



BIG LIFE FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT (JAN-MAR 2015)
KENYA OPERATIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

“On the ground in Africa, partnering with communities to protect nature for the benefit of all.”

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

It’s always good to start the year on a high, and three months without an elephant-poaching incident certainly qualifies as that. Our close partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service and communities, and the hard work of the rangers, continues to pay off. But it is with sadness that we report the loss of six elephants to human-wildlife conflict. Equally tragic has been the death of three people in these conflicts.

We have teams of rangers working day and night to support communities, protect crops, and protect elephants from retaliatory attacks. But we are still seeing a lot of injured elephants, often from spears. This is where our close working relationship with the KWS, and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, is critical. Although we are not treating all elephants, with their help we are saving lives.

Our compensation program continues to protect predators from retaliatory killing following livestock predation, but deaths on neighbouring ranches are still a drain on the local lion population.

And what is always exciting for me is how our wildlife scholarship program goes from strength to strength, and I am happy to say that right now we are facilitating the education of 123 students. What better investment could we make in the future ambassadors of wildlife in the ecosystem.



*Richard Bonham,
Director of Operations*

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Wildlife Security

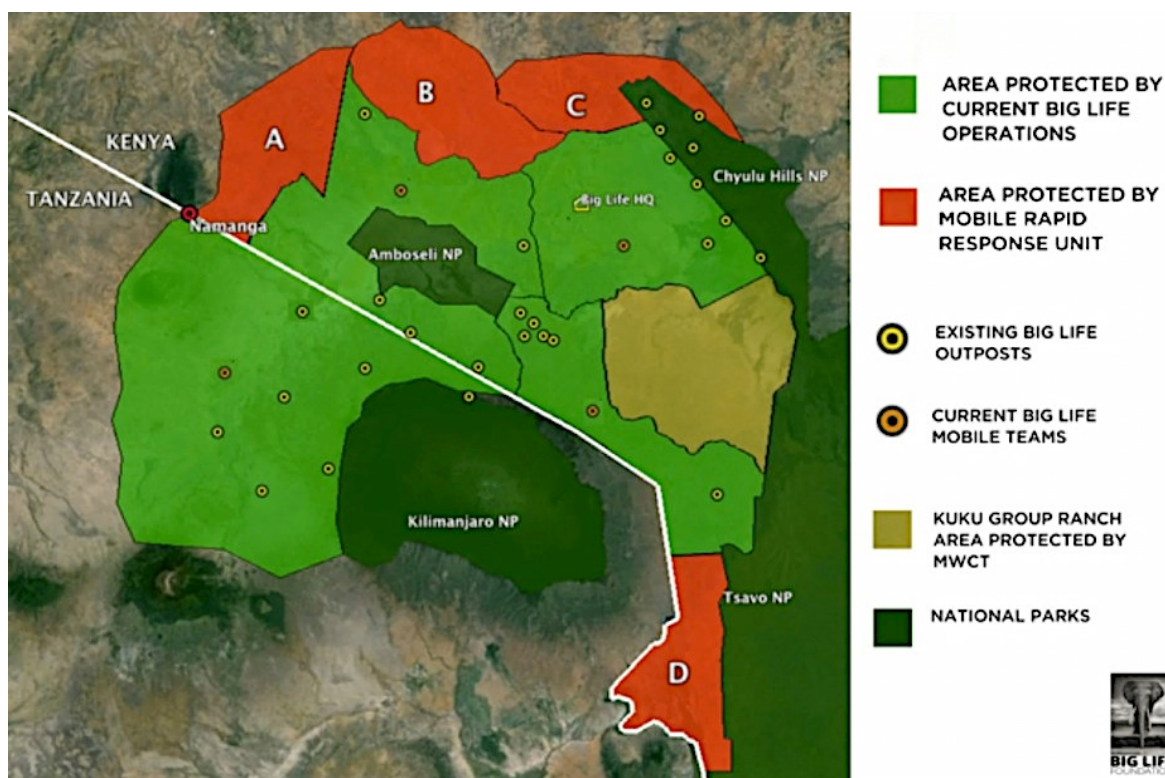
The first quarter of 2015 has been calm with regard to poaching, with a total of 7 bush-meat poaching incidents within Big Life’s Area of Operation (AOO), and **zero trophy poaching incidents** (elephant, rhino, lion, etc.). Human-wildlife conflict on the other hand has been exceptionally high, continuing on the same trend reported over the past year.

In the first 3 months of 2015, **Big Life rangers patrolled 13,443 kms** on foot and **47,161 kms** by vehicle and **made 72 arrests**.

BIG LIFE RANGERS

There are a total of 35 units (6 in Tanzania), and approximately 280 rangers, in the wildlife security network managed by Big Life. This provides comprehensive coverage across the Amboseli-Kilimanjaro landscape, but there are still gaps that will require local expansion in the near future.

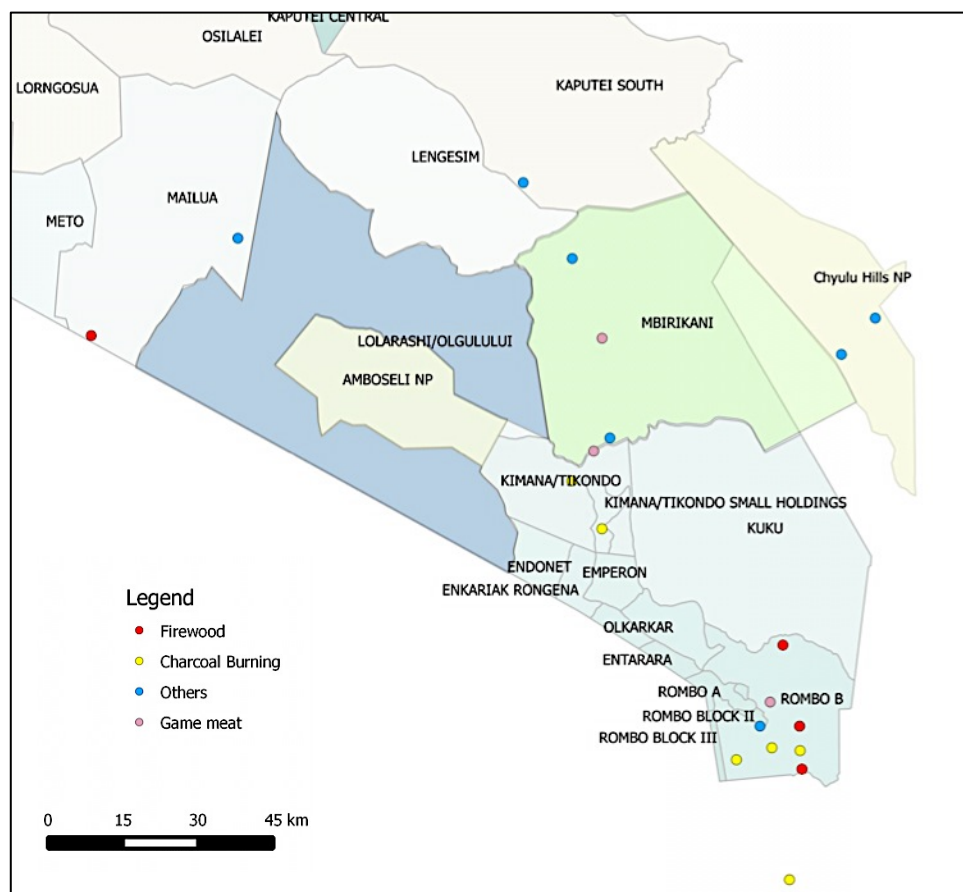
On the Kenyan side there are 22 permanent ranger outposts, 4 mobile units, a Rapid Response/Deployment Unit and 2 permanent observation posts (OP’s) covering a total of 1,678,000 acres (425,000 hectares). We need to expand our coverage by adding an additional 2 to 3 outposts in the upcoming quarters, but currently don’t have the funds to be able to do so.



Map showing the Big Life areas of operation in both Kenya and Tanzania, coloured lime green. Yellow dots show location of Big Life ranger bases.

Summary of Incidents and Arrests

CRIME CATEGORY	CRIME TYPE	NO. OF INCIDENTS				NO. OF SUSPECTS ARRESTED			
		JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Poaching	Game Meat	1	1	1	3	3	1	8	12
Poaching Intention	Intention to hunt	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
	Intention to snare	2	-	1	3	1	-	4	5
Habitat Destruction	Charcoal	5	1	1	7	8	4	1	13
	Wood carving	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
	Firewood	1	3	-	4	2	7	-	9
	Intention to log	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
	Logging	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	3
	Timber	1	1	-	2	2	1	-	3
	Illegal mining	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	4
Encroachment	Illegal grazing	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	3
	Water Diversion	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	3
Community Crimes	Narcotics	1	2	-	3	3	4	-	7
	Traffic offence	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
	Assault	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	3
	Rape	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
TOTAL		16	9	7	32	29	21	22	72



Map showing arrests by Big Life rangers in Kenya in 1st quarter, 2015

ELEPHANT INCIDENTS

No elephants were poached in the first three months of 2015, and all 16 pieces of ivory from non-poaching related deaths were recovered. Recovery of ivory is vital regardless of cause of death as it prevents ivory entering the chain of sale, and furthermore prevents people opportunistically starting to sell ivory. Poaching is a significantly smaller step to take after you have already made money from selling ivory.

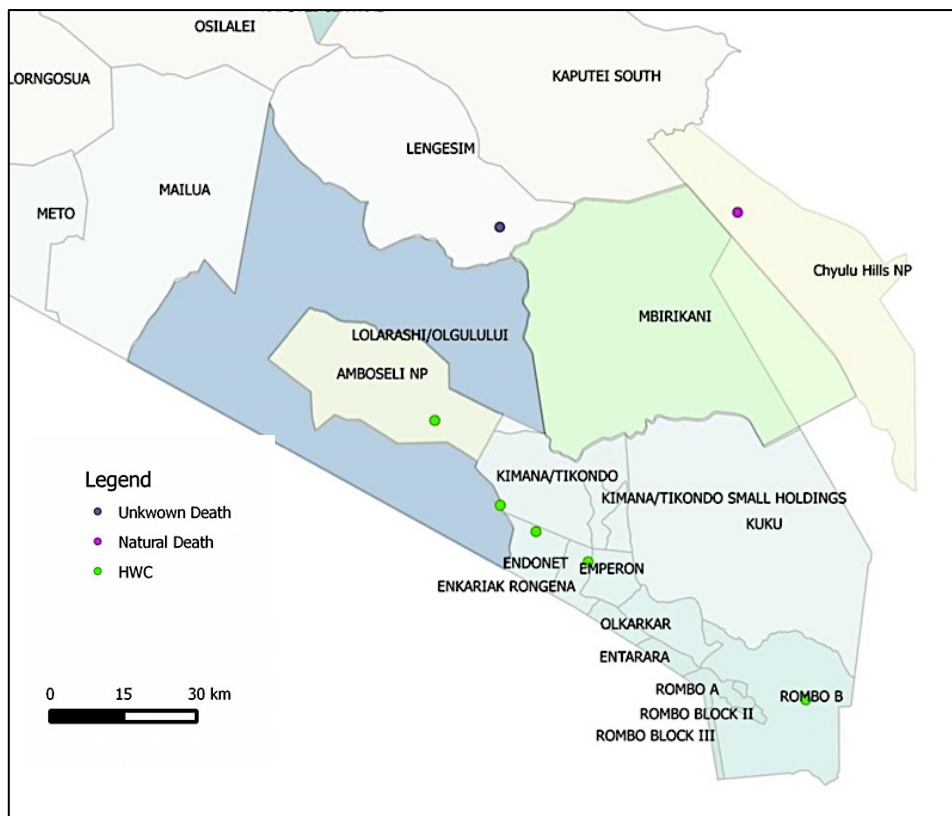
MORTALITIES

Total mortalities: 8 (6 male, 2 female)

Within BIG LIFE's AOO: 6

Outside BIG LIFE's AOO: 2

Out of 8 elephant deaths, **6 died as a result of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)** related incidents. Three were shot by KWS after each killed a person; 1 succumbed to injuries inflicted during community retaliation in Kuku group ranch following the killing of a human by an elephant; and 2 died from injuries inflicted while crop-raiding. One elephant died naturally, and the cause of death of the 8th could not be established. Ivory was recovered in all cases.



Map of elephant mortality in 1st quarter, 2015 (coordinates of 1 carcass was not recorded)

Details:

- *8 Jan 2015:* Rangers on patrol came across a carcass of a female adult elephant estimated to be 60+ years old inside Chyulu Hills NP. There was no sign of physical injury. Suspected to have died due to falling into a depression following weakness caused by old age.
- *8 Jan 2015:* Rangers came upon a carcass of a male adult elephant (below). Cause of death was a spear wound on the right flank inflicted during a crop-raid.
- *2 Feb 2015:* A male elephant was shot after killing a man in Merueshi Group Ranch.
- *7 Mar 2015:* A male adult elephant carcass was discovered inside Amboseli NP during an aerial patrol. It was estimated to be seven days old. The elephant had been treated four times of spear wound inflicted during raids on the farms on Kenya-Tanzania border in August 2014.
- *8 Mar 2015:* A male adult elephant that had killed a woman on 4th Mar 2015 in Kuku group ranch. KWS and rangers tracked the animal responsible to Rombo group ranch where they shot and killed it. (*below left*)



- *12 Mar 2015:* sub-adult male carcass found by community member who informed rangers. Cause of death was a spear wound believed to be as a result of HEC. (*above right*)
- *13 Mar 2015:* An adult male elephant killed a man on 12th Mar 2015 was tracked by our rangers and shot by KWS.
- *16 Mar 2015:* Mobile 1 received information of an elephant carcass in the neighbouring Eselengei group ranch. They rushed to the area and discovered an adult female carcass. It was difficult to establish the actual cause of its death.

INJURIES

Treated: 3 – by the KWS/David Sheldrick's mobile vet

Not treated: 6

Details:

- *3 Jan 2015:* Adult male spotted having walking difficulties. Not treated.
- *4 Jan 2015:* Adult male reported with injury on the left foreleg. Search to treat it was unsuccessful.
- *8 Jan 2015:* Animal reported with a spear wound. Rangers tracked it until they lost the tracks where it joined a large herd.
- *18 Jan 2015:* Animal treated for spear injury on the hip.



- *21 Jan 2015:* Rangers responding to crop raid incident by elephants came across trails of elephant blood. They tracked the blood until it was lost inside Amboseli NP. It was suspected that the elephant was speared during crop raids.
- *5 Feb 2015:* Animal seen by rangers having difficulties walking. Upon describing to KWS, they confirmed it had been treated a few weeks prior.
- *13 Mar 2015:* Animal reported to be having walking problem. Search was undertaken immediately, but was unsuccessful.
- *18 Mar 2015:* Animal seen with wound on head and was tracked on 18th March at the ODW waterhole. Vet was called but couldn't dart it after he went into the lava forest. The following day rangers tracked the animal again, the vet was called and the male animal was successfully treated. It had a deep wound on its trunk, believed to have been caused by a thin spear or a bullet from a low calibre firearm. (*pictured below*)



- *24 Mar 2015*: Animal spotted at Satao Elerai waterhole. Vet was called and successfully treated it. KWS confirmed that the animal had been treated months ago for the same spear wound injury on its back.

RESCUE

- *10 Feb 2015*: Elephant fell into a well at Kimoine. Rescue team met by angry community who attempted to kill the elephant. Back up provided by KWS, Administration Police and CRBC (construction crew who supplied digger) resulted in successful rescue.



BUSH MEAT

Bush meat poaching has been low over the reporting period. A total of **7 incidents** were recorded, resulting in **19 suspects arrested**. In nearly all incidents the suspects were not local but labour sourced from neighbouring areas. The below table shows the number of carcasses recovered in arrests.

	Dik-dik	Porcupine	Lesser kudu	Total
Jan	1	-	-	1
Feb	2	2	-	4
Mar	-	-	1	1
Total	3	2	1	6

Poaching Incidents:

- *11 January 2015*: 3 arrested by Mobile 1 in possession of 1 dik-dik (below)
- *13 February 2015*: 1 arrested in Rombo (3 escaped) with 2 porcupine & 2 dik-dik carcasses, after rangers set up an ambush.



- *16 March 2015*: 8 suspected arrested with kudu carcass killed in Mbirikani after a community informer notified rangers (left). ***Shoes removed to keep suspects from fleeing*

Poaching intention incidents:

- 1 Jan 2015: 1 suspected arrested with intention to snare.
- 25 Jan 2015: 2 Tanzanian nationals intending to poach with two motorbikes, a Kadoo light and a machete were arrested in an ambush.
- 31 March 2015: Arrest of four suspects laying snares, 7 snares recovered. (pictured below)
- 29 Jan 2015: Rangers arrested one suspect who was chasing eland into snares he had set. 2 snares and a machete were recovered.



HABITAT DESTRUCTION

Habitat destruction (HD) has remained relatively constant throughout the past 12 months, and remained so in the first quarter. In **17 incidents** a total of **35 suspects were arrested** for a variety of offences, charcoal-burning being the most prevalent, as in all previous periods.





Of additional concern is the increase in sand harvesting within all group ranches, most specifically MGR, and the lack of concern shown by group ranch leaders. Erosion is already a serious issue in many areas of MGR and on-going sand harvesting will continue to affect the rate at which it occurs. No arrests for this offence were made in MGR, largely due to the fact that harvesters are permitted to collect sand by leaders and members.

ITEMS RECOVERED IN ARRESTS

ITEM	NUMBER
Axe	7
Bhang	4 kg & 3 acre crop
Bicycle	5
Car>5t	2
Car<5t	2
Chainsaw	1
Charcoal bags	23.5
Charcoal kilns	2
Digging rods	1
Hand saw	2
Jembe	7
Kadoo	1

ITEM	NUMBER
Knife	2
Logs	20
Machete	16
Motorbike	9
Rake	3
Snares	10
Spade	8
Spear	1
Timber	7
Torch	1
Water pumps	11
Wood carvings	>100 pieces

COMMUNITY CRIMES

Big Life rangers were involved in a total of **6 incidents (12 arrests)** concerning non-wildlife related crimes. Three of the incidents were narcotics related, resulting in 7 arrests. Rangers were also involved in the arrest of 1 suspected rapist, 1 hit and run driver and 3 people charged with assault.

PROSECUTIONS

No on-going cases were resolved over the reporting period. The table below details cases on-going as of April 2015: **3** people for **trophy poaching**, **19** for **bush-meat poaching** and **3** for **poaching-intention**.

Date of Arrest	Suspects Arrested	Crime	Animal killed	Status	Next hearing date	Court
30 Dec 2012	1	Trophy poaching	3 elephants	Out on bond	12 May 2015	Loitoktok
5 July 2014	1	Intention to poach	-	Out on free bond	Unknown	Makindu
1 Sep 2014	3	Game meat poaching	1 eland	1 out on Ksh 300,000 bond. 2 in remand	2 June 2015	Loitoktok
25 Dec 2014	1	Game meat poaching	4 dikdik, 3 gazelles	Failed to raise bond 500,000ksh. Waiting report from KWS to confirm it was a wild animal. Remanded	Unknown	Kajiado
26 July 2014	2	Trophy poaching	1 elephant	Out on Ksh 100,000 bond	14 April 2015	Makindu
12 Nov 2014	3	Game meat poaching	1 gazelle	Out on Ksh 100,000 bond. Warrant issued against 1 who failed to appear in court	Unknown	Makindu
11 Jan 2015	3	Game meat poaching	1 dikdik	Unknown	Unknown	Kajiado
25 Jan 2015	2	Intention to poach	-	Remanded	16 May 2015	Taveta
13 Feb 2015	1	Game meat poaching	2 dikdiks and 2 porcupines	Failed to raise bond, 400,000ksh. Remanded	15 April 2015	Taveta
16 Mar 2015	8	Game meat poaching	1 lesser kudu	Out on Ksh 100,000 bond each	7 May 2015	Makindu

RHINO PROGRAM

The total **population of rhino** in the Chyulu Hills **remains at 8**. All individuals are **healthy**. Bahati (*pictured below*) has been regularly sighted and so far it appears that he has coped well with losing his mother and being wounded (shot last year when his mother was killed by poachers).



On going efforts to obtaining IPZ status (Intense Protection Zone), enabling inbound rhino translation, are progressing well. It is vital that the 8 remaining rhino continue to prosper in order for this to be achieved.

An additional 20 camera traps have been deployed to the rhino area during the reporting period, through a donation from the Anna Merz/Samia Trust. We are seeing a valuable increase in the number of images capturing rhino, which will greatly benefit their monitoring.



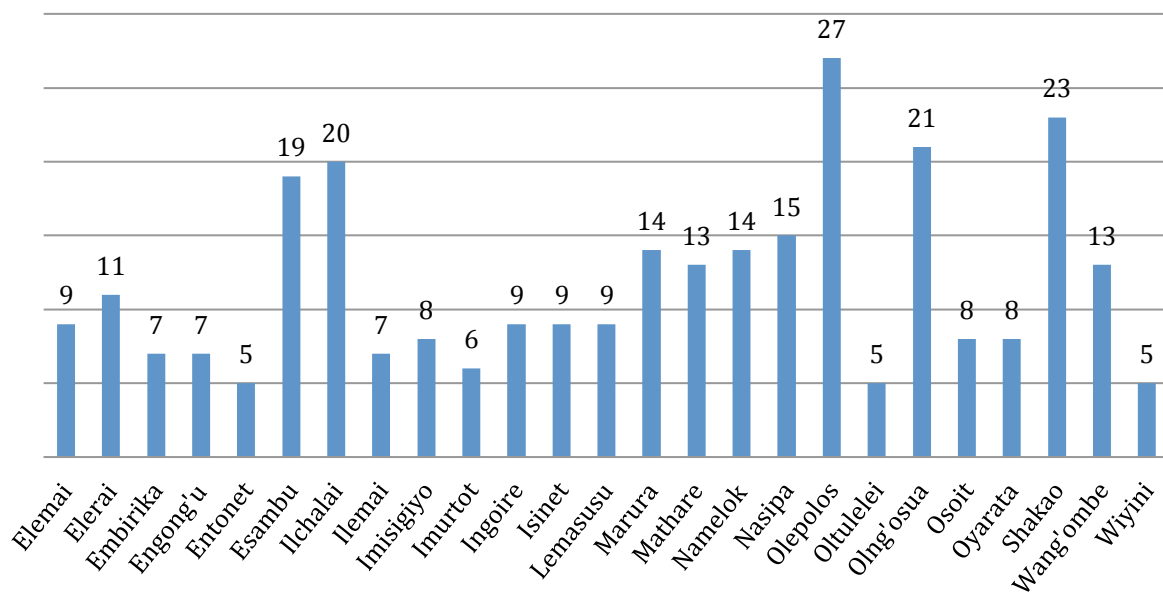
Pictured: Cathy, her calf and bahati

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), specifically **Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)**, continues to be the **most significant threat** to the on-going conservation of wildlife within the Amboseli Ecosystem. Incidents in which humans are injured or killed appear to be happening more regularly. This is partly due to the dry conditions, bringing humans and large wildlife species into more frequent contact, and may also be exacerbated as wildlife population numbers are increasing.

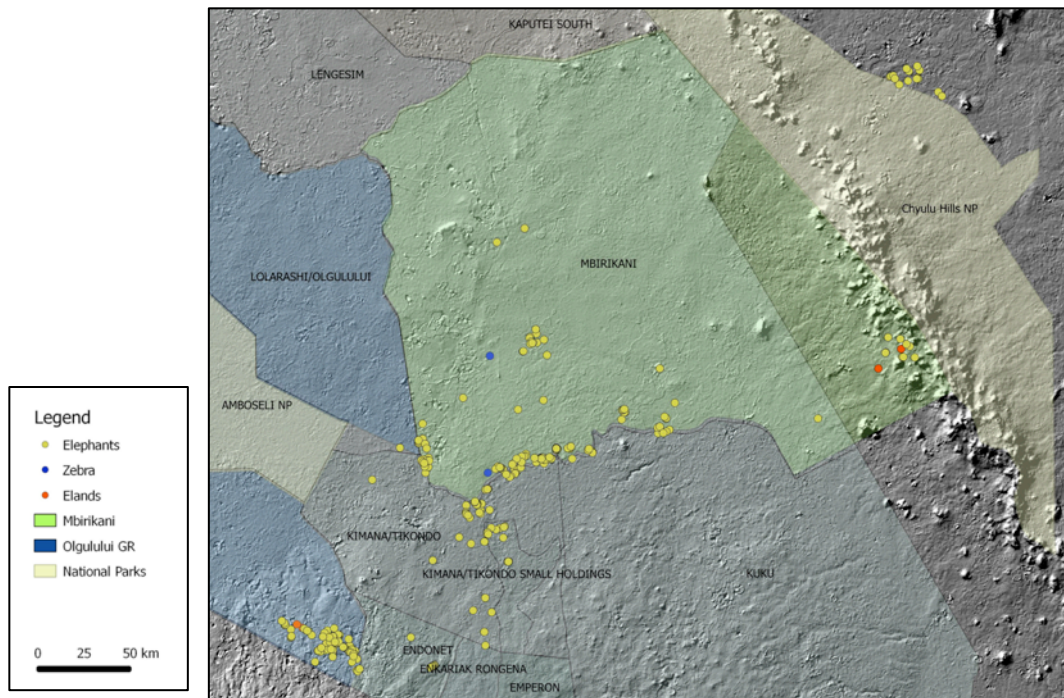
CROP-RAIDING & HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT

Crop raiding by all species over the reporting period was relatively high, however elephants are by far the most regular offenders. All agriculture areas have been affected, while those areas lying in proximity to natural water sources (Esambu, Ilchalai for example) appear to experience the most regular incidents. Water is no longer reaching the lower stretches of the river meaning wildlife looking for water must pass through farmland to reach it.



Areas most impacted by wildlife crop-raiding

The southernmost area of conflict in the map below is non-irrigated farmland on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. This area is a high-conflict zone and is prioritised for fencing, as the line between agriculture and conservancy land is distinct. Additionally, wildlife-corridors to the west of the farmland have been formed (By AWF and IFAW) meaning access to Kilimanjaro National Park is still available.



Map of crop-raiding incident between Jan-Mar 2015

These data include only those incidents that were reported to rangers and therefore verified. It is estimated that up to 50% of incidents go unreported. As a result this data is an under-representation of the actual losses on farms in the area.

Of the total number of incidents, **elephants are responsible for over 96%**, while in terms of acreage damaged/destroyed they are responsible for 91%. Elephants show a marked preference for beans (45%) and tomatoes (39%).

Areas of crops destroyed per species:

CROP	ELEPHANT	ELAND	ZEBRA	GIRAFFE	TOTAL
Bananas	1/4	-	-	-	1/4
Beans	116 1/3	14	-	1	131 1/3
Capsicum	1 3/4	-	-	-	1 3/4
Maize	10 1/4	6 3/4	1/4	-	17 1/4
Mangoes	1/8	-	-	-	1/8
Onions	1	-	-	-	1
Pawpaw	1/8	-	-	-	1/8
Peas	5/8	-	-	-	5/8
Potatoes	19	-	-	-	19
Sisal	1/2	-	-	-	1/2
Sunflower	1/2	-	-	-	1/2
Tomatoes	100 1/2	1	1/4	-	101 3/4
Water melons	9 1/4	-	1/2	-	9 3/4
TOTAL	260 1/5	21 3/4	1	1	284

Crop-raiding incidents per species:

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Elephant	140	125	70	335
Elands	6	2	-	8
Giraffes	1	-	-	1
Zebra	-	3	-	3
TOTAL	147	130	70	347

As a result of the increased conflict (both in the form of crop-raiding and human injury/death) organised retaliatory hunts are occurring more frequently. A minimum of 6 (of 8) elephant mortalities occurred as a direct result of conflict with humans, 3 times as a result of killing a person and 3 times being wounding during a crop-raid.

Two elephant hunts successfully **stopped** by rangers:

- *12 Mar 2015:* BK7 rangers and KWS stopped an elephant hunt after a man was killed (by an elephant) at Noomayianat area of Kuku group ranch. The animal responsible was subsequently shot and killed by KWS.
- *24 Mar 2015:* A solitary male elephant chased a boy herder, who was injured while escaping, at Olmoti area of Olgulului group ranch. Angry community members threatened to kill the animal but were stopped by our BO1 team together with KWS.

PREDATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM

Big Life protects all the major predators of the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem through an innovative predator protection program. The first component of this protection program is livestock compensation (the Predator Compensation Fund), aimed at reducing the motivation for retaliatory killing of predators following livestock depredation. The fund pays livestock owners for a portion of the value of their livestock lost to predators, on condition that no predators are killed in retaliation. Big Life staff verifies all depredations, and penalties are applied for poor husbandry. The community provides 30% of the total compensation paid bimonthly (every 2 months), and severe fines are applied if any predators are killed in PCF areas.

The second part of our predator protection strategy is focused on the young warriors (morans) of the Maasai community, and is known as the Menye Layiok program. In Maasai culture, lion killing has traditionally been an important part of becoming a man. Through the creation of the Maasai Olympics, a culturally relevant sporting event for warriors across the ecosystem, we intend to give

young men an alternative avenue through which to demonstrate physical prowess. The lead-up to the event is combined with a targeted education program aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour to wildlife and conservation.

It is important to note that while PCF is the fulcrum of Big Life's predator protection efforts the security network of informers and rangers also play an important role. As seen below Big Life's rangers, informers and PCF personnel have combined to prevent 6 lion-hunts from resulting in the death of a lion. In the majority of these incidents Lion Guardians have been present and assisted Big Life in mitigating the incident, while KWS have also assisted on the occasions where they were able to attend (most lion hunts have occurred far from KWS stations).

Six Lion hunts were stopped in the reporting period, and a 7th lion hunt (outside of Big Life's AOO resulted in the death of 1 lion.

- *21 Feb 2015*: Bravo Mike 2 responded to a predation incident where a bull was killed by a pride of 5 lions at Oloirien area of Kaputie. The owners were very angry over the incident, but were calmed by rangers.
- *19 Mar 2015*: A pride of 3 lions killed a cow at Mingururo area of MGR. A lion hunt nearly ensued after morans, looking for the lost cow, found the lions feeding on the carcass. Mobile 1 and Olokurto teams managed to stop the hunt.
- *21 Mar 2015*: A lion killed a cow at Ilturot area of OGR. The lion hunt that resulted was stopped by Osewan team and the PCF verification officers.
- *23 Mar 2015*: Two lions killed 12 goats at Meshanani area of OGR. Angry community members assembled to hunt the lions, but were stopped by Mobile 3 and KWS rangers.



- *26 Mar 2015*: A pride of 3 lions killed 6 cows and a donkey at Oltisika area of MGR. A lion hunt that was already initiated was stopped by Mobile 1 and Verification officers.

- 28 Mar 2015: A pride of 4 lions killed 3 cows at Emotoroki area of Mailua group ranch (outside our AOO). A lion hunt led to death of 1 male lion after it injured 4 people. The four were taken to Kajiado for treatment.



- 29 Mar 2015: Two lions killed 1 bull at Ilmarba area of OGR. Angry morans threatened to hunt the lions, but were successfully stopped by Bravo Oscar 1 rangers.

PREDATOR COMPENSATION FUND

The table below details livestock killed by predators on Mbirikani group ranch & Olgulului group ranch between January & March 2015.

PREDATOR	CATTLE	SHOATS	DONKEYS	AMOUNT (KSH)	AMOUNT (USD)
Cheetah	12	80	-	309,560	3,558
Leopard	1	9	-	19,000	218
Hyena	118	236	5	1,134,110	13,035
Jackal	-	89	-	147,180	1,692
Lion	41	37	5	670,500	7,707
Elephant	1	6	-	38,000	437
Wild dog	-	5	-	15,000	172
TOTAL	173	462	10	2,333,350	26,819

MENYE-LAYIOK & MAASAI OLYMPICS

As the Maasai Olympics finished in December 2014 there has been a break in activities in the first quarter of the year. Education bursaries from the Maasai Olympics **Chester Zoo conservation prize**

were distributed to **19 students to support their continued education**. A survey of the Conservation prize winning manyatta, Olgulului, was undertaken to quantify the impact the award has had its recipients. The survey revealed the manyatta-members were very positive regarding the impact the prize will have on assisting those who cannot afford education as well as instilling increased interest in wildlife conservation.

EDUCATION

The first quarter of 2015 started off very busy, issuing school-fee cheques. **Cheques totalled 4,443,874ksh (over \$51,000)** and were issued for primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. The number of students **currently sponsored** by Big Life, and its partner donors, now stands at **123 students**. Big Life pays the salaries for **27 teachers** in 14 schools through its partners.

One student who has been sponsored by Big Life for six years, graduated with a medical degree from Kampala International University (pictured below).



Anthony Kasaine graduated with a medical degree in February 2015, after a 6-year sponsorship by Ann Lurie through Big Life.

In an attempt to improve the quality of education in local schools, a teachers' transfer exercise (sponsored by Big Life) was initiated in December 2014. The transfer was informed by a survey of all the local schools, carried out by Big Life in November 2014. Twelve teachers reported to their new classrooms in January 2015 with hopes of reinvigorating the education of local children.

The **Mellman Foundation**, through Capricorn Foundation in Germany, has **donated 200,000Euros** for the education program. The funds will be invested in a low risk fixed income financial product that yields a 10% rate of return annually. Every year, 60% of the interest income will be used to

fund school fees in secondary school for the best boy and best girl in KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) from each of the 14 schools on Mbirikani Group Ranch that are currently sponsored by Big Life. In addition, 40% of the funds will be used to support a priority infrastructure project in each of the 14 schools on Mbirikani Group Ranch, annually for seven years.

This is the biggest, single-source donation for the Education Program since the inception of the Wildlife Scholarship Program in 1997. Big Life is hugely grateful to the Mellman Foundation (through Capricorn Foundation) for the opportunity for us to significantly improve the local community livelihoods through conservation and education.

The exchange of letters between Highland School, in Virginia USA, and Enkijape School, in Kenya, has continued with 61 students, in grades five and six, from Enkijape sending letters to their friends in Highland School. The most recurring theme in the Enkijape students' letters is the relationship between human beings and wildlife all sharing the same land.

The Wildlife Scholarship Program was started, and is currently only active, on Mbirikani Group Ranch. Plans are afoot to roll out the Scholarship Program to Kimana and Olgulului group ranches. There have been some engagements with hotel operators on both group ranches and the next steps to finalise the process are planned very soon.

In addition, the spiralling human-wildlife conflict has led to Big Life inadvertently rolling out the Wildlife Scholarship Program to Kaputiei group ranch, with the sponsorship of two students from that area. This is in an effort to pass on some benefits from wildlife to the community, which has until now only resulted in losses, particularly from elephants and predators.

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

All the work detailed above is only possible thanks to Big Life's very kind donors and partner organizations, listed below. We are continually grateful.

