



BIG LIFE

FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT:
APRIL - JUNE 2016

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANP	Amboseli National Park
AOO	Area of Operation
ATE	Amboseli Trust for Elephants
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
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
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

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Those who don't know Big Life would be forgiven for thinking that we are all about elephants. But successful conservation goes far beyond a single species, and in this rapidly changing world, it is increasingly about the management of less and less space.

The trends in our area of operation continue to be a reflection of this. You will see that elephants feature heavily in this report. This is because elephants are one of the species that needs the most space, and are often the first to come into conflict with humans when space isn't available. This quarter, there have been more humans killed, as well as elephants, and a big increase in the number of elephants treated for spear wounds. We have moved from a phase of battling wildlife poaching (of elephants and other species) to also managing the conflict between people and wild animals, at the root of which is the effective management of available space and resources.

To address this, Big Life recently made a matched-gift appeal for the funding of a 40km+ fence to run along the edge of the farmland—the first phase of fencing in areas of highest crop-raiding intensity. The full 120km planned fence will be a life-saving line of protection to keep elephants and people separated and safe from one another. This, along with land leasing, is critical to the future of the elephants, and the entire Amboseli ecosystem.

Education also continues to play a critical role. Big Life has a steadily growing scholarship program (now supporting 166 students), and we are excited to have just hired someone whose role is dedicated to visiting schools and teaching kids about the importance of looking after their limited natural resources.

But we cannot forget the rangers. They are the reason that we have been able to move on from dealing with a poaching crisis, to looking forward, beyond poaching. They are still out there every day, and their job is no less important as a result of their success. You may get bored of reading it, but I can never say it enough, and that is thanks for the support from all of our donors and partners. Without you, none of this would be possible, and the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem would be a very different place.



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

WILDLIFE SECURITY

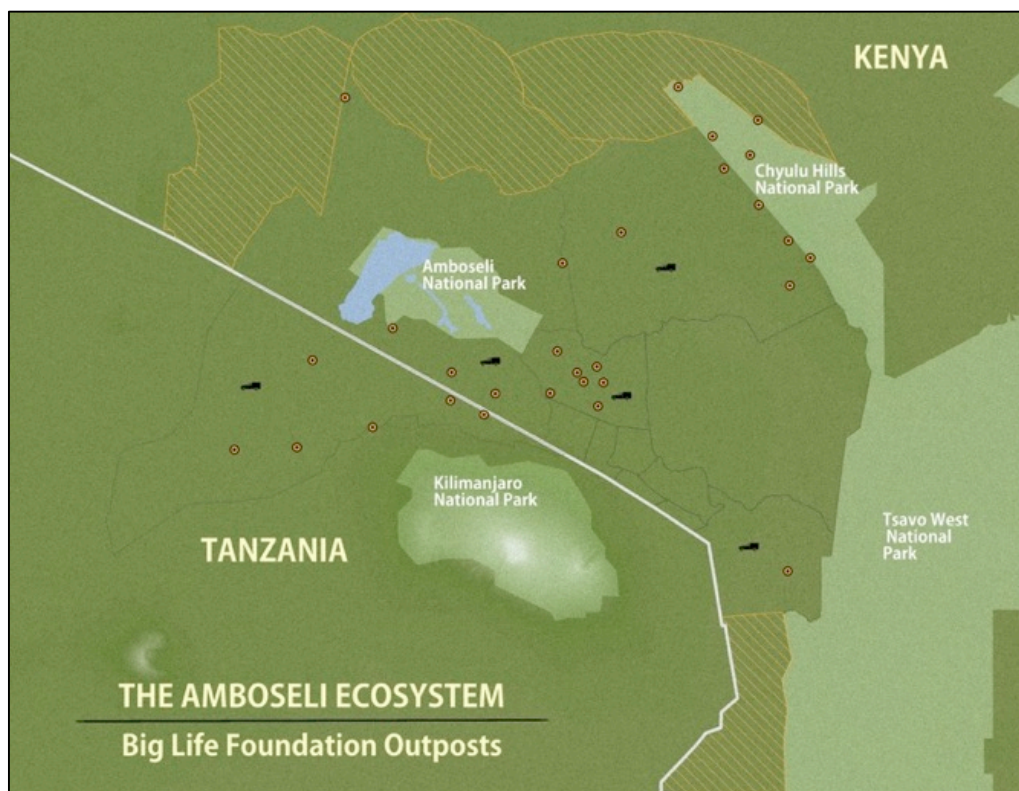
During the second quarter of 2016, Big Life rangers patrolled **18,996 km** by foot and **56,481 km** by vehicle.

Big Life rangers **arrested 39 suspects in 23 incidents** of illegal activity (see table on next page). Of these, **ten suspects were arrested in six poaching-related incidents**. The majority of the poaching-related incidents took place outside Big Life's core area of operation (AOO).

BIG LIFE RANGERS

There are a total of 41 units (including six 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, four mobile units, a Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), two field teams that operate from their homes or tented camps, and three 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 for additional information.



MAP: Big Life AOO in Kenya and Tanzania, including mobile units (black cars).

Orange dots represent our ranger outposts, and orange stripes represent areas covered by the RDU.

INCIDENTS & ARRESTS

Crime category	Crime type	Incidents				Suspects arrested			
		Apr	May	Jun	Total	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Poaching	Bushmeat	-	1	1	2	-	3	2	5
	Trading in wildlife trophies	1	-	2	3	1	-	2	3
Poaching Intention	Possession of snares	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
Habitat Destruction	Charcoal production	1	1	2	4	3	3	4	10
	Logging	1	2	2	5	1	4	4	9
	Firewood	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Woodcarving	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
	Pollution	2	-	-	2	4	-	-	4
Community Crimes	Attempted theft	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Theft	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Assault	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	2
TOTAL		6	4	13	23	10	10	19	39

ITEMS CONFISCATED

Item	Total
Axe	4
Bicycle	1
Chainsaw	3
Charcoal bags	22
Charcoal kilns	8
Hoes	2
Ivory (whole tusks)	44 kg
Kadoo*	1
Machete	7

Item	Total
Motorbike	4
Rake	2
Sandalwood	286 pieces
Snares: General	4
Spades	5
Torch	1
Vehicle >5t	2
Wood carvings	398 pieces

* A bush-meat poaching tool that combines a bright light, to blind the animal, and a loud horn to confuse it, causing the victim to freeze, enabling the poachers to get close enough to kill it.

WILDLIFE TROPHY INCIDENTS

No confirmed elephant poaching incidents occurred within Big Life's area of operation (AOO) during the second quarter. However, **three 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 took place outside Big Life's core AOO.

Details:

- **April 14:** A Big Life informant reported a dealer with ivory, Big Life notified the KWS intelligence unit and they successfully arrested one suspect with 5 kg of ivory. *(pictured below-left)*



- **June 2:** Big Life and KWS rangers arrested one suspect with four pieces of ivory weighing 20 kg at Ukambani, on the eastern side of Chyulu Hills National Park (CHNP). *(pictured above-right)*
- **June 14:** Big Life rangers with KWS arrested one suspect with 10 kg of ivory at Mutomo, Ukambani, on the eastern side of CHNP.

ELEPHANT MORTALITIES

Total dead: 6

Total dead *within* Big Life's Core AOO: 0

Total dead *outside* Big Life's Core AOO: 6

During the second quarter, **six elephant mortalities** were recorded. **Four of these were due to human-wildlife conflict (HWC)**, and **two were from unknown causes**. Ivory was recovered in four of the six cases.

Details within and outside Big Life's AOO:

- **April 1:** While on aerial patrol over Mailua Group Ranch, Big Life's Director of Operations Richard Bonham spotted an elephant carcass. The RDU and a backup team were dispatched to the area and confirmed that it was an adult male with two bullet wounds to the head. It was suspected to be responsible for the death of a man in the area, on March 26, and escaped after shots were fired by KWS in an attempt to euthanize it, as demanded by the community. Both tusks had been opportunistically pulled out. Search teams were mobilized, and both tusks were recovered three days later (*pictured below*) at a town 40 km west of the carcass and handed over to KWS.



- **April 4:** Teams searching for the missing ivory from the elephant carcass discovered on April 1, came across two other carcasses of adult elephants at separate locations inside Mailua Group Ranch. Ivory was missing from both carcasses. The estimated date of death for both was approximately one month, making it difficult to establish the cause of death due to decomposition.
- **April 9:** An elephant killed a 15 year-old boy while herding livestock inside Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania, on April 8th. Retaliation by the community resulted in the spearing of five elephants. One elephant died that day and another was euthanized by TANAPA, as treatment was deemed impossible. All tusks were recovered. Three other elephants (two with spear wounds) fled to Amboseli in Kenya and two (one with spear wounds) went to Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania.
- **April 14:** Big Life rangers from Olgulului Group Ranch discovered the carcass of one elephant, a 13-year-old female, suspected to be one of the injured elephants following the conflict at Ilkasua (on April 9 above). Both tusks were recovered and handed over to KWS.

ELEPHANT INJURIES

Treated: 7 (by the KWS/David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) mobile veterinarian)

Not treated: 2

Elephants Treated:

- **March 31:** Rangers on patrol in the area of Ol Donyo Lodge, Mbirikani Group Ranch, noticed an adult male elephant, named *Jagged Ear*, having difficulty walking. The vet was called and successfully treated a spear wound on the bull's left hind leg. (pictured below)



- **April 4:** An adult male elephant, named *Spirit*, was seen by rangers near Ol Donyo Lodge, Mbirikani Group Ranch. The vet was notified but was not available. Our rangers continued monitoring the bull until the vet arrived on April 10. The vet successfully treated three spear wounds, one on the base of the trunk, a second on the head, and a third on the right rump. (pictured below)



- **April 11:** An elephant, named *Conor*, was seen by rangers on patrol near Tawi Lodge, Kimana Group ranch, with a wound on his right fore foot. A vet from KWS was notified while the rangers followed him. The bull was successfully treated for a spear wound. (*pictured below*)



- **June 1:** Big Life's Conservation Scientist, Jeremy Goss, while at Ol Donyo Lodge waterhole, noticed an elephant with an injury above its right tusk. The vet was notified and arrived immediately. The bull was successfully treated for three wounds, suspected to be from a spear. Two of the wounds were minor; one on the right ear and one on the left side of his mouth. The third, on the right side of his face, was approximately 45 cm deep. (*pictured below*)



- **June 13:** Rangers on patrol at Olekelunyeti area, Kimana Group Ranch, came across an adult male elephant limping. The vet was called and successfully treated a spear wound on the bull's left side. *(pictured below)*



- **June 17:** A famous big tusker, named *Tim*, was seen bleeding near Kimana Sanctuary, Kimana Group Ranch. A team of rangers tracked the bull for 17 km and realized that he had what appeared to be a fresh spear wound close to his left ear. The vet was called and successfully treated the wound. *(pictured below)*



- **June 28:** Amboseli Trust for Elephants (ATE) reported an elephant, named *Ulysses*, having trouble walking at Oltukai, Amboseli National Park (ANP). The nearby ranger team was told to look out for the bull. A vet was called, but was not available. A spear wound on the bull's left rump was successfully treated on June 29.

Not treated:

- **April 2:** An informer reported an elephant with a wound at Kelunyet, Kaputei Group Ranch, but search teams were unable to locate the elephant.
- **June 12:** An informer from Kelunyet, Kaputei Group Ranch reported the same elephant that was reported on April 2, still having difficulty walking, but search teams still were unable to locate it.

ELEPHANT RESCUE

- **April 23:** An elephant calf was reportedly stuck in a semi-dried dam at dusk in Risa, Olgulului Group Ranch. Three Big Life teams were dispatched to the area and found that the calf had pulled itself out and was no longer in the area. They tracked the calf for around 1 km and found it alone. Using a vehicle, rangers brought the calf to ATE. From there it was airlifted by DSWT to their Nairobi Orphanage. *(pictured below)*



- **May 20:** A blind, five-month-old male elephant calf was seen wandering alone in the evening at Embaash area, ANP. Big Life and ATE rescued the calf and kept him at ATE overnight, then DSWT transferred him to their Nairobi Orphanage the following morning. *(pictured above)*

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, **six suspects were arrested in three incidents** for poaching or poaching intention.

Five suspects were arrested after they had killed wildlife, while the sixth was arrested prior to poaching.

	Grant's gazelle	Giraffe	Dik-dik	Total
April	-	-	-	0
May	2	1	-	3
June	-	1	4	5
Total	2	2	4	8

Details:

- **May 9:** The RDU and Mobile Unit 3, while patrolling at Imankula area, Mailua Group Ranch, discovered two adult Grant's gazelles that were killed the previous night. They tracked the suspects, but due to heavy rain, the tracks were lost.
- **May 15:** A young girl on her way to grandmother's hut, from Inkoisuk, Mbirikani Group Ranch, came across people slaughtering an animal in the bush. She told her grandmother, who in turn passed the report to Mobile Unit 1. The team rushed to the area and arrested the three suspects, who were in possession of 40 kg of giraffe meat. *(pictured below-left)*



- **June 10:** The RDU and the Rombo team laid an ambush at Kapei, Rombo Group Ranch, following a tip about a planned bushmeat hunt by poachers from Tanzania. They arrested two suspects who had killed four dik-diks; three others escaped. *(pictured above-right)*
- **June 19:** Mobile Unit 2, on patrol at Echoro Olodokisho, Kimana Group Ranch, found an old cable snare and a giraffe carcass nearby. It was believed to have been killed by the snare approximately two weeks before.

DE-SNARING

Four snares were recovered during arrests and de-snaring patrols. Two were found on suspects in one arrest incident, while one was found in the bush and destroyed by our rangers on patrol. The fourth one was discovered after it had killed a giraffe.

HABITAT DESTRUCTION

There was no significant change in habitat destruction crimes recorded during the second quarter. **Twenty-five arrests** were made in **thirteen incidents**. The majority of arrests this quarter were of illegal charcoal producers (ten suspects were arrested in four incidents, *evidence pictured below-left*) and loggers (nine arrests in five incidents, *pictured below-right*). Other incidents included illegal firewood collection, wood carving, and pollution.



COMMUNITY CRIMES

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

- **June 7:** One man was arrested for assault by Mobile Unit 1.
- **June 19:** One suspect was arrested for stealing a sheep. (*pictured right*).
- **June 26:** An informer reported a suspicious man on the hill frequented by church groups for prayers. The team rushed to the area and apprehended the man who apparently intended to steal some solar panels from the Christian prayer altar.
- **June 27:** One man was arrested for abusing a woman. The victim sustained head injuries but the suspect was arrested by Mobile Unit 3 before he could do any further harm.



PROSECUTIONS

During the second quarter, three wildlife-crime cases concluded: one suspect was sentenced to six months in jail or a fine of \$300 for subsistence hunting, two suspects were sentenced to three years in jail for dealing in ivory, and one ivory poacher was released due to lack of evidence. 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.
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 arrest warrant issued.
12/25/14	1	Bushmeat poaching - 3 gazelles & 4 dik-diks	5,000	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 to \$1,000. 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. Between 13/05-7/06. ODPP working to find file.
5/17/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 3 Grant's gazelles, 1 impala & 2 dik-diks	500	File wasn't brought to the court on May 11. Working with Loitoktok police to find out why.
6/11/15	2	Lion poisoning	1,000	Trial magistrate away. Bond extended.
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	Out on bond.
7/29/15	3	Trophy poaching - 5 elephants	20,000	Suspects were acquitted; prosecution team is appealing the ruling.
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	Out on bond.
10/02/15	1	Ivory trade	5,000	In custody.
10/02/15	1	Ivory poaching	5,000	In custody.

10/06/15	2	Ivory trade	25,000	In custody.
11/07/15	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 eland	2,000	In custody.
11/8/15	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 dik-dik	2,000	Forensic lab report is not yet ready. Need to change the statement of one of our rangers because the current witness is afraid to testify.
12/4/15	1	Ivory trade	500	Given \$40 cash bond, which was paid.
12/13/15	2	Bush meat - 2 gazelles	2,000	Out on bond.
1/5/16	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 gazelle	2,000	In custody.
1/05/16	3	Ivory trade	Bond not indicated	In custody.
1/07/16	4	Poaching intention	Bond not indicated	In custody.
1/24/16	1	Ivory trade	10,000	Paid 5,000 and released on bond.
1/26/16	1	Ivory trade	5,000	Out on bond.
2/1/16	1	Ivory trade	10,000	Out on bond.
2/08/16	1	Trophy poaching	Bond not indicated	In custody.
2/25/16	1	Poaching intention	2,000	Out on bond.
3/10/15	1	Trophy poaching	5,000	Out on bond.
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.
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.
6/11/16	2	Bushmeat poaching - 4 dik-dik	Not indicated	In custody.
6/14/16	1	Ivory trade	10,000	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 yet to be *fully* met include:

1. fencing of the eastern boundary of Chyulu Hills National Park, which is bordered by a large community—this is in progress, and fencing of the relevant rhino-specific section should be completed by 2017;

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

1. 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;
2. 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
3. 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 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 if you are interested in helping us to achieve IPZ status in this critically-important rhino habitat.

In other developments, through a partnership with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Big Life and KWS have begun a program aimed at increasing the effectiveness of rhino monitoring and law enforcement activities through technology, providing enhanced feedback, and ranger incentives. The program has been running for three months, and performance indicators have already increased by almost 100%. This program will significantly improve Big Life's security and monitoring, which is also needed for IPZ qualification (*see criteria 4, above*).

With time, Big Life hopes to adapt and expand this program to cover its entire AOO. Perhaps the best indicator of this program's effectiveness is that for the first time ever, every rhino in the Chyulu Hills was

sighted within a single month (June). With more regular sightings, rhino protection becomes somewhat easier to accomplish.

RHINO INCIDENTS

The rhino area remained quiet throughout the second quarter. Though one suspect was arrested while in possession of a snare capable of killing a rhino, it was outside the operation area.

Rhino teams were pleasantly surprised in June when a camera trap captured photos of the mother rhino Tara and her calf, pictured below. It had been a year since rangers had heard shots in the area, and for months they had combed the bush looking for a carcass, but none was found. Nor could they find any sign of Tara or her calf. We feared that poachers may have killed them, but the camera trap images showed the pair alive and well, as did direct sightings by rangers on June 26, confirming they are healthy.



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.

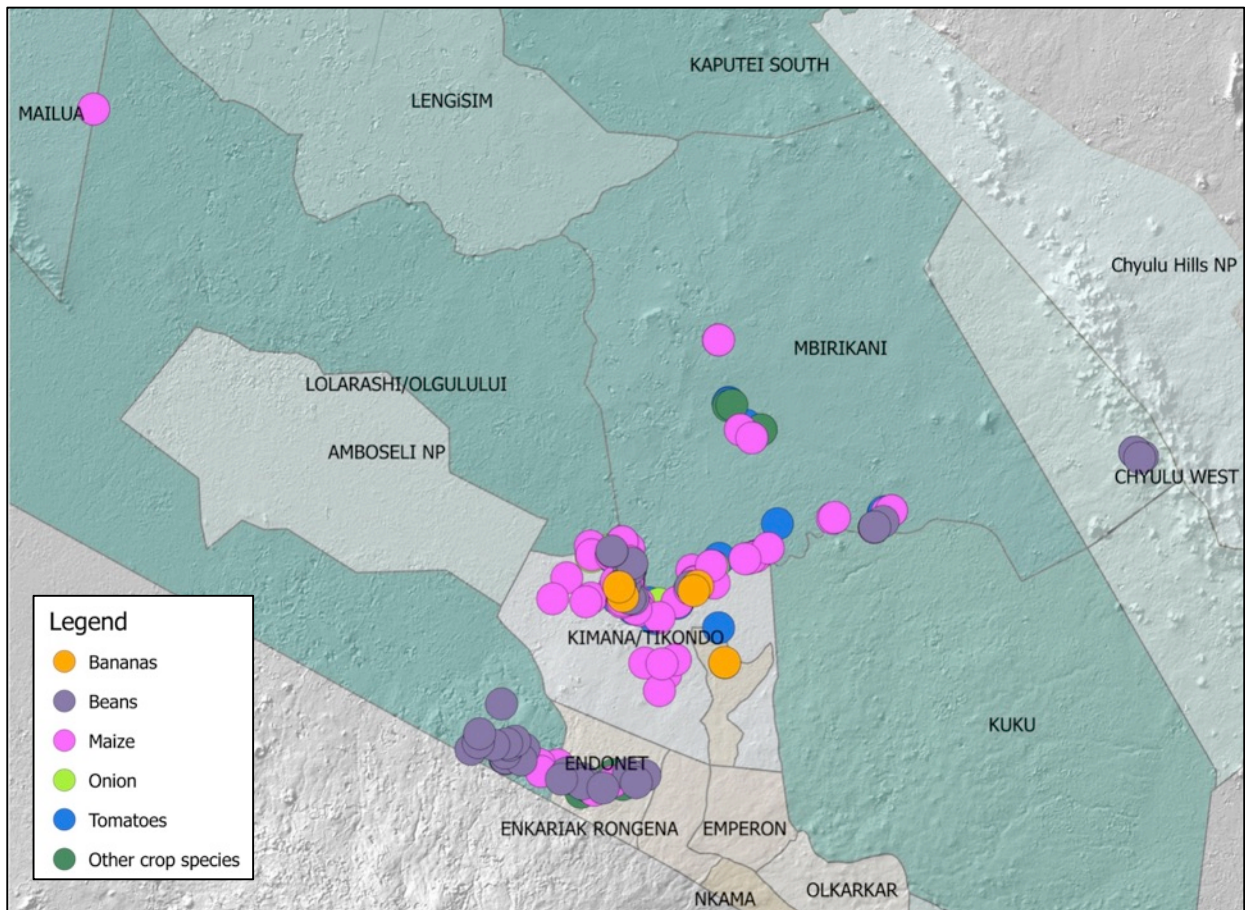
HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT & CROP-RAIDING

This quarter coincided with the main growing season in the region owing to the longest period of rains; therefore, there was a significant rise in crop-raiding by wildlife, namely elephants. Elands, zebras, buffalos, hippos, and giraffes were also responsible for crop-raiding during the reporting period.

Out of the **243 recorded crop-raiding incidents** in which damage occurred, **elephants were responsible for 223 incidents**, and damaged **138 of the total 145 acres** of crops. This is in stark contrast to the first quarter, during which there were only 93 crop-raiding incidents in which 48 acres of crops were recorded as destroyed. The significant increase in raids is largely a result of an extended rainy season that meant a longer harvest season this quarter.



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 96 incidents** before the animals could cause any damage, and before anyone (human or elephant) was harmed.



Map: Areas impacted by wildlife crop-raiding in the Amboseli ecosystem from April – June 2016

Number of incidents and acres damaged per crop species:

Crop	Incidents	Acres damaged
Bananas	6	3.3
Beans	43	22
Capsicum	1	1
Maize	124	73.6
Onions	11	10
Paw paws	1	0.5
Potatoes	5	1.4
Tomatoes	47	30.9
Watermelon	5	2.5
Total	243	145.2

HUMAN INJURIES & DEATH

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

Details:

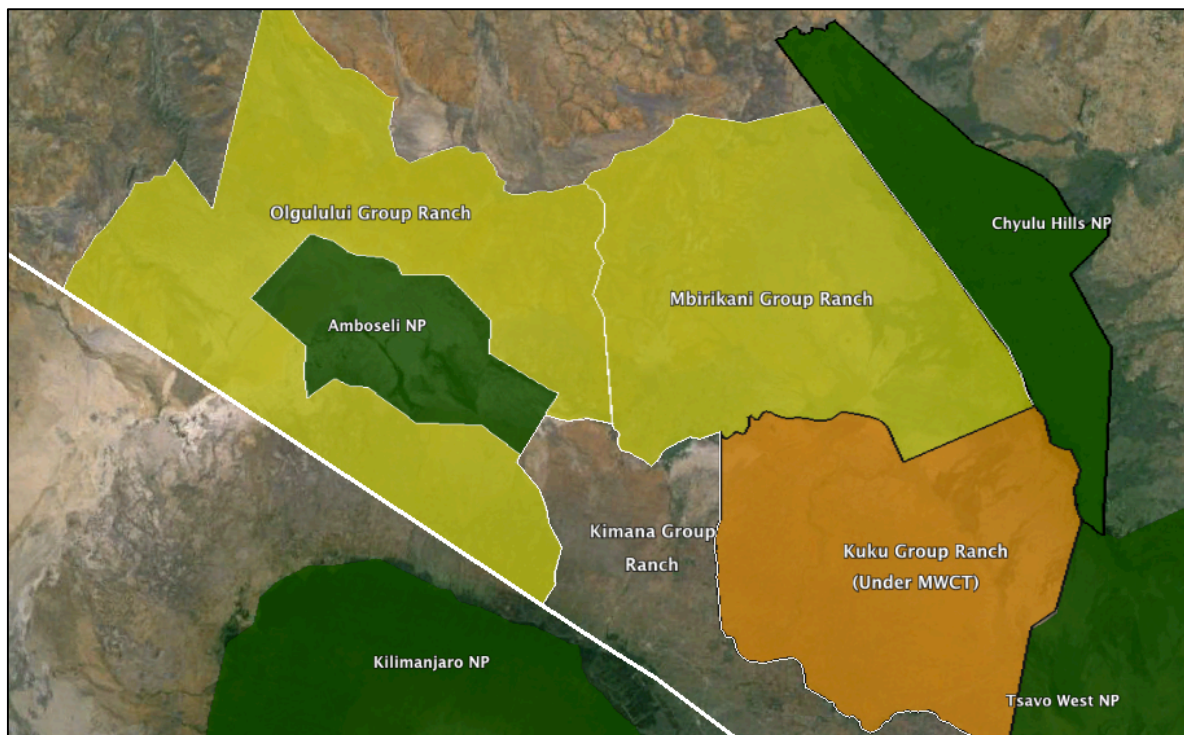
- **April 8:** An elephant killed a 15-year-old boy who was herding livestock in the Ilkasua area, inside Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania. Retaliating community members immediately killed one elephant and inflicted severe injuries to another, who escaped into Kenya but died three days later.
- **April 9:** An elephant injured a man at Ilkasua, Tanzania who was among the retaliating elephant-hunting party following the boy's death mentioned above.
- **May 13:** An elephant killed a middle-aged man in the Kikunduku area, Ukambani. The community demanded that the animal responsible be euthanized by KWS.
- **May 29:** A lone buffalo injured a boy, who suffered injuries to the back and legs at Ilkasua, Olgulului Group Ranch. A ranger team took the boy to the hospital for treatment and notified KWS for further action.
- **June 13:** An aggressive buffalo, who has since been targeted for elimination by KWS, injured a warrior and chased another person at Olepolos, Olgulului Group Ranch. Our rangers took the injured warrior to hospital for treatment.
- **June 30:** An elephant invaded a farm and resisted the farmer's attempts to move it out. The elephant charged the farmer, and the farmer fell and broke his shoulder.

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 to this fund.

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). Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT) runs a similar program on neighboring Kuku Group Ranch, but contiguous expansion of Big Life’s PCF is necessary to ensure broader protection.



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 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 second quarter of 2016.

Predator	Cattle	Shoat (Sheep/Goats)	Donkey	Total	Amount (KES)	Amount (USD)
Buffalo	-	1	-	1	1,900	19
Cheetah	6	79	-	85	272,000	2,720
Hyena	58	254	10	322	1,038,450	10,385
Jackal	-	61	-	61	106,600	1,066
Leopard	-	3	-	3	11,400	114
Lion	33	57	2	92	664,600	6,646
Total	97	455	12	564	2,094,950	20,950



Forty-nine shoats killed by lion in a single depredation incident

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 to calming livestock owners.

Big Life's rangers, informers, and PCF personnel, in conjunction with partners at KWS and Lion Guardians, have worked to **stop three lion hunts** during the second quarter. Two hunts were within our AOO and one was outside.

LION HUNTS STOPPED

- **May 8:** Informer report: A pride of nine lions comprising one male, two lionesses, and six cubs killed a total of 14 livestock inside a boma over three consecutive days. As a result, two lion hunts of 31 and 11 warriors broke out on May 7, but the hunting teams did not find the lions. On May 8, another hunting team of 10 men was reported, but the hunt was stopped by Mobile Unit 1 and Lion Guardians, who moved the lions out of Kaputei to Eselenkei.
- **May 21:** An adult lion attempted to hunt calves that were grazing near their homestead at around 5:40 pm. The lion pursued the calves into their boma but did not manage to kill any. Seven warriors, angry that the lion had almost killed the calves inside the boma, were reported to be hunting the lion. Rangers were dispatched and managed to stop them before they reached the lion, which had not moved far. An agreement was reached that the lion, who had killed several livestock in the same area, would be trapped and translocated to a new area. The lion was darted and moved to Tsavo National Park on May 22. *(pictured below)*



- **June 11:** A report reached the RDU and Rombo team of a planned lion hunt, following the depredation of a cow belonging to the Rombo moran manyatta (warrior village). The teams arrived at the scene and realized that a hyena, not a lion, was responsible for killing the cow. The warriors threatened to go after a lion if verification and compensation was not made but our rangers managed to diffuse the situation and dissuade the warriors from hunting a lion.

PREDATOR MORTALITIES

Two lion deaths were recorded during the second quarter. Though both occurred within our core AOO, neither were human-related.

Details:

- **April 21:** A pride of four sub-adult male lions hunted a giraffe at Oltiasika, Mbirikani Group Ranch. When they took the giraffe down, it fell on one of the lions, presumably due to the lion's inexperience, and crushed him to death.
- **May 19:** A male sub-adult lion was euthanized after treatment was deemed impossible. It had suffered a broken back, which, due to the two puncture holes, is presumed to be from a bite by an adult male seen nearby.

MORAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

This year's Maasai Olympics is building momentum, and during the second quarter, competitions for team selection in the four participating manyattas (villages) were held alongside conservation education meetings. Team selections for the Rombo, Olgulului, Mbirikani, and Kuku manyattas took place on April 30, June 18, June 19, and June 20, respectively. Each manyatta selected the best athletes to represent it in the five categories of competition (*i.e.*, rungu throwing, javelin, high jump, 200 m run, 800 m run, and 5,000 m run) for the upcoming regional events (held between July and October) and the Olympics Final, scheduled for December 10.



Former Cabinet Secretary for Internal Security, Joseph Ole Lenku, throws a javelin to start off the Olgulului team selection (pictured left); High jump competition at the Rombo team selection (pictured right).

Through the four team selection events and ten educational meetings, Big Life has engaged over 4,000 Maasai on the importance of wildlife conservation this quarter, including more than 1,800 warriors, 390 elders, nearly 1,000 women, and over 800 children. To help fund the 2016 Maasai Olympics, 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 166 students of all ages, encompassing 14 schools. Of the scholarship recipients, 46% of the actively sponsored students are female, while 54% are male.

During the second quarter, with support from donors, Big Life has been able to achieve the following:

- The construction of Orbili Primary School is nearing completion. This boarding school is poised to significantly reduce the risk of young children bumping into potentially dangerous wildlife on their way to school, and by reducing the risk and potential loss from wildlife, community members are more easily and willingly able to coexist with wildlife.
- With support from Wildlife Direct, Big Life took 46 students from the Wildlife Scholarship Program to Amboseli National Park on April 29 (*pictured below*). Apart from visiting the park, the students learned about the threats facing wildlife across the world, Africa, and Kenya, as a result of humans encroaching onto their habitats. They also discussed the critical role of the Maasai community-owned lands, which act as vital dispersal areas for wildlife in the greater Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem.



- Big Life has been able to expand its conservation education program through the employment of an Education Officer who visits local schools to discuss, among other topics, the importance of wildlife and ecosystem conservation. Elizabeth, our Education Officer, has a mobile education unit that will enable her to give PowerPoint presentations and show pictures and films. Her goal is to reach each of the 14 public schools on Mbirikani Group Ranch once every month. Ultimately, Big Life hopes to expand its education program, including the Wildlife Scholarships, to the greater Amboseli-Tsavo region.
- The Kajiado County Government recently hired six of the Big Life-supported teachers, so Big Life's Education Committee was able to fill those positions with newly-hired teachers.
- The Wildlife Scholarship Students' Open Day, held on April 22, had a record attendance of 60 students. Thirty-four of the students were girls, the highest turnout yet.
- Big Life has continued to encourage letter writing with pen pals. Orbili Primary School students and Shilishili write essays to pen pals in the US, the Hong Kong International School has been exchanging letters with Ilchalai Primary School, and the Canadian International School is corresponding with Ormapitet Secondary School.
- Long-time supporters from the Highland School visited again in June. Among other things, they brought 150 pairs of shoes, enough for each student at Inkoisuk Primary.



Pupils of Ormapitet Junior School with gifts donated by the Highland School group.

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.

