



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

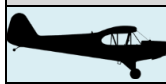
















Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzYIQBSm5Dw>

OCTOBER 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above shows Super Tusker “Hatulo” photographed during an aerial patrol. Tsavo Trust has supported the Kenya Wildlife Service in protecting these iconic elephants for 14 years, with other wildlife directly benefiting from these conservation efforts. While their range is typically limited during the dry season, Hatulo and other elephants move more widely during the wet season, as observed towards the end of October 2025. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Kyalo Joseph.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

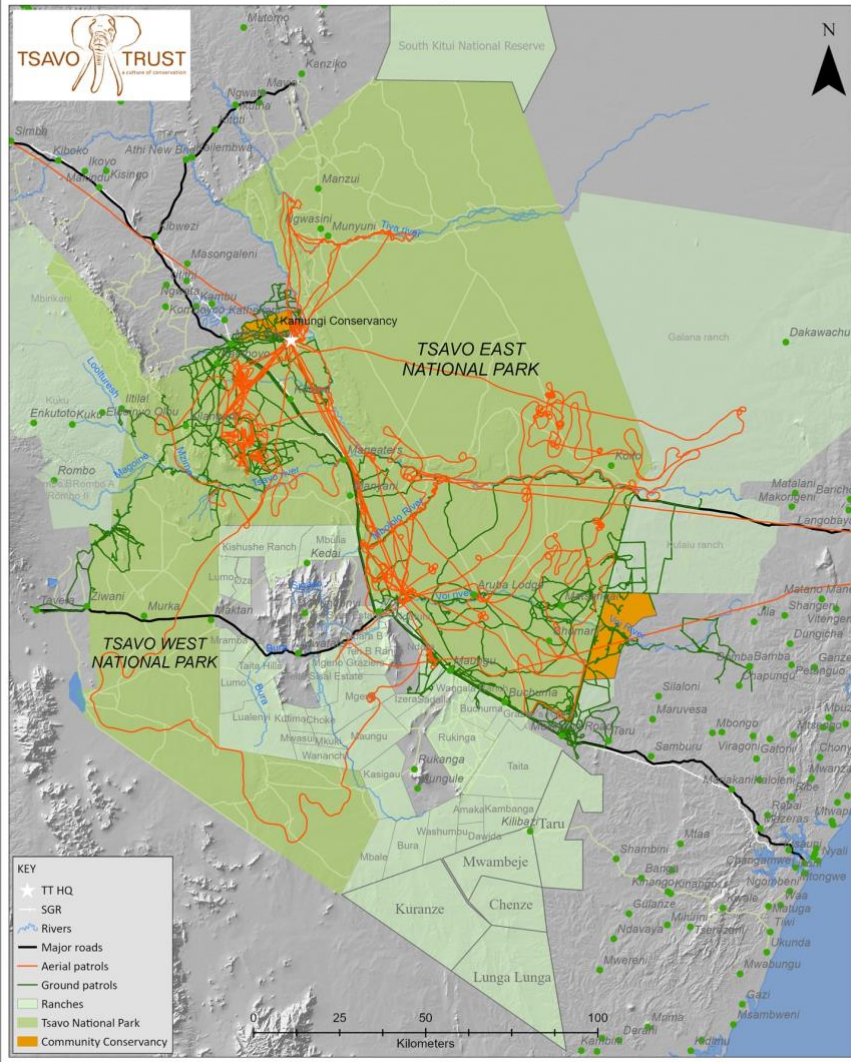
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity		Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
	Aerial Unit	39 (609 for year) Average 124km p/h of low-level flight	5,172 (75,776km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 12 (5 TWNP; 2 TENP) (161hrs for the year)	Aerial: 1,533 (17,838km for the year)
		Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 186 days (1,670 for year) Monitoring teams: 155 days (1,500 for year)	Vehicle patrols: 13,128km (113,083km for year) Foot patrols: 1,003km (11,210km for year) Monitoring teams: 14,121km (142,785km for year)
	Big Tusker Project	9 Tuskers – 3 Super Tusker bulls (5 sights), 6 emerging bulls (12 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 17 individual observations	
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		5 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)	
Ivory recovered		9 elephant tusks (40 for the year)	
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 4 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural, 3 unknown)	Recent: Nil (Less than 3 months old) Old: 1 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: poaching)
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 – 1	Recent – 1
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		5 – 2 for bushmeat poaching, 1 for illegal grazing, and 2 for illegal entry. (53 for the year)	
Snares/traps recovered		80 by Tembo Teams: 1,237 snares for the year (811 small; 257 medium; 73 large; 96 bird traps)	
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		15 kg (1,382kg for the year)	
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		1 spot light, 1 siren, 1 panga, 1 sack of poached bush meat	
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 15 (Dakota, LMD, Mangelete, Izera Ranch, Murondo, and Shirango)	
Firefighting		1 fire response - (At Kanga. Fire incidents reduced with the onset of the wet season)	
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS teams: 3 1 elephant chased from a farm in Ngiluni, East of Mtito Andei town, and 1 hippo chased from near settlements in Maungu. Both responses were by a joint KWS/TT team.	
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		5 active cattle bomas (2,447 cattle, Nil shoats & 2 herders)	
Written reports to KWS		74 (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		5 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2025: 348mm	
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3rd October 2025: Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy hosted journalists from CGTN Africa in Kamungi Conservancy. The purpose of the visit was to document how solar power is supporting human-wildlife conflict mitigation and other conservation efforts.9th to 15th October 2025. Participated in the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, an essential global forum that brings together conservation leaders, scientists, governments, Indigenous groups, and NGOs to shape international conservation priorities.		
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:			
	Kamungi Conservancy: TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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)			
			
			
			
			



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
October, 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:** 39 hours flown covering 5,172 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,003 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 27,249 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: Tsavo Trust's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer engages with conservation leaders during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi (October 2025). The Congress brought together over 10,000 participants to advance global action for nature and sustainable development, reinforcing Tsavo Trust's commitment to driving local impact aligned with international priorities.



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 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	11 7 small 4 medium	-	-	-	-	2,424	209
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	1 For illegal grazing	2	12 2 small 10 medium	-	-	-	2 HWC 2 hippo conflicts attended.	2,372	114
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 For bushmeat poaching	2	-	15 5 Dik-diks	2 spotlight, 1 panga, 1 siren & 1 sack.	-	1 HWC 1 elephant conflict report attended	2,143	135
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	2 Both for illegal entry	-	1 1 large	-	-	-	-	2,551	185
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 For bushmeat poaching	-	6 4 small 1 medium 1 large	-	-	1 active	-	2,109	178
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	-	-	50 43 small 7 medium	-	-	-	-	1,529	182
TOTALS	186	5	5	80	15	As above	1	3	13,128	1,003
Total 2025	1,670	53	14	1,237	1,382	-	1	86	113,083	11,210



The photo above shows five illegally killed Dik-diks and associated poaching tools recovered by joint KWS/Tsavo Trust rangers. This successful interception underscores the continued vigilance and impact of collaborative patrols in reducing wildlife crime within the Tsavo landscape.

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 – 14 sightings -Hirola – 2 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 15 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 3 sightings -Road & Rail kills – 2 -Elephant carcasses – 1 fresh - Ivory recovered. – 2 - Collared elephants – 2 - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	3,805
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 – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,556
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 – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,782
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 – 11 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,781
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 – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,197
TOTALS	155	As above	As above	As above	14,121
Total 2025	1,500	-	-	-	142,785



The photo above shows a herd of five hirola captured in Mukwaju, Tsavo East, as part of ongoing hirola monitoring efforts. These surveys allow teams to collect vital data on their health, threats, movements, and population dynamics. As a critically endangered species, hirola require such targeted monitoring to inform effective protection and management strategies. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwendu.

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy
Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust & KC	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.
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.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	12 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 02/10/2025: A Kamungi Conservancy community meeting for the Nthunguni cluster was held at the Assistant Chief's office to share project updates, encourage active member participation in decision-making, deepen awareness on community-led conservation, and address community concerns. ➤ 11th to 13th /10/ 2025: Kamungi Conservancy Board attended a 3-day training at Oasis Hotel, Voi. Led by KWCA experts, the training covered governance and leadership, board roles, policy and legal frameworks, safeguards and human rights, conservancy membership and institutional management, and conservation planning. ➤ 22nd –23rd /10/ 2025: Kamungi Conservancy Board hosted Apalis Nature Ltd under the TTWCA Carbon Credit Project, supported by Volkswagen Climate Partner. The visit focused on validating intervention activities and confirming project area boundaries. ➤ 30/10/2025: A Kamungi Conservancy community meeting for the Ngiluni cluster was held at the Ngiluni water tank meeting area to share project updates, encourage active member participation in decision-making, deepen awareness on community-led conservation, and address community concerns.
Membership	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.
Water Project	267,120 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (1,105,720 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
Basic Health care	811 patients attended to in June. 16,465 patients attended for the year to date.
Constructions	KC additional scouts & office units completed. Construction of tourism facility – the Kamungi Bandas completed.
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).
Bursary Scheme	Started: April 2022 13 needy students selected being supported.
Village Saving & Loan Associations – VSLA's	5 women-run VSLA's are in progress: In partnership between ZSL / KC & TT
Poultry Project	3 poultry projects: partnership between ZSL / KC & TT
Training	VSLA livelihoods, HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture
HWC Mitigation	8 x 1-acre bee fences, totaling 120 beehives, with 10 currently occupied.
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	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL
Predator Proof bomas	Completed 30/11/2021 with 95% HEC reduction in conflict
Mtito 33km elephant fence line	
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	21 cases recorded: 12 Leopard; 3 Elephant; 1 Buffalo; 2 Mongoose & 3 Snake-related.
Land Tenure	Ongoing
Wildlife Census Transects	1
Operations and Security	➤ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



A trio of Southern Ground Hornbills, two adults with a subadult, captured moving together as a cooperative family unit. As Africa's largest hornbills, capable of living 40–50 years yet raising only one chick every few years, their presence highlights the importance of continued habitat protection and monitoring efforts by the Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Research & Training Institute, supported by like-minded partners such as Tsavo Trust across the Tsavo landscape. 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); Bush & Beyond; Origins Safaris; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); 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; Tsavo Simba Research Project; 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; Nick Lapham; Nick Powell; James Robertson; The Davies Family; Loic Gouzer; 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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