



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

Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzYIQBSm5Dw>

JULY 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above, taken at Kenani, Tsavo, shows a train on the old meter-gauge railway alongside the Standard Gauge Railway, the Mombasa–Nairobi Highway, and powerlines. While vital for connectivity and economic growth, such developments can impede wildlife movement. Sustained wildlife monitoring, safeguarding of key corridors, and mitigation measures, including the establishment of wildlife crossings, are essential to preserving Tsavo's ecological integrity. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kimaile."

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

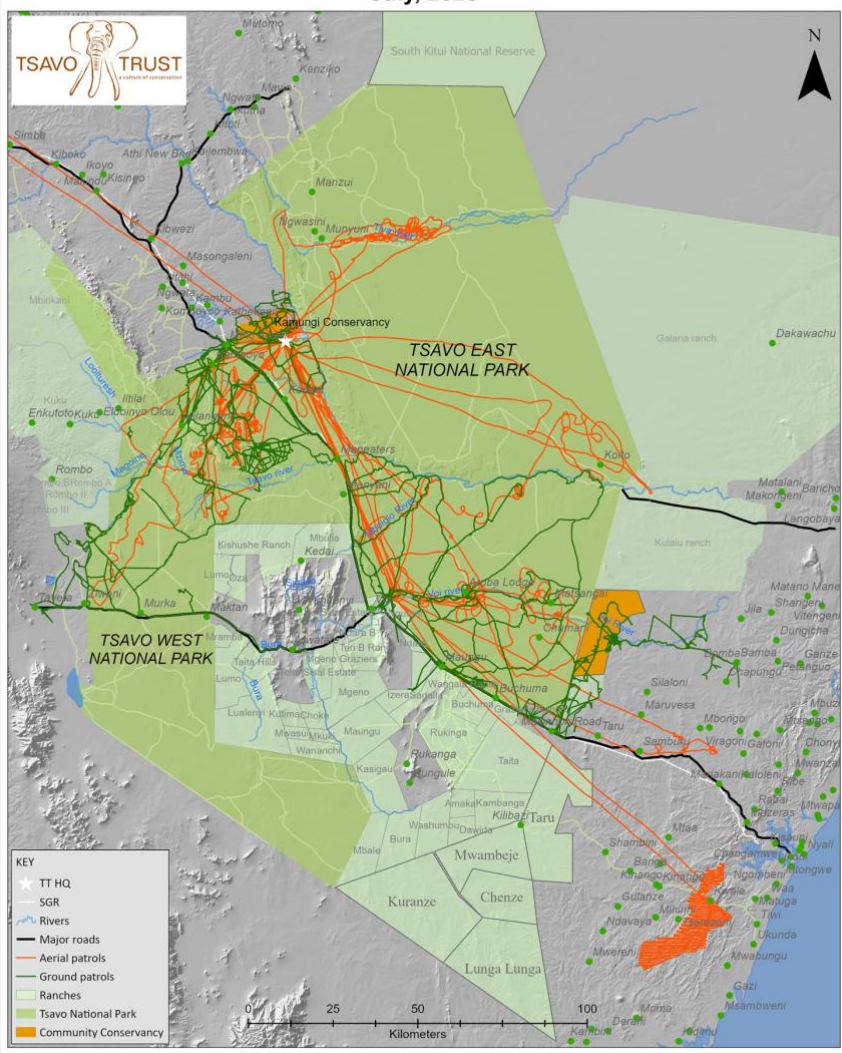
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	51 (468 for year) Average 126km p/h of low-level flight		6,103 (59,106km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 18 (7 TWNP; Nil TENP) (101hrs for the year)		Aerial: 1,620 (12,896km for the year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 177 days (1,118 for year) Monitoring teams: 155 days (1,041 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 13,022km (75,665km for year) Foot patrols: 1,080km (7,951km for year) Monitoring teams: 15,701km (101,365km for year)	
	Big Tusker Project	9 Tuskers – 3 Super Tusker bulls (9 sights), 6 emerging bulls (14 sights), Nil cow Tuskers (Nil sights): 23 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		2 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		3 elephant tusks (25 for the year)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: poaching)	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 relocated from communities: 1 Red spitting cobra (<i>Naja pallida</i>) and 1 Puff adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>). Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		7 – 2 for bushmeat poaching; 3 for illegal fishing; 1 for illegal logging, and 1 for dealing in ivory (42 for the year)			
Snares/traps recovered		272 by Tembo Teams: 705 snares for the year (546 small; 127 medium; 8 large; 24 bird traps)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		120kg: 1 Grant’s gazelle, 1 Warthog, 16 Dik-diks, 1 bushbaby, 15 birds, and 269 Tilapias. (1,345kg for the year)			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 motorcycle, 1 bicycle, 2 pangas, 2 knives, 1 lamping horns, 1 spotlight & 3 fishing nets			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 9 (Ndara, KMC Ranch, Njukini, LMD, Egu, Shirango, Muhoho farm, Mbuyuni, and Ngiitu)			
Firefighting		4 fire responses - (At Ngutuni, Ndara, Ngiitu, and Murka)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS teams: 11. 133 elephants were chased from farms in Shirango and adjacent areas.			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		4 active cattle bomas (3,600 cattle, 600 shoats & 9 herders)			
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 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2025: 343mm			
Significant notes	22nd to 24th 07/2025: Tsavo Trust and ARES NGO represented at the 2025 STEMtastic Adventures Africa Symposium held at the Centre for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education in Africa. 23/07/2025: Tsavo Trust supported WRTI in conducting the Shimba Hills National Park aerial census. The recently acquired Tsavo Trust Helicopter logged a total of 8 hours during the exercise. 31/07/2025: Tsavo Trust participated in and supported the Kenya Wildlife Service and other conservation stakeholders during the 2025 World Rangers Day celebrations for the Tsavo Conservation Area, held in Mtito Andei.				
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 July, 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:** 51 hours flown covering 6,103 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,080 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 28,723 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: Tsavo Trust's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer delivering updates during the quarterly stakeholders' meeting for ZSL's Darwin-funded Bushmeat Project, held at the TWNP Education Centre. Stakeholders in attendance included representatives from the National Government, KWS, WRTI, Makueni County Government, Tsavo Trust, local communities, and ZSL.



Field Mobile Units:

Tembo 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 teams, Kamungi & Shirango Scouts are habitat protection / de-snaring focused.

Tembo 2 (TENP) & 4 (TWNP) teams are wildlife monitoring dedicated.

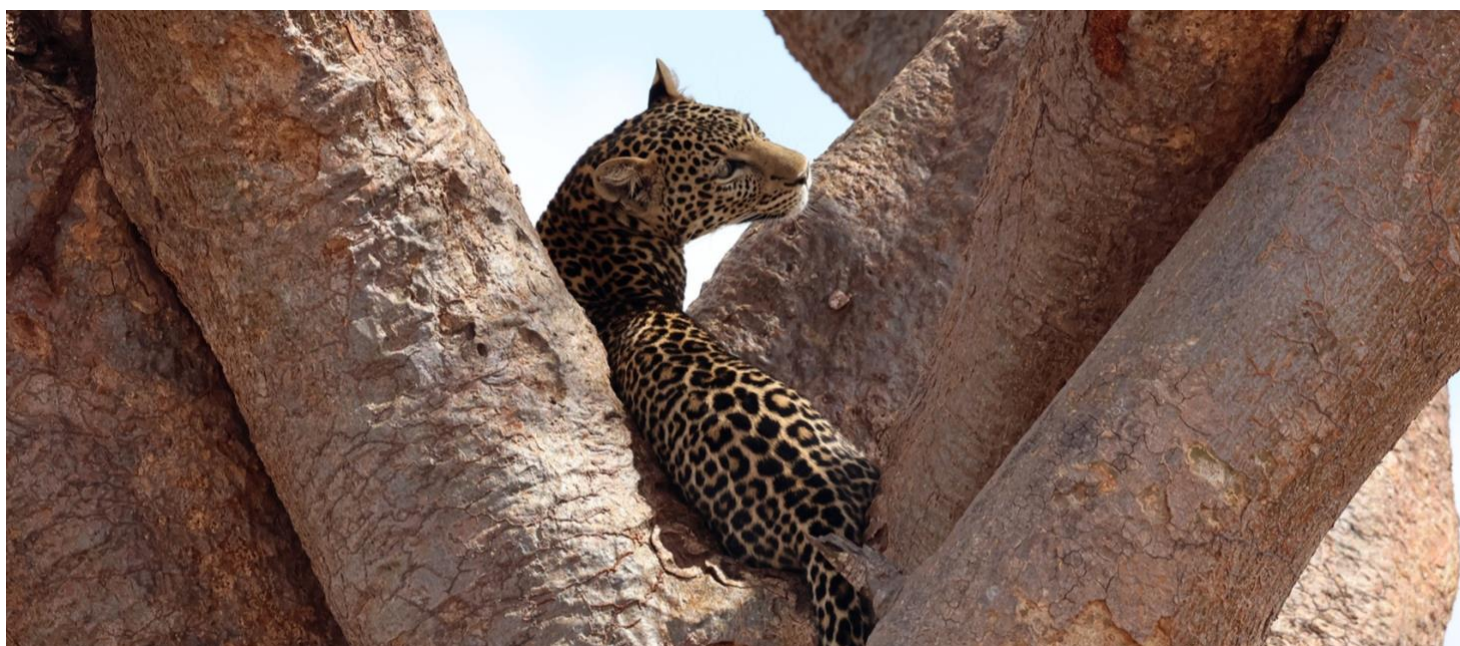
Tembo 6, 8 & 10 (TWNP) teams are rhino specific with confidential info.

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, 11, 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	-	-	20 11 small 8 medium 1 large	30 kg (16 dik dik, 1 bush baby & 10 birds)	1 bicycle, 1 panga & 1 jerican.	-	10 HEC 133 elephants driven out of farms	2,226	248
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	2 Both for bushmeat poaching	-	33 20 small 13 medium	36 kg (1 grant's gazelle & 5 birds)	1 panga, 1 lamping horn & 1 spot light	-	-	2,441	140
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 for illegal logging	-	9 8 small 1 medium	-	-	-	-	2,299	185
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 for dealing in ivory	3 pieces of ivory (5kg) recovered from dealer	8 5 medium 3 bird traps	-	Motorbike	-	-	2,813	191
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	22	-	-	7 2 small 5 medium	-	-	-	-	1,660	121
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	3 All for illegal fishing	-	195 171 small 21 medium 2 large	54 kg (1 warthog & 269 tilapia)	2 knives & 3 fishing nets	-	1 HCC 1 lion incident	1,583	195
TOTALS	177	7	-	272	120	As above	Nil	11	13,022	1,080
Total 2025	1,118	42	7	705	1,345	-	Nil	68	75,665	7,951



The photo above shows a leopard perched high on the branches of a Delonix tree in Tsavo East. Such vantage points offer these elusive cats both safety and a clear view of their surroundings. Such moments highlight the intricate beauty and wild character that make Tsavo an iconic wilderness area. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwendu.

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) 	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 – 12 sightings -Hirola – 4 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 2 sightings -Large Carnivores – 17 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 6 sightings -Road & Rail kills – 2 -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	4,124
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 – 41 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,241
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 – 41 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,293
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 – 38 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,939
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 – 25 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	3,104
TOTALS	155	As above	As above	As above	15,701
Total 2025	1,041	-	-	-	101,365



The photo above shows Veterinary officers from the Makueni County Government administering rabies vaccinations to domestic dogs during an anti-rabies campaign in Mtito Andei Ward. The exercise, supported by Tsavo Trust with financial assistance from WCN - Painted Wolf Foundation, aims to protect both domestic animals and local communities from the threat of rabies, while contributing to broader wildlife and public health conservation efforts. 594 animals were vaccinated. Photo Credit – Tsavo Trust.

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 33 permanent staff & 25 casual staff employed generating over \$13,100 (Ksh. 1,689,900) of income into Kamungi monthly.	Tsavo Trust employs 14 Scout from SCC Salaries generate over \$3,950 (Ksh.509,550) of income monthly.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	13 community meetings were held. ➤ 02/07/2025: Planning meeting for a rabies vaccination campaign in Mtito Andei by the County Government of Makueni, supported by the Tsavo Trust. ➤ 17/07/2025: Stakeholders meeting on bushmeat poaching convened by ZSL at the TWNP Education Centre. The meeting aimed to share updates on the ongoing ZSL's wild meat project and strengthening collaborations. ➤ 21/07/2025: Represented in the local administration meeting convened by the area Assistant Chief and village elders. ➤ 30/07/2025: Represented in the 2025 KWCA National Conservancies Leaders' Policy Conference and AGM	Nil community meetings held. ACTIVITIES ON HOLD apart from anti-poaching patrols.
Membership	Through a registered CBO KC membership represents 505 families & over 5,050 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	118,000 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (467,640 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	952 patients attended to in June. 14,021 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 completed. 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	8 x 1-acre bee fences, totaling 120 beehives, with 10 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)	31 cases recorded: 6 Buffalo; 5 Hyena; 13 Lion; 1 Leopard; 3 Mongoose & 3 snake-related.	10 cases. All elephant-related. 133 elephants driven from farms in Shirango and adjacent areas.
Land Tenure	Ongoing	SCC land is currently a traditional communal mode of ownership, not legally protected.
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 captures a rare glimpse of an African Wildcat (Felis lybica) in Tsavo East NP. These small but formidable predators are rarely seen, preferring to stalk through the tall grass under the cover of dawn and dusk. Their presence is a sign of a healthy ecosystem, where prey and predator maintain a delicate balance. This sighting is a reminder of the remarkable biodiversity that Tsavo's vast landscapes continue to protect. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organizations & Partners: Kenya Wildlife Service; Wildlife Research & Training Institute, Government of Makueni County; Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancy Association; US Fish & Wildlife Service; 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; 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; 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; James Lewin; Paul & James Wilson; 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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