

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>

MARCH 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above showcases the recent addition to Tsavo Trust's Aerial Unit. The low-hour pre-owned Robinson 44 is a cost-effective conservation asset. With its agility, relatively low operational cost, and great aerial visibility, it plays a vital role in wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, and rapid response across the vast and remote landscape that is the Tsavo Conservation Area. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

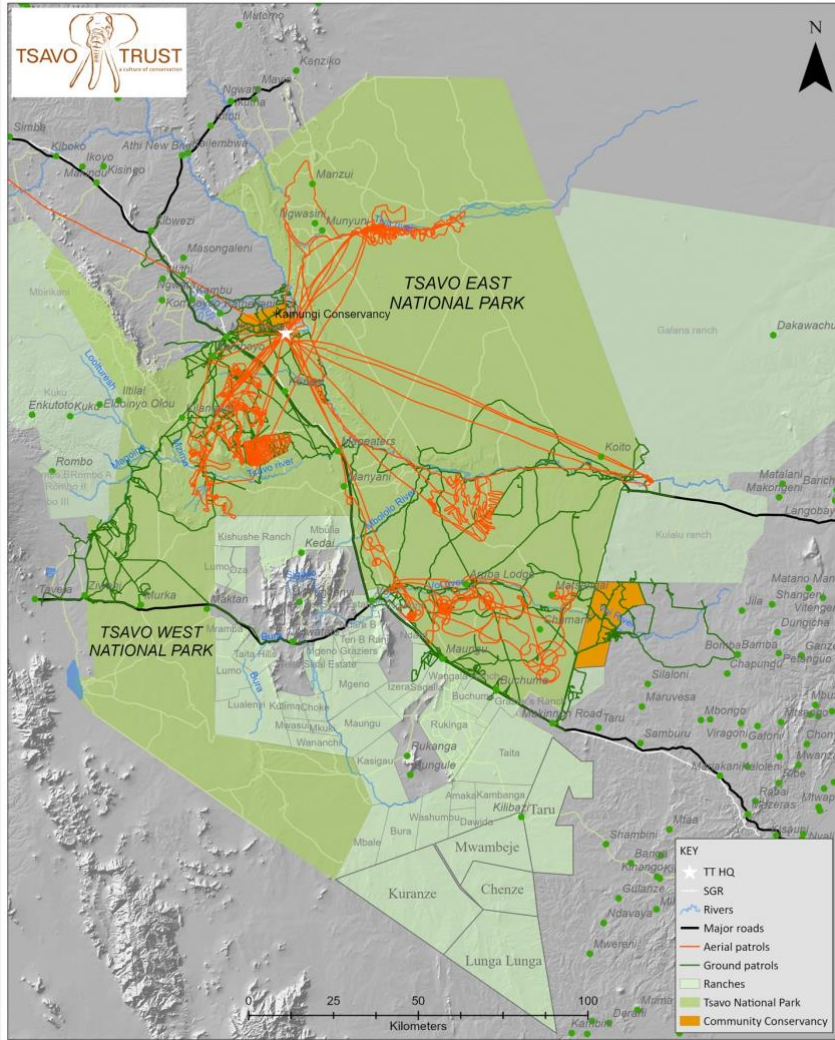
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered	
 Aerial Unit	48 (267 for year) Average 129km p/h of low-level flight	5,500 (34,427km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 12 (5 TWNP; 1 TENP) (44hrs for the year)	Aerial: 1,368 (5,011km for the year)	
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 155 days (486 for year) Monitoring teams: 151 days (439 for year)	Vehicle patrols: 10,133km (34,394km for year) Foot patrols: 1,156km (3,656km for year) Monitoring teams: 13,848km (44,851km for year)	
 Big Tusker Project	10 Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (2 sights), 8 emerging bulls (11 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 14 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	5 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	2 elephant tusks (14 for the year)		
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: Nil Others:. <i>Rufous beaked snake and Speckled grass snake re-located from communities.</i>		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil	Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	7 – 3 bushmeat poaching and 4 for illegal entry (23 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	56 by Tembo Teams: 108 snares for the year (94 small; 8 medium; 3 large; 3 bird trap)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	3kg: 1 Dik-dik. (45kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	1 lamping horn, 1 spotlight and 1 panga.		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 13 (Mbuyuni, Losoito, Kilifi Dam, Maungu, Dabaso, Shirango, Kanga and Voi River)		
Firefighting	2 fire responses - (Responded and put out bushfires at Kanga and near Mtito Andei)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 1. Three elephants chased from farms east of Mtito Andei town		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	5 active cattle bomas (1,720 cattle; 1,050 shoats & 4 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	240. Total rainfall to date for 2025: 264mm		
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd & 3rd /03/2025: Represented in the Tsavo MIKE site 2024 Q3 and Q4 elephant mortality records harmonization meeting held in the Tsavo Conservation Area headquarters. 06/03/2025: Tsavo Trust, in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service and Kamungi Conservancy, hosted the Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Mitigation Quarterly Stakeholders' Workshop at Tsavo West National Park (TWNP) Education Hall. 18/03/2025: Participated in the quarterly stakeholders' meeting for the Darwin Project on Equitable Response to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya. The meeting convened 45 participants, including representatives from the local community, KWS, WRTI, ZSL and Tsavo Trust. 		
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:			
 Kamungi Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014 		 Shirango Community Conservancy
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 MARCH, 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:** 48 hours flown covering 5,500 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,156 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 23,981 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 shows the 27-strong Tundani pack sighted during a wild dog monitoring flight. The wild dog monitoring project is implemented collaboratively with WRTI, KWS and Tsavo Trust, generously supported by Painted Wolf Foundation. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Kyalo Joseph.



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.

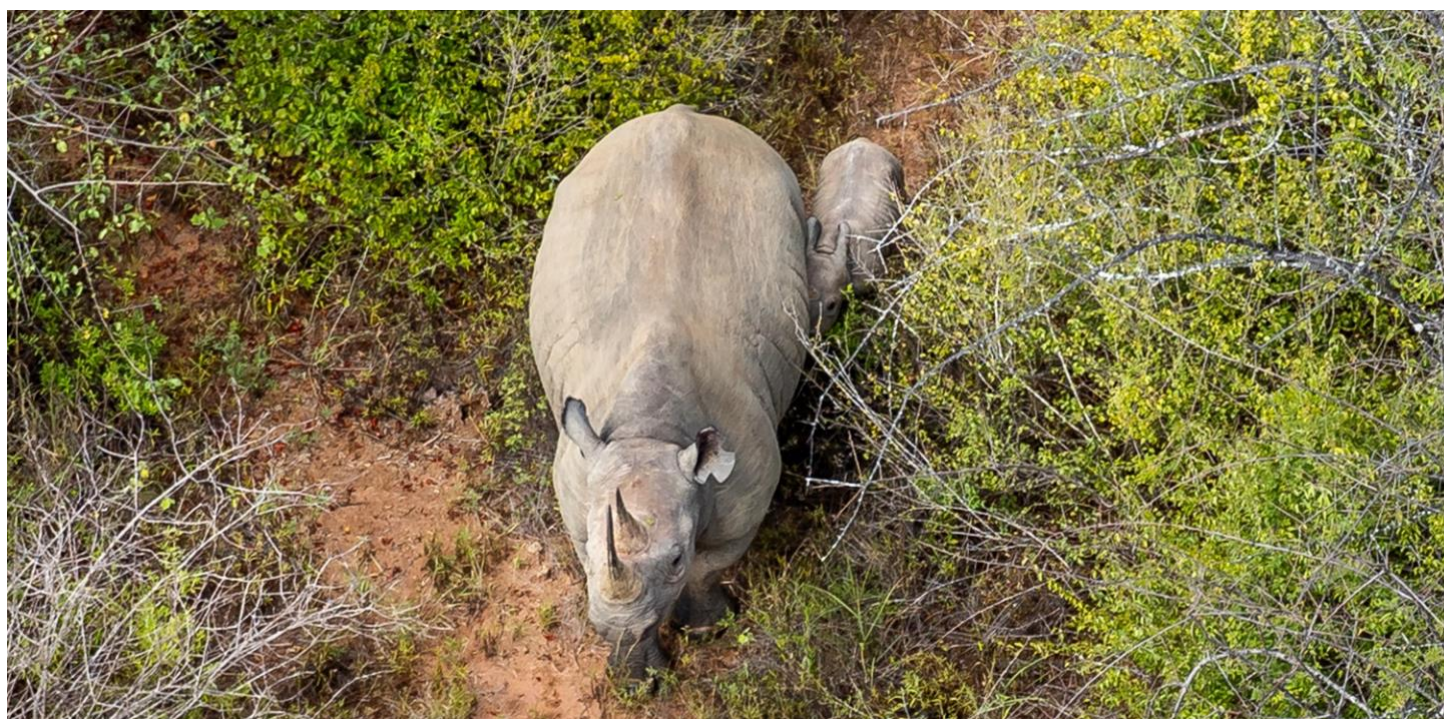
Tembo 6, 8 & 10 (TWNP) teams are rhino specific with confidential info.

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	1 bushmeat poacher	-	-	3 kg (1 Dik-dik)	1 laming horns, 1 spotlight & 1 panga.	-	-	1,349	393
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	6 5 medium 1 large	-	-	-	-	1,973	180
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 HEC 3 elephants driven out of farm	1,953	127
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	4 for illegal entry	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,914	280
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	2 bushmeat poachers	-	50 48 small 2 bird traps	-	-	-	-	1,962	176
TOTALS	155	7	-	56	3	As above	Nil	1	10,133	1,156
Total 2025	486	23	2	108	45	-	Nil	2	34,394	3,656



The photo above features a female black rhino with her newborn calf, a powerful symbol of resilience and hope. Through ongoing support to Kenya Wildlife Service and targeted conservation efforts in Tsavo, Tsavo Trust remains committed to protecting and securing a future for this critically endangered species. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

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) 	27	-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 – 6 sightings -Hirola – 3 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 21 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 4 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – Nil - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	4,566
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 – 18 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Elephant carcasses – 1 - Ivory recovered – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,133
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 – 18 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,124
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 – 12 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,352
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 – 8 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,673
TOTALS	151	As above	As above	As above	13,848
Total 2025	439	-	-	-	44,815



The photo above captures a rare and majestic sight: a pride of 21 lions resting by a watering hole in Tsavo East National Park. This photo was captured during the ongoing lion survey conducted by WRTI and Tsavo Trust with technical and funding support from the WCN - Lion Recovery Fund. The survey aims to understand and securing the future of lions in the Tsavo Land landscape. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

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	14 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 06/03/2025: Participated in the Human Wildlife Conflict quarterly meeting held in TWNP Education Centre. ➤ 18/03/2025: Attended the Darwin project “Equitable Response to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya” quarterly stakeholders meeting held at TWNP Education Centre. ➤ 24/03/2025: Attended Climate Smart Agriculture (focus on conservation agriculture) training sponsored by Makueni County Govt and Anglican Development Services. 	No community meetings held. SCC non wildlife protection activities are on temporary hold.
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	83,590 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (179,300 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	297 patients attended to in March. 533 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)	22 cases recorded: 3 Elephant; 2 Buffalo; 2 Leopard; 8 Hyena, and 7 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:



The photo above offers a rare glimpse into the wild, a melanistic female serval cat with her 3 kittens, one sharing her unique dark coat and two with the typical golden spotted pattern. Captured by Tsavo Trust pilot Nick Haller during a rhino monitoring aerial patrol in TENP, this extraordinary sighting highlights the hidden biodiversity thriving in the Tsavo ecosystem.

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, Painted Wolf Foundation; 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; African Ruggedized Education Solution; Milkywire; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); Suzuki Rhino Club; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Bush & Beyond; Africa Born; Ker & Downey Safaris; The Drang Gallery; Ndovu Trust (UK); Tropical Ice Ltd; Askari Project–Australia; Exodus Travel; Helping Rhino's; 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