



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>




FEBRUARY 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above showcases a herd of Hirola, a critically endangered antelope species with fewer than 500 individuals remaining worldwide. This photograph was taken during a population survey conducted in collaboration with the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI). Recognizing the ecological value and concern of this species, Tsavo Trust funded the census and provided aerial support through our long standing partnership with Re:wild—spotting Hirola herds from the air and relaying their coordinates to ground teams for verification and data collection.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered
 Aerial Unit	157 (219 for year) Average 132km p/h of low-level flight		20,828 (28,927km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 7 (3 TWNP; Nil TENP) (32hrs for the year)		Aerial: 797 (3,643km for the year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 145 days (331 for year) Monitoring teams: 138 days (288 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 11,541km (24,261km for year) Foot patrols: 1,102km (2,500km for year) Monitoring teams: 15,042km (30,967km for year)
 Big Tusker Project	9 Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (2 sights), 7 emerging bulls (8 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 11 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	5 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	6 elephant tusks (12 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 2 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural; 1 illegally killed)	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 Puff adders (<i>Bitis arietans</i>), 1 Red spitting cobra (<i>Naja pallida</i>), and 1 Ashe's spitting cobra (<i>Naja ashei</i>). Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	15 – 2 bushmeat poaching; 1 illegal fishing; 3 illegal grazing and 9 for illegal entry (16 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	4 by Tembo Teams: 52 snares for the year (46 small; 3 medium; 2 large; 1 bird trap)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	42kg: 2 Grant's gazelles. (42kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	3 lamping horns, 1 motorbike, 2 slashers, 1 spotlight, 1 panga, and 1 knife		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 13 (Salaita, Muhoho farm, Keya dam, Alpha 3, LMD and Mukwaju)		
Firefighting	Nil fire responses - (No fire incidents reported)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 1. Three elephants chased from farms east of Mtito Andei town		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	2 active cattle bomas (2,620 cattle; 240 shoats & 6 people)		
Written reports to KWS	73 (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 2025: 24mm		

Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th to 9th Feb 2025: The Tsavo Trust, in partnership with WRTI, conducted a census of the Hirola population in Tsavo East National Park. Aerial surveys were used to locate Hirola herds, and their coordinates were shared with two ground teams for verification and additional data collection. 20/02/2025: Tsavo Trust joined ZSL in celebrating Community Conservation Day with Kamungi Conservancy members in Ngiluni. 17th to 23rd Feb 2025: Tsavo Trust collaborated with WRTI and other conservation partners to conduct the 2025 Tsavo Aerial Census, contributing four aircraft - two from its own fleet and two sourced from its partners.
--------------------------	--

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)

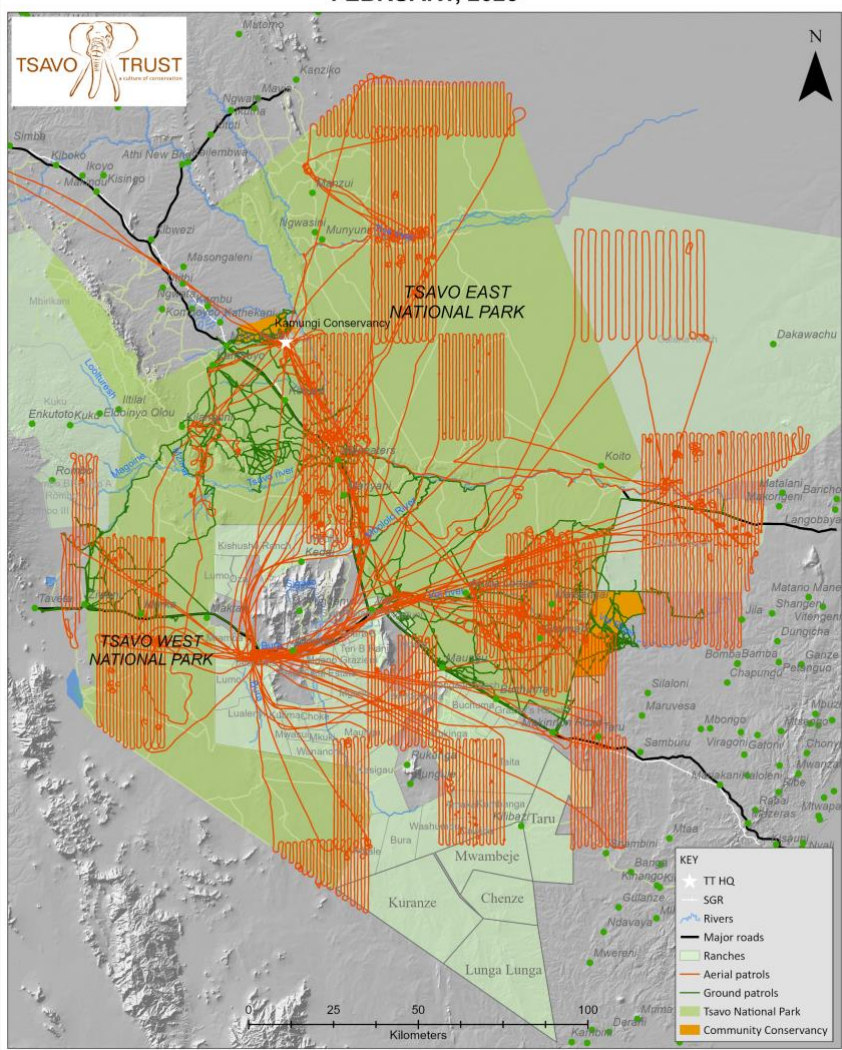




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- 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
FEBRUARY, 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:** 157 hours flown covering 20,828 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,102 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 26,583 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.*

On 20th February 2025, Tsavo Trust, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and community members celebrated the Community Conservation Day held at Ngiluni Comprehensive School. The photo below captures Tsavo Trust's Digital Literacy Officer addressing participants during the event. 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)	28	2 bushmeat poachers	-	-	40 kg (2 Grant's gazelles)	3 lamping horns, 1 spotlight, 2 slashers, 1 panga, 1 knife & 1 motorbike	-	-	1,723	474
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	28	9 3 illegal herders & 6 for illegal entry.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,727	122
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,632	168
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	313	24
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	4 3 for illegal entry & 1 for illegal fishing	-	-	2 Kg (4 tilapia)	2 fishing rods & 1 knife	-	-	3,985	192
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	28	-	-	4 3 small 1 medium	-	-	-	1 HEC 3 elephants driven out of farm	1,161	122
TOTALS	145	15	-	4	42	As above	Nil	1	11,541	1,102
Total 2025	331	16	2	52	42	-	Nil	1	24,261	2,500



The photo features 3 Kamungi Conservancy Scouts and 1 KWS Ranger after an evening patrol. Tsavo Trust operates seven joint KWS/TT teams to support Kenya Wildlife Service in combating illegal wildlife trade within the Tsavo Conservation Area. This collaboration has contributed to a significant decline in trophy poaching across the Tsavo ecosystem. Photo Credit: Donal Boyd.

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 – 5 sightings -Hirola – 12 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 31 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 3 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 fresh - Ivory recovered. – 2 - Collared elephants – 1 sighting - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	4,630
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 32 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,667
Tembo 6 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 32 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,166
Tembo 8 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-NRS Rhinos – 15 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,349
Tembo 10 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	- NRS Rhinos – 9 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,230
TOTALS	138	As above	As above	As above	15,042
Total 2025	288	-	-	-	30,967

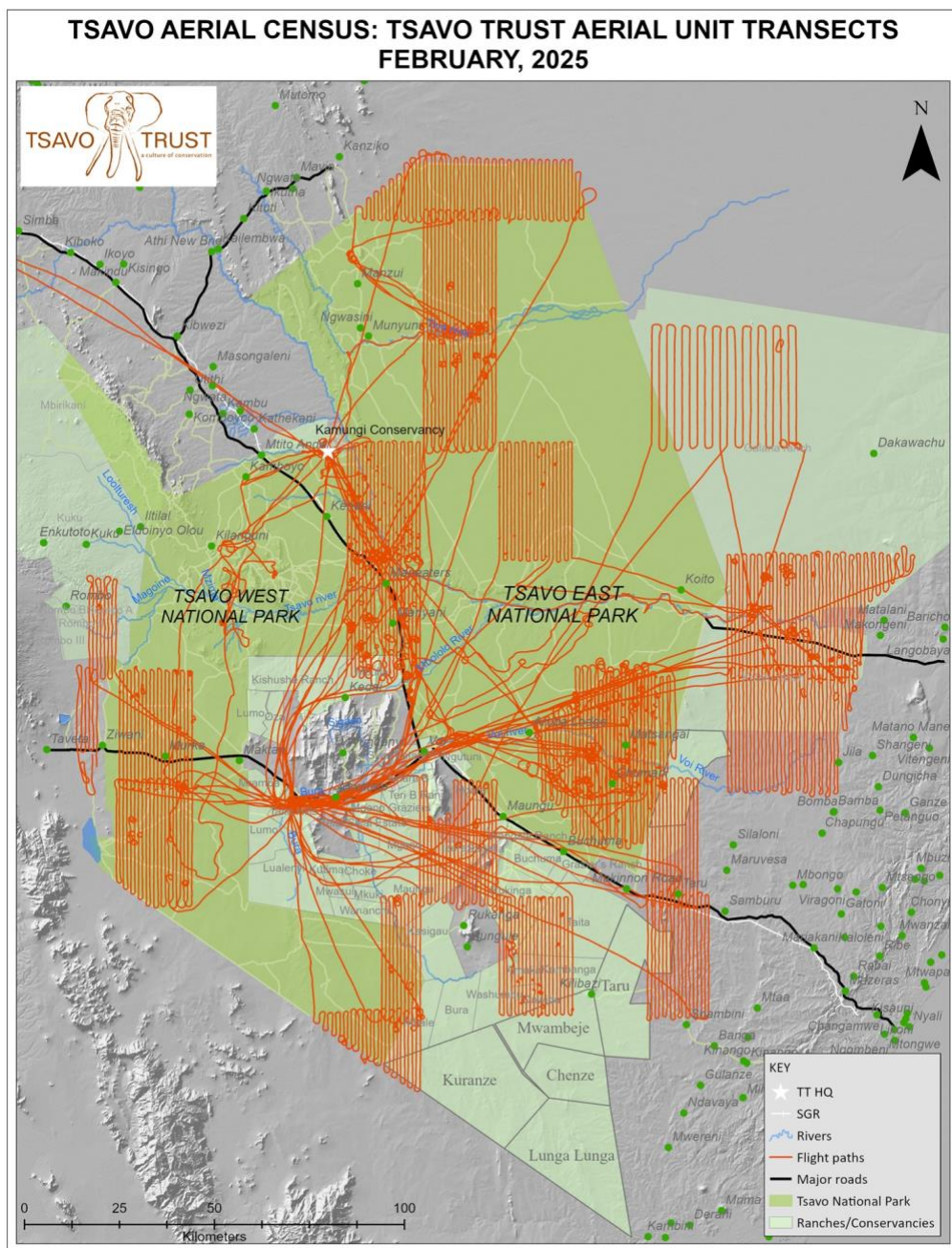


The photo above captures a herd of Grevy's zebra during a monitoring patrol at KMC Ranch, which borders Tsavo East National Park. An estimated 40 Grevy's zebras inhabit this area, with their home range extending between Tsavo East National Park and the Rukinga and Taita Ranches.

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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 03/02/2025: Participated in the local administration meeting with the area's senior chief. ➤ 07/02/2025: Conservation education and awareness meeting at Nthunguni and Mavindini Primary School. ➤ 18/02/2025: Meeting with Makueni County government regarding the de-gazettement of Ngai Ndethya National Reserve. ➤ 20/02/2025: Community Conservation Day celebrations at the Ngiluni comprehensive school. ➤ 26/02/2025: Training of 46 teachers from Misuuni and Lukenya Schools on the access and use of ARES digital content. 	No 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	65,150 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (95,710 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	138 patients attended to in January. 236 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).	None at present
Bursary Scheme	Started: April 2022 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)	20 cases recorded: 8 Elephant; 2 Buffalo; 1 Lion; 6 Hyena; 1 Mongoose and 2 snake-related.	Nil. No HWC incidents reported.
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:



This map displays the transects flown by Tsavo Trust pilots during the 2025 Tsavo Aerial Census carried out between 17th and 23rd February. The entire ecosystem is divided into 600 km² blocks using GIS, with transects strategically drawn to ensure comprehensive coverage. During the census, Tsavo Trust aircraft logged a total of 114 flight hours, covering 15,162 kilometers over the TCA

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 Parazzi; 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