



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>

FEBRUARY 2026 MONTHLY REPORT




*The photo above shows a **leopard** resting on a tree within the **Tsavo Triangle**. Leopards are highly adaptable, solitary carnivores known for their exceptional climbing ability and strength. They frequently cache kills in trees, a behavioral adaptation that reduces kleptoparasitism from dominant predators such as **Lion** and **Spotted Hyena**. In multi-predator systems like Tsavo, this arboreal caching strategy allows leopards to coexist with larger carnivores by minimizing direct competition for food resources. Their cryptic behavior, coupled with their use of dense vegetation and rugged terrain, makes them one of the most effective ambush predators in the ecosystem. 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	50 (88 for year) Average 131km p/h of low-level flight		6,628 (11,520km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 12.5 (7 TWNP; Nil TENP) (29.5hrs for the year)		Aerial: 1,498 (3,236km for the year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 168 days (354 for year) Monitoring teams: 140 days (289 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 13,614km (27,220km for year) Foot patrols: 853km (1,910km for year) Monitoring teams: 13,512km (27,611km for year)
 Big Tusker Project	19 Tuskers – 6 Super Tusker bulls (14 sightings), 12 emerging bulls (21 sightings), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 36 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	18 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	Nil elephant tusks (4 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 3 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural, 2 unknown)	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>): 1 Kenyan sand boa (<i>Eryx colubrinus</i>) Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – 1	Recent – 1	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	9 – 3 for bushmeat poaching, 4 for illegal grazing, and 2 for illegal entry. (16 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	87 by Tembo Teams: 140 snares for the year (94 small; 39 medium; 1 large; 6 bird traps)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	47 kg (1 impala and 2 Dik diks) (83kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	1 motorbike, 2 pangas & 1 spotlight		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 14 (Muhoho farm, Subati, Alpha 3, Sala, Lumi, Mukwaju, Busayesa, Ziwani & Ngiitu)		
Firefighting	1 - (Responded to a fire incident at Kanga GPS Ref 37M 0411643 9698906)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 3 in the farmed areas east of Mtito Andei town.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	1 active cattle bomas (2,419 cattle, 11 donkeys, 1,330 shoats, 1 camel & 16 herders)		
Written reports to KWS	86 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)		
TT Staff Training activities	1 TT Officers Masters training; 3 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors		
TT HQ Rainfall figures	190 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2026: 190 mm		

Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/02/2026: The Tsavo Trust hosted Eden Wildlife Trust and facilitated a field tour of Kamungi Conservancy to showcase Tsavo Trust's community support initiatives. The visit included the Kamungi Bandas, Kamungi Headquarters, and the 10% fence model, highlighting the organization's community-based conservation and development efforts. 25th to 26th 02/2026: Tsavo Trust was represented at the Human–Wildlife Coexistence Outcome Bond Design Workshop convened by the Zoological Society of London in Nairobi. The meeting focused on designing a Human–Wildlife Coexistence Outcome Bond to mobilize investment for HWC mitigation by reviewing ecological and conflict data and identifying priority ecosystems for intervention.
--------------------------	---

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

	<p>Kamungi Conservancy: TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014</p> <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)

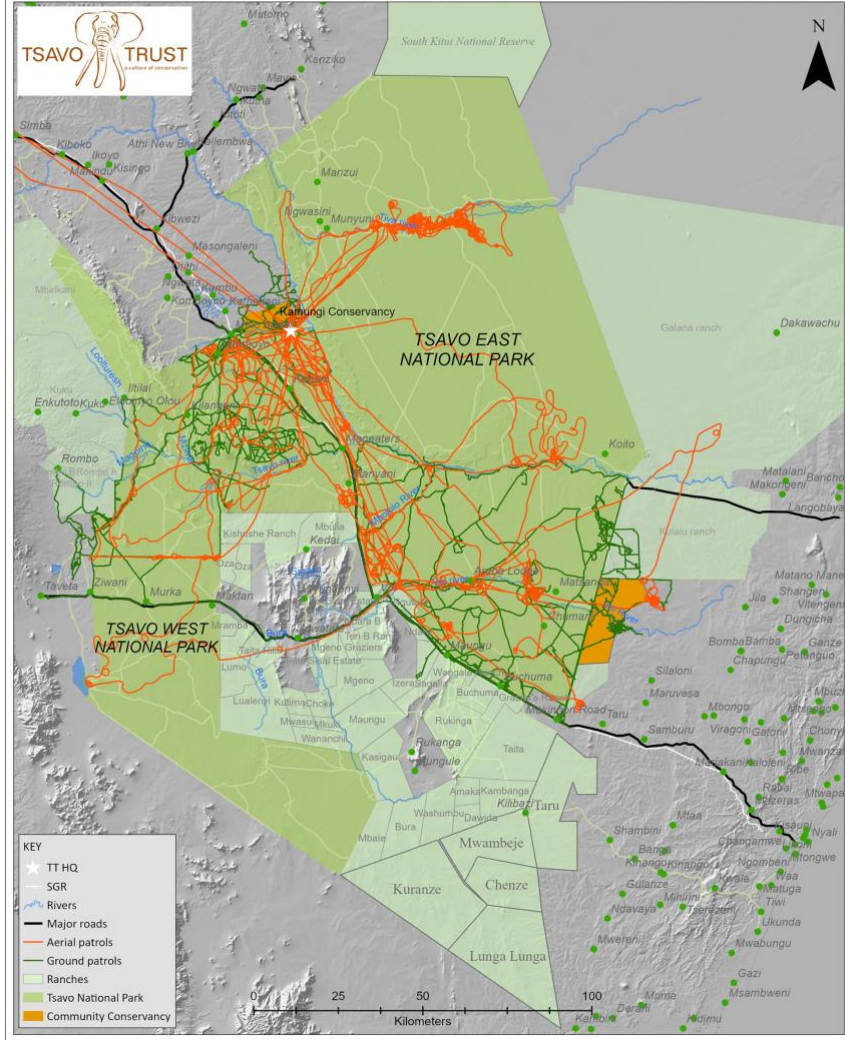




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- 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 February, 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:** 50 hours flown covering 6,628 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 853 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 27,126 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 participants including the Tsavo Trust representative, during the Community of Practice (CoP) on Equitable Governance in Conserved Areas Workshop, convened by the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) on 18th February 2026. The workshop was held in Machakos.



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)	28	4 All for illegal grazing	–	13 1 small 12 medium	–	–	–	–	2,432	131
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,326	135
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	–	–	5 3 small 2 medium	–	–	–	1 HEC 1 elephant chased from farm	1,680	122
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	3 1 for bushmeat poaching & 2 for illegal entry	–	–	42kg 1 Impala	2 pangas, 1 spotlight & 1 motorbike	–	–	3,219	186
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	28	–	–	6 3 small 3 medium	–	–	1 Fresh	–	2,647	113
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	28	2 Both for bushmeat poaching	–	63 58 small 5 medium	5kg 2 Dik-diks	–	1 recent	5 HEC 15 elephants chased from farms	1,360	166
TOTALS	168	9	–	87	47	As above	2	6	13,614	853
Total 2026	354	16	–	140	83	–	3	13	27,220	1,910

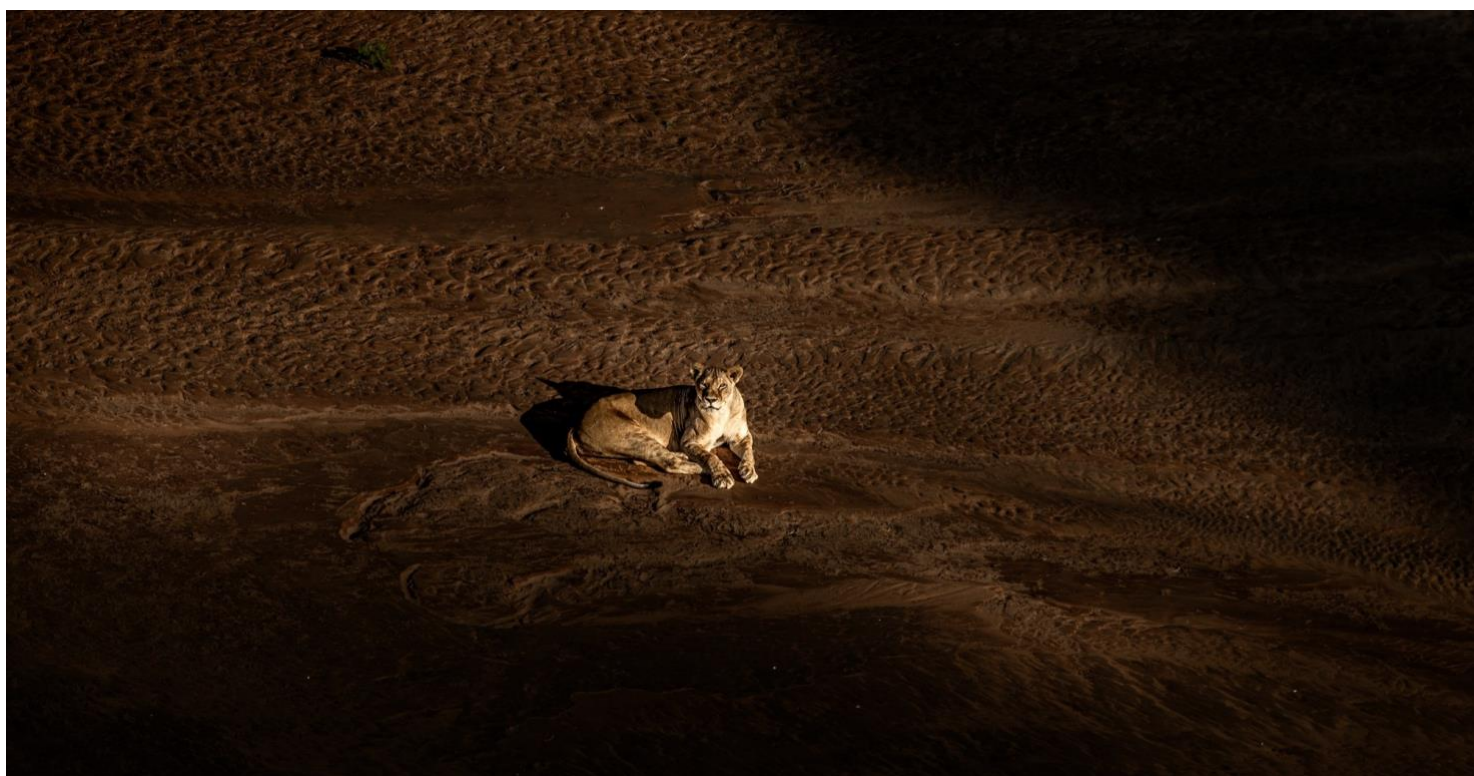


The photo above shows a Savannah S flying over Tsavo, offering unparalleled visibility of the landscape below. Its relatively low operating costs make it ideal for conservation flights, enabling Tsavo Trust to support the crucial work of KWS and WRTI through ground security and monitoring teams in protecting and conserving wildlife and their habitats. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

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) 	28	-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 – 10 sightings -Hirola – 1 sighting -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 17 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 3 sightings -Road & Rail kills – 2 incidents -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	3,798
Tembo 4 (TWNP) (2 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 35 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,788
Tembo 6 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW IPZ -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-IPZ Rhinos – 35 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,500
Tembo 8 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	-NRS Rhinos – 28 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,946
Tembo 10 (TWNP) (1 TT staff + 4 KWS) 	28	-RHINO monitoring – TW NRS -Camera trap surveys - rhino -Big Tusker monitoring -Large Carnivore monitoring -Collared elephant reporting	- NRS Rhinos – 17 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,480
TOTALS	140	As above	As above	As above	13,512
Total 2026	289	-	-	-	27,611



The photo above, taken during a routine aerial monitoring patrol, shows a lone lioness resting in the riverbed along the Tiva River. With low tourism pressure, the Tiva area retains characteristics of a true wilderness with resident lions exhibiting larger body size compared to lions in other parts of Tsavo. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

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 & 19 casual staff employed generating over \$12,000 (Ksh. 1,547,400) of income into Kamungi monthly.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	15 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 04/02/2026: Local administrative meeting with the Assistant Chief, village elders, and Nyumba Kumi representatives at the Nthunguni Assistant Chief's office. ➤ 17/02/2026: Community of Practice on Equitable Governance in Conserved Areas workshop convened by the KWCA and held in Machakos. ➤ 18/02/2026: The Kamungi Conservancy Board meeting was held at the Conservancy's HQ meeting area. The agenda of the meeting was to vet and select beneficiaries for the water tanks and solar solutions project. ➤ 21/02/2026: Kamungi Conservancy was represented at the Farmer Training Certificate Ceremony for the Dryland Agriculture Programme facilitated by Lukenya University. ➤ 23/02/2026: A survey was conducted across 13 schools within the conservancy to inform the distribution of 10 water tanks aimed at increasing rainwater harvesting capacity at the learning institutions. ➤ 25/02/2026: Kamungi Conservancy represented at the Human-Wildlife Coexistence Outcome Bond Design Workshop convened by ZSL in Nairobi. ➤ 26/02/2026: Kamungi Conservancy members meeting for the Ngiluni cluster held at the Conservancy's meeting area. 25 participants attended the meeting. ➤ 27/02/2026: Kamungi Conservancy members meeting for the Nthunguni cluster held at the Assistant Chief's office. 87 participants attended the meeting.
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	113,826 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (204,396 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
Basic Health care	2,115 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 11 years. Ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate).
Bursary Scheme	Started: April 2022 17 needy students selected being supported. (1 at university & 16 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 5 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 Elephant, 5 Hyena, 1 Leopard, 1 Crocodile, 1 Baboon & 1 snake-related.
Land Tenure	Ongoing
Wildlife Census Transects	1
Operations and Security	➤ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



The photo above shows a Bushbuck sighted during a routine ground patrol. Bushbucks are solitary and highly secretive antelopes, typically active at night or during twilight, which makes daytime sightings relatively uncommon. They are strong swimmers and may enter water or thick reeds to evade predators, reflecting their close association with riverine habitats. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Desmond Nzivau.

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.

All photographs ©Tsavo Trust 2026