



BIG LIFE FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT **JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH** **2020**

Photo: Jeremy Goss

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This year has not gone according to anyone's plans. We have never experienced a situation quite like Covid-19 has handed us, but our rangers, our staff, and our programs are resilient and very well prepared to handle the challenges we're currently experiencing.

In the wake of the pandemic, tourism has evaporated across Africa. We feel it acutely in Kenya, as the economy of the ecosystem where Big Life operates is so heavily reliant upon it. Those now out-of-work are looking for other ways to make ends meet, which is why our wildlife security programs are more important than ever. We will not tolerate poaching activity in our area of operation, and the poachers know it. To minimize their exposure, our rangers are staying with their outposts and receiving fresh provisions remotely.

Our headquarters is quiet these days but not closed. Only limited, senior personnel are based out of the office, and those who can are working remotely.

Our community programs have been impacted the hardest. Schools of course are closed. Unfortunately, our corner of the world is not set up yet for remote learning. Our mobile health clinics are also on hold, due to the fact that hundreds gather on such days. There's simply not enough PPE to hold the clinics safely. But our community health volunteers are out in force, disseminating information about how to prevent the spread of the virus, and are provisioned with soap and facemasks.

We're disappointed as well to have to postpone the Maasai Olympics until 2021. The games add positive energy to our community, something we could all use more of right now. But it's the only safe thing to do, and as always, the safety of our community comes first.

I've been running conservation initiatives in the Chyulu Hills area for 30 years, 10 of those under the mantle of Big Life. I have seen unspeakable tragedies committed against our wildlife but today, there are real, measurable successes across the ecosystem, beyond what I could have ever imagined when we got started. We will not lose momentum in the face of this virus. We will not slack in our commitment to protect the wildlife and wild lands for the benefit of us all.

Thank you, as always, for your support.



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

WHERE WE WORK

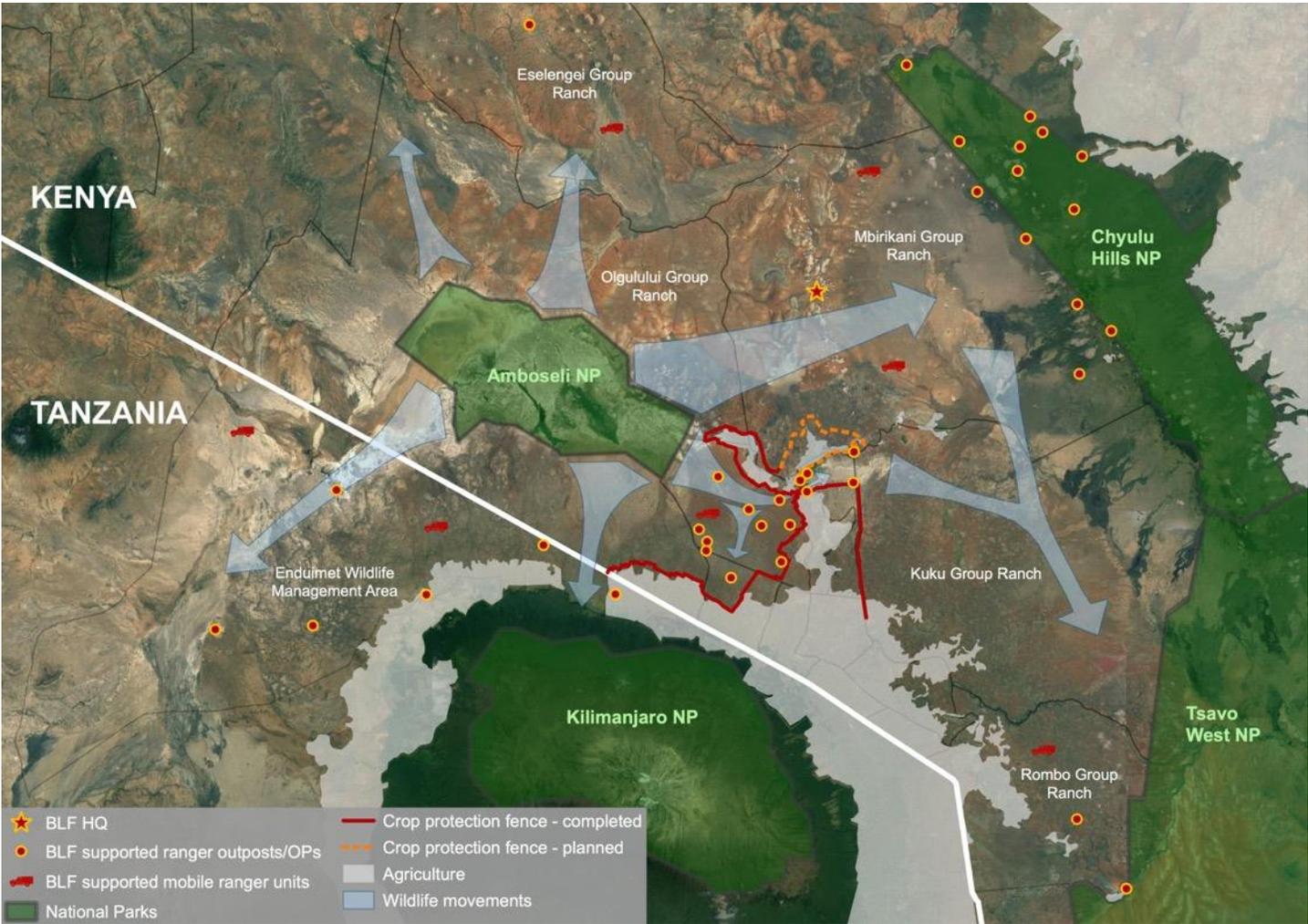
Big Life Foundation's (Big Life) Area of Operation (AOO) covers approximately 1.6 million acres across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro (Greater Amboseli) ecosystem in East Africa. Our team of 500+ helps to protect and secure wildlife and critical habitat stretching from the rangelands north of Amboseli 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 ranger presence and regularly patrolled by mobile units, a non-core area where mobile units respond based on need and are actively covered by our intelligence network, and adjacent areas where we provide support as needed. The level of Big Life support provided varies between outposts.

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: Merrueshi Ranch, Taveta Area

Adjacent*: Kuku Group Ranch, Mailua Ranch, Olgulului Group Ranch, Tsavo West National Park



* Except for intel-related arrests, incidents that occurred in adjacent areas 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 **2020 Q1** activity in Kenya is summarized below (Tanzania on pages 8-9):

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: 450+	Rangers: 323
Ranger Units: 41	Tracker Dogs: 2
Mobile Ranger Units: 5	Permanent Outposts: 30
Aerial Surveillance Hours: 77.2 <i>(excluding some Cessna 206 hours)</i>	Rangers Trained: 0
Kilometers Patrolled This Quarter: On foot: 28,001 By vehicle: 99,861 Q1 TOTAL: 127,862 YTD TOTAL: 127,862	Total Kilometers Patrolled Since Inception (2011): On foot: 788,830 By vehicle: 2,266,474 TOTAL: 3,055,304

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.

SUSPECTS ARRESTED Poaching - Bushmeat: 4 Poaching - Trophy: 0 Trophy Possession: 18 Wildlife Trafficking: 0	RECOVERED ITEMS Ivory: 238 kg Animal Skins: 1 (unknown) Snares: 14 Other: arrows (5), bushmeat (40 kg)
INCIDENTS Bushmeat Poaching: 2 Trophy Poaching: 0 Trophy Possession: 10 Wildlife Trafficking: 0	PROSECUTIONS Cases - Concluded: 3 Cases - Ongoing: 380 suspects

MORTALITIES - ELEPHANT Human-Elephant Conflict: 0 Poaching: 0 Natural Causes: 2 Unknown: 2	MORTALITIES – OTHER (<i>excluding large predators</i>) Bushmeat Poaching: dik-dik (2), giraffe (2), impala (1) Other (<i>human-related</i>): African wildcat (1), dik-dik (1), vultures (3), zebra (4)
INJURIES - ELEPHANT Elephants Injured: 1 Elephants Treated*: 0 <i>*Thanks to our partners at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service.</i>	RESCUES/TREATMENTS - OTHER ANIMALS Lion (2), zebra (1)

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 maintain Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status, which will allow for the future inbound translocation of rhinos from other territories.

Rhino Mortalities: 0	Rhino Snares Found: 0
Rhino Protection Rangers: 51	Dedicated Rhino Outposts: 7 Dedicated Rhino Units: 10
RHINO MONITORING Direct Sightings: 1 Indirect Sightings (<i>via camera trap</i>): 21 Spoor Sightings: 16	INFRASTRUCTURE Fencing: 40 km constructed by SWT to date Water Points: 3 maintained Camera traps: 31

NOTABLE UPDATES (click to read):

- Despite COVID-19, the conservation [front lines](#) are still open
- Big Life’s Sgt. Mutinda Ndivo selected as [Disney Conservation Hero](#)
- For International Women’s Day we honored our [Super 8](#) female rangers



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 **2020 Q1** 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: 18 Crop-Raiding Incidents Involving Elephants: 18	Acres Damaged: 10.5 Acres Damaged by Elephants: 10.5
Crop Raids Prevented by Big Life: 10	Elephant Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: 0
Crop-Protection Rangers: 24 Crop-Protection Fence Constructed to Date: 100 km Crop-Protection Fence Maintenance Workers: 31	Non-crop-raiding, elephant-related incidents: 2 <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 manages the PCF on Mbirikani Group Ranch, Eselengei Group Ranch, and the Kimana Conservancy. Given the success of this program, the goal is to continue expanding 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 games were meant to occur in December 2020, but due to COVID-19 have been postponed until 2021.

Lion Mortalities: 2 - <i>HWC (1), natural (1)</i> Lion Mortalities in Violation of PCF: 0	Lion Retaliatory Hunts Prevented*: 3 <i>*In collaboration with our partners at Lion Guardians and Kenya Wildlife Service.</i>
Compensation Issued for: 37 Cows: \$5,249 395 Sheep/Goats: \$11,964 8 Donkey: \$537 Q1 TOTAL: \$17,750 YTD TOTAL: \$17,750	Livestock Killed by Predators: Caracal: 9 Cheetah: 31 Hyena: 296 Jackal: 28 Leopard: 21 Lion: 53
Additional Predator Mortalities: Cheetah: 1 - <i>HWC</i> Hyena: 7 - <i>HWC (1), vehicle (1), unknown (5)</i>	Other: 4 incidents of problematic predators moved away from bomas to avoid depredation (by chasing or translocation)

ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Humans Injured: 2	Wildlife Responsible for Injuries: elephant (<i>indirect</i>), snake
Humans Killed: 0	Wildlife Responsible for Deaths: N/A

NOTABLE UPDATES (click to read):

- Big Life's crop-protection fence is making a [BIG impact](#) according to communities
- We mourn the loss of [Tim the famous Tusker](#) of Amboseli to natural causes
- Our partners at USAID are working with Big Life and Maasai Communities [to protect elephants](#)



ENDUIMET WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Many species in the Greater Amboseli ecosystem, including elephants and lions, don't observe man-made boundaries, like international borders, and as part of their endless search for food and water, wildlife regularly cross from Kenya into Tanzania. Just on the other side of the border is an important 350,000-acre Wildlife Management Area called Enduimet (EWMA).

With financial support from the European Union, Big Life partners with EWMA, The Nature Conservancy and other stakeholders to undertake critical cross-border wildlife protection.

Our **2020 Q1** activity in Tanzania is summarized as follows:

ANTI-POACHING & WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Big Life employs Maasai rangers from the EWMA who work collaboratively with their communities, informers, and their Kenyan counterparts to undertake a variety of wildlife protection activities.

Trained Rangers: 20	Ranger Units: 2 (mobile)
Kilometers Patrolled This Quarter: On foot: 4,123 By vehicle: 12,520 Q1 TOTAL: 16,643 YTD TOTAL: 16,643	Total Kilometers Patrolled Since Inception (Jul-2018): On foot: 35,152 By vehicle: 85,917 TOTAL: 121,069
SUSPECTS ARRESTED Community Crimes: 2 Habitat Destruction: 8 Bushmeat Poaching: 5	RECOVERED ITEMS Snares: 4 Other: bushmeat (13 bags), ostrich eggs (1)
INCIDENTS Community Crimes: 2 Habitat Destruction: 2 Bushmeat Poaching: 3	Cross-Border Operations: 0 Intelligence-led incident response: 4
MORTALITIES - ELEPHANT Human-Elephant Conflict: 0 Poaching: 0 Natural Causes: 0 Unknown: 0	MORTALITIES – OTHER (<i>excluding large predators</i>) Bushmeat Poaching: buffalo (1), dik-dik (1), eland (3), gazelles (2), gerenuk (2), giraffe (1), hare (1), wildebeest (1) Other (<i>human-related</i>): 0
INJURIES - ELEPHANT Elephants Injured: 1 Elephants Treated*: 1 <i>*Thanks to our partners at MAKOA Farm.</i>	OTHER OPERATIONS: Assisted TAWIRI in collaring 2 elephants

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

Like their Kenyan colleagues, EWMA rangers assist communities in responding to and minimizing human-wildlife conflict. This primarily takes the form of rangers chasing wildlife out of farms, confirming livestock killed by predators and assisting community members who have been injured or killed by wildlife.

Crop-Raiding Incidents: 46 Crop-Raiding Incidents Involving Elephants: 24	Acres Damaged: 38.5 Acres Damaged by Elephants: 26.5
Crop Raids Prevented by Big Life: 4	Elephant Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: 0

Livestock Killed: 16 Cows 56 Sheep/Goats 26 Donkeys TOTAL: 98	By Predators: Cheetah: 0 Hyena: 77 Jackal: 0 Leopard: 2 Lion: 9 Wild Dog: 10
Predator Mortalities: Jackal: 2 (<i>HWC - poison</i>)	Lion Retaliatory Hunts Prevented: 2

Humans Injured: 2	Wildlife Responsible for Injuries: buffalo, elephant
Humans Killed: 0	Wildlife Responsible for Deaths: N/A



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 **2020 Q1** 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 hundreds of 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, and made possible thanks to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. 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, was one of the first community-owned and run wildlife conservancies in East Africa. After years of mismanagement, at the request of the community, Big Life took over management in 2017. The Sanctuary is an area frequented by some of Amboseli's biggest bull elephants, and acts as an important dispersal area for many wildlife moving to and from Amboseli National Park. Thanks to support from the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the D.N. Batten Foundation, Big Life rangers continue to [secure this special place](#).

Landowners benefitting from Lease fees: Kimana Sanctuary: 844 Kimana Corridor: 339	Paying visitor days: Kimana Sanctuary: 933
Infrastructure: Tourism road network: 29 km built to date	Other: New landowners joined conservancies. Allocation of 12 scholarships to conservancy students.



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 **2020 Q1** activity is summarized below: clarification

LAND

Big Life has helped to establish a sustainable farming program, the farm based at a local school, in addition to working with communities to improve livestock grazing 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 NGOs, and local government to implement a [carbon credit program](#) in the Chyulu Hills to protect it from deforestation and overgrazing.

Suspects Arrested* for Habitat Destruction: 20 Habitat Destruction Arrest Incidents: 7 <i>*sometimes released depending on severity of crime</i>	Sustainable Farms: 1 Sustainable Farming Manager: 1
Non-Arrest Habitat Destruction Incidents: 8	Incidents of Community Grazing and Conservancy Rules Enforcement: 1

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: 269 mm	Water-Related Incidents: 0
Liters of Fuel Provided for Pumping Water to Both Community and Wildlife (to reduce conflict): 0 L* <i>*Due to wide-spread rainfall, water provision not needed</i>	Water Points Repaired: 0



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, arresting criminals for community crimes (e.g., theft), conducting human and/or livestock search and rescue operations, and more.

Community Crime Incidents: 0	Suspects Arrested: 0
Human Search and Rescue Incidents: 7	Livestock Search Incidents: 3
Other Community Support Incidents: 4 <i>search for attempted thieves (3), body recovery (1)</i>	

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 **2020 Q1** activity is summarized below:

Teachers' Salaries Paid: 16	Long-Term Student Scholarships Awarded: 299 Boys: 144 Girls: 155 One-Time Student Scholarships Awarded: 24
Tertiary-Level Graduates: 0	Students Reached by Conservation Curriculum: 1,406 School Visits: 27 Amboseli National Park trips: 1



HEALTHCARE

Big Life works in partnership with the Kajiado South Sub-County Department of Health to implement mobile health clinics focused on primary healthcare and family planning. Additional services provided include immunization, antenatal check-ups and HIV testing, counseling and more.

Our **2020 Q1** activity is summarized below:

Mobile Health Clinics Conducted: 2	Primary Healthcare Recipients: 459
Back-Pack Medical Outreaches: 12	People De-wormed: 781
CHV Household Visits: 2,737	People Vaccinated: 606
People Reached with Family Planning Information: 9,184	Family Planning Services Provided: 640
Men’s Dialogue Days: 15	
Men Reached with Family Planning Information: 555	



PARTNERS

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

- 51 Degrees
- African Conservation Centre
- African Wildlife Foundation
- Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
- Amboseli Landowners Conservancy Association
- Amboseli Trust for Elephants
- Amboseli Tsavo Community Wildlife Ranger Association
- Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries
- Born Free
- Capricorn Foundation
- CHASE Africa
- Chyulu Hills Conservation Trust
- Conservation International
- Elephant Crisis Fund
- Enduimet Wildlife Management Area
- European Union – European Regional Development Fund
- For Rangers
- Great Plains Foundation
- Health Yetu Foundation
- Highland School
- Honeyguide Foundation
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Kajiado South Sub-County Dept. of Health
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kinetic Six
- Lead Ranger
- Lion Guardians
- Lion Recovery Fund
- MAKOA Farm
- Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
- Oikos
- Pavilion Foundation
- Porini Eselengei Camp
- Ranger Campus
- Satao Elerai Safari Camp
- Save the Elephants
- Saving the Wild
- Seedballs Kenya
- Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- Tanzania National Parks Authority
- Tanzania People and Wildlife
- TZ Wildlife Division's Anti-Poaching Unit
- The Elephant Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Thin Green Line Foundation
- Tusk Trust
- UN Development Programme / Global Environment Facility
- 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
- Electric Forest
- Elephant Gin
- Great Plains Conservation
- LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
- Part Time Rangers
- Quagga Green Label

ZOO PARTNERS

- Beauval Nature
- Chester Zoo
- Oakland Zoo
- Ouwehand Zoo Foundation
- Stichting Vrienden Safaripark
- 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.