



BIG LIFE

FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT:
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2016

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

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

They say that drastic times call for drastic measures, and this quarter we've taken action in two instances that some might consider drastic.

The first involved an elephant called Tim, probably the largest tusker in the ecosystem and certainly amongst the biggest in Africa. Despite the huge weight of the ivory that Tim carries, the biggest threat to his life is no longer poachers, but his appetite for local crops.

Tim has already been speared twice by understandably angry farmers, and it was only a matter of time before his luck ran out. So, as a last resort, Tim was fitted with a tracking collar in a joint operation led by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and supported by WildlifeDirect and Save the Elephants. This collar now feeds Big Life and KWS rangers real-time information on Tim's whereabouts so that we can help to prevent him from destroying farms at a huge cost to local farmers, and potentially to himself.

It's a game changer for Tim, but clearly we can't have a collar on every elephant in the ecosystem. We need long-term solutions to the conflict. So this quarter, we've started installing an electric fence to keep elephants out of farmland and farmland from further encroaching into their habitat. Thanks to Big Life's generous donors and our ecosystem partners, the first posts have officially gone in, and the contractors are building as fast as they can. This is the first of a number of strategically-placed fences that are necessary to ensure the long-term coexistence of humans and elephants in Amboseli, but even on its own, this fence will have a huge impact.

Despite all of the doom and gloom in the conservation world, we will not sit around and wait for the end. There are solutions to many of the problems that we face, and we can all play a role in making them happen. Read on for more good news, including an increased number of ivory busts thanks to our ever-improving intelligence networks, and the start of a very important new conservation education program.



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

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

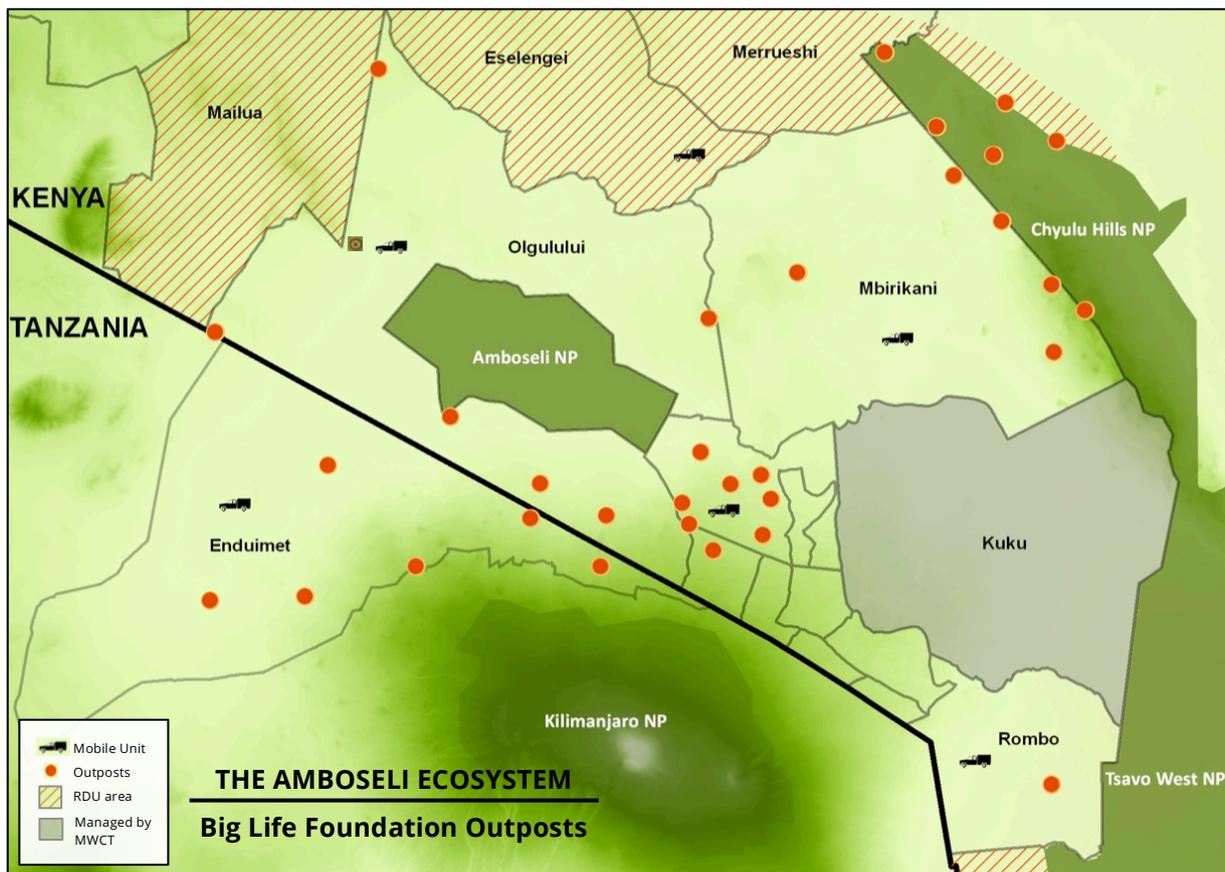
WILDLIFE SECURITY

During the third quarter of 2016, Big Life rangers patrolled **20,840 km** by foot and **55,164 km** by vehicle. Big Life rangers **arrested 73 suspects in 36 incidents** of illegal activity (details on next page). Of these, **15 suspects were arrested in 9 poaching-related incidents**, including **6 suspected trophy dealers**, and our rangers **recovered 140 kg of ivory**. The majority of the poaching-related incidents took place outside Big Life's core area of operation (AOO).

BIG LIFE RANGERS

There are a total of 42 units (including 6 in Tanzania managed by our Honeyguide Foundation partners), currently comprising more than 250 rangers, and a total of approximately 350 field staff in the wildlife protection network managed and/or supported by Big Life. This provides nearly comprehensive coverage across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro landscape.

On the Kenyan side of the ecosystem, an additional outpost was added, bringing the total number of permanent ranger outposts to 26, with 4 mobile units, a Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU), 2 field teams that operate from their homes or tented camps, and 3 permanent observation posts covering a total of 1,678,000 acres. However, there are still important areas with insufficient attention, and we are actively fundraising for additional outposts and support of all existing outposts. If you are interested, please email donations@biglife.org for additional information.



INCIDENTS & ARRESTS

Crime category	Crime type	Incidents				Suspects arrested			
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Community crimes	Incitement	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2
	Theft	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Habitat Destruction	Arson	1	1	-	2	2	2	-	4
	Charcoal	-	5	3	8	-	12	5	17
	Firewood	2	2	-	4	11	6	-	17
	Illegal water pumping	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
	Intention to log	-	1	1	2	-	1	4	5
	Logging	3	4	-	7	5	5	-	10
	Sand harvesting	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Poaching	Bushmeat	-	2	2	4	-	3	4	7
	Trading in wildlife trophies	-	2	2	4	-	4	2	6
Poaching Intention	Possession of hunting gear	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2
TOTAL		7	20	9	36	19	38	16	73

ITEMS CONFISCATED

Item	Total
Axe	8
Bicycle	15
Bows	17
Chainsaw	2
Charcoal bags	18
Charcoal kilns	28
Hoes	8
Ivory (kg)	145.8
Kadoo*	1
Knife	3
Machete	21
Motorbikes	4
Non-poisoned arrows	46

Item	Total
Poison	1 packet
Poisoned arrows	9
Sickle	1
Snares (general)	35
Snares (rhino)	4
Spades	9
Spear	1
Torch	1
Tuk-tuk	3
Vehicle <5t	1
Vehicle >5t	1
Water pump	1

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

WILDLIFE TROPHY INCIDENTS

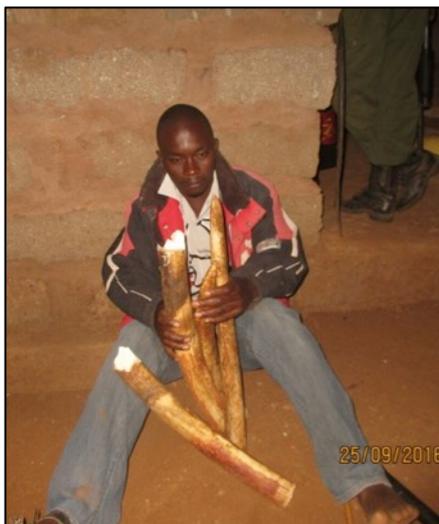
No confirmed elephant poaching incidents occurred within Big Life's area of operation (AOO) during the third quarter. However, **six people were arrested** in connection with trophy dealing. All of the incidents below were joint operations between Big Life and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and all apart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

Details:

- **August 12:** A Big Life informer helped KWS officers to arrest two suspects with 45 kg of ivory in Kasayani area, Ukambani. *(pictured below-left)*



- **August 16:** A Big Life informer led KWS officers to arrest two suspects with 20 kg of ivory at Kiwundani market, Ukambani. *(pictured above-right)*
- **September 21:** Assisted by a Big Life informer, KWS arrested one suspect with 65 kg of ivory at Muthaa area, Ukambani. *(pictured below-left)*



- **September 25:** A Big Life informer helped Rombo and Mobile 4 teams to arrest one suspect with 10 kg ivory inside his house at Kisokoni area, Rombo Group Ranch. *(pictured above-right)*

ELEPHANT MORTALITIES

Total dead: 6

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

Total dead *outside* Big Life's Core AOO: 5

During the third quarter, **six elephant mortalities** were recorded. **Three of these were either directly or indirectly due to human-wildlife conflict (HWC). The other three were from unknown causes.**

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

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

Details within and outside Big Life's AOO:

- **July 8:** Rangers on patrol in the Kari area, outside CHNP, came across an approximately one month-old carcass of an adult male elephant. Both tusks were missing. The cause of death is unknown. *(pictured below)*



- **July 26:** Sinya rangers on patrol at Olkinyei area, Tanzania (just across the border from ANP), came across an estimated four day-old carcass of a sub-adult male. Cause of death was from an unknown sickness. Sinya rangers removed both tusks.
- **July 31:** Following frequent complaints from the Ilmarba community on Olgulului Group Ranch of an adult male elephant whose presence was threatening, KWS translocated the animal to Tsavo-East National Park. Unfortunately, the bull died from complications in route to ANP. KWS removed both tusks.
- **August 28:** An adult female, successfully treated for three spear wounds (*pictured below*), and being monitored by our rangers, later died. A post-mortem by the vet confirmed that the elephant died from congestive heart failure, which was unknowingly exacerbated by the treatment. KWS removed both tusks. The female's calf fled during her treatment but was spotted on August 30th in Mukulenta area, Kuku Group Ranch, with a herd of elephants.



- **September 5:** The RDU received information of an elephant carcass on the Porini Conservancy in Eselengei Group Ranch. With KWS, they rushed to the area and confirmed a roughly one month-old carcass of a female adult elephant. Cause of death is unknown, due to decomposition. Both tusks were missing and removed by cutting them out. An investigation of the suspects' identities and the ivory is ongoing. (*pictured below-left*)



- **September 13:** While on patrol at Lenkopito area, Rombo Group Ranch, Rombo and Mobile 4 units came across an emaciated adult male elephant. The bull had been treated for a spear wound on September 4th. The animal could not move, a KWS vet was immediately alerted and promised to treat him the following day. Rangers monitored the elephant until the vet arrived on the 14th but he concluded the bull wouldn't survive and so it was euthanized. Both tusks were removed and handed over to KWS. *(pictured above-right)*

ELEPHANT INJURIES

Treated in our AOO: 5 (by KWS & David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust [DSWT] mobile veterinarian)

Not treated: 4

Elephants Treated:

- **July 12:** While on aerial patrol over Porini conservancy in Eselengei Group Ranch, Big Life's Head of Security spotted an elephant having difficulty walking. Big Life's RDU, KWS, and Porini conservancy rangers were mobilized to track the animal. A vet from DSWT arrived and treated the adult male for a 15-inch-deep spear wound on the upper right hind leg. The same bull had been treated on June 5th for a wound inflicted by a rake after he stepped on it at Porini airstrip. *(pictured below)*



- **July 21:** The RDU reported an elephant limping due to a spear injury, which is suspected to have been inflicted during retaliation by the Eselengei community on 10th July, following the death of a boy on the 5th. A KWS vet was notified and successfully treated the animal.

- **August 11:** Ol Donyo Lodge staff, on Mbirikani Group Ranch, saw an elephant with an injury on its left rear side. The KWS vet was alerted and the animal was treated for a spear wound that was heavily infected and contained maggots.
- **August 28:** Rombo rangers while on patrol at Nolasiti area on Rombo Group Ranch, came across an adult female elephant with a two-year old calf. The elephant was very emaciated, her eyes were running, and she had two spear wounds: one on the right side of rib cage and another on the upper right hind leg. The vet was notified and rangers continued monitoring her. She was treated the following day at Lolasi area for the two spear injuries, and an additional wound at the base of the tail.
- **September 16:** While on patrol at Engong Narok area on Olgulului Group Ranch, the Ilmarba team found a herd with a two-year old calf having problems walking. The vet arrived the following day and successfully treated the animal of a fresh spear wound on the left hind leg. *(pictured below)*



Not treated:

- **July 7:** An elephant was reported with a small wound on its left foreleg near Ol Donyo Lodge, Mbirikani Group Ranch. A search by rangers to later find the elephant was unsuccessful.
- **July 13:** An elephant was reported bleeding at Ipararua area on Eselengei Group Ranch. A joint search by the RDU and KWS to track the animal was unsuccessful.
- **August 5:** While on aerial patrol at Serana, ANP, Big Life's Head of Security spotted an elephant having difficulty walking. Esiteti team rushed to the area but could not find the animal.
- **September 16:** Mobile 3 received information of an elephant that was speared in the head at Emotoroki borehole on Mailua Group Ranch. They rushed to the area, and after speaking with community members, they confirmed that the animal was speared as he approached a water trough where cows were drinking. A two-day search was unsuccessful.

ELEPHANT RESCUE

Rescued: 2

- **July 1:** A one-year-old elephant calf was found wandering alone in the bushes of Oloshoyokie, Rombo Group Ranch. Rangers managed to capture it the following day and it was airlifted by DSWT to their orphanage. *(pictured below-left)*



- **July 6:** An approximately 8-month-old female elephant calf was found wandering alone in the bushes of Naar-Enkolong on Mbirikani Group Ranch. Mobile 1 team managed to capture it and handed it over to DSWT who airlifted it to their Nairobi orphanage. *(pictured above-right)*

OTHER ELEPHANT INCIDENTS

In the third quarter, on September 9th, a big Amboseli tusker, named Tim *(pictured below)*, was collared in collaboration with Save the Elephants, WildlifeDirect, KWS, ATE, among others. Big Life's animal conflict teams are now able to monitor the location of this notorious crop-raiding bull to keep him from raiding farms and protect him from angry farmers.



BUSHMEAT POACHING

Poaching for bushmeat continues throughout the ecosystem, especially in areas with high densities of both people and wildlife and along the extreme edges of Big Life's AOO. Over the reporting period, **eight suspects were arrested in five incidents** for poaching or poaching intention.

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

	Gazelle	Giraffe	Dik-dik	Impala	Zebra	Total
July	1	5	-	-	-	6
August	2	2	-	1	1	6
September	1	-	8	-	-	9
Total	4	7	8	1	1	21

Details:

- **August 4:** On patrol at Oltiasika area, rangers found a carcass of a sub-adult male giraffe that had three spear wounds. Four dogs were feeding on the carcass. Mobile 1 and the Dog Unit teams were alerted. Tracker dogs Bonny and Didi traced the suspect to a temporary boma, where he had a spear with blood on it and his two dogs had blood on their mouths. He was arrested for bushmeat poaching. *(pictured below-left)*



- **August 7:** An informer reported suspected bushmeat poachers at Marura area on Mbirikani Group Ranch. Olepolos and Mobile 2 teams arrived at the area and arrested one suspect that killed an impala, two others escaped. The suspect had eight kg of impala meat in a house. The teams laid an ambush the following day and arrested one of the other suspects that had escaped. *(pictured above-right)*
- **August 9:** Following an informer tip, the Mukuro team and a plain-clothed ranger set an ambush and arrested two people who were known poachers. They were arrested at Ikungu area, Ukambani and were in possession of four poisoned arrows, 16 non-poisoned, eight bows, and a packet of poison. *(pictured next page)*



- **September 2:** Following an informer tip, the RDU arrested one suspect at Oremit area on Mbirikani Group Ranch. The suspect was among four other who escaped, leaving behind eight kg gazelle meat, a machete, and a knife. An ambush was set the same night and rangers arrested two others. *(pictured below)*



- **September 29:** Informers reported an extensive bushmeat business at Emali town. Plain-clothed rangers went to meet one suspect whom they tricked into selling them a dik-dik leg on 28 Sep and promised to come with more if they needed. Rangers made a deal and the following day, the suspect returned with eight skinned dik-diks. He was arrested.

DE-SNARING

Thirty-nine snares were recovered during arrests and de-snaring patrols. Four were cable snares targeting rhino and the rest were lighter gauge wire targeting small to medium mammals. Five were discovered after killing wildlife. Thirty were recovered from the bush before they could kill.

HABITAT DESTRUCTION

There was a rise in habitat destruction crimes recorded during the third quarter. **Fifty-five arrests** were made in **25 incidents**, double the number from the previous quarter. The majority of arrests this quarter, as in others, were of illegal charcoal producers (17 suspects were arrested in eight incidents, *pictured below-left*) and firewood collectors (17 arrests in four incidents). Other incidents included illegal logging, sand harvesting, water pumping, and arson.



COMMUNITY CRIMES

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

- **August 5:** Two suspects were arrested in the Lemasusu area on Mbirikani Group Ranch for inciting others to burn a Big Life rangers' house following the arrest of two suspects for arson inside CHNP. They were handed over to the community elders who warned and released them after they paid a US \$100 fine each.
- **September 21:** Information of 25 stolen cattle in Tanzania, heading to Kenya, was received by rangers. Osewan, Esiteti, and Mobile 3 blocked the likely routes and the suspects were tracked to the Lenikoti area near ANP. The cattle were returned to the owner and the suspect was arrested.

PROSECUTIONS

During the third quarter, **five wildlife-crime cases were concluded:**

- Three suspects arrested for killing five elephants in Tsavo-West National Park in July 2015 were acquitted of all charges.
- Two suspects arrested for trading ivory (4.2 kg) in June 2015 were sentenced to three years jail term each, with no option of fine.
- One suspect arrested in February 2016 for intending to poach was released for alleged lack of evidence.
- One suspect arrested in March 2015 for trophy poaching was released for alleged lack of evidence.
- Four suspects arrested in January 2016 for intending to poach were released for alleged lack of evidence.

The table below details ongoing cases.

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
7/6/13	1	Ivory trade	\$300	Out on bond.
7/26/14	2	Trophy poaching	\$1,000	Out on Bond.
9/1/14	3	Bushmeat poaching – 1 eland	\$3,000	All out on bond. One escaped and an arrest warrant was issued.
12/25/14	1	Bushmeat poaching – 3 gazelles & 4 dik-diks	\$5,000	Lab report indicated meat was from a cow. Charges amended to include being in the country illegally and defying orders to stop poaching. Appealed for bond reduction; bond was reduced to \$1,000. Now out on bond.
1/11/15	3	Bushmeat poaching – 1 dik-dik	\$500	Out on bond.
3/16/15	8	Bushmeat poaching – 1 eland	\$1,000	File is missing from the court. Last recorded on 7/04/2015. Warrant of arrest issued on all suspects. Office of DPP working to find the file.
4/24/15	2	Elephant spearing	\$1,000	File is missing from the court. ODPP working to find file.
5/17/15	1	Bushmeat poaching – 3 Grant's gazelles, 1 impala & 2 dik-diks	\$500	File wasn't brought to the court on May 11. Working with Loitoktok police to find out why.
6/11/15	2	Lion poisoning	\$1,000	Trial magistrate away. Bond extended.

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
6/27/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 1 impala	\$2,000	In custody.
6/27/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 3 dik diks	\$2,000	Out on bond.
7/9/15	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	Out on bond.
8/19/15	1	Bushmeat poaching - 1 impala	\$2,000	In custody. Also charged for being in possession of marijuana. The lab report is not yet out to ascertain the type of species killed.
9/29/15	2	Ivory trade	\$20,000	Out on bond
10/02/15	1	Ivory trade	\$5,000	In custody.
10/02/15	1	Ivory poaching	\$5,000	In custody.
10/06/15	2	Ivory trade	\$25,000	In custody.
11/07/15	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 eland	\$2,000	In custody.
11/8/15	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 dik-dik	\$2,000	Forensic lab report is not yet ready. Need to update the statement of one of our rangers because the current witness is afraid to testify.
12/4/15	1	Ivory trade	\$500	Given US \$40 cash bond, which was paid.
12/13/15	2	Bushmeat - 2 gazelles	\$2,000	Out on bond.
1/5/16	2	Bushmeat poaching - 1 gazelle	\$2,000	In custody.
1/05/16	3	Ivory trade	\$3,000	One of the suspects was acquitted of the charges. Others are out on bond.
1/24/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	Paid US \$5,000 and released on bond.
1/26/16	1	Ivory trade	\$5,000	Out on bond.
2/1/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	Out on bond.
2/08/16	1	Trophy poaching - Python & crocodile skins	Bond not indicated	In custody.
3/24/16	2	Ivory trade	\$50,000	Out on bond.
3/29/16	1	Ivory trade	\$200,000	Suspect pleaded not guilty, out on bond of 100,000 after the court revised it.
4/14/16	1	Ivory trade	N/A	He was not subject to bond as the ivory was opportunistic. The prosecution is trying to withdraw the case.
5/15/16	3	Bushmeat poaching - 1 giraffe	\$2,000	One suspect pleaded guilty (no bond given), and two others pleaded not guilty and given bond.
6/2/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	In custody

Date of Arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (USD)	Remarks
6/11/16	2	Bushmeat poaching – 4 dik-dik	Not indicated	In custody
6/14/16	1	Ivory trade	\$10,000	In custody
07/31/16	2	Forest fire	Not bonded	Suspect released on free bond. Case ongoing.
08/04/16	1	Bushmeat - 1 giraffe	\$10,000	Suspected released on a US \$50,000 bond. Case ongoing.
08/07/16	2	Bushmeat - 1 Grant's gazelle	\$2,000	Suspects still in custody. Could not afford the bond.
08/12/16	2	Ivory trade	\$200,000	Suspects paid a bond of US \$5,000 and released. Case ongoing.
08/16/16	2	Ivory trade	Not given bond	Suspects are still under investigation for previous crime. Case ongoing.
09/02/16	3	Bushmeat	\$200,000	One suspect was released on a bond of US \$20,000. The others are still in custody. Case ongoing.
09/25/16	1	Ivory trade	\$20,000	Still in custody. He could not raise the bond.
09/30/16	1	Bushmeat	Not bonded	Pleaded guilty and awaiting judgment.

RHINO PROGRAM

Big Life has been working hard to obtain Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status in the Chyulu Hills, and our efforts are progressing well. The Chyulu Hills are ideally suited for rhinos, and achieving IPZ status would enable us to qualify for inbound rhino translocations into the habitat. It is vital that the remaining population of **seven Eastern black rhinos** continues to prosper in order for this to be achieved, and we are happy to report that all rhinos in our area are **currently healthy**. As other rhino habitats in Kenya reach carrying capacity, the future of the Chyulu Hills as free-roaming black rhino range becomes more and more important for the preservation of the species and the well-being of individual animals.

In order to qualify as an IPZ, the Chyulu Hills area needs to meet a number of minimum requirements designed to ensure that the rhino population (whether augmented by inbound translocations or not) receives sufficient protection and monitoring and will continue to do so.

The IPZ requirements yet to be *fully* met include:

1. fencing of the eastern boundary of CHNP, which is bordered by a large community—this is in

progress, and fencing of the relevant rhino-specific section should be completed by 2017;

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

1. upgrading of the internal road network (used by rangers)—now meets minimum IPZ criteria, but Big Life will continue to improve roads as needed and when the budget allows;
2. installation of an additional water point for rhinos and other wildlife—the water currently available meets the minimum required for existing rhinos; however, for multiple translocations into the area, an additional water hole and an upgrade of water infrastructure will be necessary; and
3. increased availability of security-specific manpower, resulting in increased effectiveness of both security and monitoring.

Big Life continues to fundraise for the above needs, and together with key partners, we hope to achieve IPZ status by the end of 2016. Thanks to the DSWT and KWS, fencing is underway. However, we still need significant additional funding in order to complete the necessary improvements described above. Please email donations@biglife.org if you are interested in helping us to achieve IPZ status in this critically-important rhino habitat.

RHINO MONITORING

During the quarter, monitoring teams had nine direct rhino sightings, nine indirect sightings (via camera trap), and well over 100 sightings of spoor. (*Cathy and her calf pictured below.*)



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC), specifically **human-elephant conflict** (HEC), continues to be the **most significant threat** to the ongoing conservation of wildlife within the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem. Incidents in which humans are injured or killed appear to be happening more frequently, which has led to increased retaliation against and mortality of elephants.

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. The first phase of fence construction is now underway, with more than 40 km cleared and materials purchased for construction.

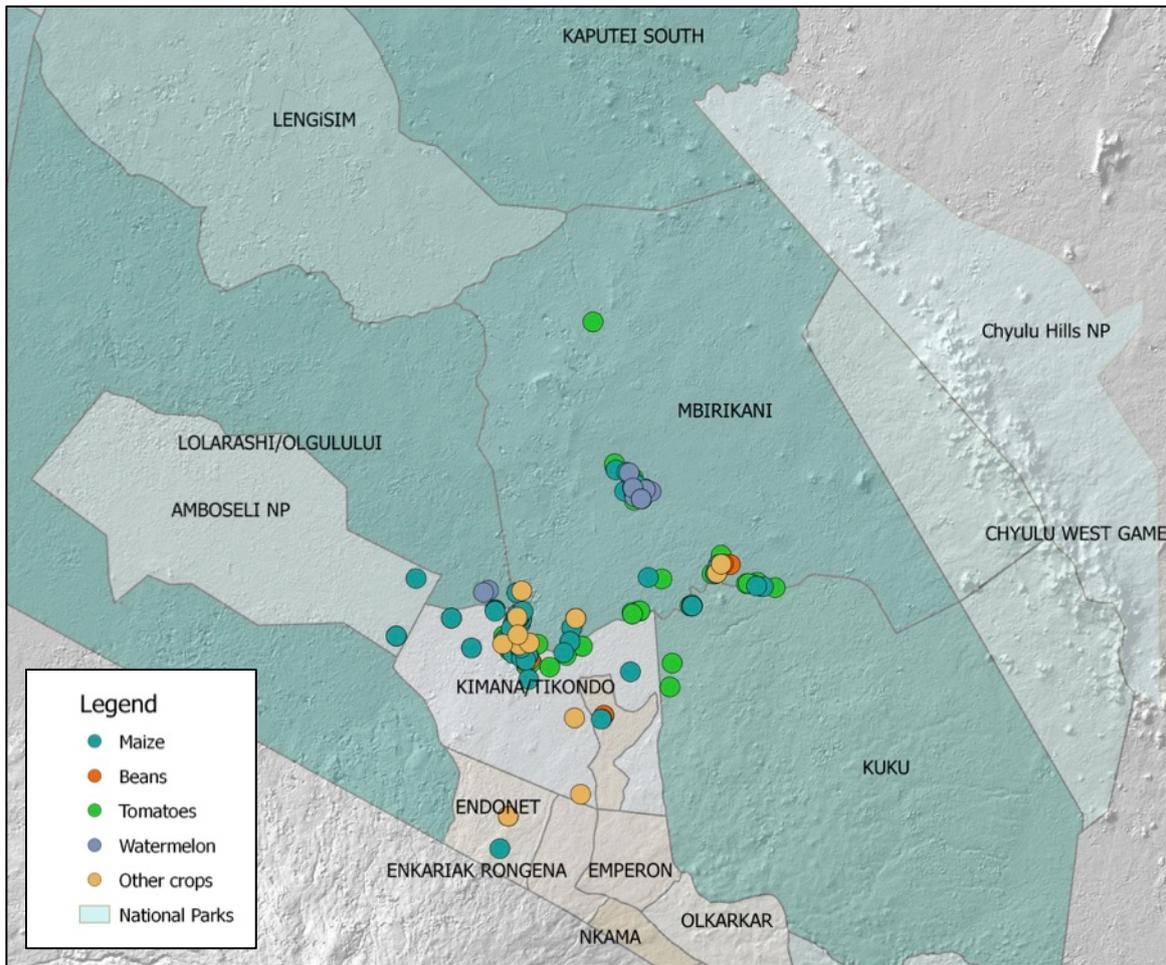
HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT & CROP-RAIDING

This quarter coincides with the driest months of the year, when no rainfall occurs anywhere in the ecosystem, and the natural vegetation and water points gradually dry up. Only areas using irrigation were able to grow any crops. As the dry season progressed, elephants and other crop-raiding wildlife moved into these areas in search of moist vegetation and water, thus concentrating conflict.

Out of the **214 recorded crop-raiding incidents** in which damage occurred, **elephants were responsible for 201 incidents**, and damaged **141 of the total 154 acres** of crops.



Big Life also mobilized community members to assist in the coordination and increased preemptive deployment of crop-protection rangers to select areas near routes that are commonly used by elephants. As a result, our rangers **prevented 124 incidents** before the animals could cause any damage, and before anyone (human or elephant) was harmed.



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

Number of incidents and acres damaged per crop species:

Crop	Incidents	Area damaged (Acres)
Beans	24	12.5
Bananas	5	2.25
Cabbages	1	0.5
Capsicum	1	1.25
Khat	1	0.5
Maize	83	61
Onions	7	4
Potatoes	2	2.5
Sugarcane	1	0.75
Tomatoes	81	62.75
Water melon	8	6
Total	214	154

HUMAN INJURIES & DEATH

During the third quarter, one incident involving wildlife led to the tragic death of one person, while two people suffered injuries.

Details:

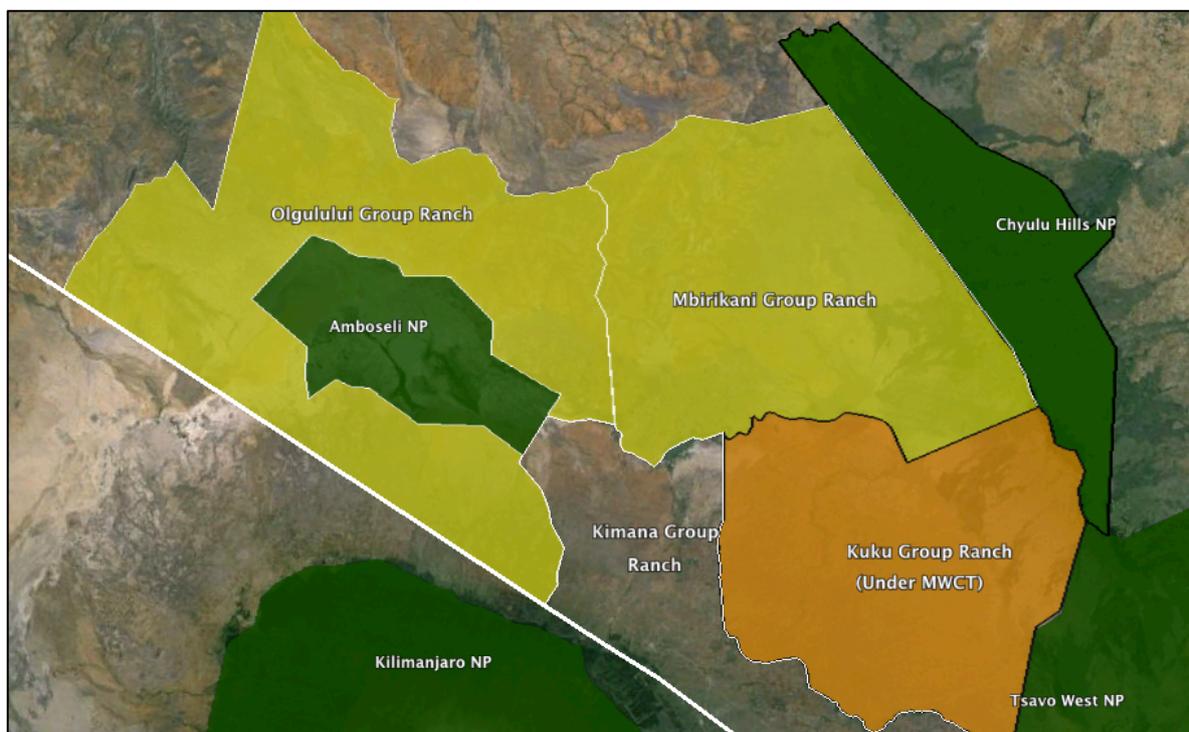
- **July 5:** An elephant killed a Moran (young Maasai warrior) near a waterhole in the Marite area of Porini Conservancy on Eselengei Group Ranch. Angry community members claim to have retaliated by injuring seven elephants with spears.
- **July 10:** An elephant injured a member of the community while he was retaliating against elephants, following the July 5th incident.
- **July 30:** At Inkisanjani area, Kuku Group Ranch, an elephant seriously injured one man. Community members threatened to retaliate, but a joint effort by Big Life, MWCT, and KWS calmed the situation, although community members demanded that the animal be euthanized by KWS.

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

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.



Map: Ranches covered by predator compensation in the Amboseli ecosystem

The second part of Big Life’s predator protection strategy is focused on the morans (warriors) of the Maasai community, and is known as the Moran Education Initiative (MEI). In Maasai culture, lion killing has traditionally been an important part of becoming a man, but we are successfully creating a cultural shift.

In 2012, Big Life worked collaboratively with the cultural fathers (Menye Layiok) to create the first-ever Maasai Olympics, a culturally-relevant sporting event for warriors across the ecosystem. The Maasai Olympics gives young men an alternative avenue through which to demonstrate their bravery and physical prowess, with competitive events for females, as well. The lead-up to the main event is

combined with a targeted education program aimed at changing attitudes and behavior to wildlife and conservation. The Olympics take place every two years, with education meetings with the warriors held intermittently throughout the year. The next Maasai Olympics will be held on **December 10, 2016**.

PREDATOR COMPENSATION FUND

The table below details livestock killed by predators and compensation paid to livestock owners on Mbirikani and Olgulului Group Ranches during the third quarter of 2016.

Predator	Cattle	Shoat (Sheep/Goats)	Donkey	Total	Amount (KES)	Amount (USD)
Cheetah	4	64	-	68	210,600	2,106
Hyena	18	198	6	222	500,050	5,000
Jackal	-	120	-	120	203,300	2,033
Leopard	-	1	-	1	3,800	38
Lion	10	11	-	21	208,500	2,085
Total	32	394	6	432	1,126,250	11,262



Fifty-eight shoats killed by hyena in a single depredation incident

PREDATOR INCIDENTS

It is important to note that while PCF is the fulcrum of Big Life's predator protection efforts, the security network also plays an important role. Big Life has learned that a quick response by rangers to conflict goes a long way to calming livestock owners.

Big Life's rangers, informers, and PCF personnel, in conjunction with partners at KWS and Lion Guardians (LG), have worked to **stop seven lion hunts** during the third quarter, four of which were within our AOO and three were outside.

LION HUNTS STOPPED

- **July 18:** At Risa area on Olgulului Group Ranch, a lion killed a lost cow while grazing. The following morning, warriors looking for the cow found the lion still feeding on it. They threatened to kill it, as it had killed seven cows in the same area in the recent past. Big Life's RDU and Risa teams rushed to the area and stopped them. The community demanded that the animal be translocated.
- **July 28:** A pride of nine lions killed two lost cows and injured another at Olosira area on Mbirikani Group Ranch. Angry warriors threatened to hunt the lion. Big Life's Mobile 1, LG, and Mbirikani PCF Verification Officers rushed to the scene, calmed the hunting party, and verified the incident.
- **August 8:** A pride of three lions repeatedly killed livestock at Endoonyo Ewuas area on Olgulului Group Ranch: one donkey on the 2nd, two goats on the 3rd, one cow on the 5th, and one cow on the 7th. Angry community members threatened to retaliate but Big Life's Osewan rangers managed to calm them down. They demanded that the pride be translocated into ANP.
- **August 28:** Multiple lion depredations were reported at Enkutoto area on Osilalei Group Ranch: three lions broke into a boma and killed four shoats on the 23rd; another pride broke into a boma and killed one cow and four shoats on the 24th; the same lions broke into another boma and killed one cow on the 25th; and one cow and two shoats were killed and another cow was injured on the 26th. As a result, the Enkutoto community gathered to retaliate against any lion within their area, and chased after some into the bush. Big Life's Osewan rangers, KWS and LGs rushed to the area and stopped them before they could pursue the animals further.
- **September 3:** Three lions killed a lost bull at Emotoroki area on Mailua Group Ranch. The community attempted to retaliate but rangers responded immediately and moved the pride into Mailua Conservancy. The community claimed the highly prized bull was valued at US \$1,000.
- **September 4:** Lions killed a cow returning home from grazing at Emotoroki on Mailua Group Ranch. The community threatened to retaliate but was stopped by Osewan rangers. They were angry that they were not given compensation (Mailua Group Ranch is not included in PCF.)
- **September 13:** A lion killed a cow as they returned home from grazing in the evening at Pelican area on Mbirikani Group Ranch. Five warriors from the community threatened to go after the animal but Mobile 1 stopped the hunt.

PREDATOR MORTALITIES

No predator mortalities were recorded during the third quarter.

MORAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Preparation for this year's Maasai Olympics is in full swing, and during the third quarter regional competitions began for the four participating manyattas (villages) alongside conservation education meetings. Regional events for the manyattas on Mbirikani vs. Olgulului, Kuku vs. Rombo, Olgulului vs. Kuku, and Rombo vs. Mbirikani were held on July 2nd, August 6th, 13th, and September 10th, respectively. Teams competed in five categories (*i.e.*, rungu throwing, javelin, high jump, 200 m run, 800 m run, and 5,000 m run) in the lead up to the Olympics Final, scheduled for December 10.



Javelin throw at the Mbirikani vs. Olgulului regional event on July 2.

Through the regional competitions and educational meetings, Big Life has engaged over 1,400 Maasai on the importance of wildlife conservation this quarter, including 620 warriors, 132 elders, 173 women, and over 400 children. Event attendance was lower than last quarter due to many people traveling far distances with their livestock looking for pasture during the dry season.

To help fund the 2016 Maasai Olympics, please email donations@biglife.org.

EDUCATION

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

The Wildlife Scholarship and Education Program is currently supporting 171 students of all ages, encompassing 14 schools. Four students graduated from tertiary level this quarter.

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

- Rolled out the Wildlife Scholarship program with Tawi Lodge in the Kilitome and Kimana Conservancies;
- Completed construction of two dormitories and two teachers' houses at Orbili Boarding school. *(Parents and teachers visiting the new dormitory, pictured below-left.)*



- Noosidan preschool received two 8,000 litre water tanks *(pictured above-right)*.
- Hosted an 'open day' for all sponsored students. 54 attended to socialize, recite poems, perform plays, and sing songs all with a conservation and wildlife theme.

In addition to education scholarships, Big Life has initiated an in-school conservation education program. Our Education Officer visited 13 schools across Mbrikani Group Ranch teaching students conservation-related topics and showing wildlife films. This quarter, we engaged at least 945 teachers and students on multiple topics and occasions. Presentation topics included the Amboseli ecosystem and its wildlife, Maasai culture, and human-wildlife conflict. Films shown were: *War on*

Poaching by Let Elephants Be Elephants, Mysterious Castles of Clay by Alan Root, and Sunlight and Shadow by Alan Root.



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.

