



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-ggZOE&t=270s>

MARCH 2023 MONTHLY REPORT



The photo above show Super Tusker coded as “BA1”. He is among 8 of the remaining Super Tuskers in Tsavo. The Tsavo Conservation Area boasts of a strong Tusker gene pool with at least 27 Emerging Tuskers. Through its Big Tuskers Project, Tsavo Trust supports KWS to conserve these magnificent elephants and their habitat. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	57 (150 for year) Average 123km p/h of low-level flight		7,402 (18,399km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 24.4 (8 TWNP; 1 TENP) (66.9hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 2,854 (7,712km for year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 186 days (540 to date) Monitoring teams: 62 days (168 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 17,985km (55,857km to date) Foot patrols: 992km (2,776km to date) Monitoring teams: 9,374km (23,067km to date)	
	Big Tusker Project	8 Tuskers - 2 Super Tusker bulls (7 sights), 5 emerging bulls (6 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 14 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		4 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		13 elephant tusks (39 for the year to date)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 5 (c of d: 1 Poached; 2 Naturals; 2 Unknowns) (Less than 3 weeks old)	Recent: 2 (c of d: All Naturals) (Less than 3 months old)	Old: 1 (c of d: Unknown) (More than 3 months old)	
High Value Species Monitoring		Ongoing partner with KWS TCA Research / WRTI: Monitoring Hirola, Grevy’s zebra, large carnivores, Roadkill Surveys, Southern Ground Hornbill etc			
Wildlife - Treatment & Translocation		Venomous snakes re-located from communities: 1 Black mamba and 1 Ashe’s spitting cobra Others: Jointly with KWS and other stakeholders, translocated 1 elephant from Mtito to Sobo TE			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – 1 (2 to date)		Recent – 1 (2 to date)	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		8 –5 bushmeat poachers; 3 illegal herders and 1for logging inside a protected area (165 for the year to date)			
Snares/traps recovered		129 by Tembo Teams: 381 snares for the year to date (299 small; 62 medium; 20 large)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		215kg (1,076kg for the year to date) 15 Dik-diks; 1 Giraffe			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 knife; 3 lamping horns; 1 club; 1 bow & arrow; 1 spear; 1 machete & 10g of marijuana			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 21 (LMD; Mbulia; Ngutuni; KMC; Subati; Maktau; Egu; Kulalu; Dabaso; Kalawa; Shirango)			
Firefighting		Nil - (Fire outbreaks greatly reduced by rainfall experienced in Nov 2022)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS team: 40 elephants driven from farmlands east of Mtito Andei Nil 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		78 (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		20mm. Total rainfall to date for 2023: 34mm			
Significant notes	20_24/03/2023. Tsavo Trust represented the 2nd edition of data training workshop on protected and conserved areas at the Regional Resouce Hub – RCMRD, Nairobi. 28_29/03/2023. Kamungi and Shirango Community Conservancies represented at the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association Annual General Meeting held in Nairobi. 30/03/2023. Tsavo Trust participated in the multi-stakeholder workshop on Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation in the Tsavo Conservation Area. The workshop was held at TWNP and facilitated by ZSL together with CAK.				
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:					
	Kamungi Conservancy ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014			Shirango Community Conservancy ➤ 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)					
					
					



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

Aerial: 57 hours flown covering 7,402 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

Ground: 992 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 27,359 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: 20/03/2023: The photo below shows black rhino named Cherotich with her calf taken in the Tsavo West Intensive Protection Zone during a routine aerial recce. Tsavo Trust works in support of the Kenya Wildlife Service in monitoring and safeguarding this key black rhino population with no rhino lost to Illegal Wildlife Trade since 2017. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.



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)	31	1 Bushmeat poacher	-	28 8 small 6 medium 14 large	9 kg Dik-diks	1 knife	1 Active	-	2,531	341
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	2 All illegal herders	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,061	96
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	-	-	-	1 Active	-	2,389	120
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	4	28 26 small 2 large	-	-	-	-	3,279	150
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	2 1 bushmeat poacher & 1 illegal entry	-	-	200 kg Giraffe	1 spear, 1 bow, 1 panga, 2 lamping horns & 10g marijuana	-	-	3,553	111
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	3 All bushmeat poachers	-	73 66 small 7 medium	6 kg Dik-diks	1 lamping horn, 1 knife & 1 club	1 Active	18 15 HEC 3 HCC	3,172	174
TOTALS	186	8	4	129	215 kg	As above	3	18	17,985	992
Total 2023	540	165	18	381	1,076 kg	-	5	43	55,857	2,776

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) 	31	-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 – 11 sightings -Hirola – 13 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 53 sightings Ground Hornbill – 14 sightings -Road & Rail kills – 1 -Elephant carcasses – 3 -Ivory recovered. – 6 -Collared elephants – 2 -Carnivore scat collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	5,407
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	31	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 26 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores –3 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 2 - Ivory recovered. – 3 -NRS Rhino night census – N/A	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,967
TOTALS	62	As above	As above	As above	9,374
Total 2023	168	-	-	-	23,067

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 ➤ 03/03/2023. Meeting with Makueni County leadership to inspect the county-funded 60km elephant exclusion fence. ➤ 16/03/2023. KWS quarterly community outreach meeting held at Muani. ➤ 22/03/2023. Follow-up visit with STE on beekeeping training done last year for 2 VSLAs. ➤ 26/03/2023. Kamungi Conservancy monthly meeting held at the Ngiluni water tank. ➤ 28/03/2023. KWCA annual general meeting held in Nairobi. ➤ 30/03/2023. EIA public participation meeting for the proposed Kamungi bandas.	7 community meetings held. ➤ 01/03/2023. Meeting on land tenure issues. Tsavo Trust, Shirango Conservancy & IFAW represented. ➤ 07/03/2023. Meeting with Ganze Member of Parliament on the implementation of the USAID-funded project at SCC with TT & IFAW. ➤ 15/03/2023. Meeting with NEMA and Kilifi County water stakeholders to plan for World Water Day. ➤ 24/03/2023. Meeting with Kilifi County Government, local administration, local communities, Tsavo Trust and IFAW for the issuing of Community Land Registration Certificate. ➤ 17/03/2023. Meeting with Dakota Ranch chairman to explore partnership opportunities. ➤ 28/03/2023. KWCA annual general meeting held in Nairobi.
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	106,250 litres of water issued. (244,690 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	385 patients attended (543 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
Elephant Bee Fence	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.
10% Fence Plan		
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)	35 cases recorded: 24 elephant; 5 lion; 1 leopard; 1 baboon and 4 snake-related incidents.	9 cases were recorded: 6 elephant and 3 hyena.
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 a lone Nile crocodile walking on top of more than 60 hippopotamuses clumped in a small puddle. This was the only remaining puddle in the vicinity after the Athi River virtually stopped flowing. The photo was taken on 16/03/2023 upstream of the Athi-Tsavo rivers confluence in Tsavo East National Park. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Richard Moller.

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.

Individuals: Stuart Herd; Nick Southgate; Nicole Honegger; Griet Van Malderen; The Kratt Family; Loic Gouzer; Nick Lapham; Alex Graham; Nick Powell; James Robertson; The Davies Family; Mike Kirkland; Anita Mishra & Paolo Mapelli; James Lewin; the late John Fletcher; Paul & James Wilson; James Chiappa; David Calderone; Will Burrard-Lucas; Drew Doggett photography; the Kiddingtons; Marie de Brouwer; Kim Makenzi; Paolo Parazzi; Sam Stogdale; Howard Saunders; Sandor Carter; Sean Dundas; Andreas Fox; Karen Laurence-Rowe; Alex Hunter; John Carr; Max Haller; Anthony Cheffings; Prints for Conservation; Chris Acreman and numerous other dedicated enthusiasts.

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

All photographs ©Tsavo Trust 2023