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Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzYIQBSm5Dw>

JULY 2026 MONTHLY REPORT



Photo above shows super tusker KM2 photographed at sunset in Aruba during the ongoing lion survey in the southern sector of Tsavo East National Park. KM2 was sighted eight times in July—four times by the joint WRTI/Tsavo Trust Tembo 2 team and four times by the aerial team. Having been monitored since 2015, when he was first recorded as an emerging tusker, KM2's continued presence and regular sightings demonstrate the value of long-term monitoring in tracking the survival and development of Tsavo's iconic elephants and informing their protection and conservation. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Beverlyne Khakusuma.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

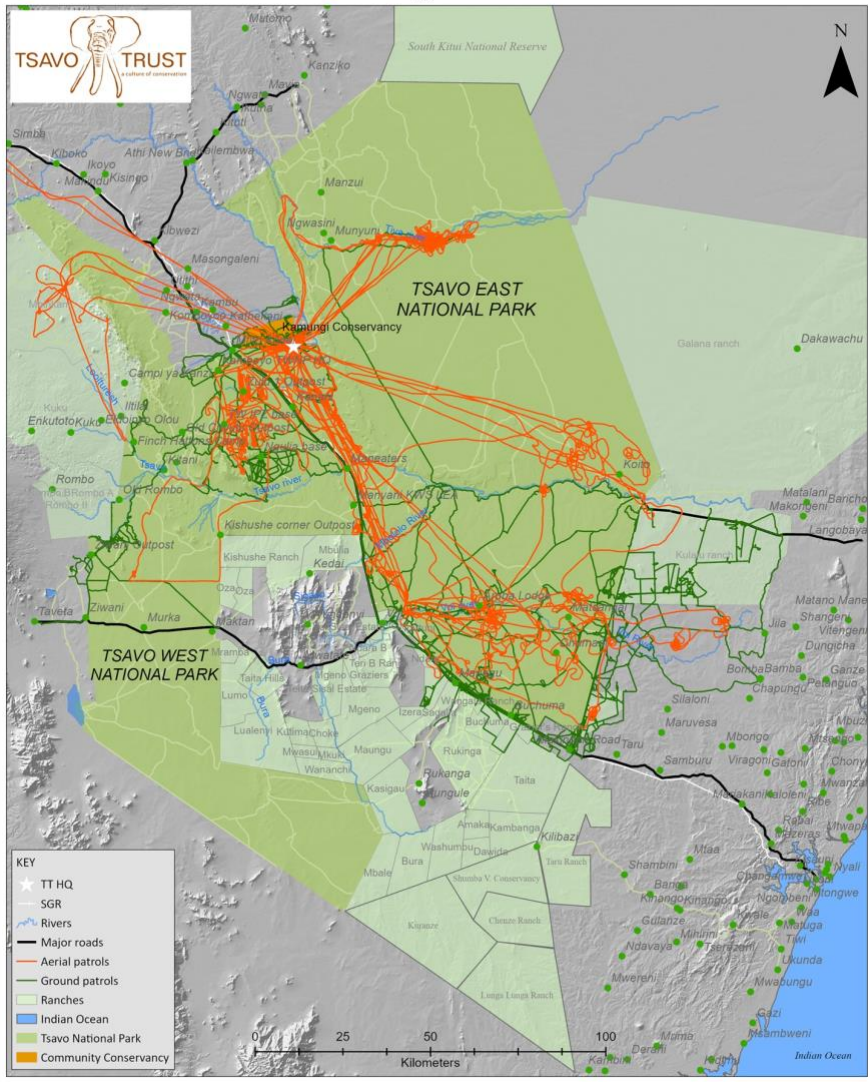
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity		Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
	Aerial Unit	61.5 (384.5 for year) Average 128km p/h of low-level flight	7,695 (49,155km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 13 (3 TWNP; 3 TENP) (158hrs for the year)	Aerial: 1,490 (17,934km for the year)
		Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
	Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / WRTI / TT Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (1,272 for year) Monitoring teams: 169 days (1,046 for year)	Vehicle patrols: 13,228km (93,664km for year) Foot patrols: 895km (6,590km for year) Monitoring teams: 14,966km (103,807km for year)
	Big Tusker Project	15 Tuskers – 8 Super Tusker bull (18 sights), 7 emerging bulls (13 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sights): 31 individual observations	
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		10 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)	
Ivory recovered		10 elephant tusks (20 for the year)	
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 5 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural, 4 unknown)	Recent: Nil (Less than 3 months old)
High Value Species Monitoring		Old: 1 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: unknown)	
		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		4 – 2 for bushmeat poaching, and 2 for illegal grazing. (58 for the year)	
Snares/traps recovered		52 by Tembo Teams: 714 snares for the year (353 small; 251 medium; 47 large; 63 bird traps)	
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		282 kg – 1 Lesser Kudu, 3 Dik-diks, 1 guinea fowl, and 1 zebra (559kg for the year)	
Poachers Equip. Recovered.		3 panga, 1 knife, 1 siren, 5 spotlights and 1 motorbike	
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 10 (Maungu, Mangelete, Muhoho, LMD, and Murondo)	
Firefighting		2 - (Both along the Mombasa-Nairobi highway near Kanga)	
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS teams: 5 incidents. 15 elephants chased from farms near Mtito Andei.	
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		2 active cattle bomas (2,984 cattle, Nil donkeys, 290 shoats & 3 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		Nil mm. Total rainfall to date for 2026: 283 mm	
Significant notes		05/07/ 2026: 6 Tsavo Trust rangers pass out at Manyani after successfully completing 3 month training at the Manyani Law Enforcement Academy. 10/07/2026: Tsavo Trust, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and Kamungi Conservancy convened a Human–Wildlife Conflict stakeholder workshop, bringing together 62 participants to strengthen collaboration and raise awareness of African wild dog conservation in the Tsavo Conservation Area. 31/07/2026: Participated in the World Ranger’s Day celebrations held at Maktau gage. The event was graced by the cabinet secretary Tourism and Wildlife, KWS General Director, Governor of Taita Taveta	
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 July, 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:** 61.5 hours flown covering 7,695 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 895 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 28,194 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.*

***Photo Below:** Women from Kamungi Conservancy participate in a Focus Group Discussion on livestock ownership and predation held on 2 July 2026. The discussion brought together 78 participants, including 50 women and 28 men, to share community perspectives on livestock management practices and human-wildlife conflict, providing valuable insights to inform conservation and community engagement efforts.*





Field Mobile Units - Habitat Protection / De-snaring teams:

- **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.
- **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”.

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)	31	2 1 for bushmeat poaching, 1 for illegal grazing.	—	14 8 medium 6 large	20 kg 1 Lesser kudu	2 pangas & 2 sacks	—	—	2,297	140
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	1 For bushmeat poaching.	—	15 9 small 6 medium	12 kg 3 Dik-diks & 1 Guinea fowl	1 panga, 1 knife, 5 spotlights & lamping horn	—	—	2,157	152
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	—	—	8 Bird traps	—	—	—	—	1,915	136
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT-Scouts + 3 KWS-Rangers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT-Scouts + 3 KWS-Rangers	31	1 For illegal grazing.	—	7 All large	250 kg 1 Zebra (snared)	1 motorbike	—	2 HWC 12 elephants chased from farms	2,424	123
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT-Scouts + 3 KWS-Rangers	31	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2,395	177
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	—	—	8 All small	—	—	—	3 HWC 1 buffalo chased from farms	2,040	167
TOTALS	186	4	2	52	282	As above	-	5	13,228	895
Total 2026	1,272	58	2	714	559	-	4	29	93,664	6,590



The photo above shows four young Tsavo Trust community rangers that proudly graduated from the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy on 9th July 2026. They now join KWS rangers and fellow community rangers in protecting wildlife, combating illegal wildlife trade, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, and serving communities and visitors across the Tsavo Conservation Area. A new generation of conservation leaders ready to serve and protect.



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) 	31	-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 – 4 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – 1 sighting -Large Carnivores – 24 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 1 sighting -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 fresh & 1 old - Ivory recovered. – 4 - Collared elephants – 1 sighting - Carnivore scats collected – Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	4,031
Simba 1 (TENP) (1 TT staff) 	14	-Wild dogs monitoring -Large carnivore monitoring	Wild dogs – 5 sightings Lion – Nil Leopard – Nil	Tsavo East & Tsavo West Wild dogs' range	641
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 – 40 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – 1 - Ivory recovered – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,887
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 – 40 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,960
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 – 79 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,363
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 – 187 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,084
TOTALS	169	As above	As above	As above	14,966
Total 2026	1,146	-	-	-	103,807



The photo above shows an adult male lion photographed during the ongoing Lion Survey covering the Southern Sector of Tsavo East National Park, sporting a striking, full dark mane—quite unlike the typically scrappy and scanty manes often seen among Tsavo's male lions. A remarkable individual adding to the diversity of Tsavo's iconic lions. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Beverlyne Khakusuma.

ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy
Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust & KC	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.
Employment (Through Tsavo Trust)	Between Tsavo Trust & partners 45 permanent staff & 36 casual staff employed generating over \$13,953 (KES. 1,800,000) of income into Kamungi monthly.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	10 community meetings were held. ➤ 30/07/2026: The Ngiluni School ablution construction site was formally handed over to the contractor, with the County Engineer confirming the project dimensions and layout. The project was officially launched with a groundbreaking ceremony. ➤ 18/07/2026: Attended the Mbeetwani CBO community meeting and conducted a campaign on sesame crop production with participants. The campaign was successfully undertaken, with participants agreeing to adopt and support the initiative. ➤ 16/07/2026: Attended the ARES Board review and planning meeting to assess progress in the 2026 implementation and plan for the 2027 ARES installations in Tsavo and Laikipia. ➤ 10/07/2026: Participated in the HWC stakeholder workshop, which brought together 62 participants from conservation organizations, government agencies, communities, private sector partners, and academic institutions. The workshop strengthened stakeholder engagement and collaboration, enhanced understanding of African wild dogs, and promoted collective action to support their conservation and human–wildlife coexistence. ➤ 09/07/2026: Participated in the handover of a 10,000-litre water tank to Kikwasuni Comprehensive School. The tank was connected to the school borehole, improving water storage capacity and access to water for the school.
Membership	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.
Water Project	113,280 litres of water at Ngiluni Water Tank during the reporting period, bringing the year-to-date total to 449,786 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.
Basic Health care	5,976 patients attended for the year to date.
Constructions	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.
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). Distributed 210 laptops to eight schools to enhance digital literacy and support ongoing ICT integration in teaching and learning.
Scholarship programme	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	HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture, and sesame farming.
HWC Mitigation	
Elephant Bee Fence	8 x 1-acre bee fences, totaling 120 beehives, with 5 currently occupied.
10% Fence Plan	A total of 19 plots constructed to date (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land). 100% effective.
Predator Proof bomas	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL
Mtito 33km elephant fence line	Completed 30/11/2021 with over 80% HEC reduction in conflict
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	19 cases recorded: 9 Elephant, 8 Leopard, 1 Hyena & 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 rare glimpse of one of Tsavo's elusive wild cats. Often overshadowed by the ecosystem's larger and more charismatic species, these secretive predators play an important role in regulating populations of small mammals and maintaining ecological balance. Their solitary, elusive nature and remarkable camouflage make sightings uncommon, highlighting the importance of continued wildlife monitoring and habitat protection across the Tsavo Conservation Area. Every encounter offers a valuable reminder of the extraordinary diversity that exists beyond Tsavo's better-known giants. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Judy Wanyoike.

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: Nicole Honegger; Stuart Herd; Griet Van Malderen; The Kratt Family; Loic Gouzer & family; Nick Lapham; Nick Southgate; Nick Powell; Bjorn Persson; 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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