat poacher); 35 snares recvd., other equip. recvd.	
 Shirango Conservancy South East boundary TENP	• Employment (through T/Trust): 11 permanents • Membership: 2,300 people • Community Mobilization meetings: Nil • Ongoing Projects: Water project; security HQ/outpost development; anti-poaching • Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC): 17 reports, mainly elephant & hyena • Wildlife Counts: Nil • Security Ops: T1 team – 1 arrest (elephant poacher/dealer – poison distributor); 53 snares recvd; various poachers equip. recvd., 2 ivory recvd., 651kg bushmeat recvd., 1kg arrow poison recvd.	
FIELD CONSERVATION FORMAL PARTNERS:		
KWS-Kenya Wildlife Service	• Partner to KWS: through MoU. Incl. Rhino Strategy & Hirola Recovery Plan	
ZSL-Zoological Society London	• Partner with ZSL: Rhino Impact Bond (RIB) in TWNP & Community development	
STE-Save The Elephants	• Partner in aerial & ground monitoring - collared elephants; Elephants & Bees project	
ASDF-African Sand Dam Fdn	• Construction of Sand Dams – partnership with ASDF & Excellent Development UK	
JAAT-Anti-venom Trust	• Partner to JAAT (supplier of top-quality snake bite antivenom) – Tsavo outlet	
MWCT-Maasai Wilderness	• Partner – general conservation initiatives/activities	

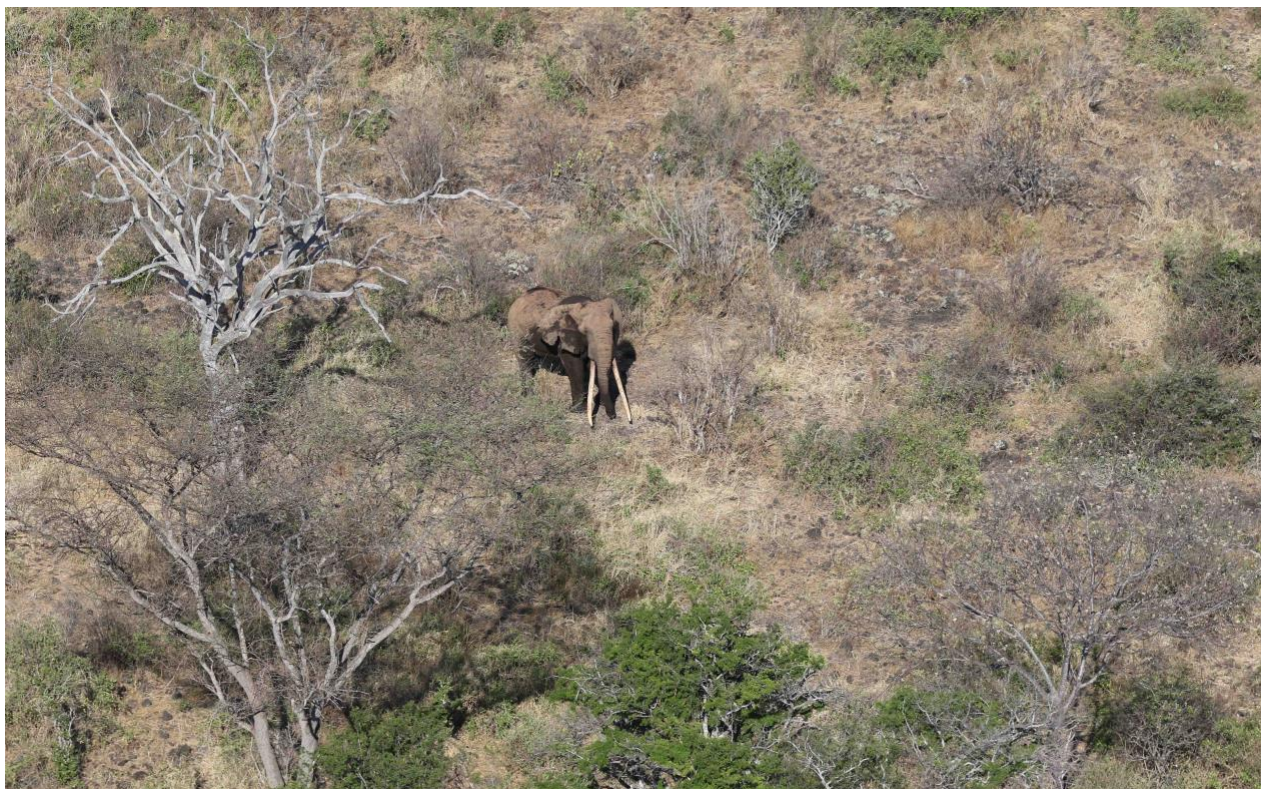


Photo shows one of Tsavo's Super Tusker bull elephants coded as IL1, TWNP on 31st July 2020.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM:



“Big Tusker Project”- aerial and ground mobile teams:

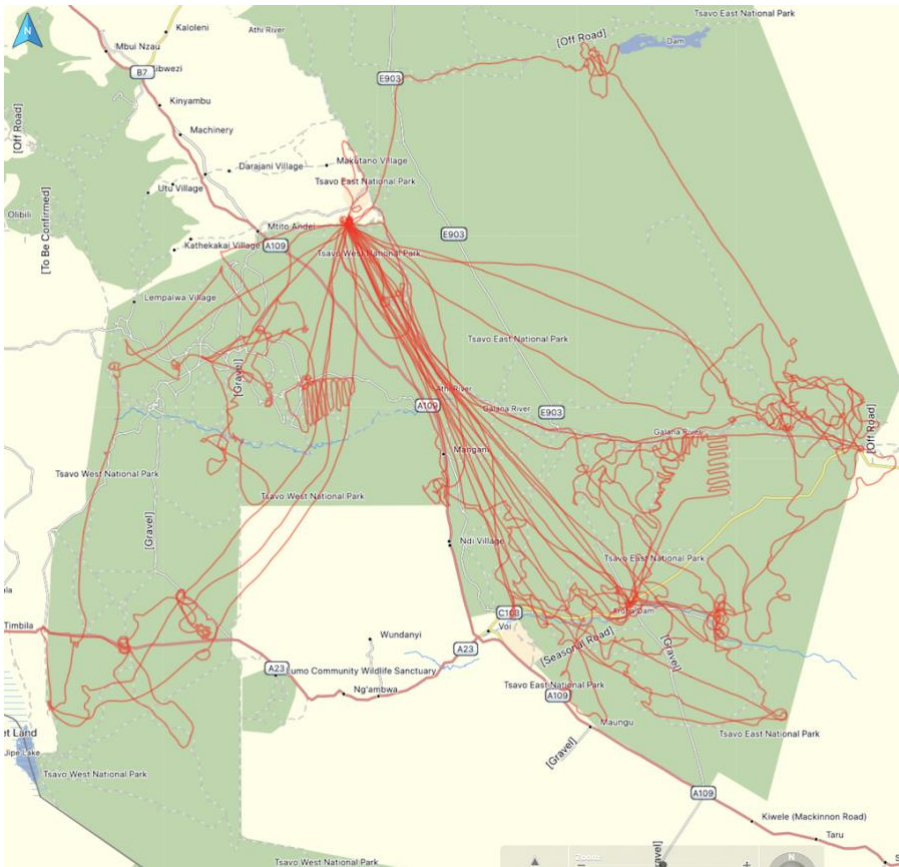
Table 1: Summary of Big Tusker Project (BTP)

Activity / Detail	Number & Brief Remarks
BTP individual Tusker sightings	Total = 37 sightings
Super Tusker Bulls	6 individuals (18 sightings)
Emerging Tuskers (bulls)	6 individuals (18 sightings). 3 new Emerging Tuskers added to data base on 26/7/20: coded as AB1, BI1 & RB1
Iconic Cow Tuskers	1 individual (1 sighting)
Elephant Mortality	5: 5 fresh (3 natural & 2 unknown c of d). Nil recent/old
Ivory Recovered	8 tusks (all from found elephant carcasses)
Elephant Treatment	Nil
Wildlife Rescues	Nil
Rhino Support (KWS / ZSL / TT partnership)	Regular rhino aerial patrols with KWS; TWNP & TENP - partnership with KWS / ZSL. 6 rhino specific recces = 2,419km flown over 21hrs (5 TW & 2 TE)
HWC cases attended to	2 (Shirango area)
Arrests	2 (1 ivory poacher/dealer – selling poison) & 1 bushmeat poacher)
Wire Snares Recovered	97 (18 medium, 79 small)
Bush Meat Recovered (Kg)	654kg (parts of 3 poached buffalos)
Poachers Equip. Recovered	1kg arrow poison, 1 poisoned arrow, 1 axes, 1 panga, 1 knife
Poachers camps/Blinds	Nil
Night Ambushes set	4 (all Shirango area)
Response to Armed Situations	Nil
Foot patrols (km) Tembo Teams	653km foot patrols – 3 teams
Collared Elephant Observations	8 forms submitted to STE (joint KWS/TT teams)
High Value Wildlife Monitoring	Ongoing partner to KWS TCA Research (carnivores, endangered species)
Firefighting cases	5 Aerial & ground: TW – Maktau; TE – Ndara, Manyatta areas
Illegal Cattle Drive KWS Support	Nil
Charcoal & Logging	Nil inside PA's. (Certain areas outside the Parks are out of control)
Training	1 TT Scout – snake handling at Bio-Ken Snake Farm, Watamu 1 KWS Research Officer-Masters training with funding support from TT
TT HQ Rainfall	Nil. Total rainfall to date: 447mm



Aerial Reconnaissance - Areas Covered:

- This vital conservation tool provides “*eyes in the skies*” 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 actions.



Map shows Tsavo Trust's flight paths over the TCA in July 2020.

58.5 hours flown covering 6,087 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

Covering: Air & ground activities; Big Tusker monitoring; Locating illegal activities; Wildlife monitoring; Aerial census and telemetry tracking.



Photo shows part of the extensive fire in southern TWNP on 23rd July 2020 where over 100,000 acres of grasslands were burnt. Ground and aerial support to KWS has been provided wherever we can.



Photo taken on 24th July 2020 showing a continuation of the TW Maktau fire. KWS and stakeholders have rallied together to tirelessly fight these ongoing fires in various parts of Tsavo. All are man-made fires!



Photo of a loan Grants Gazelle on 24th July 2020 crossing a burnt section of the vast TWNP Maktau fire.



22nd July 2020, along the TENP southern boundary with Dakota Ranch, the joint KWS/TT Tembo 1 team located 3 freshly poached buffalo carcasses, with majority of meat cut and taken by the poachers.

Method of poaching: Lamping method.

Transport: via motorcycles to carry meat to butcheries along the Mombasa highway to sell.

Shortly after this, 4 poachers were successfully arrested by KWS and they admitted to being responsible for these 3 buffaloes.

Commercial bushmeat poaching is certainly on the increase in these parts, especially areas close to the main Mombasa / Nairobi highway.

Field Mobile Units:

Tembo 1, 3, 5 teams & Kamungi Scouts are habitat protection / de-snaring focused.

Tembo 2 & 4 teams are wildlife monitoring dedicated.

All teams work alongside KWS daily and provide further “eyes and ears in the field”.

Habitat Protection / De-snaring teams:

Table 7: Shows outcomes from field activities from Tembo 1, 3, 5 & Kamungi Scouts teams:

De-snaring teams	No. Field days	No. Arrest	No. Ivory recvd.	No. Snare recvd.	Bushmeat recvd. Kg	Poacher equip. recvd.	No. Poacher camps	No. HWC Cases	Vehicle mileage km	Foot Patrol km
Tembo 1 (TENP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	1 Elephant poacher / dealer – selling arrow poison	2	53 36 small 17 medium	651kg 3 buffalo carcass remains 1 Dikdik	1kg elephant arrow poison, 1 poison arrow, 1 knife	-	2	2,696	139
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	2	9 All small	-	-	-	-	2,162	224
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 14 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	Temp. halted Due to COVID	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	1 Bushmeat poacher	-	35 34 small 1 medium	3kg 3 Dikdik	1 axe, 1 spade	-	-	-	290
TOTALS	93	2	4	97	654	As above	-	2	4,858	653
Total 2020	699	16	6	337	1,358kg	-	7	14	39,472	4,762

Monitoring & Evaluation teams:

Table 8: Shows activities carried out by Tembo 2 & 4 teams – monitoring & evaluation:

Monitoring teams	No. Field days	Activities	Endangered species records / sightings	Operating locations	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 2 (TENP) (3 TT staff + 2 KWS)	26	-Tusker monitoring -Hirola monitoring -Grevy's zebra monitoring -Carnivore monitoring -Carnivore scat collection for analysis – hair content -Mombasa/Nairobi - Road & SGR kill surveys -Camera trap surveys -Fixed point photos -Collared elephant reporting	-Tuskers – 12 sighting -Hirola – 10 -Grevy's Zebra – 1 -Large Carnivores – 13 -Road & Rail kills – 6 -Elephant carcasses – 1 -Rain gauge readings -Collared elephants – 5 Carnivore scat collect – 0	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central and eastern sections including Shirango Conservancy	2,863
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 2 KWS) 	31	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 12 -Tuskers - 0 -Large Carnivores – 11 -Collared elephants – 0 -Elephant carcasses - 1	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ	3,680
TOTALS	57	As above	As above	As above	6,543
Total 2020	289	-	-	-	31,403

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy	SHIRANGO Community Conservancy
Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust & KC & SCC	North boundary of TWNP – Triangle. Total area 101km ² Makueni County; Kibwezi Sub county; Mtito Andei Division; Mtito Andei Sub-location; Ngiluni Village.	South boundary of TENP – Voi River area. Total area 270km ² . Kilifi County; Ganze Sub-location; Bamba Ward; Mitangani location; Gede Sub-location.
Employment (through Tsavo Trust)	Between Tsavo Trust and its partners 25 permanent staff and 20 casual staff were employed generating over \$ 10,000 (Ksh. 1,000,000) of income into Kamungi monthly.	Tsavo Trust employs 11 staff from SCC including a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to spear head activities. Salaries generate over \$2,200 (Ksh.220,000) of income monthly as a result.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	➤ 5 community meetings held ➤ ZSL/Darwin – VSLA meetings – Nil ➤ HWC Mtito fence meetings – 2 Tech. Team from NEMA, Makueni County Govt. KWS etc for EIA needs	➤ Nil
Membership	Through a registered CBO KC membership represents 140 families & over 1,400 individuals from 2 villages, mainly from the WaKamba community.	Through a registered CBO SCC membership represents at least 2,300 individuals from 5 villages, mainly from the Watha and Giriama ethnic groups.
Water Project	NIL litres of water was issued – pump has failed and needs repairs. <i>Tsavo Trust is looking to other alternatives and funding to supplement supply.</i>	Solar bore hole pump and solar panels are in place. Water users committee established. 2 community members now employed at water project. Security outpost is being constructed.
Basic Health care	258 patients attended (1,769 for year to date). <i>Tsavo Trust is looking for funding for a bore hole here to support this healthcare outlet.</i>	This is currently dis-functional. Nearest health centre is 10km away. 50% of residents rely on traditional herbal medicines.
Constructions	Scouts HQ & Office/store completed	Scouts HQ ongoing
Feeding Program due to COVID-19	24/7/20: 5 th Kamungi feeding assistance - 140 households	None at present due to distances involved and lack of funds to implement.
Basic Education	Tsavo Trust has paid for 2 teachers (1 at Ngiluni & 1 at Kamunyu School within KC) for the last 7 years. This is ongoing.	No activities as yet.
VSLA – Savings Groups	Village savings & loan groups are in the progress – partnership between ZSL / KC & Tsavo Trust for next 4 years.	None at present.
Training	Patrick Mutua ongoing training at Bio-Ken Snake Farm, Watamu, for <i>Snake handling and identification.</i>	None at present.
HWC Elephant Bee Fence	7 x 1-acre bee fences, total 105 beehives with 16 currently occupied.	N/A
10% Fence Plan	Commenced 1 of 3 plots (electric fencing of 10% of individual land – remainder left fallow).	N/A
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	30 cases recorded: 28 elephant cases; 1 Leopard (1 dog); 1 lion (1 shoat)	17 cases recorded: 10 elephant; 6 hyenas (6 shoats); 1 others
Land Tenure	KC was historically Ngai Ndethia NR. Land was surveyed and sold to individuals under Ngiluni Settlement Scheme back in the 1970's. Title deeds have yet to be issued.	SCC land currently traditional communal mode of ownership, not legally protected. Efforts underway to ensure the local communities legally own their land. Ongoing.
Wildlife Census Transects	1 transect count – 106 direct sightings of 13 different species.	Annual aerial census due to take place.
Operations and Security Tembo 1 Team = T1 Tembo 3 Team = T3 Kamungi Scouts = KS	➤ Arrests: 1 bushmeat poacher ➤ Snares / traps / bushmeat: 35 snares ➤ Equip. recvd.: 2 bird traps, 1 axe, 1 spade ➤ Elephant carcass / Ivory: Nil ➤ Night ambushes: Nil ➤ HEC: Nil	➤ Arrests: 1 (elephant poacher/dealer) ➤ Snares & traps recvd.: 53 ➤ Equip. recvd.: 1kg arrow poison, 1 p/arrow, 1 knife ➤ Elephant carcass / Ivory: 2 ➤ Night ambushes: 4 ➤ Poachers camps: Nil



Photo shows an outdoor Kamungi Conservancy Board Meeting on 23rd July 2020. Main agenda item was HWC and the Mtito fence line.



Photo taken on 21st July 2020 just outside Kamungi Conservancy shows damage done by crop raiding elephants within local farmlands. In the first 6 months of 2020, there have been 224 recorded HWC cases between Mtito Andei town and Athi River (a 23km section), most of these crop raiding elephants.

Unusual Photo of the Month:



7th July 2020 - shows a sad photo of a baby elephant in the Athi River, Tsavo Triangle being fed on by some good-sized crocodiles' (courtesy of David Williams).

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organisations: Kenya Wildlife Service; USAID/DOI; US Fish & Wildlife Service; The Oak Foundation; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); Save The Elephants (STE)/Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF)/Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN); Global Wildlife Conservation; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Tusk Trust; International Elephant Foundation (IEF); Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); Georg Waechter Memorial Foundation; Glassybaby White Light Fund; Ndovu Trust (UK); Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Ker & Downey Safaris; Tropical Ice Ltd; OnSafari-Kenya; Askari Project–Australia; Tofauti Foundation; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Chesbro Foundation; Enos Enterprises–Tembo Wine; International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW); TUI Care Foundation; Empowers Africa; Design by Freedom; 51 degrees; Conservation Alpha; JW Seagon Insurance; Saving the Survivors; World Book; Lewa Canada; Pembroke House School and many more.

Individuals: Stuart Herd; Sir Colin Southgate; Nick Southgate; Nicole Honegger; Alex Graham; Nick Powell; James Robertson; Markus Jebesen; The Kratt Family; Loic Gouzer; Nick Lapham; Mike Kirkland; Paul Block; Anita Mishra & Paolo Mapelli; the late John Fletcher; Paul & James Wilson; James Chiappa; Will Burrard-Lucas; Drew Doggett photography; Goh & Courtney Iromoto; Prabha Sarangi & Connor Clairmont; Catherine Lagrange; Renzo Bernardi; Steve Parkinson; Howard Saunders; Sandor Carter; Sean Dundas; Karen Laurence-Rowe; James Lewin; Anthony Cheffings; Alan Binks; Andreas Fox; Prints for Conservation; Johan Marais; Chris Acreman; Alex Hunter and numerous other enthusiasts.

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

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