

Twiga Tracker Initiative: Masai Giraffe Tagging Report

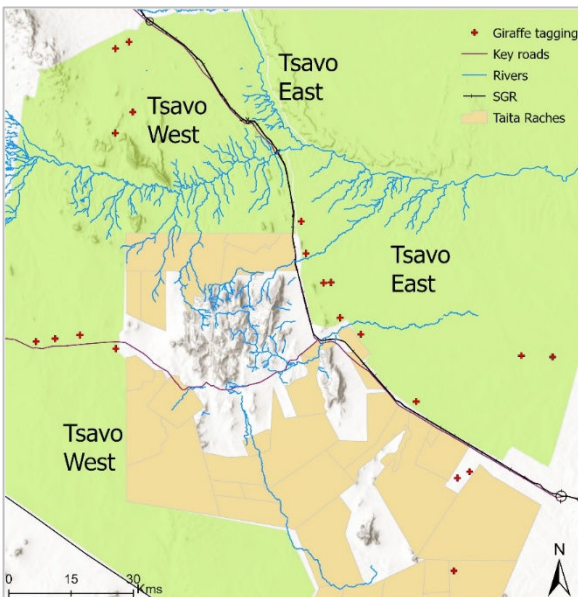
Tsavo Conservation Area, Kenya

16-22 May 2026

Background

The Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA) is a biodiversity hotspot due to its vast and diverse landscapes and rich abundance of wildlife. It holds Kenya's second largest Masai giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi tippelskirchi*) population.

The TCA is particularly important as it serves as a vital wildlife corridor for a suite of wildlife. However, this connectivity is increasingly under threat due to expanding human settlements and infrastructure (railways and highways) that connect the country's two largest cities. Data already exists on how African savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) move within the landscape, however, Masai giraffe movements in the area are unknown. There is a proposal to build the Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway (NME), a dual-carriageway highway, alongside the existing Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that already bisects the TCA, in order to reduce travel time between Nairobi and Mombasa. The NME will be built parallel to the existing Nairobi-Mombasa Road, inevitably dissecting the TCA further.



Objective

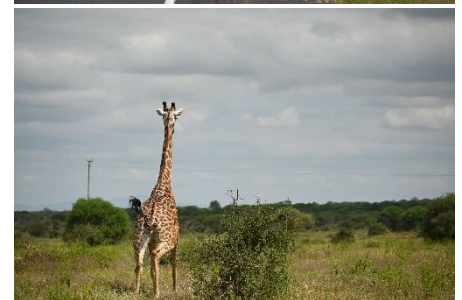
The main objective is to assess Masai giraffe movements and space use along the Nairobi-Mombasa Road before, during, and after the construction of the NME within the TCA by fitting light-weight GPS satellite tail units. Data from this project will help to better inform conservation and management strategies for Masai giraffe in Kenya.

Results

The tagging exercise took place from 16 to 22 May 2026 and a total of 20 Masai giraffe (11 female and 9 male) were tagged (see figure & table for location details). The dense vegetation, especially in the northern sections of Tsavo West National Park, limited the deployment to the southern part of the park close to the A23 (Taveta-Voi) road that passes through the park. The area is reportedly a hotspot for poaching and wildlife-vehicle collisions. Furthermore, newly erected fences in the area are assumed to have greatly impacted the movement of Masai giraffe and other wildlife. Given this conservation importance, four Masai giraffe were tagged in this area.

During the tagging exercise, the field team checked on an injured African savannah elephant that was hit by a vehicle. Such an incident highlights the importance of the tagging exercise and need to understand more about Masai giraffe in the landscape. Online tracking access for all 20 Masai giraffe is shared with all partners through EarthRanger. Future analysis and reporting will be shared bi-annually.

Area	No. of tags
Tsavo East National Park	9
Tsavo West National Park	8
Taita Ranches	3



Acknowledgements

