



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-gqZOE&t=270s>




MARCH 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image above shows an Emerging Tusker coded as GO1. The Emerging Tuskers are impressive young bulls who given time and space, will become the next Super Tuskers of Tsavo. Tusker elephants are faced with persistent threats from poachers but also Trophy hunting, where in some places outside Kenya this is legal, all driven by the allure of their remarkable tusks. It is of utmost importance to ensure the perpetual protection of these magnificent creatures.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: *Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities*

Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered
 Aerial Unit	52 (185 for year) Average 139km p/h of low-level flight	7,792 (25,642km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff
 Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 18 (6 TWNP; 1 TENP) (58hrs for year to date)	Aerial: 2,068 (6,564km for year)
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 186 days (546 to date) Monitoring teams: 149 days (441 to date)	Vehicle patrols: 15,789km (43,286km to date) Foot patrols: 1,237km (3,911km to date) Monitoring teams: 15,762km (50,966km to date)
 Big Tusker Project	9 Tuskers – Nil Super Tusker bulls (Nil sights), 8 emerging bulls (14 sights), 1 cow Tusker (1 sight): 15 individual observations	
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	5 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)	
Ivory recovered	10 elephant tusks (23 for the year to date)	
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 1 (Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: Unknown)	Recent: 1 (Less than 3 months old) (c of d: Unknown)
		Old: 2 (More than 3 months old) (c of d: Both 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 re-located from communities: 1 Red-spitting cobra; 1 boomslang; 1 burrowing asp Others: Nil	
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil	Recent – Nil
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	8 – 3 bushmeat poachers; 3 illegal herders; 1 ivory dealer & 1 for possession of poison arrows (19 for the year to date)	
Snares/traps recovered	35 by Tembo Teams: 101 snares for the year to date (48 small; 53 medium; Nil large)	
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	133kg (264kg for the year to date) Zebra, Impala, Grant's gazelle, Dik-dik, Bustard, and 3 yellow-necked spurfowl	
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	1 motorbike, 1 laming horn, 1 bow, 3 poison arrows, 100g of poison, and a knife.	
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 9 (Ndara; Bachuma; Muhoho farm; Chakahola; Murondo; Ziwani)	
Firefighting	1 - (Responded to a fire alert at Dida Harea – TENP and managed to put it out.)	
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS team: 3 HEC responses. 2 elephants were driven from farms in Mtito Andei and 19 elephants were driven from farms in Shirango.	
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	1 active cattle bomas (3,720 cattle; Nil shoats; 13 people)	
Written reports to KWS	82 (daily Situation reports, various communications & 1 monthly report)	
TT Staff Training activities	2 TT Officers Masters training; 2 KWS Officer Masters training; 1 TT Officer Bachelors training; 78 Kamungi and Shirango farmers trained on Climate SMART agriculture.	
TT HQ Rainfall figures	39mm. Total rainfall to date for 2024: 100mm	

Significant notes

- 03/03/2024: Tsavo Trust took part in the Tsavo Conservation Area World Wildlife Day celebrations held at the TCA headquarters in Voi.
- 11/03/2024: Sand Dams Project monitoring and evaluation site visits with partners Sand Dams Worldwide and African Sand Dams Foundation in Tsavo West and Tsavo East National Parks.
- 21/03/2024: Tsavo Trust represented in the USAID-funded Sustainable Management of the Amboseli and Tsavo Ecosystems project implementing partners progress workshop held at the Taita Hills Lodge.

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:

 Kamungi Conservancy ➤ Located: Northern boundary TWNP Triangle ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with KC since 2014	 Shirango Community Conservancy ➤ Located: Southeast boundary TENP ➤ TT has played a stewardship role and partnered with SCC since 2016
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FORMAL FIELD CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM: (Full list of supporters/partners shown on last page)

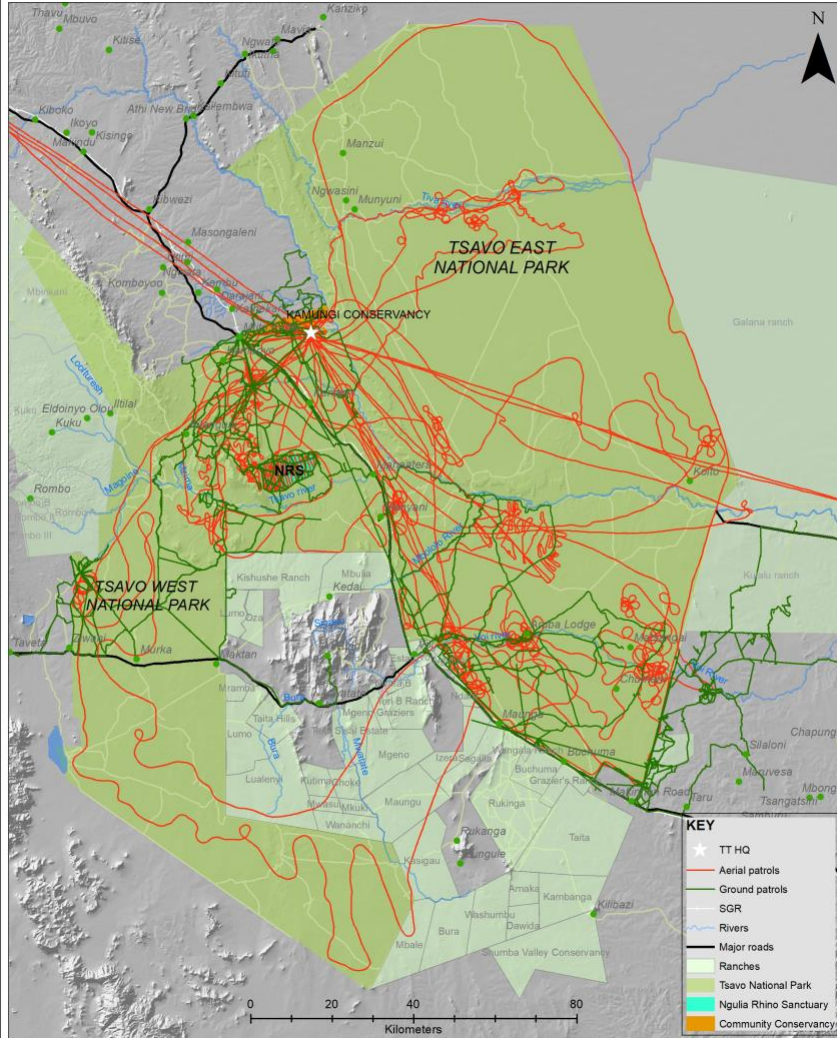




Aerial Reconnaissance and Ground Patrols - Areas Covered:

- Aerial patrolling is 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
March, 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:** 52 hours flown covering 7,792 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,237 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 31,551 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.

Photo below shows a herd of elephants drinking water from Mbololo Sand dam B. Tsavo Trust and its partners KWS, WRTI, Sand Dams Worldwide, and African Sand Dam Foundation have now constructed 13 sand dams in the Tsavo National Parks. This ensures better sustainable water distribution, especially during the dry seasons. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.



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
08/03/2024	1	-	-	1	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TWNP – Mgange
18/03/2024	1	1	-	-	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TENP – Kandecha
18/03/2024	1	-	1	-	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TENP – Aruba
18/03/2024	1	-	-	1	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TENP – Aruba
Month Total	4	1	1	2		
Total 2024	10	5	2	3		

- **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
Nil	-	-	-	-
Month Total	-	-	-	-
Total 2024	-	-	-	-
Not included	Charcoalers camps close to TENP boundary – Kulalu Ranch, and cattle bomas outside the Parks			

- **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	-	300	-	-	5	Observed along the Northeastern boundary of TENP
TWNP	1	3,420	-	-	8	Mostly on the Western boundary of TWNP
TOTALS	1	3,720	-	-	13	

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

Date	Incident	Location
Routine & Monthly	Regular aerial patrols carried out to complement KWS Park field operations & management	TENP, TWNP, and dispersal areas
14/03/2024	Tusker monitoring flight. Emerging Tusker MM2 and SO2 located.	TENP – Northern sec.
18/03/2024	Routine monitoring flight. 3 elephant carcasses found, 1 lion and 1 hirola sighted	TENP – Southern sec.
22/03/2024	Collared elephant monitoring flight. Collared elephant Jenga & Manolo seen.	TWNP - Murka
23/03/2024	Reconnaissance flight with KWS SOOPs. 300 Livestock located within the park	TENP – Perimeter
28/03/2024	Rhino monitoring flight. 23 of the Ngulia sanctuary rhinos were located.	TWNP – NRS

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	52hrs in Super Cub aircraft @ \$300 all incl.	15,600
Vehicle running costs - Field Mobile Teams (Tembo 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & Kamungi S.) ongoing TENP & TWNP	11 vehicles covered 28,467km @ \$1 p/km incl. fuel, tires, maintenance, servicing & f/c insurance	31,551
TT Field Staff x 54 (Tembo teams)	Costs not Included	-
TWNP NRS general support	200ltrs diesel – rhino security	270
TWNP NRS general support	Camera traps and security metal housings	869
TWNP – NRS Rhino viewing platform	Income generated via the Rhino viewing platform	-
TWNP IPZ general support	Major vehicle service/maintenance	3,823
TWNP IPZ general support	Rations and airtime	138
TWNP – IPZ tractor monthly support	1 4x4 tractor/trailer/water bowser ongoing support	1,871
TWNP – IPZ Infrastructure upgrade	Ranger accommodation and mess for TWIPZ HQ	49
TWNP – Southern Sector support	Through the ongoing CITES/MIKE Program	59,755
TENP - Dakota Platoon Vehicle Diesel	100ltrs p/month – security vehicle	130
TENP – CC vehicle support	100ltrs p/month – security operations	130
TENP - DSTV Dakota Base - ongoing	Monthly subscription	40
TENP & TWNP – KWS Field Allowances	KWS Rangers attached to TT teams	779
HEC 33km Mtito elephant fence	Ongoing fence maintenance	397
WRTI General Support	Lab equip. for lion scat analysis	330
TOTAL MONTH		115,732
TOTAL 2024 to DATE:		\$327,167

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	1 Bushmeat poacher	-	-	74 kg Zebra	1 motorbike	-	2 19 elephants driven from farms	2,770	336
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	31	-	-	6 5 small 1 medium	-	-	-	-	2,673	143
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,937	164
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	-	-	6 1 small 5 medium	-	-	-	-	2,993	192
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	31	4 1 bushmeat poacher & 3 illegal herders	-	-	59 kg Impala, Grant' gazelle, Dikdik, Busturd & 3spurfwl.	1 siren and 1 knife	-	-	2,762	198
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	31	3 1 ivory dealer, 1 bushmeat poacher & 1 for possession of poison arrows.	2 Recovered from an ivory dealer.	23 22 small 1 medium	-	3 poison arrows, 1 bow and 100g of poison.	-	1 2 eles driven from farms	1,654	204
TOTALS	186	8	2	35	133Kg	As above	-	3	15,789	1,237
Total 2024	546	19	7	101	264Kg	-	-	7	43,286	3,911








The photo above captures a herd of the critically endangered Hirola in Tsavo East National Park. With fewer than 400 individuals remaining worldwide, Tsavo Trust collaborates with KWS and WRTI to augment efforts aimed at bolstering the Tsavo Hirola population.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwende.

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) 	25	-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 – 5 sightings -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 28 sightings -Ground Hornbill – 3 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	4,091
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 – 20 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores –1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – 1 - Ivory recovered. – 2	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	2,673
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 – 20 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,937
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 – 92 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 5 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,215
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 – Nil -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,846
TOTALS	149	As above	As above	As above	15,762
Total 2024	441	-	-	-	50,966



The photo above shows a pride of lions taken during the ongoing lion survey in the Southern Sector of Tsavo East NP. The WCN-LRF funded survey is carried out jointly with the WRTI and aims to provide regular and robust estimates of key population parameters for lions.

Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwendu.



COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY
PROGRAM:



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	<p>8 community meetings held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 07/03/2024: Kamungi monthly meeting for the Ngiluni cluster at the Ngiluni water tank ➤ 11/03/2024. KWCA familiarization visit to Kamungi Conservancy. ➤ 13/03/2024: Technical Working Group meeting on the development of Kamungi Conservancy management plan. ➤ 22/03/2024: Kamungi Conservancy SAPA community meeting held at Kyusiani. ➤ 27/03/2024: Kamungi monthly meeting for the Nthunguni cluster. ➤ 31/03/2024: Donor visit to Kamungi Conservancy to assess the progress of the 10% fence plans 	<p>No community meetings held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 09/03/2024: Meeting proposing Tsavo Trust to have an agreement with Shirango Conservancy in addition to the signed MOU between the two entities. ➤ 19/03/2024: Shirango Conservancy represented in the Tsavo Livelihood Indicative Project progress update meeting where the project milestones, challenges and opportunities were discussed. ➤ 26/03/2024: The court case that had suspended community projects in Shirango Conservancy was dismissed. Meeting between the Tsavo Trust and the Shirango Community representatives scheduled to agree on the continuation of community projects.
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	39,920 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks and Ngiluni Primary School. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (102,960 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	284 patients attended (284 for the year to date). 168 households visited by community health volunteers.	There is a need to support this project.
Constructions	KC additional scouts & office units in progress. Works for the Kamungi bandas also in progress.	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 Elephant Bee Fence	7 x 1-acre bee fences, total 105 beehives with 3 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 Mtito 32km fence line	10 predator-proof bomas set up: by TT/ZSL Completed 30/11/21 with 95% HEC reduction	N/A yet N/A yet
Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)	22 cases recorded: 10 elephant; 2 Buffalo; 4 Hyena; 2 Leopard and 4 Snake.	4 cases recorded: All human threat from elephants.
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 shows the Kamungi Conservancy chairman inspecting a maize harvest with a beneficiary of Climate Smart Agriculture program. This initiative, implemented by Tsavo Trust in collaboration with USAID and IFAW, aims to bolster food security in this arid region of Kamungi. Through comprehensive training sessions and planting of certified seeds, beneficiaries experienced a significant increase in their harvests during the last planting season. Veroniah Ndungwa, for instance, who previously struggled to produce any harvest, managed to yield 1,170kg of maize, 180kg of cowpeas, and 84kg of green grams. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Mophat Peter.

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organizations: Kenya Wildlife Service; Government of Makueni County; USAID / DOI; US Fish & Wildlife Service; CITES / MIKE Programme-funded by the European Union; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; Save The Elephants (STE); Elephant Crisis Fund; Re:wild; Tusk Trust; Rhino Recovery Fund (WCN); Lion Recovery Fund (WCN); International Elephant Foundation (IEF); Disney/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); IUCN Save Our Species; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); WildLandscapes International; The Glassybaby Foundation; Maliasili; EU-Biopama Programme; Tofauti Foundation; Chesbro Foundation; Milkywire; Satao Camp & Southern Cross Safaris (Msa); Origins Safaris; Ker & Downey Safaris; Ndovu Trust (UK); Tropical Ice Ltd; OnSafari-Kenya; Askari Project–Australia; Exodus Travel; Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT); Off Piste Africa; Empowers Africa; 51 degrees-Vulcan; Conservation Alpha; Lewa Canada; Prints for Conservation; Remembering Wildlife Books 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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