

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>

NOVEMBER 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The photo above shows Tsavo Trust handing over the upgraded Nthunguni Dispensary in Kamungi Conservancy, in a ceremony presided over by the Deputy Governor of Makueni County. The upgrade delivered improved infrastructure, water and sanitation systems, and essential medical equipment, significantly enhancing service delivery for local households. Tsavo Trust also provided additional medical equipment to both Nthunguni and Ngiluni Dispensaries, further strengthening basic diagnostic and maternal health services across the community.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered	
 Aerial Unit	72 (681 for year) Average 126km p/h of low-level flight	9,921 (85,697km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 35 (9 TWNP; 1 TENP) (196hrs for the year)	Aerial: 3,960 (21,798km for the year)	
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 180 days (1,850 for year) Monitoring teams: 149 days (1,649 for year)	Vehicle patrols: 12,161km (125,244km for year) Foot patrols: 1,184km (12,394km for year) Monitoring teams: 13,157km (155,942km for year)	
 Big Tusker Project	17 Tuskers – 5 Super Tusker bulls (18 sights), 12 emerging bulls (21 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 39 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	20 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	7 elephant tusks (47 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: 1 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: Unknown)
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: 2 Red Spitting Cobra (<i>Naja pallida</i>): 2 Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>) Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	2 – Both for bushmeat poaching. (55 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	43 by Tembo Teams: 1,280 snares for the year (826 small; 280 medium; 73 large; 101 bird traps)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	4 kg (1,386kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	1 Panga, 1 lamping horn, and 1 spotlight.		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 9 (Magram Ranch, Saruji, Voi River, Mbuyuni, Muhoho farm, and Taita village)		
Firefighting	No reported fire incidents - (Fire incidents reduced with the onset of the wet season)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: Nil		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	5 active cattle bomas (4,888 cattle, Nil shoats & 2 herders)		
Written reports to KWS	77 (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	104 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2025: 452mm		
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/11/2025: Tsavo Trust handed over the upgraded Nthunguni Dispensary in Kamungi Conservancy in a ceremony led by the Deputy Governor of Makueni County. The upgrade improved infrastructure, water, and sanitation, and medical equipment. Additional equipment was also provided to Nthunguni and Ngiluni Dispensaries to strengthen basic health services. 13/11/2025: Tsavo Trust was represented at the Makueni County 3rd Development Partners Conference in Nairobi, where the County launched its Strategic Partnership Policy 2025. The event brought together over 100 partners and emphasized structured, transparent, and collaborative development efforts. 		

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)

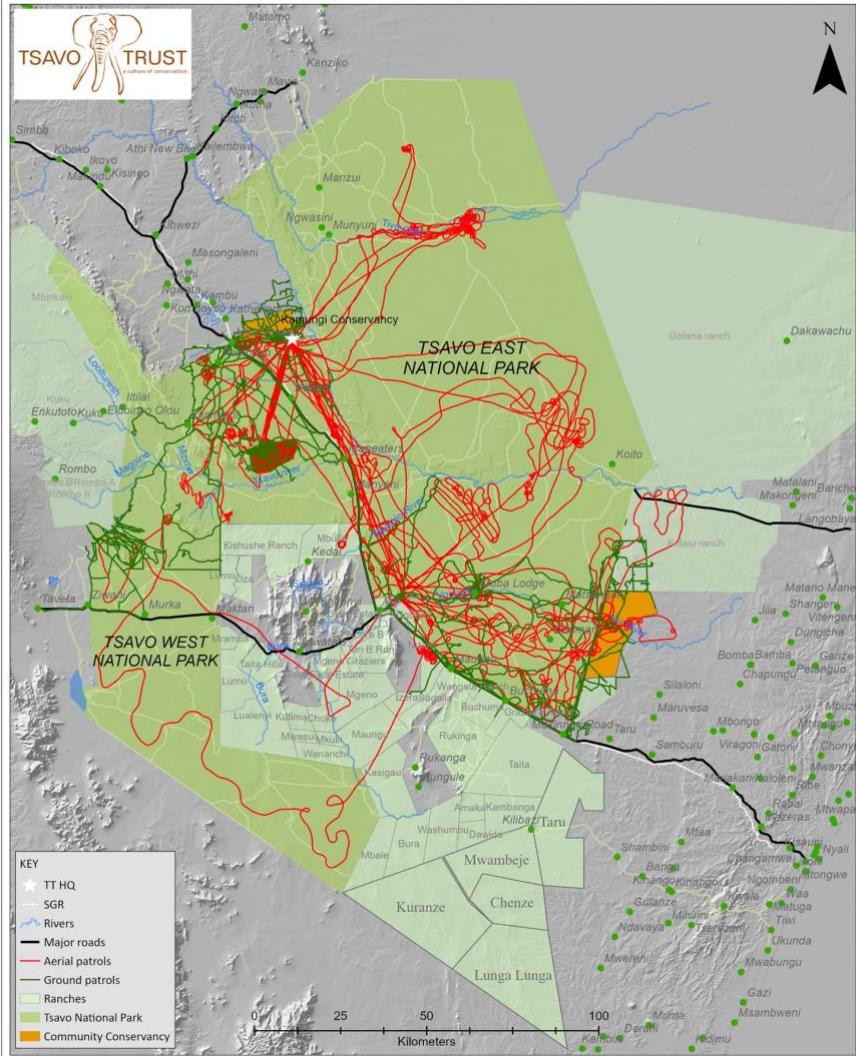
						
						



Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- 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 AND GROUND PATROLS COVERAGE IN TCA November, 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: 72 hours flown covering 9,921 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

Ground: 1,184 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 25,318 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.

The Photo below shows the Kamungi Conservancy Chairperson addressing Kajire community members and STE representatives during a benchmarking visit to Kamungi Conservancy. The group learned from Kamungi's governance, conservation initiatives, and livelihood projects, and toured key sites including the 10% fence plan, Ngiluni Dispensary, and Kamungi Bandas.



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	1 For bushmeat poaching	—	13 8 small 5 medium	3 1 Dik-dik	1 panga, 1 spotlight & 1 lamping horn	—	—	2,617	179
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	—	—	9 All medium	—	—	—	—	1,626	152
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1,825	157
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,445	296
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	—	—	2 Both medium	—	—	—	—	2,132	214
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	1 For bushmeat poaching	2	19 7 small 7 medium 5 bird traps	1 Duiker	—	—	—	1,516	186
TOTALS	180	2	3	43	4	As above	Nil	3	12,161	1,184
Total 2025	1,850	55	17	1,280	1,386	-	1	86	125,244	12,394



The photo above shows rangers in the field teaching others first aid skills they recently learned. Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing ensures all rangers are equipped to respond effectively to emergencies, highlighting the importance of first aid training for every team member.

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) 	29	-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 – 2 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 2 sightings -Large Carnivores – 24 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 3 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 Old - Ivory recovered. – 2 - Collared elephants – Nil - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	2,913
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 – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,432
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 – 22 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 Fresh - Ivory recovered. – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,912
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 – 28 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,984
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 – 21 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,916
TOTALS	149	As above	As above	As above	13,157
Total 2025	1,649	-	-	-	155,942



The photo above shows a black rhino coming out of immobilization following the recent KWS led ear-notching, LoRa tag, and VHF transmitter fitting exercise. These interventions support individual identification and real-time monitoring ahead of the planned partial fence drop at Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, TWNP.



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>10 community meetings were held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 11/11/2025: The handover of the upgraded Nthunguni Dispensary in Kamungi Conservancy in a ceremony presided over by the Deputy Governor of Makueni County. ➤ 12/11/2025: Routine 10% fence plan follow-up in the Kamungi Conservancy wildlife-friendly zone to assess fence functionality and identify any maintenance needs. The team confirmed that household electric fences are operating as intended. ➤ 13/11/2025: Hosted 46 Kajire community members and STE representatives for a benchmarking visit on establishing a community conservancy. The group learned from Kamungi's governance, conservation work, and livelihood projects and toured key sites, including the 10% fence plan, Ngiluni Dispensary, and Kamungi Bandas. ➤ 26/11/2025: Participated in a beekeeping training session in Nthunguni, facilitated by the World Food Programme. The training targeted farmers selected by the Office of the Assistant Chief. ➤ 27/11/2025: Kamungi Conservancy held its AGM at the Ngiluni water tank, attended by 188 members and partners, including KWS, Makueni County, the National Government, and Tsavo Trust. The AGM provided an opportunity to review progress, strengthen governance, and set priorities for the coming year.
<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>	110,700 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (1,216,420 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
<i>Basic Health care</i>	945 patients attended to in June. 17,410 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 8 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>	Completed 30/11/2021 with 95% HEC reduction in conflict
<i>Mtito 33km elephant fence line</i>	Completed 30/11/2021 with 95% HEC reduction in conflict
<i>Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</i>	24 cases recorded: 12 Leopard; 4 Elephant; 3 Buffalo; 3 Jackal & 2 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 above shows a wildebeest herd photographed in the Aruba area of Tsavo East National Park. Although wildebeest are not historically resident here, these animals were translocated into the park, and their rare presence offers useful data for monitoring post-release movements and habitat use. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

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.

All photographs ©Tsavo Trust 2025