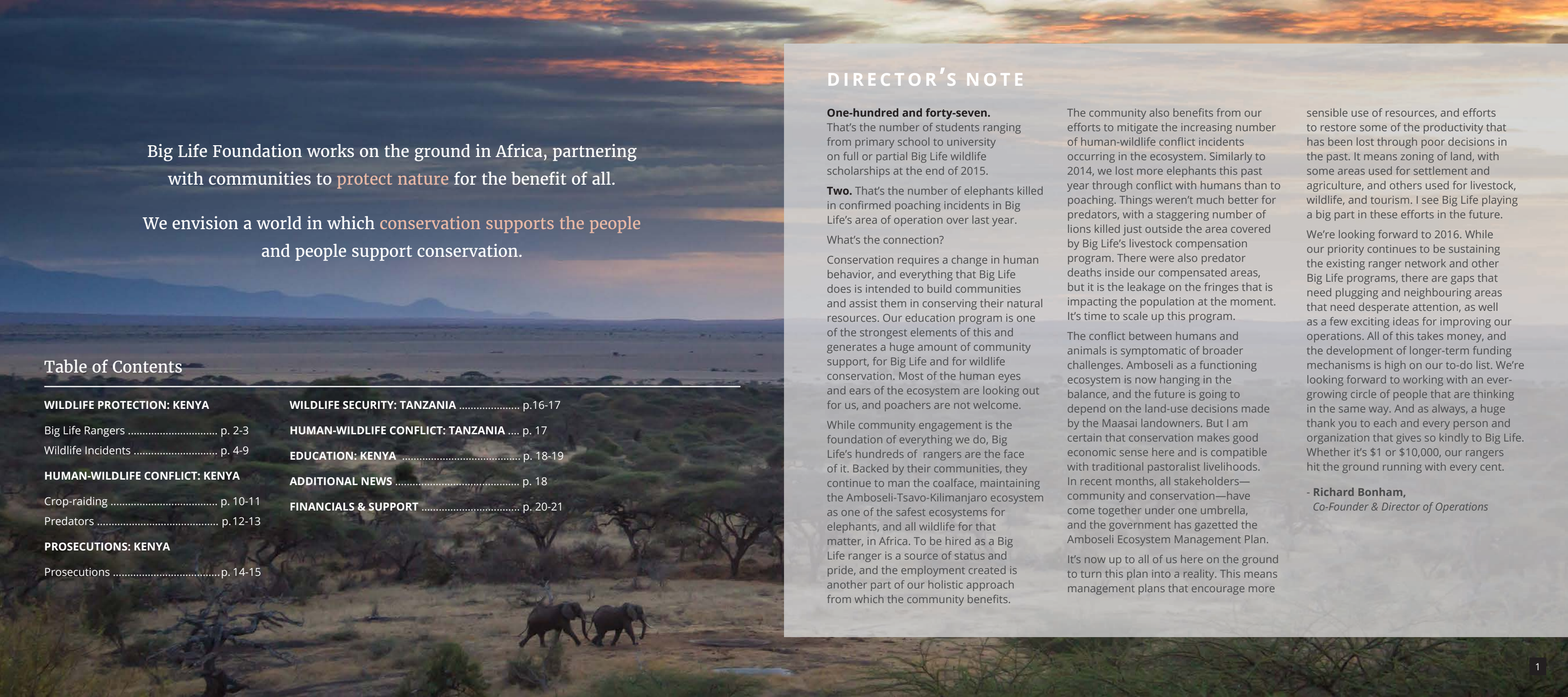




2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Big Life Foundation works on the ground in Africa, partnering with communities to **protect nature** for the benefit of all.

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

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DIRECTOR’S NOTE

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

Big Life Rangers

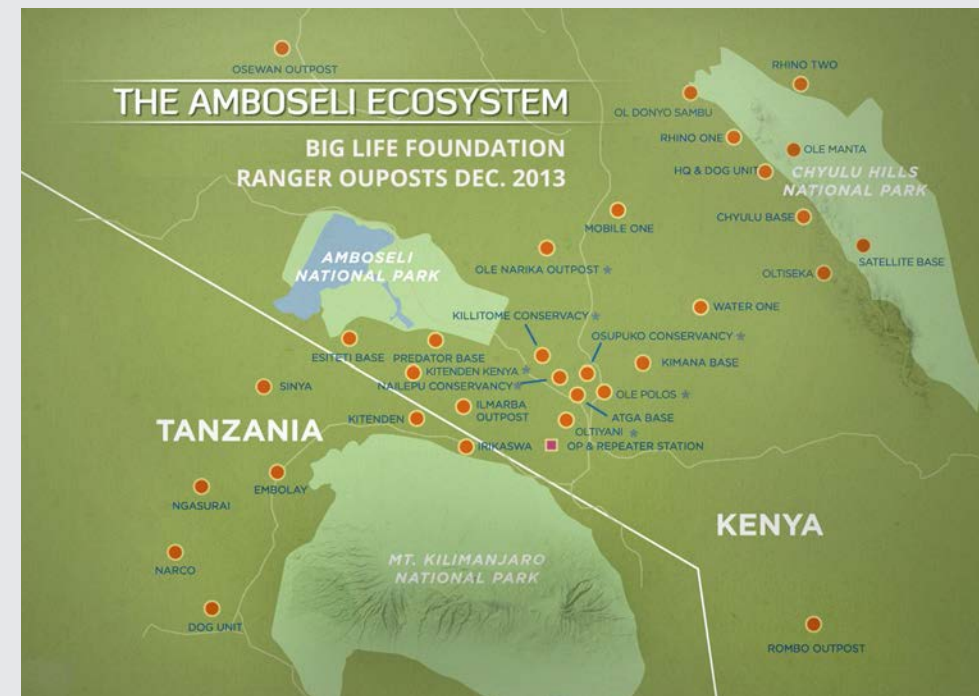
Core AOO (permanent security presence): Mbirikani Group Ranch, Olgulului Group Ranch, Kimana Group Ranch, Rombo Group Ranch, Amboseli National Park, Chyulu Hills National Park

Area patrolled by mobile units: Mailua Group Ranch, Eselengei Group Ranch, Merrueshi 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.



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.

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

 74,428 km

 **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

 **285** (notable arrests)

124

Items Confiscated

22	Axe	16	Knife
13	Bicycle	1	Leopard skin
1	Bow	49	Machete
8	Bullet cartridges	87 kg	Marijuana
4	Chainsaw	3	Non-poisoned arrows
52	Charcoal bags	1	Poacher camp
5	Charcoal kilns	200 g	Poison
1	Digging rod	14	Poisoned arrows
3	Elephant tusks	1	Quiver
1	Gun	92	Snare
4	Hand saw	11	Spear
12 kg	Ivory (pieces)*	8	Sword
		53	Vehicles

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



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.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION: KENYA

Wildlife Incidents: Elephants

Elephant Mortality

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

Natural Deaths

Core AOO: 4

Human-Wildlife Conflict

Core AOO: 7

Non-Core AOO: 1

Poaching

Core AOO: 1

Non-Core AOO: 1

Adjacent AOO: 8

Unknown

Core AOO: 3

Non-Core AOO: 2

Euthanized

Core AOO: 1

 **28 Total Elephant Mortality**

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

10 Elephants treated by Kenya Wildlife Service/ David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust mobile vet

16 Elephants unable to receive treatment

 **26 Total Injuries**

WILDLIFE PROTECTION: KENYA

Wildlife Incidents: Rhinos, Bushmeat, Habitat Destruction

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 Chyulus 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

🔗 20 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: 5

Suspects Apprehended: 14

TOTAL

🔗 52 Incidents

👤 124 Suspects Apprehended



WILDLIFE PROTECTION: KENYA

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, Gazelle, 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: KENYA

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



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT: KENYA

Predators

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 herders 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:

January-March

Cattle: 173
Sheep/Goats: 462
Donkeys: 10

April-June

Cattle: 168
Sheep/Goats: 425
Donkeys: 31

July-September

Cattle: 131
Sheep/Goats: 723
Donkeys: 21


October-December

Cattle: 199
Sheep/Goats: 893
Donkeys: 31

TOTAL

 **671 Cattle**

 **2,503 Sheep and/or Goats**

 **93 Donkeys**

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.





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

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.

6 Concluded Cases

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

24 Ongoing Cases

-  **13** Bushmeat
-  **6** Ivory Traders
-  **1** Poaching Intention
-  **1** Elephant Spearing
-  **1** Lion Poisoning
-  **2** Trophy Poaching

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

WILDLIFE PROTECTION: TANZANIA

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 there since July. There are currently five elephant-poaching suspects on trial, including the notorious Mapengo, who had previously eluded arrest for ten years.

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

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT: TANZANIA

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.

Crop Raiding & Other Incidents

Total crop-raiding incidents mitigated: 971

Crop-raiding incidents mitigated in Enduimet WMA: 412

Elephant-related crop-raiding incidents mitigated in Enduimet WMA: 296

Livestock predations: 58

Total wildlife killed in retaliation: 9

Lions killed in retaliation: 4

Illegal charcoal production: 39

Illegal logging incidents: 29

EDUCATION: KENYA

HIGHLIGHTS

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.

ADDITIONAL NEWS: KENYA

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.

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.



BIG LIFE: FINANCIALS AND SUPPORT

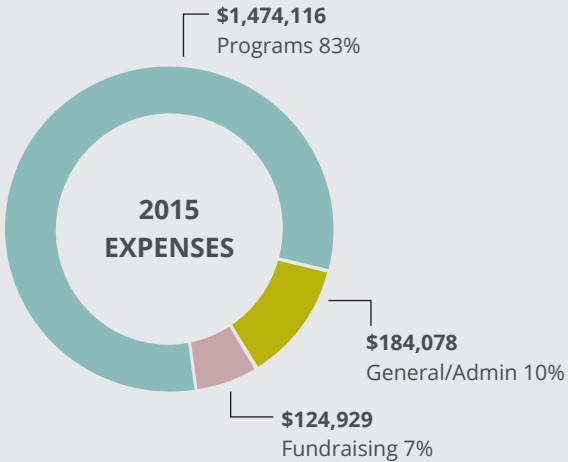


Organization: Big Life Foundation USA | Report: Financial Report | Period: January to December 2015 | Country: USA | Currency: US Dollars

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

INCOME	2015	2014
Contributions & Grants	\$2,238,456	\$1,595,837
In-Kind Contributions	\$149,764	\$152,802
Other Income	\$157,345	\$154,910
Total Income	\$2,545,565	\$1,903,549
EXPENSES		
Programs	\$1,474,116	\$1,655,104
General/Admin	\$184,078	\$130,944
Fundraising	\$124,929	\$38,262
Total Expenses	\$1,931,356	\$1,824,310
Change in Net Assets	\$614,059	\$79,239
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$979,866	\$900,627
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,593,926	\$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.



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

Cover photo: Nick Brandt
"Qumquat Six" features the matriarch and her family days before they were killed in October 2012. Their killer was finally sentenced in 2015.

Additional images: Jeremy Goss | Big Life Foundation

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