

Quarterly Report 2026

April | May | June

BIG LIFE
FOUNDATION



The second quarter of 2026 was one of both momentum and reflection for Big Life. During the quarter, we shared our updated mission and vision – reaffirming our commitment to partnering with local communities to protect iconic species and conserve habitat across the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem, while working toward a future where nature thrives and communities prosper. These aren't new ambitions, but they reflect more clearly what has always been at the heart of our work: that conservation succeeds when communities lead.

That philosophy is evident throughout this report. Our Drone Unit continued to prove its value, providing rapid aerial support for wildlife emergencies, conflict mitigation, and veterinary operations that would have been far more difficult – or impossible – to accomplish from the ground alone. We also celebrated meaningful progress in education, including new classrooms that will expand learning opportunities for local students and the installation of solar power at one of our partner schools, creating brighter futures both inside and outside the classroom.

As this report was being finalized, the third quarter began with the loss of another iconic elephant: One Ton, a magnificent bull who, like Craig before him, died of natural causes after a long life. His passing was a sad moment for all of us who knew him, but also a testament to decades of successful conservation. In a world where so many elephants never have the chance to grow old, the lives of big tuskiers like One Ton remind us why protecting habitat, supporting communities, and maintaining a strong presence on the landscape matters so deeply.

Every achievement in these pages reflects the dedication of our rangers, field teams, community partners, and supporters around the world. Thank you for standing with us as we continue building a future where both wildlife and people can thrive together.

With gratitude,

Craig Millar

Chief Operating Officer, Big Life Kenya

WHERE WE WORK

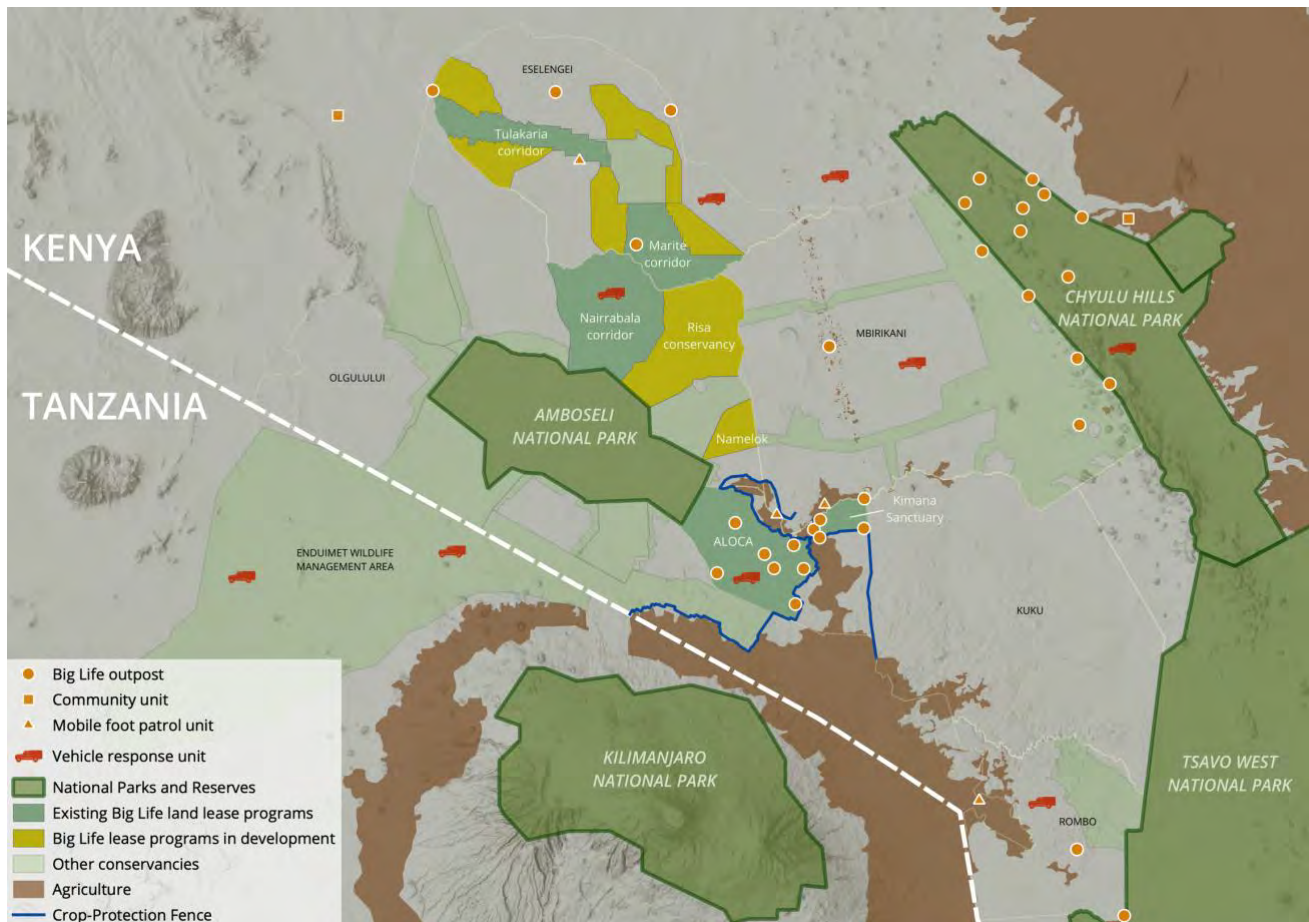
Big Life Foundation's area of operation (AOO) covers approximately 2 million acres across the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem in East Africa. Our team helps to protect and secure wildlife and critical habitat stretching from the rangelands north of Amboseli to the Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West National Parks 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 iconic species and important habitat left in Africa.

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, Kimana, Mbirikani, Nairrabala Conservancy, Oltemuai, Risa, Rombo, Chyulu Hills National Park, and Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (Tanzania)

Non-Core AOO: Amboseli National Park, Mailua Ranch, Merrueshi Ranch, Nasaru-Olosho Conservancy, Olgulului, Osilalei Ranch, Taveta Area

Adjacent: Kuku, Tsavo West National Park



WILDLIFE

Wildlife Protection

The Greater Amboseli Ecosystem is generally regarded as one of the richest wildlife regions left in Africa. But the same animals that make it famous also put it in the crosshairs for illegal wildlife crime.

Big Life strives to prevent the poaching of all wildlife in our area of operation. Our community rangers are expertly trained, well-equipped, and ready for action at a moment's notice. They're supported by a fleet of vehicles, two airplanes, two tracker dogs, and an expansive intelligence network.

Besides tracking and apprehending poachers, Big Life also supports local prosecutors to ensure the guilty are punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Since our inception, poaching of all animals has dramatically declined and many wildlife populations are rebounding.

2026 Q2 OVERVIEW

Total Staff: 604	Rangers: 392
Ranger Units: 47	Tracker Dogs: 2
Mobile Ranger Units: 13	Permanent Outposts: 33
Aerial Surveillance Hours: 36	Ranger training workshops: 3 Ranger participation: 46
Total Suspects Arrested: 32 Year to Date Total: 82	Total Arrest Incidents: 16 Year To Date Total: 47
Kilometers Patrolled This Quarter: On foot: 68,628 By vehicle: 102,000 Q2 TOTAL: 170,628 Year To Date TOTAL: 366,539	Total Kilometers Patrolled Since Inception (2011): On foot: 1,951,352 By vehicle: 5,603,498 TOTAL: 7,554,850



WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE CRIME & ANTI-TRAFFICKING

SUSPECTS ARRESTED Poaching – Bushmeat: 3 Trophy Possession: 15 Wildlife Trafficking: 1	RECOVERED ITEMS Ivory: 86.55+ kg Snares: 3 Other: Sandalwood (500 kg), Crocodile skin (2), Live terrapins (10), Python skin (1), Tools/weapons (34)
INCIDENTS Poaching – Bushmeat: 3 Trophy Possession: 6 Wildlife Trafficking: 1	PROSECUTIONS Cases – Concluded: 1 Cases – Ongoing: 1,449 suspects
MORTALITIES – ELEPHANT Human-Elephant Conflict: 1 Poaching: 0 Natural Causes: 0 Unknown: 4 Other Human-related: 0	MORTALITIES – OTHER (<i>excluding large predators</i>) Dik-dik (1), Dove (11), Eland (1), Gazelle (4), Gerenuk (1), Giraffe (9), Guinea fowl (1), Hare (2), Hippo (1), Impala (2), Lesser kudu (1), Ostrich (4), Wildebeest (2), Zebra (12), Zorilla (1)
INJURIES – ELEPHANT Elephants Injured: 4 Elephants Treated: 3	RESCUES/TREATMENTS – OTHER ANIMALS Lion (1), Giraffe (1), Zebra (1)



WILDLIFE

RHINO PROTECTION

There are **six** known Eastern black rhinos in Big Life's area of operation. We previously reported nine, but three individuals have not been documented on camera in more than two years. While it is possible they are still present or moved to neighboring areas, for scientific accuracy, we are adjusting our population estimate. These rhinos are critically endangered and spend their time in the densely forested Chyulu Hills National Park, protected by dedicated Big Life rangers and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Big Life also improves and maintains infrastructure in the rhino area, such as roads and watering holes, which will support the future inbound translocation of rhinos.

Rhino Mortalities: 0 Rhino Births: 0	Rhino Snares Found: 0
Rhino Protection Rangers: 63	Dedicated Rhino Outposts: 10 Dedicated Rhino Units: 10
RHINO MONITORING Direct Sightings: 2 Indirect Sightings (<i>via camera trap</i>): 9 Spoor Sightings: 37	INFRASTRUCTURE Fencing: 70+ km constructed by SWT to date Water Points: 3 Camera traps: 42

NOTABLE WILDLIFE UPDATES (click to read):

- Big Life's [2025 Annual Impact Report was released](#).
- Big Life is supporting a raptor study [involving Martial eagles](#).
- Our Drone Unit helped facilitate veterinary treatment for an [elephant with a spear wound](#).



WILDLIFE

Human–Wildlife Conflict

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 proximity with wildlife.

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT (HEC) 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. As humans compete for limited resources like water and land, 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, often with fatal results.

Elephant Crop-Raiding Incidents: 12 <i>*Kenya Core AOO only.</i>	Acres Damaged by Elephant: 6.25
Crop-Protection Fence Constructed to Date: 100 km Crop-Protection Fence Maintenance Workers: 30	Elephant Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: 0 Retaliatory Hunts Stopped: 0
Additional HEC incidents*: 14 <i>*including water tanks/pipes damaged by elephants, boma destruction, etc.</i>	Livestock Killed by Elephants: 0

PREDATOR PROTECTION

Big Life protects predators in the ecosystem in collaboration with partners and local communities. The core component of Big Life’s predator protection program in Kenya 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 PCF on Mbirikani, Eselengei, and the ALOCA conservancies.

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 7th edition of the games will commence in June 2026, with the finals taking place on December 12, 2026.

WILDLIFE

Lion Mortalities: 1 (<i>unknown</i>) Violations of PCF: 0 Lion Retaliatory Hunts: 4 Retaliatory Hunts Prevented/Stopped: 4	Additional Predator Mortalities (<i>human-related or unknown</i>): Bat-eared fox: 1 (<i>Vehicle</i>) Hyena: 5 (<i>2 HWC, 3 Vehicle</i>) Jackal: 2 (<i>Vehicle</i>)
Compensation Issued for: 47 Cows: \$9,323 289 Sheep/Goats: \$11,705 2 Donkeys: \$92 Q2 TOTAL: \$21,120 YTD TOTAL: \$47,408	A total of 338 livestock were killed by predators: Caracal: 2 Cheetah: 40 Hyena: 165 Jackal: 29 Lion: 102

ADDITIONAL HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Humans Injured: 4	Wildlife Responsible for Injuries: caracal (1), elephant (2), buffalo (1)
Humans Killed: 0	Wildlife Responsible for Death: N/A



Securing Wildlife Habitat

Protecting habitat is at the heart of ensuring wildlife can thrive across Greater Amboseli. As pressures from land subdivision, fencing, and unsustainable development increase, safeguarding open rangelands and critical wildlife corridors has become an urgent priority. Without connected habitats, wildlife cannot move freely to find food, water, and breeding grounds—making long-term conservation impossible. Recognizing this, Big Life works closely with local communities to secure and manage the land that both wildlife and people depend on.

This work takes two primary forms. First, Big Life provides annual lease payments to hundreds of landowners in key areas like the Kimana Corridor, creating a direct financial incentive to keep land open and free from incompatible development. Second, we support the establishment and strengthening of community conservancies in strategically important areas. These conservancies protect vital wildlife movement corridors and dispersal zones while also sustaining traditional pastoralist livelihoods by maintaining access to grazing land.

By aligning conservation with community needs, these efforts create a balanced, long-term solution. Landowners benefit from reliable income, livestock retain access to grazing resources, and wildlife can continue to move across a connected landscape. Through collaborative land-use planning, conservation agreements, and the development of sustainable income opportunities such as tourism, Big Life is helping to ensure that Amboseli remains a living ecosystem—one where wildlife and local communities can coexist and thrive together.

ALOCA: Landowners benefitting from lease fees: 324 Number of acres protected: 19,440 Other: Lease renewal signings ongoing, Herding 4 Health Project launched, Bi- annual leases paid	Kimana Sanctuary: Landowners benefitting from lease fees: 844 Number of acres protected: 5,700 Paying visitor days: 666
Eselengei: Landowners signed lease agreement: 700 <i>(Marite (399) and Tulakaria (301))</i> Number of acres under lease: 32,900 Other: Biannual leases paid Marite & Tulakaria expansion Landowners signed lease agreement: 163 Number of acres under lease: 7,661 Other: Biannual leases paid	Olgulului: Landowners signed lease agreement: 2,697 <i>(Nairrabala (1,672), Risa (967), Oltemuai (58)</i> Number of acres under lease: 56,637 <i>(Nairrabala (35,112) and Risa (20,307), Oltemuai (1,218)</i>

HABITAT

Mbirikani:

Other AGM held. Members endorsed the leasing of 2 conservancies

Rombo:

Other: Strategic Environmental Assessment still awaiting NEMA approval

Amboseli's arid rangelands are also under increasing strain. Rising livestock numbers, combined with the erosion of traditional rotational grazing practices, have placed unsustainable pressure on native grasses and led to widespread degradation. As a result, critical habitats are deteriorating, threatening both wildlife and the communities who depend on these landscapes. In response, Big Life is working alongside local communities to address these challenges and restore balance to the ecosystem.

LAND

Rangers actively protect the land by fighting against illegal habitat destruction activities such as logging or charcoal production, sand and water extraction, and combatting bushfires. Rangers also enforce protected area rules in conservancies and national parks, where encroachment activities like trespassing, settlement, and grazing are illegal and harmful to critical habitats.

In addition, since 2017, 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. The program generates significant income for the management of the Chyulu Hills National Park and creates benefits for surrounding communities.

Suspects Arrested* for Habitat Destruction: 9 Habitat Destruction Arrest Incidents: 3	Non-Arrest Habitat Destruction Incidents: 3
<i>*Sometimes released depending on severity of crime</i>	Incidents of Community Grazing, Conservancy, and Subdivision Land Use Rules Enforcement: 35



HABITAT

RANGELAND HEALTH & LIVELIHOODS

The Greater Amboseli Ecosystem is dominated by semi-arid grasslands and savannas that support both wildlife and the pastoralist communities who call this landscape home. Healthy rangelands are essential for biodiversity, sustainable livestock production, and the long-term wellbeing of local communities.

Big Life works with our community partners to restore degraded landscapes, improve grazing management, and strengthen sustainable livelihoods that create lasting incentives to protect wildlife habitat.

Our approach focuses on three complementary programs:

Active Restoration restores severely degraded areas through practical interventions such as half-moon bunds and reseedling, helping rainwater soak into the soil, reducing erosion, and encouraging the return of native grasses.

Herdling for Health supports communities in combining traditional grazing knowledge with modern techniques, including Ultra-High Density Grazing (UHGD), to improve soil health, increase pasture productivity, and strengthen livestock-based livelihoods.

Community Enterprise Development helps communities diversify income from healthy rangelands through enterprises such as grass seed production for restoration projects and community-managed beekeeping, creating direct economic benefits that reinforce conservation.

Together, these programs improve ecosystem resilience while ensuring that healthy rangelands continue to support both people and wildlife for generations to come.

Rangeland Restoration Area: 16,546 acres Active restoration: 3,724 acres Natural regeneration: 12,822 acres	Bunds installed Q2: 0 YTD: 0 Total: 273,427
Total acres reseeded: 3,655 to date	Number of people employed: 19



COMMUNITY

Winning the hearts and minds of local communities and providing a mutual benefit through conservation is the only way to protect wildlife and wild lands far into the future. Big Life implements a number of community development programs including education, healthcare and income-generating initiatives, as well as lesser-known activities, such as using ranger vehicles as ambulances, arresting criminals for community crimes (like theft), conducting search and rescue operations, and supporting in-school education on sustainable agriculture.

Community Crime Incidents: 2	Suspects Arrested: 3
Human Search and Rescue Incidents: 4	Livestock Search Incidents: 1
Other Community Support Incidents: 5 – <i>emergency transport</i>	Beehives: 76 in 6 apiaries

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

Long-Term Student Scholarships Awarded: 432 Boys: 140 (32%) Girls: 292 (68%)	Students Reached by Conservation Lessons: 936
One-Time Student Scholarships Awarded: 79	Students Reached by Club Activities: 450
Amount paid in Scholarships: \$75,424	School Visits: 32
	National Park Trips: 1
Tertiary-Level Graduates: 0	Teachers' Salaries Funded: 8

Healthcare is a key part of Big Life's community support program and working in close coordination with the Kajiado South Department of Health, Big Life facilitates outreaches that provide primary healthcare, family planning services, immunizations, and antenatal check-ups across the Greater Amboseli ecosystem.

Big Life is also working to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights education. This not only improves individual health outcomes but also helps to build more resilient and empowered communities.



COMMUNITY

Back-Pack Medical Outreaches: 126	Community Health Volunteer Household Visits: 14,159
Family Planning Dialogue Days: 225	People De-wormed: 6,770
Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights school talks: 0	Immunizations Administered: 15,936
Child Rights Club Meetings: 220	Family Planning Services Provided: 3,967
	People Reached with Family Planning Information: 41,209
	People Receiving Primary Healthcare: 20,240

NOTABLE COMMUNITY UPDATES (click to read):

- [Noosidan](#) students [have two new classrooms](#) in which to learn.
- Enkaji Naibor School was [outfitted with solar power](#) thanks to our partners at Energea.
- A former scholarship recipient has become the [first lawyer from Mbirikani](#).



**Thank you to our wonderful partners and supporters for helping make our work possible.
Together we can save wildlife and wild lands - now and for future generations.**