



ELEPHANT COLLARING IN TSAVO CONSERVATION AREA

The Tsavo ecosystem is home to over 12,000 elephants which is the largest elephant population in Kenya. Twenty elephants in the Tsavo Conservation Area were fitted with advanced satellite radio tracking collars in the period between 29th January – February 4th 2018 in a joint operation by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) with support from Save the Elephants (STE) and the Tsavo Trust (TT).

During the five-day expedition, 10 bulls and 10 females were fitted with advanced Savannah Tracking satellite radio tracking collars. The operation covered over 1,290 kilometres and involved technical personnel from KWS, STE and TT on ground and on air.

Tracking elephant movements in the Tsavo Conservation Area helps to gather valuable insights on elephant ranging patterns, habitat connectivity and how they adapt to infrastructure development thus enhance their conservation and management of elephants within the landscape.

One of the collared elephants crossed the SGR twice two days after he was collared thus confirming the collared elephants will provide valuable data to inform land use planning and infrastructural development.

In a nod to Hong Kong's historic decision to close down its ivory market, announced during the Tsavo collaring operation, a matriarch elephant was named EQ after Hong Kong MP Elizabeth Quat, popularly known as EQ, who helped lead the people and government of Hong Kong to understand the impacts of ivory trade and to take action against it.

The Tsavo collaring operation, which followed a similar expedition in the Tsavo Ecosystem in 2016 to understand movements of elephants across the SGR railway, was funded by The Kenya Wildlife Service, Save the Elephants, Disney's Reverse the Decline Fund, and Tsavo Trust.

ENDS/

About the Kenya Wildlife Service

KWS is a state corporation with the mandate, run by a Board of Trustees, to conserve and manage wildlife in Kenya, and to enforce related laws and regulations. KWS undertakes conservation and management of wildlife resources across all protected areas systems in collaboration with stakeholders. It is our goal to work with others to conserve, protect and sustainably manage wildlife resources, its habitats, and provide a wide range of public uses in collaboration with stakeholders for posterity. The Kenya Wildlife Service continues to strengthen the approach of science- driven wildlife conservation and management. These approaches include *inter alia* protecting and ensuring survival of particular endangered species and ensuring sustainable management of wildlife and their habitats for posterity

For more information

Please contact

Dr. Shadrack Ngene

Head Species Conservation and Management

Kenya Wildlife Service

sngene@kws.go.ke

0719701911