



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>

APRIL 2026 MONTHLY REPORT



KU1, one of the iconic bulls of the Tsavo Conservation Area, photographed alongside another bull. Initially recorded under the Tsavo Trust Big Tuskers monitoring programme as an emerging tusker, KU1 has over the years shown remarkable physiological development. His tusks have grown exponentially in both length and girth, reflecting age, health, and genetic potential, and have now elevated him into the distinguished Super Tusker category. His continued presence within the landscape underscores the importance of long-term monitoring and protection of these rare giants, whose movements often extend into critical wildlife dispersal areas. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kyalo.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

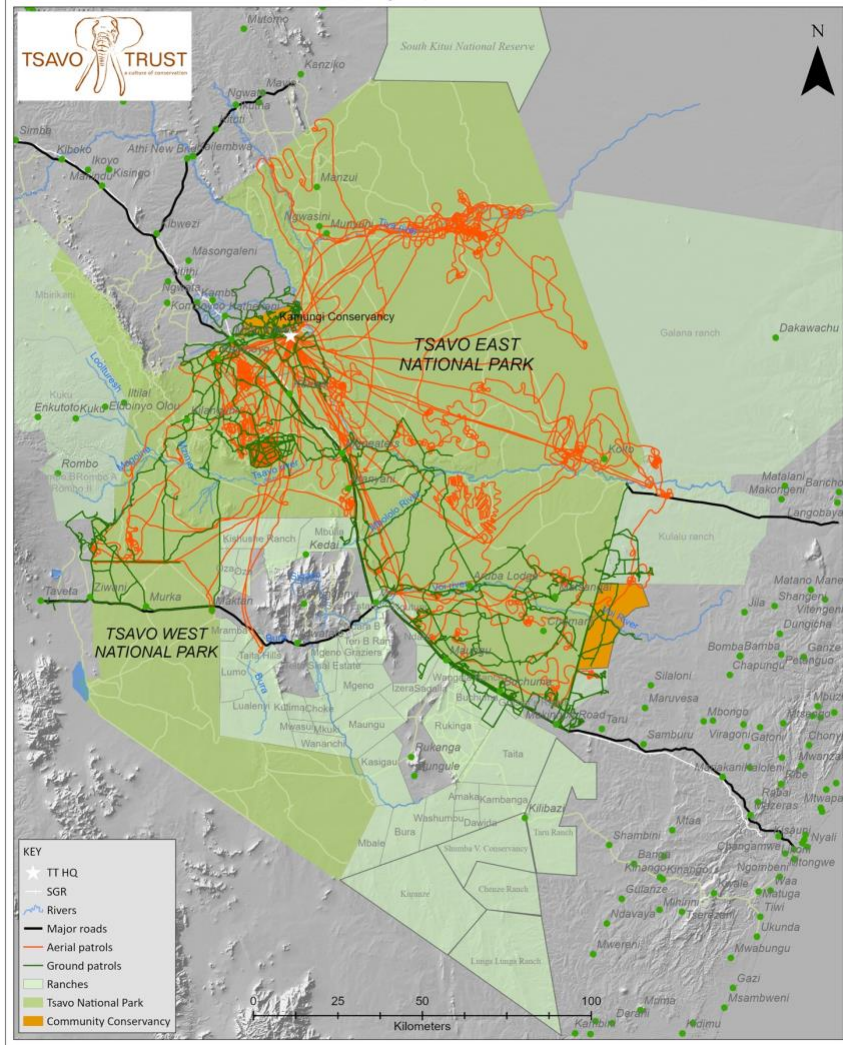
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	61 (197 for year) Average 133km p/h of low-level flight		8,212 (26,169km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 27 (8 TWNP; 2 TENP) (88hrs for the year)		Aerial: 3,157 (9,972km for the year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)		Protection teams: 180 days (720 for year) Monitoring teams: 172 days (615 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 12,958km (55,124km for year) Foot patrols: 989km (3,829km for year) Monitoring teams: 15,646km (58,512km for year)	
	Big Tusker Project	18 Tuskers – 4 Super Tusker bull (5 sights), 14 emerging bulls (25 sights), Nil cow Tusker: 30 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		19 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		Nil elephant tusks (6 for the year)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: Hit by train)	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 Puff Adder (<i>Bitis arietans</i>) Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		12 – 3 for bushmeat poaching, 7 for illegal grazing, 1 for illegal entry and 1 illegal sand extraction. (42 for the year)			
Snares/traps recovered		99 by Tembo Teams: 335 snares for the year (193 small; 121 medium; 13 large; 8 bird traps)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		4 kg – 2 Dik-diks (87kg for the year)			
Poachers Equip. Recovered.		7 spotlights, 6 knives, 1 panga, 2 spades and a tractor.			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 12 (Muhoho farm, Ngutuni, Ndara, LMD, Maneaters, Wangala, and Murondo.)			
Firefighting		Nil - (No fire incidents reported)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS teams: 1 incident. 7 elephants driven out of farms east of Mtito Andei town			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		7 active cattle bomas (4,155 cattle, Nil donkeys, Nil shoats & 15 herders)			
Written reports to KWS		83 (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		11 mm. Total rainfall to date for 2026: 283 mm			
Significant notes	16/04/2026: Tsavo Trust donated 100 bags (2,500 kg) of Rice to Nicholas Nzioka, CECM for Devolution, Public Participation, County Administration & Special Programs, in the presence of Makueni County Government officials, to support flood-affected households in Makueni County. 17/04/2026: Participated in the Amboseli Trust for Elephants Conservation Career Development Workshop to equip early-career professionals with skills, knowledge, and confidence for conservation careers. The workshop inspired and mentored 20 recent Kenyan graduates in wildlife conservation and related fields.				
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 42km² 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 April, 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:** 61 hours flown covering 8,212 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 989 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 28,604 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 Tsavo Trust's Chief Community Officer addressing representatives from Kajire community during a benchmarking visit to Kamungi Conservancy for knowledge exchange on conservancy formation and management, promoting peer learning and strengthening community-led conservancy development.



Field Mobile Units:

Tembo 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 teams, Kamungi Scouts are habitat protection / de-snaring focused.

Tembo 2 (TENP), 4 (TWNP) & Simba 1 teams (TE, TW & Kamungi) are wildlife monitoring dedicated.

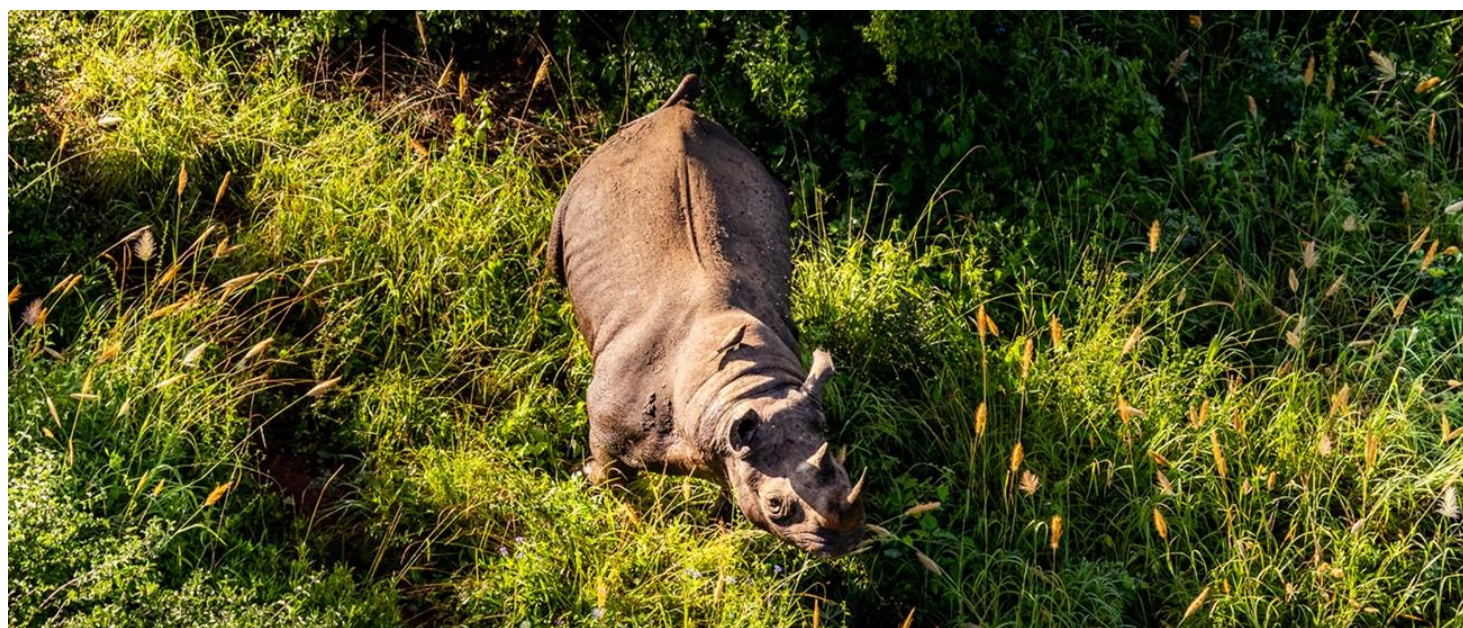
Tembo 6, 8 & 10 (TWNP) teams are rhino specific with confidential info.

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 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)	30	5 All for illegal grazing	—	9 8 medium 1 large	—	6 spotlights & 3 knives	—	—	2,806	145
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	—	—	52 38 small 12 medium 2 large	—	—	—	—	1,872	171
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	1 For illegal entry & staying inside park.	—	—	—	2 knives, 1 panga, & food stuffs.	—	—	1,730	138
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,065	169
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	2 All illegal herders	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,896	163
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	4 3 bushmeat poachers & 1 for illegal sand harvesting.	—	38 9 small 22 medium 5 large & 2 bird traps	4 kg 2 Dik-diks	2 spades, 1 spotlight, 1 knife & a tractor.	—	1 HWC 7 elephants chased from farms	1,589	203
TOTALS	180	12	-	99	4	As above	Nil	1	12,958	989
Total 2026	720	42	-	335	87	-	3	20	55,124	3,829



A very healthy-looking rhino in Tsavo. Above-average rains in 2026 Q1 led to thick vegetation and made direct sightings more difficult. Despite these challenges, multiple monitoring approaches remain effective, with Tsavo Trust supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service through aerial monitoring, camera trapping, VHF tracking, and ground patrols to ensure every rhino is accounted for across the landscape. 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) 	27	-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 – 11 sightings -Hirola – 10 sightings -Grevy's Zebra –1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 6 sightings -Ground Hornbill – Nil -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 5 sightings - Carnivore scats collected – Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	2,030
Simba 1 (TENP) (1 TT staff) 	25	-Wild dogs monitoring -Large carnivore monitoring	Wild dogs – 2 sightings Lion – 2 sightings Leopard – 1 sighting	Tsavo East & Tsavo West Wild dogs' range	2,723
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 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,958
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 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,387
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 – 20 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,369
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 – 36 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,179
TOTALS	172	As above	As above	As above	15,646
Total 2026	615	-	-	-	58,512



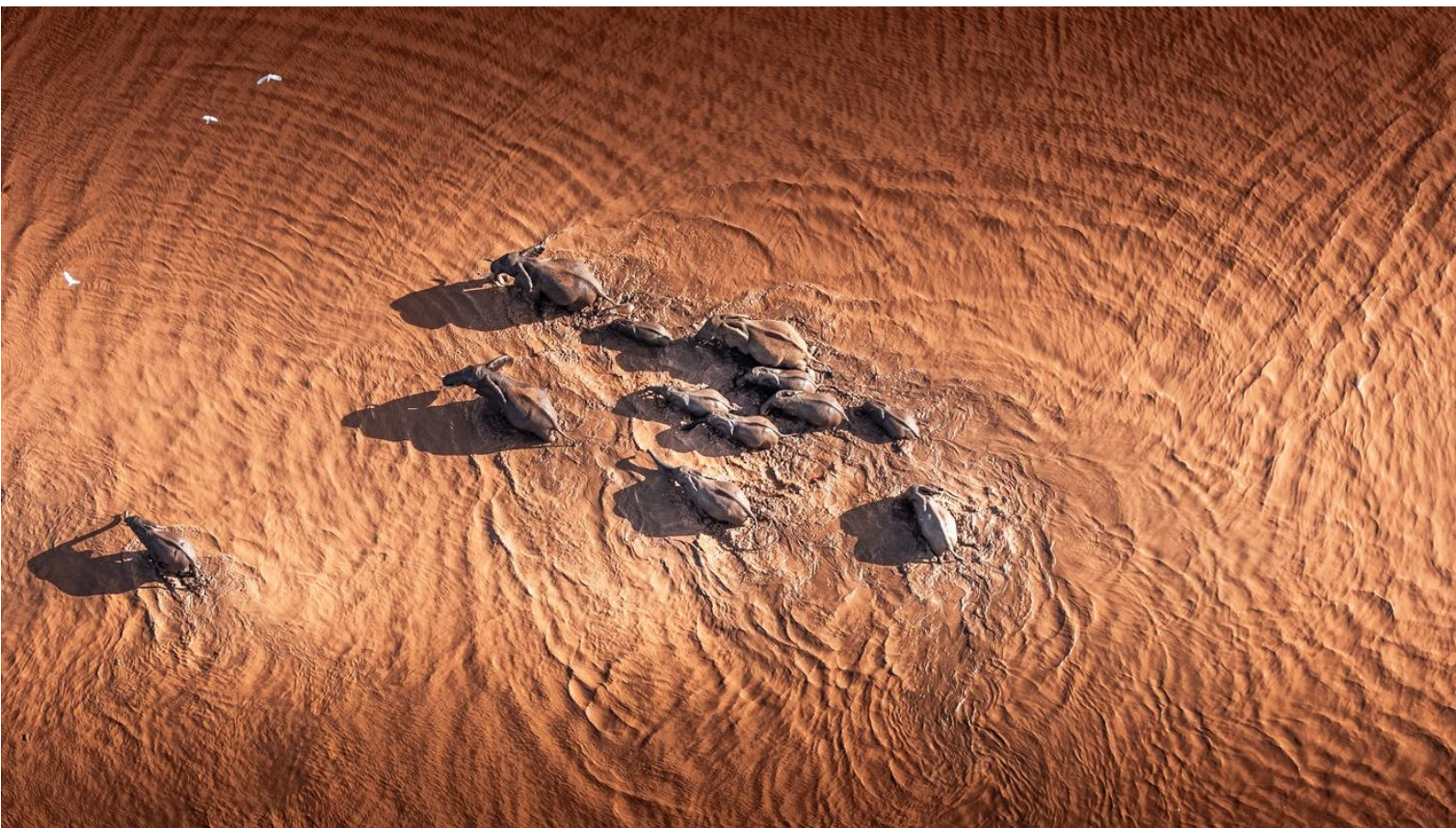
The photo above shows part of a pack of wild dogs captured in the Tsavo Triangle. Ongoing monitoring and individual identification by our wild dog ecologist include regular tracking of the pack, snare checks, and surveillance of key water points to reduce risks from human wildlife conflict as the dogs occasionally move into neighboring community lands where small herd livestock are kept. This is a joint activity.

Tsavo Trust – Desmond Nzivau.

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. 42km 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 45 permanent staff & 29 casual staff employed generating over \$12,403 (KES. 1,600,000) of income into Kamungi monthly.
<i>Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings</i>	10 community meetings were held. ➤ 24/04/2026: Held community meetings in Kamungi Conservancy to review project progress, discuss governance, and conduct community sensitization. A total of 107 participants were engaged, strengthening community awareness, participation, and governance alignment. ➤ 24/04/2026: Conducted scholarship appraisal and mentorship for 11 student beneficiaries, reviewing academic performance and providing targeted guidance. ➤ 23/04/2026: Participated in a dialogue with diplomatic and development partners on dryland agriculture at International Livestock Research Institute headquarters in Nairobi. ➤ 21/04/2026: Hosted a community benchmarking visit from Kajire to Kamungi Conservancy to facilitate knowledge exchange on conservancy establishment and management. ➤ 17/04/2026: Supported the Amboseli Trust for Elephants Conservation Career Development Workshop, which equipped early-career professionals with practical skills, knowledge, and confidence to pursue careers in conservation, mentoring 20 recent Kenyan graduates in wildlife conservation and related fields. ➤ 16/04/2026: Donated 100 bags (2,500 kg) of Rice to the Makueni County Government to support flood-affected households, providing emergency relief and strengthening community resilience in Makueni County.
<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 3,030 individuals from 12 villages, mainly from the WaKamba community.
<i>Water Project</i>	36,150 litres of water at Ngiluni Water Tank during the reporting period, bringing the year-to-date total to 251,206 litres . Ngiluni Primary School, Kamungi Bandas, and Kamungi Scouts Base are connected to piped water. In addition, Tsavo Trust provided 140 dam liners and 71 water tanks, with a combined storage capacity of 7,800,000 litres and 504,000 litres respectively.
<i>Basic Health care</i>	3,289 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. Kyusyani Science lab and ablution block in Kyusyani Comprehensive school.
<i>Education</i>	Paid for 2 teachers (1-Ngiluni & 1-Kamungu School in KC) for the last 11 years, ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate). Distributed 210 laptops to eight schools to enhance digital literacy and support ongoing ICT integration in teaching and learning.
<i>Scholarship programme</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>	HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture, and sesame farming.
<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>	A total of 19 plots constructed to date (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land). 100% effective.
<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 over 80% HEC reduction in conflict
<i>Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</i>	20 cases recorded: 11 Elephant, 1 Hyena, 5 Leopard, 1 Zebra & 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 breeding herd of African elephant moving through a waterhole within the Tsavo Conservation Area, their passage creating ripples in the characteristic reddish waters. Elephants often bathe and wade during the heat of the day to cool off, while also strengthening social bonds within the herd. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

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; Tusk Trust; Save The Elephants (STE); The Glassybaby Foundation; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg 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.

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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