



**BIG LIFE**  
FOUNDATION

**QUARTERLY REPORT**  
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As always happens this time of year, we are looking forward to rain. While the seemingly biblical rains of last spring held us over for longer than usual, the landscape here has long since turned to dust. And with it have come the usual complications.

During the third quarter of this year, there were 94 crop-raiding incidents, all involving elephants. Bushmeat poaching spikes as well during the dry season, but thanks to the hard work of our community rangers and field partners, we had fewer incidents this quarter than at this time last year. We also found, confiscated, and destroyed 42 snares this quarter, two of which were designed to target rhinos.

There is no keeping the Chyulu Hills rhino population, of which there are now eight, a secret. Thus, Big Life has 51 rangers stationed in seven outposts—an almost 1-to-1 ratio of outposts to rhinos—throughout the rhino territory, all dedicated to protecting this incredibly small but important population. The enforcement and security measures done in tandem with Kenya Wildlife Service are working, and the rhinos are increasingly more secure. For the first time in decades, two rhinos were photographed out in the open this quarter. That is a success worth celebrating!

The weather and the wildlife are not the only things about our landscape that have changed this past quarter. Our Area of Operation (AOO) did too. Management of our conservation initiatives on Olgulului Group Ranch were handed over to the local community at their request, which has freed up resources to expand to other areas needing our assistance. Conservation initiatives are expanding to the north of our core AOO in Eselengei, as well as to the south in Enduimet on the Tanzanian side of the border. We'll be reporting on both communities as operations pick up moving forward.

As always, there's a lot a stake here and much to be done. Thank you to our partners and supporters from around the world for making our work possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Richard Bonham".

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

# WHERE WE WORK

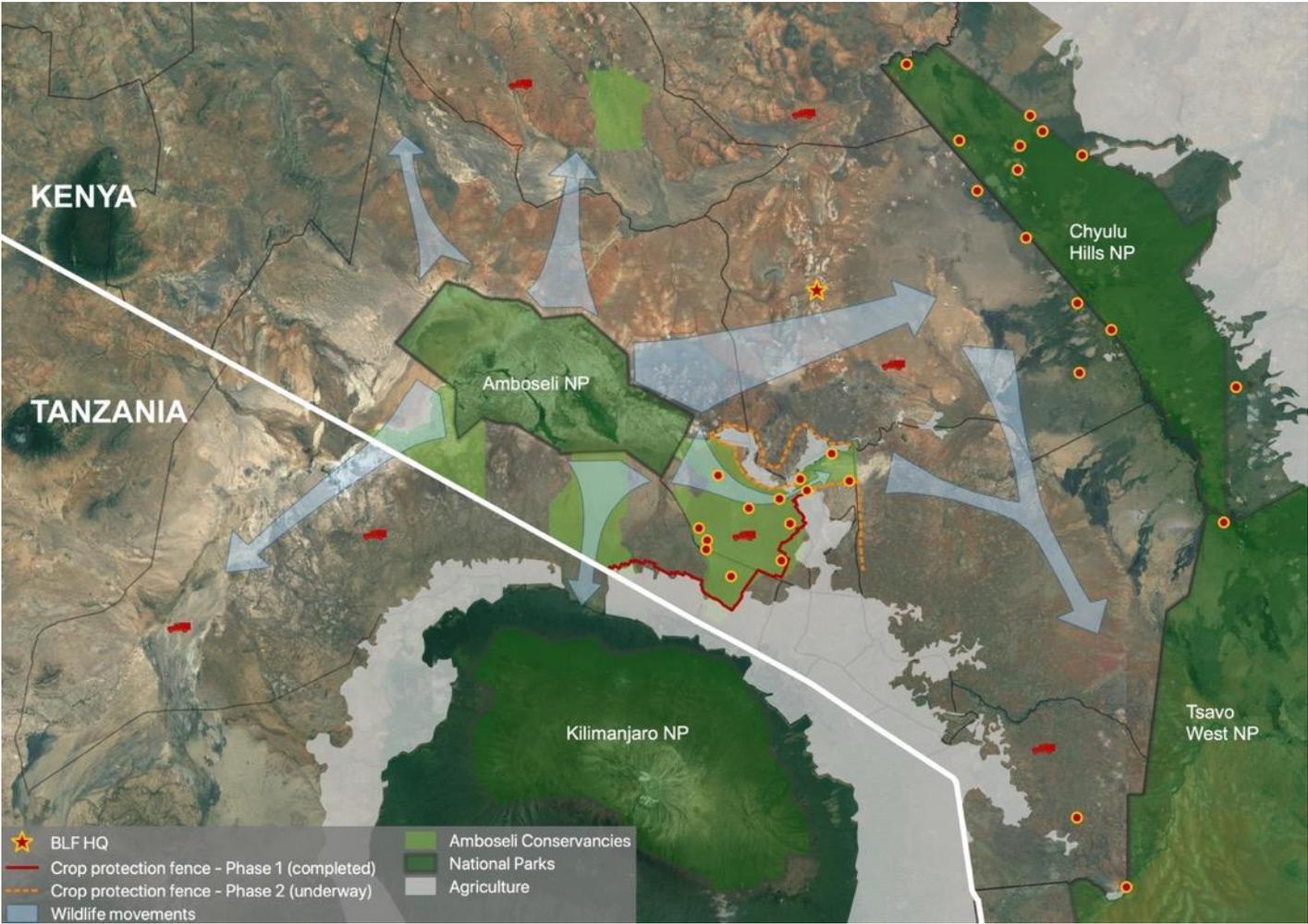
**Big Life Foundation's (Big Life) Area of Operation (AOO)** covers approximately 1.6 million acres across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro (Greater Amboseli) ecosystem in East Africa. Our rangers help to protect and secure wildlife and critical habitat stretching from the rangelands north of Amboseli 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 support as needed.

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

**Non-Core AOO:** Mailua Ranch, Merrueshi Ranch, Taveta Area

**Adjacent\*:** Amboseli National Park, Kuku Group Ranch, Tsavo West National Park



\* Incidents that occurred in adjacent areas and Tanzania are not reflected in this report.

## WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Big Life strives to prevent the poaching of all wildlife within our area of operation. We track and apprehend poachers and collaborate with local prosecutors to ensure that they are punished to the fullest extent of the law. One of the largest employers of local Maasai in the ecosystem, Big Life's community rangers are expertly trained and well-equipped to tackle a variety of wildlife crimes.

Since our inception, poaching of all animals has dramatically declined in our area of operation.

Our **2018 Q3** activity is summarized below:

### ANTI-POACHING

Big Life employs Maasai rangers from local communities who work collaboratively with a vast informer network and a number of tools to undertake a variety of anti-poaching activities.

Total Field Staff: <b>300+</b>	Trained Rangers: <b>223</b>
Ranger Units: <b>40</b>	Tracker Dogs: <b>3</b>
Mobile Units: <b>6</b>	Permanent Outposts: <b>30</b>
Aerial Surveillance Hours: <b>80.1</b>	Snares Found: <b>42</b>
Kilometers Patrolled This Quarter: On foot: <b>16,935</b> By vehicle: <b>62,341</b> <b>TOTAL: 79,276</b>	Total Kilometers Patrolled Since Inception: On foot: <b>645,724</b> By vehicle: <b>1,793,013</b> <b>TOTAL: 2,438,737</b>

### WILDLIFE CRIME & ANTI-TRAFFICKING

Following the arrest of suspects by Big Life rangers, our prosecution officer monitors court cases to ensure that maximum penalties are pursued. Meanwhile, Big Life's intelligence team remains actively involved in investigating wildlife trafficking, both in the immediate ecosystem and beyond.

<b>SUSPECTS ARRESTED</b> Poaching - Trophy Possession: <b>24</b> Poaching - Bushmeat: <b>4</b> Wildlife Trafficking: <b>0</b>	<b>RECOVERED ITEMS</b> Ivory: <b>377.2 kg</b> Rhino Horn: <b>0</b> Animal Skins: <b>2</b> Other: pangolin scales ( <b>4.5 kg</b> ), owl eggs ( <b>3</b> )
<b>INCIDENTS</b> Trophy Poaching: <b>13</b> Bushmeat Poaching: <b>3</b> Wildlife Trafficking: <b>0</b>	<b>PROSECUTIONS</b> Cases - Concluded: <b>5</b> <i>(2 convictions, 3 acquittals)</i> Cases - Ongoing: <b>248</b>

<b>MORTALITIES - ELEPHANT</b> Human-Elephant Conflict: <b>0</b> Poaching: <b>0</b> Natural Causes: <b>1</b> Unknown: <b>1</b> ( <i>but suspected HEC</i> )	<b>MORTALITIES – OTHER</b> ( <i>excluding large predators</i> ) Human-Wildlife Conflict: <b>0</b> Bushmeat Poaching: bushbuck ( <b>1</b> ), eland ( <b>3</b> ), giraffe ( <b>5</b> ) Other ( <i>human-related</i> ): aardvark ( <b>1</b> ), civet ( <b>1</b> ), aardwolf ( <b>1</b> ), gazelles ( <b>10</b> ), ostrich ( <b>1</b> ), zebra ( <b>2</b> )
<b>INJURIES - ELEPHANT</b> Elephants Injured: <b>2</b> ( <i>reported but not found</i> ) Elephants Treated*: <b>0</b> *Thanks to our partners at David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service.	<b>RESCUES - OTHER ANIMALS</b> Elephant ( <b>1*</b> ), gazelles ( <b>2</b> ) <i>*sadly, died a couple days after rescuing</i>

## RHINO INTENSIVE PROTECTION ZONE

There are **eight** known Eastern black rhinos in Big Life’s area of operation. They spend most of their time in the densely-forested Chyulu Hills National Park, protected by dedicated Big Life rangers and the Kenya Wildlife Service. In addition to monitoring and protecting the resident rhinos, Big Life has been working to improve and maintain infrastructure in the rhino area, the goal of which is to achieve Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status, which will allow for the future inbound translocation of rhinos from other territories.

Rhino Mortalities: <b>0</b>	Rhino Snares Found: <b>2</b>
Rhino Protection Rangers: <b>51</b>	Dedicated Rhino Outposts: <b>7</b> Dedicated Rhino Units: <b>9</b>
<b>RHINO MONITORING</b> Direct Sightings: <b>6</b> Indirect Sightings ( <i>via camera trap</i> ): <b>16</b> Spoor Sightings: <b>71</b>	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Fencing: <b>40 km</b> constructed by DSWT Water Points: <b>3</b> maintained Camera traps: <b>31</b>

### NOTABLE UPDATES:

- [Handover of Conservation Initiatives to Olgulului Group Ranch](#)
- [Chyulu rhino photographed in the open for the first time in decades.](#)



## HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) takes three primary forms across Big Life's area of operation: 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.

Our **2018 Q3** activity is summarized below:

## HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT MITIGATION

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 cattle grazing. As humans compete for limited resources like water, land, and grass for livestock, we further encroach onto 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.

Crop-Raiding Incidents: <b>94</b> Crop-Raiding Incidents Involving Elephants: <b>94</b>	Acres Damaged: <b>153.5</b> Acres Damaged by Elephants: <b>153.5</b>
Crop Raids Prevented by Big Life: <b>17</b>	Elephant Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: <b>1</b> ( <i>stopped</i> )
Crop-Protection Rangers: <b>24</b> Crop-Protection Fence Constructed to Date: <b>67.8 km</b> Crop-Protection Fence Maintenance Workers: <b>19</b>	Non-crop-raiding, elephant-related incidents: <b>2</b> <i>*including water tanks/pipes damaged by elephants, boma destruction, etc.</i>

## PREDATOR PROTECTION

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 previously managed the PCF on Olgulului Group Ranch and continues to manage the PCF on Mbirikani Group Ranch, and is actively expanding the program to Eselengei Group Ranch and the Kimana Conservancy. Given the success of this program, the goal is to expand the PCF across the entire ecosystem.

The second part of Big Life's predator protection program is the Maasai Olympics, which was established in 2012 as an alternative for the traditional killing of lions. At the Maasai Olympics, young warriors can compete for recognition, prove bravery, and attract girlfriends through a sports competition based on traditional warrior skills. The next Maasai Olympics final is scheduled to take place on **December 15, 2018**.

<p>Lion Mortalities: <b>5</b> - <i>HWC (4), natural (1)</i>  Lion Mortalities in Violation of the PCF: <b>0</b>  Lion Retaliatory Hunts Prevented*: <b>6</b>  <i>*In collaboration with our partners at Lion Guardians and Kenya Wildlife Service.</i></p>	<p>Maasai Olympics Engagement:  Meetings/events: <b>8</b>  People engaged: <b>3,472</b> (<i>some more than once</i>)</p>								
<p>Compensation Issued for:</p> <table> <tr> <td><b>25</b> Cows:</td> <td>\$3,455</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>265</b> Sheep/Goats:</td> <td>\$7,508</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>0</b> Donkeys:</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL:</b></td> <td><b>\$10,963</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>25</b> Cows:	\$3,455	<b>265</b> Sheep/Goats:	\$7,508	<b>0</b> Donkeys:	\$0	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$10,963</b>	<p>Livestock Killed by Predators:</p> <p>Cheetah: <b>45</b>  Hyena: <b>153</b>  Jackal: <b>55</b>  Leopard: <b>12</b>  Lion: <b>25</b></p>
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<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$10,963</b>								
<p>Additional Predator Mortalities:</p> <p>Hyena: <b>7</b> - <i>vehicle (5), unknown (2)</i>  Jackal: <b>2</b> - <i>vehicle</i></p>	<p>Other:</p> <p><b>2</b> incidents of problematic lions moved away from bomas to avoid depredation.  <i>* In collaboration with Lion Guardians</i></p>								

## ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Humans Injured: <b>4</b>	Wildlife Responsible for Injuries: elephant ( <b>2</b> ), buffalo ( <b>1</b> ), warthog ( <b>1</b> )
Humans Killed: <b>1</b>	Wildlife Responsible for Deaths: elephant ( <b>1</b> )

### NOTABLE UPDATES:

- [Regional tournaments for the Maasai Olympics](#) have concluded In advance of the December 15<sup>th</sup> Finals.



## SECURING WILDLIFE HABITAT

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, an increasingly urgent program focus for Big Life.

Our **2018 Q3** activity is summarized below:

## CONSERVANCY DEVELOPMENT

Big Life's engagement in conservancy development is composed of two specific parts. The first is paying annual leases to owners of 60-acre parcels of land located in the Kimana Corridor. These lease payments are intended to limit destructive development of the land, other than that which is compatible with conservation and pastoralism. The second involves working with local communities to protect land that is strategically important either as wildlife movement corridors or dispersal areas, but is also valuable to the local livestock economy as a grazing resource. This protection can be achieved through the establishment of conservancies, including the legal and management systems necessary for their effective functioning, and assisting to develop income-generating opportunities such as tourism.

**Kimana Sanctuary**, at the easternmost part of the Kimana Corridor, is an area frequented by Amboseli's biggest bull elephants, including known tuskers like Tim. Thanks to support from the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the D.N. Batten Foundation, Big Life rangers are working to [secure this special place](#).

### NOTABLE UPDATES:

- The Kimana House renovations on Kimana Sanctuary have been completed and the tourism [website has launched](#).
- The mystery lion on Kimana Sanctuary [has been identified](#) as Osunash.



## 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.

Our **2018 Q3** activity is summarized below:

### LAND

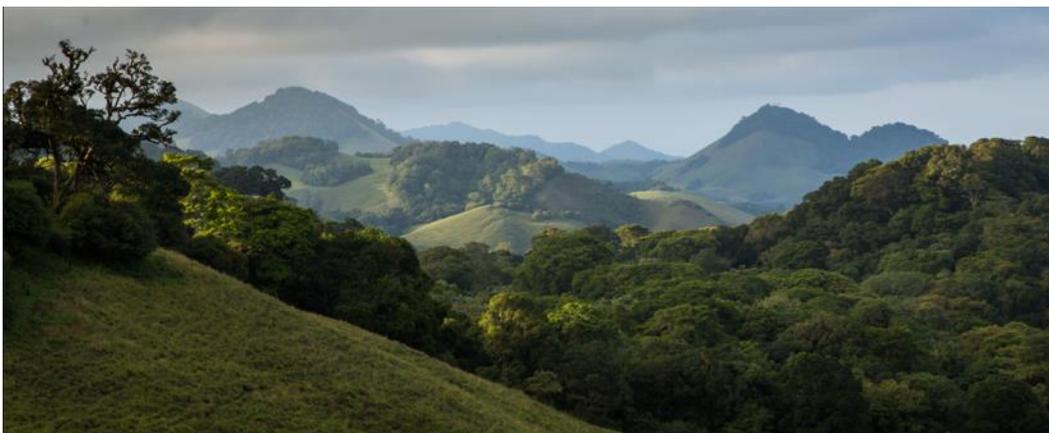
Big Life has helped to establish a sustainable farming program, in addition to helping develop a grazing plan to manage livestock movements and improve the condition of existing pasture. Rangers also actively protect the land by fighting against habitat destruction such as illegal logging or charcoaling. Lastly, we've partnered with local communities, partner NGO's, and government to implement a [carbon credit program](#) in the Chyulu Hills to protect it from deforestation and overgrazing.

Suspects Arrested* for Habitat Destruction: <b>34</b> Habitat Destruction Arrest Incidents: <b>13</b> <i>*sometimes released depending on severity of crime</i>	Sustainable Farms: <b>2</b> Sustainable Farming Manager ( <b>1</b> ) & Apprentice ( <b>1</b> )
Non-Arrest Habitat Destruction Incidents: <b>19</b>	Incidents of community grazing and conservancy rules enforcement: <b>6</b>

### WATER

Water is one of the most precious resources in the African bush. Big Life rangers actively work to reduce illegal water extraction and ensure that river systems are free and flowing.

Total Rainfall (at HQ) This Quarter: <b>0 mm</b>	Water-Related Incidents: <b>4</b>
Liters of Fuel Provided for Pumping Water to Both Community and Wildlife (to reduce conflict): <b>400L</b>	Water Points Constructed or Repaired: <b>1</b>



## 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, but also: using ranger vehicles as ambulances, arresting criminals for community crimes like theft, conducting human search and rescue, livestock search and rescue, and more.

Community Crime Incidents: <b>6</b>	Suspects Arrested: <b>8</b>
Human Search and Rescue Incidents: <b>1</b>	Livestock Search Incidents: <b>1</b>
Community Support Incidents: Transported people injured in car accidents ( <b>2</b> ) and by elephant ( <b>1</b> ) to hospital, transported people home after scared by elephant ( <b>1</b> ), mentally unstable person found, taken to authorities ( <b>2</b> ), stopped man from committing suicide ( <b>1</b> )	

## 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 and communities.

Our **2018 Q3** activity is summarized below:

Teachers' Salaries Paid: <b>31*</b> <i>(31 in July &amp; Aug, and 30 in Sept as 1 teacher resigned)</i>	Student Scholarships Sponsored: <b>208</b> Boys: <b>108</b> Girls: <b>100</b>
Tertiary-Level Graduates: <b>1</b> - BA in education	Students Reached by Conservation Curriculum: <b>2,084</b> <i>(some students more than once)</i>



**COMMUNITY**

## HEALTHCARE

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

Our **2018 Q3** activity is summarized below:

Mobile health clinics conducted: <b>3</b>	Number of patients seen: <b>588</b>
	Children vaccinated: <b>81</b>
	Children de-wormed: <b>726</b>
	Long-term Family Planning received: <b>20</b>

**NOTABLE UPDATES:**

- 271 people received health services at a single [mobile clinic in August](#).



We are grateful for the support of our partners, including:

## **Field Partners**

- African Conservation Centre
- African Wildlife Foundation
- Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
- Amboseli Landowners Conservancy Association
- Amboseli Trust for Elephants
- Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries
- Chyulu Hills Conservation Trust
- Conservation International
- The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- Enduimet Wildlife Management Area
- European Development Fund
- Global Environment Facility
- Honeyguide Foundation
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kilimanjaro Community Conservation and Development Trust
- Kinetic Six
- Lion Guardians
- Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
- Porini Eselengei Camp
- Ranger Campus
- Satao Elerai Safari Camp
- Save the Elephants
- Space for Giants
- The Thin Green Line Foundation
- Tusk Trust
- US Agency for International Development
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- WildAid
- Wildlife Conservation Network
- WildlifeDirect
- Zoological Society of London

## **Corporate Partners**

- 1% for the Planet
- Chester Zoo
- Elephant Gin
- Great Plains Conservation / ol Donyo Lodge
- LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
- Tawi Lodge
- Tortilis Camp
- Zoo Basel

**Together we can save wildlife and wild lands - now and for future generations. Please consider making a life-saving [donation](#) to support the critical programs mentioned in this report. Thank you for your support.**

