



# **BIG LIFE** FOUNDATION

**QUARTERLY REPORT:  
APRIL – JUNE 2017**

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

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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ALOCA	Amboseli Landowners Conservancy Association
ANP	Amboseli National Park
AOO	Area of Operation
CHNP	Chyulu Hills National Park
CHRP	Chyulu Hills REDD+ Project
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

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There are many rungs on the ivory-trading ladder, representing a diverse group of people who all play a part in the long journey that ivory takes from an elephant's face to the homes of misguided buyers. We feel confident that we have largely knocked out the first rung in Amboseli; thanks to the work of our rangers and other ecosystem partners, elephant poaching is now rare and I can happily report on another quarter without a confirmed poaching incident within Big Life's core area of operation.

Realising that it's time to move up the ladder, Big Life has been investing heavily in intelligence gathering systems and training, supported by funding partners and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). This investment is starting to pay off in a big way. Over this second quarter of 2017, we worked with KWS special units to arrest 23 trophy dealers in 11 incidents, and 319 kg of ivory was confiscated in these busts. Compare this with the same quarter of last year, when three dealers were arrested with 35 kg of ivory. These busts take place largely outside the Amboseli ecosystem, on the major transport routes that ivory follows through Kenya, and have taken our 'intelligence footprint' far beyond that of the physical coverage by Big Life rangers.

It's a sign, together with the ongoing busts in the east, that we cannot be complacent. Reports seem to indicate that the price and demand for ivory in the east may be dropping, but clearly both are still high enough to represent a significant threat to elephants. The work of anti-poaching teams across Africa is as important as ever.

Ensuring the prosecution of apprehended wildlife criminals is also a priority for Big Life, particularly following the conclusion of some recent cases where suspects were acquitted due to lack of evidence. It's critical that rangers understand how to follow the right processes to collect evidence that is admissible in court, and Big Life is actively training our rangers to do this.

In further good news, contractors have finished the first phase of electric fencing, creating what will be a lifeline for both farmers and elephants by reducing the conflict between them. Despite the odd hiccup, the fence has been almost completely effective at preventing elephants from crossing it into the farmland. The remaining problem, as expected, is coming largely from elephants entering farms from behind the fence, highlighting the importance of moving on with Phase 2 as soon as possible. We have an active fund-raising appeal going to support this, and ask anyone that is able to please support this hugely important barrier to keep the peace between humans and elephants.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Bonham'.

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

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## *HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER*

### WILDLIFE SECURITY

**OVERVIEW:** 38 Ranger Units • 220+ Trained Rangers • 300+ Field Staff  
28 Outposts • 4 Mobile Units • 1 Rapid Deployment Unit • 2 Field Teams • 3 Permanent Observation Outposts

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** 47 suspects arrested in 23 incidents. 322 kg of illegally-obtained ivory confiscated. Zero elephants poached, although four elephants died. Two elephants successfully treated for injuries. Seven snares recovered and destroyed before they could kill wildlife.

### PROSECUTIONS

**OVERVIEW:** Four wildlife crime cases concluded; 60 cases ongoing.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** 26 rangers received additional training on court procedure and evidence collection to improve prosecution success in the future.

### HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

**OVERVIEW:** 133 crop raiding incidents, of which 129 involved elephants. 76 acres damaged, 75 of which involved elephants. Tragic loss of one human due to conflict with an elephant.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Phase 1 of the elephant exclusion fence completed. No retaliatory hunts attempted against elephants for crop-raiding. Dedicated ranger units prevented 147 human-wildlife conflict incidents. Herders compensated a total of US \$22,987 for livestock killed by predators. Two lion hunts successfully stopped.

### EDUCATION & HEALTH

**OVERVIEW:** Big Life funded the salaries of 28 teachers and sponsored the school fees of 189 students.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Conservation curriculum reached 1,435 teachers and students. Two mobile clinics focusing on family planning conducted on Mbirikani Group Ranch.

# WILDLIFE SECURITY

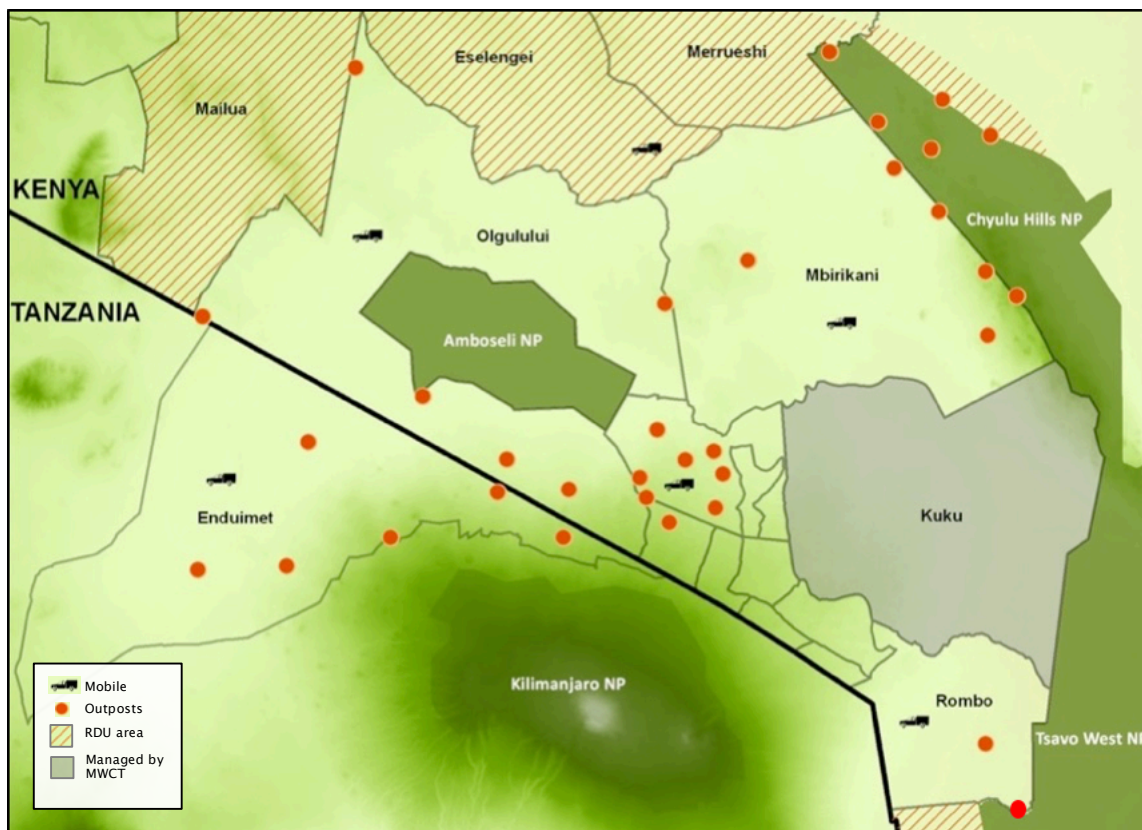
During the second quarter of 2017, Big Life rangers patrolled **14,122 km** by foot and **74,006 km** by vehicle.

Big Life rangers **arrested 47 suspects in 23 incidents** of illegal activity (details next page). Of these, **29 suspects were arrested in 14 poaching-related incidents**, including **23 suspected trophy dealers**. Rangers recovered **319 kg of ivory from arrests**, and an additional 3 kg was collected from the field or handed in by community members. More than half the poaching-related incidents (trophy dealing & bushmeat) took place outside Big Life’s core area of operation (AOO).

**Big Life’s Core AOO**, where we have a permanent security presence, includes: 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: 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.



## BIG LIFE RANGERS

There are a total of 38 ranger units in Kenya, currently comprising more than 220 trained rangers, and nearly 300 field staff in the wildlife protection network managed and/or funded by Big Life. The community rangers that Big Life was previously funding across the border in Tanzania are currently

being fully funded and managed through our partners at Honeyguide Foundation, and are no longer reflected in our statistics.

On the Kenyan side of the ecosystem, there are 28 permanent ranger outposts (one new outpost in Rombo Group Ranch was completed in the first quarter), 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. Please [donate now](#) to support additional outposts.

## INCIDENTS & ARRESTS

Crime Category	Crime Type	Incidents				Suspects Arrested			
		Apr	May	Jun	Total	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Community Crimes	Assault	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Illicit brews	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
	Molesting	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
	Theft	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Encroachment	Trespassing	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	3
Habitat Destruction	Charcoaling	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Logging	-	2	-	2	-	7	-	7
Retaliation	Lion killing	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
Poaching	Bushmeat	1	-	1	2	4	-	1	5
	Intention to snare	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Trade in wildlife trophies	3	3	5	11	5	5	13	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>47</b>

## CONFISCATED ITEMS

Item	Total
Axes	3
Bows	1
Charcoal bags	4
Crocodile skins	1
Handsaws	1
Ivory	322 kg
Kadoo lights	2

Item	Total
Machetes	9
Motorbikes	2
Non-poisoned arrows	2
Python skins	1
Snares (general)	7
Snares (rhino)	0
Spades	2

## WILDLIFE TROPHY INCIDENTS

**No confirmed elephant poaching** incidents occurred within Big Life's area of operation (AOO) during the second quarter. However, **23 people were arrested** in connection with **trophy dealing**. All of the incidents below were joint operations between the Big Life intelligence unit and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and took place outside Big Life's AOO.

*Details:*

- **April 4:** One suspect arrested with an 8-foot crocodile skin at Kambu area, Makueni County. *(pictured below)*



- **April 15:** Two trophy dealers arrested and 20 kg ivory recovered in Voi town, Taita Taveta County.
- **April 28:** Two trophy dealers arrested and 120 kg ivory recovered at Usueni area, Kitui County. *(pictured below-left)*



- **May 5:** Two trophy dealers arrested with 14 kg ivory at Kyenze area, Makueni County. *(pictured above-right)*



- **May 10:** One trophy dealer arrested with a 12-foot python skin at Makindu town, Makueni County. (*pictured below-left*)



- **May 13:** Two trophy dealers arrested with 13 kg ivory at Manyanga area, Makueni County. (*pictured above-right*)
- **June 1:** Five trophy dealers arrested with 25 kg ivory at Ilbisil area, Mailua Group Ranch.
- **June 6:** One trophy dealer arrested with 67 kg ivory at Kaloleni area, Taita Taveta County. (*pictured below-left*)



- **June 15:** Two trophy dealers arrested at Loitoktok town, in possession of 30 kg ivory. (*pictured above-right*)
- **June 18:** Four trophy dealers arrested, including one who had been on our 'wanted list' after escaping several arrests, 20 kg ivory recovered at Kibwezi area, Makueni County. (*pictured below-left*)



- **June 20:** Our intelligence unit led KWS into arresting one trophy dealer in Nyayo area, Nairobi County in possession of 10 kg ivory. (*pictured above-right*)

## ELEPHANT MORTALITIES

### **Total dead: 4**

Total dead *within* Big Life's Core AOO: 1

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

During the second quarter, **four elephant mortalities** were recorded; cause of death for two incidents is unknown, though one is suspected to be from a spear, the other two incidents were natural deaths. Tusks were recovered in three cases.

### *Details within and outside Big Life's AOO:*

- **April 23:** Esiteti team received information from a community member that an elephant was stuck in a natural mud pan at Nado Soitok area, Olgulului Group Ranch. With KWS, they pulled the sub-adult male out, but the elephant was weak after the ordeal and died the following day. Both tusks were recovered.



- **April 26:** Information from KWS was received of an adult male elephant that died of unknown causes at Porini conservancy, Eselengei Group Ranch. Both tusks were recovered.
- **May 29:** While on patrol at Noongagir area, Eselengei Group Ranch, the RDU came across a decomposed carcass of an adult elephant. Unknown persons had pulled out both tusks. Cause of death is suspected to have been a spear wound on the upper back but could not be confirmed due to decomposition.



- **June 6:** A sub-adult male got stuck and then drowned in a natural water pan at Oloturo area, Eselengei Group Ranch. Tusks were recovered.

## ELEPHANT INJURIES

**Treated in Big Life's AOO: 2** (with KWS & the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust [DSWT] mobile veterinarian)

**Not treated: 1**

*Details of elephants treated:*

- **April 12:** While on patrol, Osewan team, in Illturot Wuasin area, Olgulului Group Ranch, found tracks of an elephant bleeding. They found the elephant at Lenchoni area where they confirmed one adult male with an injury under his belly. A KWS vet was informed, but was unable to treat the bull that day. The following day, while on aerial patrol at Orkung'u Oodo area, Mailua Group Ranch, Big Life's Head of Security spotted the bull and instructed the team to keep monitoring his condition, which did not seem life threatening. On Apr 15, rangers tracked him heading toward Amboseli National park, and informed Amboseli Trust for Elephants. On April 16, they tracked the footprints to Laimutia area, Amboseli National park and found him resting under a tree and bleeding and in worse condition. Rangers monitored him until the vet arrived on Apr 17, and successfully treated him of an injury from an unknown object on his lower stomach.
- **May 4:** While on patrol at Ingigir area, Kimana Group Ranch, Nailepu team came across footmarks of an elephant bleeding. They tracked and found an adult male (Ndawe) with a

fresh injury on the right front leg. A vet was notified and came the following day and successfully treated him of a spear wound.

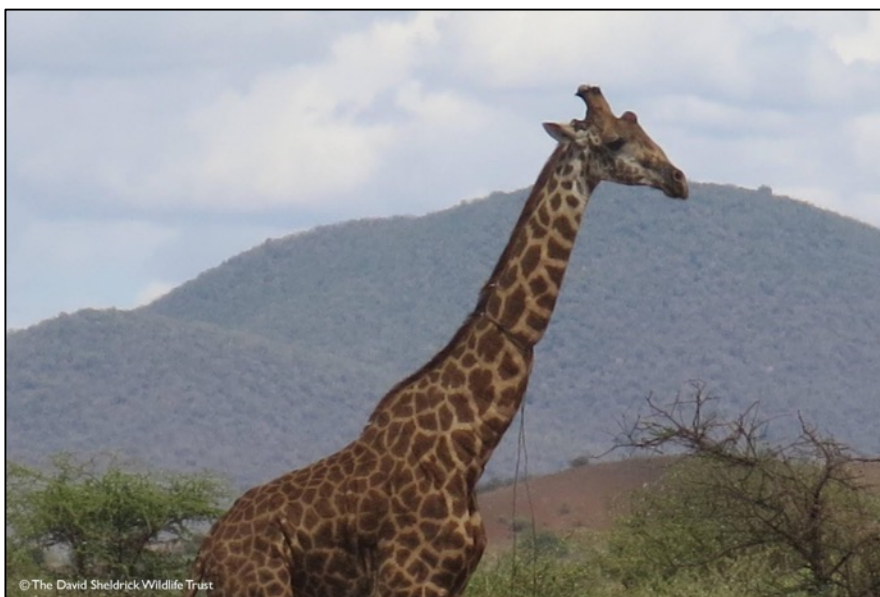


*Not treated:*

- **June 15:** Porini camp guides reported an elephant that was seen with a suspected spear injury at Eselengei Group Ranch. The RDU responded but was unable to locate the animal.

## OTHER WILDLIFE TREATMENTS

- **April 2:** A Lion Guardian reported to our Mobile 3 team of a zebra with a spear in its head at Inchakita area, Olgulului Group Ranch. The vet was informed, but could not attend that day. They successfully removed the spear and treated the wound the following day.
- **April 6:** Kelunyeti team reported an adult male giraffe with a snare around its neck at Eng'itata area, Chyulu Hills National Park. The vet was called and the snare was successfully removed.



## 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. However, over the reporting period incidents decreased compared to last quarter: **5 suspects were arrested in 2 incidents** for bushmeat poaching. The table below details animals killed by poachers during the quarter:

	Dik-dik	Giraffe	Lesser kudu	Total
April	3	-	1	4
May	-	-	-	0
June	-	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

### Details:

- April 16:** RDU and Rombo teams received information at Entepesi area, Rombo Group Ranch of suspected bushmeat poachers. Rangers laid an ambush and successfully arrested two suspects that had already killed one male adult lesser kudu. Extended operations the same day jointly with KWS led to arrest of two other suspects who had escaped at Makani area on the border of Kenya–Tanzania. They had a motorbike, a bow and two non-poisoned arrows. *(pictured right)*
- April 24:** Acting on intelligence information of potential bushmeat poaching, the RDU and Rombo teams laid an ambush at Maili Tatu area, Rombo Group Ranch. The poachers escaped, leaving behind three dik–dik carcasses.
- June 23:** Rombo team arrested one bushmeat poacher at Lemong’o area, Rombo Group Ranch with giraffe meat.
- June 23:** Olepolos tem arrested one suspect at Oloile area, Kimana Group Ranch with five snares targeting small animals like dik–diks and hares before they could kill. *(pictured right)*



## DE-SNARING

**Seven snares were recovered** during arrests and de-snaring patrols in the quarter. All snares were lighter gauge wire targeting small to medium mammals, none were targeting rhino, and **all were recovered before they could kill.**

## HABITAT DESTRUCTION

During the second quarter, **eight arrests** were made in **three incidents.** The majority of people were arrested were for **illegal logging** (7), the other was for **charcoal production** (1).

*Details:*

- **May 8:** In a joint operation in Chyulu Hills National Park, Big Life's Chyulu Unit, DSWT and KWS arrested three loggers at Utu area, Chyulu Hills National Park.



- **May 11:** The RDU arrested four loggers at Esikitoi area, Eselengei Group Ranch.
- **June 3:** Rombo team on patrol at Orgumaet area, Rombo Group Ranch arrested one suspect transporting four bags of charcoal on a motorbike.

## COMMUNITY CRIMES

Big Life rangers continue to assist the community in apprehending various non-wildlife-related criminals. During the quarter, rangers **arrested 5 suspects in 4 incidents:**

*Details:*

- **April 3:** Big Life's Rombo rangers, with Kenya Police, arrested two suspects with 20 litres of illegal home-made brew (alcohol) at Nkiito area, Rombo Group Ranch

- **April 4:** The RDU and Rombo arrested one suspect who stole 32 cattle from Galana, Taita Taveta County at Loleni area, Taita Taveta County.
- **May 30:** Mobile One Unit arrested one suspect who raped a boy at Orng'osua, Mbirikani Group Ranch.
- **June 28:** Satellite team arrested one man for assaulting a community member at Lemasusu area, Mbirikani Group Ranch.

## HUMAN SEARCH & RESCUE

Big Life's AOO is mostly wilderness. Big Life rangers are often requested by the community to help in searches for missing persons, or they come across lost people during patrol. Often, such incidents involve people who lost their way (especially children out herding livestock) and sometimes adults with mental illness that lead to wandering behaviour. During the quarter, five human search and rescue incidents were recorded, in which **five people** were rescued.

### *Details:*

- **April 3:** Risa and Mobile 3 teams assisted the community in the successful search and rescue of a lost child at Risa area, Olgulului Group Ranch.
- **April 3:** Didima Unit rescued a mentally unstable man wandering in the bush of Makone, Chyulu Hills National Park.
- **May 15:** Kilitome Unit rescued an old man who was lost and had spent a night at Engumi area, Kimana.
- **May 24:** Mangula team on ambush at Noonjukuti area, Olgulului Group Ranch apprehended a mentally unstable man who was reportedly disturbing residents at night, the man was taken to Loitokitok for assessment.
- **June 19:** Ilmarba and Lemomo ranger units, working with the Dog Units and the community, found a lost girl at Lekiteng area, Olgulului Group Ranch.

# PROSECUTIONS

During the second quarter, in addition to following court cases (*detailed below*), 26 Big Life rangers went through training on court procedures and evidence collection to improve their ability to collect evidence that is passable in court. The rangers had an opportunity to interact with the resident senior magistrate and the local prosecutor, as well as participate in a real court session. The goal was for rangers to build on skills that they require to put wildlife crime offenders behind bars. These select rangers were then asked to share the skills learned with their colleagues in the field.

## Four wildlife-crime cases were concluded:

Date	No. Suspect	Crime	Species	Bond (USD)	Remarks
19 Aug 2015	1	Bushmeat poaching	Impala	2,000	Sentenced to two years, but has been in custody and therefore only needs to serve four more months.
02 Oct 2015	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	5,000	Case withdrawn due to lack of evidence, but case can continue if new evidence is found.
13 Dec 2015	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	Case dismissed due to lack of evidence.
5 Jan 2016	3	Possession of Trophy	Elephant	30,000 (each)	Case withdrawn due to lack of evidence, but case can continue if new evidence is found.

The table below details cases that are ongoing:

Date	No. Suspects	Crime	Species	Bond (USD)	Remarks
06 Jul 2013	1	Possession of trophy		300	Out on bond
26 Jul 2014	2	Possession of trophy		1,000	Out on bond
25 Dec 2014	1	Bushmeat poaching	3 gazelles, 4 Dik-dik	1,000	Out on bond
11 Jan 2015	3	Bushmeat poaching	Dik-dik	500	Out on bond
16 Mar 2015	8	Bushmeat poaching	Eland	1,000	File finally located. The case continued where it was left. The suspects were summoned to court under an earlier bond given, however they didn't appear for the court date.
24 Apr 2015	2	Elephant spearing	Elephant	1,000	Out on bond
11 Jun 2015	2	Lion poisoning	Lion	500	Case most recent dates could not be traced.
27 Jun 2015	1	Bushmeat poaching	Impala	2,000	Awaiting defence hearing



09 Jul 2015	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	Bond was reviewed down to \$1,000. Bond paid and released
29 Sep 2015	2	Possession of trophy	-	20,000	Judge refused to review the bond. They gave out sureties of payslips and were released.
07 Nov 2015	3	Bushmeat poaching	Eland	2,000	In custody
08 Nov 2015	2	Bushmeat poaching	Dik-dik	2,000	Warrant of Arrest issued. He has absconded court.
05 Jan 2016	2	Bushmeat poaching	Zebra	2,000	Out on bond
24 Jan 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	2,500	Given surety of \$2,500. He paid and is out on bond
26 Jan 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	5,000	Four witnesses already testified. Awaiting judgment.
01 Feb 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Unknown	10,000	Out on bond
08 Feb 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Unknown Skin	Unkn	
24 Mar 2016	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	50,000	Suspect pleaded not guilty and released on a bond of \$ 50,000 each and \$ 50,000 surety each.
29 Mar 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	20,000	Suspect pleaded not guilty, bond review down to \$10,000. Out on bond
14 Apr 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	Not given	His release has not yet been effected.
15 May 2016	3	Bushmeat poaching	Giraffe	2,000	Awaiting judgement
02 Jun 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	In custody
14 Jun 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	This has been reviewed down to \$2,000. Out on bond.
31 Jul 2016	2	Habitat Destruction (Forest fire)		Not given	Out on a free bond
04 Aug 2016	1	Bushmeat poaching	Giraffe	1,000	Out on bond
07 Aug 2016	2	Bushmeat poaching	Grant's gazelle	2,000	Awaiting judgement
12 Aug 2016	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	2,000	Out on bond
16 Aug 2016	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	Not given	Suspect under investigation for previous crimes.
02 Sep 2016	3	Bushmeat poaching	Unknown	2,000	Suspect has not been arrested yet but there is a Warrant of Arrest.
25 Sep 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	20,000	Out on bond of \$10,000. One witness left to testify. Lab report indicates ivory

02 Oct 2016	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	5,000	National Museum expert to testify. One of the suspects is said to have had an accident on a motorbike.
11 Oct 2016	1	Habitat Destruction	Sandalwood	1,000	Out on bond. Arrest warrant issued because suspect has not attended court.
14 Oct 2016	2	Bushmeat poaching	Zebra	2,000	The suspect was not cooperating with the case, and was warned.
08 Nov 2016	5	Illegal trespassing		2,000	Out on bond
15 Nov 2016	4	Habitat Destruction	Sandalwood	1,000	Out on bond
19 Nov 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	20,000	In custody
07 Dec 2016	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	5,000	In custody
24 Dec 2016	2	Possession of trophy	Unknown	5,000	In custody
04 Jan 2017	3	Possession of trophy	Unknown	10,000	In custody
07 Jan 2017	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	In custody
16 Jan 2017	3	Possession of trophy	Elephant	15,000	Could not raise the bond. In custody
19 Jan 2017	1	Bushmeat poaching	Zebra	2,000	Could not raise the bond. In custody
04 Feb 2017	1	Elephant spearing	Elephant	500	Out on bond. DNA (blood) analysis being sought to match blood on spear.
09 Feb 2017	1	Possession of trophy	Unknown	10,000	Bond reviewed to 5,000
16 Mar 2017	1	Poaching intention		2,000	In custody. Suspect denies that he was arrested in Chyulu Hills NP.
18 Mar 2017	1	Bushmeat poaching	Giraffe	2,000	Case cannot be traced at the registry. Suspects possibly never taken to court for plea.
23 Mar 2017	3	Possession of trophy	Elephant, Python	10,000	Could not raise bond. In custody
15 Apr 2017	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	Could not raise bond. In custody
16 Apr 2017	2	Bushmeat poaching	Lesser kudu	2,000	In custody
28 Apr 2017	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	20,000	In custody. Bond raised from \$10,000 to \$20,000
05 May 2017	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	Could not raise the bond. In custody
10 May 2017	1	Possession of trophy	Python	2,000	Out on bond

13 May 2017	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	N/A	Investigation ongoing. One suspect never reached the court, instead she paid a police bond of \$300. Second suspect unknown bond.
01 Jun 2017	5	Possession of trophy	Elephant	15,000	In custody
04 Jun 2017	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	15,000	In custody
15 Jun 2017	2	Possession of trophy	Elephant	50,000	In custody
18 Jun 2017	4	Possession of trophy	Elephant	10,000	In custody
20 Jun 2017	1	Possession of trophy	Elephant	20,000	In custody
23 Jun 2017	1	Bushmeat poaching	Giraffe	2,000	In custody

## RHINO PROGRAM

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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 next five-year National Rhino Strategy is currently being drawn up. During the process, Big Life and KWS will undertake a review of the IPZ requirements and assess progress and next steps. The Rhino Strategy will incorporate said review either granting IPZ status or increasing the requirements, and will serve to lay out the next steps and a date for translocations within the five-year period.

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 northeastern 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 points 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 waterhole and an upgrade of water infrastructure will be necessary;

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 2017. Thanks to the DSWT and KWS, fencing of the specific rhino area is complete and plans for increasing the fence to secure contiguous areas are ongoing. However, we still need significant additional funding in order to complete the necessary improvements described above.

Please [donate now](#) to help us to achieve IPZ status in this critically-important rhino habitat.

## RHINO MONITORING

During the quarter, monitoring teams had seven direct rhino sightings, nine indirect sightings (via camera trap), and 90 sightings of spoor. (*Chester pictured below*)



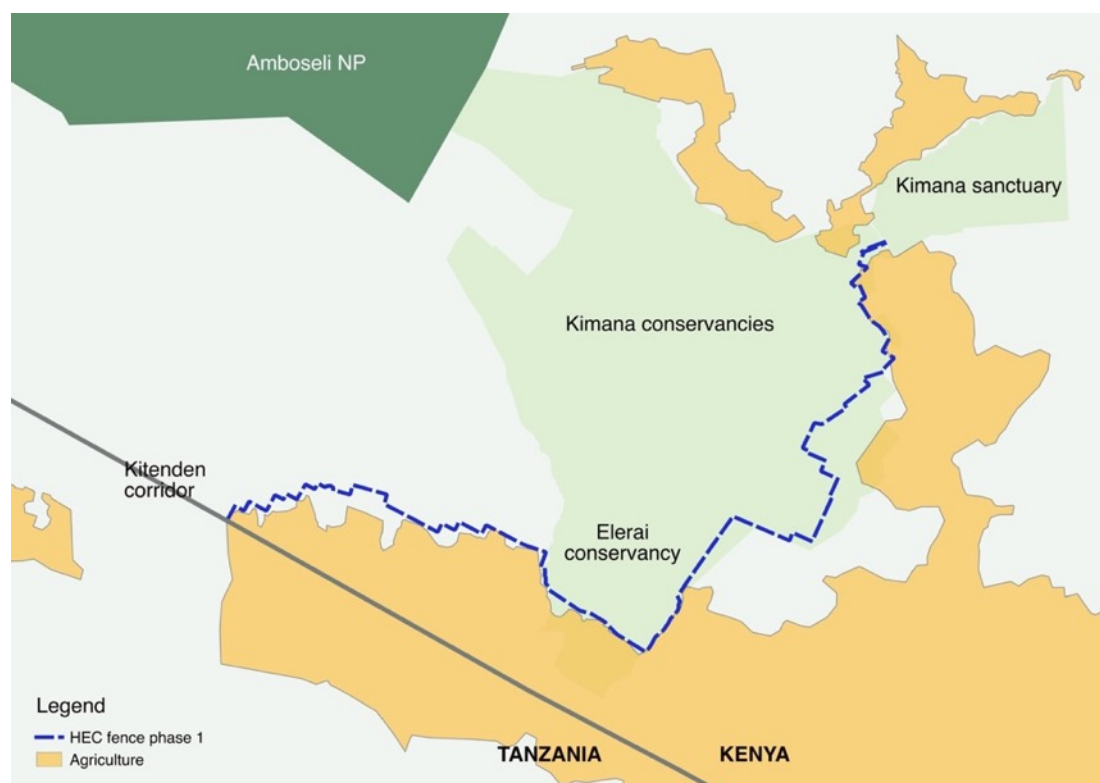
# HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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. HWC takes on three primary forms across Big Life’s AOO. The first type is raiding of crops by wildlife, largely elephants. The second form of HWC occurs when predators kill local pastoralist’ livestock (*detailed under ‘Predator Protection’*). The final form is when wildlife causes injury or death to humans. All three forms of HWC can (and do) incite deadly retaliatory attacks by the affected community. Incidents in which people are injured or killed appear to be happening more frequently, which has led to increased retaliation against and mortality of elephants. Fortunately, during the quarter, there were **no retaliatory hunts against elephants**.

## ELEPHANT EXCLUSION FENCE

To address and reduce HEC within the ecosystem, Big Life is working with communities to build and manage electric fences that separate farms and people from wildlife, particularly elephants.

Phase 1 of fence construction (shown in the map below), from the Kitenden corridor to the wildlife corridor north of Kimana town, was completed in April, and farmers have seen an immediate difference in the reduction of elephants raiding crops. As expected however, elephants have been getting around the fence at the open ends, which emphasizes the importance of proceeding with future fences of fencing as soon as possible.



Map showing alignment of HEC mitigation fence recently completed.

During the quarter, community engagement and fundraising for Phase 2 began. Alignment of the Phase 2 fence has not been confirmed, but will extend from the northern end of Phase 1. The final alignment and distance fenced will depend on funding available. Trained maintenance teams from the local communities along the fence continued routine maintenance for damages, of which there were 27 incidents, mainly caused by wildlife (10 from elephants, 8 from eland, 3 from giraffe, 2 from gazelles, 1 from buffalo, 2 from material malfunction, and 1 from a car crash). The majority of 'damage' is to outriggers, which only need to be straightened. Additionally, the majority of incidents involve wildlife that enter farming areas from the east which will be stopped with the Phase 2 fence.

Funds for maintenance of the fence will be contributed by the community, currently proposed at approximately \$10 per farmer per year. The community fence management committee has held a series of sensitization meetings with the community on the need to raise funds for maintenance, the responses have been positive but a functional system for collecting revenue is still being developed.

The first phase of fencing will secure the farming areas around to the south and east of the Kimana conservancies (Amboseli to the west is the main source of elephants moving into these areas). It will reduce farmer losses in addition to creating a hard boundary between agricultural land, and habitat for wildlife and livestock. Big Life is leasing the unconverted land on the outside of the fence through the Kimana lease program (*detailed below under Habitat Protection*). However, not all of the land in the conservancies has been leased and so there is more work to be done in future to generate more community benefits from these conservancies and encourage more landowners to sign up.

Once complete, the fences will funnel wildlife through a protected gap (<100 m) between the Kimana conservancies and the Kimana sanctuary, from where animals can move onto Kuku Group Ranch and beyond to Tsavo West National Park safely.

## HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT & CROP-RAIDING

Out of the **133 recorded crop-raiding incidents** in which wild animals were recorded damaging farmers crops in Q2, **elephants were responsible for 129 incidents**, and damaged **75.25 of the total 76.75 acres** of crops, significantly less damage reported than the previous quarter (151 incidents of elephant damage totalling 182 acres). (*see map next page*)

Big Life also mobilized community members to assist in the coordination and increased preemptive deployment of crop-protection rangers near routes that are commonly used by elephants. As a result, our rangers **prevented 147 incidents** before the animals could cause any damage, and before anyone (human or elephant) was harmed.

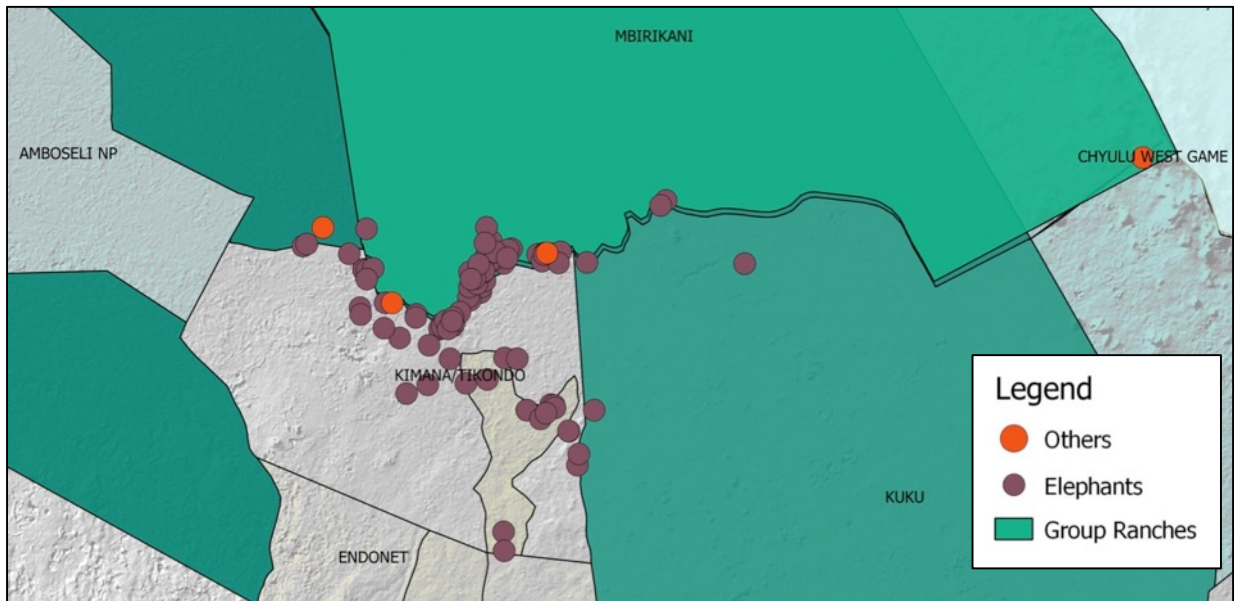


*Tim the elephant (left - ©Ryan Wilkie); Rangers chasing Tim out of community farms (right)*

Specifically, in a joint project with KWS, Save the Elephants, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, and Wildlife Direct, Big Life has been using tracking technology in the form of a satellite collar and associated app to track a well-known crop-raiding elephant, named Tim. Big Life rangers have been following Tim for the past nine months. He was collared on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 amid concerns that his habit of raiding farmers' crops presented a real and present danger to his life. The collar allows rangers to conduct nightly counter patrols to deter Tim from raiding farmers' crops. Over the past three months, Tim made 52 attempts to cross into cultivated areas for the purposes of foraging on crops. Our rangers were able to successfully intercept Tim and prevent him from entering farmland in exactly half of these raiding forays. This has been a huge improvement on past quarters. New personnel trackers fitted to the rangers are helping us to keep an eye on the situation as it develops each night to coordinate more effective counter patrols to protect farmland from elephant incursions.

**Number of incidents and acres damaged per crop species:**

Crop	Incidents	Area damaged (Acres)
Bananas	2	0.75
Beans	8	5.0
Cabbage	1	1.0
Maize	63	46.38
Kale	1	0.25
Onions	9	5.63
Peas	10	5.88
Pumpkins	1	0.25
Tomatoes	34	10.25
Watermelons	4	1.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>76.75</b>



*Map: Areas impacted by wildlife crop-raiding in the Amboseli ecosystem from April-June 2017*

## HUMAN INJURIES & DEATH

During the second quarter, one incident involving an elephant led to the tragic death of a person, while another person was injured by a giraffe.

### *Details:*

- **April 10:** A herder was kicked by a giraffe and suffered head injuries at Emukutan area, Mbirikani Group Ranch, but was suspected to be threatening the giraffe.
- **May 11:** While attempting to chase an elephant from his farm, a man was killed at Marura area, Mbirikani Group Ranch.

Big Life has created a Wildlife Conflict Scholarship fund to help support the families impacted by these unfortunate deaths. Please [donate now](#) if you would like to contribute.

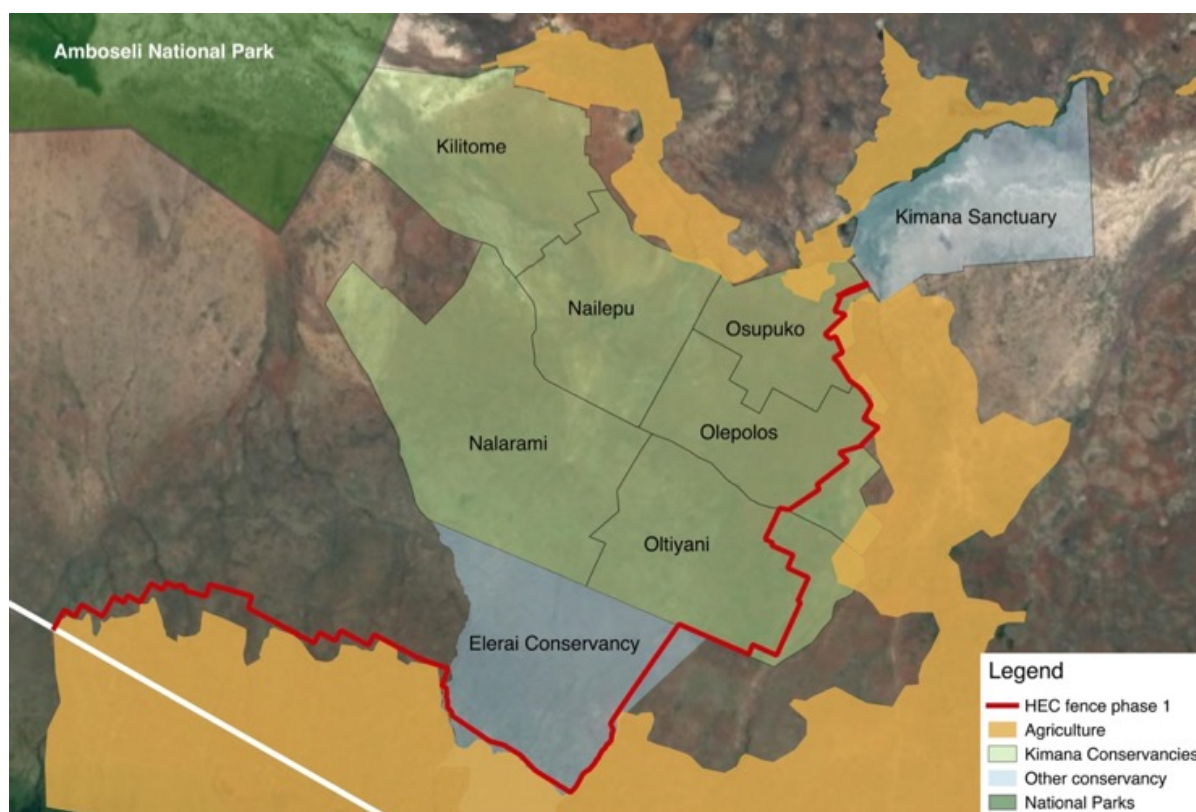


# HABITAT PROTECTION

## LAND LEASES

In June 2016, Big Life took over the management of land leases on 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 as part of the management transition to Big Life, with an increase in lease fees for a period of 15 years.

In the second quarter, attempts to convert unsigned landowners continued. Six new landowners were added to the Kilitome, Ole Polos, and Nalarami Conservancies. The conservancies were registered with Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association. Additionally, the second payment under the new agreement with Big Life (and higher lease fees) occurred successfully in June.



## PERMACULTURE

The Maasai have not traditionally been a farming community, but some areas within the ecosystem have been farmed for many decades. In the past, agricultural areas were either rain-fed or irrigated

from springs through networks of furrows, and this combined with poor market access confined the land-use to a limited area. Recent improvements in market access, and a growing demand from a burgeoning urban population in Nairobi, have incentivized the spread of agriculture. This has been facilitated by a proliferation of personal generators that allow people to pump water from springs and rivers, as well as the now well-established but largely illegal practice of tapping the Mbirikani water pipeline (fed by melt water from Kilimanjaro) for irrigation. The result has been excessive and unsustainable water use in addition to intensive use of pesticides and fertilizers, both of which are needed in increasing amounts as the soil degrades. Big Life is making an effort to address such issues through a permaculture project, in partnership with One Heart Farm as of early last year.

The project employs two men, one of whom is formally trained in permaculture techniques, and they have started a demonstration farm at a local primary school with the aim of supplying the school kitchen with healthy food and getting children involved in the process. At the end of 2016, the project was shifted to a farm in the agricultural zone of Namelok, where efforts are underway to create a commercial permaculture model. Various markets will be targeted for produce, including local lodges and towns, shops, and restaurants in Nairobi, and ideally some international buyers for specialist products. Once this commercial demonstration farm is up and running, the next step will be the facilitation of courses in permaculture design for local farmers. The aim of the project is to expand permaculture farming practices to all intensive agriculture zones within the ecosystem, to reduce water and chemical usage with resultant environmental benefits, and also to provide a means of engagement with local farmers, many of whom deal with HWC on an ongoing basis. The project will also increase income to local farmers through improved marketing structures over the long-term.

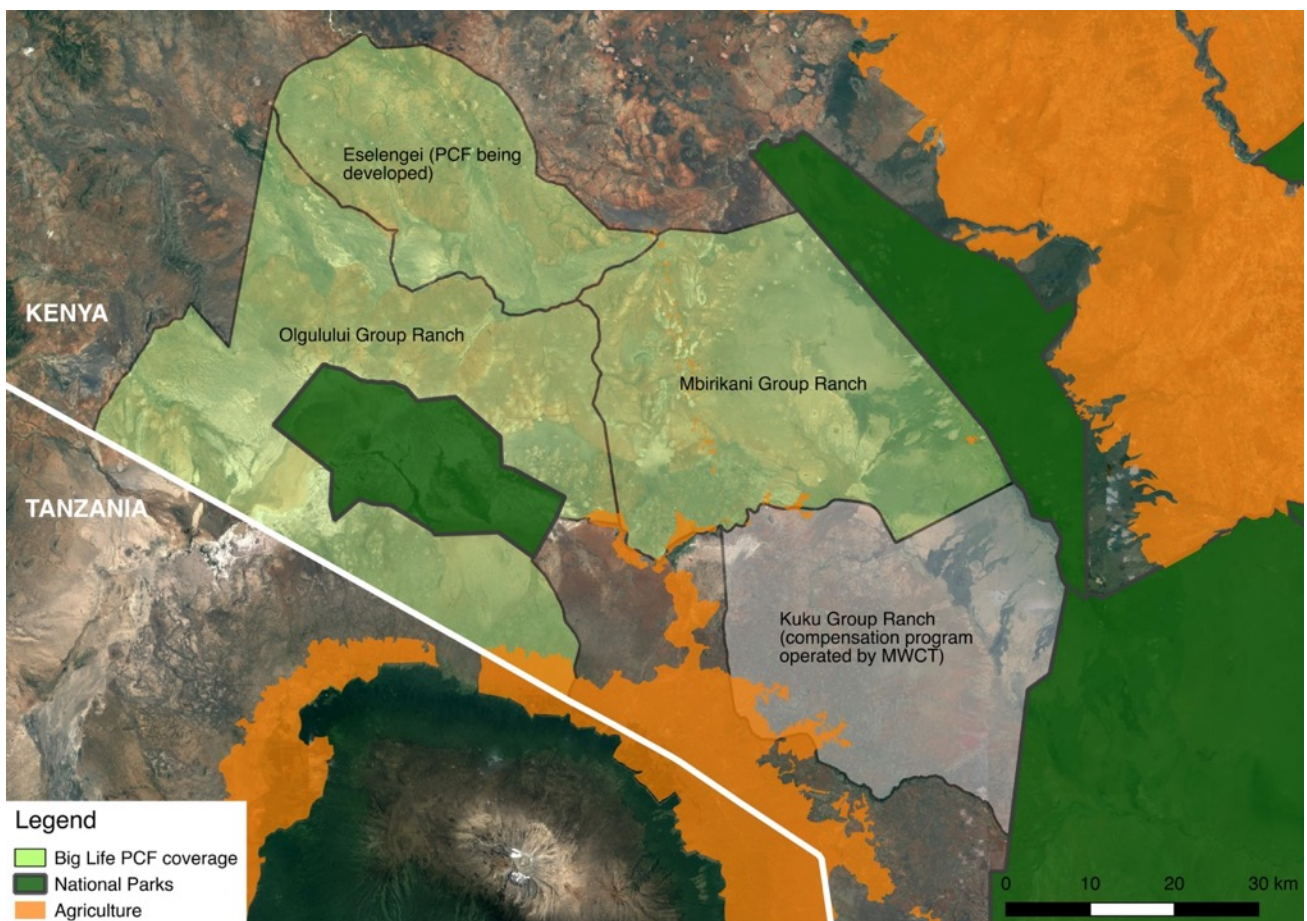
The farm at Enkijape Primary school is still developing, and recently a test lunch was done to feed the 700+ kids of the school using vegetables from the farm. This was successful, and the challenge in future will be covering the cost of the starch and protein to accompany the vegetables. Planting has now started on the farm by a women's group in Isinet, and planting will start on a second farm in Namelok in September. This will be the second farm in the Namelok area (and the fourth demonstration site in the ecosystem) and provide a site for the communal efforts of a permaculture group formed by 29 members of the community. Important next steps will be the development of marketing associations and opportunities.



# 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 is in discussion with some of these neighboring communities about the possibilities of establishing PCF programs 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 Big Life is working with local communities to achieve 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 women 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 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 second quarter of 2017:

	CATTLE	SHOATS	DONKEYS	CAMELS	TOTAL	USD
Cheetah	8	54	-	-	62	2,528
Hyena	116	189	12	-	317	13,869
Jackal	-	63	-	-	63	1,178
Leopard	1	4	-	-	5	234
Lion	27	8	2	1	38	5,178
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>22,987</b>

Additionally, this quarter Big Life began training Verification Officers and formalizing agreements to expand PCF onto Eselengei Group Ranch in the north of the ecosystem. Due to funding limitations the initial PCF agreement will only cover livestock killed by lion, leopard, and wild dog.



*Livestock are herded into a traditional enclosure (boma) for protection from predators at night*

## 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.

Working together, Big Life's rangers, informers, and PCF personnel, often in conjunction with partners at KWS and Lion Guardians (LG) stop lion hunting parties before they can kill. This quarter we **stopped two lion hunts**.

## LION HUNTS STOPPED

*Details:*

- **May 25:** A pride of four lions broke into a boma and killed a cow at Noosilale area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. A hunting party of warriors was reported. The Clinic team and LG successfully intercepted the seven morans and ended the hunt.
- **June 17:** A pride of lions killed 11 shoats (sheep/goats) inside a boma in Kunchu area, Kaputei (outside Big Life's AOO). The next morning, 25 warriors went out to hunt the cats, but the RDU were able to move the lions into Eselengei Conservancy. Rangers then convinced the warriors to stop the hunt with the promise of compensation. (*pictured below*)



## PREDATOR MORTALITIES

**One predator mortality** was recorded during the quarter, which was as a result of human retaliation, but was **committed by communities not participating in PCF**.

*Details:*

- **April 12:** Lions killed two cows inside a boma at Lenkopito area, Rombo Group Ranch. Morans tracked the lion pride and killing one sub-adult male. Ranger teams from Big Life's Rombo Unit, MWCT and KWS found the carcass without claws and teeth (removed as

trophies). Rangers removed the tail (which is also typically taken as a trophy). Follow-up investigation resulted in the arrest of two suspects by Rombo unit and KWS on April 18.



## MORAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

While 2017 is an 'off' year for the Maasai Olympics, engagement of the warriors, the Menye Layiok (or '*cultural fathers*') and the general Maasai community on important conservation issues continues. This ensures that the conservation education provided during the Maasai Olympics is continually reinforced, and that the passion and zeal generated during and immediately following the sports competitions (which took place in December 2016) do not die out.

During the second quarter, community engagement occurred informally at community meetings throughout the ecosystem.

To help fund future Maasai Olympics events, please [donate now](#).

# EDUCATION & HEALTH

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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 Program is **currently supporting 189 students** from Mbirikani Group Ranch, from primary to tertiary level, and we are excited to announce that this program is expanding to neighbouring ranches.

During the second quarter:

- A group of 25 teachers, students, and parents from Highland School, Virginia, visited their sister school, Enkijape Primary School, and taught classes about US–Kenya trade and relations, American wildlife, as well as art classes. Highland School visits Enkijape annually and sponsors teachers' salaries and student scholarships. (*pictured below: welcome ceremony*)



- With the aim of expanding the Wildlife Scholarship Program to Olgulului and Kimana Group Ranches, Big Life's newly employed Education Officer began engaging local lodges and KWS, via Amboseli Park gates, in providing information to their guests about Big Life's scholarship program.
- Orbili School—where a private donor has funded a boarding facility for students and teachers—received support for an electric fence from the Constituency Development Fund. The fence was commissioned by Katoo Ole Metito, Member of Parliament for Kajiado South, in a colorful ceremony that was attended by Big Life staff (*pictured below-left*).



- Big Life's Wildlife Scholarship Programs Manager visited Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland on an outreach trip. He visited Highland School in Warrenton Virginia (*pictured above-right*), where he talked to students and teachers about the wildlife conservation work being done by Big Life on the ground in Africa – by engaging with and working with local communities. The interest and passion for wildlife conservation was demonstrated by two third grade students who organized a local rummage sale of donated items to raise money for Big Life.
- Big Life held a student open day for those with scholarships to engage them in conservation-related presentations and a film, as well as a competition for the best wildlife-related poem or speech.

In addition to education scholarships, Big Life's in-school Conservation Education Program continues to engage students on the importance of conservation and natural resource management. Our Education Officer visited 13 schools across Mbirikani Group Ranch teaching students conservation-related topics and showing wildlife films. This quarter, we **engaged 1,435 teachers and students** on multiple topics and occasions. Presentation topics included adaptations of animals, the food chain, and endangered species (elephants, predators, and giraffes). Short films shown include: The Lion Couple, Elephant Song, Why Elephant Has a Trunk, Why Giraffe Has A Long Neck, and The Fastest Family.



*Students listening to conservation lesson (left); Students from other classes trying to listen from outside (right)*



A highlight this quarter, as in past quarters, was a visit to Amboseli National Park for 30 students and six teachers (*pictured below*), many of which have never been to the park, or had a positive experience with wildlife and seeing wildlife behaving naturally. These visits provide an opportunity to explain that wildlife don't maliciously crop-raid, kill livestock, or injure/kill humans, but rather because people have invaded wildlife habitat and taking resources (like food and water) that they need to survive.



Students enjoyed seeing hyena the most, and were surprised to learn that they are not just scavengers, but also hunt prey. When the students saw the elephants grazing very close to the bus, they understood that they are very calm animals and the infrequent injuries or deaths caused by elephants in their villages are often a result of scarce resources brought about by cultivation of wetlands, increased human populations, climate change, and retaliations brought about by humans.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student, or providing other educational support, please [donate now](#).

## HEALTH

Big Life is working with partners Dandelion Africa, funded by Chase Africa, to facilitate mobile clinics focusing on healthcare and family planning in local communities within our AOO. During the quarter, two clinics were held on Mbirikani Group Ranch that reached hundreds of men, women, and children (*pictured below*).



# 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.

