



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>

DECEMBER 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above captures a black rhino strutting in the expansive Tsavo East National Park. Tsavo is home to 20% of Kenya's black rhino population, and Tsavo Trust energetically supports conservation efforts by Kenya Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute through both aerial and ground operations as well as significant fundraising activities to support rhino conservation. This photo was taken during a rhino monitoring and security patrol on 03/12/2024. 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	33 (871 for year) Average 131km p/h of low-level flight		4,552 (114,373km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 16 (3 TWNP; 3 TENP) (363hrs for the year)		Aerial: 2,041 (42,483km for the year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (2,196 for year) Monitoring teams: 135 days (1,761 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 13,786km (178,869km for year) Foot patrols: 1,497km (15,797km for year) Monitoring teams: 12,837km (184,248km for year)
 Big Tusker Project	4 Tuskers – Nil Super Tusker bulls (Nil sight), 3 emerging bulls (4 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 5 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	10 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	2 elephant tusks (74 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: natural)	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 Puff Adders (<i>Bitis arietans</i>). Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – 1		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	13 – 9 for illegal grazing; 3 for illegal logging & 1 for fence vandalism. (119 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	35 by Tembo Teams: 1,020 snares for the year (649 small; 370 medium; 1 large)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	Nil (697kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	2 bicycles, 2 cooking pots & 1 jerrycan		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 14 (Murondo, Mbuyuni, Muhoho, Kulalu, LMD, Maungu, Misuuni, Ngiiitu and Shirango)		
Firefighting	Nil fire responses - (No fire incidents reported)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 2 x 1 elephant driven from a farm east of Mtito town.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	Nil active cattle bomas (2,020 cattle; Nil shoats & 9 people)		
Written reports to KWS	71 (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	288mm. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 542mm		

Significant notes	03/12/2024: Tsavo Trust visited Lukenya University following an invitation to attend the official handover ceremony of 2,500 tree seedlings donated by the university. 05/12/2024: Tsavo Trust represented in a stakeholders workshop for Darwin's Project, "Equitable Responses to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya," focused on selecting target villages based on November 2024 interviews, following stakeholder requests for geographic scope clarification during the July 2024 launch. 09/12/2024: Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy board members scholarship held an appraisal and mentorship meeting with 12 student beneficiaries and their guardians, focusing on performance and needs for the 2025 academic year. 11/12/2024: All staff meeting and end-of-year get-together held at the Tsavo Trust Headquarters in Mtito Andei.
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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)

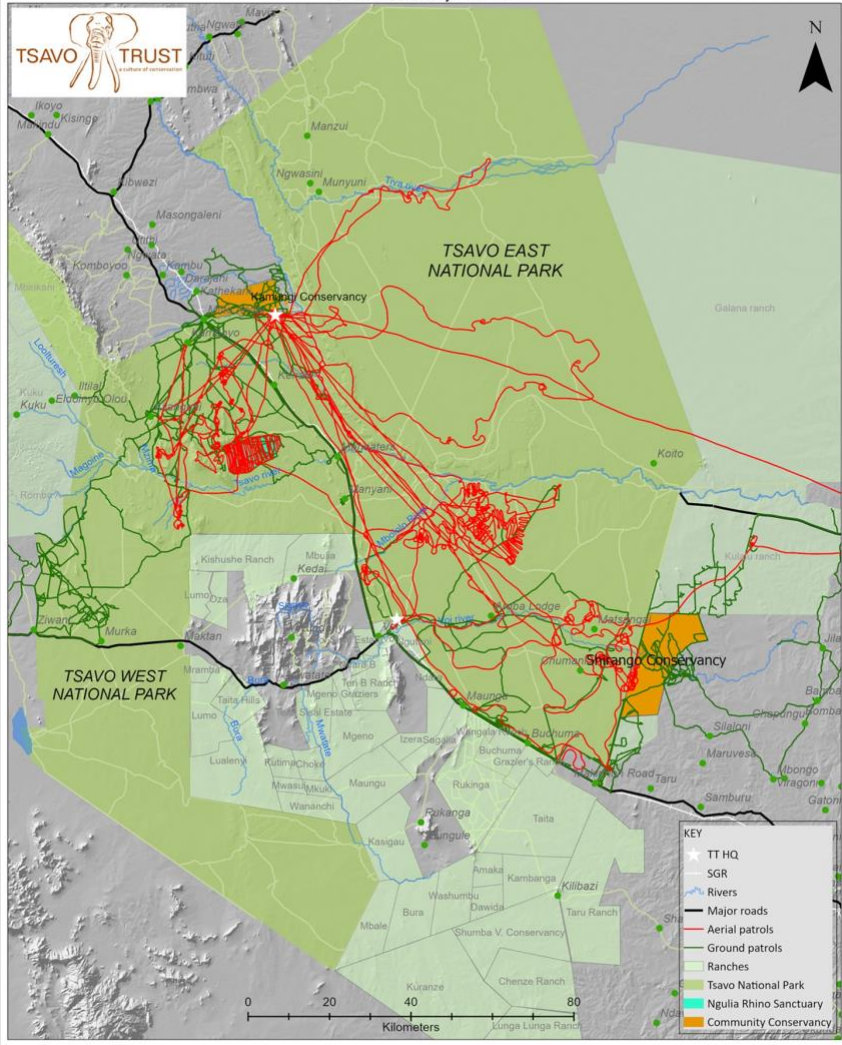




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- 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
December, 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:** 33 hours flown covering 4,552 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,497 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 26,623 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: Tsavo Trust, in collaboration with the Kamungi Conservancy board, conducted an appraisal and mentorship session with 12 scholarship recipients and their guardians. The meeting centered on evaluating the students' performance and addressing their needs for the 2025 academic year.



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	-	-	6 All medium game snares	-	2 bicycles, 2 cooking pots & 1 jerrycan	1 Active	-	2,900	586
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	3 1 illegal herder & 1 illegal entry	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,180	138
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,964	210
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	26 9 small & 17 Medium game snares	-	-	-	-	2,197	145
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	10 9 illegal herders & 1 fence vandalism	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,145	189
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	-	-	3 1 small 2 medium game snares	-	-	-	2 HEC 1 elephant driven out farm.	1,400	229
TOTALS	186	13	-	35	-	As above	1	2	13,786	1,497
Total 2024	2,196	119	37	1,020	697 Kg	-	3	21	178,869	15,797

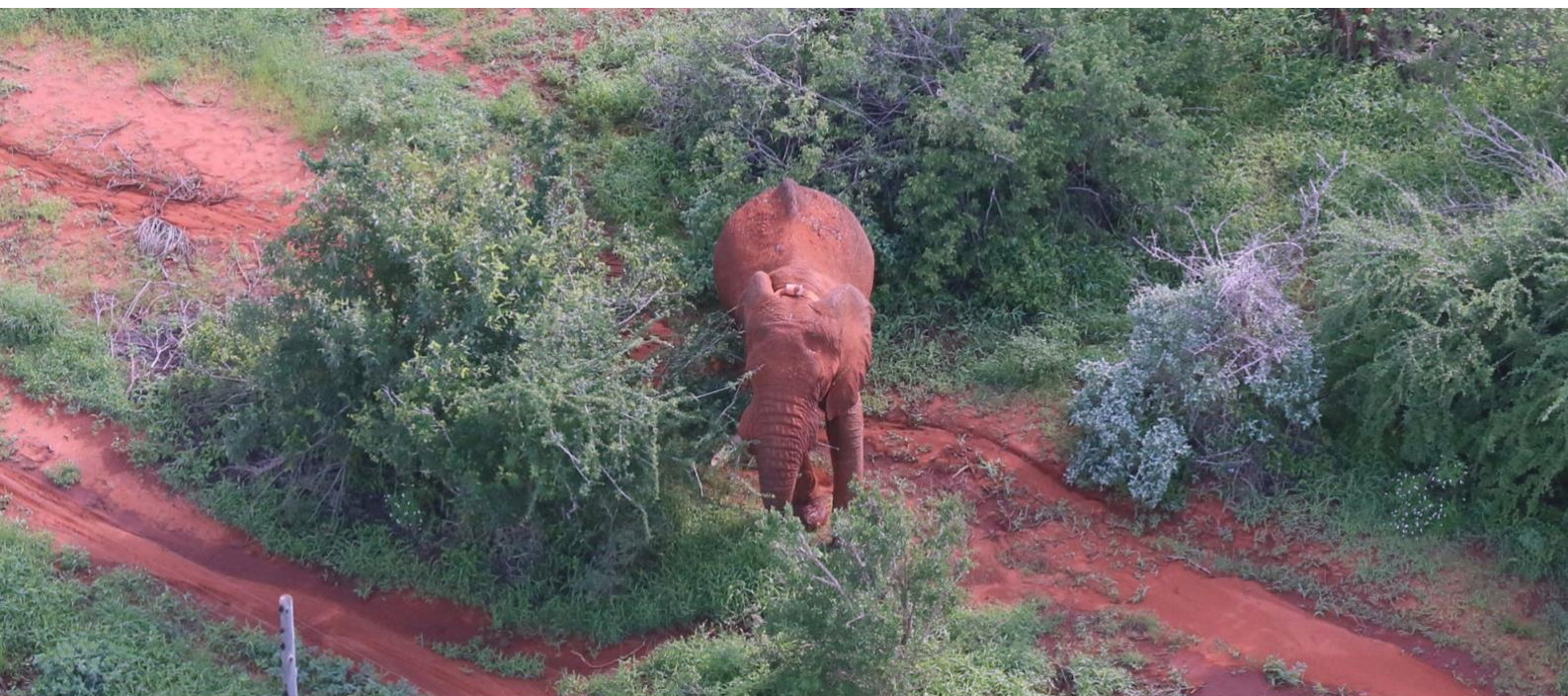


11th December 2024: Tsavo Trust's Field Security and Monitoring Teams gathered to celebrate at the 2024 all-staff meeting and end-of-year party. This event served as an opportunity to reflect on their achievements, recognize their unwavering dedication, and strengthen the bonds of camaraderie among colleagues. This photo shows part of the uniformed staff. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust.

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) 	11	-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 – 1 sighting -Hirola – 3 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Ground Hornbill – 2 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil -Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 1 sighting - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	1,368
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 – 34 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,967
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 – 34 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,661
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 – 10 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,304
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 – 6 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,537
TOTALS	135	As above	As above	As above	12,837
Total 2024	1,761	-	-	-	184,248



The photo above shows collared elephant “Mangelete”. The GPS collars enabling real-time monitoring of elephant movements, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and aiding anti-poaching efforts. They also provide data on habitat use, informing habitat management and policy planning. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust.

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	4 community meetings were held. ➤ 05/12/2024: Represented at the ZSL meeting on the Darwin Project titled “Equitable Responses to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya”. ➤ 09/12/2024: Scholarship appraisal meeting of student beneficiaries attended by their parents and Kamungi Conservancy board. ➤ 10/12/2024: Meeting and distribution of tree seedlings donated by Lukenya University. ➤ 18/12/2024: The Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer and the Kamungi Conservancy board met with selected farmers from the Nthunguni cluster. The primary purpose of the meeting was to distribute sacks for planting vegetables in kitchen gardens.	N0 community meetings held.
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	5,440 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (889,596 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	232 patients attended to in August. 1,604 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
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)	27 cases recorded: 8 Leopard; 9 Hyena; 1 Lion; 1 Elephant; 3 Zebra; 1 Mongoose & 3 Snake related.	6 cases recorded: All cases were 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:



A mango tree in one of Shirango Conservancy's 10% fence plan beneficiary farm full of fruit. Previously, elephant raids had prevented such high yields. Since the 10% fence plan was introduced by Tsavo Trust, human-wildlife conflict has significantly decreased on beneficiary farms. This farmer earned KES 6,000 from selling mangoes, marking a notable improvement. Photo Credi: Tsavo Trust: Simeon Mwadilo.

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; Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; Milkywire; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Bush & Beyond; Africa Born; Ker & Downey Safaris; ARES; The Drang Gallery; Ndovu Trust (UK); 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 friends & enthusiasts.

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

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