



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=qGgM6-ggZOE&t=270s>

JULY 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above features Super Tusker BA1 alongside another bull elephant in a Tsavo dry riverbed. Elephants often dig small wells into the sand, like the one shown here, to access water during the dry season. These elephant-dug wells also benefit other wildlife. Inspired by this natural behavior, Tsavo Trust and its partners have constructed 13 sand dams in the Tsavo's to store water during rainy seasons, making it available for wildlife during the dry season. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kimaile.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

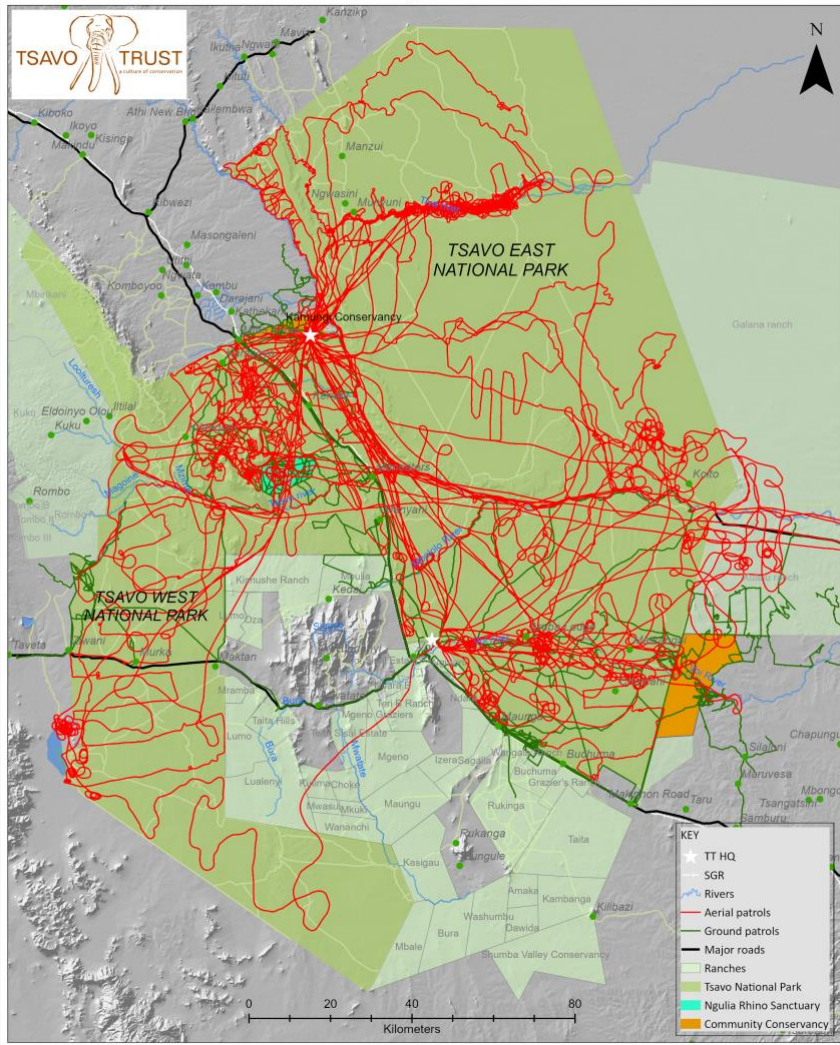
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: <i>Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities</i>			
Activity	Hours Flown		Kilometers Covered
Aerial Unit	104 (456 for year) Average 140km p/h of low-level flight		14,291 (63,746km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 24 (7 TWNP; 1 TENP) (144hrs for year to date)		Aerial: 3,218 (16,888km for year)
	Field Patrol Days		Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (1,278 to date) Monitoring teams: 145 days (1,027 to date)		Vehicle patrols: 16,147km (104,155km to date) Foot patrols: 1,303km (8,895km to date) Monitoring teams: 13,707km (110,399km to date)
Big Tusker Project	11 Tuskers – 4 Super Tusker bulls (17 sights), 6 emerging bulls (12 sights), 1 cow Tusker (4 sights): 33 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	9 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	11 elephant tusks (53 for the year to date)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 2 <small>(Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural; 1 unknown)</small>	Recent: 1 <small>(Less than 3 months old) (c of d: unknown)</small>	Old: 2 <small>(More than 3 months old) (c of d: both unknown)</small>
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 re-located from communities: 1 Puff adder; 1 Red-spitting cobra; 1 Ashe's spitting cobra and Small scaled burrowing Asp. <i>Others: Nil</i>		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – 1		Recent – 1
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	3 – 2 bushmeat poaching and 1 for illegal grazing inside a Protected Area. (55 for the year to date)		
Snares/traps recovered	143 by Tembo Teams: 425 snares for the year to date (303 small; 121 medium; 1 large)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	42 (347kg for the year to date) 25 guinea fowls 3 warthogs and 1 crested francolin		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	1 bicycle, 1 catapult, cooking equipment and sacks		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 8 (Maungu; Dakota; Voi River: Kanjaocha; Mwakila and Shirango Conservancy)		
Firefighting	3 fire response - (At Manyani, Kyulu station, and Kanga.)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS team: Nil HEC responses in July.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	6 active cattle bomas (6,403 cattle; 430 shoats & 23 people)		
Written reports to KWS	83 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)		
TT Staff Training activities	2 TT Officers Masters training; 3 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors		
TT HQ Rainfall figures	Nil. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 212mm		
Significant notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17/07/2024: Tsavo Trust's aerial unit located a tourist van that had been reported missing. The tourists had spent the night stranded after their vehicle got stuck. Relevant KWS authorities were informed, and they then assisted the tourists. • 18/07/2024. Tsavo Trust's visit to South Kitui National Reserve with relevant KWS and County officers to educate the Mutha community on the process of establishing a community conservancy. • 31/07/2024: Tsavo Trust participated in the International Elephant Fund Symposium and presented on its Wildlife Conservation Programme and Community Conservation Programmes. 		
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:			
<p>Kamungi Conservancy ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014</p>	<p>Shirango Community Conservancy ➤ Located: Southeast boundary TENP ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with SCC since 2016</p>		
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 & GROUND PATROLS COVERAGE OVER TCA July, 2024



*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:** 104 hours flown covering 14,291 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,303 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 30,218 kilometers of vehicle patrol in Tsavo to support KWS.*

Activities covered: Air & ground security patrols; Big Tusker monitoring; Rhino related activities; Locating illegal activities; Wildlife monitoring; Aerial census & telemetry tracking & Community Conservancy aerial and ground activities.

The photo below shows representatives from the Makueni County Government Health Department, Tsavo Trust, and Kamungi Conservancy during a site visit to the Nthunguni Dispensary on July 15, 2024. The purpose of the visit was to finalize the location for constructing a nurse's house and to plan renovation work on the existing dispensary.



Field Key Notes & Observations:

- **Table 2: Elephant Carcasses Observed: Shows fresh, recent and old elephant carcasses observed:**

Date	No.	Fresh	Recent	Old	Cause of Death	Location
08/07/2024	1	-	1	-	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TWNP – Mzima Pipeline
13/07/2024	1	-	-	1	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TWNP – Powerline
13/07/2024	1	1	-	-	Euthanized, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TWNP - Losoito
16/07/2024	1	1	-	-	Unknown, KWS retrieved 2 tusks	TENP – Tiva River
31/07/2024	1	-	-	1	Unknown, KWS retrieved 2 tusks	TWNP – Tiva River
Month Total	5	2	1	2		
Total 2024	24	14	4	6		

- **Table 3: Poachers Activities Observed: Shows fresh and recent poachers' blinds/hides/platforms observed:**

Date	No	Fresh Poachers hide, blind, camp	Recent Poachers hide, blind, camp	Location
07/07/2024	1	1	-	Outside TENP - Haruresa
19/07/2024	1	-	1	TENP - Gazi
Month Total	2	1	1	-
Total 2024	2	1	1	
<i>Not included</i>	<i>Charcoalers camps close to TENP boundary – Kulalu Ranch, and cattle bomas outside the Parks</i>			

- **Table 4: Illegal livestock grazing: Shows aerial & ground observations - active livestock bomas & estimated number livestock inside the Parks only:**

TCA Park	Active Bomas	Cows	Shoats	Donkeys	Herders/People	Others / Notes
TENP	1	623	30	-	9	Observed along the Northeastern boundary of TENP.
TWNP	6	5,780	400	-	14	Encountered mostly in the Southern Sector of TWNP
TOTALS	7	6,403	430	-	23	

Table 5: Shows some examples of joint KWS/TT activities and outcomes from aerial patrols:

Date	Incident	Location
<i>Routine & Monthly</i>	<i>Regular aerial patrols carried out to complement KWS Park field operations & management</i>	<i>TENP, TWNP, and dispersal areas</i>
17/07/2024	Big Tuskers Monitoring flight. Tuskers BA1, HA1 and JI1 located.	TENP – Northern sec.
17/07/2024	Rhino monitoring flight. 7 rhinos sighted within the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary	TWNP – NRS
18/07/2024	Illegal livestock monitoring flight. 1,660 cattle, 3 men and a boma were seen.	TWNP – Southern sec.
26/07/2024	Collared elephant monitoring. Collared elephant Dakota and Sala located.	TENP – Sala & Kulalu

Financial Support to KWS & WRTI Activities Inside TWNP & TENP:

Table 6: Shows brief costs of activities carried out by Tsavo Trust to complement KWS in Tsavo:

TT Activity	Cost (\$) Justification	Total \$
Aerial support – ongoing TENP & TWNP	104hrs in Super Cub aircraft @ \$300 all incl.	31,200
Vehicle running costs - Field Mobile Teams (Tembo 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & Kamungi S.) ongoing TE & TW	11 vehicles covered 30,218 km @ \$1 p/km incl. fuel, tires, maintenance, servicing & f/c insurance	30,218
TT Field Staff x 54 (Tembo teams)	Costs not Included	-
TWNP NRS general support	200ltrs diesel – rhino security, rations & airtime	440
TWNP NRS general support	Ndawe Borehole maintenance	9,583
TWNP NRS general support	NRS Night rhino census	2,011
TWNP IPZ general support	TW IPZ HQ Borehole hydrological survey	2,233
TWNP – IPZ tractor monthly support	1 4x4 tractor/trailer/water bowser ongoing support	309
TENP - Dakota Platoon Diesel, general support	200ltrs p/month – security vehicle, DSTV subs	310
TENP – CC vehicle support	100ltrs p/month – security operations	130
TENP general support	Roka Borehole hydrological survey	2,101
TENP general support	Hirola Management Committee meeting Nbi	315
TCA general support	World Rangers Day celebrations support	542
TCA general support	Senior KWS Officer's Masters training support	2,157
TENP & TWNP – KWS Field Allowances	KWS Rangers attached to TT teams	797
HEC 33km Mtito elephant fence	Ongoing fence maintenance	397
KWS PAMU team support	200ltrs diesel	270
TOTAL MONTH		83,013
TOTAL 2024 to DATE:		\$575,995

Field Mobile Units:

Tembo 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 teams, Kamungi & Shirango 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 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 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	2 1 bushmeat poacher & 1 illegal herder	-	30 28 small 2 medium	39 25 guinea fowls & 1 dikdik	1 bicycle, 3 cooking pots, 1 catapult, 4 jerricans, 3 sacks, rope	1	-	2,596	443
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	8 5 small 3 medium	-	-	-	-	2,484	127
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	4	39 All small	-	-	-	-	2,762	180
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	17 15 small 2 medium	-	-	-	-	2,912	148
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3,386	201
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	1 1 bushmeat poacher	1	49 46 small 3 medium	3 1 warthog	-	-	-	2,007	204
TOTALS	186	3	7	143	42	As above	1	-	16,147	1,303
Total 2024	1,278	55	27	425	347Kg	-	1	18	104,155	8,895



The photo above shows KWS rangers and Kamungi scouts on a routine de-snaring patrol. During these patrols, the rangers have rescued numerous wildlife, including elephant calves, zebras, dik-diks, and lesser kudus from snares. The team diligently removes wire snares and bird traps they come across, ensuring the safety of wildlife. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Patrick Mutua.

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) 	21	-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 – 12 sightings -Hirola – 1 sighting -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 18 sightings -Ground Hornbill – Nil -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 2 sightings - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	3,341
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 – 2 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,601
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 -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,274
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 – 6 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,804
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 – 27 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,051
TOTALS	145	As above	As above	As above	14,071
Total 2024	1,027	-	-	-	110,399



The 3 black rhinos at the watering hole in the photo above were captured during a night rhino census in the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary. Tsavo Trust supports KWS in this crucial activity to confirm rhino numbers, monitor for injuries, detect newborns, and identify potential threats to these critically endangered species.

ACTIVITY	KAMUNGI Conservancy	SHIRANGO Community Conservancy
Ongoing partnership between Tsavo Trust & KC & SCC	North boundary of TWNP – Triangle, since 2014. Total area approx. 100km ² Makueni County; Kibwezi Sub County; Mtito Andei Division; Mtito Andei Sub-location; Ngiluni Village.	South boundary of TENP – Voi River area, since 2016. Total area 270km ² . Kilifi County; Ganze Sub-County; Bamba Ward; Mitangani location; Gede Sub-location.
Employment (Through Tsavo Trust)	Between Tsavo Trust & partners 45 permanent staff & 15 casual staff employed generating over \$12,000 (Ksh.1,320,000) of income into Kamungi monthly.	Tsavo Trust employs 14 staff from SCC including a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to spearhead activities. Salaries generate over \$3,000 (Ksh.330,000) of income monthly.
Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings	14 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15/07/2024: Meeting with Makueni county health officials at Nthunguni dispensary to discuss the proposed renovation of the facility and construction of a nurse’s house. ➤ 18/07/2024: Local administrative meeting at the chief’s office to discuss security matters. ➤ 24/07/2024: meeting with USAID and IFAW officials for data quality assessment for the SMAT project. ➤ 27/07/2024: Monthly conservancy members meeting held at Nthunguni. ➤ 30/07/2024: Represented at the Landscape Conservation Education workshop called by AWF and held in Voi. 	2 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 25/07/2024: Participated in Conservation Education and awareness meeting with Gede sub-location community members. A sensitization of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 was done. ➤ 26/07/2024: Shirango Community Conservancy board meeting with the manager where 10 beneficiaries of a training on Energy saving cooking stove were selected. The meeting was held the Shirango ECD grounds.
Membership	Through a registered CBO KC membership represents 385 families & over 3,850 individuals from 13 villages, mainly from the WaKamba community.	Through a registered CBO SCC membership represents at least 2,300 individuals from 5 villages, mainly from the Watha and Giriama ethnic groups.
Water Project	115,640 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (335,726 litres for the year to date) Ngiluni Primary School connected to piped water.	Borehole, pump, and solar panels are in place, but saline water. Construction of an earth dam completed.
Basic Health care	60 patients attended to in July. 344 patients attended for the year to date. The retired nurse replacement. Deployed.	There is a need to support this project.
Constructions	KC additional scouts & office units in progress. Works for the Kamungi bandas completed.	SCC additional scouts & office units to commence soon
Education	Paid for 2 teachers (1-Ngiluni & 1-Kamunyu School in KC) for the last 9 years. Ongoing. 6 youth trained in hotel management (certificate).	None at present
Bursary Scheme	Started on April 22 12 needy students selected being supported.	None at present
Village Saving & Loan Associations – VSLA’s	5 women-run VSLAs are in progress: In partnership between ZSL / KC & TT	None at present
Poultry Project	3 poultry projects: partnership between ZSL / KC & TT	None at present
Training	VSLA livelihoods, HWC Mitigation, Climate Smart Agriculture, permaculture	Climate Smart Agriculture by KALRO.
HWC Mitigation	7 x 1-acre bee fences, total 105 beehives with 2 currently occupied.	N/A yet
10% Fence Plan	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 constructions completed: Total 8 plots (HWC electric fencing of 10% of individual land). 100% effective in keeping elephants and other wildlife from fenced farmlands.
Predator Proof bomas	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL	N/A yet
Mtito 32km fence line	Completed 30/11/21 with 95% HEC reduction	N/A yet
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	19 cases recorded: 1 elephant; 7 leopard; 1 Lion; 1 Baboon; 5 Hyena and 4 Snake.	16 cases recorded: 15 elephant and 1 hyena.
Land Tenure	Ongoing	SCC land is currently a traditional communal mode of ownership, not legally protected. Efforts are underway to ensure the local communities legally own their land.
Wildlife Census Transects	1	None
Operations and Security	➤ See the Field Units table above	➤ See the Field Units table above

Unusual Photo of the Month:



The photo above features one of two cheetahs spotted during an aerial patrol. Cheetahs are hard to come by in our landscape, especially in Tsavo West National Park, which is known for its dense vegetation. This sighting occurred in the southern sector of Tsavo West, near Lake Jipe, where the vegetation is relatively open. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Joseph Kimaile.

Wildlife Ranger Challenge (WRC) 2024

WRC is the world's largest celebration of solidarity, support, and fundraising, supporting more than 10,000 rangers in 24 countries since its inception. On 21st September this year, Tsavo Trust Rangers will be among more than 90 Ranger Teams completing a coordinated 21 km race in Protected Areas where the rangers work. To find out more and support our team please follow the link below.

<https://wildlife.rangerchallenge.org/campaigns/tsavo-trust-team-2024>

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organizations: Kenya Wildlife Service; Government of Makueni County; US Fish & Wildlife Service; USAID / DOI; CITES / MIKE Programme-funded by the European Union; Wildlife Conservation Networks: Rhino Recovery Fund, Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; Maliasili; Re:wild; WildLandscapes International; Tusk Trust; International Elephant Foundation (IEF); BAND Foundation; Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); Save The Elephants (STE); Zoological Society of London (ZSL); The Glassybaby Foundation; EU-Biopama Programme; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Milkywire; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Ker & Downey Safaris; Ndovu Trust (UK); Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; ARES; Tropical Ice Ltd; Askari Project–Australia; Exodus Travel; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Empowers Africa; Conservation Alpha; Lewa Canada; Remembering Wildlife Books; Eagle Foundation 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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