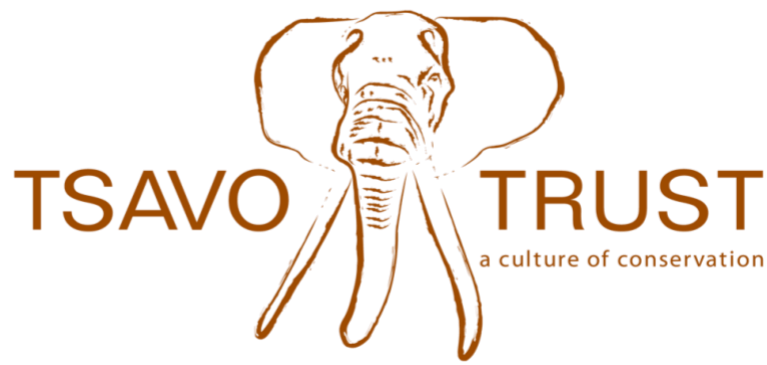




Tsavo Trust is an action orientated, field-based, Kenyan not-for-profit conservation organization that recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation. www.tsavotrust.org

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

DECEMBER 2023 MONTHLY REPORT



The above image captures a Tsavo Trust Supercub in action above Super Tusker coded BU1. Super Cub aircraft are ideal bush aircraft with the capability to fly at low speeds, providing pilots with a distinctive vantage point to observe wildlife, assess habitat conditions, and detect any illegal activities. This proves particularly valuable in the roadless expanses of Tsavo. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

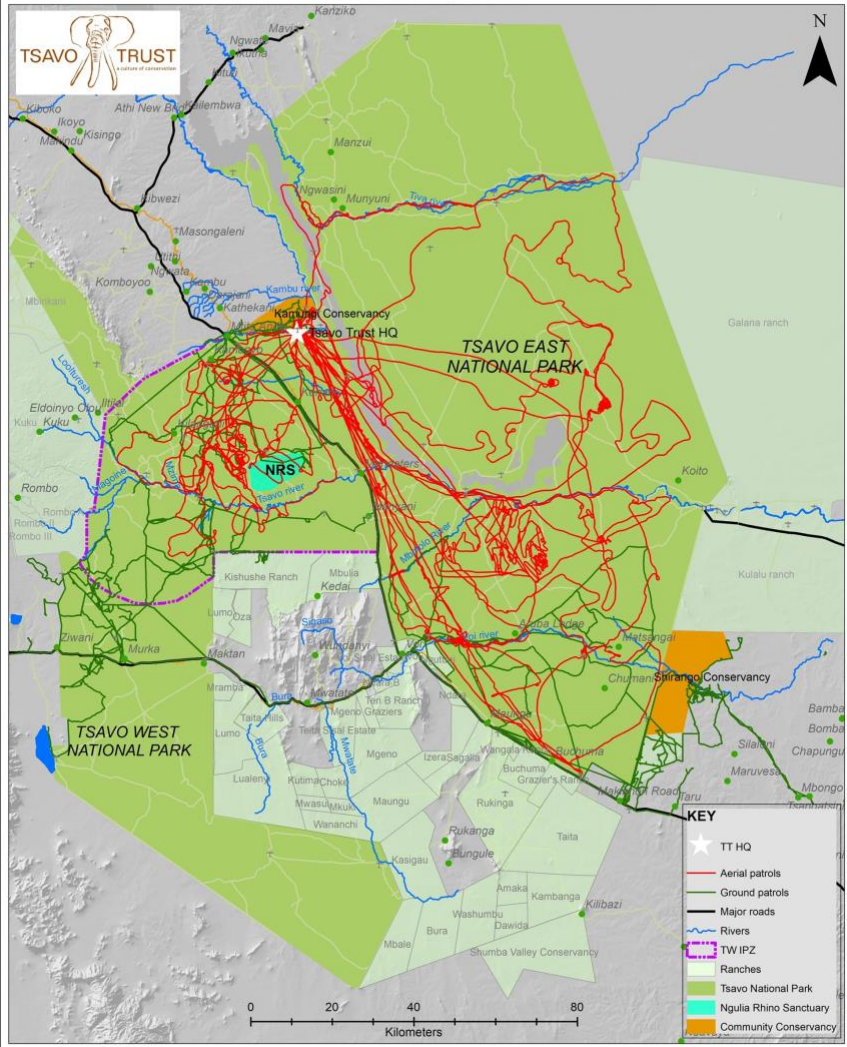
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	42 (617 for year) Average 130km p/h of low-level flight		5,069 (79,783km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 19 (4 TWNP; 2 TENP) (279hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 2,140 (31,965km for year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 186 days (2,190 to date) Monitoring teams: 44 days (659 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 17,056km (204,192km to date) Foot patrols: 1,263km (13,389km to date) Monitoring teams: 4,795km (79,753km to date)	
	Big Tusker Project	6 Tuskers – 3 Super Tusker bulls (3 sights), 5 emerging bulls (7 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sights): 10 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		3 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		8 elephant tusks (128 for the year to date)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 3 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 2 natural; 1 HEC)	Recent: 1 (Less than 3 months old) (c of d: unknown)	Old: 2 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: both unknown)	
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: 1 Small-scaled burrowing asps Others: 3 non-venomous snakes: 2 Rufous beaked snakes & 1 Red headed beaked snake.			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – Nil (10 to date)		Recent – Nil (3 to date)	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		9 – 1 bushmeat poacher, 2 for possessing pangolin scales; 5 loggers & 1 illegal miner (410 for the year to date)			
Snares/traps recovered		74 by Tembo Teams: 1,523 snares for the year to date (1,092 small; 379 medium; 52 large)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		6kg (2,684kg for the year to date) Dik-diks			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 lamping horn, rungu (club), mattock, spade & cooking equipment			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 9 (Murka, KMC ranch, Kuku dam, Kalawa & Muhoho Park boundary)			
Firefighting		Nil - (No Fire outbreaks reported within TW or TE as of recent)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS team: 18 elephants driven from farmlands east of Mtito Andei Nil elephants driven from farmlands in Shirango			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		18 active cattle bomas (800 cattle; 1,050 shoats; Nil people)			
Written reports to KWS		74 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)			
TT Staff Training activities		2 TT Officers Masters training; 2 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors training; 78 Kamungi and Shirango farmers trained on Climate SMART agriculture.			
TT HQ Rainfall figures		157mm. Total rainfall to date for 2023: 731mm			
Significant notes	11/12/2023: Tsavo Trust’s end-of-year meeting which served as a significant event to reflect on the organization's progress and to align all employees with the goals outlined in the Tsavo Trust 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The management team emphasized the importance of the plan and motivated staff to work towards its implementation. 16/12/2023: Meeting with Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) Board members at Voi Safari Lodge to update the board on the areas where Tsavo Trust provides support to WRTI. The meeting also provided a crucial platform to discuss future plans and opportunities for the WRTI/TT collaboration.				
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)					
					
					



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 & GROUND PATROLS COVERAGE OVER TCA
December, 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:** 42 hours flown covering 5,069 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,263 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 21,851 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: A group photo taken during Tsavo Trust's year-end all-staff meeting which served as a pivotal occasion for reviewing the organization's advancements and aligning all team members with the objectives outlined in the Tsavo Trust 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. During the meeting, the management team underscored the plan's significance and encouraged staff to actively contribute to its successful implementation.



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, providing 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	-	-	27 15 small 12 medium	-	-	-	-	2,849	341
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	4 Illegal firewood collection	-	-	-	-	-	1 Human injury - buffalo.	2,510	127
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 Illegal mining inside Protected Area	-	7 All small	-	Mattock, spotlight, spade, cooking equipment.	-	-	3,554	249
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	2	40 26 small 14 medium	-	-	-	-	3,213	154
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	2 Possession of 3kg pangolin scales	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,089	166
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	2 1 bushmeat poacher & 1 illegal logger	2	-	6 kg Dik-dik	1 lamping horn, rungu (club).	-	6 18 elephants driven from farms by KWS/TT team	1,841	266
TOTALS	186	9	4	74	6kg	As above	-	7	17,056	1,263
Total 2023	2,190	410	76	1,523	2,684 kg	-	13	106	204,192	13,389

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) 	13	-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 – 7 sightings -Hirola – 1 sighting -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 8 sightings -Ground Hornbill – Nil -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 - Ivory recovered. – 2 - Collared elephants – Nil - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	1,501
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 – 19 -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	3,294
TOTALS	44	As above	As above	As above	4,795
Total 2023	659	-	-	-	79,753

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 Makeni 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-County; 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	7 community meetings held. ➤ 01/12/2023. Monthly meeting and handover event of 28 water tanks and 50 home solar systems. The event had 226 attendees, including the DCC, Makeni County CECM, TWNP AD, and the MCA. ➤ 06/12/2023: SAPA data collection enumerators training at Tsavo Trust HQ. ➤ 06/12/2023: Meeting with The Leo Project to explore potential collaboration to support the health sector in Makeni County. ➤ 11/12/2023: Progress update meeting with Addax and Oryx on the Kyusiani Sec School project. New potential projects partnerships for 2024 were explored. ➤ 13/12/2023: Senior Chief meeting with village elders and Nyumba kumi leaders to address security concerns envisioned during the festive season.	1 community meeting held. ➤ 06/12/2023: Meeting with TTWCA regarding the Tsavo Livelihood Initiative. The company name, Apalis Foundation Limited, was mutually approved. Letters of intent for Kamungi and Shirango Conservancies will be distributed for signing. ➤ 07/12/2023: Site inspection to assess the impact of the November-December rains on the 10% fence plans. Identified four 10% fence plans requiring repairs.
Membership	Through a registered CBO KC membership represents 385 families & over 3,850 individuals from 13 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 issued. Water available from rainfall. TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (927,850 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	264 patients attended (3,294 for the year to date).	There is a need to support this project.
Constructions	KC additional scouts & office units in progress. Works for the Kamungi bandas also in progress.	SCC additional scouts & office units to commence soon
Education	Paid for 2 teachers (1-Ngiluni & 1-Kamunyu School in KC) for the last 9 years. Ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate).	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: In 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 2 currently occupied.	N/A yet
10% Fence Plan	10% fence plan completed Phase 2 completed: Total 16 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	10% fence plan constructions completed: Total 8 plots (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land). 100% effective in keeping elephants and other wildlife from fenced farmlands.
Predator Proof bomas	10 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)	21 cases recorded: 12 elephant; 2 Buffalo; 2 Baboon; 2 Zebra; 2 Leopard and 1 Snake.	No cases recorded: All Elephant related.
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	Nil	None
Operations and Security	➤ See the Field Units table above	➤ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



The predicted El Nino rains showed up in force in December 23 over the Tsavo region, and indeed all of Kenya. From a desperate dry Tsavo just 2 months before to a waterlogged landscape, Tsavo has been transformed into a lush and full of life spectacle. Above show the Voi River in full flood on 16th December 2023.

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); WildLandscapes International; 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; Alex Hunter; John Carr; Anthony Cheffings; Chris Acreman and numerous other dedicated enthusiasts.

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

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