



# **BIG LIFE** FOUNDATION

**QUARTERLY REPORT**  
OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER  
2021

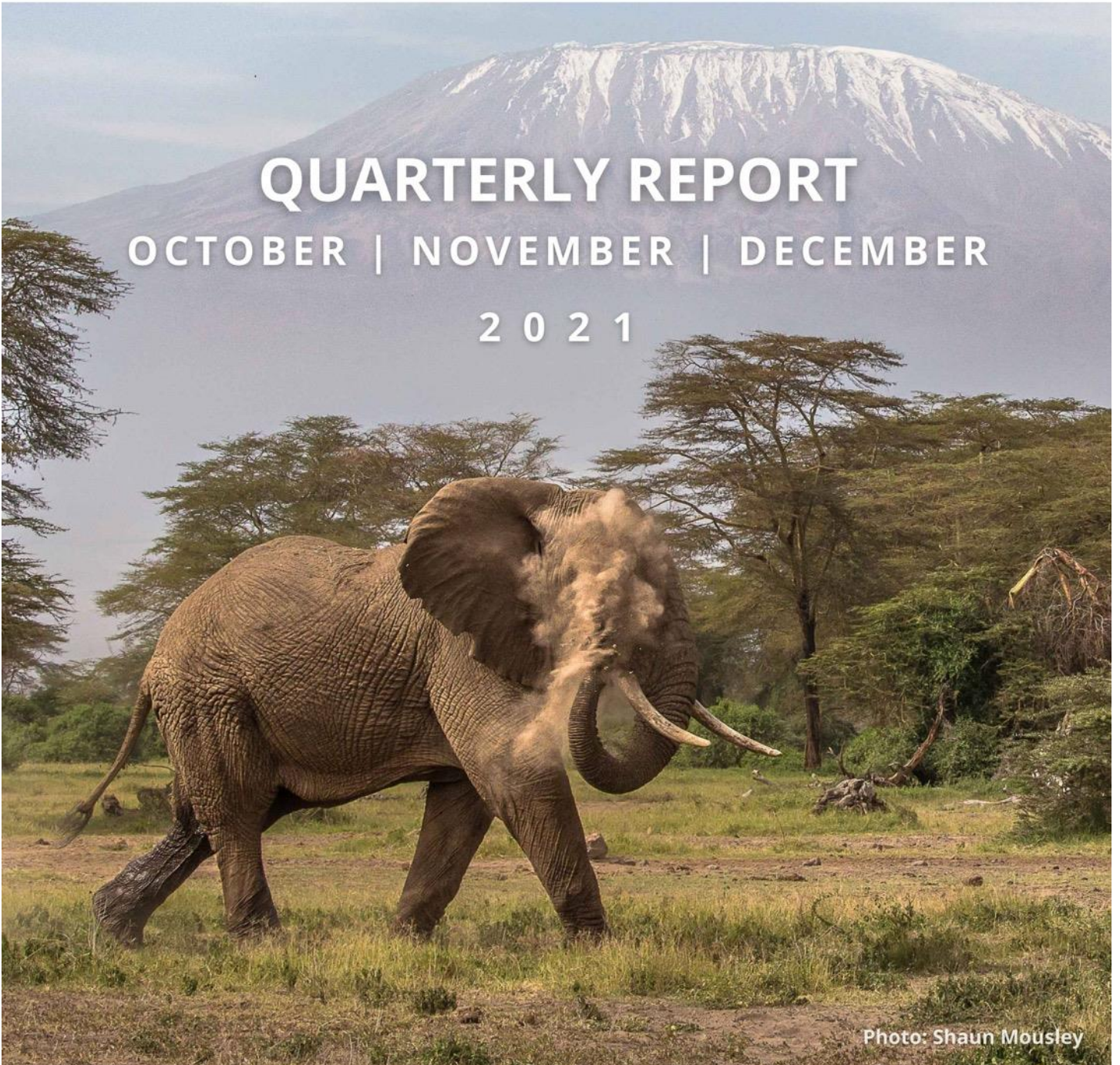


Photo: Shaun Mousley

## FROM THE FIELD

A few weeks ago, I was worried that I'd be writing to you today with bad news. As we entered the 4th quarter, our fundraising was down, leaving us with a budget gap that threatened to force us to cut back on programs. So it is with immense gratitude and unbelievable relief that I write to you with GOOD news. Because of our incredible supporters and partners around the world, we exceeded our goal for December and are starting off 2022 on solid footing. For now, our programs are thriving, and we are entering the new year optimistic that we will rise to the challenges before us, of which there are many.

All of our programs are intertwined and essential to conservation success in Amboseli, whether it's protecting wildlife, securing habitat, or supporting the local Maasai community. Just as we ended the year on a high note financially, so too did our programs!

I was amazed to see that our rangers have finally surpassed 4 million kilometers of patrols. When we started keeping track of ranger movements in the early days of Big Life operations, I never dreamed we'd journey so far. Those patrols aren't casual strolls either. Rangers confiscated ivory and other animal parts, bushmeat, and sandalwood. They destroyed snares, arrested poachers, and rescued injured wildlife. They tracked rhinos, prevented elephants from raiding crops, repaired fencing, put out wildfires, and conducted search and rescue operations. Our community rangers are the heart and soul of Big Life, and our conservation successes are all thanks to them.

Another number that amazed me in our 4th quarter: more than 400 long-term student scholarships were awarded, up from 300 at the end of 2020. After two years of a pandemic impacting families in myriad ways, keeping local children in school has become more important than ever, and I'm especially proud that more than half our scholarships are going to girls, who have come under an increased risk of premature marriages and underage pregnancies during COVID-19.

The hills around my home are lush with the recent rains, providing plenty of grass and water for wildlife and spoiling us with stunning vistas of a snow-topped Kilimanjaro beyond.

I wish you all an equally wonderful start to your New Year and know that together, 2022 will be our best yet. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU.



Richard Bonham  
Executive Chairman - Big Life Foundation Kenya





## WHERE WE WORK

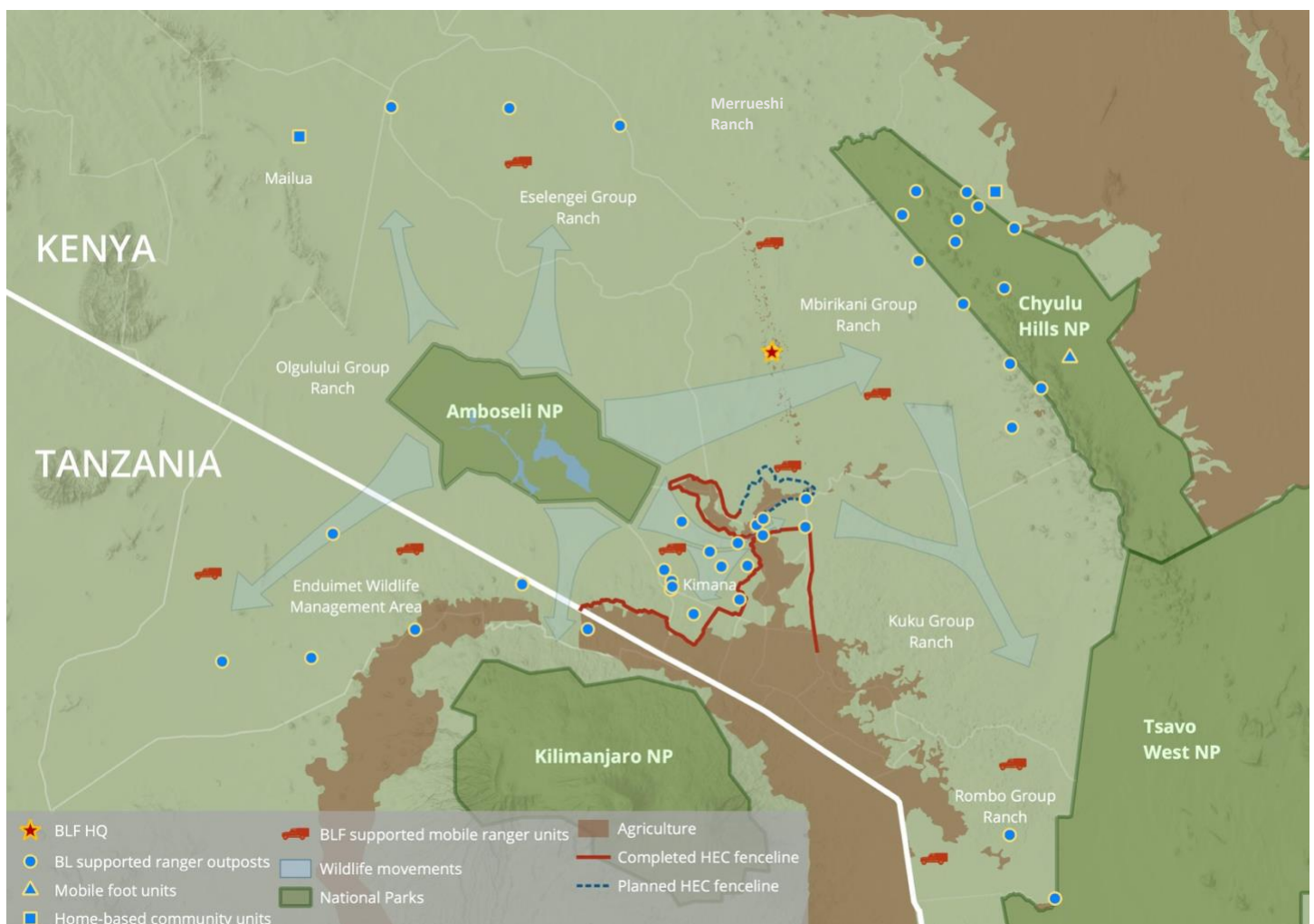
**Big Life Foundation's (Big Life) Area of Operation (AOO)** covers approximately 1.6 million acres across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro (Greater Amboseli) ecosystem in East Africa. Our team of 500+ helps to protect and secure wildlife and critical habitat stretching from the rangelands north of Amboseli 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 **2021 Q4** 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: <b>450+</b>	Rangers: <b>322</b>
Ranger Units: <b>42</b>	Tracker Dogs: <b>2</b>
Mobile Ranger Units: <b>7</b>	Permanent Outposts: <b>32</b>
Aerial Surveillance Hours: <b>54.6</b>	Rangers Trained: <b>15</b>
Kilometers Patrolled This Quarter: On foot: <b>23,233</b> By vehicle: <b>130,422</b> <b>Q4 TOTAL: 153,655</b> <b>YTD TOTAL: 594,176</b>	Total Kilometers Patrolled Since Inception (2011): On foot: <b>970,627</b> By vehicle: <b>3,035,239</b> <b>TOTAL: 4,005,866</b>

### 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.

<b>SUSPECTS ARRESTED</b> Poaching - Bushmeat: <b>22</b> Trophy Possession: <b>24</b>	<b>RECOVERED ITEMS</b> Ivory: <b>55 kg</b> Animal Parts: horns ( <b>95</b> ), teeth ( <b>4</b> ), lion claws ( <b>8</b> ), pangolin scales ( <b>9</b> ) & claws ( <b>2</b> ), skins ( <b>8</b> ) Snares: <b>77</b> Other: arrows ( <b>5</b> ), bushmeat ( <b>388+ kg</b> ), charcoal bags ( <b>33</b> ), ostrich eggs ( <b>2</b> ), owl eggs ( <b>2</b> ), sandalwood ( <b>1,114 kg</b> )
<b>INCIDENTS</b> Bushmeat Poaching: <b>12</b> Trophy Possession: <b>15</b>	<b>PROSECUTIONS</b> Cases - Concluded: <b>7*</b> Cases - Ongoing: <b>659</b> suspects <i>*1 case was thrown out due to police procedure violation</i>

<b>MORTALITIES - ELEPHANT</b> Human-Elephant Conflict: <b>0</b> Poaching: <b>0</b> Natural Causes: <b>1</b> Unknown: <b>0</b>	<b>MORTALITIES - OTHER</b> ( <i>excluding large predators</i> ) Bushmeat Poaching: dik-dik ( <b>2</b> ), eland ( <b>3</b> ), gazelle ( <b>2</b> ), giraffe ( <b>2</b> ), zebra ( <b>3</b> ) Other ( <i>human-related</i> ): aardvark ( <b>1</b> ), eland ( <b>2</b> ), gazelle ( <b>6</b> ), giraffe ( <b>7</b> ), impala ( <b>1</b> ), warthog ( <b>1</b> ), zebra ( <b>4</b> )
<b>INJURIES - ELEPHANT</b> Elephants Injured: <b>1</b> Elephants Treated: <b>0</b> ( <i>not found</i> )	<b>RESCUES/TREATMENTS - OTHER ANIMALS</b> eland ( <b>1</b> ), gazelle ( <b>3</b> ), giraffe ( <b>1</b> ), lion ( <b>1</b> ), waterbuck ( <b>1</b> ), wildebeest ( <b>1</b> ), zebra ( <b>1</b> )

## 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: <b>0</b>	Rhino Snares Found: <b>0</b>
Rhino Protection Rangers: <b>59</b>	Dedicated Rhino Outposts: <b>10</b> Dedicated Rhino Units: <b>10</b>
<b>RHINO MONITORING</b> Direct Sightings: <b>1</b> Indirect Sightings ( <i>via camera trap</i> ): <b>36</b> Spoor Sightings: <b>21</b>	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Fencing: <b>70+ km</b> constructed by SWT to date Water Points: <b>3</b> maintained Camera traps: <b>43</b>

### NOTABLE UPDATES (click to read):

- A SUITCASE OF SKINS – 2 suspects arrested with [6 cat skins](#)
- [STOP THE TAXI!](#) - Off duty ranger intervenes in giraffe poaching
- A WORLD WITHOUT BIG LIFE, [END OF YEAR APPEAL](#) - In the Amboseli ecosystem, because of Big Life, animals are protected. The biggest danger they face now is to their home.



**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 **2021 Q4** 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: <b>25</b> Crop-Raiding Incidents Involving Elephants: <b>25</b>	Acres Damaged: <b>9.75</b> Acres Damaged by Elephants: <b>9.75</b>
Crop Raids Prevented by Big Life: <b>33</b>	Elephant Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: <b>0</b>
Crop-Protection Rangers: <b>24</b> Crop-Protection Fence Constructed to Date: <b>100 km</b> Crop-Protection Fence Maintenance Workers: <b>31</b>	Non-crop-raiding, elephant-related incidents: <b>11</b> <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 2021, but cancelled again due to COVID-19 and planned for December 2022.

Lion Mortalities: <b>0</b> Lion Mortalities in Violation of PCF: <b>0</b>	Lion Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: <b>0</b>
Compensation Issued for: <b>135</b> Cows: \$19,726 <b>719</b> Sheep/Goats: \$21,377 <b>2</b> Donkey: \$240 <b>Q4 TOTAL: \$41,343</b> <b>YTD TOTAL: \$106,337</b>	Livestock Killed by Predators: Caracal: <b>7</b> Cheetah: <b>67</b> Hyena: <b>563</b> Jackal: <b>131</b> Leopard: <b>15</b> Lion: <b>70</b>
Additional Predator Mortalities: Hyena: <b>5</b> - <i>HWC (2), vehicle (2), unknown</i>	Other: <b>1</b> incident of problematic predators moved away from bomas to avoid depredation (by chasing or translocation)

## ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Humans Injured: <b>4</b>	Wildlife Responsible for Injuries: buffalo, cheetah, elephant, hyena
Humans Killed: <b>2</b>	Wildlife Responsible for Deaths: elephant

### NOTABLE UPDATES (click to read):

- THIS IS CRAIG - an [iconic Amboseli tusker](#), protected by Big Life rangers
- CONGRATULATIONS, [MANYANI GRADUATES](#) - Two Big Life rangers were awarded trophies for Best in Academics and Best in Drill and Turnout





## ENDUIMET WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

During the course of the year, about one-third of the Greater Amboseli ecosystem's elephants, and many other species including lions, cross the border from Kenya into Tanzania. We can't expect animals to conveniently stay within man-made boundaries, which is why cross-border collaboration is so important. In fact, Big Life was the first organization in East Africa to conduct cross-border operations.

Big Life has partnered with the Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (EWMA) to undertake critical wildlife protection operations across 350,000 acres of habitat in northeastern Tanzania.

Our **2021 Q4** 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: <b>20</b>	Ranger Units: <b>2</b> (mobile)
Kilometers Patrolled This Quarter: On foot: <b>7,032</b> By vehicle: <b>16,854</b> <b>Q4 TOTAL: 23,886</b> <b>YTD TOTAL: 92,702</b>	Total Kilometers Patrolled Since Inception (Jul-2018): On foot: <b>97,195</b> By vehicle: <b>184,959</b> <b>TOTAL: 282,154</b>
<b>SUSPECTS ARRESTED</b> Community Crimes: <b>2</b> Habitat Destruction: <b>6</b> Bushmeat Poaching: <b>5</b>	<b>RECOVERED ITEMS</b> Snares: <b>2</b> Other: charcoal bags ( <b>27</b> ), drugs ( <b>7 kg</b> ), knife ( <b>1</b> )
<b>INCIDENTS</b> Community Crimes: <b>2</b> Habitat Destruction: <b>2</b> Bushmeat Poaching: <b>3</b>	Cross-Border Operations: <b>0</b>  Intelligence-led incident response: <b>11</b>

<b>MORTALITIES - ELEPHANT</b> Human-Elephant Conflict: <b>0</b> Poaching: <b>0</b> Natural Causes: <b>0</b> Unknown: <b>0</b>	<b>MORTALITIES - OTHER</b> ( <i>excluding large predators</i> ) Bushmeat Poaching: eland ( <b>2</b> ), giraffe ( <b>2</b> ), Other ( <i>human-related</i> ): baboons ( <b>4</b> ), gazelle ( <b>6</b> ), giraffe ( <b>1</b> ), impala ( <b>4</b> )
<b>INJURIES - ELEPHANT</b> Elephants Injured: <b>0</b> Elephants Treated: <b>0</b>	<b>OTHER OPERATIONS:</b> Rescued eland from snare ( <i>pictured next page</i> ); monthly game count; joint patrol with government outside EWMA



## 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: <b>30</b> Crop-Raiding Incidents Involving Elephants: <b>1</b>	Acres Damaged: <b>79</b> Acres Damaged by Elephants: <b>0.5</b>
Crop Raids Prevented by Big Life: <b>0</b>	Elephant Retaliatory Hunts Attempted: <b>0</b>

Livestock Killed: <b>3</b> Cows <b>41</b> Sheep/Goats <u><b>0</b></u> Donkeys <b>TOTAL: 44</b>	By Predators: Hyena: <b>40</b> Lion: <b>4</b>
Predator Mortalities: Hyena ( <b>1</b> ) - <i>HWC</i> Jackal ( <b>1</b> ) - <i>vehicle</i>	Lion Retaliatory Hunts attempted: <b>0</b>

Humans Injured: <b>2</b>	Wildlife Responsible for Injuries: hyena, snake
Humans Killed: <b>0</b>	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 **2021 Q4** 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: <b>844</b> Kimana Corridor: <b>333</b>	Paying visitor days: Kimana Sanctuary: <b>1,061</b>
Infrastructure: Tourism road network: <b>51.3 km</b> built to date	Other: Kimana lease payments made; Meeting held related to 500-acre restoration project site; Beekeeping project ongoing

## 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 **2021 Q4** activity is summarized below: clarification

### LAND

Big Life has helped to establish a sustainable farming program with a 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: <b>50</b> Habitat Destruction Arrest Incidents: <b>20</b> <i>*Sometimes released depending on severity of crime</i>	Rangeland Restoration Area: <b>6,006</b> acres
	Sustainable Farms: <b>1</b>
Non-Arrest Habitat Destruction Incidents: <b>20</b> <i>- fire (19)</i>	Incidents of Community Grazing and Conservancy Rules Enforcement: <b>4</b>

### 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: <b>137 mm</b>	Water-Related Incidents: <b>0</b>
Liters of Fuel Provided for Pumping Water to Both Community and Wildlife (to reduce conflict): <b>600 L</b>	Water Points Repaired: <b>1</b>





# 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: <b>4</b>	Suspects Arrested: <b>2</b>
Human Search and Rescue Incidents: <b>2</b>	Livestock Search Incidents: <b>11</b>
Other Community Support Incidents: <b>3</b> - <i>emergency transport (2), assault response</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 **2021 Q4** activity is summarized below:

Teachers' Salaries Paid: <b>7</b>	Long-Term Student Scholarships Awarded: <b>406</b> Boys: <b>147</b> Girls: <b>259</b> One-Time Student Scholarships Awarded: <b>14</b>
Tertiary-Level Graduates: <b>4</b> <i>(Economics &amp; Statistics, Education (2), Social work)</i>	Students Reached by Conservation Curriculum: <b>1,512</b> School Visits: <b>25</b> National Park Trips: <b>2</b> (50 students)



## HEALTHCARE

Big Life works in partnership with the Kajiado South Sub-County Department of Health to implement backpack nurse outreaches focused on the provision of family planning, immunization and antenatal services, to run educational community meetings discussing many sexual and reproductive health and rights topics, and to support a team of Community Health Volunteers across the Great Amboseli ecosystem. Big Life is also now working with the Ministry of Education and the Kajiado South Sub-County Department of Health to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights education in schools and for the youth and adolescent community.

Our **2021 Q4** activity is summarized below:

Back-Pack Medical Outreaches: <b>54</b>	People De-wormed: <b>1,486</b>
CHV Household Visits: <b>7,159</b>	Immunizations Administered: <b>2,808</b>
Family Planning Dialogue Days: <b>75</b>	Family Planning Services Provided: <b>1,206</b>
	People Reached with Family Planning Information (& COVID prevention): <b>20,883</b>



**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. Please consider making a life-saving [donation](#) to support the critical programs mentioned in this report. Thank you for your support**