



**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)**

Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://youtu.be/I4lMgj0TBc?si=IoRKm7VrDG0jDiN3>

## **MAY 2025 MONTHLY REPORT**



*The image above features one of Tsavo's iconic female elephants, identified as F\_ND2. While a cow's tusks will not reach the 100-pound mark that defines a true Big Tusker, few cow elephants, like F\_ND2, still carry long, impressive ivory. Tsavo Trust's Big Tuskers Project is not solely about safeguarding the last remaining Big Tuskers. Our efforts extend to protecting all elephants, as well as the wide array of other wildlife that share this landscape. Equally important, the project helps preserve the integrity of the habitat that sustains them.*

*Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.*

## SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

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

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered	
 <b>Aerial Unit</b>	<b>51</b> (367 for year) Average 128km p/h of low-level flight	<b>6,256</b> (47,055km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
 <b>Rhino Aerial Patrols</b>	<b>Aerial Patrols: 17</b> (7 TWNP; 1 TENP) (87hrs for the year)	<b>Aerial: 1,902</b> (9,898km 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: 155 days</b> (791 for year) <b>Monitoring teams: 155 days</b> (737 for year)	<b>Vehicle patrols: 9,512km</b> (52,474km for year) <b>Foot patrols: 1,069km</b> (5,769km for year) <b>Monitoring teams: 13,487km</b> (72,469km for year)	
 <b>Big Tusker Project</b>	<b>2</b> Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (1 sight), 1 emerging bull (2 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): <b>3 individual observations</b>		
<b>Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program</b>	<b>2 sightings:</b> record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
<b>Ivory recovered</b>	<b>5</b> elephant tusks ( <b>22</b> for the year)		
<b>Elephant mortality</b>	<b>Fresh: 2</b> (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural, 1 unknown)	<b>Recent: Nil</b> (Less than 3 months old)	<b>Old: Nil</b> (More than 3 months old)
<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> 1 Black Mamba ( <i>Dendroaspis Polylepis</i> ) and 3 puff adders ( <i>Bitis arietans</i> ).		
	<b>Others:</b> Supported the translocation of an elephant from Kamunyu Village to TWNP, 5 Fringe-eared oryx (From Galana irrigation to Galana Ranch)		
<b>Poacher camps/hides</b>	<b>Fresh – Nil</b>		<b>Recent – Nil</b>
<b>Arrests – joint KWS/TT</b>	<b>6</b> – 5 for illegal fishing and 1 for collecting firewood inside a Protected Area <b>(30 for the year)</b>		
<b>Snares/traps recovered</b>	<b>85</b> by Tembo Teams: <b>305</b> snares for the year (250 small; 42 medium; 5 large; 8 bird traps)		
<b>Bushmeat recoveries (wet &amp; dried)</b>	<b>10kg:</b> 1 Baboon, Dik dik, and Waterbuck parts. (155kg for the year)		
<b>Poachers Equip. Recvd.</b>	Nil		
<b>Night Ambushes</b>	Joint KWS / TT: <b>11</b> (Mbuyuni, Iviani, Murondo, Ndara, Shirango, Kanga, Busayesa and Mangaleta)		
<b>Firefighting</b>	<b>Nil</b> fire responses - (No fire outbreak reports received in April )		
<b>Human Elephant Conflict</b>	Joint TT-KWS teams: <b>6.</b> 89 elephants chased from farms in Shirango; 13 elephants chased from a farm east of Mtito Andei town.		
<b>Illegal Livestock (only in PA)</b>	<b>12</b> active cattle bomas (5,400 cattle & 12 people)		
<b>Written reports to KWS</b>	<b>81</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 mm.</b> Total rainfall to date for 2025: <b>343mm</b>		
<b>Significant notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16/05/2025: Tsavo Trust organized a drawing competition that brought together 31 students from nine schools across Kamungi Conservancy, using art as a tool to promote conservation awareness.</li> <li>20/05/2025 to 24/05/2025: Tsavo Trust conducted a survey to assess local community awareness, perceptions, and attitudes toward African Wild Dogs and their conservation.</li> <li>28/05/2025: Tsavo Trust hosted officials from USAID and IFAW to discuss the certification and handover of the Kamungi ranger outpost and to assess the impact of the termination of the USAID-funded project.</li> </ul>		

### COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

 <b>Kamungi Conservancy</b> ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014	 <b>Shirango Community Conservancy</b> ➤ Located: Southeast boundary TENP ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with SCC since 2016
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### FORMAL FIELD CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM: (Full list of supporters/partners shown on last page)

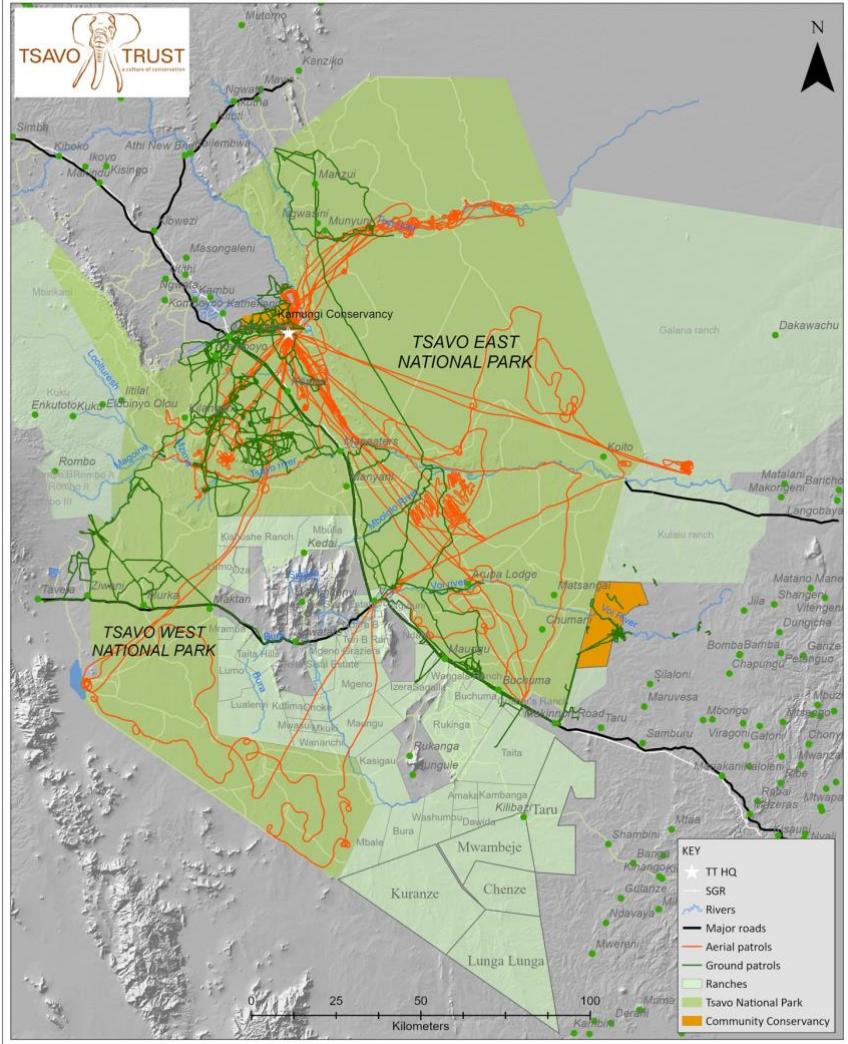
 <b>KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE</b>	 <b>WILDLIFE RESEARCH &amp; TRAINING INSTITUTE</b> Discover Beyond	 <b>IUCN</b> Member	 <b>Maliasili</b> INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR NATURE	 <b>SAVE THE ELEPHANTS</b>	 <b>TTWCA</b> TAITA TAVETA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION	 <b>Kamungi Conservancy</b>	 <b>SHIRANGO COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY</b>	 <b>WILD LANDSCAPES INTERNATIONAL</b>	 <b>SAND DAMS WORLDWIDE</b>	 <b>Africa Sand Dam Foundation</b>	 <b>SAVE THE ELEPHANTS</b>	 <b>TTWCA</b> TAITA TAVETA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION	 <b>MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST</b>	 <b>ZSL</b> LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE
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## 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  
MAY, 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 22,000km<sup>2</sup> (TENP, TWNP & CHNP) and then a further 20,000km<sup>2</sup> totaling 42,000km<sup>2</sup> to form the Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA).

**Aerial:** 51 hours flown covering 6,256 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

**Ground:** 1,069 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 22,999 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.

**Photo below:** An African wild dog pauses during an early morning hunt in Tsavo East National Park, a rare and powerful sighting in this part of the landscape. With vital support from the Painted Wolf Foundation, Tsavo Trust is working closely with Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Research and Training Institute to monitor and protect these endangered predators, helping secure their future in the greater Tsavo landscape.



## 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)	31	-	-	<b>29</b> 10 small 19 medium	-	-	-	<b>2 HEC</b> 88 elephants driven out of farms	1,849	309
<b>Tembo 3 (TWNP)</b> (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b> 1 small 4 medium 1 large	-	-	-	<b>1 HEC</b> 1 elephant driven out of farm	1,897	172
<b>Tembo 5 (TWNP)</b> 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	<b>1</b> for collecting firewood inside PA.	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b> 3 small 2 medium	<b>3 kg</b> (waterbuck & dik-dik parts)	-	-		1,805	196
<b>Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP)</b> 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP)</b> 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31		-	-	-	-	-	-	2,755	248
<b>Kamungi Scouts</b> 4 Scouts	31	<b>5</b> for illegal fishing inside PA.	-	<b>45</b> 43 small 1 medium 1 large	<b>7 kg</b> (1 baboon)	-	-	<b>3 HEC</b> 13 elephants driven out of a farm	1,206	144
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9,512</b>	<b>1,069</b>
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>155</b>	-	<b>Nil</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>52,474</b>	<b>5,769</b>



*A cheetah stands watchful by the roadside in Tsavo, a fleeting moment that captures the beauty and vulnerability of Africa's fastest predator. Encounters like this are a powerful reminder of what's at stake in global wildlife conservation. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Katana Bulushi.*

## 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) 	31	-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 – 2 sightings -Hirola – Nil -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 9 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 1 sighting -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	2,812
<b>Tembo 4 (TWNP)</b> (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 – 14 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,369
<b>Tembo 6 (TWNP)</b> (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 – 14 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – 1 - Ivory recovered. – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,019
<b>Tembo 8 (TWNP)</b> (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 – 22 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,145
<b>Tembo 10 (TWNP)</b> (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 – 19 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,142
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>13,487</b>
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,469</b>



*Photo above shows a Grevy's zebra stallion in the Southern Sector of Tsavo East National Park. Unlike the more common plains zebra, Grevy's zebras have narrower stripes, a white belly, and large rounded ears and they're the rarest of all zebra species. With fewer than 3,000 left in the wild, their survival depends on continued conservation across their shrinking range. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.*

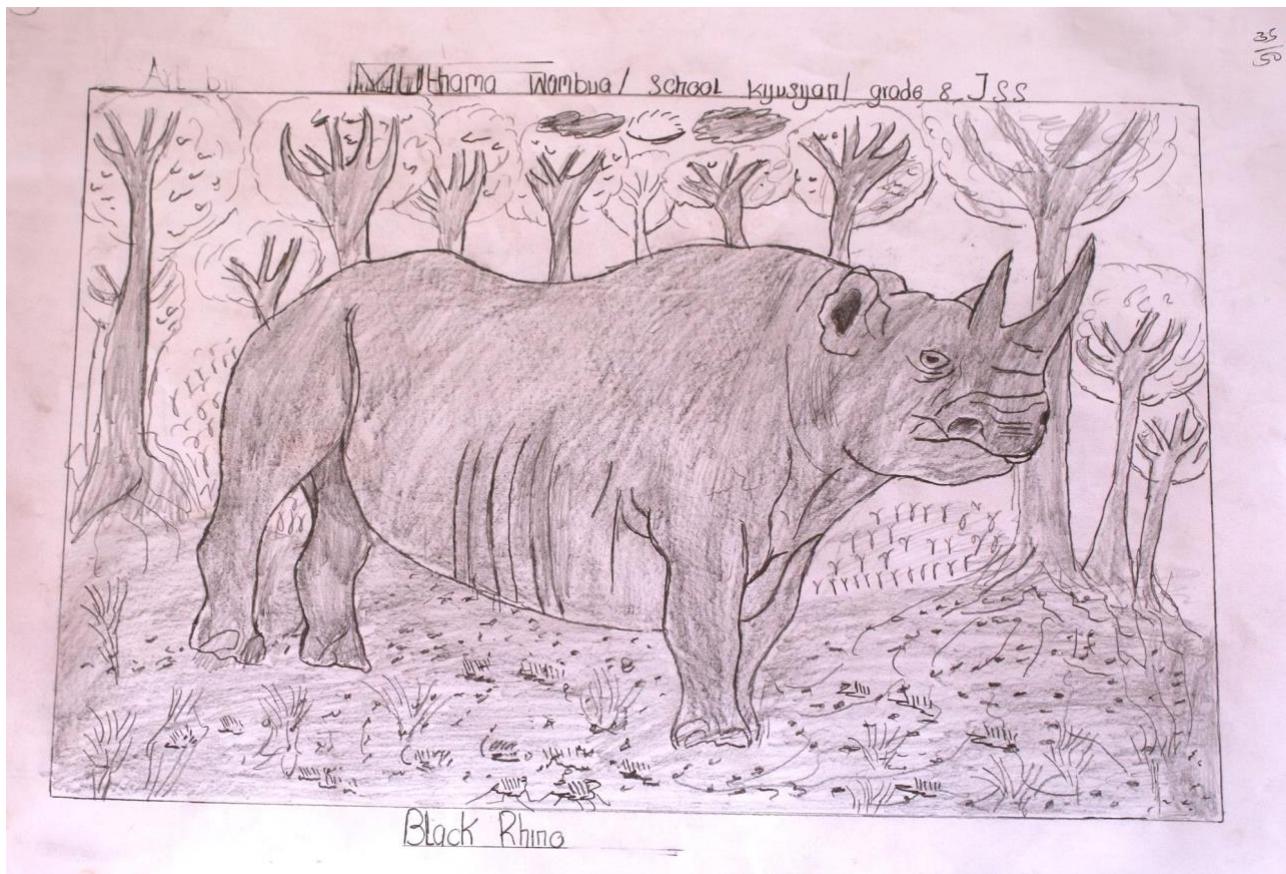


## COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:



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 10 Scout from SCC Salaries generate over \$2,500 (Ksh.322,000) of income monthly.
<b>Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings</b>	<p><b>13 community meetings were held.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 09/05/2025: Kamungi Conservancy quarterly board meeting held at Ngiluni water tank.</li> <li>➤ 16/05/2025: Local administrative meeting at the area's chief and assistant chiefs.</li> <li>➤ 27/05/2025: Monthly meeting for the Ngiluni cluster held at the Ngiluni water tank meeting area.</li> <li>➤ 29/05/2025: Monthly meeting for the Nthunguni cluster held at the assistant's chief office grounds.</li> <li>➤ 30/05/2025: Meeting on peaceful coexistence with wildlife, mitigating human wildlife conflict and strengthening collaboration with conservation organization.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nil community meeting held.</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES ON HOLD apart from anti-poaching patrols.</b></p>
<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>62,900</b> litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. ( <b>267,040</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>1,110</b> patients attended to in March. <b>1,899</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</b> <b>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</b> <b>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>24 cases</b> recorded: 3 Elephant; 1 Leopard; 3 Lion; 5 Hyena; 4 Buffalo; 4 Zebra; 2 caracal; 1 Mongoose & 1 snake-related.	<b>3 cases.</b> All elephant-related.
<b>Land Tenure</b>	Ongoing	SCC land is currently a traditional communal mode of ownership, not legally protected.
<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:



*The photo above shows a student's drawing of a Black Rhino, one of Tsavo's keystone species and a powerful symbol of resilience. Created during Tsavo Trust's May 2025 drawing competition in Kamungi Conservancy, the artwork highlights how creativity can drive awareness and inspire a deeper commitment to conservation. Supported by the Exodus Travels Foundation's Kickstart Project, the event encouraged young people to take pride in Kenya's wildlife and their role in conservation.*

### **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; Kampur Enterprises 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.

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

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