



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>

OCTOBER 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image features "Adan," a black rhinoceros in Tsavo West National Park's Intensive Protection Zone. Tsavo Trust is collaborating with the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute supporting rhino notching and transmitter fitting, enhancing monitoring efforts to protect this iconic species. 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	80 (683 for year) Average 137km p/h of low-level flight		10,622 (93,633km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 42 (13 TWNP; 1 TENP) (220hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 4,819 (25,721km for year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (1,830 to date) Monitoring teams: 154 days (1,476 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 15,709km (150,670km to date) Foot patrols: 1,381km (12,993km to date) Monitoring teams: 14,810km (155,569km to date)
 Big Tusker Project	9 Tuskers – 5 Super Tusker bulls (14 sights), 4 emerging bulls (10 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 24 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	4 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	2 elephant tusks (68 for the year to date)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: Nil (Less than 3 weeks old)	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: 2 Red Spitting Cobras (<i>Naja pallida</i>) and 1 Boomslang (<i>Dispholidus typus</i>). Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	24 – 5 bushmeat poaching and 19 for illegal grazing inside a Protected Area. (99 for the year to date)		
Snares/traps recovered	181 by Tembo Teams: 931 snares for the year to date (602 small; 328 medium; 1 large)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	251kg (675kg for the year to date) 1 Eland, 2 Gazelles, 1 L. kudu, 5 Dik-diks and 2 Duikers		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	2 torches, 4 lamping horns, 1 panga, 2 knives, and 1 motorbike.		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 7 (KMC, Ndarako, Voi River, Murondo Ranch, KMC Ranch, Ndara & Mbuyuni)		
Firefighting	6 fire response - (At Tsavo Triangle, Kanga and Mbuyuni)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS team: 1 HEC response. 9 elephants driven from farms east of Mtito town.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	6 active cattle bomas (13,400 cattle; 700 shoats & 29 people)		
Written reports to KWS	81 (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	10th to 15th Oct 2024: Tsavo Trust hosted representatives from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, who visited to witness the conservation projects they support firsthand. 29 to 30 October 2024: Tsavo Trust, TTWCA, and Apalis Nature Limited held a public participation forum for the carbon credit project in Kamungi Conservancy. The forum was attended by 171 conservancy members, including the assistant chief and Village Administrator. 30/10/2024: Tsavo Trust hosted USAID-SEK's communications team at Kamungi Conservancy to document success stories, recognizing impactful projects under the SMAT initiative and Tsavo Trust's collaboration in conservation and community development.
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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)

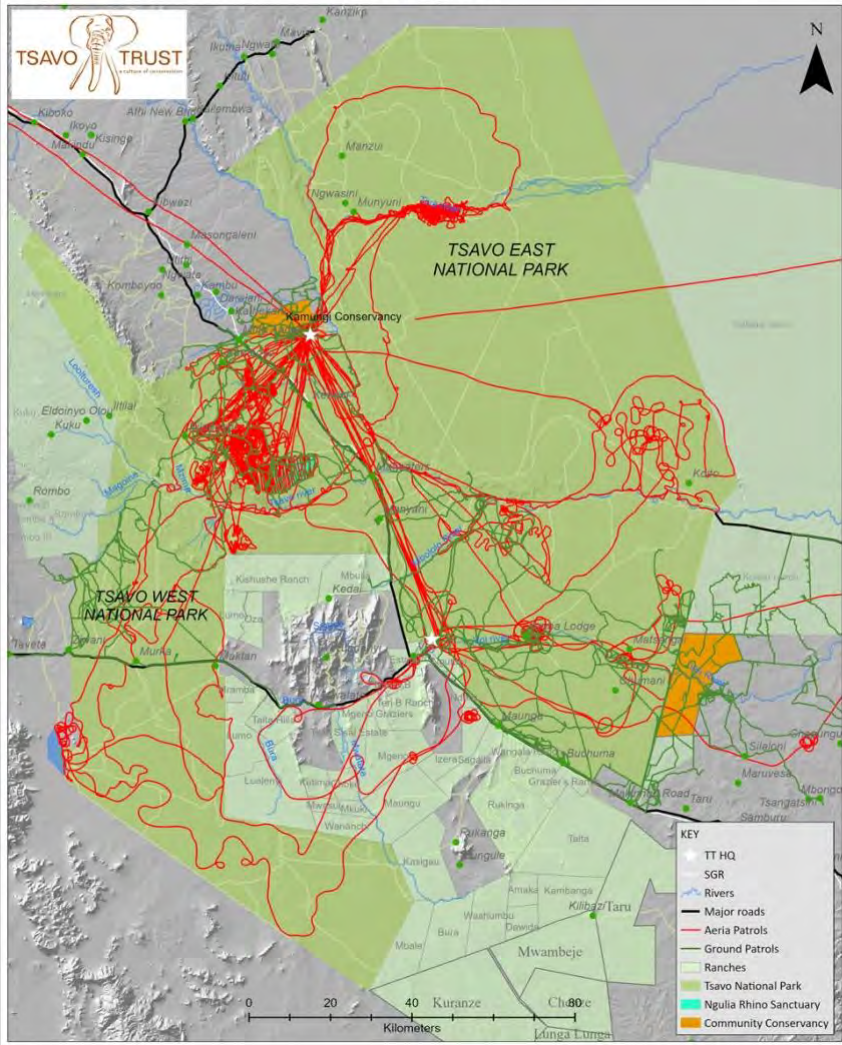




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- Aerial 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
October, 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:** 80 hours flown covering 10,622 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,381 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 30,519 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 groundbreaking ceremony for the Nthunguni Dispensary upgrade, attended by Makueni County Health officials, local leaders, the Kamungi Conservancy Board, Tsavo Trust, and community members. This event highlights a shared commitment to improving healthcare access, with the upgrade funded by the Tsavo Trust



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 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	4 All bushmeat poachers.	-	65 4 small 61 medium	251 1 Eland, 2 Grant's gazelle, 1 l. kudu, 5 Dik-diks & 2 Duiker	1 panga, 6 spotlights, 4 lamping horns, 2 knives & a motorbike	-	1 HEC 9 elephants driven from farm by TT/KWS team	2,370	446
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,497	137
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	2 Both small	-	-	-	-	2,152	146
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	3 All illegal herders	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,409	197
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	16 All illegal herders	-	8 1 small, 2 medium & 5 bird traps	-	-	-	-	3,750	223
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	1 A bushmeat poacher	-	106 84 small 20 medium & 2 bird traps	-	-	-	-	1,531	232
TOTALS	186	24	Nil	181	251	As above	Nil	1	15,709	1,381
Total 2024	1,830	99	35	931	675 Kg	-	2	19	150,670	12,993



The photo above features the Hirola, the world's most critically endangered antelope. Though not native to Tsavo, a population was translocated here as a safeguard, with 11 moved in 1963 and 16 in 1996, to protect the species from threats faced in its indigenous habitat in Garissa.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

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) 	30	-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 – 16 sightings -Hirola – 4 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 2 sightings -Large Carnivores – 19 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 1 sighting -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 very old - 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	3,767
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 – 36 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – 2 broken pieces	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,472
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 – 36 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,977
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 – 8 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 5 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,500
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 – 7 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	3,094
TOTALS	154	As above	As above	As above	14,810
Total 2024	1,476	-	-	-	155,569



The photo above features members of the Aruba lion pride, consisting of over 15 lions. During the peak of the dry season, as most natural water sources dry up, the pride waits for prey near the Aruba artificial waterholes, as observed in October 2024. 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	12 community meetings were held. ➤ 07/10/2024: Groundbreaking ceremony for the Nthunguni dispensary upgrade. ➤ 08/10/2024: Kamungi Conservancy hosted visitors from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo who sought to understand TT community projects. ➤ 16/10/2024: The Tsavo Trust Assistant Community Officer and Digital Literacy Officer visited Kamunyu Primary School as part of the Conservation Education and Awareness Program. ➤ 25/10/2024: Local administrative meeting with the Mtito Andei Senior Chief. ➤ 29/10/2024. Kamungi Conservancy members' monthly meeting held at Ngiluni Meeting area.	2 community meetings were held. ➤ 07/10/2024: Shirango Conservancy Manager attended a Tsavo Livelihood Initiative meeting with 17 conservancies, including Shirango and Kamungi. Updates included plans for five conservancies to start projects in 2024, others in 2025, widespread signing of LOIs, and approvals from Taita Taveta and Kwale Counties, with efforts to secure the same from Makueni and Kilifi Counties. ➤ 28/10/2024: The Shirango conservancy manager, Shirango Youth Empowerment Group, and Lafakar Women Groups prepared a dam liner site to support tree nurseries and vegetable farming, boosting livelihoods and sustainability.
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	207,800 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (777,476 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	484 patients attended to in August. 1,203 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	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)	18 cases recorded: 9 Leopard; 5 Hyena; 1 Lion; 1 Baboon and 2 Snake related.	13 cases recorded: 8 Elephant; 1 Hyena and 4 Snake 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:



October 2024: The photo above depicts bushmeat and a motorcycle recovered during an anti-poaching patrol by a joint KWS/Tsavo Trust team. The bushmeat included 1 eland, 1 lesser kudu, 2 Grant's gazelles, 2 duikers, and 5 dik-diks. Unlike subsistence poachers who typically use bicycles, the offenders used a motorcycle to transport their haul to market. Three men were arrested in connection with this incident. Photo Credit: TT.

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; Bush and Beyond; Ker & Downey Safaris; Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; ARES; Ndovu Trust (UK); Tropical Ice Ltd; Askari Project–Australia; Exodus Travel; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Empowers Africa; Off Piste Africa; Buffalo Chase Foundation Inc.; Conservation Alpha; Lewa Canada; Remembering Wildlife Books; Eagle Foundation 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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