



Tsavo Trust is an action orientated, field-based, Kenyan not-for-profit conservation organization that recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation. www.tsavotrust.org


















Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGgM6-gqZOE&t=270s>

APRIL 2023 MONTHLY REPORT



*The photo above shows a lion cub next to lionesses in Tsavo East National Park. Since the 1st of March 2023, Tsavo Trust has been involved in the 2023 Tsavo Lion Survey alongside the Wildlife and Research Training Institute (WRTI). The aim of the activity is to determine the current Tsavo lion population. The last Tsavo Survey of 2019 had estimated the lion population to be 460.
Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Kimaile Joseph.*

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

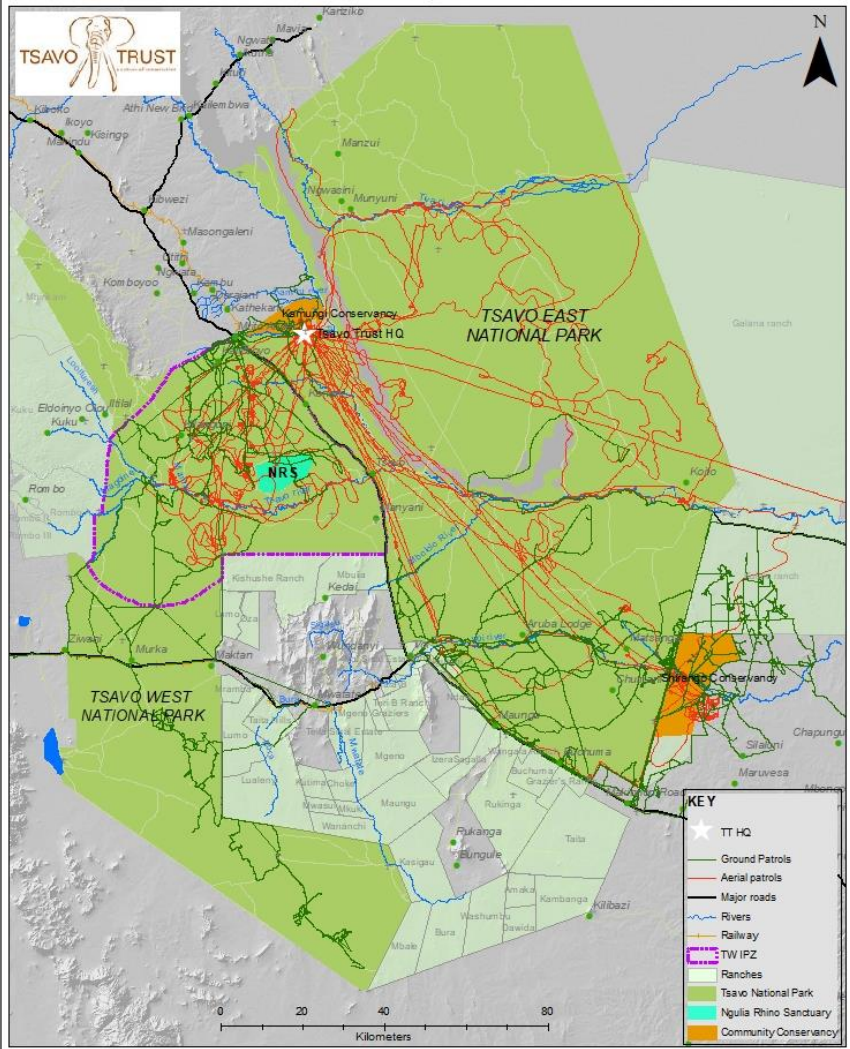
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	43 (193 for year) Average 123km p/h of low-level flight		5,311 (23,710km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 17.3 (5 TWNP; 1 TENP) (84.2hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 1,985 (9,697km for year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 180 days (720 to date) Monitoring teams: 56 days (224 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 15,831km (71,688km to date) Foot patrols: 988km (3,764km to date) Monitoring teams: 6,980km (30,047km to date)	
	Big Tusker Project	4 Tuskers - 2 Super Tusker bulls (4 sights), 2 emerging bulls (3 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 7 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		Nil sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		7 elephant tusks (46 for the year to date)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 1 (c of d: 1 Poached) (Less than 3 weeks old)	Recent: Nil (Less than 3 months old)	Old: 2 (c of d: All naturals) (More than 3 months old)	
High Value Species Monitoring		Ongoing partner with WRTI / KWS TCA Research: Monitoring Hirola, Grevy’s zebra, large carnivores, Roadkill Surveys, Southern Ground Hornbill etc			
Wildlife - Treatment & Translocation		Venomous snakes re-located from communities: 3 Red spitting cobra and 3 Ashe’s spitting cobra Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – 1 (3 to date)		Recent – Nil (2 to date)	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		17 – 1 ivory poacher; 1 bushmeat poachers; 8 illegal herders; 6 illegal entry and 1 for logging (182 for the year to date)			
Snares/traps recovered		157 by Tembo Teams: 538 snares for the year to date (395 small; 123 medium; 20 large)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		1kg (1,077kg for the year to date) Lesser Kudu Part			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 knife; 15 poison arrows; 1 bow; 1 machete; 1 axe and 400g of arrow poison			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 12 (Wangala; Ndara; Kilaguni; Murondo; Giriama Ranch; Keya dam; Voi River)			
Firefighting		Nil - (No Fire outbreaks reported as of recent)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS team: 3 elephants driven from farmlands east of Mtito Andei 3 elephant driven from farmlands in Shirango			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		Nil active cattle boma (2,680 cows; Nil shoats; Nil donkeys; 4 people)			
Written reports to KWS		83 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)			
TT Staff Training activities		2 TT Officers Masters training; 1 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors training; Community livelihood training on Climate Smart Agriculture.			
TT HQ Rainfall figures		93mm. Total rainfall to date for 2023: 127mm			
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">04/04/2023. Joint KWS/TT team arrested an elephant poacher who was on their wanted list for more than 4 years. The poacher was in possession of 2 fresh elephant tusks, a bow, and 15 poison arrows.24/04/2023. Tsavo Trust represented at the official opening of Community Scouts training at the KWS Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani. Fifteen Tsavo Trust scouts are currently attending the 3-month training.25th & 26th/04/2023: Tsavo Trust represented in a 2-day training and sensitization meeting on the Taita Taveta County Spatial Plan formulation process held at Voi Safari Lodge and facilitated by Food and Agriculture Organization of UN.				
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:					
	Kamungi Conservancy <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014		Shirango Community Conservancy <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Located: Southeast boundary TENP➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with SCC since 2016		
FORMAL FIELD CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM: (Full list of supporters/partners shown on last page)					
					
					



Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- Aerial patrolling is a vital conservation tool providing “**eyes in the skies**” and directional guidance to ground units who provide “**eyes and ears**” on the ground. The combination of both is effective.
- All aerial patrols and ground patrols are carried out jointly - KWS/TT and recorded with all relevant real-time observations relayed to KWS daily for rapid actions and for their records.

**TSAVO TRUST'S AERIAL AND GROUND PATROLS COVERAGE
APRIL, 2023**



*The map shows Tsavo Trust's flight paths in **RED** and ground patrol paths in **GREEN** over the TCA this month.*

Note: The Tsavo Parks are huge comprising 22,000km² (TENP, TWNP & CHNP) and then a further 20,000km² totaling 42,000km² to form the Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA).

***Aerial:** 43 hours flown covering 5,311 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 988 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 22,811 kilometers of vehicle patrol in Tsavo to support KWS.*

Activities covered: Air & ground security patrols; Big Tusker monitoring; Rhino related activities; Locating illegal activities; Wildlife monitoring; Aerial census & telemetry tracking & Community Conservancy aerial and ground activities.

Below: The photo shows KWS Officers, KWS LEA instructors, Community Scouts recruits from different NGOs and Conservancies, Tsavo Trust and AWF officers during the official opening of the Community Scouts training on 24/04/2023. Fifteen Tsavo Trust's scouts are undergoing the 3-month training to equip them with skills and knowledge on Wildlife Conservation. Photo Credit: KWS – LEA.



Field Mobile Units:

Tembo 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 teams, Kamungi & Shirango Scouts are habitat protection / de-snaring focused.

Tembo 2 (TENP) & 4 (TWNP) 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, 7, 9 Kamungi & Shirango Scout 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) & Shirango Scouts (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	-	-	63 13 small 50 medium	1 kg Lesser Kudu part	1 panga and 4 cooking pots	1 Active	1 HEC A total of 3 elephants were driven from farms	2,013	326
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2,771	122
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	1 Firewood collection inside PA.	-	6 All small	-	-	-	-	1,754	131
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	5 1 Ivory poacher, 1 bushmeat poacher & 3 illegal herders	2	28 21 small 7 medium	-	1 bow, 8 poisonous arrows, 7 arrows, 1 axe, and 10 grams of solid poison	-	-	3,495	148
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	11 5 illegal herders & 6 illegal entry	-	-	-	1 knife	-	-	4,327	85
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	-	-	60 56 small 4 medium	-	-	-	2 HEC 3 elephants driven from farms	1,471	176
TOTALS	180	17	3	157	1 kg	As above	1	18	15,831	988
Total 2023	720	182	21	538	1,077 kg	-	6	43	71,688	3,764

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 analysis: hair content -Highway & SGR roadkill surveys -Camera trap surveys -Fixed point photos -Collared elephant reporting	-Tuskers – 6 sightings -Hirola – 3 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 2 sightings -Large Carnivores – 24 sightings Ground Hornbill – 8 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 2 -Ivory recovered. – 4 -Collared elephants – Nil -Carnivore scat collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	3,359
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 13 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores –1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil -NRS Rhino night census – N/A	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,621
TOTALS	56	As above	As above	As above	6,980
Total 2023	224	-	-	-	30,047

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy	SHIRANGO Community Conservancy
Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust & KC & SCC	North boundary of TWNP – Triangle, since 2014. Total area approx. 100km ² Makueni County; Kibwezi Sub County; Mtito Andei Division; Mtito Andei Sub-location; Ngiluni Village.	South boundary of TENP – Voi River area, since 2016. Total area 270km ² . Kilifi County; Ganze Sub-location; Bamba Ward; Mitangani location; Gede Sub-location.
Employment (Through Tsavo Trust)	Between Tsavo Trust & partners 45 permanent staff & 15 casual staff employed generating over \$12,000 (Ksh.1,320,000) of income into Kamungi monthly.	Tsavo Trust employs 14 staff from SCC including a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to spearhead activities. Salaries generate over \$3,000 (Ksh.330,000) of income monthly.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	18 community meetings held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 03/04/2023. Kamungi Conservancy Board meeting. ➤ 17/04/2023. Official handover of 80 dam liners and 60 solar home solutions donated to the Kamungi community. ➤ 19/04/2023. Youth peer-to-peer learning meeting to deliberate on potential income-generating projects with an environmental component. ➤ 24/04/2023. Official opening of the Community Scouts training at KWS LEA. ➤ 25/04/2023. Catch-up call meeting with ZSL on the UKAM project. ➤ 26 & 27/03/2023. Kamungi Conservancy monthly meeting at Nthunguni and Ngiluni. 	7 community meetings held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 07/04/2023. Meeting on 10% fence plan implementation with ACC Bamba, MCA Bamba and Shirango Conservancy Management. ➤ 14/04/2023. Meeting on projects implementation in Shirango with local admin, religious groups and local community. ➤ 27/04/2023. Discussions on the MOU between Shirango CBO and Tsavo Trust. ACC, MCA, Shirango Conservancy and local communities represented. ➤ 30/04/2023. Project implementation conflict resolution meeting with MP Ganze, MCA Bamba, ACC Bamba and Shirango Conservancy Manager. MP Ganze and MCA Bamba requested more engagements with a section of the local community.
Membership	Through a registered CBO KC membership represents 245 families & over 2,450 individuals from 2 villages, mainly from the WaKamba community. Considerable interest for more membership from villages to the west towards Mtito	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	14,420 litres of water issued. (259,110 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.	Borehole, pump, and solar panels are in place, but saline water. Construction of an earth dam completed.
Basic Health care	403 patients attended (946 for the year to date).	There is a need to support this project
Constructions	Honey processing room completed and opened by Governor Makueni C. on 25/01/22	Scouts HQ completed Construction of an Earth dam completed
Education	Paid for 2 teachers (1-Ngiluni & 1-Kamunyu School in KC) for the last 9 years. Ongoing.	None at present
Bursary Scheme	Started on April 22 9 needy students selected being supported.	None at present
Village Saving & Loan Associations – VSLA's	5 women-run VSLAs are in progress: partnership between ZSL / KC & TT	None at present
Poultry Project	3 poultry projects: partnership between ZSL / KC & TT	None at present
Training	VSLA livelihoods, HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture	Climate Smart agriculture by KALRO.
HWC Mitigation	7 x 1-acre bee fences, total 105 beehives with 9 currently occupied.	N/A yet
10% Fence Plan	10% fence plan completed Phase 2 completed: Total 15 plots (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land). There are issues with plots/land being purchased by a local NGO in this area that is threatening this innovative project, but mitigating measures are in place	8 beneficiaries of the 10% fence plan have already been identified.
Predator Proof bomas	7 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL	N/A yet
Mtito 32km fence line	Completed 30/11/21 with 95% HEC reduction	N/A yet
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	18 cases recorded: 12 elephant; 2 lion and 4 snake-related incidents.	5 cases were recorded: All human elephant conflicts
Land Tenure	Ongoing	SCC land is currently a traditional communal mode of ownership, not legally protected. Efforts are underway to ensure the local communities legally own their land.
Wildlife Census Transects	1	None
Operations and Security	➤ See the Field Units table above	➤ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



The photo above shows an elephant poacher arrested by a joint KWS/TT team. This poacher had been on the KWS/TT wanted list for 4 years. The poacher was arrested with 2 fresh elephant tusks that he had poached 2 weeks before his arrest. A bow and 15 arrows laced with poison, and 10 grams of poison were also recovered. The arrest was made possible by intelligence gathered from the local community. Evidently, local communities will support conservation efforts if they are recognized and engaged as nature custodians. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust.

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organizations: Kenya Wildlife Service; Government of Makueni County; USAID / DOI; US Fish & Wildlife Service; CITES / MIKE Programme-funded by the European Union; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; Save The Elephants (STE); Elephant Crisis Fund; Re:wild; Tusk Trust; Rhino Recovery Fund (WCN); Lion Recovery Fund (WCN); International Elephant Foundation (IEF); Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); IUCN Save Our Species; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); The Glassybaby Foundation; Maliasili; EU-Biopama Programme; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Milkywire; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Ker & Downey Safaris; Ndovu Trust (UK); Tropical Ice Ltd; OnSafari-Kenya; Askari Project–Australia; Exodus Travel; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Off Piste Africa; Empowers Africa; 51 degrees-Vulcan; Conservation Alpha; Lewa Canada; Prints for Conservation; Remembering Wildlife Books and many more anonymous donors.

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Report compiled by Richard Moller (C.E.O) and the Tsavo Trust Team.

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