

**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](http://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 Kyaloo.*

## SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: *Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities*

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered	
 <b>Aerial Unit</b>	<b>157</b> (219 for year) Average 132km p/h of low-level flight	<b>20,828</b> (28,927km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
 <b>Rhino Aerial Patrols</b>	<b>Aerial Patrols: 7</b> (3 TWNP; Nil TENP) (32hrs for the year)	<b>Aerial: 797</b> (3,643km for the year)	
	<b>Field Patrol Days</b>		<b>Kilometers Covered</b>
<b>Ground Protection Activities</b> (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	<b>Protection teams: 145 days</b> (331 for year) <b>Monitoring teams: 138 days</b> (288 for year)	<b>Vehicle patrols: 11,541km</b> (24,261km for year) <b>Foot patrols: 1,102km</b> (2,500km for year) <b>Monitoring teams: 15,042km</b> (30,967km for year)	
 <b>Big Tusker Project</b>	<b>9</b> Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (2 sights), 7 emerging bulls (8 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): <b>11 individual observations</b>		
<b>Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program</b>	<b>5 sightings:</b> record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
<b>Ivory recovered</b>	<b>6</b> elephant tusks ( <b>12</b> for the year)		
<b>Elephant mortality</b>	<b>Fresh: 2</b> (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural; 1 illegally killed)	<b>Recent: Nil</b> (Less than 3 months old)	<b>Old: 1</b> (More than 3 months old) (c of d: unknown)
<b>High Value Species Monitoring</b>	Ongoing partner with WRTI / KWS TCA Research: Monitoring black rhino, Hirola, Grevy's zebra, large carnivores, Roadkill Surveys, Southern Ground Hornbill etc		
<b>Wildlife - Treatment &amp; Translocation</b>	<b>Venomous snakes re-located from communities:</b> 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> ). <b>Others:</b> Nil		
<b>Poacher camps/hides</b>	<b>Fresh – Nil</b>		
<b>Arrests – joint KWS/TT</b>	<b>15</b> – 2 bushmeat poaching; 1 illegal fishing; 3 illegal grazing and 9 for illegal entry <b>(16 for the year)</b>		
<b>Snares/traps recovered</b>	<b>4</b> by Tembo Teams: <b>52</b> snares for the year (46 small; 3 medium; 2 large; 1 bird trap)		
<b>Bushmeat recoveries (wet &amp; dried)</b>	<b>42kg:</b> 2 Grant's gazelles. (42kg for the year)		
<b>Poachers Equip. Recvd.</b>	3 lamping horns, 1 motorbike, 2 slashers, 1 spotlight, 1 panga, and 1 knife		
<b>Night Ambushes</b>	Joint KWS / TT: <b>13</b> (Salaita, Muoho farm, Keya dam, Alpha 3, LMD and Mukwaju)		
<b>Firefighting</b>	<b>Nil</b> fire responses - (No fire incidents reported)		
<b>Human Elephant Conflict</b>	Joint TT-KWS teams: <b>1.</b> Three elephants chased from farms east of Mtito Andei town		
<b>Illegal Livestock (only in PA)</b>	<b>2</b> active cattle bomas (2,620 cattle; 240 shoats & 6 people)		
<b>Written reports to KWS</b>	<b>73</b> (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)		
<b>TT Staff Training activities</b>	<b>2</b> TT Officers Masters training; <b>3</b> KWS Officer Masters training; <b>1</b> TT Officer Bachelors		
<b>TT HQ Rainfall figures</b>	<b>Nil.</b> Total rainfall to date for 2025: <b>24mm</b>		
<b>Significant notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 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.</li> <li>20/02/2025: Tsavo Trust joined ZSL in celebrating Community Conservation Day with Kamungi Conservancy members in Ngiluni.</li> <li>17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.</li> </ul>		

### COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:



#### **Kamungi Conservancy**

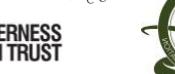
- Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle
- TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014



#### **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)

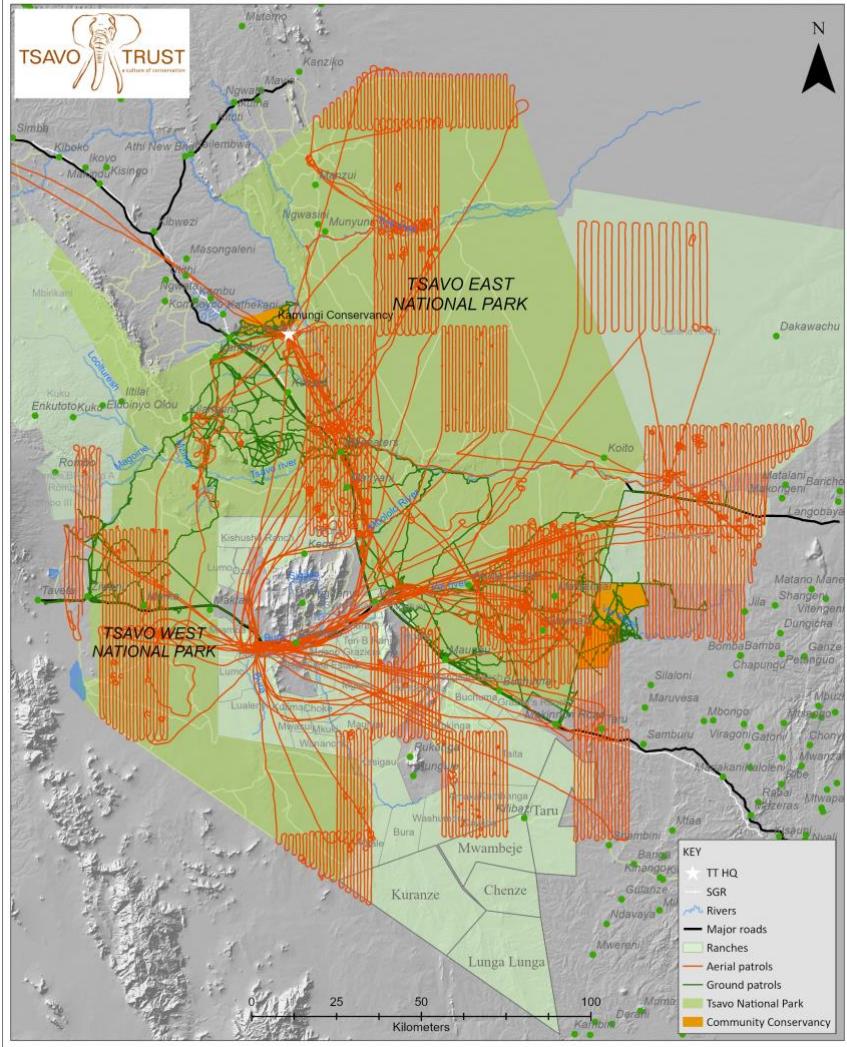
 <b>KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE</b>	 <b>WILDLIFE RESEARCH &amp; TRAINING INSTITUTE</b> Discover Beyond	 <b>IUCN</b> Member	 <b>Maliasili</b> INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR NATURE	 <b>Kamungi Conservancy</b>	 <b>SHIRANGO COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY</b>	 <b>WILD LANDSCAPES INTERNATIONAL</b>
 <b>SAND DAMS WORLDWIDE</b>	 <b>Africa Sand Dam Foundation</b> Restore Rebuild Regreen	 <b>SAVE THE ELEPHANTS</b>	 <b>MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST</b>	 <b>WILDLIFE ROYALTY FUND</b>	 <b>ZSL</b> 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  
FEBRUARY, 2025



## 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
<b>Tembo 1 (TENP) &amp; Shirango Scouts</b> (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	28	<b>2</b> bushmeat poachers	-	-	<b>40 kg</b> (2 Grant's gazelles)	3 camping horns, 1 spotlight, 2 slashers, 1 panga, 1 knife & 1 motorbike	-	-	1,723	474
<b>Tembo 3 (TWNP)</b> (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	28	<b>9</b> 3 illegal herders & 6 for illegal entry.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,727	122
<b>Tembo 5 (TWNP)</b> 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,632	168
<b>Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP)</b> 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	313	24
<b>Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP)</b> 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	<b>4</b> 3 for illegal entry & 1 for illegal fishing	-	-	<b>2 Kg</b> (4 tilapia)	2 fishing roads & 1 knife	-	-	3,985	192
<b>Kamungi Scouts</b> 4 Scouts	28	-	-	<b>4</b> 3 small 1 medium	-	-	-	<b>1 HEC</b> 3 elephants driven out of farm	1,161	122
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>15</b>	-	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11,541</b>	<b>1,102</b>
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	-	<b>Nil</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24,261</b>	<b>2,500</b>



*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
<b>Tembo 2 (TENP)</b> (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
<b>Tembo 4 (TWNP)</b> (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
<b>Tembo 6 (TWNP)</b> (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
<b>Tembo 8 (TWNP)</b> (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
<b>Tembo 10 (TWNP)</b> (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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>15,042</b>
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,967</b>



*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.*



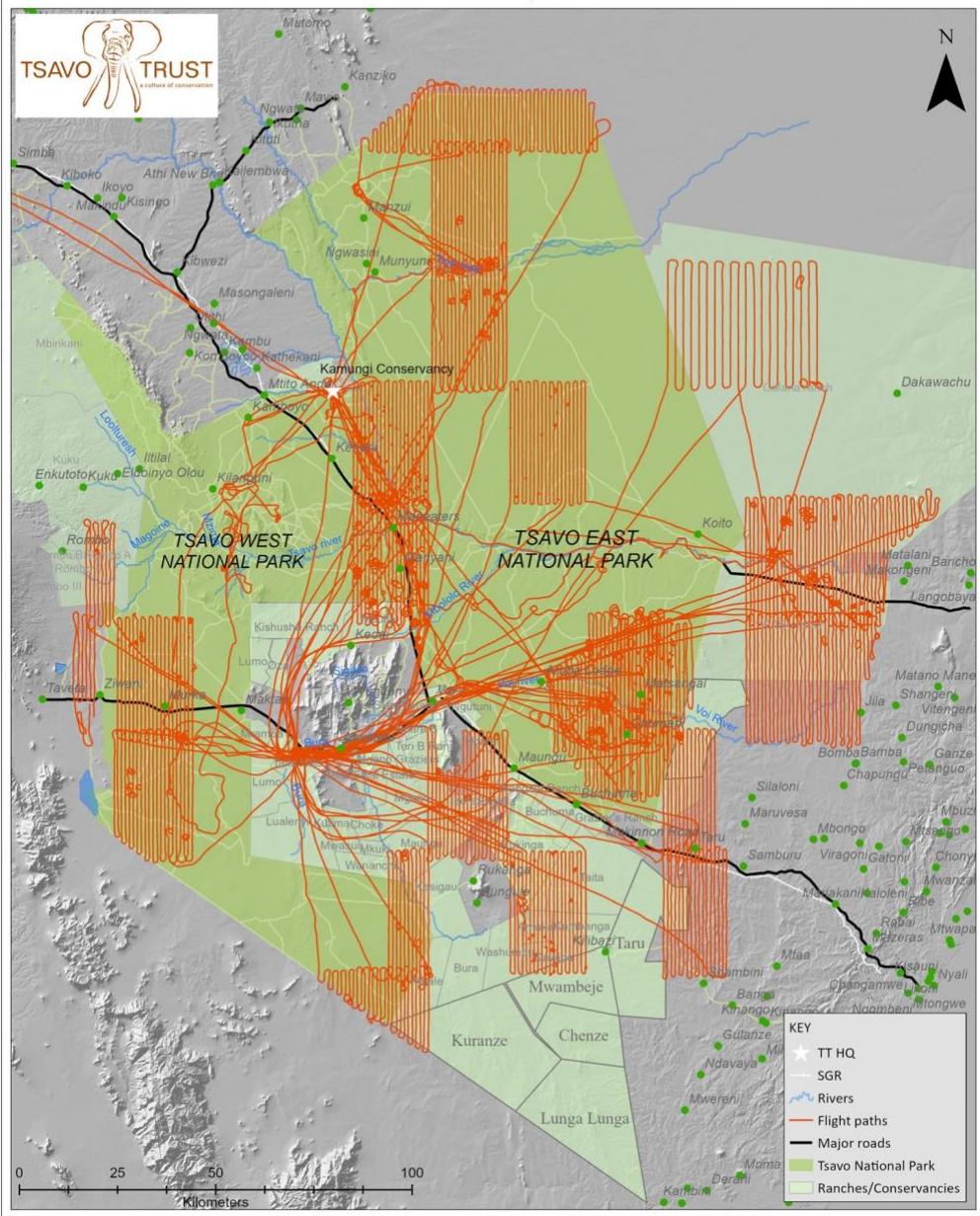
## COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:



ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy	SHIRANGO Community Conservancy
<b>Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust &amp; KC &amp; SCC</b>	North boundary of TWNP – Triangle, since 2014. Total area approx. 100km <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> . Kilifi County; Ganze Sub-County; Bamba Ward; Mitangani location; Gede Sub-location.
<b>Employment (Through Tsavo Trust)</b>	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.
<b>Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings</b>	<p><b>4 community meetings were held.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 03/02/2025: Participated in the local administration meeting with the area's senior chief.</li> <li>➤ 07/02/2025: Conservation education and awareness meeting at Nthunguni and Mavindini Primary School.</li> <li>➤ 18/02/2025: Meeting with Makueni County government regarding the de-gazettement of Ngai Ndethya National Reserve.</li> <li>➤ 20/02/2025: Community Conservation Day celebrations at the Ngiluni comprehensive school.</li> <li>➤ 26/02/2025: Training of 46 teachers from Misuuni and Lukenya Schools on the access and use of ARES digital content.</li> </ul>	<b>No community meetings held.</b>
<b>Membership</b>	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.
<b>Water Project</b>	<b>65,150</b> litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. ( <b>95,710</b> 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.
<b>Basic Health care</b>	<b>138</b> patients attended to in January. <b>236</b> patients attended for the year to date.	There is a need to support this project, currently no funding available.
<b>Constructions</b>	KC additional scouts & office units in progress. Works for the Kamungi bandas completed.	SCC additional scouts & office units to commence soon
<b>Education</b>	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
<b>Bursary Scheme</b>	Started: April 2022 12 needy students selected being supported.	None at present
<b>Village Saving &amp; Loan Associations – VSLA's</b>	5 women-run VSLAs are in progress: In partnership between ZSL / KC & TT	None at present
<b>Poultry Project</b>	3 poultry projects: partnership between ZSL / KC & TT	None at present
<b>Training</b>	VSLA livelihoods, HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture	Climate Smart Agriculture by KALRO.
<b>HWC Mitigation Elephant Bee Fence</b>	7 x 1-acre bee fences, total 105 beehives with 2 currently occupied.	N/A yet
<b>10% Fence Plan</b>	10% fence plan completed Phase 2 completed: <b>Total 16 plots</b> (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: <b>Total 8 plots</b> (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land). 100% effective in keeping elephants and other wildlife from fenced farmlands.
<b>Predator Proof bomas Mtito 32km fence line</b>	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL Completed 30/11/21 with 95% HEC reduction	N/A yet
<b>Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</b>	<b>20 cases</b> recorded: 8 Elephant; 2 Buffalo; 1 Lion; 6 Hyena; 1 Mongoose and 2 snake-related.	<b>Nil.</b> No HWC incidents reported.
<b>Land Tenure</b>	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.
<b>Wildlife Census Transects</b>	1	None
<b>Operations and Security</b>	➤ See the Field Units table above	➤ See the Field Units table above

## Unusual Photo of the Month:

### TSAVO AERIAL CENSUS: TSAVO TRUST AERIAL UNIT TRANSECTS FEBRUARY, 2025



This map displays the transects flown by Tsavo Trust pilots during the 2025 Tsavo Aerial Census carried out between 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The entire ecosystem is divided into 600 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

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