

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>

New: Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4lLMg10TBc>

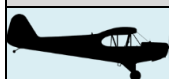


APRIL 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above shows the self-catering Kamungi Bandas. Since opening in September 2024, Kamungi Bandas has hosted 37 bookings, offering guests a peaceful escape along the northern boundary of Tsavo West National Park. With space for just 12 guests per night, the Bandas provide an intimate experience surrounded by nature and wildlife. Every visit directly supports conservation and local livelihoods, making it more than just a getaway. Located between Nairobi and Mombasa, Kamungi Bandas is the perfect stop for those seeking rest, connection, and purpose.

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	49 (316 for year) Average 129km p/h of low-level flight	6,372 (40,799km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 26 (8 TWNP; 2 TENP) (70hrs for the year)	Aerial: 2,985 (7,996km for the year)	
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 150 days (636 for year) Monitoring teams: 143 days (582 for year)	Vehicle patrols: 8,568km (42,962km for year) Foot patrols: 1,044km (4,700km for year) Monitoring teams: 14,167km (58,982km for year)	
 Big Tusker Project	5 Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (1 sight), 4 emerging bulls (5 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 6 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	10 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	3 elephant tusks (17 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: natural - train kill)	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>) and 1 red spitting cobra (<i>Naja pallida</i>). Others: Rufous beaked snake and Speckled grass snake relocated from communities.		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil	Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	1 – for illegal entry (24 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	112 by Tembo Teams: 220 snares for the year (193 small; 16 medium; 3 large; 8 bird traps)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	100kg: 1 Waterbuck. (145kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	Nil		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 11 (Mbuyuni, Iviani, Murondo, Ndara, Shirango, Kanga, Busayesa and Mangelete)		
Firefighting	Nil fire responses - (No fire outbreak reports received in April)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 4. 34 elephants chased from farms in Shirango; 1 elephant chased from a farm east of Mtito Andei town.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	21 active cattle bomas (7,150 cattle; 120 shoats & 9 people)		
Written reports to KWS	86 (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	79mm. Total rainfall to date for 2025: 343mm		

Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd & 3rd /04/2025: Tsavo Trust participated in the 2024 Q3 and Q4 elephant mortality data harmonization meeting for the Tsavo MIKE site, held at the TCA Headquarters in Voi. 3rd & 4th /04/2025: Attended Maliasili's Fundraising and Communication workshop in Limuru, gaining insights on best practices for conservation fundraising and donor engagement. 08/04/2025: The Tsavo Trust Chief Pilot located a missing family of four who had been "lost / missing" for over 24 hours (they were stuck in a mud hole). This incident highlights the critical role of the aerial unit, supporting KWS in conservation and in providing rapid response during emergencies.
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COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:	
 <p>Kamungi Conservancy ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014</p>	 <p>Shirango Community Conservancy ➤ Located: Southeast boundary TENP ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with SCC since 2016</p>

FORMAL FIELD CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM: (Full list of supporters/partners shown on last page)

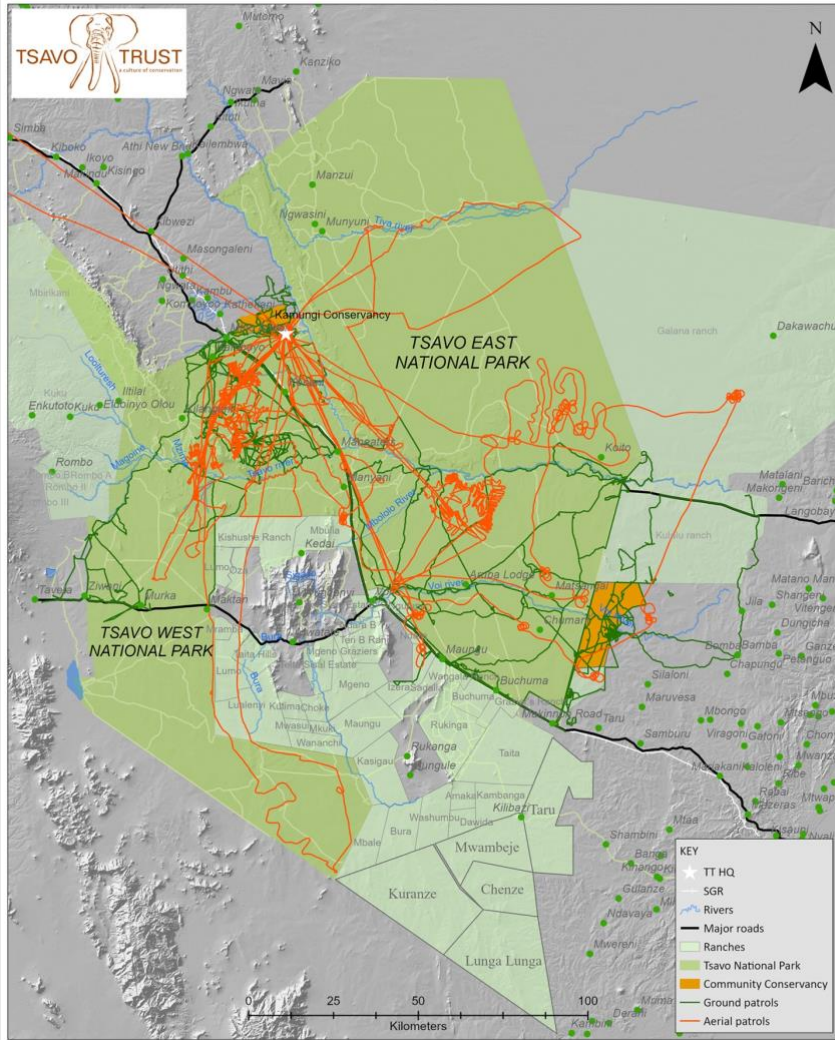




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- 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 APRIL, 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:** 49 hours flown covering 6,372 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,044 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 22,735 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 a Kamungi Conservancy Board Member addressing community members during the Conservancy's monthly meeting, held on 29th April 2025 at the Nthunguni Dispensary meeting point.



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)	30	-	-	43 38 small 1 medium 4 bird traps	-	-	-	3 HEC 34 elephants driven out of farms	1,298	310
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	-	-	5 2 small 3 medium	-	-	-	-	1,593	150
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1,783	168
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	1 for illegal entry	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,491	296
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	-	-	64 59 small 4 medium 1 bird trap	100 kg (1 waterbuck)	-	-	1 HEC 1 elephant driven out of a farm	1,403	120
TOTALS	150	1	2	112	100	As above	Nil	4	8,568	1,044
Total 2025	636	24	4	220	145	-	Nil	6	42,962	4,700



The photo above shows collared Emerging Tusker “Goshi”. Satellite collars help track elephant movements in real time. This data reveals key habitats, migration routes, and conflict hotspots. It guides conservation efforts and protects elephants from threats like poaching. Collaring is a crucial tool for their survival. This is a KWS / WRTI / STE / TT / WLW initiative in Tsavo. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kimaile.

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) 	23	-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 – 4 sightings -Hirola –1 sighting -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 10 sightings -Ground Hornbill – Nil -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	3,619
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 14 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – 2 broken pieces	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,058
Tembo 6 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 14 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,866
Tembo 8 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-NRS Rhinos – 45 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,493
Tembo 10 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	30	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	- NRS Rhinos – 8 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,131
TOTALS	143	As above	As above	As above	14,167
Total 2025	582	-	-	-	58,982



*A Hirola bachelor herd spotted in Tsavo East National Park, a promising sign for this critically endangered species. These rare antelopes are now regularly sighted by Tembo 2, the Tsavo Trust research and monitoring team, and WRTI researchers, highlighting the impact of collaborative conservation efforts.
Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwendu.*

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	18 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 04/04/2025: Participated in a local administration meeting with the senior chief, the assistant chief, and village elders. ➤ 08/04/2025: Participated in the public participation meeting on the de-gazettement of the Ngai Ndethya National Reserve, organized by Makueni County Government and KWS. ➤ 16/04/2025: Community-focused group discussions to determine community perceptions and socio-economic benefits of conservation. ➤ 25/04/2025: Appraisal and mentorship session of 12 Kamungi students supported by Tsavo Trust's secondary school education scholarship programme. 	1 community meeting held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 16/04/2025: Tsavo Trust's Chief Community Officer attended a successful meeting in Shirango Conservancy to communicate the decommissioning of livelihood activities. Chaired by the Gede Assistant Chief, the meeting drew 53 CBO members, and all concerns were addressed.
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	24,840 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (204,140 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	256 patients attended to in March. 789 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 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)	24 cases recorded: 7 Elephant; 5 Leopard; 4 Lion; 2 Hyena; 2 Baboon and 4 Mongoose.	3 cases. All 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:



Even as laming has overtaken snaring as the preferred bushmeat poaching method, reflected in the declining number of snare's recovered by our anti-poaching teams in recent months, snaring still poses a real threat, as seen in the snared male waterbuck pictured above. Constant vigilance by community scouts remains crucial in safeguarding vulnerable wildlife.

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.

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