



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

Recent: Tsavo Trust's Panorama publications: <https://panorama.solutions/en/solution/beyond-boundaries-kamungi-conservancys-wildlife-friendly-10-fence-plan-approach> and <https://panorama.solutions/en/solution/protecting-elephants-anti-poaching-efforts-tsavo-conservation-area>

Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGgM6-gqZOE&t=270s>

JANUARY 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above captures an Emerging Tusker coded as IZ1. Emerging Tuskers are bull elephants showing the potential to develop exceptionally large tusks, similar to the iconic "Super Tuskers." They have tusks that are already noticeably large but have not yet reached the massive size seen in fully mature Tuskers. Together with KWS and WRTI, Tsavo Trust closely monitor them, as they are crucial for maintaining the genetic lineage of Africa's last remaining giants: Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities			
Activity	Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered
 Aerial Unit	62 (62 for year) Average 131km p/h of low-level flight		8,099 (8,099km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 25 (5 TWP; 1 TENP) (25hrs for the year)		Aerial: 2,846 (2,846km for the year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (186 for year) Monitoring teams: 150 days (150 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 12,720km (12,720km for year) Foot patrols: 1,398km (1,398km for year) Monitoring teams: 15,925km (184,248km for year)
 Big Tusker Project	10 Tuskers – 3 Super Tusker bulls (6 sights), 7 emerging bulls (14 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sights): 20 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	13 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	6 elephant tusks (6 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 2 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: both natural)	Recent: 1 (Less than 3 months old) (c of d: natural)	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: 1 Black Mamba (<i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i>) 1 Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>) and 1 Boomslang (<i>Dispholidus typus</i>) Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	1 – For illegal grazing (1 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	48 by Tembo Teams: 48 snares for the year (43 small; 2 medium; 2 large; 1 bird trap)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	Nil (0kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	3 lamping horns, 2 panga, 1 knife & 1 spotlight		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 16 (Kanjaocha, Mangelete, Mbuyuni, KMC Ranch, Maungu, Ngiitu and Shirango)		
Firefighting	Nil fire responses - (No fire incidents reported)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: Nil . No HEC incidents reported.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	9 active cattle bomas (3,875 cattle; 450 shoats & 3 people)		
Written reports to KWS	68 (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	24mm . Total rainfall to date for 2025: 24mm		

Significant notes	25/01/2025: The Tsavo Trust aerial unit discovered an elephant carcass just south of Kanderi. This magnificent bull had died of natural causes, leaving behind impressive tusks weighing 39.1 kg (L) and 41.3 kg (R). With such remarkable ivory, he was undoubtedly an Emerging Tusker. 28/01/2025: Tsavo Trust's CEO and Chief Community Officer attended a stakeholders' meeting at the Wote County Headquarters – Governor's Office to discuss land tenure issues in Ngai Ndethya National Reserve. 31/01/2025: Tsavo Trust joined ARES NGO, Safaricom/M-Pesa Foundation, and OI Pejeta Conservancy to discuss partnering with Safaricom/M-Pesa Foundation to support ARES' digital literacy programs in the Tsavo Conservation Area and Laikipia.
--------------------------	--

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

 Kamungi Conservancy ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWP 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)

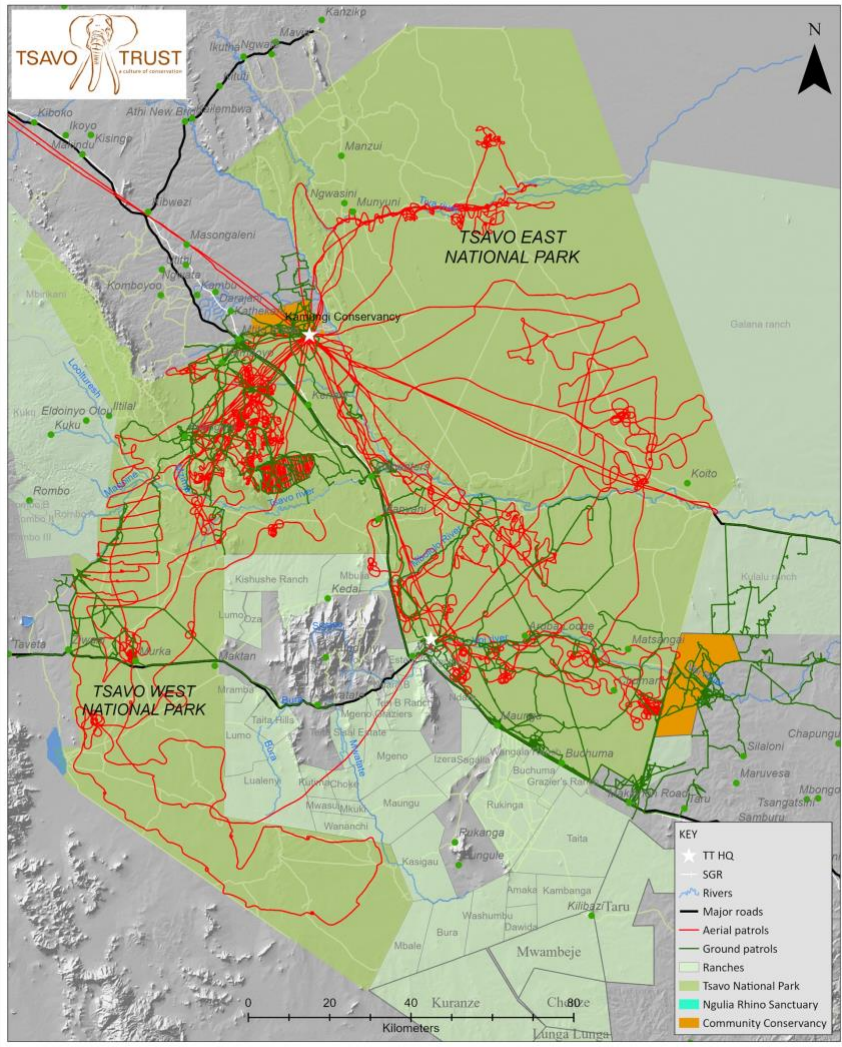




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- 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 JANUARY, 2025



*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:** 62 hours flown covering 8,099 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,398 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 28,645 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 students at Misuuni Secondary School, guided by their Computer Studies teacher, exploring digital learning resources in their newly installed ICT hub. Tsavo Trust, in partnership with ARES, Eagle Foundation, and Haller Foundation, has set up similar ICT hubs in seven secondary schools across the Kamungi Conservancy. Photo Credit – 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	-	-	-	-	2 sirens, 2 spotlights, 1 panga & poaching clothes	-	-	1,961	551
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,533	103
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,894	236
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	3 1 medium 2 large	-	-	-	-	2,096	115
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 Illegal herder	2	-	-	1 lamping horn, 1 spotlight, 1 panga, 1 knife, 1 file	-	-	3,701	204
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	-	-	45 43 small 1 medium 1 bird trap	-	-	-	-	1,535	189
TOTALS	186	1	2	48	Nil	As above	Nil	Nil	12,720	1,398
Total 2025	186	1	2	48	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	12,720	1,398



The photo above features Goshi, a GPS-collared elephant. KWS, WRTI, STE, Tsavo Trust, and Wildlife Works collaborate to monitor collared elephants in Tsavo. Satellite-linked collars play a vital role in identifying migratory corridors, reducing human-elephant conflict, and enhancing elephant security. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust: Joseph Kyalo.

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 – Nil -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 13 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 2 sightings -Road & Rail kills – 2 -Elephant carcasses – Nil -Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 3 sightings - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	4,176
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 – 37 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,935
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 – 37 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 fresh - Ivory recovered. – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,929
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 – 6 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,315
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 – 13 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,570
TOTALS	150	As above	As above	As above	15,925
Total 2025	150	-	-	-	15,925



The photo above was taken during the ongoing Lion Survey in the Southern Sector of Tsavo East National Park. Since 2023, Tsavo Trust and WRTI have conducted similar surveys with funding and technical support from the WCN - Lion Recovery Fund. 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	4 community meetings were held. ➤ 16/01/2025: Community outreach meeting on the ZSL's Darwin Project titled "Equitable Responses to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya". ➤ 25/01/2025: Kamungi monthly meeting for the Ngiluni cluster held at Ngiluni water tank. ➤ 27/01/2025: TT with ARES NGO installed ICT Hub and handed over ARES digital Literacy kit at Mitsuuni Secondary School. ➤ 31/01/2025: The Kamungi Conservancy monthly meeting for the Nthunguni Cluster was held at the Nthunguni Assistant Chief's office. A total of 75 participants (41 females and 34 males) attended the meeting.	2 community meetings held. ➤ 13/01/2025 The Shirango Conservancy manager attended a meeting on the signing of an MOU between the County Government of Taita Taveta and TTWCA which marked a formal framework of collaboration to advance sustainable development and community empowerment in the County by strengthening conservancies, community lands, and ranches in the County. ➤ 27/01/2025. Public participation exercise to collect views and comments on fencing of Shirango Earth dam from Gede sub-location specifically in Shirango, Mnazi moja, and Ndarako.
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	30,560 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (30,560 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	98 patients attended to in January. 98 patients attended for the year to date.	There is a need to support this project, currently no funding available.
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 10 years. Ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate). Started: April 2022 12 needy students selected being supported.	None at present
Bursary Scheme		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)	17 cases recorded: 8 Buffalo; 4 Lion; 2 Zebra; 1 Leopard; 1 Hyena & 1 Mongoose.	5 cases recorded: 1 Elephant; 1 lion & 3 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:



A massive flock of red-billed Quelea birds takes to the sky near Aruba in Tsavo East National Park. These small but highly social birds create spectacular aerial displays, flying in tight, synchronized formations as they search for food and water. Their mesmerizing movements serve as a survival strategy, confusing predators while showcasing nature's extraordinary precision in motion. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

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); The Glassybaby Foundation; EU-Biopama Programme; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; Milkywire; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); Suzuki Rhino Club; 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; Nick Powell; James Robertson; The Davies Family; Mike Kirkland; Anita Mishra & Paolo Mapelli; James Lewin; Paul & James Wilson; James Chiappa; Marie de Brouwer; David Calderone; Kim Makenzi; Paolo Pazzi; Sam Stogdale; Howard Saunders; Sandor Carter; Andreas Fox; Anthony Kaschula; John Carr and numerous other dedicated friends & enthusiasts.

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

All photographs ©Tsavo Trust 2025