



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>

MARCH 2026 MONTHLY REPORT



The photo above features a collared emerging tusker, highlighting ongoing efforts to monitor and conserve elephant populations within the Tsavo landscape. The GPS collar is a vital conservation tool that provides real-time data on movement, habitat use, and connectivity, supporting evidence-based management for habitat protection, corridor planning, and human wildlife conflict mitigation. All collaring operations are conducted by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinary teams under strict ethical and animal welfare protocols, with careful pre-assessment of each individual identified for collaring. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

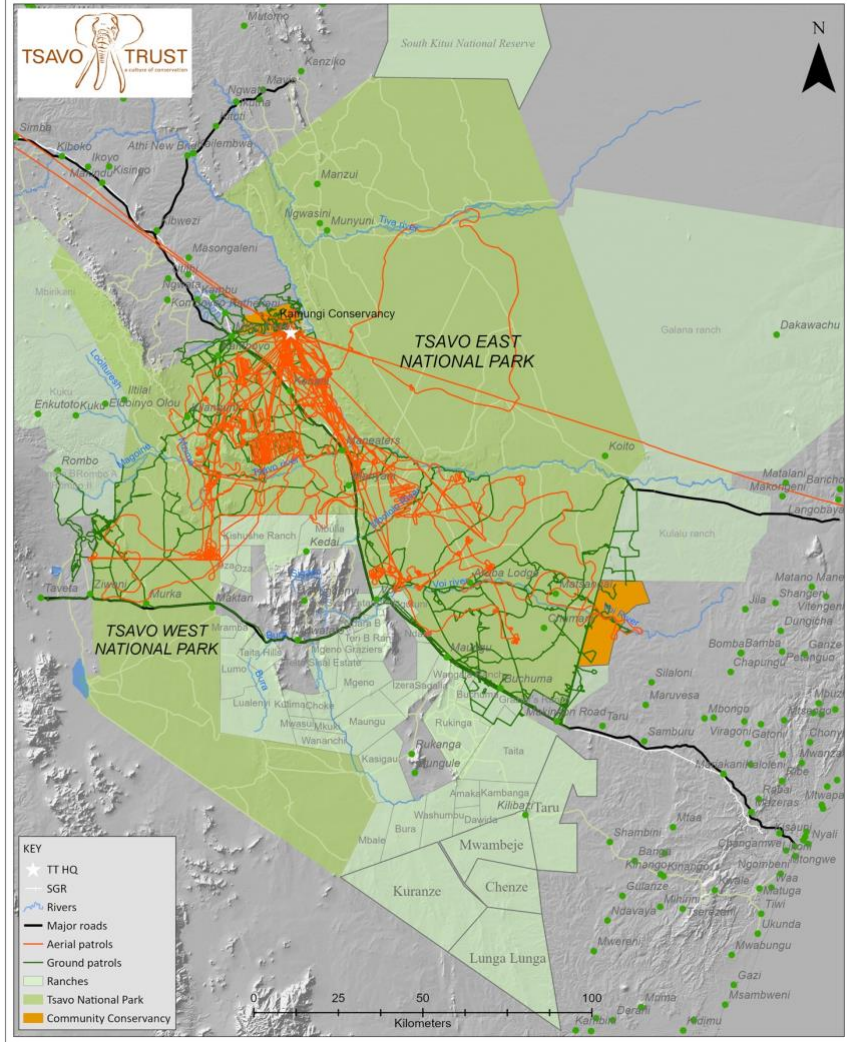
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered
 Aerial Unit	48 (136 for year) Average 132km p/h of low-level flight		6,437 (17,957km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 31.5 (11 TWNP; 2 TENP) (61hrs for the year)		Aerial: 3,579 (6,815km for the year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (540 for year) Monitoring teams: 154 days (443 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 14,946km (42,166km for year) Foot patrols: 930km (2,840km for year) Monitoring teams: 15,255km (42,866km for year)
 Big Tusker Project	5 Tuskers – 1 Super Tusker bull (2 sights), 4 emerging bulls (8 sights), Nil cow Tusker: 10 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	7 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	2 elephant tusks (6 for the year)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: Nil (Less than 3 weeks old)	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 Cobras (<i>Naja pallida</i>): 1 Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>) Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	14 – 13 for illegal grazing, and 1 for charcoaling. (30 for the year)		
Snares/traps recovered	96 by Tembo Teams: 236 snares for the year (146 small; 79 medium; 5 large; 6 bird traps)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	Nil kg (83kg for the year)		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	2 spotlights, 1 solar panel, 1 spade, 1 fork jembe & 2 jerricans of water		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 11 (Muhoho farm, Maungu, LMD, Murondo, Kanga, Dakota, and Salaita)		
Firefighting	Nil - (No fire incidents reported)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS teams: 5 incidents. 31 elephants driven out of farms east of Mtito Andei town		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	2 active cattle bomas (1,453 cattle, Nil donkeys, Nil shoats & 13 herders)		
Written reports to KWS	78 (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	82 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2026: 272 mm		
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th to 6th /03/2026: Tsavo Trust's Admin and Chief Community Officer participated in the Business of Conservation Conference (BCC 2026) in Nairobi, gaining valuable exposure to emerging approaches in community-centered conservation, nature-based financing, and data-driven monitoring systems. 31/03/2026: Tsavo Trust, in partnership with Kamungi Conservancy, handed over 71 water tanks (11 × 10,000L to schools and 60 × 5,000L to households), 65 home solar systems, and a vehicle to support community wellbeing and conservancy operations. 		
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 March, 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: 48 hours flown covering 6,437 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.

Ground: 930 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 30,201 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 an event where Tsavo Trust, in partnership with Kamungi Conservancy, handed over 71 water tanks (11 × 10,000L to schools and 60 × 5,000L to households), 65 home solar systems, and a vehicle to support community wellbeing and conservancy operations. The event was graced by the KWS TWNP AD and his team.



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	4 All for illegal grazing	—	26 5 small 20 medium 1 large	—	1 spotlight & 1 solar panel	—	—	2,647	130
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	7 All for illegal grazing	—	—	—	1 spotlight	—	—	2,915	161
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 For charcoaling	—	—	—	Spade, fork jembe, 2 jerrycans filled with water	—	—	1,812	119
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	—	—	2 Both large	—	—	—	—	3,263	193
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	2 All illegal herders	—	7 All medium	—	—	—	—	2,477	142
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	—	—	61 47 small 13 medium 1 large	—	—	—	6 HCC 31 elephants chased from farms	1,832	185
TOTALS	186	14	-	96	Nil	As above	Nil	6	14,946	930
Total 2026	540	30	-	236	83	-	3	19	42,166	2,840



The photo above shows Rhino Valley Sand Dam filled with water following the March and April rainfall, reflecting the strong seasonal recharge across the landscape. The recent rains have also contributed to increased sand accumulation in various sand dams, accelerating their maturation and improving their long-term water storage capacity. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

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) 	30	-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 – 4 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 22 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 4 sightings -Road & Rail kills – 1 incident -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – Nil - Carnivore scats collected – Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	3,170
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 – 18 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	4,050
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 – 18 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,839
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 – 31 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	1,563
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 – 38 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,633
TOTALS	154	As above	As above	As above	15,255
Total 2026	443	-	-	-	42,866



The photo above shows a bachelor herd of 11 hirola, a critically endangered antelope. One of the key threats to their population growth is predation, with scat analysis from lions in the area confirming hirola in their diet. This was further supported by a direct sighting of a lion within the hirola range preying on an adult female hirola. These observations provide important insights into predator–prey dynamics, which inform conservation efforts. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Irene Muhanji.

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 43 permanent staff & 20 casual staff employed generating over \$14,000 (Ksh. 1,820,000) of income into Kamungi monthly.
<i>Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings</i>	10 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 06/03/2026: A Kamungi Conservancy Board meeting was held at the Kamungi HQ, attended by 14 Board members and the Conservancy Accountant. The main agenda was the selection of water tank beneficiaries. ➤ 11/03/2026: Tsavo Trust’s Agricultural Extension Officer conducted a sesame cultivation training for newly certified dryland agriculture practitioners at Lukenya University in Kalawa Village (Nzoila area). ➤ 16/03/2026: The Tsavo Trust Community Liaison Officer attended a local administration meeting at the Assistant Chief’s Office in Nthunguni, with the Assistant Chief, village elders, and Nyumba Kumi representatives, to share village security updates. ➤ 25/03/2026: Tsavo Trust’s Agricultural Extension Officer collected 57.1 kg of sesame from farmers within Kamungi Conservancy under the Sesame Crop Plantation project, with all sales revenue going directly to the farmers. ➤ 25/03/2026: Tsavo Trust, together with the Kamungi Conservancy Board, hosted a benchmarking visit by the Kanyonyoo community to learn about the conservancy model and formation process as they plan to establish their own conservancy in Kitui. ➤ 31/03/2026: Tsavo Trust and Kamungi Conservancy handed over 71 water tanks (11 to schools, 60 to households), 65 solar systems, and a vehicle to support community wellbeing and conservancy operations, with 284 participants in attendance.
<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>	10,660 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (215,056 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.
<i>Basic Health care</i>	2,168 patients attended for the year to date.
<i>Constructions</i>	KC Scouts accommodation blocks x 2; radio room, office & store units; 100,000ltr water tank & dispensing kiosk; bore hole for water supply; 2 Dispensaries built – Ngiluni and Nthunguni; Kamungi Bandas - tourism facility; KC HQ office / store unit.
<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>	
<i>Elephant Bee Fence</i>	8 x 1-acre bee fences, totaling 120 beehives, with 5 currently occupied.
<i>10% Fence Plan</i>	10% fence plan completed Phase 2 completed: Total 16 plots (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land).
<i>Predator Proof bomas</i>	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL
<i>Mtito 33km elephant fence line</i>	Completed 30/11/2021 with 95% HEC reduction in conflict
<i>Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</i>	19 cases recorded: 6 Elephant, 3 Hyena, 1 Leopard, 2 Jackal, 2 Zebra & 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 camera trap image above captures an unusual moment showing two buffalo bulls calmly drinking from Mbololo Sand Dam B while a leopard rests in the shade of the dam wall nearby. Despite the leopard's close proximity, the buffalo remain unbothered. This is particularly notable given that buffalo are large-bodied animals and generally fall outside the typical prey base of leopards. The scene highlights a rare instance of apparent tolerance between predator and large herbivore within a shared landscape. 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 (ARES); Eagle Foundation; Milkywire; Suzuki Rhino Club; Exodus Travel; Helping Rhino's; 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; Lets Go Travel; Africa Geographic; Askari Project–Australia; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Empowers Africa; Conservation Alpha; Remembering Wildlife Books; Kampur Enterprises and many more anonymous donors.

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Report compiled by Richard Moller (C.E.O) and the Tsavo Trust Team.

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