



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>

MAY 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above features Tsavo West IPZ rhino 'Terry' and her calf. Historically home to well over 1,000 black rhinos, the Tsavos, especially the TW IPZ, provide an ideal habitat for this critically endangered species. Tsavo Trust is supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Research & Training Institute in upgrading the TW IPZ to be rhino-ready, making it a potential destination for rhinos from overcrowded sanctuaries across the country. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

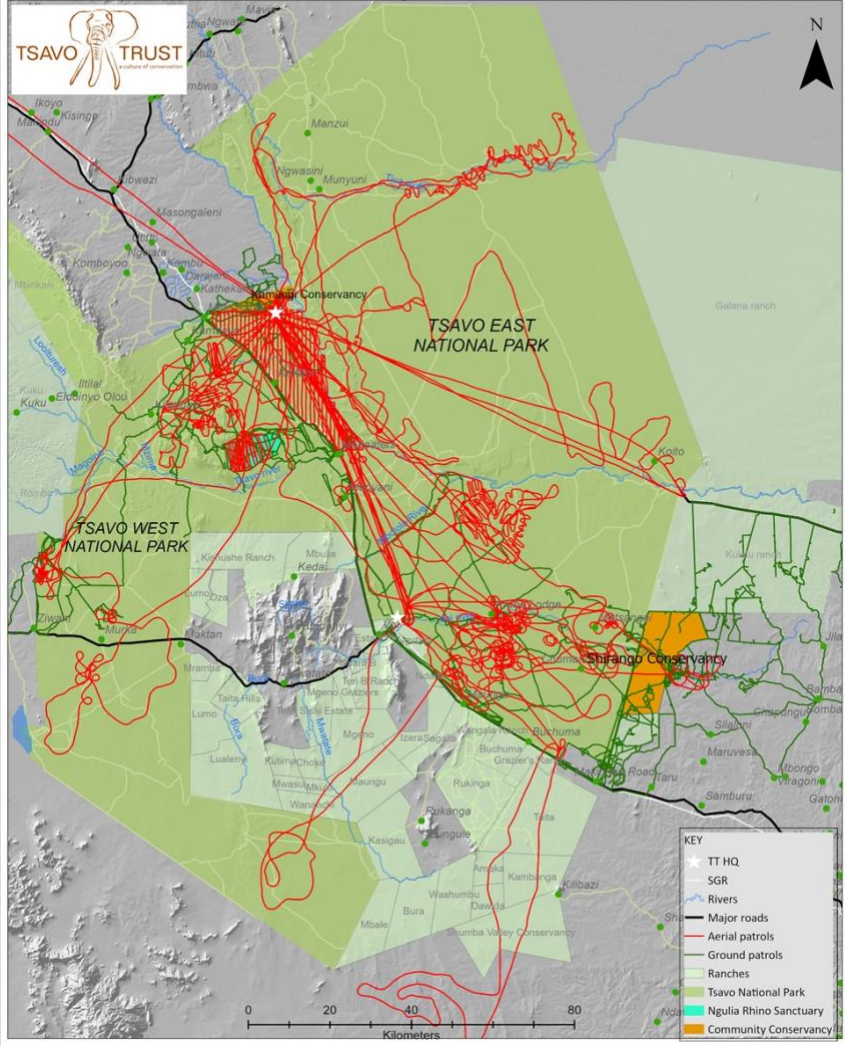
| WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i> | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Activity | Hours Flown | | Kilometers Covered |
|  Aerial Unit | 58 (291 for year) Average 139km p/h of low-level flight | | 8,157 (40,708km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff |
|  Rhino Aerial Patrols | Aerial Patrols: 23 (6 TWNP; 2 TENP) (102hrs for year to date) | | Aerial: 2,522 (11,591km for year) |
| | Field Patrol Days | | Kilometers Covered |
| Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts) | Protection teams: 186 days (912 to date) Monitoring teams: 150 days (732 to date) | | Vehicle patrols: 15,466km (73,289km to date) Foot patrols: 1,203km (6,283km to date) Monitoring teams: 15,557km (82,621km to date) |
|  Big Tusker Project | 8 Tuskers – 2 Super Tusker bull (8 sights), 5 emerging bulls (8 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 17 individual observations | | |
| Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program | 7 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations) | | |
| Ivory recovered | 5 elephant tusks (34 for the year to date) | | |
| Elephant mortality | Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: natural) | Recent: Nil (Less than 3 months old) | Old: 1 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: unknown) |
| 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: 5 Puff adders; 1 Red-spitting cobra; 1 Ashe's spitting cobra and 2 small-scaled burrowing asps. | | |
| | Others: Jointly with KWS and SWT, translocated 3 elephants from Kyusiani to the Tsavo Triangle. This initiative aimed to reduce the HEC incidents occurring in the area. | | |
| Poacher camps/hides | Fresh – Nil | | Recent – Nil |
| Arrests – joint KWS/TT | 14 – All for illegal grazing inside a National Park (39 for the year to date) | | |
| Snares/traps recovered | 38 by Tembo Teams: 163 snares for the year to date (88 small; 74 medium; 1 large) | | |
| Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried) | Nil (292kg for the year to date) | | |
| Poachers Equip. Recvd. | Nil | | |
| Night Ambushes | Joint KWS / TT: 6 (Maungu; Wangala; Egu; LMD and Shirango Conservancy) | | |
| Firefighting | Nil - (No Fire outbreaks reported within TW or TE.) | | |
| Human Elephant Conflict | Joint TT-KWS team: 4 HEC responses. 14 elephants were driven from farms in Mtito Andei, and 11 elephants were driven from farms in Shirango. | | |
| Illegal Livestock (only in PA) | 27 active cattle bomas (6,607 cattle; 1,840 shoats; 25 camels & 18 people) | | |
| Written reports to KWS | 82 (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 | Nil mm. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 207mm | | |
| Significant notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14/05/2024: Annual Tsavo Triangle Aerial Census. Good wildlife numbers were noted with no illegal activities observed. 14/05/2024 to 24/05/2024: Four Tsavo Trust rangers completed junior commanders at LEWA Wildlife Conservancy. The training was conducted by 51 Degrees and included 24 other rangers from Lewa, Ol Jogi, Ol Pejeta, Borana, and Loisaba. 27/05/2024: The third TW IPZ Upgrade Needs Assessment meeting between KWS and Tsavo Trust was held in TWNP – Kilaguni Lodge. | | |
| 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 patrols are 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
May, 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:** 58 hours flown covering 8,157 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,203 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 31,023 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 captures the Tsavo Trust Chief Community Officer and the Kamungu Chairperson at the launch of the Lower Eastern Tourism and Hospitality Association Workshop on May 30, 2024, in Wote, Makueni County. Thanks to the support of Tsavo Trust, Kamungu Conservancy has successfully constructed an eco-lodge and will soon start hosting guests.



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) | 31 | 1 Illegal herder | 3 | 27 22 small 5 medium | - | - | - | 1 14 elephants driven from farms | 2,732 | 398 |
| Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers) | 31 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,371 | 112 |
| Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers | 31 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2,248 | 173 |
| Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers | 31 | 1 Illegal herder | - | 11 8 small 2 medium 1 large | - | - | - | - | 2,877 | 142 |
| Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers | 31 | 12 Illegal herders | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,451 | 170 |
| Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts | 31 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 11 elephants driven from farms | 1,787 | 208 |
| TOTALS | 186 | 14 | 5 | 38 | - | As above | - | 4 | 15,466 | 1,203 |
| Total 2024 | 912 | 39 | 18 | 163 | 292Kg | - | - | 15 | 73,289 | 6,283 |



The photo above features 26 rangers, including 4 from Tsavo Trust, who participated in the Junior Commanders Course conducted by 51 Degrees at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. These rangers hail from diverse conservation areas, including Tsavo, Lewa, Ol Jogi, Ol Pejeta, Borana and Loisaba, giving our teams great exposure.

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)  | 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 – 11 sightings -Hirola – 4 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 16 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 1 sighting -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 | 3,473 |
| 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 – 27 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores –1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil | Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle | 2,635 |
| Tembo 6 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS)  | 31 | -RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting | -IPZ Rhinos – 27 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil | Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle | 3,830 |
| Tembo 8 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS)  | 31 | -RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting | -NRS Rhinos – 45 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil | Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS | 3,076 |
| Tembo 10 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS)  | 31 | -RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting | - NRS Rhinos – 62 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil | Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS | 2,543 |
| TOTALS | 150 | As above | As above | As above | 15,557 |
| Total 2024 | 732 | - | - | - | 82,621 |



The photo above shows a lion pair captured in Tsavo East National Park. The male is well-known and easily identifiable by a cataract in his left eye. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwendu.



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 | 17 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 03/05/2024: Kamungi Conservancy monthly meeting held at the Ngiluni water tank. ➤ 09/05/2024: Second stakeholder workshop on the Kamungi SAPA process held in Mtito. ➤ 17/05/2024: Kamungi Conservancy board meeting held at the Ngiluni water tank. ➤ 23/05/2024: Local administrative meeting with the Assistant chief, village elders and Nyumba Kumi at Nthunguni. ➤ 30/05/2024: Kamungi Conservancy represented in the launch of the Lower Eastern Tourism and Hospitality Association in Makueni County | 4 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10/05/2024: Shirango Conservancy represented in the TCA Disaster and Risk Management Plan held in Voi. ➤ 22/05/2024: The Shirango manager attended the TTWCA Male Leader’s governance and inclusion workshop at the Voi Wildlife Lodge. ➤ 24/05/2024: Shirango Conservancy was represented in the TTWCA/KWCA manager’s governance and inclusion workshop at Avid Hotel Voi. ➤ 29/05/2024: Shirango Conservancy represented in the Tsavo Livelihood Initiative Project progress update meeting. |
| 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 | 75,330 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks and Ngiluni Primary School. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (220,086 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) | 28 cases recorded: 19 elephant; 5 Buffalo and 4 Snake. | 39 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 shows a Tsavo Trust aircraft flying over an elephant herd along the seasonal Tiva River. The high-water levels observed in April 2024 have now decreased to a mere trickle, signaling the beginning of the dry season in the Tsavos. As a result, wildlife distribution has shifted to areas that offer a good balance between forage and water proximity. 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; 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.

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; Paul & James Wilson; James Chiappa; Marie de Brouwer; Kim Makenzi; Paolo Parazzi; Sam Stogdale; Howard Saunders; Sandor Carter; Andreas Fox; John Carr and numerous other dedicated enthusiasts.

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

All photographs ©Tsavo Trust 2024