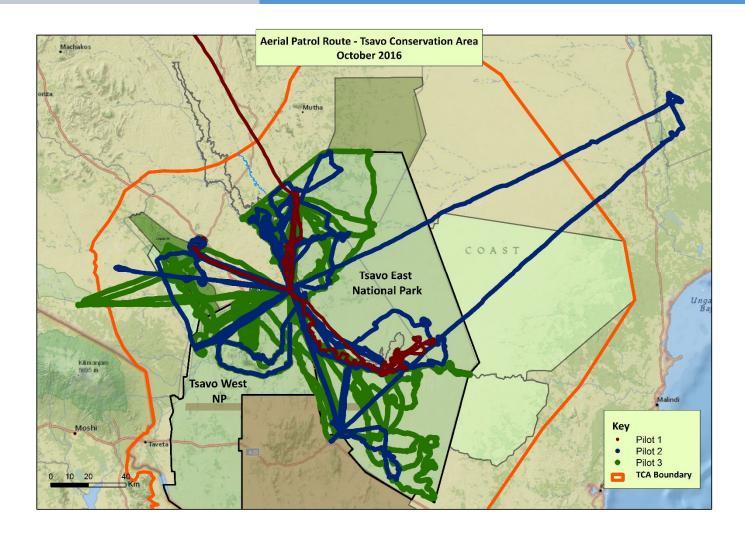


HOURS FLOWN	66.2
KMS COVERED	8521
AREAS PATROLLED	Tsavo East, Tsavo West, Chyulu Hills, Mbirikani, Ishaqbini (Tana River)





MONTHLY AERIAL PATROL MAP



October was quiet in regard to poaching activities, especially compared to previous years, as it is normally at this time of the year when illegal activities traditionally spike. This has been largely due to a continued aerial presence the DSWT has been able to afford Tsavo, with the pilots paying extra attention and providing further security over the north of Tsavo during this dry season.





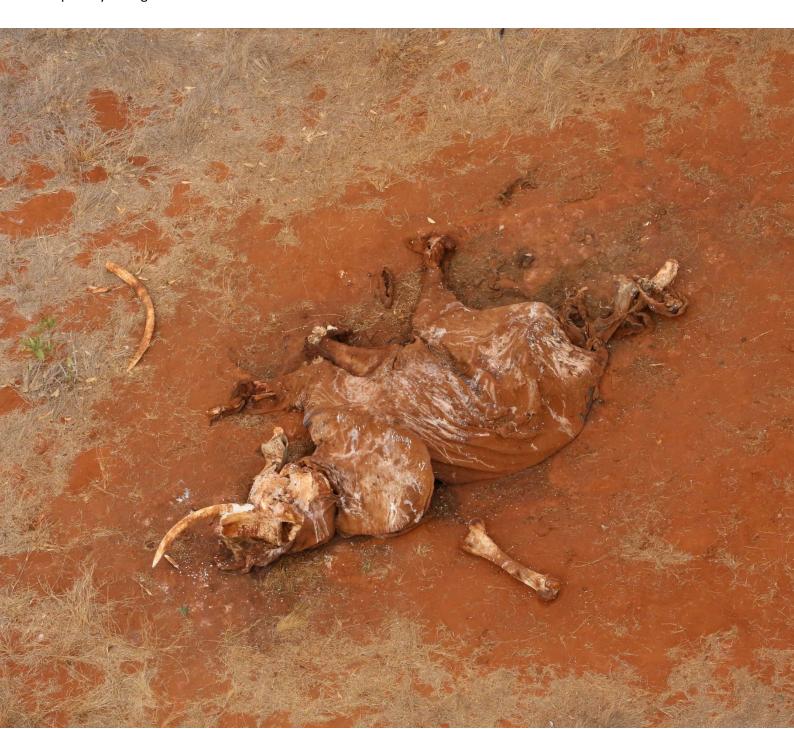
MONTHLY AERIAL SUMMARY

The effects of the drought however, have also been severely felt in the southern sector of Tsavo East and West, effecting elephants in particular.

The DSWT Aerial Unit discovered one carcass during the month, however several more were found by our ground and veterinary teams, Kenya Wildlife Service rangers, tourists and other NGOs in the greater eco-system bringing the total over the last few months to over 30, which are all suspected to have died of drought-related conditions.

Many of these were females who tragically left behind young calves which were subsequently abandoned by their herds and have had to be rescued by the DSWT to be cared for; these include 7 babies in recent weeks that have been victims of the drought, many found in a state of complete collapse and a breath away from death.

A small number of dead buffaloes were also discovered as well as dead livestock, which continues to be a threat, especially during times of limited natural resources.











Livestock incursions are still widespread and persistent from communities on all sides of the Park who have depleted every acre of grazing outside of protected areas. The KWS has been taking serious strides to expel them, and these efforts are ongoing. In the Chyulu Hills, fires set by herders continued for much of the month.

Through determined efforts from the Aerial Unit with prompt and consistent follow-up from our teams on the ground, we have been able to stifle charcoal-burning activities in Gazi almost completely. As has been mentioned in previous reports, the connection between charcoal burning and poaching has always been known, but the true extent of that relationship has only recently been revealed. By concentrating on this area, we have also discovered several unrelated poachers' routes into the Park and have made several arrests as a result. On the 25th, one of our pilots was called out to assist our ground team who were pursuing 2 suspects down one of these routes. The aircraft was instrumental in identifying the fleeing suspects and directing the teams to a house where they recovered snares and a knife.

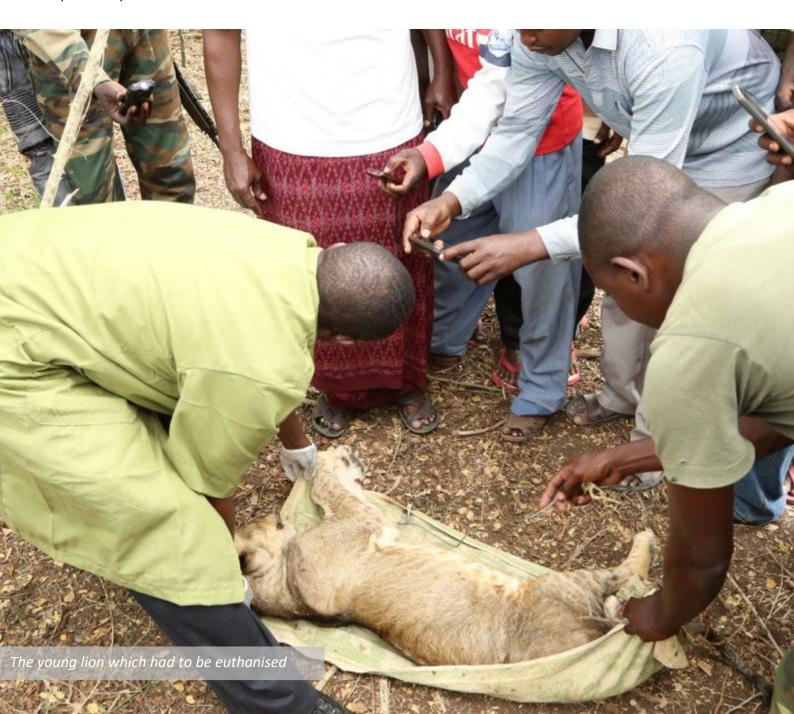
To mitigate the damage that has already been done by charcoal burning, we have partnered with Seedballs Kenya to distribute thousands of indigenous seeds encased in a biochar delivery system to ensure high rates of germination. These are dropped directly from the aircraft and once the rains arrive they will germinate and help reforest degraded areas across the Tsavo Conservation Area.





Vet treatments with aerial involvement were relatively few in the month of October. The Supercub and the helicopter assisted in the successful treatment of a bull elephant in the Kibwezi Forest suffering from bullet wounds. It is unclear where the bull came from, but he was fortunate to wander to Umani Springs where a DSWT employee spotted him. Several subsequent hours were spent searching for him by air before he was finally located again, when the helicopter's services were essential in his successful darting.

One other case involved a snared lion many kilometres away on the Tana River near Ishaqbini Conservancy. Due to inaccessibility by road, the Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit Vet was flown there in one of the Trust's Supercubs. Unfortunately, the young lion was found to have been ensnared for at least a week and in an attempt to escape had eaten off most of its leg. It had little chance of surviving a wild life and the decision was made to euthanise it. From the size of the snare it is suspected that a local villager had set the trap to catch a buffalo and upon discovering the lion, the villager was probably too afraid to report the incident to KWS for fear of reprisal. Unfortunately, when the report finally did come in it was too late to save the lion's life.









Despite its negative effects on some of the wildlife in the Tsavo ecosystem, the drought also produced excellent conditions for the area's predators and therefore excellent game-viewing conditions for the DSWT's pilots.

An unusually high number of lion sightings were reported as well as cheetah and wild dog, all of them of which had recently fed.

Predator sightings are an encouraging indicator of a recovering eco-system. We can only hope that the trend continues.









