



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

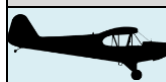
Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGgM6-ggZOE&t=270s>

FEBRUARY 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above shows two Black Rhinos within the thickets of Tsavo West National Park. Tsavo is a crucial habitat for a fifth (20%) of Kenya's Black Rhino population and possesses ample space to accommodate additional individuals. Tsavo Trust collaborates with the Kenya Wildlife Service and several other partners to enhance the optimal conditions, to make this area particularly suitable for hosting more rhinos, especially translocated individuals from currently overcrowded sanctuaries across the country. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

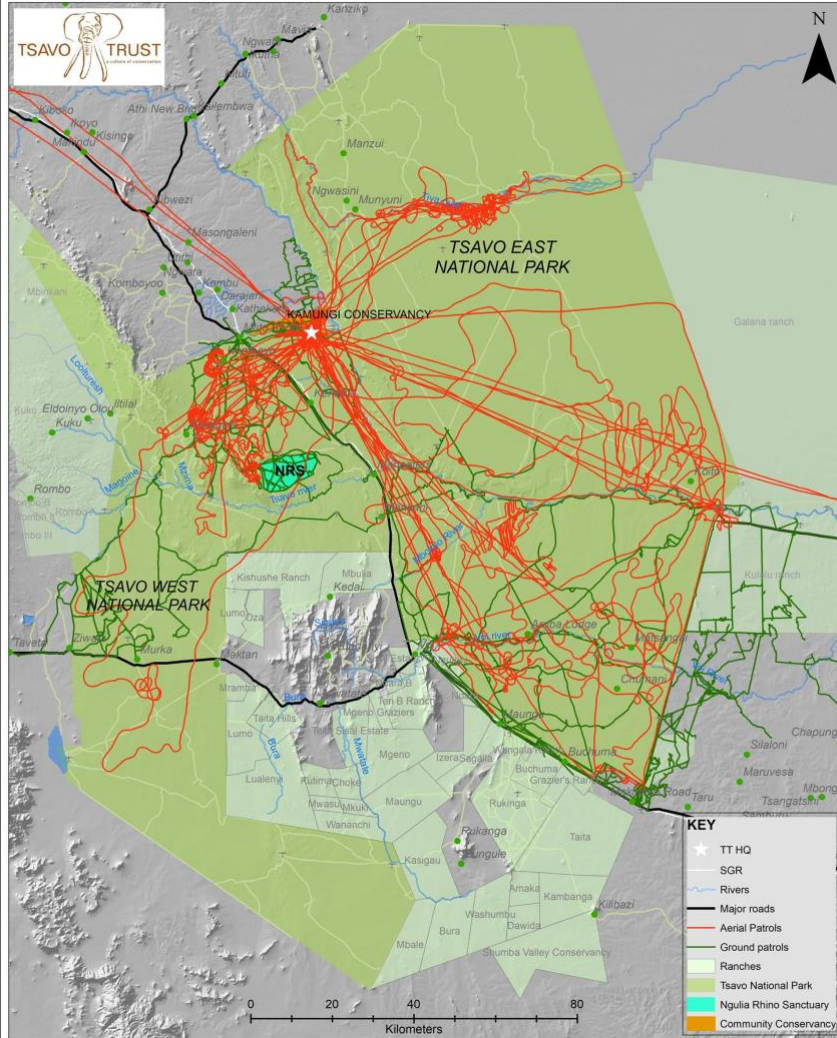
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	66 (133 for year) Average 134km p/h of low-level flight		9,135 (17,850km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 23 (8 TWNP; 1 TENP) (40hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 2,583 (4,496km for year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 174 days (360 to date) Monitoring teams: 144 days (292 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 12,581km (27,497km to date) Foot patrols: 1,263km (2,674km to date) Monitoring teams: 15,886km (35,204km to date)	
	Big Tusker Project	6 Tuskers – 2 Super Tusker bulls (3 sights), 5 emerging bulls (5 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sights): 8 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		2 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		9 elephant tusks (13 for the year to date)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 3 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: All unknown)		Recent: 1 (Less than 3 months old) (c of d: Unknown)	
		Old: 1 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: 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 Red-spitting cobra; 1 puff adder; 1 boomslang Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		6 – 3 bushmeat poachers and 3 illegal herders (11 for the year to date)			
Snares/traps recovered		25 by Tembo Teams: 66 snares for the year to date (20 small; 46 medium; Nil large)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		9kg (131kg for the year to date) 17 Guinea fowls & 1 Buffalo weaver			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 motorbike; 2 jerricans; 1 catapult			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 11 (Mbuyuni, KMC Ranch, Dakota, Wangala, Bachuma, LMD, Miasenyi)			
Firefighting		Nil - (No Fire outbreaks reported within TW or TE as of recent)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS team: Nil HEC responses			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		2 active cattle bomas (1,725 cattle; 80 shoats; 3 people)			
Written reports to KWS		68 (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		27mm. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 61mm			
Significant notes	15/02/2024: First stakeholders meeting convened by Kamungi Conservancy and Tsavo Trust for the development of Kamungi Conservancy Management Plan. Stakeholders present included the National and County Governments, elected leaders, KWS, WRTI, ZSL, and Ecodev Consultants. 26/02/2024: Tsavo West NP Southern Sector CITE/MIKE project familiarization visit by CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero and KWS Director of Wildlife and Community Service Prof. Charles Musyoki. 27/02/2024: Meetings and Field visits with WCS team filming Sand dams funded by the Disney Conservation Fund.				
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 February, 2024



*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:** 66 hours flown covering 9,134 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,263 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 28,467 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.*

Photo below shows The TCA team that received the CITES Director General Ivonne Higuero and KWS Director of Wildlife and Community Service, Prof. Charles Musyoki during their familiarization visit to the Tsavo West Southern Sector CITES/MIKE project. The team inspected the Officer's and Rangers' accommodation constructed under the project at Maktau.



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.

Tembo 6, 8 & 10 (TWNP) teams are rhino specific with confidential info.

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)	29	3 All bushmeat poachers	-	5 All medium	9 kg 17 Guinea fowls & 1 Buffalo weaver	1 motorbike 1 catapult & 2 jerricans	-	-	2,628	378
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	29	-	-	5 2 small 3 medium	-	-	-	-	191	148
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	29	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2,197	105
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	29	-	-	11 4 small 7 medium	-	-	-	-	3,122	229
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	29	3 All illegal herders	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,825	204
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	29	-	-	4 All small	-	-	-	-	1,618	199
TOTALS	174	6	4	25	9Kg	As above	-	-	12,581	1,263
Total 2024	360	11	5	66	131Kg	-	-	4	27,497	2,674



The photograph above shows Super Tusker Coded HA1. In the vastness that is Tsavo, these elephants range widely, especially during the wet season when resources are far apart. It takes the collective effort of our Aerial and Ground teams to keep tabs on them, ensuring they're protected wherever they roam. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

Research & Monitoring teams:

Table 8: Shows activities carried out by Tembo 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 teams – wildlife monitoring:

Monitoring teams	No. Field days	Activities	Endangered species records/sightings	Operating locations	Vehicle mileage km
Tembo 2 (TENP) (3 TT staff + 2 WRTI) 	28	-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 – 5 sightings -Hirola – 2 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 47 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 3 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – Nil - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	4,249
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	29	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores –2 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 - Ivory recovered. – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,152
Tembo 6 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	29	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 1 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,920
Tembo 8 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	29	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-NRS Rhinos – 19 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,623
Tembo 10 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	29	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	- NRS Rhinos – 32 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,942
TOTALS	144	As above	As above	As above	15,886
Total 2024	292	-	-	-	35,204



The photo above shows a Tsavo lion taken during the ongoing lion survey in the Southern Sector of Tsavo East NP. The LRF-funded survey is done jointly with the WRTI and aims to provide regular and robust estimates of key population parameters for lions. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

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-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	8 community meetings held. ➤ 07/02/2024: Assistant Chief's meeting held at Nthunguni. ➤ 08/02/2024. Public participation meeting on Environmental Social Impact Assessment of the proposed excision of Ngai Ndethya Settlement scheme. ➤ 15/02/2024: First stakeholders meeting on the development of Kamungi Conservancy management plan. ➤ 24/02/2024: Kamungi Conservancy monthly board meeting at the Ngiluni Water Tank. ➤ 26/02/2024: Senior chiefs meeting on general security.	No community meetings held. ➤ Activities in Shirango Conservancy are currently on hold due to unresolved land issues within the conservancy. ➤ Efforts are underway to resolve the land issues in Shirango Conservancy, aiming to resume activities and community engagements. ➤ 12/02/2024: Shirango Conservancy Manager participated in a Community-Based Disaster Response Management Plan Workshop held in Voi, organized by Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association. Focused on the preparation of a Community Based Disaster Response Management Plan for the Tsavo Conservation Area.
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	43,040 litres issued at Ngiluni Watern Tanks and Ngiluni Primary School. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (63,040 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	Waiting for a replacement for the retired nurse.	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 12 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 3 currently occupied.	N/A yet
Elephant Bee Fence	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.
10% Fence Plan		
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)	24 cases recorded: 4 elephant; 6 Buffalo; 12 Baboon; 1 Leopard and 1 Snake.	2 cases recorded: Both human threat from elephants.
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 photo above shows a black rhino cow and her two-month-old calf. Black rhinos' gestation period lasts 15 to 16 months, with newborn calves weighing around 45 kgs, standing shortly after birth. The calves remain with their mothers until they reach the age of four. Such sightings are encouraging, highlighting the ongoing efforts of KWS and its partners in bolstering the population of this critically endangered species. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust - Nick Haller.

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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