



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>

JANUARY 2026 MONTHLY REPORT



The photo above shows Super Tusker KM2 captured during musth, which is a natural period in adult male elephants marked by elevated hormones (testosterone) and increased movement as bulls range widely in search of females. During this time, KM2 moved far beyond his usual location into areas considered outside his normal range, a behaviour typical of males in musth and observed in other tuskers as well. Close monitoring helps track these seasonal movements, ensure protection, and identify long-term trends that allow us to predict where tuskers are likely to be at different times of the year. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

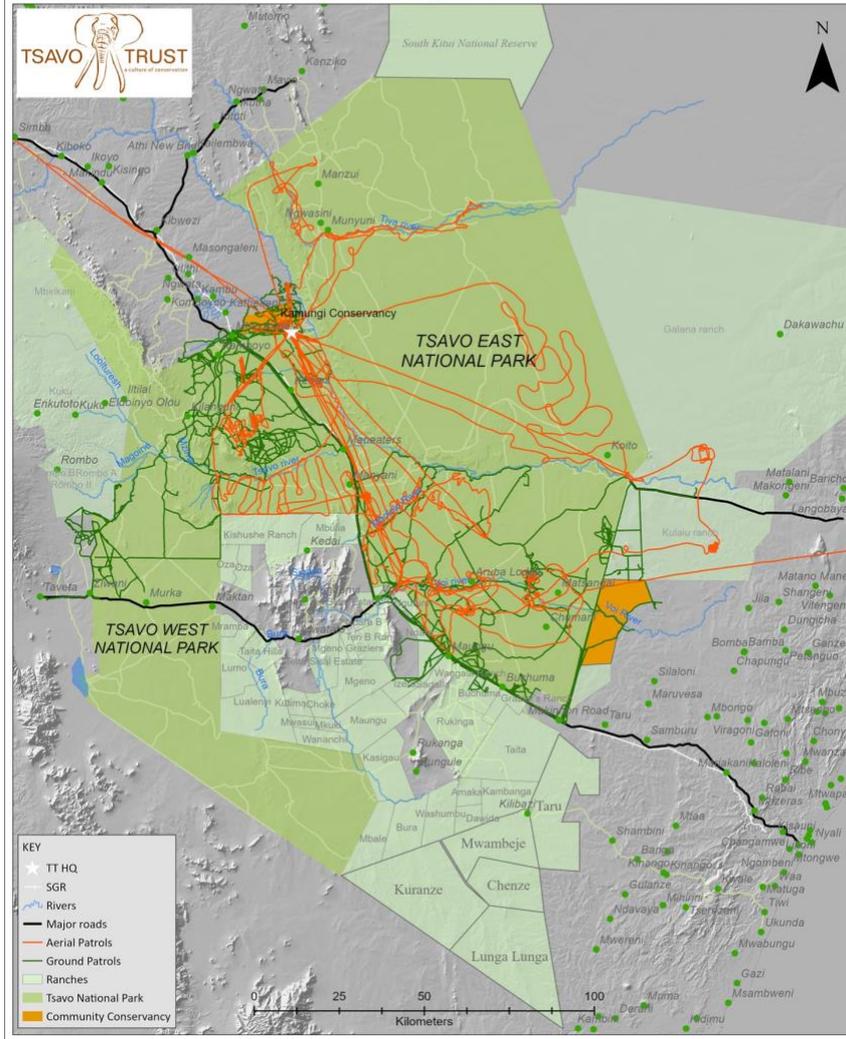
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered
 Aerial Unit	38 (38 for year) Average 129km p/h of low-level flight		4,892 (4,892km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 17 (4 TWP; 1 TENP) (17hrs for the year)		Aerial: 1,738 (1,738km for the year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (186 for year) Monitoring teams: 136 days (149 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 13,606km (13,606km for year) Foot patrols: 1,057km (1,057km for year) Monitoring teams: 14,099km (14,099km for year)
 Big Tusker Project	22 Tuskers – 3 Super Tusker bulls (5 sights), 9 emerging bulls (17 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 22 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	6 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	4 elephant tusks (4 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: unknown)	Recent: Nil (Less than 3 months old)	Old: Nil (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: 1 Red Spitting Cobra (<i>Naja pallida</i>): 1 Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>), 1 Boomslang (<i>Dispholidus typus</i>) & 1 Small scaled burrowing asps (<i>Attractaspis fallax</i>) Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – 1
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	7 – 1 for bushmeat poaching, 5 for illegal grazing and 1 for illegal logging. (7 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	53 by Tembo Teams: 53 snares for the year (29 small; 17 medium; 1 large; 6 bird traps)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	36 kg (36kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	11 spotlights, and 2 knives		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 14 (Muhoho farm, Murka, Kulalu, Mangelete, LMD, Izera Ranch, and Miasenyi)		
Firefighting	Nil - (No reported fire incidents)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 7 in farmed areas east of Mtito Andei town.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	2 active cattle bomas (3,420 cattle, 2 donkeys, 1,950 shoats & 24 herders)		
Written reports to KWS	62 (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 2026: Nil mm		
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28/01/2026: Tsavo Trust Administrator and the Assistant to the CEO represented the organization at a Maliasili-organized fundraising workshop in Nairobi, gaining valuable insights from Maliasili's Senior Manager for Grants and Fundraising. 27th to 29th /01/2026: Participated in the Tsavo MIKE meeting held at the TCA HQ boardroom in Voi to harmonize 2025 elephant mortality records. Key findings showed that 21 of 154 recorded elephant mortalities were due to drowning in livestock water wells, mainly in Kuranze Ranch, while only 6 cases were attributed to trophy poaching. 		
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 AND GROUND PATROLS COVERAGE IN TCA January, 2026



*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:** 38 hours flown covering 4,892 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,057 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 27,705 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 Kiteng'ei Secondary School students engaging in digital learning at the newly installed ICT hub, made possible through a partnership between Tsavo Trust, Haller Foundation, Eagle Foundation, Kamungi Conservancy, and ARES NGO. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nicholas Njogu.



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	–	–	9 2 small 7 medium			–	–	2,153	166
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	5 All for illegal grazing	–	–	–	11 spotlights & 2 knives	–	–	2,616	188
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	–	–	–	–	–	1 recent	–	1,806	168
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	–	–	6 All bird traps	36 1 Impala	–	–	–	2,537	188
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,152	145
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	2 1 for bushmeat poaching & 1 for illegal logging	–	38 27 small 10 medium 1 large	–	–	–	7 HEC 12 elephants chased from farms	1,306	202
TOTALS	186	7	-	53	36	As above	1	7	13,606	1,057
Total 2026	186	7	-	53	36	-	1	7	13,606	1,057



The photo above shows a lesser kudu herd photographed in Kamungi Conservancy, a shared space where wildlife and local communities coexist. Captured by the Kamungi Conservancy community rangers, the image reflects their vital role beyond security and human wildlife conflict mitigation—supporting ongoing wildlife research and monitoring. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Desmond Nzivau.

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) 	25	-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 – 13 sightings -Hirola – 2 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 29 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 4 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 1 sighting - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	3,038
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 – 33 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 6 sightings -Elephant carcasses – 1 old - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,190
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 – 33 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Elephant carcasses – 1 fresh - Ivory recovered. – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,499
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 – 2 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,080
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 – 2 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,292
TOTALS	149	As above	As above	As above	14,099
Total 2026	149	-	-	-	14,099



The photo above shows a collared lioness with a fresh warthog kill, clear evidence that tracking collars do not hinder hunting, movement, or strength. These collars are lightweight, properly fitted, and safety tested. Collaring helps conservation teams monitor movements, reduce human–lion conflict, and protect lions and communities alike. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Irene Muhenje.

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 & 19 casual staff employed generating over \$12,000 (Ksh. 1,547,400) of income into Kamungi monthly.
<i>Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings</i>	15 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 23/01/2026: The Kamungi Q1 Board Meeting was held at the Ngiluni water tank meeting point. The agenda included vetting of scholarship applicants and discussion of Human Wildlife Conflict. The meeting was attended by 14 board members, with 1 member absent and having sent an apology. ➤ 26/01/2026: The Kamungi Conservancy members' monthly meeting for the Ngiluni cluster was held at the Kamungi Conservancy HQ. ➤ 27/02/2026: The Kamungi Conservancy members' monthly meeting for the Nthunguni cluster was held at the Assistant Chief's office. The meeting provided a platform for sharing progress updates on ongoing projects. ➤ 27/02/2026: Kamungi Conservancy was represented at the stakeholder meeting for ZSL's Darwin Project, "Equitable Responses to Illegal Wildmeat Hunting." The meeting brought together 47 participants and was held at the TWNP Education Hall. ➤ 29/01/2026: The Girls' 6-door Ablution Block at Kyusyani Comprehensive School within Kamungi Conservancy was officially handed over. The project goes beyond infrastructure, directly supporting the health, dignity, and retention of girls in school. ➤ 30/01/2026: A sesame harvesting demonstration meeting was conducted in Nthunguni by Ruth Mutisya for Kamungi Conservancy members. The session was attended by 13 participants, comprising 4 females and 9 males.
<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>	90,570 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (90,570 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
<i>Basic Health care</i>	1,051 patients attended to in June. 1,051 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 11 years. Ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate).
<i>Bursary Scheme</i>	Started: April 2022 17 needy students selected being supported. (1 at university & 16 at secondary school)
<i>Village Saving & Loan Associations – VSLA's</i>	5 women-run VSLA's are in progress: In partnership between ZSL / KC & TT. Total savings more than Kenya shillings 1,000,000.
<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 5 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>	
<i>Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</i>	28 cases recorded: 6 Leopard; 3 Hyena; 10 Elephant, 4 Warthog & 5 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 Southern Ground Hornbills, a species with a lifespan of 50 - 60 years. Sexes are best distinguished by throat (wattle) colour: males have a deep, pure red throat, while females show a distinctive violet-blue patch. As cooperative breeders, family groups invest heavily in reproduction, often successfully raising only 1 chick every 9 years, making each breeding success vital for the species. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Irene Muhenje.

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 (ARES); 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 & family; Nick Lapham; Nick Powell; James Robertson; The Davies Family; Mike Kirkland; James Lewin; Paul 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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