

ICONIC COW ELEPHANT – “MUDANDA” MORTALITY REPORT

18th October 2017

Introduction:

This individual iconic cow elephant called “Mudanda” was a very well known for her long tusks that reached to the ground. She was very placid and approachable and was most often observed in the Voi to Irima and Mudanda areas of Tsavo East Nat. Park, Kenya. She is believed to have been between 50 and 60 years of age. Over the 4 years that Tsavo Trust / KWS has been monitoring Mudanda she has been observed either by air or by Tembo 2 ground team on 77 recorded occasions. This averages out at once every 19 days.

Photo below shows Mudanda on 22nd July 2017 in TENP along with her sole companion and adolescent calf. She has been looking very thin and frail since February 2017.



Mudanda Mortality Report:

Mudanda was found dead during a routine Tsavo Trust / KWS aerial recce on 12th October 2017 just 1 kilometer north west of Aruba at GPS Ref: 37M 0477983 9629914.

Carcass believed to be less than 1 week old with ivory intact. This was later recovered by joint KWS / Tsavo Trust Tembo 1. Weight 15kg each (33lbs each tusk). She has died naturally of old age but the current severe drought conditions in Tsavo has speeded up this process.

Mudanda had been looking very frail and weak since February 2017 and sadly the devastating drought conditions currently gripping Tsavo took her life.

On the positive side of things, she will have given birth to many elephants and with that her “big tusker” genes will have been passed on for sure.

During a routine Tsavo Trust / KWS aerial recce on 12th October 2017 in TENP’s Aruba area, the fresh carcass of Mudanda was spotted with her ivory intact. A joint KWS / Tsavo Trust ground team (Tembo 1) was deployed to remove the ivory. On the same day this team recovered a further 6 elephant tusks, from elephants having died naturally from drought.



Compiled by Richard Moller
TSAVO TRUST.