

| 2018 ANNUAL REPORT |



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

2018 feels like the year when we finally started to see the fruits of labors that were started nearly ten years ago, or longer.

Big Life's broad range of programs have coalesced into three distinct categories: wildlife, habitat, and community. The core components of each are outlined in this report, and I'm proud of the work our team has put into these programs. It is always an interesting exercise to review the numbers and put the blood, sweat, and tears of our field staff into perspective.

On the wildlife side, there are many highlights, starting with the discovery that one of our Eastern black rhinos had given birth to a healthy calf, bringing the number for this unique, wild population up to eight. I've lived in the Chyulus for nearly 30 years now, and to see a mother rhino feel safe enough to bring her calf down out of the dense lava and into the open is truly cause for celebration.

Lion numbers are also up, and these days, it feels like we're practically tripping over cubs. For the second year running, no lions were killed this year in violation of our Predator Compensation Fund, proof that humans and apex predators can coexist.

Our work to mitigate human-wildlife conflict is also working, and although it's an uphill battle, it is one we will continue to fight. In the areas where we've built electric fencing, a project started over two years ago now, we've seen about a 90% reduction in crop-raiding by elephants. And the local farmers agree that the fence is working, which is just as important as the fence itself.

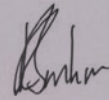
Of course, without habitat, there would be no place for these animals to go. We've secured the Kimana Corridor, which helps to funnel animals between the marshy swamps

of Amboseli National Park, and into Kimana Sanctuary and beyond. Animals of all kinds are using the corridor daily and seem to have adapted to the narrowest pinch-point, just 250 feet wide. Kimana Sanctuary itself continues to be a diamond in the rough that we're slowly polishing. Thanks to our partners, including Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, we're already seeing some tourism revenue in this special place that is a refuge for some of the ecosystem's biggest tuskiers, like Tim.

The third leg of this stool is as important as the other two, and that's the people who live here, our community. We continue to invest in the community generally through land leases and conservation programs, as well as by employing rangers and administrative staff from the local community. We're also continuing to provide education and healthcare benefits to those with whom we share this special place, and will expand these services as we can in the coming years.

We've got big goals for 2019—including continuing to expand north into Eselengei Group Ranch, improving wildlife security across the border in northern Tanzania, securing more habitat for wildlife, continuing to grow our intelligence network—and we couldn't do any of it without your support.

Thank you, as always.



Richard Bonham
Co-Founder & Director of Operations

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300+
Total Field Staff

6
Mobile Units

14
Patrol Vehicles

2
Airplanes

398
Aerial Patrol Hours



2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



TOTAL KILOMETERS PATROLLED

ON FOOT: 91,404 km | BY VEHICLE: 277,891 km | BY PLANE: 48,223 km

228
Trained Rangers

40
Ranger Units

31
Permanent Outposts

1
Rapid Deployment Unit


3
Tracker Dogs


380+
SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN
167 INCIDENTS


75 KM
FENCING CONSTRUCTED


124
CROP-RAIDING
INCIDENTS PREVENTED


90%
REDUCTION IN
CROP-RAIDING IN NEWLY
FENCED AREAS


1004 KG (1 TON)
IVORY CONFISCATED


1
RHINO BORN


0
LIONS KILLED IN
VIOLATION OF PCF


\$102,581
COMPENSATION PAID
TO LIVESTOCK OWNERS


248
STUDENTS' SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED


30
TEACHERS' SALARIES PAID


7
MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS
SUPPORTED


207
RANGERS RECEIVED
ADDITIONAL TRAINING

WHERE WE WORK

Big Life Foundation's Area of Operation (AOO) covers approximately 1.6 million acres across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro (Greater Amboseli) ecosystem in East Africa. Our rangers help to protect and secure wildlife and critical habitat stretching from the rangelands north of Amboseli to the Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West National Parks in the east, and south to Kilimanjaro National Park. The area is a central connection point for migrating wildlife and contains some of the most important habitat left in Africa. Big Life was the first organization in the region to conduct collaborative cross-border patrols between Kenya and Tanzania.

Our AOO is divided into a core area with a permanent security presence, a non-core area that is actively patrolled by mobile units, and adjacent areas where we provide varying degrees of support as needed.

Core AOO (permanent security presence): Eselengei Group Ranch, Kimana Area, Mbirikani Group Ranch, Rombo Group Ranch, Chyulu Hills National Park, and Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (Tanzania)

Non-Core AOO (patrolled by mobile units): Merrueshi Ranch, Taveta Area

Adjacent Area (support provided as needed): Kuku Group Ranch, Mailua Ranch, Tsavo West National Park



- ★ Headquarters
- BLF-Supported Ranger Outposts
- 🚚 Mobile Ranger Units
- ➡ Wildlife Migration Routes
- National Parks
- Agricultural Areas
- Crop Protection Fence - Phase 1 (completed)
- Crop Protection Fence - Phase 2 (underway)

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

There are now eight Eastern black rhinos in Big Life's AOO.

Elephants

Elephants across Africa are in crisis, facing extinction due to ivory poaching and human-elephant conflict. The number of African elephants once reached upwards of 30 million; today, only an estimated 350,000 remain. In Big Life's AOO, there are more than 2,000 elephants, including some of the largest remaining big tuskers in all of Africa.

Elephant Mortalities

Within Big Life's **Core AOO**

Causes

Natural: **3**

Unknown: **5**

Human-Elephant Conflict: **2**
(confirmed)

Human-Elephant Conflict: **1**
(suspected)

Poaching: **1**

Ivory Recovered: **83%**

Within Big Life's **Non-Core AOO**

Causes

Human-Elephant Conflict: **5**

Ivory Recovered: **100%**

17

Elephant Mortalities

9

Elephant Mortalities
Caused by Man

3

Elephant Rescues

20

Elephant Injuries

Treated: **8**

Not Treated: **12***

All due to spear wounds

Rescues and treatments are done in collaboration with our partners at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service.

** 3 did not end up requiring treatment*

Rhinos

2018 was an exciting year for Big Life's rhino protection program. First, we were thrilled to discover a new rhino calf had been born, and can confirm that there are now eight Eastern black rhinos in Big Life's AOO. They spend most of their time in the densely-forested Chyulu Hills, protected jointly by dedicated Big Life and Kenya Wildlife Service rangers.

As a result of these joint rhino protection efforts, some of the black rhinos felt safe enough to venture out of the dense lava forest and onto the open plains this year. Tourists visiting nearby ol Donyo Lodge were the first to photograph Chyulu rhinos in decades.

Big Life is actively maintaining Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status for the area, which will allow for the inbound translocation of rhinos from other territories. The planning and details around the IPZ and rhino translocation are being undertaken in conjunction with KWS.

Rhino Statistics

Direct Sightings: **13**

Indirect Sightings (via 30 camera traps): **49**

Spoor Sightings: **227**

Rhino Protection Rangers: **51**

Dedicated Rhino Outposts: **7**

Dedicated Rhino Units: **9**

Rhino Snares Destroyed: **2**

0

Rhino Mortalities



Big Life and partners dramatically rescued Tim in December.

TIM'S STORY

Tim was born in 1969, the year Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon. This impressive tusker, one of the largest left in all of Africa, has seen dramatic changes to his ecosystem. He lost his mother to poachers when he was only 8 years old, followed by the loss of many other family members to humans over the years. Today, in

addition to the threat of poaching, Tim also faces the growing threat of human-elephant conflict. He was dramatically rescued in December after becoming stuck in a muddy farm. Big Life rangers continue to keep a close eye on him.



Bushmeat

Bushmeat poaching spikes in the dry season, when farm laborers are out of work and in some cases rely on bushmeat for subsistence and/or income. Numbers were down significantly this year, possibly due to unusually heavy rainfall in 2018. Species targeted for bushmeat included: bushbuck, dik-dik, eland, gazelle, giraffe, hartebeest, impala, and ostrich.

42
Animals Killed

12
Suspects Arrested

37
Bushmeat Poaching Incidents

Prosecutions

Following arrest, suspects are formally charged by the Kenya Police Service. The judicial process can be anywhere from immediate to stretching out over months or years. Big Life tracks the progress of wildlife and habitat-related cases in the local justice system to ensure that laws are properly enforced and to encourage maximum penalties upon sentencing.

Big Life arrests suspects for poaching-related crimes, habitat destruction, trespassing, and more.

135
Ongoing Cases

271
Suspects

19
Concluded Cases

9
Suspects Sentenced

Tanzania

During the course of the year, about one third of Amboseli's elephants, and many other species like lions, cross the border into Tanzania, just a few kilometers south. One important Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on the Tanzania side of the border is a 350,000-acre area known as Enduimet. We can't expect the animals to conveniently stay within the man-made boundaries inside which they are protected, which is why cross-border protection is so important.

With this in mind, and with financial support from the European Union, Big Life partnered with the WMA, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and other stakeholders to improve operations in Enduimet. Big Life supports wildlife protection operations, while TNC—which focuses on securing intact and functioning landscapes in key wildlife areas—has provided support for administration, strategy and planning, and governance.

16
Rangers

1
Anti-Poaching Commander

2
Mobile Response Teams

1
New Patrol Vehicle

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) takes three primary forms across Big Life's AOO: crops raided by wildlife, particularly elephants; livestock killed by predators, such as lions; and humans injured or killed due to living in close proximity with wildlife.



“I can't remember the last time I harvested this much. The fence is a life-saver for farmers. In the past, we invested a lot of money to stop the raids, but our efforts were in vain. In hindsight, this fence is exactly what we've been looking for.”

- A local farmer adjacent to the fence

Crop-Raiding

Poaching continues to pose a significant threat, but many elephants face an even bigger challenge: conflict with humans. As the human population increases, so do competing land uses, such as farming and development. As humans compete for limited resources like water, land, and grazing, we further reduce what were once wild lands. With less space to share, people and animals now come into direct contact at an alarming rate and often with deadly results.

Big Life works strategically to mitigate HWC, such as by employing rapid-response ranger teams to chase elephants out of farms, and by building crop-protection fences to deter elephants from entering farmed areas in the first place.

Crop-Raiding Incidents: 249

Incidents Involving Elephants: 239

Acres Damaged: 244

Acres Damaged by Elephants: 239

Crop Raids Prevented: 124

Retaliatory Elephant Hunts Prevented: 4

Crop-Protection Rangers: 24

Crop-Protection Fence

Since 2016, Big Life has been working with local communities and partners on an ambitious solution to crop-raiding: the construction of an electric fence that would establish a hard boundary between farmers' crops and hungry elephants. Approximately 120 km of fencing is required and the scale is daunting, but we're now well over the half-way mark. Construction teams completed 22 km of additional fencing in 2018, extending the first 53 km of fence that was completed in 2017.

As the numbers indicate, the impact has been nothing short of extraordinary. There has been around a 90% decrease in the number of elephant crop-raids in areas protected by the fence. Of equal importance, there are signs that the local community members are starting to change their attitudes towards elephants. 97% of people believe that the fence has been effective at eliminating human-elephant conflict. And while only 22% of farmers said that they thought positively of elephants prior to the construction of the fence, this figure has now risen to 77%.

Fence Constructed to Date: 75 km

Fence Maintenance Workers: 22



Predator Compensation Fund

Big Life protects vulnerable predators in the ecosystem in collaboration with partners and local communities. The core component of Big Life’s predator protection program is livestock compensation, which reduces the motivation for retaliatory killing in response to livestock depredation.

The Predator Compensation Fund (PCF) pays Maasai livestock owners a portion of the value of their livestock lost to predators, on the condition that no predators are killed in retaliation. Big Life Verification Officers are

dispatched to the scene to confirm all depredations, and penalties are applied for poor animal husbandry practices. The community provides 30% of the total compensation paid, and payments are withheld if any predators are killed by members of participating communities.

Big Life currently manages the PCF on Mbirikani Group Ranch and is actively expanding the program to Eselengei Group Ranch and the Kimana Conservancies. Given the success of this program, the goal is to expand the PCF across the ecosystem. The lion population in Big Life’s AOO is one of the few lion populations in all of Africa that is growing, not declining.

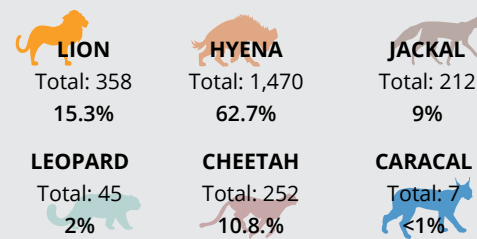
Compensation Issued for Predation of:

-  **363 Cows**
-  **1,696 Sheep/Goats**
-  **44 Donkeys**

**TOTAL LIVESTOCK KILLED:
2,103**

**TOTAL COMPENSATION VALUE:
\$102,581**

Depredation by Species



Lion Statistics

Lions Killed in Big Life’s Core AOO: 3
Lions Killed in Violation of the PCF: 0
Retaliatory Lion Hunts Prevented: 16

** Hunts prevented in coordination with both Lion Guardians and Kenya Wildlife Service*

Threats to Humans

Living in the African bush is challenging, in part due to conflict with wildlife. The following tragic events occurred in Big Life’s AOO in 2018:

27 Incidents of Humans Threatened by Wildlife
Species Responsible: buffalo, cheetah, elephant, hyena, leopard

19 Humans Injured by Wildlife
Species Responsible: elephant

3 Rangers Injured by Wildlife
Species Responsible: elephant, rhino

3 Humans Killed by Wildlife
Species Responsible: buffalo, elephant





Nearly 1,000 spectators attended the 4th Maasai Olympics finals on December 15, 2018, when Maasai warriors from across the Greater Amboseli ecosystem came together to compete in a day-long sports competition.

Maasai Olympics

The games represent a history-changing shift from killing to conservation. At the behest of the Menye Layiok, or Maasai “cultural fathers,” Big Life established this organized sporting event in 2012 based on traditional Maasai warrior skills to replace the long-held tradition of hunting lions as a mark of manhood, bravery, and prestige.

Every two years, participating villages select teams through a series of tournaments leading up to the finals across six categories: rungu and javelin throwing, high jump, and 200m, 800m, and 5,000m races. This year’s teams included 120 athletes from Mbirikani, Eselengei, Kuku, and Rombo Group Ranches, both men and women.

Mbirikani’s team ultimately won the day, taking home the prize bull and top honors for a third time. They had lost to Rombo in 2016 and were elated to take their title back. Rombo meanwhile took home the Chester Zoo Conservation Prize, for a year where no lions were killed on the ranch, and for not retaliating against an elephant that had tragically killed a man earlier in the year.

The games were overseen by patron David Rudisha: gold medal Olympian, 800m world-record holder, and fellow Maasai.

A very special thank you to our 2018 Maasai Olympics sponsors, including:

National Geographic Society, Disney Conservation Fund, Born Free Foundation, Chester Zoo, Anonymous Corporation, Charles & Judy Tate, Fairview Foundation, Zoo Basel, Great Plains Conservation, Great Plains Foundation, Marleen Groen, Safari Professionals of the Americas, Safarilink

HABITAT PROTECTION

The human-wildlife conflict in the ecosystem is a direct result of wildlife and local communities competing for limited resources on the same shrinking land areas. In order to reduce conflict, wildlife habitat must be strategically protected, and is an increasingly urgent program focus for Big Life.

Conservancy Development

The human-wildlife conflict in the ecosystem is a direct result of wildlife and local communities competing for limited resources on the same shrinking land areas. In order to reduce conflict, wildlife habitat must be strategically protected, and is an increasingly urgent program focus for Big Life.

One shining example is Kimana Sanctuary - a crucial and now safe connector between the Amboseli and Tsavo ecosystems.

In late 2017, Big Life was asked by the local community landowners to secure and manage Kimana Sanctuary, an area that covers roughly 5,700 acres. The local community had the foresight years ago to set aside this land for the benefit of wildlife and the hope of generating income through tourism. Previous efforts by private parties had been lackluster and failed to bring much benefit. In 2018, Big Life successfully took over management of the Sanctuary and is now actively overseeing both wildlife security as well as increasing tourism opportunities.

Thanks to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, we were able to successfully negotiate and pay for a 21-year lease for the land. Physical assets inside the Sanctuary, including four ranger outposts, were acquired thanks to the tremendous support of the D.N. Batten Foundation. The Sanctuary is a known refuge and dispersal area for wildlife, seasonally including large elephant families as well as some of the largest tuskers left in Africa.

Kimana Sanctuary

Tourism Revenue Generated for the Community: **\$10,000**
 Lease Payments Made to Community Stakeholders: **\$58,000**
 Rangers Protecting the Sanctuary: **22**
 Support Staff: **4**



We envision a world in which conservation supports the people and people support conservation.

Kimana Corridor

Animals that migrate out of Amboseli National Park frequently head east into a series of 7 conservancies, of which 5 are supported by Big Life through lease fees, that form a migratory passage known as the Kimana Corridor. They traverse this protected space to reach the Kimana Sanctuary some 15 km away, from which they are able to move onward to Chyulu and Tsavo National Parks.

At its narrowest point the corridor is only 250 feet wide, with human development on both sides and a tarmac road to cross before reaching safety in the Kimana Sanctuary. This pinch point is known as the “Kimana Crossing”.

Kimana Crossing was completed in late 2018, and wildlife adapted to using it immediately.

Rangelands Management

The Maasai are traditionally a pastoralist society, their wealth directly associated with their livestock. Large herds of cows, sheep, and goats graze across the ecosystem continually. Managing the impacts of grazing on the rangelands for the overall health of the ecosystem has become a major program focus.

In addition to helping develop a grazing plan to manage livestock movements and improve the condition of existing pasture, Big Life has helped to establish a sustainable farming program. We’ve also partnered with local communities, partner NGOs, and local government to implement a carbon credit program in the Chyulu Hills to protect it from deforestation and overgrazing.

Sustainable Farming

The shift from an exclusively pastoralist lifestyle to one that increasingly includes agriculture has led to some unique challenges, including: unsustainable water use, intensive and improper application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and soil degradation. Thus, Big Life’s sustainable farming project – One Heart Farm – was created to help demonstrate holistic and regenerative farming practices.

Sustainable Farming Sites: 2

Sustainable Farming Staff: 2
1 manager, 1 apprentice

Students Fed* at Enkijape School: 700+

**using organic vegetables from one of the sustainable farms*

Habitat Destruction

Big Life rangers enforce laws to prevent and deter habitat-related crimes, such as illegal charcoal production, sand harvesting, water extraction, and logging, including of high-value protected species like sandalwood.

139+
Suspects Arrested

46
Habitat Destruction Incidents



The Kimana Corridor map above represents the migratory passage outside Amboseli National Park.

COMMUNITY

Winning the hearts and minds of the community and providing a mutual benefit through conservation is the only way to protect wildlife and wild lands far into the future. To that end, Big Life provides a number of services in support of the community generally, including education and healthcare initiatives, and also lesser known activities, such as using ranger vehicles as ambulances, responding to crime within the community, conducting search and rescue operations, and more.



Education

Big Life invests in the future of participating communities by funding teachers' salaries, providing scholarship funds for local students, and implementing conservation-specific curriculum in classrooms.



208

Long-Term Scholarships Awarded

Girls: 100 // Boys: 108



40

One-Time Scholarships Awarded

Girls: 8 // Boys: 32



30

Teachers' Salaries Paid



1

University Degree Supported
(Bachelor of Arts in Education)



5,227

Teachers & Students Reached by
Conservation Curriculum



3

Field Trips with Local Students
and Teachers into Amboseli
National Park



Healthcare

Big Life works in partnership with the Kajiado South Department of Health to implement mobile health clinics focused on healthcare and family planning. Additional services provided include cancer screening, HIV testing, and counseling.

Mobile Healthcare Clinics Facilitated: 7

Patients Received Primary Healthcare Services: 1,535

Patients Received Family Planning Support: 129

Community Crimes

58 Suspects Arrested in 31 Incidents

for community crimes involving theft, assault, illegal gambling, drug possession, and property destruction.

70+ Suspects Arrested in 27 Incidents

for encroachment crimes involving illegal trespassing and grazing.

Search and Rescue

Big Life rangers and tracker dogs often help to search for people who have become lost in the bush.

18 People Rescued in 10 Incidents

FINANCIALS & SUPPORT

Organization: Big Life Foundation USA | Report: Financial Report | Period: January to December 2018 | Country: USA | Currency: US Dollars

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

INCOME	2018	2017
Contributions & Grants	\$3,289,817	\$3,015,980
In-Kind Contributions	\$152,450	\$155,164
Other Income	\$25,460	\$10,739
Total Income	\$3,467,727	\$3,181,883
EXPENSES		
Programs	\$3,432,090	\$2,611,849
General/Admin	\$199,431	\$201,768
Fundraising ¹	\$256,842	\$269,814
Total Expenses	\$3,888,363	\$3,083,431
Change in Net Assets	(\$420,636)	\$98,452
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$2,219,266	\$2,120,814
Net Assets, End of Year ²	\$1,798,630	\$2,219,266

¹ Big Life receives up to \$120,000/yr of free online advertising from a Google Ad Grant. Auditing standards require us to categorize this donated advertising as a fundraising expense, which inflates our numbers slightly, but we do not spend a penny of your donations on Google AdWords.

² Big Life maintains a Board-designated reserve fund to be drawn upon in the event of financial distress or an immediate liquidity need resulting from events outside typical operations of the organization.

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

At Big Life, we **maximize every penny** of your contributions. **88¢** out of every **\$1** donated goes directly towards our mission of protecting wildlife and wild lands for the benefit of all.

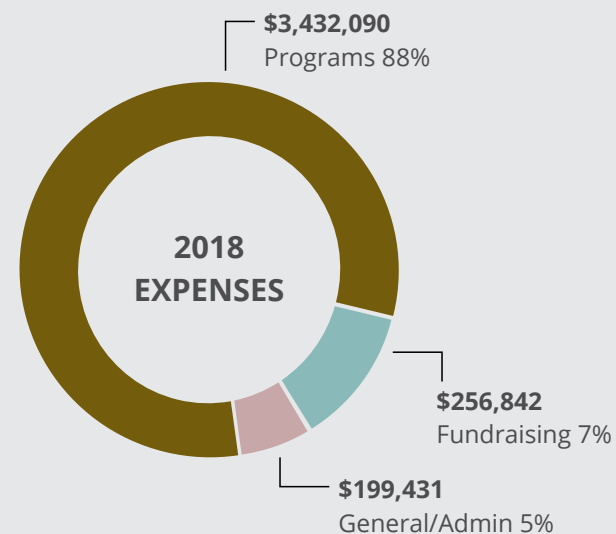


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Field Partners

51 Degrees
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 Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
 Amboseli Landowners Conservancy Association
 Amboseli Trust for Elephants
 Amboseli Tsavo Community Wildlife Ranger Association
 Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries
 CHASE Africa
 Chyulu Hills Conservation Trust
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 Enduimet Wildlife Management Area
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 US Fish and Wildlife Service
 WildAid
 Wildlife Conservation Network
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- Ranger Club member
- * Donation received by Big Life Canada, Kenya, or UK

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\$100,000+

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 Elephant Gin
 European Union*
 J. Lee Ballen Living Trust
 Sheldrick Wildlife Trust*
 UN Development Programme / Global Environment Facility*
 US Agency for International Development*

\$50,000+

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 National Geographic Society
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\$10,000+

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 Jennifer A. Waters
 Wildlife Conservation Network
 William Babcox

\$5,000+

African Wildlife Foundation*
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\$1,000+

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A photograph of a safari vehicle in a savanna landscape. The vehicle is a dark-colored SUV with a canvas cover on the back. Several people are visible in the vehicle, some wearing hats. In the background, an elephant is walking through the tall grass. The sky is hazy with some clouds, and there are mountains in the distance. The overall scene is a typical African savanna landscape.

Thank you for all of your support. We couldn't do this without you.



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