



# **BIG LIFE** FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT:  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 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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In the past, reflecting on the final quarter of the year has been an exercise in assessing our strengths, weaknesses, accomplishments, and failures. There are always lessons to be learned, ways to improve, and programs to expand as we fight to protect this precious ecosystem, one that I am lucky to call home, and one of the last truly wild places where humans are coexisting with wildlife in large numbers.

This time, reflecting on the past year has been overshadowed by the tragic loss of one of Big Life's rangers. The loss of any human life is a tragedy, and living with wildlife affects all of us living here. Some more than others. For the rangers, who put their lives on the line 24/7, I have held my breath everyday since we first got our anti-poaching program off the ground in 2010 with the establishment of Big Life that someone would be lost in the line of duty.

That day came at the end of 2017, just before Christmas, when one of our rangers from the rhino unit operating in the Chyulu Hills National Park was walking back to work after celebrating the holiday with his family and startled a bull elephant, alone in the bush. The chance encounter could have happened to anyone, but it feels especially tragic that a Big Life ranger was killed by one of the animals he had worked so hard to protect.

Kior Kulwa died in the heart of the ecosystem he had bravely fought to protect. While it doesn't replace a life, we have covered the costs of his funeral and hired one of his sons to support the family and continue his legacy. We will also strive to honor Kior's memory through our Fallen Ranger Fund, created to help support the families of Big Life rangers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

I wish I could focus on the good news in the fourth quarter, of which there was plenty: No lion hunts occurred. Over 200 kg of ivory was confiscated, and 84 suspects in 38 incidents were arrested. Six court cases were concluded, including stiff punishment for two suspects caught trafficking ivory: five years in prison and a US \$10,000 fine for each of them. The following report speaks for itself of the good work that all the men and women of Big Life have dedicated their lives to.

For now, we honor the memory of our fallen ranger, Kior, and are resolute in our vision to achieve a world in which protecting wildlife benefits all.

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

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

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 4<sup>TH</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: 84 suspects were arrested in 38 incidents. 263 kg of illegal ivory was confiscated. Two elephants were unfortunately poached (one confirmed and one unconfirmed), two died of unknown causes, and 13 died due to ongoing drought conditions. One elephant received treatment for injuries and one calf rescued. In addition, 24 rangers received training on first-aid, search and rescue, and arrest procedures.

### PROSECUTIONS

OVERVIEW: Six wildlife crime cases were concluded, and 90 are ongoing.

ACHIEVEMENTS: 34 magistrates, two prosecutors and four KWS personnel received sensitization and training on the illegal wildlife trade, Kenya's Wildlife Act, and challenges faced in prosecuting wildlife crime to improve conviction success in the future.

### HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

OVERVIEW: There were 112 crop-raiding incidents, of which 106 were caused by elephants. 57.5 acres were damaged, 53.75 of which was caused by elephants. Two humans were tragically killed by elephants in the process.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Phase 2 of the crop-protection fence began with community sensitization and meetings regarding alignment, engagement of the surveyor and contractor, and purchase of materials. One retaliatory hunt against elephants was avoided due to early intervention. Dedicated ranger units prevented 98 crop-raiding incidents. Herders were compensated a total of \$46,781 USD for livestock that was killed by predators, and zero lion hunts or predator mortalities occurred.

### EDUCATION & HEALTH

OVERVIEW: Big Life funds the salaries of 32 teachers and sponsors the school fees for 205 students.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Conservation curriculum reached 1,238 teachers and students. Four mobile clinics focusing on family planning were conducted on Mbirikani Group Ranch.

# WILDLIFE SECURITY

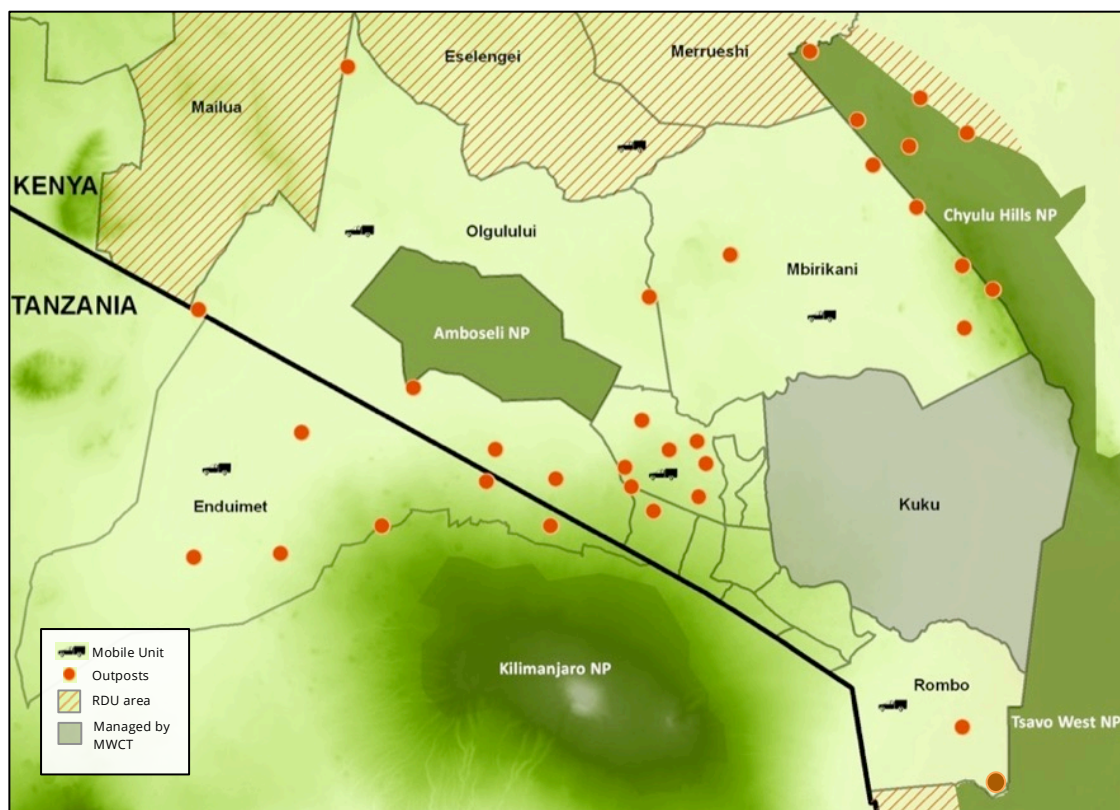
During the fourth quarter of 2017, Big Life rangers patrolled over **19,550 km** by foot and **75,010 km** by vehicle.

Big Life rangers **arrested 84 suspects in 38 incidents** of illegal activity (details next page). Of these, **40 suspects were arrested in 25 poaching-related incidents**, including **30 suspected trophy dealers**. Rangers **recovered 263 kg of ivory** from arrests. Less than one quarter of the poaching-related incidents (trophy poaching, dealing, and bushmeat) took place inside 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), and 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

On the Kenyan side of the ecosystem, there are 28 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. There are a total of 38 units in Kenya, currently comprising more than 220 trained rangers, and more than 300 field staff in the wildlife protection network managed and/or funded by Big Life.

The community rangers across the border in Tanzania have been fully funded and managed by our partners at Honeyguide Foundation, and are not reflected in our 2017 statistics. However, Big Life will be taking on the management of these rangers again in 2018. Stay tuned for future updates on our efforts in Tanzania and our increased focus on cross-border protection.

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](mailto:donations@biglife.org) for additional information.

## RANGER TRAININGS

During the quarter, **24 rangers received advanced training** to improve their knowledge and skills:

- **October 15:** Ten rangers successfully completed a two-month training course at KWS Manyani Law Enforcement Academy.
- **November 3 & 14:** Fourteen rangers completed practical training on first aid - bleeding control and search and arrest procedures.

## INCIDENTS & ARRESTS

Crime Category	Crime Type	Incidents				Suspects Arrested			
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Community Crimes	Assault	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Theft	1	-	1	2	1	-	3	4
Encroachment	Trespassing	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
Habitat Destruction	Charcoal production	2	1	1	4	5	2	8	15
	Illegal sand harvesting	-	-	1	1	-	-	10	10
	Illegal water pumping	-	-	2	2	-	-	4	4
	Illegal well drilling	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	5
	Logging	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	3
Poaching	Bushmeat	2	5	-	7	2	5	-	7
	Intention to hunt	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
	Trophy Possession	6	6	4	16	12	11	7	30
Wildlife Trafficking	Trading in live wildlife	-	2*	-	2*	-	4**	-	4**
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>84</b>

\* One of the incidents here was also included under Trophy Possession, because it involved multiple crime charges, but the incident is not double counted in the overall total below.

\*\* Three of the suspected included here were also included under Trophy Possession, because they were involved in multiple crimes, but the suspects were not double counted in the overall total below.

## CONFISCATED ITEMS

Item	Total
Bows	3
Charcoal bags	10
Charcoal kilns	9
Ivory (kg)	263
Kadoo lights	2
Knife	1
Leopard skins	4
Machetes	3
Motorbikes	5
Non-poisoned arrows	16

Item	Total
Pangolin (live)	2
Pangolin scales	2 kg
Python skins	7
Quiver	1
Snares (general)	1
Spade	1
Torches	1
Vehicle <5t	1
Vehicle >5t	2
Water pumps	3

## WILDLIFE TROPHY INCIDENTS

Unfortunately, **one confirmed elephant poaching and one suspected poaching** incident occurred within Big Life's area of operation (AOO) during the fourth quarter. However, **31 people were arrested** in connection with **trading in wildlife trophies or live endangered species (pangolin)**, in 17 incidents. All of the incidents below were joint operations between the Big Life Intelligence Unit and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and all but one took place outside Big Life's Core AOO.

*Details:*

- **October 5:** One suspect arrested in the city of Mombasa with 30 kg ivory.
- **October 7:** Two suspects arrested with two python skins measuring 9 and 6 feet at Mlolongo town, Machakos County.
- **October 11:** Big Life intelligence and RDU arrested two suspects with 5 kg ivory along Emali-Loitoktok highway, Kaputei Group Ranch. *Pictured right.*
- **October 13:** Three suspects arrested with 34 kg ivory at Kyumaini-Masangani area, Taita Taveta County.
- **October 14:** Two suspects arrested with 30 kg ivory at Nakuru town, Nakuru County.
- **October 23:** Two suspects arrested with 3 leopard skins at Malindi town, Mombasa County.
- **November 2:** One suspect arrested trading a live pangolin at Taveta area, Taita Taveta County.





- **November 11:** Big Life intelligence, RDU, and KWS arrested one suspect with two python skins totalling 42 ft at Kalamba area, Makueni County. *Pictured below-left.*



- **November 11:** Two suspects arrested with 25 kg ivory at Mikindure area, Nairobi County. *Pictured above-right.*
- **November 19:** Three suspects arrested trading a live pangolin and a 15 ft python skin at Mwangulu town, Kwale County.
- **November 26:** One suspect arrested with 10 kg ivory at Landi Mwatate area, Taita Taveta County.
- **November 26:** One suspect arrested with a 15 ft python skin at Voi town, Taita Taveta County.
- **November 28:** Three suspects arrested with 79 kg ivory at Chogoria area, Embu County.
- **December 13:** Three suspects arrested with scales from two pangolins at Mlolongo town, Machakos County.
- **December 14:** Big Life intelligence, RDU and KWS arrested one suspect with a 9 ft python skin at Kiunduani area, Makueni County.
- **December 16:** Two suspects arrested at Kwale town, Kwale County with 50 kg ivory. *Pictured below-left.*



- **December 16:** One suspect arrested at Kimana town, Kimana Group Ranch with a leopard skin. *Pictured above-right.*

# ELEPHANT MORTALITIES

## Total dead: 18

Total dead *within* Big Life's Core AOO: 15

Total dead *in* Big Life's Non-Core AOO: 3

During the fourth quarter, **18 elephant mortalities** were recorded; the majority (**14**) were suspected due to drought (and thus, **natural**); **two from poaching** (one confirmed and one suspected), and **two** from **unknown causes**. Tusks were recovered in all but one case; three of the elephants had not yet developed tusks.

### Details:

- **October 7:** Esiteti Unit found *two* carcasses of juvenile elephants at Ilchoroi Lelenkolong area, Olgulului group ranch (*one pictured below*). Cause of death, suspected drought. Ivory recovered from both.



- **October 10:** Esiteti Unit found a carcass of a sub-adult female elephant at the public campsite area, Olgulului group ranch. Suspected to have died from drought. Ivory recovered.
- **October 19:** Esiteti Unit found a decomposed carcass of an adult female elephant at the area between Observation hill and the public campsite in Amboseli National Park. Suspected cause of death to be from drought. Ivory recovered.
- **October 29:** Mobile 1 Unit found an elephant carcass at Musembei area, Chyulu Hills National Park. Gender and age unknown due to the level of decomposition after several weeks. Cause of death, however, is suspected poaching, as the ivory was missing, chopped out using an axe. However, a follow-up investigation led to the recovery of the ivory at a later date.
- **November 1:** Esiteti Unit and KWS received information from an informer of an adult female elephant carcass at Tortilis area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Ivory recovered.
- **November 6:** Esiteti, Ossewan, and RRU Units found a carcass of a juvenile elephant at Olobelibel area, Eselenkei Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Ivory recovered.

- **November 7:** Lemomo Unit found a fresh carcass of a juvenile male elephant at Isoitok Ormaima area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Death is suspected drought. Tusks not yet developed.
- **November 8:** Lemomo and KWS found a carcass of pregnant female at Oldule area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Death is suspected drought. Ivory recovered.
- **November 15:** Lemomo, Ilmarba, and KWS Units responded to information of an adult female carcass at Enkoikuma Oldule area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Ivory recovered. *Pictured below-left.*



- **November 16:** Lemomo and Ilmarba Units found an estimated two-week old carcass of an adult female elephant at Oldepe area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Ivory recovered. *Pictured above-right.*
- **November 18:** Ilmarba Unit found a two-day old carcass of a juvenile male elephant at Idonyo Olmoti area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Ivory recovered.



- **November 22:** Lemomo Unit found a carcass of a juvenile male elephant at Olkolili area, Olgulului Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Tusks not yet developed.
- **November 24:** RDU and Lion Guardians found a juvenile elephant carcass at Noositok area, Eselenkei Group Ranch. Cause of death is suspected drought. Tusks not yet developed.

- **November 25:** Kilitome Unit, Amboseli Trust for Elephants and KWS found a fresh carcass of a female elephant at Lemongo area, Kimana Group Ranch. Drought is suspected as the cause of death. Ivory was recovered.
- **December 5:** Ilmarba Unit found a three-day-old carcass of an adult male elephant at Lekiteng area, Olgulului Group Ranch. The bull had a fresh spear injury on its right side, near the right front leg. The carcass was covered with branches to conceal it. Cause of death was confirmed poaching. Ivory was missing, chopped out with an axe. Investigation is ongoing.
- **December 7:** New-site Unit found a decomposed carcass of an adult male elephant, named Jagged Ear, at Nyumbani area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Cause of death is unknown. Ivory recovered. *Pictured below.*



- **December 26:** DSWT's plane on aerial patrol at Kivuvuani area, just outside Chyulu Hills National Park fence, spotted an old carcass of an adult elephant. Our Mukururo Unit and KWS confirmed the carcass. Cause of death unknown. The ivory was missing (opportunistically pulled out), but the teams found them hidden under rocks nearby.

## ELEPHANT INJURIES

**Treated in Big Life's AOO: 1** (with KWS & the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust [DSWT] mobile veterinarian)

**Not treated: 2**

*Details of elephants treated:*

- **December 12:** Mobile 1 and Mobile 2 found a sub-adult male elephant shedding blood on the right side at the ribs at Maisuyati area, Kuku Group Ranch. The KWS vet from Amboseli was called in and treated the elephant of an estimated one-week-old spear injury. Unfortunately, the injury was too severe, and he died shortly after walking a few meters from the treatment scene.

*Not treated:*

- **October 7:** The RDU found an adult male elephant with trouble walking from a swollen left back leg at Ngoto Nkitengen area, Eselenkei Group Ranch. The KWS Amboseli vet was called and rushed to the area, but confirmed that the bull was still strong and advised the rangers to continue monitoring it.
- **December 27:** An Amboseli Trust for Elephants ranger reported a male elephant that was not moving or feeding at Itangoringo area, Eselenkei Group Ranch. The RDU rushed to the area, but did not find the elephant.

## ELEPHANT RESCUE

### Rescued: 1

- **November 23:** Nailepu and Bravo 3 Units found a male elephant calf wandering alone at Irkolil area, Kimana Group Ranch. The calf followed the rangers to Bravo 3 base and spent the night with them (*pictured right*). He was handed over to DSWT the following day.



## OTHER WILDLIFE RESCUES

### Total rescued: 13

*Details:*

- **October 3:** Mobile 1 rangers on patrol at Marura area, Mbirikani Group Ranch found a zebra that was stuck in Marura natural stream. They pulled the animal out. The next day, the zebra was stuck again, but rangers were unable to rescue it. On the 5<sup>th</sup> rangers were able to remove the zebra but it later died.
- **October 4:** Esiteti Unit rescued a male adult wildebeest from an artificial water pan at Lenkolong area, Amboseli National Park.
- **October 15:** Mobile 2 rescued a wildebeest that was stuck in Marura swamp, Mbirikani Group Ranch.
- **October 15:** Mobile 2 rescued a wildebeest that was tangled by the elephant fence on its hind left leg at section of the fence near the Kimana Sanctuary.
- **October 15:** Mobile 2 captured a distressed wildebeest that was running after people at Embooncho area, Mbirikani Group Ranch, and translocated it to into Kimana Sanctuary.

- **October 18:** Esiteti rangers rescued a sub-adult male Zebra that was stuck inside an artificial well at Inkishingini area, Olgulului Group Ranch.
- **October 20:** Mobile 1 rescued an adult female zebra that was stuck in a natural water pan at Marura area, Mbirikani Group Ranch.
- **October 21:** Ilmarba Unit rescued an eland calf that was reported by the community inside a boma at Ilmarba area, Olgulului Group Ranch. They handed it to KWS Amboseli at their headquarters.
- **October 30:** Ossewan Unit rescued an adult male zebra that wandered into a garage inside Namanga town. Using a BLF vehicle they captured and translocated it to Mangula area, but unfortunately it died the following day.
- **October 31:** Mobile 1 rescued a sub-adult male zebra that fell into an artificial pit at Mbirikani Group Ranch.
- **November 2:** One suspect was arrested trying to sell a live pangolin at Taveta area, Taita Taveta County. He was arrested and the pangolin was safely released in Tsavo National Park.
- **November 19:** Three suspects were arrested trying to sell a live pangolin at Mwangulu town, Kwale County. Rangers released the pangolin in Tsavo National Park.
- **December 18:** Mobile 1 rescued a young impala that got trapped inside a wire fence enclosure at Esambu area, Mbirikani Group Ranch.

## BUSHMEAT POACHING

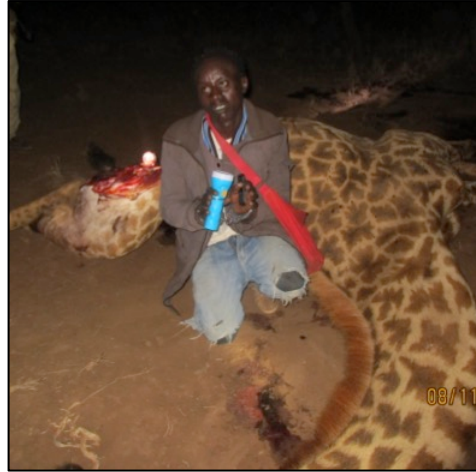
Poaching for bushmeat continues throughout the ecosystem, especially in areas with high densities of both people and wildlife, and along the extreme edges of Big Life's AOO. Bushmeat poaching decreased significantly over the reporting period, **7 suspects were arrested in 7 incidents**, an additional 2 suspects were arrested before they could kill, and another incident unfortunately did not lead to an arrest. Lower poaching incidents in the 4th quarter is attributed to wetter conditions, as the rains arrived in late October/early November, and casual farming laborers, who are typically involved in bushmeat poaching during the dry season, are busy farming. Additionally, wildlife is no longer concentrated around water points, as they are during the dry season, making them harder to target. The table below details animals killed by poachers during the quarter.

Month	Buffalo	Bushbuck	Dik-dik	Grant's gazelle	Giraffe	Harte-beest	Impala	Lesser kudu	Porcupine	Total
<b>Oct</b>	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	<b>5</b>
<b>Nov</b>	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	<b>6</b>
<b>Dec</b>	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>

*Details:*

- **October 1:** Ossewan Unit arrested one suspect from Tanzania with 10 kg lesser kudu meat at Irpartimaro, Matapato Group Ranch.

- **October 20:** Big Life's Chyulu Unit, DSWT, and KWS jointly arrested one suspect with 25 kg of bushbuck and hartebeest meat.
- **October 22:** Rombo Unit arrested two suspects who intended to hunt at Pasito area, Rombo Group Ranch, but were caught before they could kill. *Pictured below*



- **November 8:** Olepolos, Mobile 1 and Mobile 2 Units arrested one suspect while two others escaped at Inkisanjani area, Kuku Group Ranch. The suspect had 71 kg giraffe meat. *Pictured above.*
- **November 11:** Mobile 2 arrested one suspect at Oloile area, Kimana Group Ranch with 2 kg Hartebeest meat.



- **November 11:** Olepolos and Mobile 1 Units arrested one suspect with 12 kg impala meat at Olkaria area, Kuku Group Ranch.
- **November 12:** Satao Elerai arrested one suspect with some dik-dik meat at Bondeni area, Kimana Group Ranch.
- **November 25:** Mobile 1 arrested one suspect with 150 kg giraffe meat at Olorika area, Kuku Group Ranch.
- **December 6:** Didima rangers laid an ambush at Wikiamba area, following an informer tip of three men who were seen heading towards Chyulu Hills National Park with bows and arrows. They unfortunately escaped.

## HABITAT DESTRUCTION

During the fourth quarter, **37 arrests** were made in **9 incidents**.

*Details:*

- **October 8:** Mangula Unit stopped three loggers found cutting down trees at the border of Mailua and Olgulului Group Ranches. The group ranch leaders from both sides ordered the landowner to stop the illegal activity.
- **October 13:** Clinic Unit arrested three women preparing charcoal kilns at Olopololi area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Rangers gave the women a warning and released them after destroying the kilns.
- **October 29:** Mobile 2 intercepted a motorbike carrying five bags of charcoal at Oltepesi area, Kimana Group Ranch. The two riders were arrested for illegal charcoal production and were booked at Loitoktok police station.
- **November 2:** RDU arrested two charcoal producers transporting five bags of charcoal in a car at Emotoroki area, Matapato Group Ranch. Booked at the office of assistant county commissioner-Lenkisem.
- **December 20:** Rombo Unit arrested three people illegally pumping water from Tsavo River, Rombo Group Ranch. Taken to the Assistant County Commissioner's office where they were verbally warned and released.
- **December 21:** Clinic Unit arrested 10 people illegally harvesting sand at Oloturo area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Verbally warned and released by the Group Ranch officials.
- **December 22:** Nailepu Unit arrested five people illegally drilling a well inside Nalarami Conservancy, Kimana Group Ranch, against the conservancy regulations. They were booked at Loitoktok police station.
- **December 24:** Rombo Unit arrested one person illegally pumping water from Inkiitok River, Rombo Group Ranch. Verbally warned and released by the area chief.
- **December 26:** Rombo Unit arrested eight women producing charcoal at Lemongo area, Rombo Group Ranch. Verbally warned and released by the group ranch officials and the area chief.

## COMMUNITY CRIMES

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

*Details:*

- **October 5:** Mobile 1 arrested a 12-year-old boy who had stolen 20 goats at Olng'osua area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Rangers returned the livestock and the owner asked our rangers to release the boy.



- **December 23:** Mobile 1 arrested three accomplices of a thief who escaped after stealing some money from a farmer at Enkii area, Kuku Group Ranch. They were booked at Loitoktok police station.
- **December 30:** Clinic Unit arrested one person who assaulted another with a jembe, during a water irrigation dispute, causing a serious head injury at Empooncho area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. They were booked at Kimana police station

## 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 leads to wandering behaviour. During the quarter, **seven people were found** in seven incidents.

### *Details*

- **October 1:** A herder reported a woman with mental health issues found wandering alone at Enchurai area, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Our Clinic rangers rushed to the area and brought her to Isinet Town.
- **October 9:** Clinic and Dog Units helped find a 14-year-old girl on Mbirikani Group Ranch who ran away because she did not want to attend school. The girl was returned to her family.
- **October 25:** New-site Unit found a man with mental health issues wandering in the bush of Lodokishu, Mbirikani Group Ranch. Rangers brought him to Mbirikani Police base.
- **November 4:** Esiteti rangers assisted the community in the search and rescue of a boy that got lost in Risa area, Olgulului Group Ranch. He was safely found the following day.
- **November 17:** Satellite, Canine, Mobile 1 Units, and KWS assisted the community in the search and rescue of a 9-year-old who got lost while looking after livestock at Lemasusu area, Mbirikani Group Ranch.
- **December 17:** RDU found a woman with mental health issues found wandering in the bush of Olopololi Loloirero, Eselengei Group Ranch Rangers brought her to her family.
- **December 18:** Esiteti, Risa, and Dog Units, with support from Big Life's aerial team, participated in a two-day search and rescue of a lost child at Noosilale area, Olgulului Group Ranch. They found the boy and returned him to his family.

# PROSECUTIONS

During the fourth quarter, Big Life's Prosecution Officer regularly attended courts cases across the region to monitor wildlife-related crime cases that Big Life rangers or intelligence were involved in. Big Life also **facilitated two trainings: one with 14 magistrates**, two prosecutors, and four KWS personnel, **and a second training with 20 additional magistrates**, regarding the importance of conservation, the illegal wildlife trade, Kenya's Wildlife Act, and the challenges faced in prosecuting wildlife suspected criminals.

**Six wildlife-crime cases were concluded** during the quarter:

Date	No. Suspect	Crime	Weight	Remarks
15-Jun-17	2	Possession of trophy - Ivory	24 kg	Sentenced to five years in prison <i>and</i> a \$10,000 fine each.
15-Sep-17	1	Bushmeat - Giraffe	200 kg	Two years in prison <i>or</i> a \$4,000 fine.
08-Nov-17	1	Bushmeat - Giraffe	71 kg	Two years in prison <i>or</i> a fine of \$500.
08-Nov-17	1	Bushmeat - Grant's Gazelle	2 kg	Two years in prison <i>or</i> a fine of \$500.
12-Nov-17	1	Bushmeat - Impala	12 kg	Two years in prison <i>or</i> a \$2,000 fine.
12-Nov-17	1	Bushmeat - Dik-dik	5 kg	Two years in prison <i>or</i> a \$2,000 fine.

The summary table below outlines the **90 ongoing cases that are** being monitored:

Crime	No. incidents	No. Suspects
Bushmeat poaching	24	61
Elephant spearing	2	3
Habitat destruction	3	7
Illegal trespassing	1	5
Lion poisoning	1	2
Poaching intention	6	6
Trophy possession (ivory)	40	77
Trophy possession (skin)	10	12
Trophy possession (pangolin)*	3	7

\* *Big Life's Prosecutions Officer is still following up with KWS and Police to get details regarding items confiscated in 'Trophy Poaching (unknown)' cases.*

# 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 a free-roaming black rhino range becomes vitally important for the preservation of the species and the well-being of individual animals.

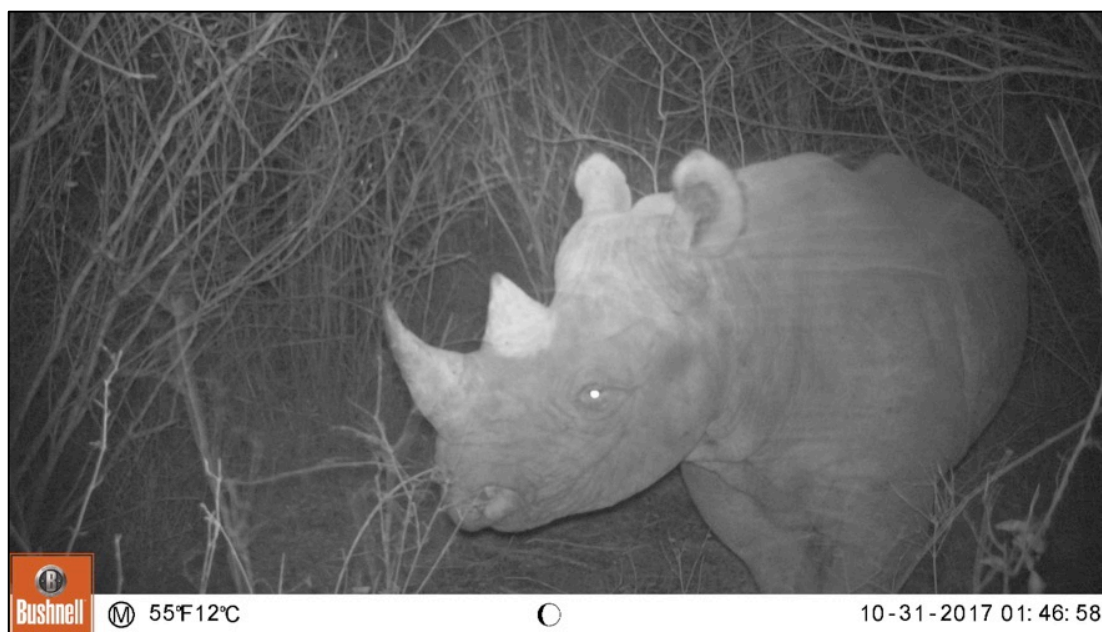
In order to qualify as an IPZ, the Chyulu Hills area needs to meet a number of minimum requirements designed to ensure that the rhino population (whether augmented by inbound translocations or not) receives sufficient protection and monitoring and will continue to do so. The next five-year National Rhino Strategy is currently being drawn up.

Together with key partners, we hope to achieve IPZ status by mid-2018, pending completion of the National Rhino Strategy. 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 necessary for IPZ.

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

## RHINO MONITORING

During the quarter, monitoring teams had zero direct rhino sightings, 15 indirect sightings (via camera trap), plus 72 sightings of spoor or other rhino signs. There were zero incidents. (*Chester, pictured below*)



# HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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Human-wildlife conflict (HWC), specifically **human-elephant conflict** (HEC), continues to be the **most significant threat** to the ongoing conservation of wildlife within the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem. 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. We are actively working to reduce HWC, particularly with the elephant exclusion fence described below. During the quarter, **one retaliatory hunt against elephants was avoided** thanks to early intervention by Big Life rangers and KWS.

## Details:

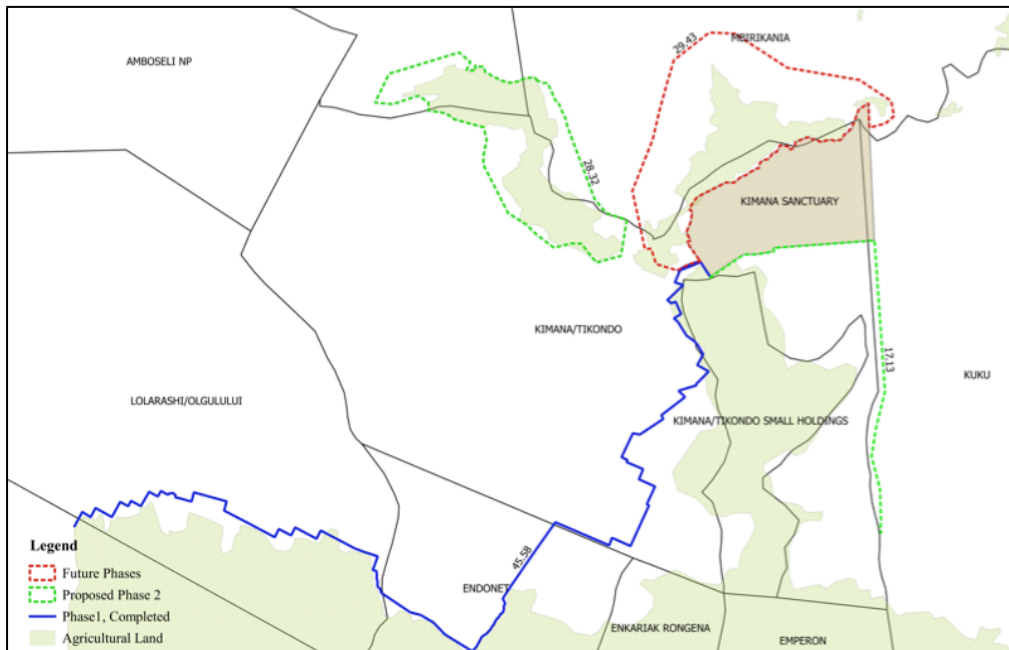
- **December 17:** Following the injury of a 9-year-old girl by an elephant on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Olmoti area, Olgulului GR, warriors held a meeting regarding the incident in the night of the 16<sup>th</sup>, and a larger meeting, attended by over 100 community members, was held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting demanded that the responsible elephant be eliminated, or the community would take up spears and hunt elephants. KWS and Big Life rangers were able to convince them to stop the hunt, promising to monitor the elephant and translocate or euthanize.

## 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, 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 drastic reduction of elephants raiding crops. As expected however, elephants have been getting around the fence at the open ends, which emphasizes the importance of extending fencing as soon as possible.





*Map: Completed HEC mitigation fence – Phase 1 (blue line); proposed Phase 2 (green line) – note exact alignment to be agreed; future fence phase (red line) – alignment to be determined*

During the fourth quarter, routine fence maintenance on Phase 1 continued. Fence teams are working well with communities and repairing minor damage caused primarily by eland and giraffe. Our partner, Tawi Lodge, completed 6.5 km of fence along the Kilitome Conservancy boundary, which during the forthcoming Phase 2, will ultimately connect with the Phase 1 fence. This new section of fence has been handed over to Big Life for management and four new fence monitors have been employed.

Additionally, 15 community sensitization meetings were held in areas expected to be part of Phase 2, particularly regarding fence alignment. Big Life began engaging KWS regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment, necessary for Phase 2, as well as the surveyor who will mark the final agreed alignment and undertake the clearing of vegetation and large rocks from the proposed fence-line, and fence contractor. Materials for Phase 2 have begun to be purchased, and construction is expected to be underway in early 2018.

## HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT & CROP-RAIDING

This quarter coincides with a short wet season, and though rain fell sporadically across the ecosystem and there was more natural vegetation for wildlife, pressure for resources is increasing. This was compounded by the fact that other rain-fed farms popped up during this season. As a result, wild animals, particularly elephants, are still drawn to the water and fodder available in these farms, often resulting in conflict. The HEC mitigation fence is already having an important impact in protecting the farms on the lower slopes of Kilimanjaro from elephant crop-raiding, but the areas outside the fence remain vulnerable. Out of the **112 recorded crop-raiding incidents** in which damage occurred, **elephants were responsible for 106 incidents**, and damaged **53.7 of the total 57.5 acres** of crops.



*Rangers moving elephants away from 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 commonly used by elephants. As a result, our rangers **prevented 98 incidents** before the animals could cause any damage, and before anyone (human or elephant) was harmed.

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 year. He was collared on September 10th, 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 **88 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 causing damage to farms in close to 80% of these raiding incidents – our most successful quarter to date!

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

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Area damaged (Acres)</b>
Bananas	1	0.25
Beans	12	9.75
Maize	39	24.75
Other vegetables	1	0.25
Potatoes	1	0.25
Tomatoes	53	21
Watermelon	5	1.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>57.5</b>

## HUMAN INJURIES & DEATH

During the fourth quarter, two incidents involving elephants led to the tragic **death of two people**. Additionally, **seven people suffered injuries** from elephants (2) and other wildlife [buffalo (1), lion (2) and zebra (1)]. One death and four injuries were inside our Core AOO, while the other death and two injuries were in our Non-core AOO.

### *Details:*

- **October 3:** While guarding a tomato farm at night, a man was killed by an elephant at Enkii area, Kuku Group Ranch. The elephant, believed by the community to be responsible, was eliminated by KWS three days later after demonstrations and hunts by the community.
- **October 5:** A herder was seriously injured by a lion while looking after cattle at Laimutia area, Amboseli National Park. He suffered multiple injuries on the right leg. He was taken to Oltukai dispensary by Tortilis lodge vehicle for treatment and later referred to Namanga hospital.
- **October 19:** A female herder was seriously injured by a buffalo while looking after cattle at Inkoikumashi area, Olgulului Group Ranch. She suffered injuries on her left leg. She was taken to Imurtot dispensary by Big Life. The buffalo was euthanized by KWS the following day.
- **November 7:** A 15-year-old girl was bitten by a zebra on the leg at Olmoti area, Mailua Group Ranch. She had moved close to the weak drought stricken animal that could not move. The community killed the animal in order to separate her leg from the zebra, who would not let go.
- **December 15:** A 9-year-old girl was injured by an elephant at Olmoti area, Olgulului Group Ranch, while looking after goats. She suffered injuries to her leg, and was taken to the dispensary by KWS.
- **December 23:** A Big Life ranger from our rhino section was killed by an elephant at Mainge area, Chyulu Hills National Park, while returning to duty.
- **December 25:** A herder was injured by a lion while looking after livestock at Laimutia area, Amboseli National Park. He was taken to Oltukai dispensary where he was treated and discharged.
- **December 31:** A 38-year-old man was injured by an elephant at Esarunoto area, Kaputei Group Ranch and taken to Makindu hospital.

Big Life has 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

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## GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Big Life has been working with communities on a few initiatives regarding improved land management and grazing. Grazing plans are an important first step towards rehabilitating the rangelands of the ecosystem. The ultimate goal is to restore the rangeland system to a significantly higher level of productivity and as a result keep the livestock economy as profitable as possible. That is because pastoralism is the only widely viable land-use option that is truly compatible with wildlife conservation, and any interventions that incentivize well-managed pastoralism will bring conservation benefits.



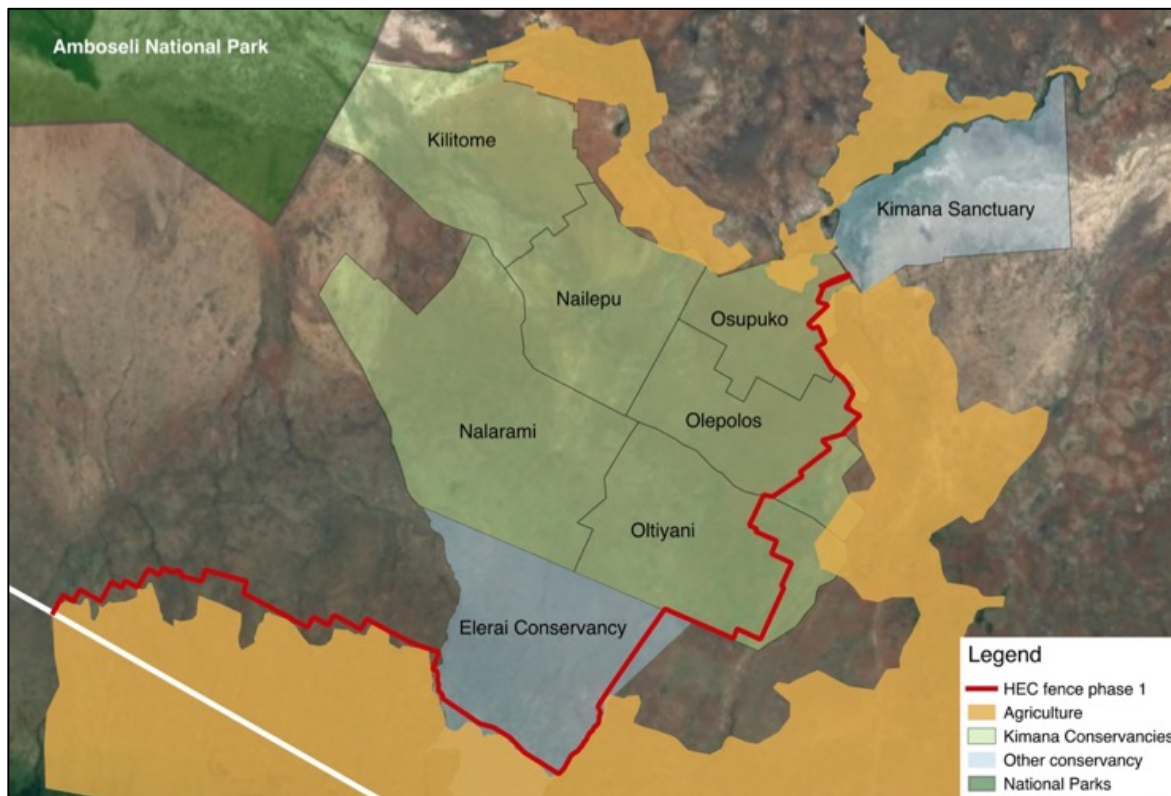
During the fourth quarter, Big Life continued to support the community in developing a grazing management plan, and progress on this is being made. After preparatory consultation with the Mbirikani community (a group ranch covering 330,000 acres), and subsequent drafting of a grazing management plan, the consultant team is currently finishing a second round of community meetings in each zone on the ranch. The plan is being presented in these meetings, and community feedback noted for incorporation in the next draft. Following this round of consultation there will be a number of final ranch-wide meetings in early 2018 to ensure that the plan is accurate, and it is anticipated that plan will launch within the first quarter. Much work lies ahead in implementation, and supporting livestock-based livelihoods in the ecosystem, but this is a first step toward restoring productivity to the human and livestock-induced degraded rangelands of Amboseli.

## 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. The extension of these leases was made possible solely thanks to the generous support of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, who provided the funding necessary to secure this critical part of the Amboseli ecosystem.



In the fourth quarter, Big Life officials held the second lease payment for the Kimana conservancies. However, due to discrepancies with *some* title deeds, not everyone was given the full payment, while those who held deeds for land sold were not paid at all, until the ownership can be verified. A number of ALOCA meetings were also held during the quarter regarding illegal development activities within the conservancies, Predator Compensation payments, KWS-student scholarships, among other things.

In addition to the above, Big Life negotiated the purchase of a 21-year lease of Kimana Sanctuary from Olive Branch Foundation. Kimana Sanctuary is the easternmost part of the Kimana Corridor, and is an exceptionally important area for all species, including elephant. It is also where Tim, and other large Amboseli bull elephants, spend a significant amount of time. Once again DSWT has stepped in to provide Big Life with the funds to lease the Sanctuary. In addition to support from other key funders, Big Life will take over management of Kimana Sanctuary starting in January 2018. Through the partnership, Big Life will develop the sanctuary into a functioning conservancy providing an important revenue stream for the Sanctuary’s management and for the local community.

## 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. 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 practice of tapping (legally and illegally) the Mbirikani water pipeline (fed by meltwater from Kilimanjaro) for irrigation. The result has led to excessive and unsustainable water use, and 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 young 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 has 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. Ideally, the project will also increase income to local farmers through improved marketing structures.

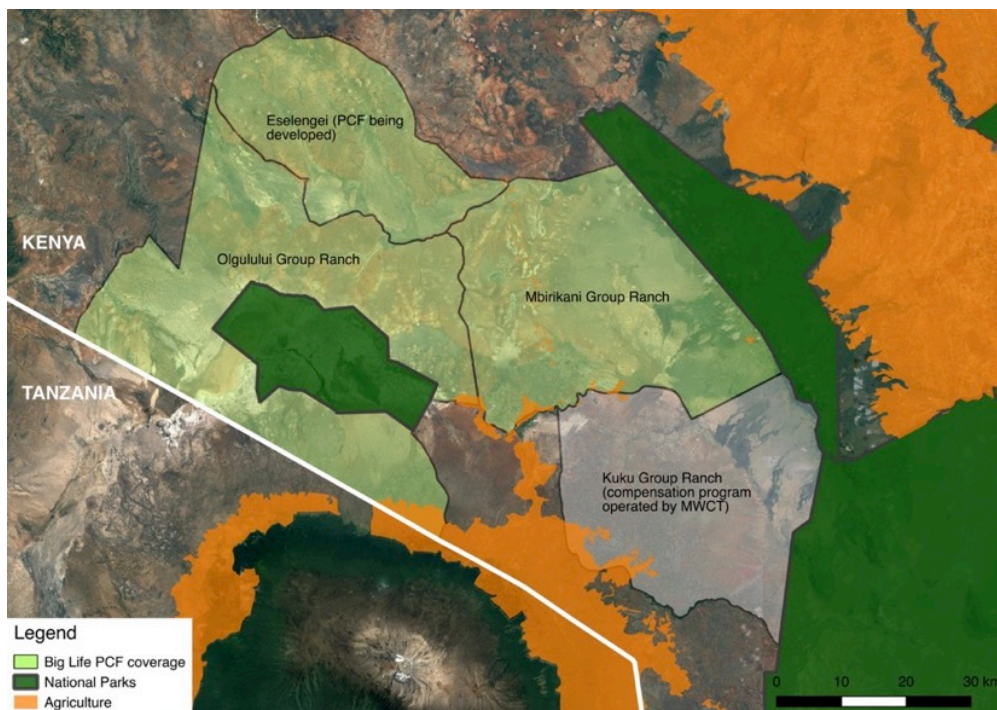


During the fourth quarter, efforts have continued to develop the crop diversity within the existing farms as well as expand marketing efforts. Two farms are fully functional, one at Enkijape Primary School, and another run by a women's group outside the town of Isinet (*pictured above*). Both of these farms are now supplying organic produce to local lodges and Big Life is working to create further opportunities for the farmers within other local lodges. Planting has also started in the third farm, in the Namelok agricultural area, and will be completed in the first quarter of 2018.

# 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 2018, and currently working to roll out the program on Eselengei Group Ranch.



*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 series of Maasai Olympics events will take place in 2018. Local teams are currently being developed, and regional tournaments to establish the top competitors will occur later this spring and early summer. The finals for the next Maasai Olympics are currently slated for December 15, 2018.

Big Life is currently seeking 2018 Maasai Olympic sponsors. To be part of this historic event, please [consider donating](#).

## 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 2017:

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Shoat</b>	<b>Donkey</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>USD</b>
CHEETAH	8	150	-	158	5,501
HYENA	238	700	15	953	31,030
JACKAL	-	146	-	146	2,831
LEOPARD	3	7	0	10	516
LION	35	50	7	92	6,865
WILD DOG	-	1	-	1	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>\$46,781</b>



## 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 there were **zero lion hunts**, which is a first since Big Life began specifically recording hunts in Jan 2015.

## PREDATOR INJURIES & MORTALITIES

**Zero predator mortalities** were recorded during the quarter. One lion was treated for a non-human-related injury.

*Details:*

- **October 12:** Esiteti Unit and KWS Amboseli tracked a 3-year-old lion that was reportedly injured. Two wounds on the left front leg, suspected to be from another lion, were treated by the vet at Kitirua area, Amboseli National Park.

## 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 32 teachers' salaries**.

The Wildlife Scholarship Program is **currently supporting 205 students** (114 girls & 91 boys) from Mbirikani Group Ranch, from primary to tertiary level, and we continue to promote the expansion of the program to neighbouring ranches.

During the fourth quarter:

- Three new teachers were employed for the Special Needs Unit at Enkijape Primary School.
- Three students graduated from university, two with degrees in Education (*one students pictured below-left*), and one student in Information Technology.



- Distribution of school supplies, books, and games provided by Ol Donyo Lodge guests (*pictured above-right*).
- Student's Open Day was held and attended by over 50 students with a wildlife themed poem competition.
- Discussions continued with Eselengei Group Ranch and Porini Camp about the expansion of the Scholarship program to Eselengei students.
- Continued engagement, through presentations and brochures, with guests at local lodges around Amboseli National Park to generate scholarships for students from Olgulului Group Ranch and ALOCA.

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, Big Life **engaged 1,238 teachers and students** on multiple topics and occasions. Presentation topics included, among others, Maasai and Human Wildlife Conflict, the food chain and water cycle, waste and pollution, and climate change. Among other activities, students were given a few tree seedlings to plant at each school, as part of the lesson on the water cycle and deforestation (*pictured below-left*), and participated in a litter collection day around their respective schools.



A highlight this quarter, as in past quarters, was a **visit to Amboseli National Park for 30 students and six teachers** (*pictured above-right*), 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. If you're 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 and the Ministry of Health Oloitokitok Sub-county Hospital, to facilitate mobile clinics focusing on healthcare and family planning in local communities within our AOO. During the quarter, **four clinics were held** on Mbirikani Group Ranch (Risa, Inkoroshoni, and Kalesirwa villages and Simba Cement town) that reached hundreds of men, women, and children (*pictured below*) by providing free medical services, including cancer screening and HIV testing and counselling.



## 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.

