



Project Title:

Tsavo West National Park

Securing huge space for black rhinos in Kenya

Proposal to the Suzuki Rhino Club
13th May 2024

By Richard Moller, CEO, Tsavo Trust

HOW IT STARTED



OFFICE, MESS & ACCOMMODATION



TSAVO TRUST JANUARY 2013

**FOUNDED
IN 2012**

**TSAVO TRUST HQ, OFFICES, STAFF
HOUSES, HANGERS & AIRSTRIP 2024**

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT TSAVO TRUST?

Holistic Approach to Conservation

- Tsavo based with equipped HQ
- Team of dedicated Kenyans
- Formal partners to KWS & WRTI
- Relevant field conservation tools

**NOT SHYING AWAY FROM TSAVO'S MANY CHALLENGES and
BEING IN TSAVO EVERYDAY TO CALL ON AS A TRUSTED PARTNER**





OUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

1

**SUPPORT EFFECTIVE
MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION
OF PROTECTED AREAS: SUPPORT
KWS & WRTI**

2

**ESTABLISH STRONG AND
EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY- LED
CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

3

**DEVELOP A MORE RESILIENT
AND ROBUST LONG-TERM
FINANCING FRAMEWORK FOR
TCA**

Focus under this Proposal

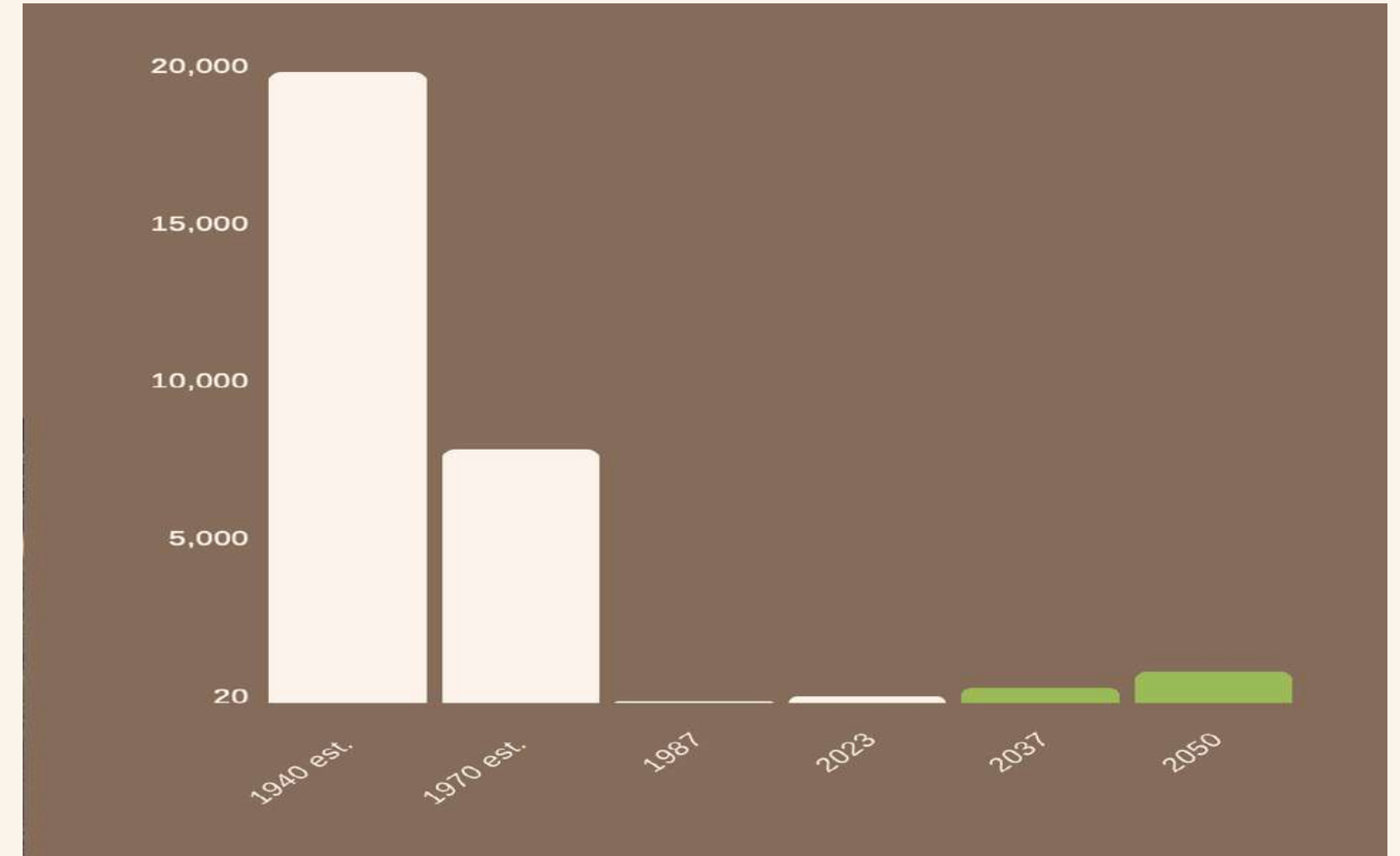
**In line with Goal One – Partner
with KWS and WRTI to
enhance security and
monitoring of black rhinos
in the Tsavo West NP**

In preparation for more rhinos

Tsavo Trust has been formally
endorsed by KWS as a key
stakeholder / partner in the TWNP



Black rhino population trends in Tsavo

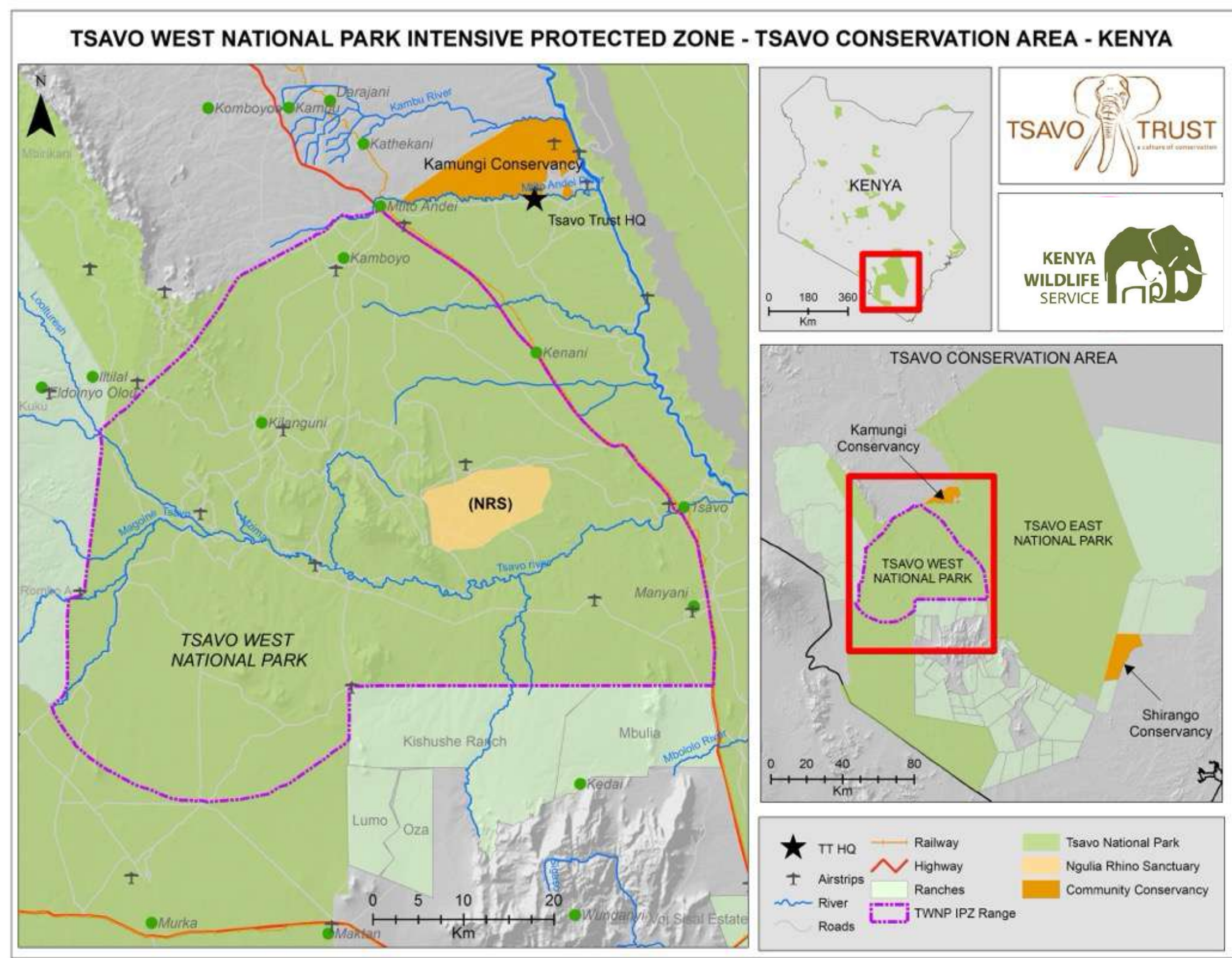


- Estimated 20,000 rhinos in 1940
- **98% decline** between 1960 - 1989 bringing them close to the brink of extinction – 20 individuals
- Approx. **215** today

- **Kenya Black Rhino Action Plan** sets out the long-term goal of:
 - A net annual growth of at least 5%
 - Vision of 2,000 individuals in the wild by 2037
 - **Current population 1,000**

- **Tsavo's IPZ** represents the most viable wilderness area to recover large numbers of **free ranging** black rhino
- It also provides **space for excess rhino** from other fenced sanctuaries
- Kenya remains the stronghold for Eastern black rhino subspecies (80%) making this population **globally important**

Tsavo West National Park



- **Tsavo Conservation Area, southern Kenya, 42,000km²**
- **Tsavo West National Park 7,900km² (Kenya Govt. owned)**
- **Intensive Protection Zone (3,000km²)**



**TSAVO HOLDS
A KEY 1 BLACK
RHINO
POPULATION**

**Kenya's black rhinos
have increased three-
fold in the last 40
years.**

In Tsavo:

**NGULIA SANCTUARY – 1985
with 9 founding rhinos**

**INTENSIVE PROTECTION ZONE
– 2008 with 18 founding rhinos**

**Ngulia sanctuary has now
exceeded carrying capacity
and has too MANY rhinos.**



A RARITY IN TODAY'S WORLD

Opportunity to significantly grow black rhino numbers

Tsavo West National Park has the potential to hold over **800** black rhinos, **14%** of the world's population.

AT LEAST 5%

RECRUITMENT RATE EXPECTED IN THE
INTENSIVE PROTECTION ZONE

3,000 km²

OF HABITAT THAT HOLDS THE KEY FOR
KENYA'S RHINO GROWTH

IPZ upgrade needs

SECURITY

- Security vehicles
- Dedicated aerial units
- Increase Rangers & Outposts
- Modern Training
- Technology & Surveillance



MONITORING

- Vet and capture team support
- Efficient aerial support
- Equipment and use of modern technology
- Fitting VHF horn transmitters
- Dedicated staffing needs



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Fencing key Park boundaries
- Construction works
- Machinery & plant equipment
- Roads & bridges
- Sustainable water points
- Fire management



Neighbouring community engagement will be critical

- Community Conservancy Model
- Protective Buffers
- Employment
- Security
- Community ownership
- Improving livelihoods
- Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation
- Land tenure

Partners in the Tsavo Rhino Programme

Lead Implementing Partners

Kenya Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research and Training Institute, Tsavo Trust and other stakeholders

Current Donors

USFWS, Rhino Recovery Fund, WildLandscapes International, Re:wild, Zoological Society of London, various Foundations & Individual Philanthropists

Local Communities

Kamungi Conservancy, Mangalete & Kishushe communities



Looking forward, this project aims to upgrade the IPZ to become rhino ready. The budget over the next 10 years is US\$20m with a significant amount needed in the first two years.

Funding options for the Suzuki Rhino Club:

1. Provision of water to the TWNP IPZ base – drilling of a solar powered borehole
2. Phase 2 IPZ base upgrade to include armory, office block, ranger accommodation block
3. Construction of 8 holding pens for rhinos – in preparation for moving rhinos out of the overstocked NRS into the IPZ



1. Water Supply to the TWNP IPZ Security Base

Currently the IPZ base relies on water being trucked in from far using a water bowser, incurring significant costs and logistical issues.

SOLUTION – drilling of a solar powered borehole

- Reduction in costs - transportation
- Reduced dependency on external water sources
- Reliable water supply for staff, wildlife and conservation activities – boost morale
- Environmental sustainability – reduced carbon footprint

Total Budget: US\$50,000

\$20,000 for borehole drilling

\$20,000 for solar system and pump

\$10,000 for installation of water tank





2. Phase 2 IPZ Base Upgrade - Construction of an armory, office block and radio room.

Currently inadequate facilities hindering daily operations, communications and response capabilities

Phase 1 upgrade in 2023 including 2 ranger accommodation blocks, central mess and kitchen area.

- **Enhanced rhino security – improved response rate, weapon and equipment storage etc.**
- **Enhanced operational efficiency – centralized administration hub and improved staff morale**
- **Enhanced communications – reliable and efficient coordination and improved crisis management**

Total Budget: US\$100,000

3. Construction of rhino holding pens and transportation crates – in preparation for moving rhinos out of the TWNP NRS and into the free ranging IPZ

Currently there are no holding pens or rhino crates in the Tsavo rhino area and are unprepared for incoming translocations of rhinos.

Tsavo Trust, in partnership with KWS, plans to:

- **8 secure rhino holding pens to be located at the TWNP IPZ base**
- **Construct 4 sturdy and safe rhino crates to facilitate the safe transport of rhinos within TWNP and from other sanctuaries.**

Enhanced rhino welfare and improved safety to facilitate a smooth relocation process.

Total Budget: US\$80,000

Holding pens: US\$60,000

Transportation crates: US\$20,000



Thank you!

The opportunity is now