

# BIG LIFE FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY REPORT (APR-JUN 2015)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

While the last three months haven't been incident free, wildlife poaching continues to be "under control" in the ecosystem. We recorded two poached elephants and a very low number of bush meat incidents (only one arrest), a demonstration of just how improved the poaching situation is here in our area of operation. In one of the elephant poaching incidents, two suspects were arrested within hours. However, these gains are a result of hard work, and we can never afford to be complacent.

Particularly pleasing to me is the ever-improving knowledge that we have on the eight black rhinos remaining in the Chyulus. Although this is a scarily low number of individuals, at least we know what the situation is, and it has inspired us to work even harder in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service to protect them. Only a few years ago, we had no idea how many rhinos there were, and we certainly couldn't differentiate between individuals or follow their breeding, both of which are vital for their ongoing protection and management.

Human-wildlife conflict remains an issue—in fact, I would say it is the battle of the next decade—particularly in the core area of the ecosystem. Encouraging progress has been made in this department, with a decrease in elephant mortalities and an increase in effective mitigation of conflict. For this, I am grateful to USAID and its grant to Big Life, which has made a significant difference in our effectiveness in these efforts.

Richard Bonham, **Director of Operations** 

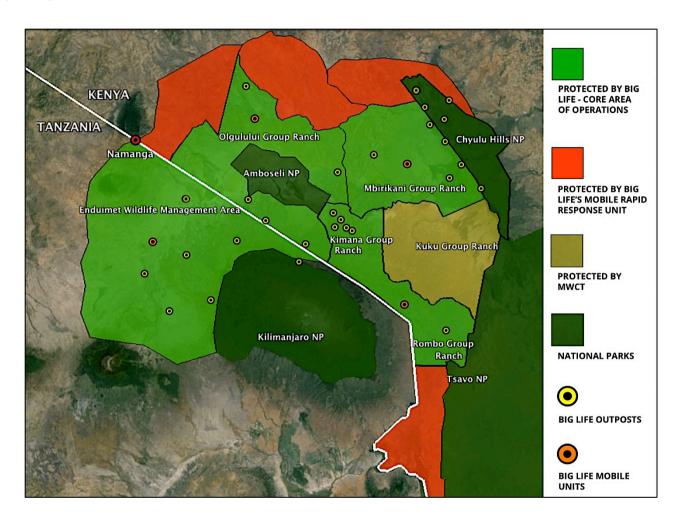
# **CONTENTS**

WILDLIFE SECURITY	4
PROSECUTIONS	13
RHINO PROGRAM	14
HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT	15
PREDATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM	17
EDUCATION	21



## Wildlife Security

The second quarter of 2015 has been calm with regard to poaching, with just one bush-meat poaching incident within Big Life's area of operation, and **two trophy-poaching incidents**. Human-wildlife conflict, on the other hand, has been exceptionally high, continuing on the same trend reported over the past year, especially as conditions continue to be drier.



### **BIG LIFE RANGERS**

Big Life rangers in Kenya patrolled 14,170 km on foot and 51,000 km by vehicle this quarter, making 79 arrests.

There are a total of 37 units (29 in Kenya and 8 in Tanzania) and hundreds of rangers in the wildlife security network managed by Big Life. This provides comprehensive coverage across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem, but there are still gaps that will require local expansion in the near future. We are currently seeking funds to be able to do so (please donate online at <a href="https://www.biglife.org">www.biglife.org</a>).

### **INCIDENTS AND ARRESTS IN KENYA**

		Number of incidents			Number of suspects arrested				
Crime Category	Crime Type	Apr	May	Jun	Total	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Poaching	Trophy	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
	Game Meat	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
	Trading in wildlife trophy	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
Habitat Destruction	Charcoal	6	2	1	9	13	4	2	19
Destruction	Wood carving	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
	Firewood	2	1	1	4	8	1	4	13
	Logging	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3
	Sand harvesting	1	-	-	1	6	-	-	6
Encroachment	Illegal grazing	-	2	-	2	-	3	-	3
	Illegal water pumping	1	1	-	2	3	4	-	7
Trespass	Miraa harvesting	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
Retaliation	Lion poisoning	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
	Lion hunt	1	-	-	1	8	-	-	8
Community Crimes	Narcotics Possession	2	1	-	3	3	1	-	4
	Illegal Possession of firearm	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	4
	Theft	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
TOTAL		17	10	6	33	47	19	13	79

### **ITEMS RECOVERED IN ARRESTS IN KENYA**

ITEM	TOTAL
Axe	2
Bhang	2kg
Car>5t	3
Car<5t	2
Predator skin	1
Charcoal bags	11
Charcoal kilns	2
Kadoo	1
Poisoned arrows	10
Knife	1

ITEM	TOTAL
Machete	7
Motorbike	6
Rake	2
Jembe	1
Snares	10
Spade	4
Spear	10
Sword	8
Water pumps	9
Wood carvings	100+

Rollout of Big Life's upgraded Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Mitigation Project, funded by USAID, occurred during the second quarter. This entailed a restructuring of zones and units within the zones, as well as an increase in capacity through improved equipment and training. All HWC personnel underwent training in deployment strategies, community relations and communication, equipment use, and data collection.

Big Life continues to undertake cross-border patrols and operations with partners on either side of the Kenya/Tanzania border. Over the reporting period, one formal cross-border operation was conducted, mainly focused on the issue of HWC (especially predation - see lion mortality incidents described below).

Through ongoing, and critically important, support from The Thin Green Line, Big Life hosted Tim Scarrot for a period of three weeks. During this time, Scarrot trained over 300 people in basic (first responder) first-aid. All Big Life employees attended, together with KWS rangers and community members. An additional 25 people participated in an advanced course. Of equal importance was the establishment of evacuation routes, assessments of the available facilities, and assessment in which way to best utilize them.



Rangers participating in first aid training, made possible by Thin Green Line Foundation

### **ELEPHANT INCIDENTS IN KENYA**

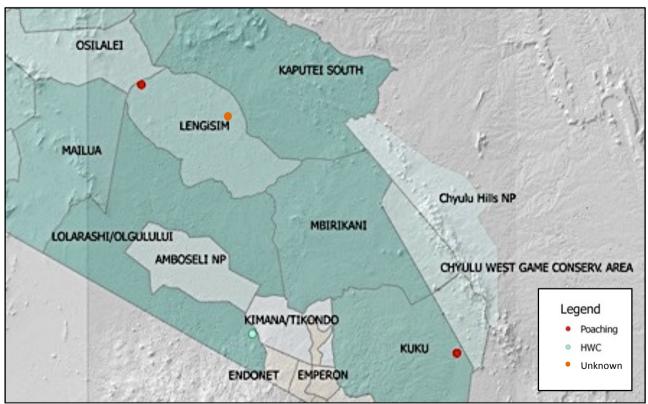
Two elephants were poached in the second quarter of 2015, both outside of Big Life's core area of operation. In one of the two poaching incidents, the ivory was not recovered (more info below). However, six pieces of ivory were recovered. Recovery of ivory is vital, regardless of cause of death, because it prevents ivory from entering the supply chain, and furthermore prevents people from opportunistically selling ivory, which can in turn lead to them becoming full-on poachers.

### **ELEPHANT MORTALITIES IN KENYA**

Total dead: 4 (3 male, 1 female)

Total dead within Big Life's core area of operation: 1 Total dead outside Big Life's area of operation: 3

During the second quarter, four elephant mortalities were recorded. One died within Big Life's area of operation due to human-wildlife conflict in the farms. Two elephants died in Eselengei Group Ranch (one due to poaching and one of unknown causes), and one died in Kuku Group Ranch (managed by Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust) due to poaching. In all but one instance, the ivory was recovered.



MAP: Locations of elephant mortality in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2015

#### **Details:**

1. 16 April 2015: Lion Guardian's coordinator was informed by herders of an elephant carcass in the Eselengei conservancy, within Eselengei Group Ranch. Both tusks were recovered. It was difficult to establish the cause of the death because of decomposition.



2. 8 May 2015: Elephant Trust ranger reported finding the carcass of an adult male elephant in the Emesera area of Eselengei Group Ranch. The carcass was approximately two weeks old, and both tusks were missing. The elephant is suspected to be one of two who were speared in an attempted poaching incident in the same area on 24 April 2015. Two suspects were arrested following the incident in April (pictured below). Investigation of the ivory is ongoing.





3. 26 May 2015: Mobile Unit 1 assisting Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT) rangers received a report of a male elephant carcass found in the Iltilal area of Kuku Group Ranch, with both tusks missing. They located the one-day-old carcass and confirmed that the cause of death was a spear wound. A joint search operation by Big Life's Mobile Unit 1, MWCT rangers, and Kenya Wildlife Service rangers led to the recovery of both tusks hidden in a thicket in Euata village of Iltilal on 27 May 2015.



11 June 2015: While on patrol, the Ilmarba team came across a sub-adult (14-year-old) female 4. elephant carcass in the Olmoti area of Olgulului Group Ranch. The three-day-old carcass had both tusks in tact and appears to have died from a spear wound, presumably inflicted during a crop-raiding incident.



#### **ELEPHANT INJURIES IN KENYA**

Elephants treated: 1 (treated by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)/David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

mobile vet unit)

Elephants not treated: 5

**Details: Treated** 

1. 23 Jun 2015: The Kelunyet team received a report from an informer of an elephant with difficulties walking. They immediately tracked down the elephant, and with the help of the KWS vet, it was successfully treated for a spear wound on the right fore leg.



### Not treated

- 1. 2 April 2015: Bravo Mike 7 rangers spotted a bull elephant with an old, infected spear wound on the right hind leg at the Ol Donyo waterhole of Mbirikani Group Ranch. After monitoring, treatment was deemed unnecessary.
- 2. 24 April 2015: A Lion Guardian reported to our rangers a herd of elephants that appeared scared; one was shedding fresh blood in the Kikardi area of Eselengei Group Ranch. Immediately, a team comprising Big Life's Rapid Deployment Unit and Mobile Unit 3 along with KWS rangers followed the blood trails and came across yet another trail of blood. They split and confirmed that two elephants had been speared. An investigation was immediately launched, and two suspects were arrested, but the elephants weren't found. One carcass was discovered on 8 May, which may have been related to the incident.

- 3. 1 May 2015: Our Olokurto team received information from a community member that a sick elephant had been seen in the Oltiasika area of Mbirikani Group Ranch. A search was immediately mounted, but the elephant was not identified.
- 4. 22 May 2015: An informer reported an elephant shedding blood in the Oltiasika area of Mbirikani Group Ranch. Mobile Unit 1 combed the area thoroughly but did not find any wounded elephants.
- 5. 26 May 2015: While on patrol, the Ilmarba team came across an elephant that appeared emaciated and weak in the Inasuiya area of Olgulului Group Ranch. The elephant was closely monitored and reported to have recovered on 3 June 2015.

### **BUSH MEAT IN KENYA**

Bush meat poaching, for both sale and personal consumption, fluctuates throughout the year, varying with the seasons. Historically, the very dry months see an increase in poaching incidents. However, this quarter was uncharacteristically low, as only one bush meat poaching incident was reported.

17 May: Rangers arrested one suspect (pictured below) in Rombo with six carcasses: two dik-dik, three Grant's gazelles and one impala. Three other poachers escaped, but are under continuing investigation.



### HABITAT DESTRUCTION IN KENYA

Habitat destruction has been a constant issue throughout the past year, and remained so in the second quarter. In 18 incidents, a total of 43 suspects were arrested for a variety of offenses. Charcoal-burning was the most prevalent issue (19 arrests in 9 separate incidents), as in all previous periods.



Illegal charcoal kiln (left); illegal wood collection (right)

### **COMMUNITY CRIMES IN KENYA**

Big Life rangers were involved in a total of five incidents (nine arrests) concerning non-wildlife related crimes. On 12 May, four people were arrested while in possession of an illegal (unregistered) firearm (pictured below). Other incidents included three people arrested following suspected theft and one person arrested for growing and selling marijuana.



### **PROSECUTIONS**

### Two court cases on wildlife-related crimes were concluded during the second quarter:

- Pekei Shoke was arrested in October 2012 for poaching three elephants—including the beloved Amboseli matriarch, Qumquat. His case finally concluded on 12 May 2015. Unfortunately, Shoke was charged under the previous Wildlife Act (because he was arrested prior to the implementation of the new Act of December 2013, which carries steeper penalties). Shoke received the maximum sentence possible under the earlier Act of two years, or one year and a fine of Ksh 40,000 (\$420).
- Two Tanzanian nationals were arrested in January 2015 after a night ambush by our rangers for intention to poach. Their case concluded on 18 June 2015. Each was sentenced to serve a three-year jail term or pay a fine of Ksh 400,000 (\$4,210) each.

These two contrasting cases highlight the importance, and strength, of the new Wildlife Act. We hope the significantly more severe sentences and higher fines will act as a strong deterrent against wildlife crime in Kenya.

Date of arrest	No. Suspects	Crime	Bond (Ksh)	Status	Remarks/Outcome
30/Oct/12	1	Trophy poaching		Closed	Date: 14/05/2015: 1 year jail term + a fine of Ksh. 40,000
6/Jul/13	1	Trading in ivory	30,000	Pending	Out on bond. Case ongoing. KWS witness never appeared
5/Jul/14	1	Poaching intention		Pending	Ongoing. Out on a free bond
26/Jul/14	2	Trophy poaching	100,000	Pending	Out on bond. Case Ongoing
1/Sep/14	3	Bush meat poaching	300,000	Pending	1 is out on bond. 2 still in remand. Case on going
12/Nov/14	3	Bush meat poaching	100,000	Pending	Ongoing. W.O.A issued against 1 suspect who skipped bail
25/Dec/14	1	Bush meat poaching	500,000	Pending	Remanded. Government chemist to submit report to confirm that it was indeed wildlife.
11/Jan/15	3	Bush meat poaching		Pending	Ongoing
25/Jan/15	2	Poaching intention		Closed	18/06/2015: 3 years jail term or a fine of Ksh. 400,000
13/Feb/15	1	Bush meat poaching	400,000	Pending	Remanded. Case ongoing
16/Mar/15	8	Bush meat poaching	100,000	Pending	Ongoing. Never appeared on 7/05/2015
31/Mar/15	4	Laying snares		Pending	Ongoing
24/Apr/15	2	Spearing elephants	100,000	Pending	Out on bond. Case ongoing
17/May/15	1	Bush meat poaching		Pending	Ongoing. File wasn't brought to court on 29/06/2015
7/Jun/15	2	Trading in leopard skin		Pending	Case ongoing
11/Jun/15	2	Lion poisoning		Pending	Case ongoing
8/Jul/15	1	Trading in ivory		Pending	Case ongoing

### RHINO PROGRAM

The total **population of rhinos** in the Chyulu Hills **remains at eight**. All individuals are **healthy**.

Ongoing efforts to obtain Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) status, which would enable inbound rhino translocations, are progressing well. It is vital that the eight remaining rhinos continue to prosper in order for this to be achieved.

To qualify as an IPZ, the Chyulu Hills must meet a minimum level of requirements, mostly to ensure that the rhino population (regardless of translocations) continues to receive sufficient protection and monitoring. Requirements yet to be addressed include: fencing of the eastern boundary of the Chyulu Hills National Park, upgrading the road network, installation of an additional water point, and an increase in available security-specific manpower. Achieving IPZ status by the end of 2016 is possible. However, additional financial support is needed (please contact Kim McCoy for information on how you can support these efforts at kim@biglife.org).

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, three armed poachers were intercepted on their way into the rhino area. Though there was an exchange of fire, no casualties occurred on either side. Investigation of the culprits is ongoing. Thankfully, no rhinos were lost in the conflict.



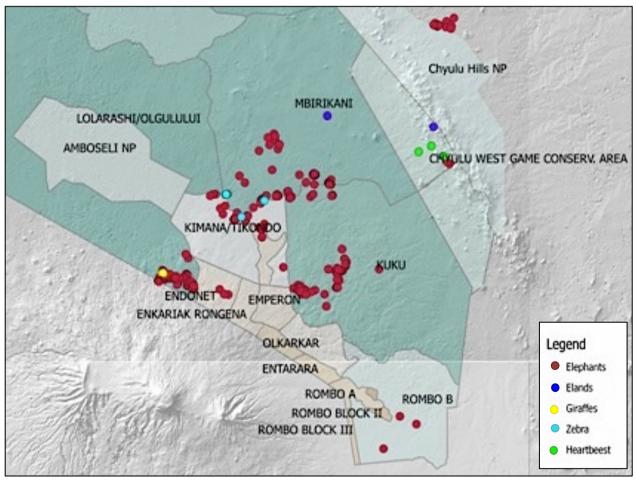
Cathy, her calf and Bahati (rhino calf shot when his mother was killed by poachers last year)

### **HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT**

Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), specifically Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC), continues to be the most significant threat to the ongoing conservation of wildlife within the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro 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 IN KENYA**

Crop-raiding by all species over the reporting period was relatively high; however, elephants are by far the most regular offenders. All agricultural areas have been affected, while those areas lying in proximity to natural water sources (e.g., Esambu and Illchalai) appear to experience the most regular incidents. Water is no longer reaching the lower stretches of the river (due to excessive illegal water pumping for agriculture), meaning wildlife looking for water must pass through farm land to reach it.



MAP: Areas impacted by wildlife crop-raiding in the Amboseli ecosystem.

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

The following includes data from only those incidents that were reported to rangers and subsequently verified. It is estimated that up to 50% of incidents go unreported. As a result, this data is a conservative representation of the actual losses on farms in the area.

Of the total number of incidents, elephants were responsible for 93%, while in terms of acreage damaged/destroyed, they were responsible for 95%.

### Areas of crops destroyed per species:

Animal	Incidents	Area damaged (acres)
Elephant	278	233.1
Eland	5	2.5
Gazelles	2	2
Нірро	2	1.25
Zebra	4	2.75
Buffalo	1	0.5
Giraffe	3	2.5
Eland & Buffalo	2	1
Hartebeest	3	1
Total	300	246.6

### **Crops Destroyed:**

Crop	Incidents	Area damaged (Acres)
Bananas	2	0.5
Beans	84	102.1
Capsicum	3	1.5
Kales	1	0.25
Maize	83	53.9
Paw paws	5	1.1
Tomatoes	108	82
Watermelons	8	1
Irish Potatoes	4	3.5
Cabbage	1	0.5
Sweet potatoes	1	0.25
Total	300	246.6

Increased conflict has resulted in an escalation in retaliatory (organized) hunts with the purpose of kill elephants; as opposed to unintentional elephant deaths as a result of an infection inflicted by a spear used to chase the elephant away from crops.

For the first time, ZERO retaliatory elephant hunts occurred over the reporting period in Big Life's area of operation. In addition, there was a significant drop in all HEC related elephant deaths, one this quarter versus 6 last quarter in Big Life's core area of operation. This can be attributed to the increase in response by rangers to incidents of conflict as a result of the USAID grant to Big Life. Rangers are now better equipped, and more mobile, than in previous quarters.

#### **HUMAN INJURIES IN KENYA**

During the second quarter, five incidents of human injury by wildlife occurred:

- April: A frightened buffalo hit and injured a herder, who suffered minor external injuries. He was taken to a hospital by Big Life, treated, and then discharged.
- April: A sleeping woman and child were bitten by a snake inside a manyatta. They were taken to the hospital by Big Life, treated, and then discharged.
- April: An elephant hit a man who suffered rib and arm injuries. The man was taken to the hospital by Big Life rangers, treated, and then discharged.
- May: A buffalo hit and inflicted serious injuries to a man. The animal was euthanized by KWS. The man was taken to the hospital, where he was treated and then discharged.
- June: An elephant caused minor injuries to a man. The man was taken to the hospital, where he was treated and then discharged.

### PREDATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM

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

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.



MAP: Predator Compensation is operated by Big Life on Mbirikani and Olgulului Group Ranches and by MWCT on Kuku Group Ranch

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 six lion-hunts from resulting in the death of a lion. In the majority of these incidents, members of the Lion Guardians have been present and assisted Big Life in mitigation, while KWS rangers have also assisted on the occasions on which they were able to attend (most lion hunts have occurred far from KWS stations).

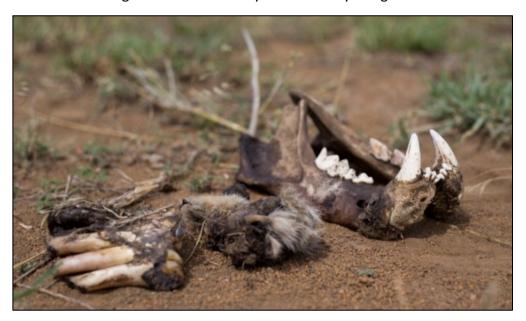
Six lion hunts were stopped during the second quarter, one hunt (in Tanzania) resulted in the death of one lion, and two lions were poisoned on Kuku Group Ranch and Merueshi Group Ranch, both of which are outside our area of operation.

### Lion hunts stopped:

- 3 April to 13 April 2015: Big Life's Ilmarba Unit, the Rapid Deployment Unit, Mobile Unit 3, and Enduimet WMA rangers stopped **three lion hunts** during a cross border operation. In one incident, they arrested eight morans, who defied the rangers. The cross border operation was conducted specifically to mitigate lion hunting.
- 8 April 2014: The Rapid Deployment Unit stopped a group of 20 morans who were out in search of lions in Ilkasua, Olgulului Group Ranch, after a lion killed a cow in the area.
- 12 April 2015: A lion hunt was organized by morans in the area around Satao of Olgulului Group Ranch after a bull was killed by a lion. The Ilmarba team managed to stop the hunt.
- 22 April 2015: The Esiteti team stopped a group of morans from hunting a lion that had killed a cow in the Eselenkei area, Olgulului Group Ranch.

### Lion deaths:

- 21 Apr 2015: Following a series of incidents on the border of Kuku and Mbirikani Group Ranches, a lion was poisoned in Kuku. Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (the organization operating on the group ranch) arrested the suspect.
- 15 May 2015: A collared female lion named Shangiki was killed by morans in Tanzania in the Enduimet WMA following a warrior ceremony in the nearby village.



5 June 2015: Two Kaputei community cows were killed on Mbirikani Group Ranch by a pride of lions. A lion carcass was then found on 11 June. The owners of the cows were arrested in a joint operation with Big Life and Kenya Wildlife Service.

### PREDATOR COMPENSATION FUND

The table below details livestock killed by predators on Mbirikani Group Ranch and Olgulului Group Ranch between April and June 2015.

Predator	Cattle	Shoats	Donkeys	Amount (KSH)	Amount (USD)
Cheetah	14	91	-	350,000	\$3,684
Leopard	-	2	-	4,500	\$47
Hyena	102	219	19	1,064,520	\$11,205
Jackal	-	61	-	552,000	\$5,810
Lion	52	51	12	852,000	\$8,968
Wild dog	-	1	-	1,500	\$16
Total	168	425	31	2,824,520	\$29,731

### **MENYE-LAYIOK & MAASAI OLYMPICS**

In Kimana, on 18 May 2015, Big Life held a manyatta leaders' meeting, and in attendance were all of the area warrior chiefs, Menye Layiok (cultural fathers), and their assistants. The meeting agenda was simply to continue engaging locals in conservation initiatives and reminding them that Big Life is continuing to look for financial support for the next Maasai Olympics, which is scheduled for 2016.

May and June were filled with preparations for the Ordination Ceremony of the Mbirikani Manyatta Iltuati age group leader. Samuel Kaanki, the Menye-Layiok Program Coordinator for Big Life, worked very closely with the area MP, Katoo ole Metito, and other leaders, including the warriors, to make sure that the ceremony was successful.



Iltuati warrior ceremony, Mbirikani Manyatta, June 2015

The ceremony was attended by the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, along with other traditional and political leaders.

Local conservation efforts were given a boost during the President's speech when he focused on the importance of wildlife conservation. Kenyatta urged the warriors to remember that conservation is critical for their future. He urged the people to keep their beautiful culture, but to also incorporate education for children and wildlife conservation, and noted that the government would provide necessary support.

Kenyatta congratulated the Iltuati age group and thanked them for leading by example in the Maasai community, showing that they can conserve their culture and wildlife, and benefit from both. A few thousand people from all corners of the ecosystem and beyond were in attendance, so Kenyatta's message of conservation was far-reaching.

In a meeting following the ceremony, the Organizing Committee and all the Mbirikani leaders thanked Big Life and the Moran Education Initiative for their generous contribution and support given to the Iltuati.

### **EDUCATION**

The highlight of the second quarter of 2015 was a visit from the Highland School from Virginia, USA. The Highland School raised funds for various projects at Mbirikani's Enkjiape School, including water tanks, shoes for students, and construction of an admin block. Over 23 students, parents, and teachers brought school supplies for Enkjiape, Inkoisuk Primary, and Noosidan pre-school.





Right: Enkijape students welcoming Highland School; Left: Eye clinic set up by Highland School

Highland School and Big Life have been working together for over eleven years. It is a relationship that has continued to grow and has yielded a lot of benefits for Enkjijape School, the local community, and later for Inkoisuk Primary and Noosidan Pre-School. Highland School pays for the salaries of three teachers at Enkijape, sponsors the first boy and girl every year for secondary school, and supplies laptops, iPads, and solar power. In 2014, Highland helped connect the school to the electricity grid.

Among other activities and support Highland provided during their annual one-week visit, they held an eye clinic for students, their families, and the local community and distributed over 2,000 pair of eye glasses.



Big Life's Wildlife Scholarship Program also received a big boost from Gary Farrant (pictured above), who donated funds to turn Orbili Primary School into a model boarding school.

Big Life is hugely grateful to Gary for his very generous contribution, which will see one of the areas on Mbirikani Group Ranch with the highest concentration of wildlife benefit from conservation. This benefit goes a long way in securing the future of wildlife conservation in the local community.

# **PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS**

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











































