



BIG LIFE FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT:
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

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

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALOCA	Amboseli Landowners Conservancy Association
ANP	Amboseli National Park
AOO	Area of Operation
ATE	Amboseli Trust for Elephants
CHNP	Chyulu Hills National Park
DSWT	David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
HEC	Human-Elephant Conflict
HWC	Human-Wildlife Conflict
IPZ	Intensive Protection Zone
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
LG	Lion Guardians
MEI	Moran Education Initiative
MO	Maasai Olympics
MWCT	Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
PCF	Predator Compensation Fund
RDU	Rapid Deployment Unit



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

There are two big things on my mind as we move into another year. The first is hugely positive: the announcement of a timeline by China for complete closure of its domestic ivory trade. Many people have put years of work into pushing for this, and China also deserves great thanks for taking this monumental step. In Kenya, our growing informer network is still picking up ivory and dealers are being arrested, but we hope to see less of this in the future.

Unfortunately, we have barely had chance to celebrate China's announcement, because December was another month of tragedies in Amboseli, all the result of the ongoing human-wildlife conflict in the ecosystem. Two people were killed by elephants, and three elephants were killed in retaliation as a result. The backlash from the communities concerned has been understandably ugly, with innocent elephants being killed or injured. We have been doing what we can to defuse the tension in these difficult situations, and it has required all hands on deck.

We are also doing what we can to help alleviate the pain caused by the loss of human life. We are working to find employment opportunities for members of the families of the deceased, as well as looking for educational bursaries for the sons and daughters of those who died. We wish we could do more as we wait for the Kenyan government to make good on its pledge to pay \$50,000 in compensation to the families, but sadly, these payouts have yet to happen.

The 45 km fence we are building to try and stop elephant crop raiding is now about half way completed, and we hope that this will go a long way to reducing the huge economic losses suffered by local farmers. However, this fence will only lead to more pressure on other farming areas, highlighting the desperate need to secure, and fence, a hard line between agriculture and wildlife across the entire ecosystem.

On a positive note, despite the high number of livestock killed by predators (an average of more than 11 animals each day), we have seen very few attempts by livestock owners to kill the offending predators. The Big Life predator compensation program, now running for 14 years, is playing a central role in this, as is the colourful addition to Big Life's predator protection efforts, the Maasai Olympics. The third biennial event took place this December and turned into a nail-biter.

There is nothing to suggest that 2017 is going to be any calmer than 2016, and I believe that Big Life's work is more important than ever. Thank you, as always, for your generous support.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Bonham".

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

WILDLIFE SECURITY

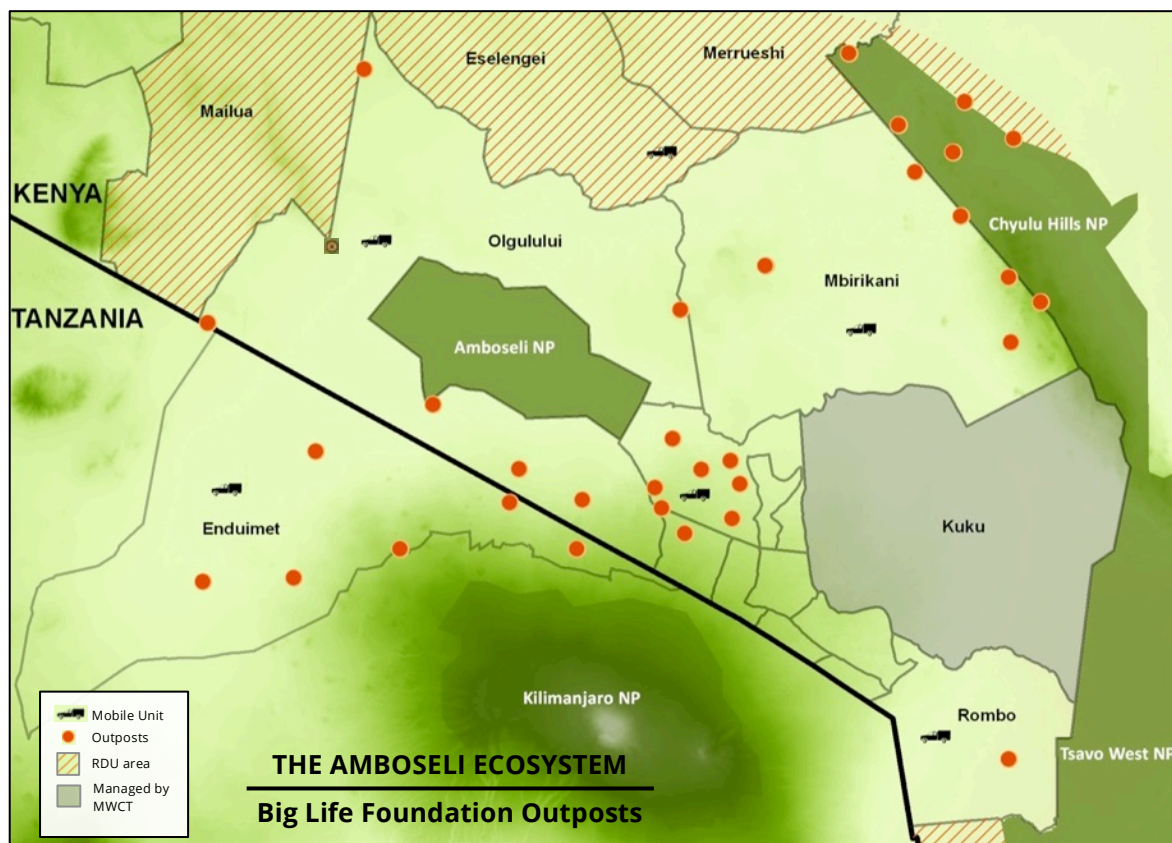
During the fourth quarter, Big Life rangers patrolled **20,503 km** by foot and **57,504 km** by vehicle.

Big Life rangers **arrested 67 suspects in 29 incidents** of illegal activity (details on next page). Of these, **11 suspects were arrested in 6 poaching-related incidents**, including **7 suspected trophy dealers**. **Rangers recovered 59 kg of ivory from arrests**, and an additional 7.7 kg from the bush and community members. Half of the poaching-related incidents took place outside Big Life's core area of operation (AOO).

BIG LIFE RANGERS

There are a total of 46 units (including 9 in Tanzania managed by our Honeyguide Foundation partners), currently comprising more than 250 rangers, for 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 26 permanent ranger outposts, with 4 mobile 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 and support of all existing outposts. If you are interested, please email donations@biglife.org for additional information.



INCIDENTS & ARRESTS

Crime Category	Crime Type	Incidents				Suspects Arrested			
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Community Crimes	Assault	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
	Poisoning cattle	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	5
	Narcotics possession	2	-	-	2	5	-	-	5
	Theft	1	-	3	4	3	-	5	8
Encroachment	Illegal grazing	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	5
	Settlement	1	-	-	1	10	-	-	10
	Trespassing	2	1	-	3	3	5	-	8
Habitat Destruction	Arson	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Charcoaling	3	-	-	3	4	-	-	4
	Firewood	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
	Logging	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
	Sandalwood dealers	1	1	-	2	1	4	-	5
Poaching	Bushmeat	2	-	-	2	4	-	-	4
	Trading in wildlife trophies	1	1	2	4	2	1	4	7
Total		16	6	7	29	35	18	13	67

ITEMS CONFISCATED

Item	Total
Axe	1
Bicycle	1
Cannabis (kg)	5.25
Chainsaw	1
Charcoal bag	9
Charcoal kiln	3
Hippo teeth	2
Hoes	2
Ivory (kg)	66.7
Knife	3

Item	Total
Machete	6
Motorbike	4
Sandalwood (kg)	370
Snares (general)	30
Snares (Rhino)	2
Spades	2
Spear	2
Sword	1
Vehicle <5t	2
Water pump	15

WILDLIFE TROPHY INCIDENTS

One suspected elephant poaching incident occurred within Big Life's area of operation (AOO) during the fourth quarter. **Seven people were arrested** in connection with trophy dealing. All of the incidents below were joint operations between Big Life and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and all apart from one took place outside Big Life's AOO.

Details:

- **October 2:** A Big Life informer helped KWS officers arrest two suspects with 34 kg of ivory in Isinet area, Mbirikani. *(pictured below-left)*



- **November 19:** A Big Life informer led KWS officers to arrest one suspect with 6 kg of ivory and 2 hippopotamus teeth at Manyanga shopping centre, Ukambani.
- **December 7:** Assisted by a Big Life informer, KWS arrested two suspects with 5 kg of ivory at Emali town, Ukambani.
- **December 23:** A Big Life informer received information of someone looking to buy ivory. He contacted the suspect and arranged to meet in Makindu town, Ukambani to "buy" the ivory. We contacted the KWS intelligence team who arrested the suspect and his friend with two pieces of ivory weighing a total of 14 kg. *(pictured above-right)*

ELEPHANT MORTALITIES

Total dead: 10

Total dead *within* Big Life's Core AOO: 8

Total dead *outside* Big Life's Core AOO: 2

During the fourth quarter, **10 elephant mortalities** were recorded. Only **one** of these was suspected to be as a result of **trophy poaching (the first and only elephant known to be poached in our AOO in 2016)**. **Six** others were either directly or indirectly **due to human-wildlife conflict (HWC)**. Of the remaining three, one died of natural causes, and the other two died from unknown causes.

Tusks were recovered in all but one case.

Big Life's Core AOO, where we have a permanent security presence, includes: the Mbirikani, Olgulului, Kimana, and Rombo Group Ranches, Amboseli National Park (ANP), & Chyulu Hills National Park (CHNP).

Non-Core areas covered by our mobile units include: the Mailua, Eselengei, and Merrueshi Group Ranches, and the Taveta area. Big Life units also provide support on request to KWS in Tsavo West National Park and to Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT) on Kuku Group Ranch.

Details within and outside Big Life's AOO:

- **October 4:** An adult male elephant carcass was reported to rangers at Sabuni area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Both tusks were removed by KWS. The cause of death of the estimated five-day-old carcass was unknown. *(pictured below-left)*



- **October 16:** An adult female was reported dead by an informer at Orbili area, Mbirikani. A team was immediately dispatched and found both tusks intact. The animal died a few metres from a waterhole and was suspected to have died from falling badly while fighting with another elephant. Both tusks were handed over to KWS.

- **November 16:** The health of an elephant that was previously treated for a spear wound continued deteriorating. The adult male could not move, and KWS was alerted. The vet confirmed he wouldn't survive and euthanized it at Lengopito area, Rombo Group Ranch. Tusks were taken by KWS.
- **November 21:** Our rangers received information from herders of an elephant carcass in Lonkajjik area, Tsavo West National Park. Rangers, together with KWS, arrived at the scene and confirmed the sub-adult male had a spear wound on his back, suspected to have been inflicted during crop raids at farms around Njukini. Both tusks were taken by KWS.
- **November 25:** An informer notified our rangers of an elephant carcass at Lemong'o area, Kimana. They rushed to the area and confirmed the estimated five-day-old carcass of a sub-adult male with both tusks intact. They removed and handed them over to KWS. The cause of death was unknown.
- **December 2:** An adult male elephant was euthanized by KWS at Orporokwai area, Mbirikani following the death of a male herder on Nov 29 by an elephant.
- **December 18:** An elephant killed a male herder on Dec 18 at Oltiasika area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Once the elephant responsible was euthanized by KWS, community members stopped chasing elephants in retaliation.
- **December 19:** An informer reported a sub-adult male elephant carcass at Naisuya area, Olgulului. There was a spear wound on the back left leg, and both tusks had been cut out. Cause of death is suspected poaching. Investigations revealed that two suspects, who have since been identified, carried the ivory over the border to Tanzania on a motorbike and sold the ivory.
- **December 25:** An off-duty Big Life ranger found a carcass of an adult male at Nado Olchani, Kuku Group Ranch. It had a huge spear wound at the shoulder and another on the front leg. It was suspected to have been speared as retaliation for the Dec 18 incident. Both tusks were taken by KWS (*Pictured below-left*)



- **December 30:** An informer reported a female adult elephant carcass at Engorbobit area, Mbirikani. Tusks had been removed. Two herders had removed the tusks and hid them until they told their father, who in turn notified Big Life rangers. Both tusks were handed over to KWS. The carcass had one spear wound on the right hind leg, which was also suspected to be from the conflict incident on Dec 18. (*Pictured above-right*)

ELEPHANT INJURIES

Treated in our AOO: 4 (by KWS & David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust [DSWT] mobile veterinarian)

Not treated: 6

Details of elephants treated:

- **October 6:** While on patrol in Chyulu Hills National Park, rangers came across an elephant with an injury on right front leg and another on the right side of the shoulder. A vet treated the animal of two arrow wounds.
- **October 20:** On Oct. 16, while on patrol in Lemasusu area, Mbirikani, rangers came across a sub-adult elephant alone. It was suspected to belong to the female elephant that died at Orbili on Oct 16. The male elephant, approximately five-years-old, was seen again on Oct 20 having difficulty walking. The vet was called to treat him at Embirpil area. He had four spear injuries: one on the right back leg, one on the left front leg, one below his trunk close to his mouth, and one on the lower jaw.
- **October 27:** The community of Naor Enkolong area, Mbirikani reported an approximately eight-month-old male elephant walking alone. Mobile 1 unit rushed to the area to confirm the report and noticed the elephant had been injured, but suspected it was from a lion. The vet was unable to come until the following day. Rangers tracked the elephant to Esampu area. Because it was too young to survive without its mother, rangers captured it and brought to the Mbirikani airstrip where the DSWT vet treated and airlifted him to their orphanage in Nairobi (photo on page 11).
- **December 6:** Following the conflict incident on Nov. 28 where an elephant killed a man, and during subsequent community retaliation attempts on Dec 1, one elephant was speared. The injured elephant was seen by a Lion Guardian on Dec 2, but disappeared before our rangers arrived to the area. Both ground and aerial teams searched for days until the adult male, named Jagged Ear, was found near Ol Donyo waus area, Mbirikani. He was successfully treated by the vet of two spear injuries, one on the right front leg and one on the top left side of his back. *(Treatment pictured below-left; Post-treatment below-right)*



Not treated:

- **October 30:** An adult male elephant was reported with a wound on its right front leg by rangers on patrol at Lengopito area, Rombo Group Ranch. The vet was notified and asked the rangers to monitor it until he could arrive the following day. The next day the elephant was tracked and the vet called. He darted him, but he fell on the side of the wound and could not be treated.
- **November 23:** An elephant was reported to be limping with an injury on the right back leg by an Amboseli Trust for Elephants ranger at Ramaita area, Kimana. A search by four Big Life teams was unsuccessful.
- **December 8:** While on patrol at Oltepesi area, Mbirikani, rangers saw an adult male elephant who appeared to have trouble walking, with an injured left back leg. Based on the circumstances, Big Life's Director of Operations asked rangers to monitor the male and wait to call the vet.
- **December 18:** Following the death of a man by an elephant on Dec 18, it was reported that retaliating community speared several elephants. Rangers confirmed that three were speared (two later died from their injuries, details above).

ELEPHANT RESCUE

Rescued: 1

- October 27: An approximately eight-month old elephant calf was reported with an injury and walking alone at Naar-Enkolong, Mbirikani. Mobile 1 captured him so he could be treated (mentioned above) and released to DSWT who airlifted it to their Nairobi orphanage.



BUSHMEAT POACHING

Poaching for bushmeat continues throughout the ecosystem, especially in areas with high densities of both people and wildlife and along the extreme edges of Big Life’s AOO. Over the reporting period, **four suspects were arrested in two incidents** for bushmeat poaching. The table below details animals killed by poachers during the fourth quarter. Higher poaching incidents in October are attributed to dryer conditions, before the rains arrived in November, as casual farming labor are temporarily unemployed and poaching for income. Wildlife are concentrated during the dry season, and therefore easier to find, near artificial water points, and therefore near people.

	Dik-dik	Eland	Giraffe	Hartebeest	Impala	Lesser kudu	Warthog	Zebra	Total
October	3	7	1	2	1	1	-	2	17
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
December	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4
Total	3	7	3	2	3	1	1	2	22

Details:

- October 5:** Together with KWS, Big Life’s Chyulu unit arrested two suspects at Kisula area, Chyulu Hills National Park, caught while slaughtering a hartebeest. They were also in possession of two eland heads and skins. They had killed the animals with snares, and had five snares on them. *(Pictured right)*
- October 14:** Acting on a tip from an informer, the RDU and Rombo team arrested two suspects at Nasipa area, Rombo Group Ranch in possession of 50 kg of zebra meat.



DE-SNARING

Thirty-two snares were recovered during arrests and de-snaring patrols in the fourth quarter. Two were cable snares targeting rhino and the rest were lighter gauge wire targeting small to medium mammals. Nine were discovered after killing wildlife. Twenty-one were recovered before they could kill.

HABITAT DESTRUCTION

There was a significant decrease in habitat destruction crimes recorded during the fourth quarter. **Fourteen arrests** were made in **eight incidents**. The majority of arrests were five sandalwood dealers (arrested in two incidents, *pictured below-left*) and four charcoal producers (in three incidents, *below-right*). Other incidents included illegal logging, firewood collection and arson.



COMMUNITY CRIMES

Big Life rangers continue to assist the community in apprehending various non-wildlife-related criminals. During the fourth quarter, rangers **arrested 22 suspects in 9 incidents**:

- **October 23:** Big Life's rangers arrested three suspects who had stolen money and household items at Lang'ata Nkima, Kuku Group ranch.
- **October 28:** With KWS and Kenya Police, Big Life rangers arrested three suspects with 5 kg *Cannabis* at Rombo town, Rombo Group Ranch. (*Pictured below*)



- **October 30:** Two suspects were arrested in the Esampu area, Mbirikani with 11 rolls of *Cannabis* weighing approximately 250 g.

- **November 8:** Rangers received a call for help from community to apprehend a violent suspect who had assaulted another man with a machete at Oldule area, Olgulului Group Ranch.
- **November 10:** Rombo team received information from the community of five cows poisoned by farmers at Raru area, Rombo Group Ranch in retaliation for feeding on their watermelons. They arrested five suspects and took them to Rombo police where they were fined Ksh 60,000 (\$600) for each cow killed.
- **December 10:** The community reported 12 cows stolen from Mbirikani on Dec 9. The following day, Mobile 3 unit intercept two suspects with the cows at Olbwaa area, Olgulului Group ranch. The owner was alerted who arrived and confirmed the cows were his.
- **December 13:** Rangers were informed of two people who stole books from Osoit Secondary School, in Mbirikani Group Ranch. They laid an ambush and arrested them as they tried to escape towards Isinet. *(Pictured below)*



- **December 26:** A thief stole a solar panel belonging to a community member at Muende area, Kimana Group Ranch, and was arrested.

PROSECUTIONS

During the fourth quarter, **zero wildlife-crime cases were concluded.**

The table below details ongoing cases.

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
7/6/13	1	Ivory trade	\$300	Out on bond. Last witness given to Jan 24 th to appear, after which case will be determined without him.
7/26/14	2	Trophy poaching	\$1,000	Out on bond.
9/1/14	3	Bushmeat poaching – 1 eland	\$3,000	All out on bond. One escaped and an arrest warrant was issued.
12/25/14	1	Bushmeat poaching – 3 gazelles & 4 dik-diks	\$5,000 reduced to \$1,000	Lab report indicated meat was from a cow. Charges amended to include being in the country illegally and defying orders to stop poaching. Appealed for bond reduction; bond was reduced. Now out on bond.
1/11/15	3	Bushmeat poaching – 1 dik-dik	\$500	Out on bond.
3/16/15	8	Bushmeat poaching – 1 eland	\$1,000	File is missing from the court. Last recorded on 7/04/2015. Warrant of arrest issued on all suspects. Office of DPP working to find the file.
4/24/15	2	Elephant spearing	\$1,000	File is missing from the court. ODPP working to find file.
5/17/15	1	Bushmeat poaching – 3 Grant's gazelles, 1 impala & 2 dik-diks	\$500	File is in Kajiado, ODPP is working to bring it to Loitokitok court.
6/11/15	2	Lion poisoning	\$1,000 reduced to \$500	Bond reviewed down to \$500. Paid and out on bond. Case ongoing.
6/27/15	1	Bushmeat poaching – 1 impala	\$2,000	In custody.
6/27/15	1	Bushmeat poaching – 3 dik-diks	\$2,000	Out on bond.
7/9/15	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000 reduced to \$1,000	Out on bond. Bond review to \$1,000.
8/19/15	1	Bushmeat poaching – 1 impala	\$2,000	In custody. Also charged for being in possession of marijuana. The lab report is not yet out to ascertain the type of species killed.
9/29/15	2	Ivory trade	\$20,000	Judge refused to grant bond review. They produced surety from Teachers Service commission of \$5,000 each. Out on bond

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
10/2/15	1	Ivory trade	\$5,000	In custody.
10/2/15	1	Ivory poaching	\$5,000	In custody.
11/7/15	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 eland	\$2,000	In custody.
11/8/15	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 dik-dik	\$2,000	Forensic lab report has not yet been tabled in court. Suspect in custody.
12/4/15	1	Ivory trade	\$500	Given US \$40 cash bond, which was paid.
12/13/15	2	Bushmeat - 2 gazelles	\$2,000	Out on bond.
1/5/16	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 zebra	\$2,000	Paid bond of \$500.
1/5/16	3	Ivory trade	\$3,000	One of the suspects was acquitted of the charges. Others out on bond. Case ongoing. Pending witness from KWS intelligence officer.
1/24/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	Paid \$2,500 and released on bond.
1/26/16	1	Ivory trade	\$5,000	Out on bond. All witness testified, pending judgment.
2/1/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000 reduced to \$2,500	Appealed for reduced bond to \$2,500 was accepted by the prosecutions. Out on bond.
2/8/16	1	Trophy poaching - Python & crocodile skins	Bond not indicated	In custody.
3/24/16	2	Ivory trade	\$50,000	Out on bond.
3/29/16	1	Ivory trade	\$200,000	Suspect pleaded not guilty, out on bond of \$100,000 after the court revised it.
4/14/16	1	Ivory trade	N/A	He was not subject to bond as the ivory was opportunistic. The prosecution is trying to withdraw the case.
5/15/16	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 giraffe	\$2,000	One suspect pleaded guilty (no bond given), and two others pleaded not guilty and given bond.
6/2/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	In custody. One witness remaining to testify.
6/11/16	2	Bushmeat poaching - 4 dik-dik	Not indicated	In custody. Police file not brought to court.
6/14/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	Out on \$2,000 bond. Case ongoing.
07/31/16	2	Forest fire	Not bonded	Suspect released on free bond. Case ongoing.
08/4/16	1	Bushmeat - 1 giraffe	\$10,000	Suspected released on a US \$5,000 bond. Case ongoing.
08/7/16	2	Bushmeat - 1 Grant's gazelle	\$2,000	Suspects still in custody. Could not afford the bond.

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
08/12/16	2	Ivory trade	\$200,000 reduced to \$5,000	Out on bond. Prosecution to confirm if court martial is in place.
08/16/16	2	Ivory trade	Not given bond	Suspects are still under investigation for previous crime. Case ongoing.
09/2/16	3	Bushmeat	\$200,000	One suspect was released on a bond of US \$20,000; others are still in custody. Samples taken to KWS lab. Report not yet in court.
09/25/16	1	Ivory trade	\$20,000 reduced to \$2,500	Out on bond.
09/30/16	1	Bushmeat	\$2,000	Pleaded guilty and awaiting judgment.
10/2/16	2	Ivory trade	\$5,000	Out on bond. Case ongoing.
10/5/16	2	Bushmeat	\$2,000	Pleaded not guilty. Given bond, but could not raise. In custody.
10/11/16	1	Sandalwood trade	\$1,000	Out on bond.
10/14/16	2	Bushmeat - Zebra	\$2,000 reduced to \$200	Requested bond review. Reduced to \$200. Out on bond.
11/15/16	4	Sandalwood trade	Not given bond	Pleaded not guilty. Police investigation ongoing.
11/19/16	1	Ivory trade	\$20,000	Pleaded not guilty. In custody.
12/7/16	1	Ivory trade	\$5,000	Pleaded not guilty. in custody

RHINO PROGRAM

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 already met, *at a minimum*, but still being improved include:

1. fencing of the eastern boundary of CHNP, which is bordered by a large community—fencing of the rhino specific area is complete, however, in anticipation of continued HWC, and inbound translocation of rhino, the fence will extend until the entire north eastern boundary is fenced;
2. upgrading of the internal road network (used by rangers)—now meets minimum IPZ criteria, but Big Life will continue to improve roads as needed and when the budget allows;
3. installation of an additional water point for rhinos and other wildlife—the water currently available meets the minimum required for existing rhinos; however, for multiple translocations into the area, an additional water hole and an upgrade of water infrastructure will be necessary; and
4. increased availability of security-specific manpower, resulting in increased effectiveness of both security and monitoring.

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 DSWT and KWS, fencing is underway. However, we still need significant additional funding in order to complete the necessary improvements described above. Please email donations@biglife.org if you are interested in helping us to achieve IPZ status in this critically-important rhino habitat.

RHINO MONITORING

During the quarter, monitoring teams had two direct rhino sightings, 169 indirect sightings (via camera trap), and 62 sightings of spoor. (*Tara and Chester [her calf] pictured below*)



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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 and mortality of elephants.

ELEPHANT EXCLUSION FENCE

To address, and reduce, HWC within the ecosystem, Big Life is working with communities to build and manage an electric fence that will separate farms and people from wildlife, namely elephants.

There are four proposed phases resulting in more than 120 km of elephant exclusion fencing through critical areas of the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem. Phase 1 of fence construction is underway, with more than 40 km cleared in preparation (*pictured below*). Two construction teams are on the ground, 11 km have been fully constructed and an additional eight km of wire (without outriggers) has been installed.



Electric exclusion fence and outriggers to keep elephants from approaching the 3 ft high fence.

Each construction team is training three local community members on fence construction and maintenance. These trainees will form the backbone of the maintenance team once the contractor hands over the completed project. The recipient community-committee of the Phase 1 fence has held a series of sensitization meetings with the community on the need to raise funds for maintenance, with positive response. The committee is in the process of developing by-laws that will legitimize the process of fee collection. The proposal right now is about \$10 per farmer per year as a contribution.

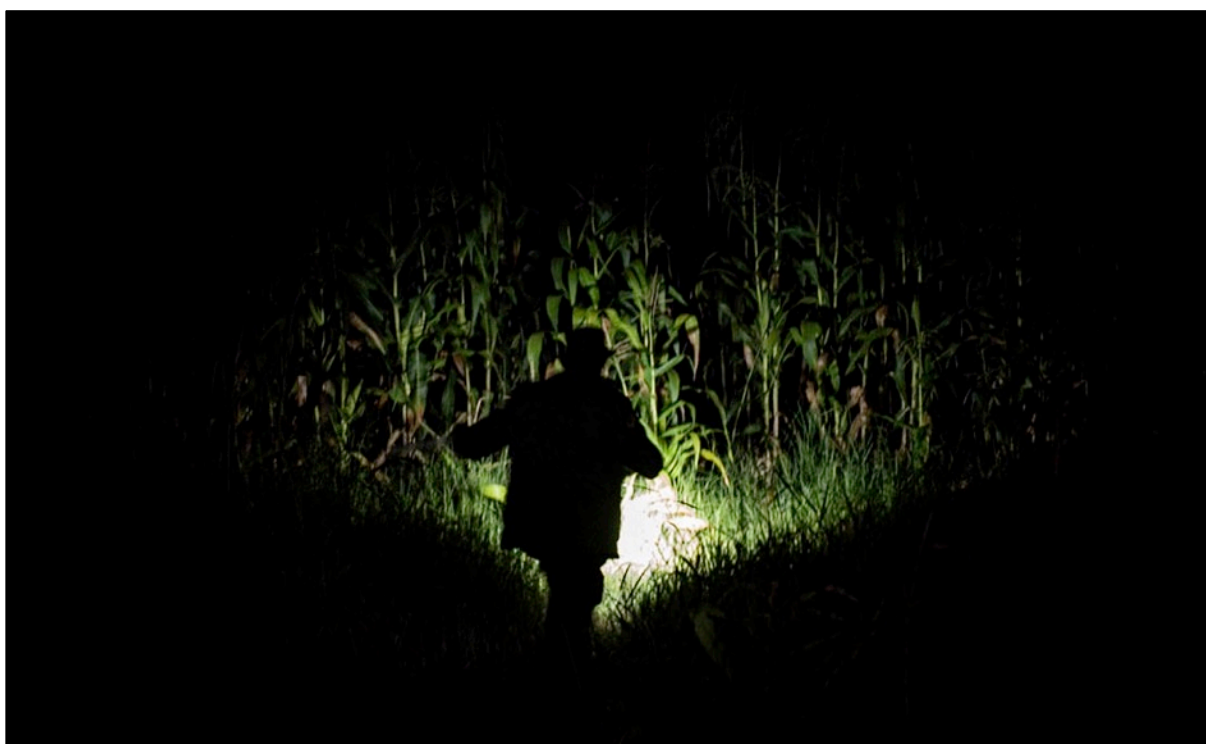
The fence will secure the farming areas around to the south, east and north of the Kimana conservancies (Amboseli is to the west and a main source of elephants moving into these areas). It will reduce farmer losses in addition to creating a line beyond which the land-use will be pastoralism and livestock. Big Life is leasing this unconverted land through the Kimana lease program (*detailed below under Habitat Protection*). However, not all of the land in the conservancies is under lease and so there is much work to be done in future to generate more community benefits from these conservancies and encourage more landowners to sign up.

The fences will then funnel wildlife through a diminishing gap (<100m) between the Kimana conservancies and the Kimana sanctuary, from where they can move onto Kuku Group Ranch and beyond to Tsavo West National Park. This land in the cutpoint will need to be leased, potentially at a higher value than the rest of the leases (due being on a tar road), and this is currently being negotiated.

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT & CROP-RAIDING

This quarter coincides with the end of the driest months of the year, where no rainfall occurred in the ecosystem until mid-November, and the vegetation and water points are completely dry. Only areas using irrigation were able to grow crops. As the dry season progressed, elephants and other crop-raiding wildlife moved into these areas in search of moist vegetation and water, thus concentrating conflict.

Out of the **207 recorded crop-raiding incidents** in which damage occurred, **elephants were responsible for 199 incidents**, and damaged **112 of the total 117 acres** of crops. (*see map next page*)

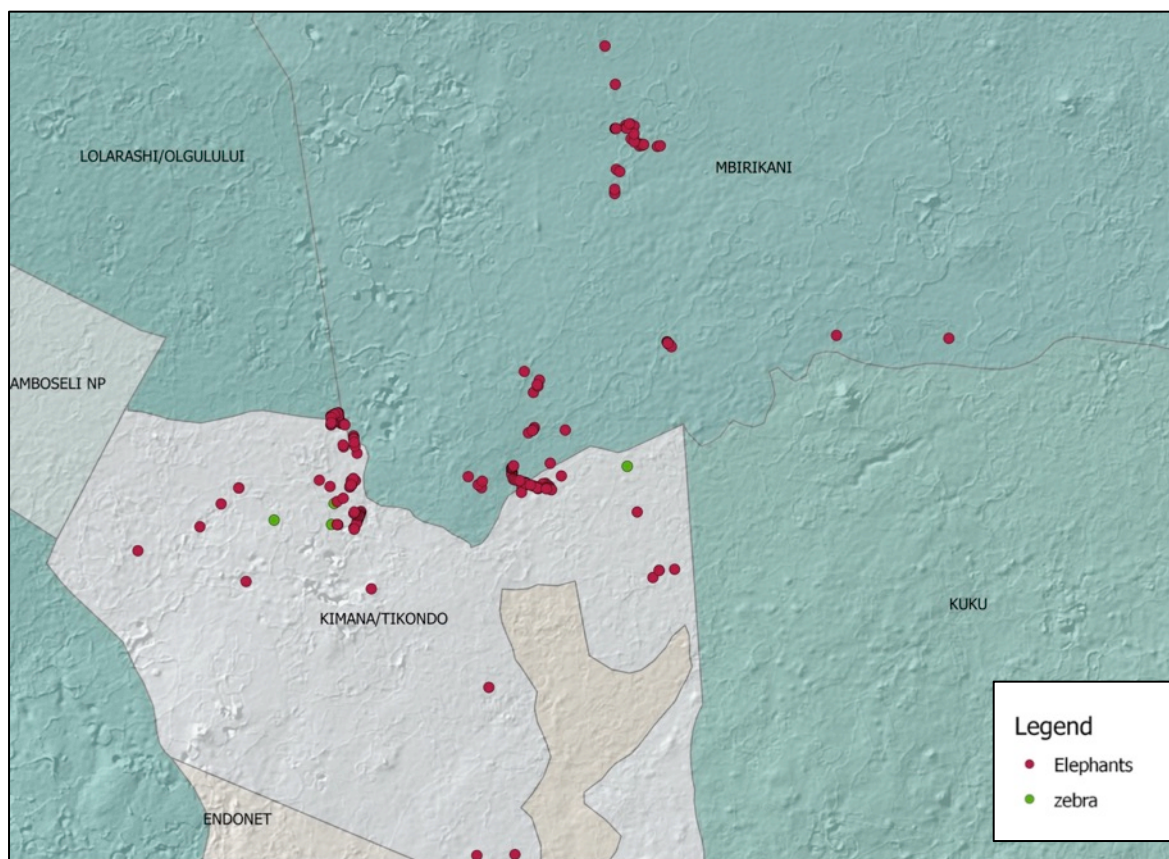


Rangers chasing elephants out of community farms

Big Life also mobilized community members to assist in the coordination and increased preemptive deployment of crop-protection rangers to select areas near routes that are commonly used by elephants. As a result, our rangers **prevented 99 incidents** before the animals could cause any damage, and before anyone (human or elephant) was harmed.

Number of incidents and acres damaged per crop species:

Crop	Incidents	Area damaged (Acres)
Beans	5	5.25
Kale	2	0.5
Maize	40	20.65
Onions	24	12
Tomatoes	129	73.6
Watermelon	7	5.75
Total	207	117.75



Map: Areas impacted by wildlife crop-raiding in the Amboseli ecosystem from October - December 2016

HUMAN INJURIES & DEATH

During the fourth quarter, two incidents involving wildlife led to the tragic death of two people, while eight people suffered injuries.

Details:

- **October 6:** An elephant with a calf shoved a vehicle with passengers at Orbili, Mbirikani. Two women suffered minor injuries to their legs.
- **October 6:** A snake bit a 22-year-old boy on the foot at Eiti Esara, Olgulului after he accidentally stepped on it at night. He was taken to Lenkisim dispensary where he was treated and discharged.
- **October 27:** A buffalo injured a boy herder at Entepesi area, Olgulului. He suffered minor injuries on the head. Rangers took him to Namelok dispensary where he was treated and discharged.
- **November 29:** An elephant killed a male herder in the evening at Ol Donyo Wuas area, Mbirikani. Community retaliation led to one elephant being speared.
- **December 18:** An elephant killed a male herder at Oltiasika area, Mbirikani. Hundreds of community members went to the bush set on retaliation and reportedly speared three elephants.
- **December 18:** While retaliating, two warriors were injured by elephants, following the human death at Oltiasika the same day. They were taken to Loitoktok hospital where they were treated and discharged.
- **December 23:** During a joint operation with KWS to remove elephants from behind a fence at Entonet area, Kimana, one elephant charged the rangers. One ranger fainted and fell, resulting in serious injuries. He was taken to Loitoktok hospital where he was treated and discharged.
- **December 27:** Two herders were chased by an elephant while looking after cattle at Emurua Okisikon area, Kimana. One fell as he tried to jump over an electric fence and suffered minor injuries to his legs.

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

HABITAT PROTECTION

Land Leases

In June, Big Life took over the management of six conservancies on Kimana Ranch (*identified in the map below*), under the umbrella of the Amboseli Landowners Conservancy Association (ALOCA), that protect the important wildlife dispersal areas of Kimana as well as the critical corridor that links Amboseli NP to the Kimana sanctuary and beyond to Kuku and Tsavo West NP. Under the former management organization, a land lease program was set up on the conservancies to pay each conservancy member an annual fee per acre of land, in return for restrictions on damaging development (fencing, farming, unapproved building). The lease was renegotiated in mid-year as part of the management transition to Big Life, with an increase in lease fees for a period of 15 years.

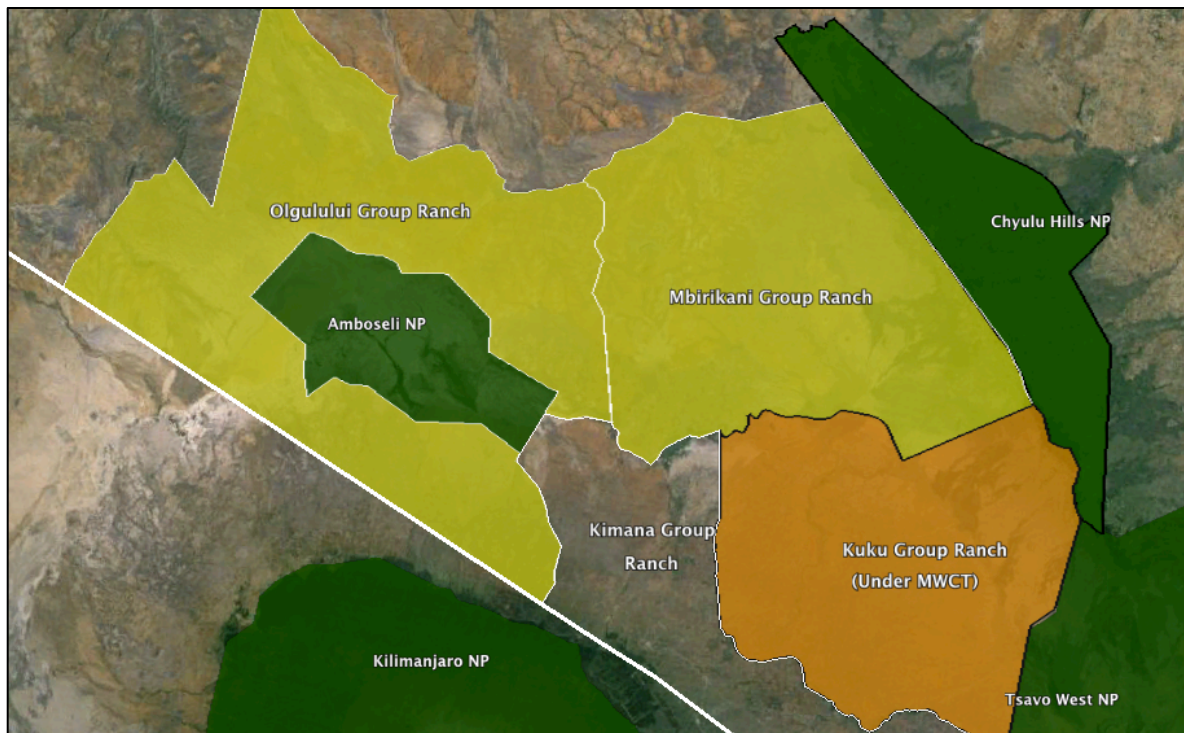
In the fourth quarter, landowner meetings continued with the main aim of confirming those that have signed the lease agreement and persuading unsigned members to join. Teams have been preparing for the first lease payment, since Big Life has taken over the project, done at the end of December.



PREDATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM

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). MWCT runs a similar program on neighboring Kuku Group Ranch, but contiguous expansion of Big Life’s PCF is necessary to ensure broader protection. Big Life intends to expand the PCF program to cover lion depredations within Rombo, Eselengei and Kimana in 2017.



Map: Ranches covered by predator compensation 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 (MEI). 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 conservation education meetings with the warriors and community members held intermittently throughout both years. The third Maasai Olympics occurred in the fourth quarter of 2016 on December 10, with more warriors participating than ever before. Rombo won the games overall and was presented a prize bull for the team's efforts, in addition to receiving the Chester Zoo Conservation Scholarship Prize for not having killed any lions in 2016 (*details below*). The next Maasai Olympics will be held in **December 2018**.

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 fourth quarter of 2016.

Predator	Cattle	Shoat (Sheep/Goats)	Donkey	Total	Amount (KES)	Amount (USD)
Cheetah	12	135	-	147	506,500	5,065
Hyena	81	585	10	676	1,701,200	17,012
Jackal	-	155	-	155	272,500	2,725
Leopard	-	2	-	2	7,600	76
Lion	52	9	12	73	907,550	9,075
Total	145	886	22	1053	3,395,350	33,953



Picture: Big Life Paid \$34,000 to 778 people in November

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 by rangers to conflict goes a long way towards calming livestock owners.

Big Life's rangers, informers, and PCF personnel, in conjunction with partners at KWS and Lion Guardians (LG), have worked to **stop three lion hunts** during the fourth quarter.

LION HUNTS STOPPED

Details:

- **November 17:** Our rangers received information of a cow depredated by five lions during the night at Lethoni area, on the border of Mailua and Olgulului Group ranches. It was further reported that community tension was high and that some of them were threatening to poison the lions that were frequently killing their livestock. Rangers arrived and were able to calm the community down, and promised that they will help in protecting their livestock from predator attacks in future.
- **December 19:** Two cows were killed by a pride of six lions at Kituait area, Olgulului. Warriors gathered to hunt the lions but our rangers, together with the group ranch chairman, calmed them down. They demanded that the pride be translocated.
- **December 23:** A bull was killed by a pride of four lions at Kituait area, Olgulului. A group of 26 warriors threatened to hunt the lions, but were stopped by our rangers, KWS, and LG. An operation to translocate them was scheduled for the following day.

PREDATOR MORTALITIES

One predator mortality was recorded during the fourth quarter. The incident occurred outside our AOO.

Details:

- **October 31:** A pride of eight lions killed two cows in the evening of Oct. 30 at Lenkisim, Eselengei. The following day, a group of warriors went to the bush to hunt the lions and killed one cub. The warriors involved in the killing have been identified, following joint investigations by Big Life rangers, KWS and LG, and were each charged the equivalent value of one cow to go into the Eselengei PCF account (about \$300 per person).

MORAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Thanks to our lead sponsors at National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative and major sponsors including Chester Zoo, the Maasai Olympics Final was held on December 10th, and by all accounts was a huge success. The event concluded months of conservation-related education meetings and a series of regional sports competitions between four participating manyattas (villages), in six categories (*i.e.*, rungu throwing, javelin, high jump, 200 m run, 800 m run, and 5,000 m run), for a number of prizes.



Winners of the 2016 Maasai Olympics Final

The Mbirikani manyatta, or warrior village, were winners of the previous two MO finals (held in 2012 and 2014), and were favorites to do it again. Rombo were the underdogs, having placed last in 2014 and been the pushover opponents in the lead-up regional competitions this year.

The two teams went into the much-anticipated final event, the standing high jump, neck and neck with Mbirikani at 11 points and Rombo ahead by one at 12. After a tense competition, Kuya from Rombo pulled out an unbelievable winning jump that sent him to 10 feet 6 inches, and his team into a jumping, chanting Maasai celebration.

Rombo not only won the day, but also won the Chester Zoo conservation scholarship prize (worth \$2,600), awarded because their warrior village had not killed any lions this year. Two athletes, the winners of the 800 m and the 5000 m, will be running in the New York Marathon next year, thanks to a sponsorship from MWCT.



High jump, the final event of the 2016 Olympics

The message of the day was clear in the speeches by local dignitaries and the patron of the event, Kenyan Olympic double gold medalist David Rudisha: lions and other animal species are worth more alive than dead. And this is what the MO is about, a way to create heroes without killing lions.

Through the regional competitions and educational meetings, excluding the final event, Big Life has engaged over 1,400 Maasai on the importance of wildlife conservation this quarter, including 620 warriors, 132 elders, 173 women, and hundreds of children.

To help fund future Maasai Olympics events, please email donations@biglife.org.

EDUCATION

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

The Wildlife Scholarship and Education Program is currently supporting 175 students of all ages, encompassing 14 primary and secondary schools on Mbirikani Group Ranch. Two students graduated from tertiary level in December with degrees in Business Management.



Joel Kuyan at his graduation ceremony in December.

During the fourth quarter, with support from partners and donors, Big Life has:

- Employed one new teacher on Rombo Group Ranch, an area that receives very little in terms of benefits from wildlife;
- Increased Big Life sponsored teachers' salaries by 25%;
- Launched the wildlife scholarship program in the Kimana Conservancies;
- Began construction of a classroom at OIngousa pre-school;
- Water tanks for Noosidan preschool were bricked in to protect from elephants. Student now have access to clear drinking water;
- Letter exchanges continued between students and various donors.

In addition to education scholarships, Big Life has initiated an in-school conservation education program. Our Education Officer visited 11 schools across Mbrikani Group Ranch teaching students conservation-related topics and showing wildlife films. This quarter, we engaged 1,155 teachers and students on multiple topics and occasions. Presentation topics included the Amboseli ecosystem and its wildlife, Maasai culture, and human-wildlife conflict. Films shown were: *War on Poaching Part 2* by Let Elephants Be Elephants, *Virunga River of Fire & Ice* by Alan Root, and *Hear of Brightness* by Alan Root.

The highlight of the quarter, and year, was a visit to Amboseli National Park (ANP) with thirty students and six teachers from six different primary schools. The students were selected based on their hard work, discipline and their love and interest for conservation.



Students visit in Amboseli National Park

Our Education Officer, Elizabeth, had this to say about the trip: “Visiting ANP was exciting for all of us, but especially for the many students and teachers who have never been there before. The students got an opportunity to see what they have been learning in school during the conservation education lessons. We saw many species of flora and fauna and the amazing view of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Unsurprisingly, upon seeing hyenas many of the children booed, clearly demonstrating the negative image they have as a result of regularly killing livestock. Surprisingly the animal that received the most giggles, smiles and cheers were warthogs, presumably because in most areas they do not occur due to lack of water.”

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

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 support.

