



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>

AUGUST 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above shows an elephant collaring operation in progress. In August 2024, a joint team from KWS, WRTI, STE, Tsavo Trust, and Wildlife Works successfully conducted an elephant collaring exercise. The GPS collars are crucial for understanding elephant movements, identifying and protecting migratory corridors, enhancing elephant security, and reducing human-elephant conflict. This collaring initiative is vital to safeguarding the future of Tsavo's elephants by supporting data-driven conservation strategies. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kimaile.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered	
 Aerial Unit	81 (537 for year) Average 139km p/h of low-level flight	10,665 (74,411km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 15 (5 TWNP; 2 TENP) (159hrs for year to date)	Aerial: 1,783 (18,671km for year)	
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (1,464 to date) Monitoring teams: 155 days (1,182 to date)	Vehicle patrols: 15,206km (119,361km to date) Foot patrols: 1,434km (10,329km to date) Monitoring teams: 16,330km (126,729km to date)	
 Big Tusker Project	12 Tuskers – 4 Super Tusker bulls (7 sights), 7 emerging bulls (9 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 17 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	6 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	5 elephant tusks (58 for the year to date)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: Nil (Less than 3 weeks old)	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 black rhino, Hirola, Grevy's zebra, large carnivores, Roadkill Surveys, Southern Ground Hornbill etc		
Wildlife - Treatment & Translocation	Venomous snakes re-located from communities: 1 Kenyan Sand Boa (<i>Eryx colubrinus</i>) and 1 Smith's Racer (<i>Platyceps brevis smithii</i>). Both non-venomous. Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – 1		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	3 – 2 bushmeat poaching and 1 for illegal grazing inside a Protected Area. (58 for the year to date)		
Snares/traps recovered	185 by Tembo Teams: 610 snares for the year to date (420 small; 189 medium; 1 large)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	5 (352kg for the year to date) 2 Dik-diks		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	2 torches, 1 panga, 1 catapult, cooking equipment and sacks		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 9 (Maungu; Miasenya; Kulalu; Voi River; Bachuma; Murondo and LMD)		
Firefighting	9 fire response - (At Mtito Andei, Maktau, Kyulu station, Mgeno Ranch and Kanga.)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS team: Nil HEC responses in August.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	4 active cattle bomas (2,160 cattle; 270 shoats & 5 people)		
Written reports to KWS	78 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)		
TT Staff Training activities	2 TT Officers Masters training; 3 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors		
TT HQ Rainfall figures	Nil. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 212mm		
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th–16th August 2024: Collaborated with KWS, WRTI, STE, and Wildlife Works on an elephant collaring operation throughout the Tsavo Conservation Area. 18th–20th August 2024: Funded the KWS / WRTI rhino night census at Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in TWNP. 23rd August 2024: The official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tsavo Trust and the Makueni County Government at the Governor's offices in Wote. 29th August 2024: Supported the local community in the official opening of the Kamungi Bandas located along the Tsavo Park boundary with Kamungi Conservancy. 		

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)

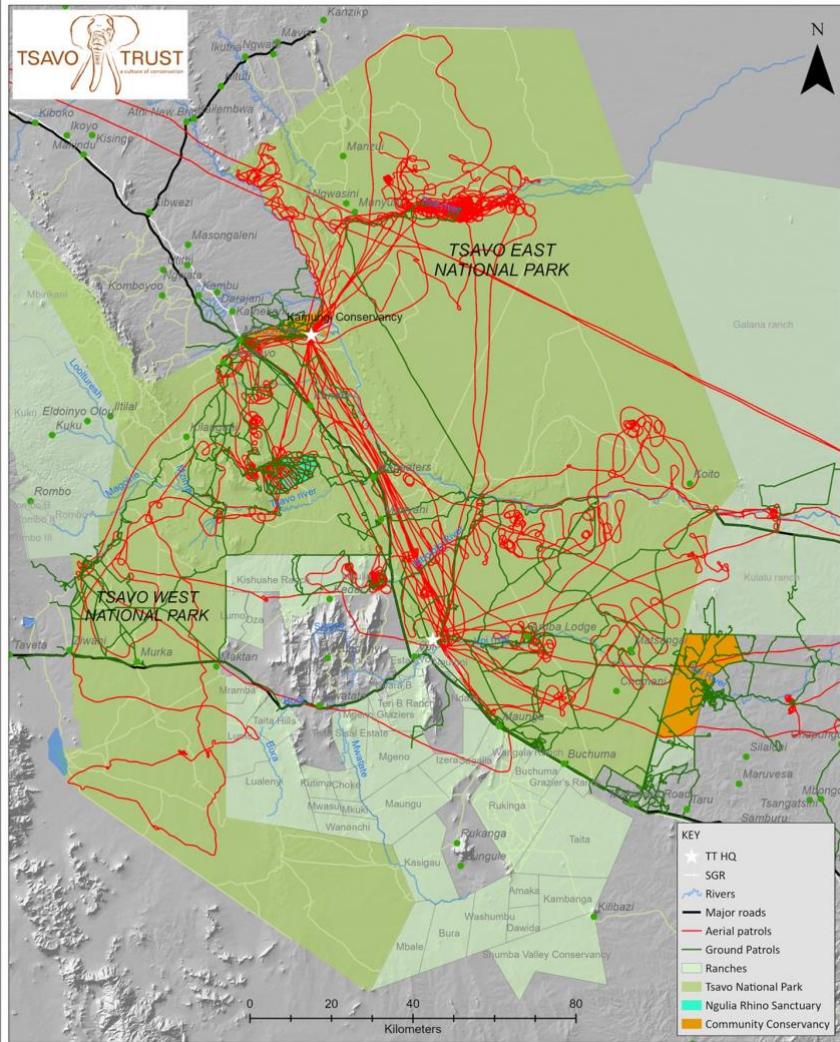
 KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE	 WILDLIFE RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE Discover Beyond	 IUCN Member	 Maliasili INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR NATURE	 Kamungi Conservancy	 SHIRANGO COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY	 WILD LANDSCAPES INTERNATIONAL
 SAND DAMS WORLDWIDE	 Africa Sand Dam Foundation	 SAVE THE ELEPHANTS	 MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST	 BOMA ROYAL FOUNDATION	 ZSL LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE	



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 August, 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: 81 hours flown covering 10,665 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

Ground: 1,434 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 31,536 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 features, from right: H.E The Governor of Makueni County, Tsavo Trust's CEO, Tsavo Trust's Chief Community Officer, and the Mtito Andei Ward Member of County Assembly (also the Deputy Speaker of Makueni County Assembly) during the signing of an MOU between Tsavo Trust and the County Government of Makueni. Photo Credit: Makueni County Government.



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 / WRTI 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 recv'd	No. Snare recv'd	Bushmeat recv'd. Kg	Poacher equip. recv'd.	No. Poacher camps	No. HWC Cases	Vehicle mileage km	Foot Patrol km
Tembo 1 (TENP) & Shirango Scouts (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	18 14 small 4 medium	-	-	1 Active	-	2,531	520
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	5 All small	-	-	-	-	2,496	130
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	2	58 29 small 29 medium	-	-	-	-	2,665	200
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 Bushmeat poacher	-	52 24 small 24 medium	5 2 Dik-diks	2 torches, 1 panga, 1 catapult, 3 cooking pots and 2 sacks	-	-	2,797	144
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	2 1 bushmeat poacher & 1 illegal herder	-	39 7 medium & 32 bird traps	-	-	-	-	3,365	231
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	-	-	13 8 small 4 medium & 1 bird trap	-	-	-	-	1,352	209
TOTALS	186	3	2	185	5	As above	1	-	15,206	1,434
Total 2024	1,464	58	29	610	352Kg	-	2	18	119,361	10,329



The photo above shows conservation and development partners at the official opening of the Kamungi Bandas, located along the border between Tsavo National Park and Kamungi Conservancy. The facility aims to generate income for the conservancy, reducing dependence on donor funding, while also creating employment opportunities for the local community. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Patrick Mutua

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) 	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 – 9 sightings -Hirola – 2 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 11 sightings -Ground Hornbill – Nil -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – 1 - Collared elephants – 1 sighting - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	4,718
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 – 29 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,802
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 – 29 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,143
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 – 3 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,682
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 – 15 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,985
TOTALS	155	As above	As above	As above	16,330
Total 2024	1,182	-	-	-	126,729



A stunning leopard spotted walking along the Mbololo Lugga in Tsavo East National Park. This elusive predator is a key species in Tsavo's ecosystem, and like other large predators, contributes to the balance of wildlife populations in the ecosystem. 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	<p>13 community meetings were held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 07/08/2024: Kamungi Conservancy board meeting held at the Ngiluni Water Tank. ➤ 12/08/2024: Represented at the CDF bursary scheme delivery discussions in Nthunguni. ➤ 17/08/2024: Represented at the Aa Ma Mbuini Residents Association (AMRA) quarterly meeting held in Kathekani. ➤ 26/08/2024: Kamungi Conservancy members monthly meeting held in Ngiluni Water Tank. ➤ 28/08/2024: Represented at the local administrative meeting held in the Nthunguni Assistant Chief's office. ➤ 29/08/2024: Hosted various conservation and development stakeholders for the official opening of the Kamungi Bandas. 	<p>1 community meetings were held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 05/08/2024: Training on constructing energy-saving cooking stoves for 10 youths from the Shirango Community Conservancy. The goal of this initiative is to promote sustainable energy practices, reduce deforestation, and improve household air quality.
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	115,790 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (451,516 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	182 patients attended to in August. 526 patients attended 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 completed.	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 Elephant Bee Fence	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 Mtito 32km fence line	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL Completed 30/11/21 with 95% HEC reduction	N/A yet
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	20 cases recorded: 15 Leopard; 1 Buffalo; 1 Crocodile and 3 Snake.	7 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 herd of hirola, one of the world's most critically endangered antelopes, with fewer than 500 individuals remaining. Although the hirola is not native to Tsavo, a population was translocated here (11 in 1963 & 16 in 1996) as a safeguard in case the indigenous population in Garissa, which has faced numerous threats, was lost. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

Wildlife Ranger Challenge (WRC) 2024

WRC is the world's largest celebration of solidarity, support, and fundraising, supporting more than 10,000 rangers in 24 countries since its inception. On 21st September this year, Tsavo Trust Rangers will be among more than 90 Ranger Teams completing a coordinated 21 km race in Protected Areas where the rangers work. To find out more and support our team please follow the link below.

<https://wildlife.rangerchallenge.org/campaigns/tsavo-trust-team-2024>

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organizations: Kenya Wildlife Service; Wildlife Research & Training Institute, Government of Makueni County; US Fish & Wildlife Service; USAID / DOI; Wildlife Conservation Networks: Rhino Recovery Fund, Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; International Elephant Foundation (IEF); Maliasili; Re:wild; WildLandscapes International; Tusk Trust; BAND Foundation; Save The Elephants (STE); Zoological Society of London (ZSL); 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; Conservation Alpha; Lewa Canada; Remembering Wildlife Books; Eagle Foundation 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