One-hundred and forty-seven. That’s the number of students ranging from primary school to university on full or partial Big Life wildlife scholarships at the end of 2015. Two. That’s the number of elephants killed in confirmed poaching incidents in Big Life’s area of operation over last year. What’s the connection? Conservation requires a change in human behavior, and everything that Big Life does is intended to build communities and assist them in conserving their natural resources. Our education program is one of the strongest elements of this and generates a huge amount of community support, for Big Life and for wildlife conservation. Most of the human eyes and ears of the ecosystem are looking out for us, and poachers are not welcome.

While community engagement is the foundation of everything we do, Big Life’s hundreds of rangers are the face of it. Backed by their communities, they continue to man the coalface, maintaining the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem as one of the safest ecosystems for elephants, and all wildlife for that matter, in Africa. To be hired as a Big Life ranger is a source of status and pride, and the employment created is another part of our holistic approach from which the community benefits. The community also benefits from our efforts to mitigate the increasing number of human-wildlife conflict incidents occurring in the ecosystem. Similarly to 2014, we lost more elephants this past year through conflict with humans than to poaching. Things weren’t much better for predators, with a staggering number of lions killed just outside the area covered by Big Life’s livestock compensation program. There were also predator deaths inside our compensated areas, but it is the leakage on the fringes that is impacting the population at the moment. It’s time to scale up this program.

The conflict between humans and animals is symptomatic of broader challenges. Amboseli as a functioning ecosystem is now hanging in the balance, and the future is going to depend on the land-use decisions made by the Maasai landowners. But I am certain that conservation makes good economic sense here and is compatible with traditional pastoralist livelihoods. In recent months, all stakeholders—community and conservation—have come together under one umbrella, and the government has gazetted the Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan. It’s now up to all of us here on the ground to turn this plan into a reality. This means management plans that encourage more sensible use of resources, and efforts to restore some of the productivity that has been lost through poor decisions in the past. It means zoning of land, with some areas used for settlement and agriculture, and others used for livestock, wildlife, and tourism. I see Big Life playing a big part in these efforts in the future. We’re looking forward to 2016. While our priority continues to be sustaining the existing ranger network and other Big Life programs, there are gaps that need plugging and neighbouring areas that need desperate attention, as well as a few exciting ideas for improving our operations. All of this takes money, and the development of longer-term funding mechanisms is high on our to-do list. We’re looking forward to working with an ever-growing circle of people that are thinking in the same way. And as always, a huge thank you to each and every person and organization that gives so kindly to Big Life. Whether it’s $1 or $10,000, our rangers hit the ground running with every cent.

- Richard Bonham, Co-Founder & Director of Operations
Area of Operation: Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro Ecosystem


Area patrolled by mobile units: Maluha Group Ranch, Eselengei Group Ranch, Mernueshi Group Ranch, Taveta area

Adjacent Area: Kuku Group Ranch, Tsavo West National Park, Enduimet Wildlife Management Area

Cross-border Patrols
This year, Big Life rangers participated in numerous cross-border patrols, working in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service, Enduimet Wildlife Management Area, Tanzania National Parks Authority, Satao Elerai, Tsavo Pride and Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust. The primary aim of cross-border operations is to increase ranger presence and coverage in areas that have historically received little attention. This helps to act as a deterrent to poaching, warning poachers that national borders are not porous and are being monitored.

Distance Patrolled

- **January-March**
  - By Foot: 13,443 km
  - By Vehicle: 47,161 km
- **April-June**
  - By Foot: 14,170 km
  - By Vehicle: 51,000 km
- **July-September**
  - By Foot: 25,219 km
  - By Vehicle: 51,480 km
- **October-December**
  - By Foot: 21,596 km
  - By Vehicle: 63,902 km

**TOTAL**
- By Foot: 74,428 km
- By Vehicle: 213,543 km

Arrests & Incidents

- **January-March**
  - Arrests: 72
  - Incidents: 32
- **April-June**
  - Arrests: 79
  - Incidents: 33
- **July-September**
  - Arrests: 83
  - Incidents: 33
- **October-December**
  - Arrests: 51
  - Incidents: 26

**TOTAL**
- Arrests: 285 (notable arrests)
- Incidents: 124

Items Confiscated

- Axe
- Bicycle
- Bow
- Bullet cartridges
- Chainsaw
- Charcoal bags
- Chains
- Charcoal kilns
- Digging rod
- Elephant tusks
- Poisoned arrows
- Poison
- Poisoned arrows
- Quiver
- Spear
- Sword
- Vehicles
- Hand saw
- Knife
- Leopard skin
- Machete
- Marijuana
- Non-poisoned arrows
- Poacher camp
- Poison
- Poisoned arrows
- Snare
- Spoon
- Spear
- Sword
- 12 kg

* An additional 10 kg of ivory pieces were collected by individuals and given to Big Life.

**KENYA HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2,000,000+ Acres of wilderness protected
- 303 Total Field Staff*
- 216 Trained Rangers
- 31 Outposts
- 5 Mobile Units
- 33 Rangers specializing in smartphone data collection

*Including rangers, scouts, drivers, informers, etc.
Wildlife Incidents: Elephants

**Elephant Mortality**
Within and adjacent to Big Life’s area of operation (AOO)

**Natural Deaths**
Core AOO: 4
Non-Core AOO: 1

**Human-Wildlife Conflict**
Core AOO: 7
Non-Core AOO: 1
Adjacent AOO: 8

**Poaching**
Core AOO: 1
Non-Core AOO: 1

**Unknown**
Core AOO: 3
Non-Core AOO: 2

**Euthanized**
Core AOO: 1

---

**Ivory Recovery**

Of the 20 elephants killed in Big Life’s core and non-core areas of operation, ivory was successfully recovered in 17 cases, as follows:

**January-March**
Sex: 3 adult males, 2 adult females, 2 sub-adult males, 1 sub-adult female
Causes of Death: Poaching, human-elephant conflict, unknown
Ivory: Recovered in all incidents

**April-June**
Sex: 2 adult males, 1 sub-adult female
Causes of Death: Poaching, unknown, human-elephant conflict
Ivory: Recovered in 2 out of 3 incidents

**July-September**
Sex: 1 adult male, 1 female calf
Causes of Death: Natural, human-elephant conflict
Ivory: Recovered in all incidents

**October-December**
Sex: 1 adult male, 3 adult females, 2 sub-adults, 1 male calf
Causes of Death: Natural, unknown, broken leg (euthanasia)
Ivory: Recovered in 5 out of 7 incidents

---

**Injuries & Treatment**

**January-March**
Treated: 3
Not Treated: 6

**April-June**
Treated: 1
Not Treated: 5

**July-September**
Treated: 3
Not Treated: 3

**October-December**
Treated: 3
Not Treated: 2

---

Teamwork and well-trained tracker dogs paid off: two of the culprits were caught within hours, and Big Life arrested one more a few days later.
Rhino Protection

In conjunction with Kenya Wildlife Service, Big Life provides security and monitoring in the northern section of the Chyulu Hills. Our core area of operation is within the Chyulu Hills National Park, but the rhino range (undefined and unfenced) includes parts of Mbirikani Group Ranch to the west and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute land to the east. There are seven Eastern black rhinos left in the Chyulu population. From July through September, rangers were trained in smart-phone-based data collection to facilitate better understanding of rhino movements and improve future management and planning of ranger patrols. Big Life also continued working to achieve Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status, which will enable inbound rhino translocation to the Chyulus. IPZ efforts are progressing well. We continued to improve security and monitoring, added 20 new camera traps, and began construction on 14 km of wildlife fencing, thanks to our partners at David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Additional fencing and water points are needed in order to achieve IPZ status.

Rhino Mortality

We lost two rhinos in 2015. The first was Bahati, a rhino calf who had previously survived the loss of his mother to poachers and a bullet hole to his neck. In September, we spotted Bahati on a camera trap with a snare digging deep into his neck. After a four day all-hands-on-deck search, Bahati was found and darted, but sadly, his wounds were too severe and septicemia had already set in. Bahati never awoke from the anesthesia. Both of his horns were recovered and are pictured to the right. The second death due to snaring was a rhino unknown in our territory, whose body was discovered after it was already significantly decayed. This rhino’s primary horn was missing, but the smaller horn was recovered. Up until August, we had celebrated (for the first time in 5 years) a full 12 months without a single rhino mortality in our area. The loss of these two rhinos was devastating, and all the more reason to advance our efforts to protect those who remain.

Bushmeat

Species targeted for bushmeat include animals such as gazelle, giraffe, eland, and dik-dik. Methods used to track and kill include arrows, spears, dogs, snares, and torches/horns.

January-March

Incidents: 7
Suspects Apprehended: 19
Animals Poached: 6

April-June

Incidents: 1
Suspects Apprehended: 1
Animals Poached: 6

July-September

Incidents: 7
Suspects Apprehended: 14
Animals Poached: 8

October-December

Incidents: 5
Suspects Apprehended: 10
Animals Poached: 16

TOTAL

62 Incidents
44 Suspects Apprehended
36 Animals Poached

Habitat Destruction

Illegal activities include, among others, charcoal production, logging, woodcarving, livestock grazing in wildlife protected areas, and large-scale illegal pumping of water from rivers for irrigation.

January-March

Incidents: 17
Suspects Apprehended: 35

April-June

Incidents: 18
Suspects Apprehended: 43

July-September

Incidents: 12
Suspects Apprehended: 32

October-December

Incidents: 6
Suspects Apprehended: 14

TOTAL

52 Incidents
124 Suspects Apprehended
Wildlife Incidents: Other

Big Life rangers are involved in a broad range of wildlife and community protection activities. Other activities include wildlife rescue, treatment, and community service. The statistics below do not include elephants, rhinos, or lions.

Wildlife Mortality
- Arrow Wounds: 7 Giraffe, Zebra, Lesser kudu
- Botched Poaching: 1 Giraffe
- Euthanized: 4 Wildebeest, Giraffe, Eland
- Retaliation: 21 Hyena, Jackal, Vultures, Python
- Road Kill: 20 Giraffe, Zebra, Hyena, Buffalo, Gerenuk, Impala, Ostrich
- Spear Wound: 4 Giraffe, Zebra
- Trapped by Wire Fence: 8 Giraffe, Eland, Gazelle

TOTAL 65 Mortalities

Wildlife Rescues
- Bush Buck: 1
- Eland: 2
- Zebra Foal: 8
- Lesser Kudu: 1
- Warthog: 1
- Wildebeest: 1

Community Service
Rangers also assist community members by helping return lost livestock, searching for lost children, intervening to prevent crop-raiding by wildlife, and providing hospital transport for injured or sick individuals.

TOTAL SEARCH & RESCUE
- Humans: 15
- Animals: 4
Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

HWC takes two primary forms across Big Life’s area of operation. One type of HWC is the raiding of crops by wildlife, particularly elephants. Another form of HWC occurs when predators kill local herders’ livestock. Both these forms of HWC can, and do, incite deadly retaliatory attacks by the affected community members. Such conflict often results in the injury or death of wildlife. In some cases, humans are also injured or killed. HWC is quickly becoming the most critical conservation issue to be tackled across Africa.

Crop Raiding

January-March
Crop-Raiding Incidents: 347
Incidents involving elephants: 335
Acres Damaged: 284
Acres damaged by elephants: 260

April-June
Crop-Raiding Incidents: 300
Incidents involving elephants: 278
Acres Damaged: 247
Acres damaged by elephants: 233

July-September
Crop-Raiding Incidents: 230
Incidents involving elephants: 176
Acres Damaged: 199
Acres damaged by elephants: 171

October-December
Crop-Raiding Incidents: 74
Incidents involving elephants: 70
Acres Damaged: 48
Acres damaged by elephants: 46

TOTAL
951 Crop-Raiding Incidents
859 by elephants
778 Acres Damaged
710 by elephants

Threats to Humans

January-March
People Killed: 3
Cause(s) of Death: elephants

April-June
People Injured: 5
Cause(s) of Death: buffalo, snake, elephant

July-September
None

October-December
People Killed: 2
Cause(s) of Death: snake, hippo

TOTAL
5 Deaths
5 Injuries

Property Damage
Water Pipes: 3
Boreholes: 1
Fences: 3
Maize Stores: 1
Water Tanks: 1

“Protection of the environment and economic benefit do not have to be mutually exclusive. If you’re smart, they go hand in hand.”
– Nick Brandt
Predator Compensation Fund
Big Life protects the major predators within the local ecosystem through an innovative predator protection program in partnership with surrounding 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 fund pays Maasai herdsmen for a portion of the value of their livestock lost to predators, on the condition that no predators are killed in retaliation. Big Life staff verify all depredations, and penalties are applied for poor animal husbandry. The community provides 30% of the total compensation paid, and fines are applied if any predators are killed by members of participating communities.

Maasai Olympics
The second part of Big Life’s predator protection strategy is focused on the Morans (warriors). In Maasai culture, lion killing has traditionally been an important part of becoming a man. Big Life collaborated directly with the Menye Layiok (cultural fathers of the warriors) to create the Maasai Olympics (MO), a sporting event for warriors across the ecosystem, to give young men an alternative avenue through which to demonstrate bravery and physical prowess. The MO consist of local and regional competitions in traditional events, such as spear-throwing, high jumping, and running competitions, culminating in a biennial MO in which Manyattas (warrior villages) compete for medals and other prizes. Lead-up to the next MO (scheduled for December 2016) includes a targeted education program aimed at changing attitudes and behaviors towards wildlife and conservation.

Compensation Issued for Predation of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Sheep/Goats</th>
<th>Donkeys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January-March</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July-September</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October-December</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>671</td>
<td>2,503</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Predator Conflict

Retaliatory Hunt Intervention
Big Life rangers, often in coordination with Kenya Wildlife Service and Lion Guardians, successfully intervened against 15 lion hunts. January-March: 6 hunts stopped April-June: 6 hunts stopped July-September: No hunts October-December: 3 hunts stopped

TOTAL PREDATOR MORTALITY
Only two lions were killed in Big Life’s primary areas of operation. This illustrates the urgent need for contiguous expansion of the areas served by Big Life’s predator protection programs.

Core Area of Operation: 1 lion, 2 hyenas
Non-Core Area of Operation: 1 lion
Adjacent Areas: 9 lions

Menye Layiok & Maasai Olympics
Although 2015 was an off year for the Maasai Olympics (MO), Big Life consistently engaged with the warriors, cultural fathers, and the general Maasai community. In 2015, Big Life conducted a survey to assess the impact of the 2012 and 2014 MO. 116 warriors were interviewed. Because the MO is focused on lion conservation and discouraging warriors from engaging in lion hunts, questions focused on conservation attitudes about lions and the event itself.

- 100% believe it is important to protect lions
- 65% mentioned the MO as a reason for this attitude
- 57% stated that the MO had made them less interested in killing a lion
- 91% said that MO results in increased willingness to support lion conservation
- 93% said that the MO successfully raises awareness of lion conservation
- 93% felt that the MO offers a good or very good alternative to traditional lion hunts as a competition establishing and recognizing manhood
A poacher’s choice: $10,000 or six years in jail. That’s the sentence that was recently handed to each of the four people arrested by Big Life rangers last year for trying to illegally sell a leopard skin.

### PROSECUTIONS: KENYA

#### 6 Concluded Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>Poaching of 3 elephants (Qumquat and family, as featured on the cover of this report)</td>
<td>2 years jail or 1 year jail and KES 40,000 (US $420)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 people</td>
<td>Intent to poach</td>
<td>3 years jail or KES 400,000 (US $4,210)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>Intent to poach</td>
<td>6 months community service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>Poaching of 2 dik-diks and 2 porcupines</td>
<td>3.5 years jail or KES 450,000 (US $4,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 people</td>
<td>Trading leopard skin</td>
<td>6 years jail or KES 1,000,000 (US $10,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5 people</td>
<td>Poaching a giraffe</td>
<td>6 months jail or KES 30,000 (US $300)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following arrests, suspects are taken to the police and booked. The process of charging a suspect can either be relatively immediate or drag on for months to years depending on the crime type.

#### 24 Ongoing Cases

- **13** Bushmeat
- **6** Ivory Traders
- **1** Poaching Intention
- **1** Elephant Spearing
- **1** Lion Poisoning
- **2** Trophy Poaching
In 2015, Honeyguide emphasized human-wildlife conflict mitigation across the group ranches and wildlife management areas (WMAs) in Tanzania where Big Life’s programs are supported, particularly helping farmers to protect their crops against raiding by elephants. A mitigation toolkit for farmers was tested, refined, and scaled up for implementation, with dozens now being used. Chili fences for diverting elephants away from crops were also piloted around 21 acres of farms in Enduimet and Burunge WMAs, with only one of those protected acres damaged by wildlife. Honeyguide has yet to implement a predator compensation program in Tanzania, but predator protection is a major focus, particularly in the Enduimet WMA.

**Tanzania Highlights**

- **107 Trained Rangers**
  - Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (WMA): 53
  - Manyara Ranch Conservancy: 17
  - Randilen WMA: 17
  - Burunge WMA: 12

- **15 Staff Funded by Big Life**

- **125,590 Kilometers Patrolled**
  - Enduimet WMA: 15,570
  - Manyara Ranch Conservancy: 51,100
  - Randilen WMA: 33,370
  - Burunge WMA: 25,550

- **9 Outposts**
  - Enduimet WMA: 6
  - Manyara Ranch Conservancy: 1
  - Randilen WMA: 1
  - Burunge WMA: 1

- **6 Vehicles**
  - Enduimet WMA: 3
  - Manyara Ranch Conservancy: 1
  - Randilen WMA: 1
  - Burunge WMA: 1

- **Crop Raiding & Other Incidents**
  - Total crop-raiding incidents mitigated: 971
  - Elephant-related crop-raiding incidents mitigated in Enduimet WMA: 412
  - Livestock predations: 58
  - Total wildlife killed in retaliation: 9
  - Lions killed in retaliation: 4
  - Illegal charcoal production: 39
  - Illegal logging incidents: 29

- **Poaching Incidents**
  - In Enduimet WMA, Randilen WMA, and Manyara Ranch Conservancy:
    - 8 Trophy poaching incidents
    - 25 Bushmeat poaching incidents
    - 17 Arrests for intention to poach

Big Life programs in Tanzania are managed by our partners at the Honeyguide Foundation. Honeyguide closed 2015 without a single elephant-poaching incident for the last five months. During the first half of the year, there was a spike in elephant poaching on Manyara Group Ranch, but after a series of high-profile arrests, not a single elephant has been lost since July. There are currently five elephant-poaching suspects on trial, including the notorious Mapengo, who had previously eluded arrest for ten years.
Helping Students
Big Life provided educational scholarships to 147 students. Antony Kasaine graduated (after a 6-year sponsorship) with a medical degree.

Helping Teachers
Big Life paid for 27 teachers’ salaries.

Helping Schools
Big Life added large new water tanks at Enkijape School. Big Life added two new classrooms at Lemasusu Primary School. Big Life facilitated delivery of school supplies, eye glasses, shoes, computers, and more.

Conservation Education & Outreach
Big Life and Wildlife Direct took 49 students into Amboseli National Park—42 of whom were first-time visitors. Big Life sponsored student meetings featuring conservation-themed competitions. Daniel Ole Sambu represented Big Life on a trip with The Elephant Society to visit schools in Hong Kong and Singapore to educate students in the heart of the Asian ivory market about the plight of African elephants.

New Airplane
Thanks to our generous supporters, Big Life purchased a 12-year-old Top Cub airplane with only 280 hours of flight time to replace the previous Super Cub, which had become too dangerous to fly.

New Tracker Dog Puppies
Big Life added two bloodhound puppies to the tracker dog program. Born locally, they are well-suited to conditions within Big Life’s area of operation. The pups, one male and one female, will help our rangers catch poachers once they are fully grown and trained. It seems as though man and elephant have a best friend in common.
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**INCOME**

- Contributions & Grants: $2,238,456
- In-Kind Contributions: $149,764
- Other Income: $157,345

**Total Income**: $2,545,565

**EXPENSES**

- Programs: $1,474,116
- General/Admin: $124,929
- Fundraising: $184,078

**Total Expenses**: $1,931,356

**Change in Net Assets**: $614,059

**NET ASSETS**

- **Beginning of Year**: $1,593,926
- **End of Year**: $979,866

At Big Life, we maximize every penny of your contributions. **83¢** out of every **$1** donated goes directly towards our mission of protecting African wildlife and wild lands for the benefit of all.

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*Our Form 990 tax filings and most recent audited financial statements are available online at www.biglife.org/about-big-life/financials.*