



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>

DECEMBER 2025 MONTHLY REPORT



The photo above shows black rhino Terry and her calf within the TW IPZ. Recognizing the critical importance of conserving the Critically Endangered black rhino, Tsavo Trust has supported the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in upgrading the IPZ to enable it to receive and sustain rhinos translocated from the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary and other overcrowded sanctuaries across Kenya. This support includes aerial and ground monitoring and security patrols, upgrading the TW IPZ base, construction of sand dams to provide alternative water sources during the dry season, and improvements to ranger welfare. Tsavo Trust remains committed to continued support for black rhino conservation within the Tsavo Conservation Area. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

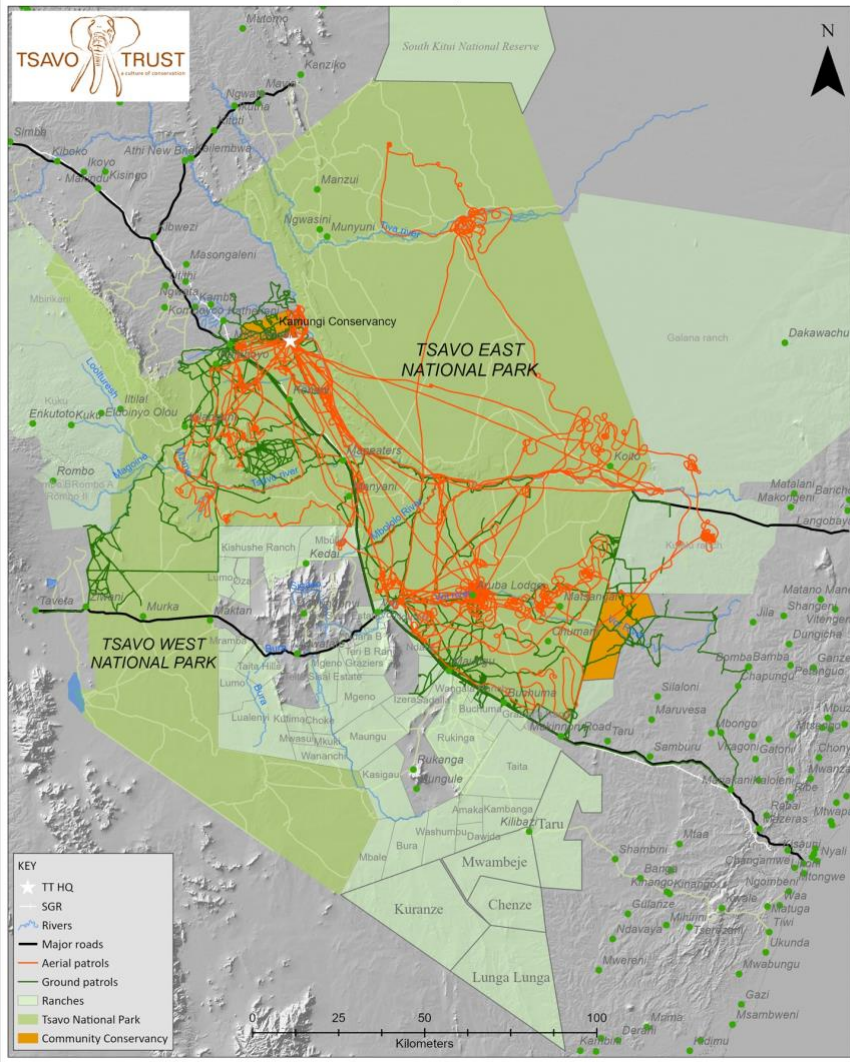
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	48 (729 for year) Average 131km p/h of low-level flight		9,921 (95,618km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 17 (8 TWP; 2 TENP) (228hrs for the year)		Aerial: 1,789 (24,897km for the year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 186 days (2,036 for year) Monitoring teams: 136 days (1,785 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 12,799km (138,043km for year) Foot patrols: 1,049km (13,443km for year) Monitoring teams: 14,801km (170,743km for year)	
	Big Tusker Project	13 Tuskers – 4 Super Tusker bulls (9 sights), 9 emerging bulls (14 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 23 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		13 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		6 elephant tusks (53 for the year)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 2 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural, 1 unknown)		Recent: 1 (Less than 3 months old) (c of d: unknown) 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>): 1 Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>) Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – 1		Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		5 – 3 for bushmeat poaching, 1 for illegal grazing and 1 for illegal entry. (60 for the year)			
Snares/traps recovered		66 by Tembo Teams: 1,346 snares for the year (866 small; 302 medium; 74 large; 104 bird traps)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		68 kg (1,454kg for the year)			
Poachers Equip. Recvd.		3 motorbikes, 3 Pangas, 3 knives, 2 hoes, 1 spade, 1 lamping horn, and 6 spotlight.			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 17 (Kulalu, Ngutuni, Mbuyuni, Ndara, Alpha 3, Bachuma, LMD, Bondeni, and Muhoho farm)			
Firefighting		No reported fire incidents - (Fire incidents reduced with the onset of the wet season)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS teams: 3 in areas east of Mtito Andei town, 1 TENP Southeastern boundary.			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		3 active cattle bomas (3,265 cattle, 1 donkey, Nil shoats & 12 herders)			
Written reports to KWS		68 (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		85 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2025: 537 mm			
Significant notes		11/12/2025: Tsavo Trust participated in the launch of the 2025 National Wildlife Census Report at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, following an invitation from the Wildlife Research and Training Institute. The report was officially launched by the President of the Republic of Kenya. 11/12/2025: Tsavo Trust held an all-staff meeting at its headquarters in Mtito Andei. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on activities and achievements from 2025 and to share plans for 2026. 19/12/2025: Tsavo Trust was represented at the passing-out parade of Kenya Wildlife Service Cadets and Junior officers at the Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani. The event was presided over by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.			
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
December, 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:** 48 hours flown covering 9,921 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,049 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 27,600 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 was taken during the passing-out parade of Kenya Wildlife Service cadets and junior officers at the Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani. Tsavo Trust congratulates the 250 men and women and wishes them every success as they take up their roles in conserving Kenya's wildlife and the landscapes on which it depends.



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		—		56 2 Grant's gazelle	1 panga & 1 spotlight	—	—	2,194	203
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	1 For illegal grazing	—	21 9 small 12 medium	—	—	—	—	1,936	143
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 For illegal entry	—	3 1 medium 2 bird traps	—	—	—	—	2,111	136
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2,529	161
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	3 For bushmeat poaching	2	—	12 L kudu, dik-dik, hare & birds.	3 motorbikes, 2 pangas, 2 knives, 1 lamping horn, 5 spotlights	1 Active	1 HEC Camel killed by elephant	2,733	213
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	—	—	42 31 small 10 medium 1 bird traps	—	—	—	3 HEC 8 elephants chased from farms	1,296	193
TOTALS	186	5	4	66	68	As above	1	4	12,799	1,049
Total 2025	2,036	60	21	1,346	1,454	-	2	90	138,043	13,443



The photo above shows cattle impounded by a joint KWS/TT team, reflecting strengthened law enforcement. In 2025, these efforts contributed to a significant reduction in illegal livestock incursions, particularly in Tsavo West National Park's southern sector, marking a positive outcome for wildlife conservation and habitat protection.

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) 	12	-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 – 6 sightings -Hirola – 2 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 8 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 1 sighting -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 2 sightings - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	2,299
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 – 28 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 4 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	4,027
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 – 28 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,352
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 – 35 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,552
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 – 29 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,571
TOTALS	136	As above	As above	As above	14,801
Total 2025	1,785	-	-	-	170,743



The photo above shows the Kandechea Pride, comprising 15 lions, captured during an aerial monitoring patrol. Such aerial monitoring provides valuable insights into wildlife health status and spatial use, enabling timely management decisions and strengthening conservation planning. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

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	5 community meetings were held. ➤ 01/12/2025 – 05/12/2025: The Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer attended a beekeeping training in Wote, facilitated by the World Food Programme, focused on equipping farmers with beekeeping skills and highlighting its role in food security. ➤ 08/12/2025 – 11/12/2025: Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer trained beekeeping farmers within the villages in Kamungi Conservancy. ➤ 08/12/2025 – 09/12/2025: The Tsavo Trust Chief Community Officer hosted a two-day visit by the Haller Foundation delegation, including a tour of Nthunguni Dispensary where medical equipment funded by the Eagle Foundation had been installed, and held discussions on potential funding and collaboration opportunities for 2026. ➤ 19/12/2025: The Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer attended a local administration meeting at the Mtito Andei Chief's office with the Senior Chief, Assistant Chief, village elders, and Nyumba Kumi leaders. ➤ 22/12/2025: The Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer attended a community meeting in Kaloleni Village to receive a report from the Senior Chief and discuss security issues.
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	44,020 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (1,260,440 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
Basic Health care	1,397 patients attended to in June. 18,807 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. (1 at university & 12 at secondary school)
Village Saving & Loan Associations – VSLA's	5 women-run VSLA's are in progress: In partnership between ZSL / KC & TT. Total savings more than Kenya shillings 1,000,000.
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 6 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)	18 cases recorded: 9 Leopard; 5 Hyena; 3 Elephant & 1 Crocodile.
Land Tenure	Ongoing
Wildlife Census Transects	1
Operations and Security	➤ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



An African rock python captured constricting a dik-dik, a rare and striking observation. Using its strong, muscular body, the python coils tightly around its prey to suffocate it before swallowing it whole. As Africa's largest snake species, rock pythons are powerful ambush predators. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust.

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 (CEO) and the Tsavo Trust Team.

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