



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>

SEPTEMBER 2024 MONTHLY REPORT



The image shows a black rhinoceros and her young calf navigating the dry landscape of Tsavo West National Park's Intensive Protection Zone. This sight evokes a mix of awe and concern for their future, as black rhinos are listed as Critically Endangered. Tsavo Trust supports the Kenya Wildlife Service's efforts to safeguard this species from both natural and anthropogenic threats. New births like this one are a testament to successful conservation efforts and a sign of how important this Tsavo landscape is especially for high value species. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Nick Haller.

SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES:

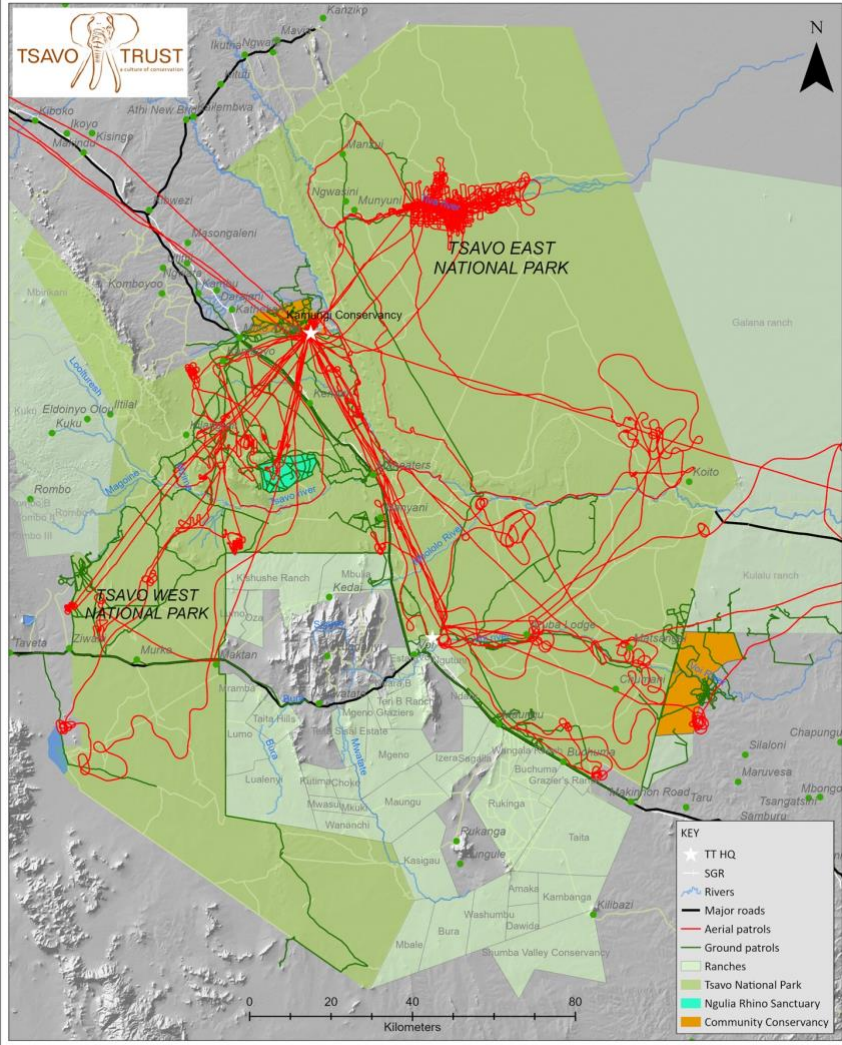
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Big Tusker Project – Aerial & Ground Activities			
Activity	Hours Flown	Kilometers Covered	
Aerial Unit	66 (603 for year) Average 138km p/h of low-level flight	8,600 (83,011km for year) Flights carried out jointly with KWS staff	
Rhino Aerial Patrols	Aerial Patrols: 19 (6 TWP; 1 TENP) (178hrs for year to date)	Aerial: 2,231 (20,902km for year)	
	Field Patrol Days	Kilometers Covered	
Ground Protection Activities (Joint with KWS / TT & Community Scouts)	Protection teams: 180 days (1,644 to date) Monitoring teams: 140 days (1,322 to date)	Vehicle patrols: 15,600km (134,961km to date) Foot patrols: 1,283km (11,612km to date) Monitoring teams: 14,030km (140,759km to date)	
Big Tusker Project	13 Tuskers – 6 Super Tusker bulls (16 sights), 7 emerging bulls (8 sights), Nil cow Tusker (Nil sight): 24 individual observations		
Collared Elephant Sightings: Joint KWS/STE/TT program	13 sightings: record forms submitted to STE (aerial and ground observations)		
Ivory recovered	8 elephant tusks (66 for the year to date)		
Elephant mortality	Fresh: 3 <small>(Less than 3 weeks old) (c of d: 1 natural; 2 unknown)</small>	Recent: Nil <small>(Less than 3 months old)</small>	Old: 1 <small>(More than 3 months old) (c of d: 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 Red Spitting Cobra (<i>Naja pallida</i>) and 1 Boomslang (<i>Dispholidus typus</i>) and a Non-venomous Smith's Racer (<i>Platyceps brevis smithii</i>). Others: Nil		
Poacher camps/hides	Fresh – Nil	Recent – Nil	
Arrests – joint KWS/TT	17 – 5 bushmeat poaching and 12 for illegal grazing inside a Protected Area. (75 for the year to date)		
Snares/traps recovered	140 by Tembo Teams: 750 snares for the year to date (504 small; 245 medium; 1 large)		
Bushmeat recoveries (wet & dried)	72kg (424kg for the year to date) 24 Dik-diks and 1 Duiker		
Poachers Equip. Recvd.	3 torches, 4 lamping horns, 3 pangas, 1 knife, 1 vehicle, 1 motorbike and 2 mobile phones		
Night Ambushes	Joint KWS / TT: 15 (Subati, Kishushe, Voi River, LMD, Wangala, Mbuyuni, Dida Harea, Taru & Murondo)		
Firefighting	4 fire response - (At Tsavo Triangle, Kanga and Maktau)		
Human Elephant Conflict	Joint TT-KWS team: Nil HEC responses in August.		
Illegal Livestock (only in PA)	Nil active cattle bomas (3,445 cattle; 600 shoats & 23 people)		
Written reports to KWS	86 (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"> 17th to 20th Sept. 2024: Tsavo Trust supported KWS & WRTI in conducting a night census at the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary. This marked the conclusion of the 2024 annual rhino census which is conducted in July, August and September each year. 19th Sept. 2024: Tsavo Trust facilitated a quarterly Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation stakeholders' workshop at the Tsavo West National Park Education Centre in Mtito Andei. 21st Sept. 2024: Tsavo Trust Rangers participated in the 2024 Wildlife Ranger Challenge, finishing 18th out of over 150 ranger teams across Africa. 22nd to 27th Sept. 2024: Tsavo Trust hosted representatives from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, who visited to witness the conservation projects they support firsthand. 		
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY PROGRAM:			
<p>Kamungi Conservancy > Located: Northern boundary TWP 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
September, 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:** 66 hours flown covering 8,600 kilometers over Tsavo in support of KWS.*

***Ground:** 1,283 kilometers of foot patrol and a further 29,630 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 a member of the Kamungi Conservancy packaging a honey harvest. The beehive fences, supported by the Save The Elephants' Elephant and Bees Project in collaboration with Tsavo Trust, have not only provided a sustainable livelihood for some local community members but also helped mitigate human-elephant conflict in the area.



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
10/09/2024	1	-	-	1	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TENP – Powerline
18/09/2024	1	1	-	-	Natural, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TWNP – Kishushe/Pipeline
20/09/2024	1	1	-	-	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	Outside TWNP - Rombo
28/09/2024	1	1	-	-	Unknown, KWS/TT retrieved 2 tusks	TENP – Hatulo Bisani
Month Total	4	3	-	1		
Total 2024	30	17	5	8		

- **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
-	-	-	-	-
Month Total	-	-	-	-
Total 2024	3	2	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	-	2,065	600	-	12	Observed along the Eastern boundary of TENP.
TWNP	-	1,380	-	-	11	Encountered along the Western boundary of TWNP
TOTALS	-	3,445	600	-	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>
06/09/2024	Routine ecological monitoring flight. 1 Super Tusker, 2 Grevy's zebra & 9 Hirola seen.	TENP – Southern Sector
07/09/2024	Collared elephant Monitoring flight. 3 of the collared elephants located	TENP – Southern Sector
11/09/2024	Tuskers monitoring flight. 2 Super Tuskers and 2 Emerging Tuskers located	TENP – Northern Sector
20/09/2024	Rhino capture aerial support.	TWNP – Ziwani
22/09/2024	Illegal livestock monitoring flight. 560 cattle and 360 shoats were observed.	TENP – Emusaya
24/09/2024	Rhino monitoring flight. 3 rhinos were sighted in the TWNP IPZ	TWNP – IPZ
28/09/2024	Routine ecological monitoring flight. 1 fresh elephant carcass with ivory located	TENP – IPZ

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

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

TT Activity	Cost (\$) Justification	Total \$
<i>Aerial support – ongoing TENP & TWNP</i>	66hrs in Super Cub aircraft @ \$350 all incl.& pilot	23,100
<i>Vehicle running costs - Field Mobile Teams (Tembo 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & Kamungi S.) ongoing TE & TW</i>	11 vehicles covered 29,630 km @ \$1 p/km incl. fuel, tires, maintenance, servicing & f/c insurance	29,630
<i>TT Field Staff x 54 (Tembo teams)</i>	Costs not Included	-
<i>TWNP NRS general support</i>	200ltrs diesel – rhino security, rations & airtime	270
<i>TWNP NRS general support</i>	NRS Night rhino census	1,796
<i>TWNP NRS tractor monthly support</i>	1 4x4 tractor/trailer/water bowser ongoing support	480
<i>TWNP IPZ general support</i>	TWIPZ Base BH hydro. Survey & WRMA Permit	2,033
<i>TWNP IPZ general support</i>	200ltrs diesel – rhino monitoring and security	270
<i>TWNP IPZ general support</i>	Rations & Airtime	163
<i>TWNP IPZ tractor monthly support</i>	1 4x4 tractor/trailer/water bowser ongoing support	333
<i>TWNP additional general support</i>	Rhino ear notching & Transmitter fitting exercise	34,747
<i>TENP - Dakota Platoon Diesel, general support</i>	200ltrs p/month – security vehicle, DSTV subs	304
<i>TENP – CC vehicle support</i>	100ltrs p/month – security operations	132
<i>TENP additional general support</i>	Roka Borehole WARMA permit application	543
<i>TENP & TWNP – KWS Field Allowances</i>	KWS Rangers attached to TT teams	907
<i>TENP & TWNP – Fines paid to KWS</i>	Court fines received from cattle impounds/arrests	621
<i>HEC 33km Mtito elephant fence</i>	Ongoing fence maintenance	397
TOTAL MONTH		95,726
TOTAL 2024 to DATE:		\$752,402

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 / 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 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)	30	7 All illegal herders	-	20 4 small 16 medium	-	-	-	-	2,210	449
Tembo 3 (TWNP) (6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers)	30	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2,655	142
Tembo 5 (TWNP) 6 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	3 All bushmeat poachers	2	2 Both small	44 15 Dik-diks	2 pangas, 1 spotlight, 2 lamping horns & 2 phones	-	-	2,485	174
Tembo 7 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	4 All illegal herders	-	92 56 small 36 medium	-	-	-	-	3,199	186
Tembo 9 (Kulalu/TENP) 5 TT Scouts + 3 KWS Rangers	30	1 Illegal herder	2	16 2 medium & 14 bird traps	-	-	-	-	3,403	156
Kamungi Scouts 4 Scouts	30	2 1 bushmeat poacher & 1 bushmeat dealer	-	10 8 small 2 medium	28 9 Dik-diks & 1 Duiker	1 panga, 1 knife, 2 lamping horns, 1 motorbike & 1 vehicle	-	-	1,648	176
TOTALS	180	17	6	140	72	As above	Nil	-	15,600	1,283
Total 2024	1,644	75	35	750	424 Kg	-	2	18	134,961	11,612



A Tsavo Trust Super Cub takes flight from Ngiluni airstrip to support anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring efforts. The Super Cub's ability to cover vast areas quickly and efficiently is invaluable in supplementing the work of ground teams, ensuring the safety and well-being of Tsavo's diverse inhabitants. 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) 	20	-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 – 5 sightings -Hirola – Nil -Grevy's Zebra – Nil -Large Carnivores – 11 sightings -Ground Hornbill – Nil -Road & Rail kills – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil - Collared elephants – 1 sighting - Carnivore scats collected - Nil	Tsavo East Nat. Park – mainly southern, central, and eastern sections including, Voi River & Shirango Conservancy	1,858
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 – 33 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 2 sightings -Collared elephants – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	4,168
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 – 33 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 1 sighting -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – IPZ and Triangle	3,336
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 – 9 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – 3 sightings -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,340
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 – 11 -Tuskers - Nil -Large Carnivores – Nil -Elephant carcasses – Nil - Ivory recovered. – Nil	Tsavo West Nat. Park – NRS	2,328
TOTALS	140	As above	As above	As above	14,030
Total 2024	1,322	-	-	-	140,759



The photo above shows a cheetah lounging on a termite mound in Tsavo East National Park. Known as the world's fastest land animal, cheetahs can reach speeds of up to 120 km/h in short bursts. Cheetahs have tear marks running from their eyes to their mouths, which is believed to help protect their eyes from the sun's glare. Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Christine Mwendu.

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	11 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 09/09/2024: Local administrative meeting at the Nthunguni Assistant Chief’s office. ➤ 13/09/2024: Kamungi Conservancy Annual General Meeting held at the Ngiluni Water tank meeting area. ➤ 19/09/2024: Climate Smart Agriculture training at Nthunguni and Kyusiani villages. ➤ 24/09/2024: The inaugural meeting of the newly elected Kamungi Conservancy board members took place, during which the new members were familiarized with their roles and responsibilities. ➤ 25/09/2024. Kamungi Conservancy hosted representatives from CMZoo who visited to witness conservation projects they support. 	1 community meetings were held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 09/09/2024: A Climate Smart Agriculture training was conducted for 54 members of the SCC by facilitators from KALRO, focusing on dryland crop farming and conservation agriculture. The training was organized by Tsavo Trust, with support from USAID and IFAW.
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 Girama ethnic groups.
Water Project	118,160 litres issued at Ngiluni Water Tanks. Additionally, TT provided 110 dam liners and 28 water tanks. (569,676 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	193 patients attended to in August. 719 patients attended for the year to date.	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)	25 cases recorded: 16 Leopard; 6 Hyena; 1 Wild dog and 2 Baboon.	4 cases recorded: All elephant related.
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:



September 2024: Photo shows one of Tsavo's iconic Super Tuskers coded as BAI. He is a very handsome elephant. Through the joint KWS / WRTI / Tsavo Trust Big Tusker Project, we place much time and effort into trying to secure these majestic Tuskers. We have known and named this elephant 12 years ago, when he was first recorded as an "emerging Tusker". Photo Credit: Tsavo Trust – Richard Moller.

With sincere thanks and appreciation:

Organizations: Kenya Wildlife Service; Wildlife Research & Training Institute, Government of Makueni County; US Fish & Wildlife Service; USAID / DOI; Wildlife Conservation Networks: Rhino Recovery Fund, Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Leopardess Foundation; JM Foundation Africa; International Elephant Foundation (IEF); Maliasili; Re:wild; WildLandscapes International; Tusk Trust; BAND Foundation; 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; Haller Foundation; Addax and Oryx Foundation; ARES; Ndovu Trust (UK); 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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