



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 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above captures the Tiva River twisting and turning through a lush Tsavo landscape. In April, heavy rainfall in the catchment areas caused the river's water levels to rise significantly. Tsavo itself received substantial rainfall with the Tsavo Trust HQ recording 107mm of rain. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

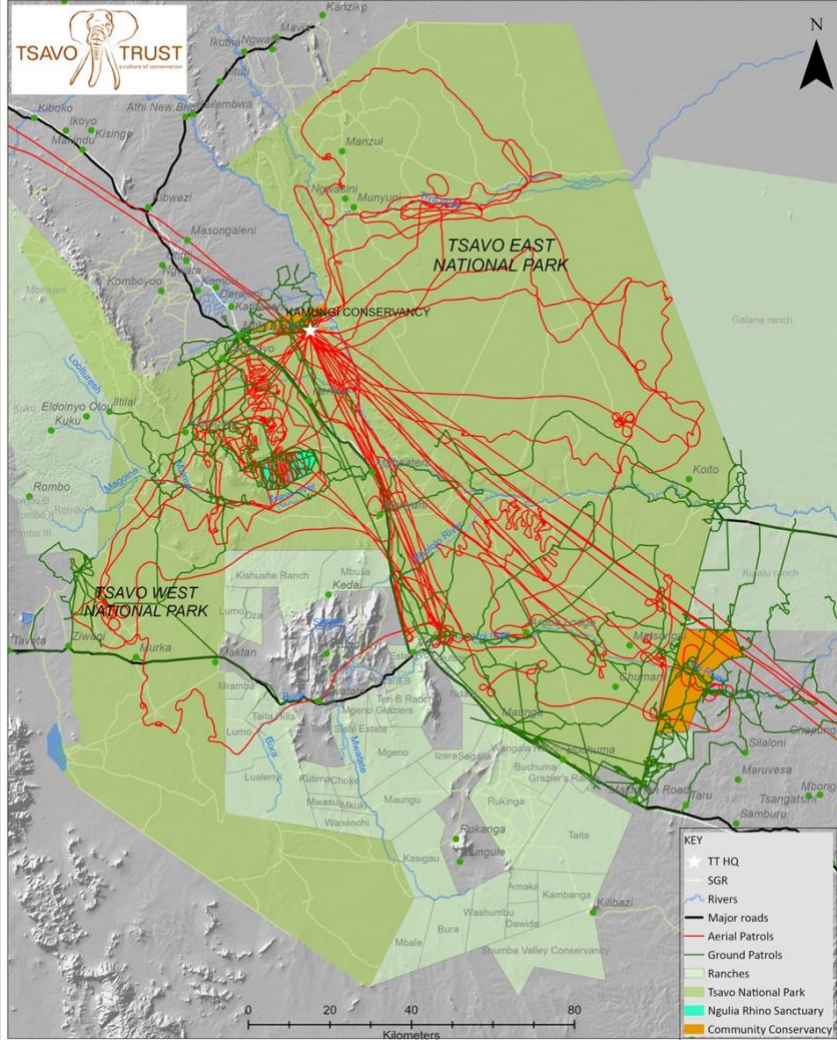
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	48 (233 for year) Average 139km p/h of low-level flight		6,909 (32,551km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 21 (6 TWNP; 1 TENP) (79hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 2,505 (9,069km for year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 180 days (726 to date) Monitoring teams: 141 days (582 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 15,789km (43,286km to date) Foot patrols: 1,237km (3,911km to date) Monitoring teams: 16,098km (67,064km to date)	
	Big Tusker Project	5 Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (2 sights), 4 emerging bulls (7 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sights): 9 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		3 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		6 elephant tusks (29 for the year to date)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 3 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 2 natural; 1 HEC)		Recent: Nil (Less than 3 months old)	
				Old: Nil (More than 3 months old)	
High Value Species Monitoring		Ongoing partner with WRTI / KWS TCA Research: Monitoring black rhino, Hirola, Grevy’s zebra, large carnivores, Roadkill Surveys, Southern Ground Hornbill etc			
Wildlife - Treatment & Translocation		Venomous snakes re-located from communities: 2 Red-spitting cobras; 1 small-scaled burrowing asp Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		6 – 3 bushmeat poachers; 1 ivory poacher; 1 charcoaler & 1 for collecting firewood inside Park (25 for the year to date)			
Snares/traps recovered		24 by Tembo Teams: 125 snares for the year to date (58 small; 67 medium; Nil large)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		28kg (292kg for the year to date) 1 Grant’s gazelle.			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 machete, 2 lamping horns, 1 hand cart, 1 knife, 1 spade, 7 sacks and batteries.			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 9 (Bachuma; Kamboyo; Kalawa; Voi River; Kulalu; Nthunguni; Malkiloriti; Murondo)			
Firefighting		Nil - (No Fire outbreaks reported within TW or TE.)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS team: 4 HEC responses. 5 elephants were driven from farms in Mtito Andei and 180 elephants were driven from farms in Shirango.			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		11 active cattle bomas (4,570 cattle; Nil shoats; 11 people)			
Written reports to KWS		84 (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			
TT HQ Rainfall figures		107mm. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 207mm			
Significant notes		•17/04/2024: Night ambush laid by the joint KWS/TT Tembo 9 team resulted in the arrest of an ivory trophy poacher. The culprit is also a known bushmeat poacher who had escaped the team's net on 29/03/2024. •17/04/2024: Kamungi and Shirango Conservancies represented at the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association’s AGM & National Conservancies Policy conference held at Kenya School of Government, Nairobi. •24/04/2024: Visit by USAID – Southeastern Kenya Coordination Mechanism (SEK) and Vision Quest (consultant) to document the impact of joint work planning between Makueni County Govt and USAID implementing partners.			
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:					
 Kamungi Conservancy		 Shirango Community Conservancy			
➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014		➤ 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 April, 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:** 48 hours flown covering 6,909 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,169 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 30,635 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.*

The photo below shows Kamungi Conservancy Board Members at TTWCA's AGM held at Voi Wildlife Lodge on April 15, 2024. Tsavo Trust catalyzed the establishment of Kamungi and Shirango Conservancies, ensuring local communities' inclusion and involvement in conservation matters.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Simeon Mwadilo.



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)	30	-	4	14 All medium	-	-	-	3 180 elephants driven from farms	3,077	344
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	1 Bushmeat poacher	-	-	28 kg Grant' gazelle	1 panga, 2 lamping horns & batteries	-	-	2,030	117
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,837	119
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2,967	181
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	1 Ivory poacher	3 ivory pieces recovered from a poacher	-	-	-	-	-	2,928	176
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	4 2 bushmeat poachers; 1 charcoaler & 1 collecting for firewood	-	10 All small	-	1 handcart, 1 spade and a knife.	-	1 5 elephants driven from farms	1,698	232
TOTALS	180	6	6	24	28Kg	As above	-	4	14,537	1,169
Total 2024	726	25	13	125	292Kg	-	-	11	57,823	5,080



The photo above shows a new offroad-rigged 4 x4 Landcruiser deployed for the joint KWS/TT Tembo 10 team whose focus is wildlife protection. The vehicle was purchased through support from the WCN-Lion Recovery Fund. 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) 	21	-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 – 3 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 17 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 4 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	3,454
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 – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores –4 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,196
Tembo 6 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	4,171
Tembo 8 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-NRS Rhinos – 11 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,917
Tembo 10 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	- NRS Rhinos – 2 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,360
TOTALS	141	As above	As above	As above	16,098
Total 2024	582	-	-	-	67,064



The photo above shows a lion cub captured during a lion survey in the southern sector of Tsavo East NP. This WCN-LRF funded survey, conducted in partnership with WRTI, concluded fieldwork on April 22, 2024. The survey aims to provide accurate estimates of key lion population parameters. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kimaile.

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	16 community meetings held. ➤ 09/04/2024: Makeni CG public participation meeting on the County's annual development plan. ➤ 15/04/2024: Kamungi Conservancy represented in the TTWCA's AGM held at Voi Wildlife Lodge. ➤ 17/04/2024: Kamungi Conservancy represented in the KWCA's AGM and Policy Conference held in Nairobi. ➤ 25/04/2024: Visit by the USAID/IFAW communication team to gather data and stories of the ongoing SMAT project. ➤ 26/04/2024: Meeting to assess the progress of students under the Sec. School scholarship.	4 community meetings held. ➤ 05/04/2024: Shirango Conservancy represented in the Tsavo Livelihood Initiative Project progress update meeting. ➤ 13/04/2024: Meeting between the Tsavo Trust and the Shirango Community representatives on the continuation of community projects. This was following the dismissal of a court case (Mar 24) that had suspended community projects in Shirango. ➤ 15/04/2024: Shirango Conservancy represented in the TTWCA's AGM held at Voi Wildlife Lodge. ➤ 17/04/2024: Shirango Conservancy represented in the KWCA's AGM and Policy Conference held in Kenya School of Government, Nairobi.
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	41,796 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks and Ngiluni Primary School. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (144,756 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	284 patients attended for the year to date. Still waiting for the retired nurse replacement.	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)	43 cases recorded: 31 elephant; 3 Buffalo; 3 Hyena; 1 Leopard; 1 Baboon and 4 Snake.	33 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	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 features a pair of wild dogs from a pack of four. A joint WRTI/TT team spotted the wild dogs during the recent Lion Survey. Each wild dog has a distinctive coat pattern unique to the individual. Packs are led by a dominant breeding pair, and all members work together to care for the young and hunt. As a wide-ranging species, they require expansive habitats. Tsavo Trust supports KWS and WRTI in implementing various conservation efforts that benefit the Tsavo wild dog population. These efforts include anti-poaching patrols (aerial & ground), de-snaring patrols, habitat restoration, and collaboration with local communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

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; Wildlife Conservation Networks: Rhino Recovery Fund, Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; Maliasili; Re:wild; Tusk Trust; International Elephant Foundation (IEF); BAND Foundation; Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); Save The Elephants (STE); Zoological Society of London (ZSL); WildLandscapes International; The Glassybaby Foundation; EU-Biopama Programme; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Milkywire; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Ker & Downey Safaris; Ndovu Trust (UK); Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; ARES; Tropical Ice Ltd; Askari Project–Australia; Exodus Travel; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Empowers Africa; 51 degrees-Vulcan; Conservation Alpha; Lewa Canada; 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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