

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=GzYI0BSm5Dw>

SEPTEMBER 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above shows the newly constructed Tsavo West National Park Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) Headquarters, developed with support from Tsavo Trust. The facility includes offices, a mess area, an armory, ranger accommodation, and solar power installation. This investment strengthens the Kenya Wildlife Service's operational capacity and enhances the protection of black rhino and other key wildlife species within the Tsavo West National Park's Intensive Protection Zone. 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 (570 for year) Average 124km p/h of low-level flight	5,769 (70,604km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff			
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 8 (5 TWNP; Nil TENP) (132hrs for the year)	Aerial: 912 (16,305km for the year)			
Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered			
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 180 days (1,484 for year) Monitoring teams: 150 days (1,345 for year)	Vehicle patrols: 12,468km (99,955km for year) Foot patrols: 1,083km (10,207km for year) Monitoring teams: 12,842km (128,664km for year)			
 Big Tusker Project	13 Tuskers – 4 Super Tusker bulls (14 sights), 8 emerging bulls (13 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 28 individual observations				
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	15 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)				
Ivory recovered	4 elephant tusks (31 for the year)				
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 2 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: both natural)	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>) Others: Nil				
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil		
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	3 – 2 for illegal grazing, and 1 for illegal entry. (48 for the year)				
Snares/traps recovered	193 by Tembo Teams: 1,157 snares for the year (755 small; 235 medium; 65 large; 72 bird traps)				
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	Nil kg (1,367kg for the year)				
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	Nil				
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 15 (Ziwani, Muhozo farm, Murondo, Maungu, Bondeni, Lukenya, Ngutuni, and Triangle)				
Firefighting	8 fire responses - (Kyulu, Kanga, Chyulu Hills NP, Kathekakai, Irima, and Mlima Chui)				
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 1 . 1 elephant chased from a farm in Ngiluni, east of Mtito Andei town.				
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	4 active cattle bomas (650 cattle, Nil shoats & 3 herders)				
Written reports to KWS	78 (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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th to 11th 08/2025: Tsavo Trust held a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) workshop facilitated by Maliasili. The sessions covered MEL overview, plan validation, impact communication, and strategic fundraising. Staff gained key insights on integrating MEL across functions and reaffirmed their commitment to using it as a driver of organizational growth and conservation impact. 19/09/2025: Tsavo Trust, KWS, and Kamungi Conservancy hosted the HWC Stakeholders' Workshop at Tsavo West NP, bringing together 55 partners to review progress and enhance collaboration on human-wildlife coexistence. 				

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:



Kamungi Conservancy: TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014

- Located: Northern boundary TENP Triangle
- Membership of 505 families representing over 5,000 people
- Covering 100km² with many and varying community livelihood upliftment projects

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

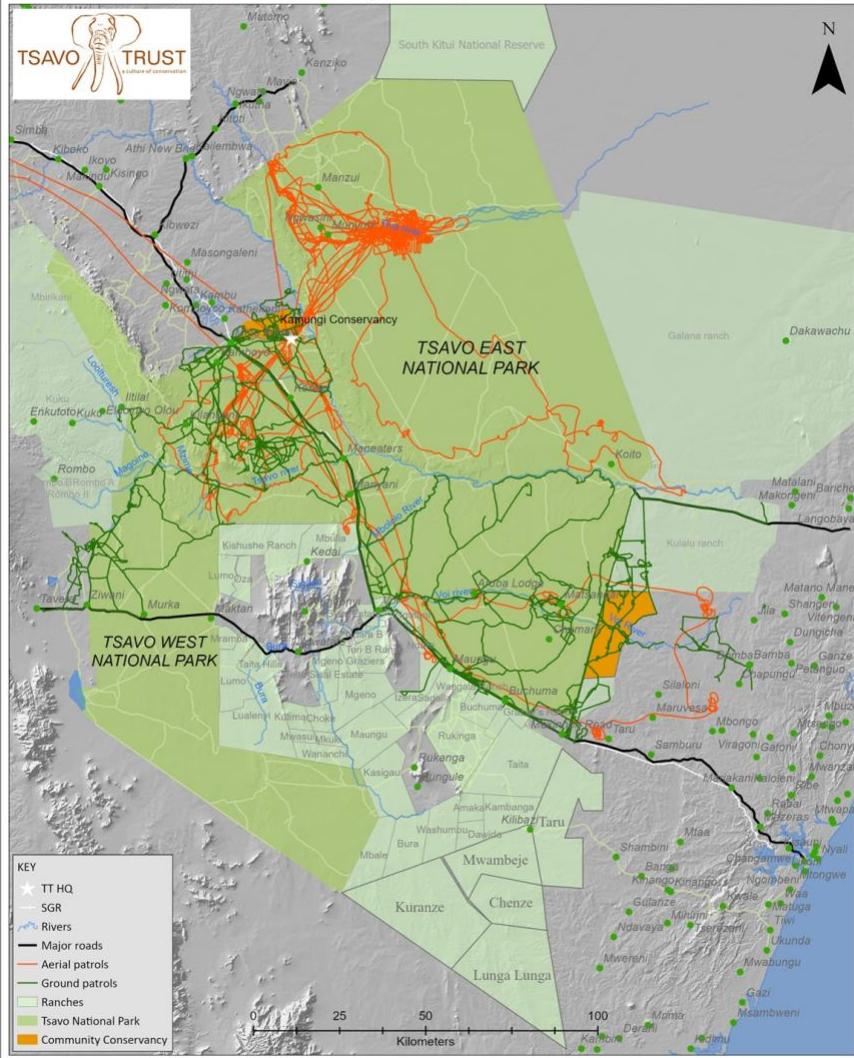
 KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE	 WILDLIFE RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE Discover Beyond	 IUCN Member	 GOVERNMENT OF KENYA	 Maliasili INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR NATURE	 Kamungi Conservancy	 WILDLANDSCAPES INTERNATIONAL
 SAND DAMS WORLDWIDE	 Africa Sand Dam Foundation	 SAVE THE ELEPHANTS	 TTWCA	 MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST	 ZSL 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 September, 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 5,769 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

Ground: 1,083 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 25,310 kilometers of vehicle patrol in Tsavo to support KWS.

Activities covered: Air & ground security patrols; Big Tusker monitoring; rhino related activities; large carnivore monitoring; locating illegal activities; wildlife monitoring; aerial census & telemetry tracking & Community Conservancy aerial and ground activities.

Photo below: Representatives from Tsavo Trust, Kamungi Conservancy, the Mtito Andei Town Committee, and the Makueni County Government during the handover of 30 drums to support solid waste management in Mtito Andei. The initiative aims to enhance town cleanliness and promote a healthier environment while strengthening conservation-linked community development partnerships.



Field Mobile Units:

Tembo 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 teams, Kamungi 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 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
Tembo 1 (TENP) & Shirango Scouts (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	-	-	8 1 small 7 medium	-	-	-	-	1,923	186
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30		-	13 7 small 2 medium 4 bird traps			-	-	2,266	167
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	-	2	9 7 small 1 medium 1 large	-	-	-	-	2,097	194
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	-		68 15 small 13 medium 7 large & 33 bird traps	-	-	-	-	2,235	158
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	2 Both for illegal entry	-	54 1 small 22 medium 31 large	-	-	-	-	2,670	190
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	1 For illegal entry	-	41 38 small 2 medium 1 large	-	-	-	1 HEC & 1 HCC reports responded to	1,277	188
TOTALS	180	3	2	193	-	As above	Nil	2	12,468	1,083
Total 2025	1,484	48	9	1,157	1,367	-	Nil	83	99,955	10,207



The photo above shows African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) sighted along the Tiva River. Through recent aerial and ground observations, Tsavo Trust and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) are gaining a better understanding of the Tsavo wild dog population. Supported by the Painted Wolf Foundation, this monitoring aims to inform conservation strategies, mitigate threats, and enhance the species' recovery across the Tsavo landscape.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Richard Moller.

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) 	30	-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 – 9 sightings -Hirola – 4 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 21 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	3,255
Tembo 4 (TWP) (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 – 24 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,218
Tembo 6 (TWP) (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 – 24 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,902
Tembo 8 (TWP) (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 – 28 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,238
Tembo 10 (TWP) (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 – 12 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,229
TOTALS	150	As above	As above	As above	12,842
Total 2025	1,345	-	-	-	128,664



*The photo above shows a black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) cow and her subadult calf photographed in Tsavo West National Park during an aerial monitoring patrol of sand dams. The pair was observed emerging from a sand dam, highlighting the importance of these water sources for wildlife within the park. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Kyalo Joseph.*



COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy
<i>Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust & KC</i>	North boundary of TENP – Triangle are, since 2014. Total area approx. 100km ² Makueni County; Kibwezi Sub County; Mtito Andei Division; Mtito Andei Sub-location; Ngiluni Village.
<i>Employment (Through Tsavo Trust)</i>	Between Tsavo Trust & partners 33 permanent staff & 25 casual staff employed generating over \$13,100 (Ksh. 1,689,900) of income into Kamungi monthly.
<i>Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings</i>	<p>14 community meetings were held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 05/09/2025: Tsavo Trust and Artisem Limited held a training meeting at Kamungi Conservancy attended by over 55 farmers. The session focused on sesame farming, and 100 kg of Artisem seeds were distributed to farmers ahead of the upcoming rains. ➢ 12/09/2025: KWS, WRTI, and TIM Consulting held a public participation meeting at Nthunguni on the planned expansion of rhino ranges in the Tsavo landscape. The Kamungi Conservancy Chairman and Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer participated. ➢ 17/09/2025: A Kamungi Conservancy Board meeting was held with 12 board members and the Accounts Assistant in attendance. Key agenda items included project updates, HWC workshop participant selection, and vehicle handover. ➢ 23/09/2025: Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy joined a ZSL-led community outreach meeting on bushmeat awareness attended by government, KWS, and over 45 community members. ➢ 26/09/2025: Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer attended a local administration meeting at Nthunguni focused on public participation and bursary distribution by the Kibwezi East MP. The meeting was attended by the Area Chief, Makueni County officials, and community members.
<i>Membership</i>	Through a registered CBO and Not for Profit Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by an elected Board, KC membership represents 505 families & over 5,050 individuals from 13 villages, mainly from the WaKamba community.
<i>Water Project</i>	222,660 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (838,600 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
<i>Basic Health care</i>	931 patients attended to in June. 15,654 patients attended for the year to date.
<i>Constructions</i>	KC additional scouts & office units completed. Construction of tourism facility – the Kamungi Bandas completed.
<i>Education</i>	Paid for 2 teachers (1-Ngiluni & 1-Kamunyu School in KC) for the last 10 years. Ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate).
<i>Bursary Scheme</i>	Started: April 2022 13 needy students selected being supported.
<i>Village Saving & Loan Associations – VSLA's</i>	5 women-run VSLA's are in progress: In partnership between ZSL / KC & TT
<i>Poultry Project</i>	3 poultry projects: partnership between ZSL / KC & TT
<i>Training</i>	VSLA livelihoods, HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture
<i>HWC Mitigation</i>	8 x 1-acre bee fences, totaling 120 beehives, with 10 currently occupied.
<i>Elephant Bee Fence</i>	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
<i>10% Fence Plan</i>	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL
<i>Predator Proof bomas</i>	
<i>Mtito 33km elephant fence line</i>	Completed 30/11/2021 with 95% HEC reduction in conflict
<i>Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</i>	19 cases recorded: 6 Lion; 7 Leopard; 5 Mongoose & 1 Snake-related.
<i>Land Tenure</i>	Ongoing
<i>Wildlife Census Transects</i>	1
<i>Operations and Security</i>	➢ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



*The photo shows a herd of hirola (*Beatragus hunteri*), classified as Critically Endangered with fewer than 450 individuals remaining globally, continues to persist in Tsavo. A joint census conducted by Tsavo Trust and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) in February 2025 recorded 80 individuals within the Tsavo ecosystem. Naturally skittish, close observations of these antelopes are rare and special.*

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); BAND Foundation; Maliasili; Re:wild; WildLandscapes International; Tusk Trust; Save The Elephants (STE); The Glassybaby Foundation; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; African Ruggedized Education Solution; Milkywire; Suzuki Rhino Club; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); 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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