



# **BIG LIFE** FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT:  
JANUARY - MARCH 2016

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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AOO	Area of Operation
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
BLF	Big Life Foundation
DSWT	David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
HEC	Human Elephant Conflict
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
IPZ	Intensive Protection Zone
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
MEI	Moran Education Initiative
MO	Maasai Olympics
MWCT	Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
PCF	Predator Compensation Fund
RDU	Rapid Deployment Unit
TANAPA	Tanzania National Parks

# MISSION STATEMENT

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**“On the ground in Africa, partnering with communities to protect nature for the benefit of all.”**

## DIRECTOR’S NOTE

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The first quarter of 2016 has been one of our most challenging to date and demonstrates the shifting conservation challenges in our area of operation (AOO). There’s no way to sugar coat it: humans and keystone species alike have suffered. The local Maasai community has tragically lost five people due to human-elephant conflict since the first of the year (four in the first quarter and one at the start of the second quarter). We’ve also lost ten elephants and six lions in and around our AOO. The impact on the ecosystem, economy, and community has been devastating.

Of the ten elephants lost, six were due to human-wildlife conflict. And of those six, five died as a result of retaliation. Why? The truth is that elephants are dangerous animals, and when threatened, they can be deadly. Community members retaliated against elephants when humans were lost on four separate occasions in areas immediately adjacent to cultivated land, where conflict is always the worst. It is a situation that is hard to control once started, but our rangers were on hand to mitigate the crisis as much as possible. Our partners, particularly Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT), were instrumental in helping to manage the situation and treating wounded elephants.

What is clear is that better land-use management policies need to be implemented immediately in order to prevent tragedies like this in the future. Big Life is actively meeting with stakeholders and working with partners to fundraise for wildlife fencing in a few critical migratory corridors, for example.

If there is any silver lining, it’s that **NONE of the elephants lost were due to poaching**. We have also seen a reduction in the number of crop-raiding incidents by elephants, thanks in part to a section of

rangers dedicated to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation. In the first quarter of 2015, there were 335 crop-raiding incidents by elephants. In the first quarter of 2016, there were only 93—a **72% reduction in crop-raiding**. Still, it's clear that there is far more to be done to address this ongoing issue.

Of the six lions lost, four were located outside our AOO in places not covered by our Predator Compensation Fund (PCF). However, two of the lions lost were in areas that are covered by PCF. PCF is a fluid thing that needs updating and constant support from law enforcement agencies (both local and national) in order to fully succeed. We are working hard to address this and will continue to do so.

Our first quarter of 2016 represents the **Big Problem**, the problem that every prior report for the past 12 months has emphasized: **the escalation of human-wildlife conflict (HWC)**. HWC is the result of even bigger underlying problems, such as habitat loss, land-use changes, and an exploding human population—some of which we are doing all we can to mitigate, others over which we have no control whatsoever.

On the ground, Big Life has always worked to prevent habitat loss, mitigate conflict, and tried to help local authorities manage changes in land-use in order to reduce negative impacts. We'll need to step up our efforts in order to be successful, and we'll need the support of our donors—YOU—in order to do it.



*Richard Bonham,  
Director of Operations, Big Life Kenya*

# WILDLIFE PROTECTION

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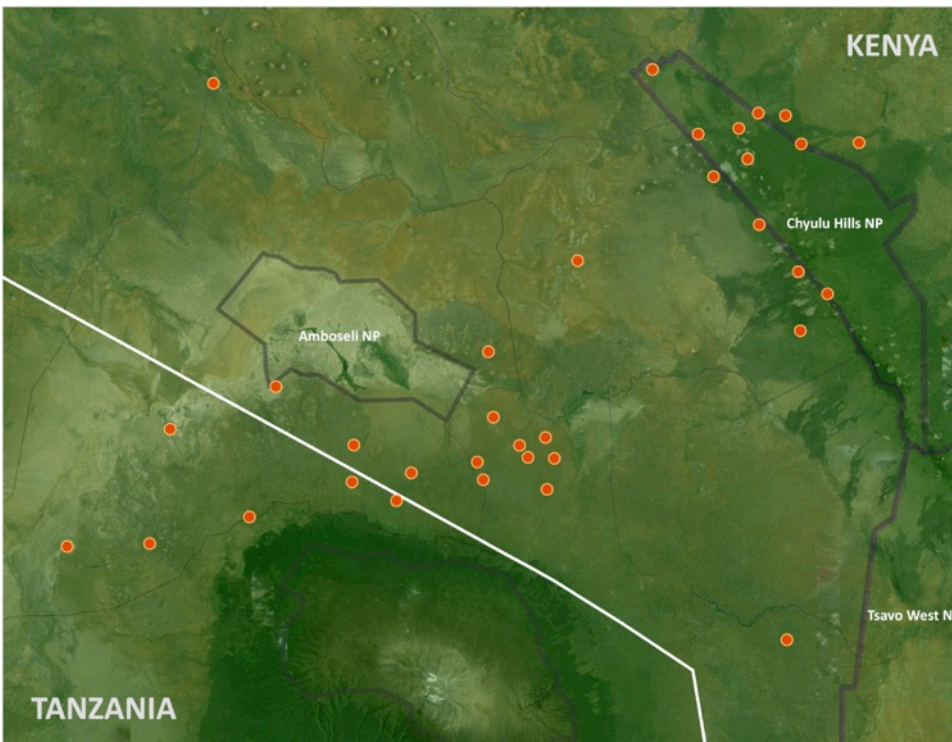
During the first quarter of 2016, Big Life rangers patrolled **18,236 km** by foot and **63,211 km** by vehicle.

Big Life rangers **arrested 64 suspects** in **31 incidents** (see table on next page), continuing an overall decrease in illegal activity over the past two years. Of these, **19 suspects** were arrested in **12 poaching-related incidents**. The majority of the poaching-related incidents took place outside Big Life's core area of operation (AOO) and were the result of extensive investigations.

## BIG LIFE RANGERS

There are a total of 41 units (including 6 in Tanzania managed by our Honeyguide Foundation partners), currently comprising more than 250 rangers, and a total of approximately 350 field staff in the wildlife protection network managed and/or supported by Big Life. This provides nearly comprehensive coverage across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro landscape.

On the Kenyan side of the ecosystem, there are 25 permanent ranger outposts, 4 mobile vehicle units, a Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), 2 field teams that operate from their homes or tented camps, and 3 permanent observation posts covering a total of 1,678,000 acres. However, there are still important areas with insufficient attention, and we are actively fundraising for additional outposts. If you are interested, please email [donations@biglife.org](mailto:donations@biglife.org) for additional information.



*MAP: Big Life AOO in Kenya and Tanzania, excluding mobile units. Orange dots represent ranger outposts.*

## INCIDENTS & ARRESTS

Crime category	Crime type	Incidents				Suspects arrested			
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Poaching	Trophy	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
	Bushmeat	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
	Trading in wildlife trophies	4	1	3	8	6	1	4	11
Poaching Intention	Intention to hunt	1	1	-	2	4	1	-	5
Habitat Destruction	Charcoal production	1	2	5	8	1	4	15	20
	Logging	-	1	2	3	-	3	4	7
	Wood carving	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Encroachment	Illegal grazing	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	3
	Illegal water pumping	1	-	2	3	2	-	6	8
Community Crimes	Theft	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	4
	Vehicle hit and runs	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>64</b>

## ITEMS CONFISCATED

Item	Total
Axes	3
Bicycles	6
Bows	1
Chainsaws	1
Charcoal bags	32
Charcoal kilns	2
Hoes	1
Ivory	153 kg
Logs	10
Machetes	16
Motorbikes	7
Pitchforks	1
Poison	1.5 kg

Item	Total
Poisoned arrows	3
Skins: Crocodile	1
Skins: Predator	3
Skins: Python	4
Snares: General	42
Snares: Rhino	4
Spades	6
Torches	3
Vehicles <5t	1
Vehicles >5t	1
Water pumps	3

## ELEPHANTS & WILDLIFE TROPHY INCIDENTS

**No confirmed elephant poaching** occurred within Big Life's area of operation (AOO) during the first quarter of 2016. However, **12 people were arrested** in connection with 9 incidents of trophy dealing or poaching of other species. All of the below incidents were joint operations between Big Life and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and all but two took place outside Big Life's core AOO:

- **January 5:** A suspected rhino and elephant poacher, whose name and details were given to Big Life over two years ago, was finally arrested in Ikoyo, following the most recent undercover attempt to infiltrate his network.
- **January 5:** Three suspects with 5.1 kg ivory were arrested at Ikoyo while attempting to sell the ivory.
- **January 21:** One suspect with two serval cat skins was arrested in Salama. *(photo right)*
- **January 24:** One suspect with 2 kg ivory was arrested at Kimoini.
- **January 25:** One suspect with 20 kg ivory was arrested in Rombo. He is suspected to be a member of the gang that poached six elephants in Tsavo West National park in July 2015. His arrest brings the total suspects arrested in connection with the incident to **four** out of five Kenyans. Two of the three Tanzanian suspects have also been arrested.
- **February 8:** One suspect with four python skins (40 ft) and one crocodile skin was arrested in Makindu.
- **March 10:** One suspect with a leopard skin was arrested in Ukambani. *(photo below)*





- **March 24:** One suspect with 95 kg ivory was arrested at Mtito Andei following a prolonged investigation.
- **March 29:** Two suspects with 30 kg ivory were arrested at Makutano-Nthongoni following an undercover operation. (*photo below*)



# ELEPHANT MORTALITIES

## Total dead: 10

Total dead *within* Big Life's AOO: 7

Total dead *outside* Big Life's AOO: 3

During the first quarter, **ten elephant mortalities** were recorded. **Six of these were due to human-wildlife conflict (HWC), two were natural deaths, and two were from unknown causes.** Of the six elephants that died due to HWC, five were put down by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) after killing people.

*Details on all elephant deaths (within and outside Big Life's AOO):*

- **January 22:** A several-month-old carcass of an adult female was discovered in Orbili, Mbirikani. She died of unknown causes. The tusks were not recovered. *(photo right)*



- **February 2:** A calf carcass was found inside Amboseli National Park. It died of natural causes and had not yet developed tusks.

- **February 5:** A two-day-old calf carcass was discovered at Kinyei, Olgulului. It died of natural causes and had not yet developed tusks.

- **February 12:** A several-month-old carcass of an adult female was discovered in Loingur, Kimana. It died of unknown natural causes. Both tusks were recovered. *(photo right)*



- **March 6:** An adult female that had been treated for a spear wound on Feb 28 was discovered dead at Egumii, Kimana. Both tusks were recovered. *(photo next page)*



- **March 8:** An adult male died of multiple spear and arrow wounds at Masimba, Kaputei when the local Maasai community retaliated by hunting elephants following the tragic death of a 10-year-old boy. Both tusks were recovered.
- **March 13:** An adult male was put down by KWS after it killed a 13-year-old boy at Lemongo, Kimana. Both tusks were recovered. *(photo below)*



- **March 12:** An adult female was euthanized at Osero Lemong’o, Kimana after she suffered multiple spear wounds and treatment was deemed impossible. The injuries were inflicted by retaliating community members following the tragic death of a 13-year-old boy (mentioned above). Both tusks were recovered. *(photo right)*



- **March 25:** An adult male was put down by KWS after it killed a 9-year-old boy at Oltiyani, Kimana. Both tusks were recovered.

- **March 26:** An adult male was euthanized by KWS at Emotoroki, Mailua after it killed a man. Both tusks were recovered. *(photo right)*



## ELEPHANT INJURIES

**Treated: 1** (by the KWS/David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) mobile veterinarian)

**Not treated: 3**

Elephants Treated:

- **February 28:** While on patrol at Kimoingan, Kimana, rangers found a sub-adult female dripping pus from a wound on her right foreleg. A KWS veterinarian was notified, and the elephant was treated for a spear wound the following day. Sadly, she ultimately succumbed to her wounds.



## Elephants Not Treated:

- **January 25:** An informant reported an elephant losing blood at Olokurto, Mbirikani. Rangers searched for three days, but were unable to find the elephant.
- **March 16:** Rangers on patrol observed an adult female (mother) limping. There were no visible injuries. Darting was deemed unnecessary and dangerous to her calf. Rangers monitored the individual and protected her calf from hyenas at night. She made a full recovery after ten days.
- **March 31:** While on patrol at Ole Ntakai, Olgulului, rangers came across an adult male that appeared to be having difficulties walking. The elephant was darted and examined by a veterinarian, but there was no visible injury. He made a full recovery.

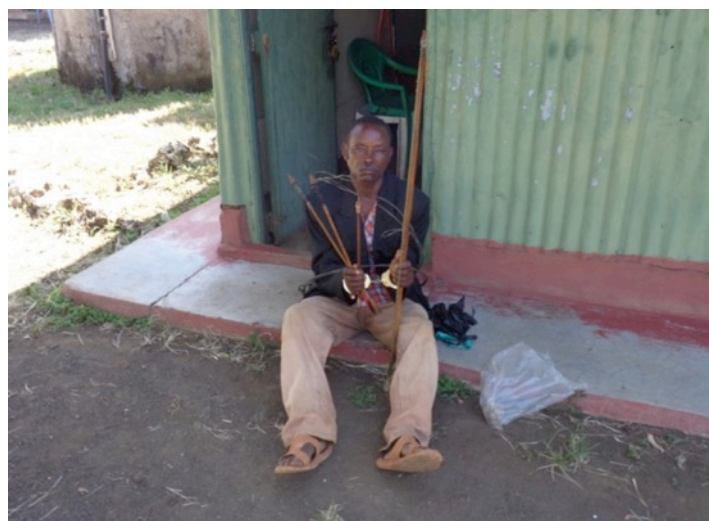
## BUSHMEAT POACHING

Poaching for bushmeat continues throughout the ecosystem, especially in areas with high densities of both people and wildlife and along the edges of Big Life's AOO. Over the reporting period, **seven suspects were arrested in three incidents** for bushmeat poaching or poaching intention. Two of these suspects were arrested for killing five animals in total, while the remaining five were arrested prior to poaching, thus preventing any deaths. Unfortunately, while two were arrested, eight additional suspects escaped to Tanzania after killing three impalas and one giraffe.

	Zebra	Giraffe	Impala	Total
<b>Jan.</b>	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Feb.</b>	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
<b>Mar</b>	-	1	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

### Details:

- **January 5:** Two suspects were arrested at Oloingati, Kimana with 10 kg zebra meat.
- **January 7:** Four suspects were arrested at Enyarru, Rombo before they could hunt.
- **February 25:** One suspect was arrested at Pipeline, Ukambani before he could hunt. *(photo below)*



## DE-SNARING

**Forty-six snares** were confiscated during arrests and de-snaring patrols. In one instance, a fleeing suspect dropped two cable snares designed to target rhinos (pictured below) when he noticed our rangers approaching. Another two snares were found on one suspect during an arrest, and 42 snares were found in the bush and destroyed by our rangers while on patrol.



## HABITAT DESTRUCTION

There was a rise in habitat-destruction crimes recorded during the first quarter, as compared to the last quarter of 2015. **Twenty-eight arrests** were made in **12 incidents**; the majority of arrests this quarter were charcoal producers, with **20 suspects** arrested in **8 incidents**.



## COMMUNITY CRIMES

Big Life rangers continue to assist the community in apprehending various non-wildlife-related criminals. During the first quarter, six suspects were arrested by our rangers in two incidents. **Four** were arrested in connection to **theft**. **Two** hit-and-run drivers were pursued and arrested by our rangers after causing human deaths in two separate incidents.

# PROSECUTIONS

During the first quarter, five wildlife-related cases concluded: four bushmeat poachers and one trophy dealer.

*Table 1: Concluded cases*

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
11/12/14	3	Bushmeat poaching	1,000	Released under Criminal Procedure Code 201 (subsistence hunting).
9/29/15	2	Bushmeat poaching	600	Released under Criminal Procedure Code 235(j) (subsistence hunting).
11/4/15	1	Bushmeat poaching	400	Case closed. Sentenced with US \$400 fine or 5-month imprisonment.
1/21/16	1	Trophy poaching	30,000	Case closed. Sentenced with US \$30,000 fine or 6-year imprisonment.

*Table 2: Ongoing court cases being monitored by Big Life staff*

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
7/6/13	1	Ivory trade	300	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
7/26/14	2	Trophy poaching - 1 elephant	1,000	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
9/1/14	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 eland	3,000	Warrant issued against 1 suspect out on bond. 2 still in remand.
12/25/14	1	Bushmeat poaching - 3 gazelles & 4 dik diks	5,000	Remanded. Government chemist to submit report to confirm that it was indeed wildlife.
1/11/15	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 dik dik	500	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
3/16/15	8	Bushmeat poaching - 1 eland	1,000	Warrant issued against all suspect out on bond.
3/31/15	4	Laying snares	Unknown	Case ongoing.
4/24/15	2	Spearing elephants	1,000	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
5/17/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 3 Grants gazelles, 1 impala & 2 dik diks	500	Out on bond. File has never been brought to court.
6/11/15	2	Poisoning - 1 lion	1,000	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
6/27/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 1 Impala	2,000	Case ongoing.
6/27/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 3 dik diks	2000	Case ongoing.
6/29/15	2	Trophy poaching	20000	Case ongoing.
7/9/15	1	Trading in ivory	10,000	Case ongoing.
7/29/15	3	Trophy poaching - 5 elephants	20,000	Case ongoing.
8/7/15	1	Poaching intention	3000	Case ongoing.
8/19/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 1 impala	2000	Case ongoing.
9/29/15	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 bush buck	600	One minor suspect released after pleading guilty. Adult suspects remain in custody.

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
10/2/15	1	Ivory trade	5,000	Case ongoing.
10/2/15	1	Ivory poaching	5000	Case ongoing.
10/6/15	2	Ivory trade	25,000	Case ongoing.
11/7/15	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 eland	2000	Case ongoing.
11/8/15	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 dik dik	2000	Case ongoing.
12/4/15	1	Trophy poaching	500	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
12/13/15	2	Bushmeat poaching - 2 gazelles	2000	Case ongoing.
1/5/16	2	Bushmeat poaching	2000	Case ongoing.
1/5/16	3	Ivory trade	2000	Case ongoing.
1/7/16	4	Poaching intentions	4000	Case ongoing.
1/8/16	1	Ivory trade	2000	Case ongoing.
1/24/16	1	Ivory trade	10000	Case ongoing.
1/26/16	1	Ivory trade	5000	Case ongoing.
2/1/16	1	Ivory trade	10000	Case ongoing.
2/25/16	1	Poaching intentions	1000	Case ongoing.
3/10/16	1	Trophy poaching	5000	Case ongoing.
3/24/16	2	Ivory poaching	50000	Case ongoing.



# RHINOS

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Big Life has been working hard to obtain Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status in the Chyulu Hills, and our efforts are progressing well. The Chyulu Hills are ideally suited for rhinos, and achieving IPZ status would enable us to qualify for inbound rhino translocations into the habitat. It is vital that the remaining population of seven Eastern black rhinos continues to prosper in order for this to be achieved, and we are happy to report that all rhinos in our area are currently healthy. As other rhino habitats in Kenya reach carrying capacity, the future of the Chyulu Hills as free-roaming black rhino range becomes more and more important for the preservation of the species and the well-being of individual animals.

In order to qualify as an IPZ, the Chyulu Hills area needs to meet a number of minimum requirements designed to ensure that the rhino population (whether augmented by inbound translocations or not) receives sufficient protection and monitoring and will continue to do so.

The IPZ requirements yet to be fully met include:

1. fencing of the eastern boundary of Chyulu Hills National Park, which is bordered by a large community,
2. upgrading of the internal road network (used by rangers),
3. installation of an additional water point for rhinos and other wildlife, and
4. increased availability of security-specific manpower.

Big Life continues to fundraise for the above needs, and together with key partners, we hope to achieve IPZ status by the end of 2016. Thanks to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service, fencing is underway. However, we still need significant additional funding in order to complete the necessary improvements. Please email [donations@biglife.org](mailto:donations@biglife.org) if you are interested in helping us to achieve IPZ status in this critically-important rhino habitat.



# HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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Human-wildlife conflict (HWC), specifically **human-elephant conflict** (HEC), continues to be the **most significant threat** to the ongoing conservation of wildlife within the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem. Incidents in which humans are injured or killed appear to be happening more frequently, which has led to increased retaliation against elephants. This is partly due to the dry conditions of last year, bringing humans and large wildlife species into more frequent contact, and may also be exacerbated as both human and wildlife population numbers are increasing.

## HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT & CROP-RAIDING

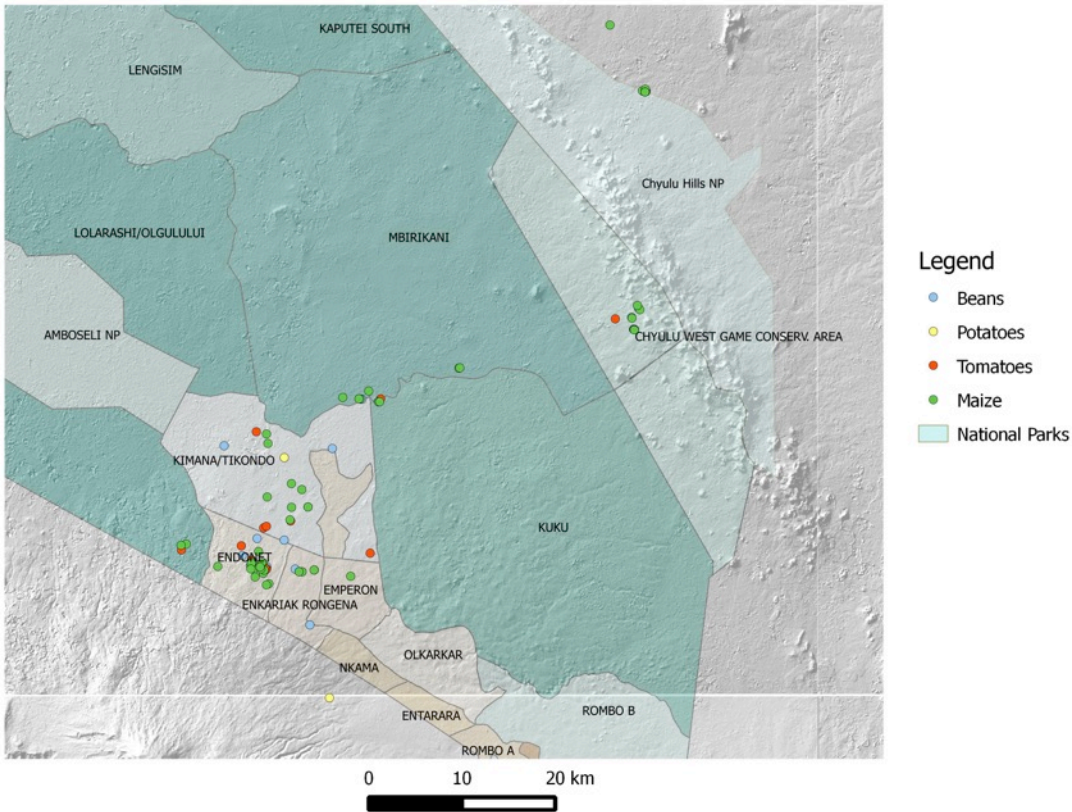
Elephants were responsible for all of the **93 recorded crop-raiding incidents during the first quarter**, damaging an estimated 48 acres of crops.

**In the same quarter last year, a total of 347 incidents were recorded**, of which 335 were attributed to elephant. This huge decrease may be attributed in part to the higher level of rainfall (and the resulting increased availability of vegetation and water) experienced this year compared to 2015. In addition, last year, Big Life created a dedicated crop-protection section of rangers and greatly improved the rangers' mobility, coordination, and the variety and effectiveness of equipment used for active mitigation/protection, which has yielded impressive results.

Big Life also mobilized community members to assist in the coordination and increased pre-emptive deployment of crop-protection rangers to select areas near routes that are commonly used by elephants. As a result, our rangers managed to **stop 94 incidents** before the animals could cause any damage, and before anyone (human or elephant) was harmed.

It is worth noting that, in 2015, three elephants died after being speared in retaliation for raiding crops, whereas this year, there have been no such confirmed incidents.

### Crop Raids January-March 2016



Map: Areas impacted by wildlife crop-raiding in the Amboseli ecosystem

### Number of incidents and area damaged per crop species:

Crop	Incidents	Area damaged (Acres)
Beans	19	10.4
Potatoes	9	5.5
Tomatoes	18	5.0
Maize	47	27.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>48.3</b>



The head of Big Life's crop-protection unit addresses community members during HEC meetings.

## HUMAN INJURIES & DEATH

During the first quarter, four incidents involving wildlife led to the tragic death of four people, while ten people suffered injuries in a total of seven incidents.

*Details:*

- **January 11:** A snake at Oltepesi, Kimana bit a ten-year-old girl. Big Life rangers rushed her to a dispensary, where she was treated and discharged.
- **February 6:** A buffalo hit and injured an 11-year-old boy at Namelok, Olgulului. Big Life rangers took him to a dispensary, where he was treated and discharged.
- **March 5:** Two women stumbled upon two elephants in the bush near their homestead at Ilmarba, Olgulului. The animals charged them, and one woman fell as she escaped, suffering minor injuries. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) took the women to Loitoktok dispensary, where they were treated and discharged.
- **March 6:** An elephant at Masimba, Kaputei killed a 10-year-old boy. Retaliation by community members led to the death of one elephant.
- **March 8:** Elephants injured four people during the above-mentioned retaliation attempt.
- **March 11:** A snake bit a woman at Inkiito, Olgulului. She was treated at a local dispensary and discharged.
- **March 12:** An elephant killed a 13-year-old boy at Osero Lemong'o, Kimana. Retaliation by community members led to the death of one elephant, and the elephant responsible for the boy's death was put down by KWS.
- **March 13:** An elephant injured a man during the above-mentioned retaliation attempt.
- **March 21:** A ten-year-old school-going boy suffered minor injuries as he escaped an elephant that charged at him at Orkina, Olgulului.
- **March 25:** An elephant killed a nine-year-old child who was herding livestock at Sopa, Kimana.
- **March 26:** An elephant killed a middle-aged man at Emotoroki, Mailua.

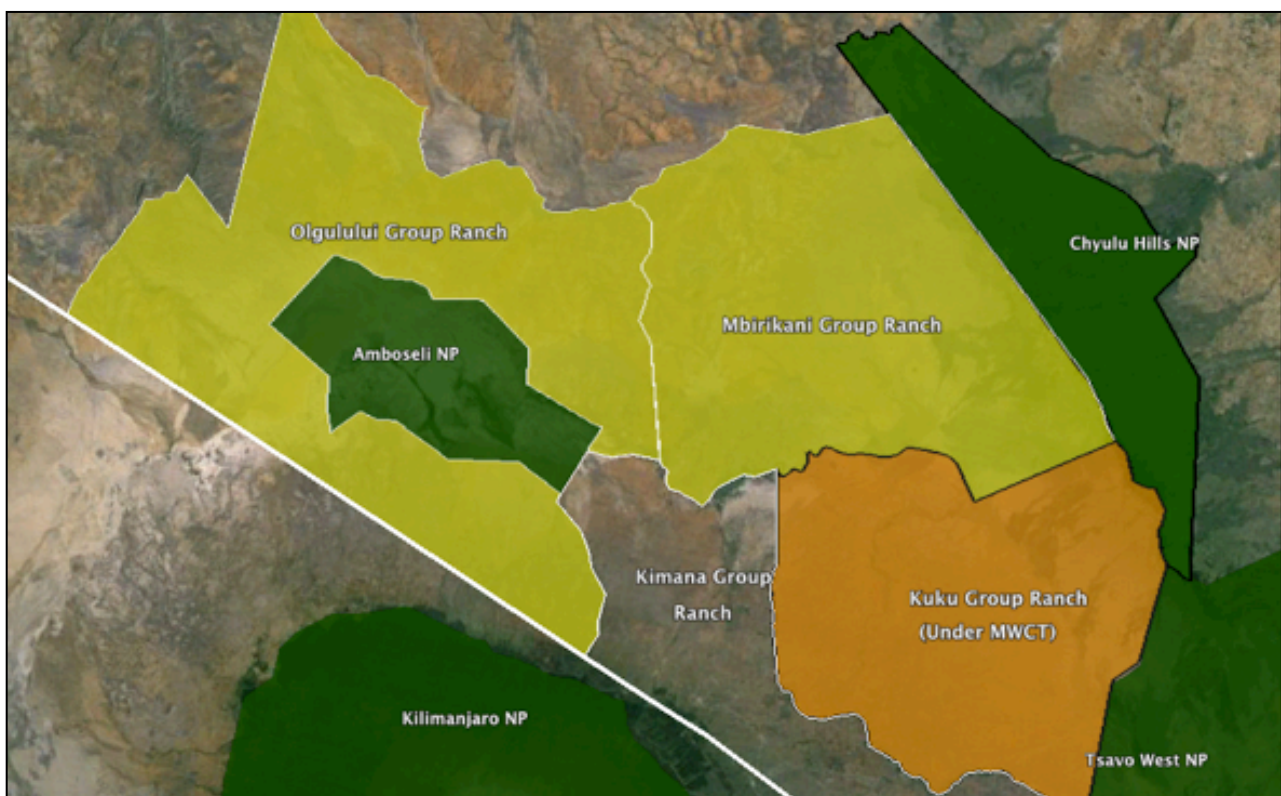
Big Life has created a Wildlife Conflict Scholarship fund to help support the families impacted by these horrible events. Please email [donations@biglife.org](mailto:donations@biglife.org) if you would like to contribute to this fund.

# PREDATOR PROTECTION

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Big Life protects the major predators of the Amboseli ecosystem through an innovative predator protection program on two participating group ranches, Mbirikani and Olgulului Group Ranches. The core component of this program is livestock compensation—the Predator Compensation Fund (PCF)—aimed at reducing the motivation for retaliatory killing of predators following livestock depredation.

The PCF pays livestock owners for a portion of the value of animals lost to predators, on the condition that no predators are killed in retaliation. Big Life staff verify all alleged depredations, and penalties are applied for factors such as poor animal husbandry. The community provides 30% of the total compensation, which is paid every two months, and fines are applied if any predators are killed in PCF areas (see map below). Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust runs a similar program on neighbouring Kuku Group Ranch, but contiguous expansion of Big Life’s PCF is necessary to ensure broader protection.



*Map: Ranches covered by Big Life’s PCF in the Amboseli ecosystem*

The second part of Big Life’s predator protection strategy is focused on the morans (warriors) of the Maasai community, and is known as the Moran Education Initiative. In Maasai culture, lion killing has traditionally been an important part of becoming a man, but we are successfully creating a cultural shift.

In 2012, Big Life worked collaboratively with the cultural fathers (Menye Layiok) to create the first-ever Maasai Olympics, a culturally-relevant sporting event for warriors across the ecosystem. The Maasai Olympics gives young men an alternative avenue through which to demonstrate their bravery and physical prowess, with competitive events for females, as well. The lead-up to the main event is

combined with a targeted education program aimed at changing attitudes and behavior to wildlife and conservation. The Olympics take place every two years, with education meetings with the warriors held intermittently throughout the year. The next Maasai Olympics will be held on **December 10, 2016**.

## PREDATOR COMPENSATION FUND

The table below details livestock killed by predators, and compensation paid to livestock owners, on Mbirikani and Olgulului Group Ranches during the first quarter of 2016.

Predator	Cattle	Shoats (Sheep/Goats)	Donkey	Total	Amount (KES)	Amount (USD)
Lion	26	30	4	60	450,000	4,448.28
Cheetah	6	69	-	75	229,500	2,268.62
Hyena	59	172	9	240	717,750	7,095.00
Jackal	-	49	-	49	73,500	726.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1,470,750</b>	<b>14,538.45</b>



*PCF pay-out at Mbirikani Group Ranch, January 14, 2016*

## PREDATOR INCIDENTS

It is important to note that while PCF is the fulcrum of Big Life's predator protection efforts, the security network also plays an important role. Big Life has learned that a quick response to conflict by rangers goes a long way towards calming livestock owners.

Big Life's rangers, informers, and PCF personnel, in conjunction with our partners Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Lion Guardians (LG), have worked together to **stop eight lion hunts** during the first quarter of 2016.

## LION HUNTS STOPPED

- **January 4:** A lion killed a cow at Lolkereru, Kimana. Morans who were planning a retaliatory attack were stopped by Big Life's Olepolos ranger team. (*photo below*)



- **January 25:** A pride of six lions (three adults, three cubs) killed one cow at Isasariani, Olgulului. Morans and community members threatened to hunt the animals, but were ultimately stopped by Big Life rangers.
- **February 8:** A lion broke into a boma and killed two cows at Kelunyet, Kaputei. Big Life's Kelunyeti ranger team rushed to the scene along with KWS rangers, confirmed the validity of the predation, and prevented the threatened retaliatory hunt from taking place.
- **February 8:** A lion broke into a boma and killed one cow at Loolakir, Olgulului. Big Life, KWS, and LG rushed to the scene and confirmed the validity of the predation. Warriors were already hunting the lion, but the hunt was stopped by Big Life, KWS, and LG personnel.
- **February 11:** A group of lions attempted to kill some cows at Inkoisuk, Mbirikani. Warriors went after the lions on the following day with the intention of hunting them. Ground teams were immediately dispatched to the area, as well as an aerial patrol to help diffuse the situation. The hunt was successfully stopped.

- **February 20:** An Informant reported a lion hunt after two lions killed a cow at Oltumwai, Olgulului. Three Big Life teams and one LG team immediately rushed to the area, finding morans gathered and armed with various weapons. They managed to successfully stop the hunt.
- **March 4:** A lion broke into a boma and killed four shoats (sheep/goats) at Olkelunyeti, Olgulului. Angry community members went out to hunt the animal. Three BLF teams and KWS rushed to the area and found 38 morans following the lion, but managed to stop the hunt. *(photo below)*



## PREDATOR MORTALITIES

Although our rangers managed to prevent many attempted lion hunts, some hunts could not be stopped. As a result, **six lions were killed** (two within Big Life's AOO and four outside).

*Details:*

- **January 12:** An adult lion killed a lost bull at Oldepe, Mbirikani. The bull's owner and two others found a lion eating the carcass and speared the lion to death in retaliation.
- **January 22:** An adult lion was speared to death for killing a cow inside a boma in Kuku.
- **February 6:** A sub-adult male lion, approximately one-and-a-half years old, was speared to death at Risa, Olgulului.





- **February 14:** Four lions killed four shoats (sheep/goats) inside a boma during the night at Sinya, Tanzania. Morans gathered the following morning and speared two sub-adult male lions to death. Two of the lions managed to escape.
- **February 29:** A pride of lions broke into a boma at Enkutoto, Kuku and killed six cows. One adult member of the pride was speared to death.

## MORAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The upcoming Maasai Olympics is building momentum, and during the first quarter of 2016, several planning meetings were held to determine dates for the regional competitions and final event. Selection, training, and educational meetings have begun and will continue into the second quarter.

An initial kick-off meeting was held at Kimana on February 27. In total, 19 people attended the meeting, including nine warrior chiefs, eight Menye Layiok (traditional fathers of the new warriors' age set – Iltuati), and Big Life staff. During this meeting, team selection, arrangements for education workshops in manyattas (young warrior encampments), and regional competition dates were agreed upon. The warriors and chiefs also provided updates on their activities on the ground, mainly focusing on sensitizing young men to desist from lion killing as a way of expressing bravery, and instead to embrace sports and support conservation initiatives.

Through a number of workshops in various locations, Big Life has delivered education and awareness to a total of 964 people this quarter, including 498 warriors, 78 elders, 208 women, and 180 children. To help fund the upcoming 2016 Maasai Olympics, please email [donations@biglife.org](mailto:donations@biglife.org).



*A Moran meeting held in preparation for the 2016 Maasai Olympics*

# EDUCATION

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Big Life continues to provide support for local education, both through facilitating individual scholarships (ranging from primary school to university and even medical school) as well as supporting infrastructure and improvement of local schools and paying 28 teachers' salaries.

There are currently 164 students of all ages participating in the program, encompassing 14 schools. Of the scholarship recipients, 48% are female and 52% are male.

We're grateful to our numerous sponsors. In the first quarter of 2016, Big Life's education program grew by 17% thanks to the Mellman Foundation, and 20 new students have entered our education program. This means the highest amount of scholarship funding ever issued was paid in January, nearly US \$50,000 to support local students. Additionally, the materials for the construction of the new Orbili Primary School have been sourced, thanks to a generous US \$103,000 gift from Gary Farrant.

The Highland School in Virginia currently supports all 42 students in Enkijape Primary boarding school and 17 students in secondary school and tertiary institutions. Highland School families have also donated funds for the purchase of 12 bunk beds and mattresses for the Special Needs Unit at Enkijape Primary School.



Big Life is also starting a new outreach program to increase education and awareness in East Asia. A pen-pal relationship was started in March between Ilchalai Primary School and Hong Kong International School. Students from Ilchalai Primary School write letters to their friends in Hong Kong International School, and they share experiences about life, school, and their natural environments. The dominant theme in the Ilchalai Primary School letters is wildlife and human-wildlife interactions.

# PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

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The work detailed above is made possible thanks to the generosity of Big Life's donors and partner organizations, some of which are listed below. We are continually grateful for this and all other support.

