



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

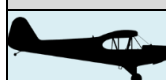
Tsavo Trust film clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzYIQBSm5Dw>

AUGUST 2026 MONTHLY REPORT



Photo above shows Tsavo Trust's supercub flying over a landscape whose vastness is one of its greatest conservation challenges. Some areas are remote with few roads and ground teams may need many hours to reach a location. From the air, pilots and observers can cover large areas, monitor elephants and other wildlife, spot signs of illegal activity, and relay accurate, real time locations to teams on the ground. During incidents, this wider view helps in directing rangers and other responders where they are needed most. By working together, the aerial and ground teams can detect threats earlier and respond more effectively across Tsavo's immense landscape. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

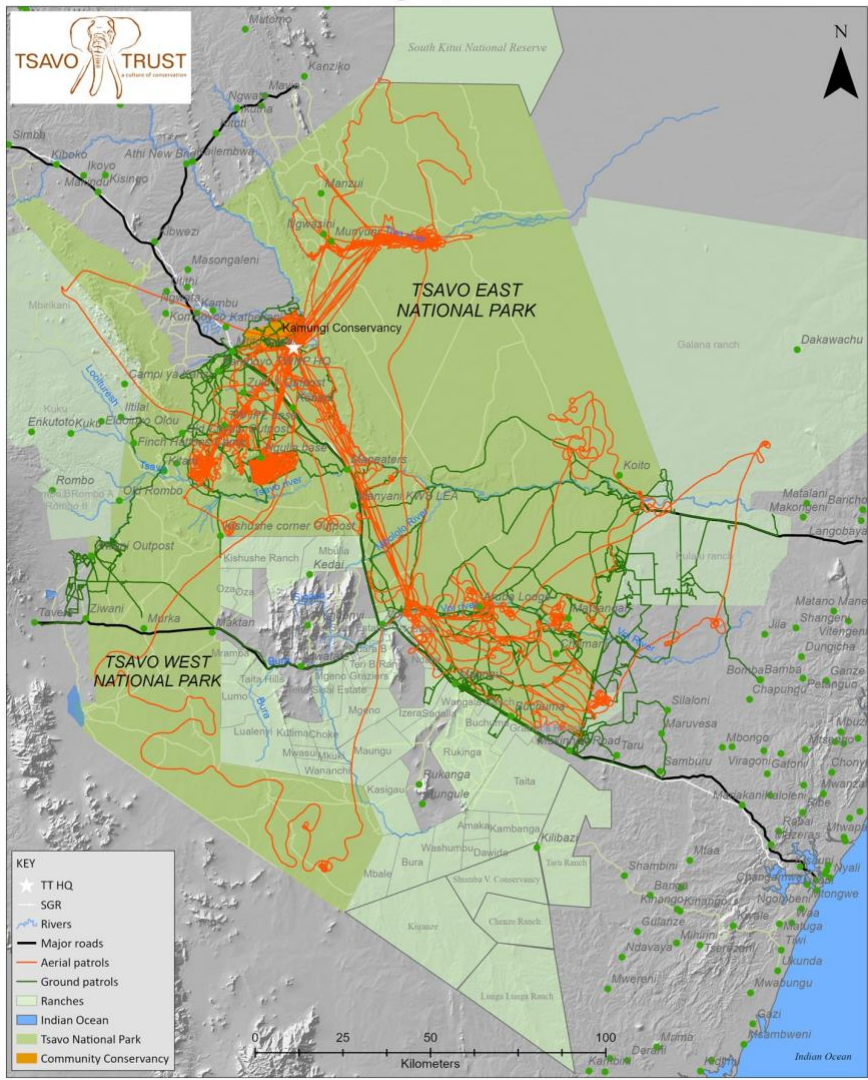
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>					
Activity		Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered	
	Aerial Unit	75 (459.5 for year) Average 128km p/h of low-level flight		9,783 (58,938km for the year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
	Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 30 (9 TWNP; Nil TENP) (188hrs for the year)		Aerial: 3,379 (21,313km for the year)	
		Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered	
	Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / WRTI / TT Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (1,458 for year) Monitoring teams: 175 days (1,321 for year)		Vehicle patrols: 11,284km (104,948km for year) Foot patrols: 1,000km (7,590km for year) Monitoring teams: 17,558km (121,365km for year)	
	Big Tusker Project	12 Tuskers – 4 Super Tusker bull (14 sights), 8 emerging bulls (13 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sights): 27 individual observations			
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program		8 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)			
Ivory recovered		2 elephant tusks (22 for the year)			
Elephant mortality		Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: Natural)	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: Nil Others: Nil			
Poacher camps/hides		Fresh – Nil		Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT		1 – arrested for bushmeat poaching. (59 for the year)			
Snares/traps recovered		140 by Tembo Teams: 854 snares for the year (437 small; 273 medium; 55 large; 89 bird traps)			
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)		296 kg – 1 Lesser Kudu, 1 Wildebest and 5 Dik-diks. (855kg for the year)			
Poachers Equip. Recovered.		1 panga, 1 spear, 1 knife, 1 spotlight and 1 motorbike			
Night Ambushes		Joint KWS / TT: 12 (Iviani, Mangelete, Losoito, Shirango, Muhoho, and Lukenya)			
Firefighting		2- (1 in Murka, TWNP; 1 along the Mombasa-Nairobi highway near Kanga)			
Human Elephant Conflict		Joint TT-KWS teams: 1 incident. 1 elephant chased from farms near Mtito Andei.			
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)		7 active cattle bomas (3,190 cattle, Nil donkeys, 60 shoats & 4 herders)			
Written reports to KWS		78 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)			
TT Staff Training activities		1 TT Officers Masters training; 2 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors			
TT HQ Rainfall figures		Nil mm. Total rainfall to date for 2026: 283 mm			
Significant notes		14th to 20th /08/2026: Tsavo Trust's ground teams and Aerial Unit participated in a KWS-led rhino notching and transmitter fitting exercise in Tsavo West Rhino Sanctuary, during which sixteen rhinos were ear-notched and thirteen fitted with LoRa tags. 20/08/2026: Tsavo Trust participated in a multi-stakeholder workshop to co-design the proposed Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) Outcomes Bond. The bond represents a major opportunity to mobilize long-term, results-based financing for human-wildlife coexistence work. Tsavo Conservation Area was named as one of three potential implementation landscapes.			
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 August, 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:** 75 hours flown covering 9,783 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,000 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 28,842 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 shows the seventeen students under the Tsavo Trust scholarship program posing with their parents, guardians, members of the Kamungi Conservancy board, the TT Education Officer and Assistant Community Officer during the Scholarship Appraisal and Mentorship session held on 18 August 2026, where students were appraised and mentored and pledged to improve.





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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,899	155
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	—	—	10 3 small 6 medium 1 large	—	1 panga, 1 back pack, 2 water bottles	—	—	1,639	155
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	1 For bushmeat poaching.	—	15 9 small 4 medium 1 large 1 bird trap	35 kg 1 Lesser Kudu	—	—	—	1,831	189
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	—	—	66 31 small 7 medium 6 large 22 bird traps	250 kg 1 wildebeest (speared)	1 spear	—	—	2,152	170
Tembo 11 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	—	2	9 4 small 5 medium	3 kg 1 dik-dik	1 motorbike, 2 sacks.	—	—	2,229	164
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	—	—	40 37 small 3 bird traps	8 kg 4 dik-dik	1 spotlight, 1 knife	—	1 HWC 1 elephant chased from farms	1,534	167
TOTALS	186	1	2	140	296	As above	-	1	11,284	1,000
Total 2026	1,458	59	4	854	855	-	4	30	104,948	7,590



The photo above shows Kenya Wildlife Service and Tsavo Trust rangers working together to put out a bushfire in Tsavo. Fires pose a significant threat during the dry seasons, and responding to them is a reminder that rangers' work extends well beyond security and wildlife monitoring. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust – Benjamin Ndolo.



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 – 16 sightings -Hirola – 10 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 29 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 2 sightings -Road & Rail kills – Nil -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	4,707
Simba 1 (TENP) (1 TT staff) 	20	-Wild dogs monitoring -Large carnivore monitoring	Wild dogs – 6 sightings Lion – 1 sighting Leopard – Nil	Tsavo East & Tsavo West Wild dogs' range	1,272
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 – 42 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 lion sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,205
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 – 42 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,111
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 – 36 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,607
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 – 25 sightings -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 lion sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Pangolin – 1 sighting	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,656
TOTALS	175	As above	As above	As above	17,558
Total 2026	1,321	-	-	-	121,365



The photo above shows Kamungi pack's alpha male sighted with a wound around his waist consistent with a snare injury. No wire remained and photographs were shared with the KWS TCA Vet. The vet advised close monitoring and planned further action if the wound persisted or worsened. Later sightings showed signs of healing. Regular monitoring helps the team detect threats like injuries early, seek veterinary advice and act promptly when needed. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Kyalo Joseph.

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

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 & 27 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. ➤ 27/08/2026: The completed Ngiluni Primary School girls' ablution block was formally handed over to the school management. ➤ 25/08/2026: A Wildlife Friendly Zone members meeting was held to discuss maintenance of the 10% fence plan and the proposed conservation incentive; households were requested to enhance their maintenance of the fence plan, and members unanimously agreed to the proposed conservation incentive. ➤ 21/08/2026: The Kamungi Conservancy Board held its quarterly board meeting, during which members were updated on various completed, ongoing, and proposed projects for 2026, briefed on the recent governance meeting, and presented with the financial report. ➤ 18/08/2026: A Scholarship Appraisal and Mentorship session was held to appraise and mentor students under the scholarship program; students were appraised and mentored accordingly, and they promised to improve. ➤ 13/08/2026: HWC meeting was held at Nthunguni and attended by the National Government, KWS, TT, ZSL, KC, and more than 150 community members. It was noted that human-elephant conflict has significantly reduced due to the Elephant Exclusion Fence, though livestock predation by leopards and hyenas, has become a growing concern.
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	125,820 litres of water at Ngiluni Water Tank during the reporting period, bringing the year-to-date total to 575,606 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	1,709 attended in July & August. 7,685 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. Ngiluni primary ablution block.
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)	15 cases recorded: 4 Elephant, 7 Leopard, 2 Hyena & 2 Mongoose.
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 pangolin curled into a ball during a rare encounter in Tsavo. Pangolins are elusive and mostly active at night, so even experienced field teams seldom see one. This pangolin was observed by a joint KWS / TT ground patrol in Tsavo this month. When threatened, they tuck their head and vulnerable underside beneath their protective scales, as this one has done. The sighting reminds us that protecting Tsavo's landscape also protects the quieter species that share it with elephants, rhinos and lions. Tsavo Trust – Hiyesa Kiribae.

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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