

# ABOUT BIG LIFE FOUNDATION

Big Life was founded in September 2010 by photographer Nick Brandt, conservationist Richard Bonham, and entrepreneur Tom Hill to address the dramatic escalation of poaching in East Africa.

Since its inception, Big Life has expanded to employ hundreds of local Maasai rangers – with more than 30 permanent outposts and tent-based field units, 14 patrol vehicles, 2 tracker dogs, and 2 planes for aerial surveillance.

As a result, Big Life has dramatically reduced poaching of all wildlife in the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem. Our teams have facilitated thousands of arrests, including some of the most ruthless and prolific long-term poachers in the region. Big Life’s success sends a strong message that killing wildlife carries swift and serious punishment.

“I am convinced that Amboseli would have lost many, many elephants over the last three years if BIG LIFE had not come in to save the day.”

—Cynthia Moss, Amboseli Trust for Elephants



## WHERE WE WORK

Big Life Foundation’s area of operation covers approximately 1.6 million acres across the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem in East Africa. Our rangers help 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.

- Headquarters
- BLF-Supported Ranger Outposts
- Mobile Ranger Units
- Wildlife Migration Routes
- National Parks
- Agricultural Areas
- Crop Protection Fence - Phase 1 (completed)
- Crop Protection Fence - Phase 2 (underway)

To learn more, please visit our website at [biglife.org](http://biglife.org) or connect with us on social media @biglifeafrica f@BigLifeFoundation @biglifeafrica  
**BIG LIFE FOUNDATION USA** | 1715 North Heron Drive, Ridgefield, WA, 98642, USA | 971-322-3326



EIN: 27-3455389 | CFC: 85179

Big Life Foundation works on the ground in East Africa, partnering with local communities to protect nature for the benefit of all.





# MAIN PROGRAM AREAS



## Wildlife Protection

Big Life strives to prevent the poaching of all wildlife—including thousands of migrating elephants, a growing lion population, and critically endangered Eastern black rhinos—within our area of operation. As 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, including combating wildlife trafficking. We track and apprehend poachers and collaborate with local prosecutors to ensure that they are punished to the fullest extent of the law.

## 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. Big Life works strategically to mitigate HWC, such as by deploying rapid response ranger teams to move elephants away from farms and building crop-protection fences to create a hard boundary between elephant habitat and agriculture areas. Big Life also manages an innovative livestock compensation program, the Predator Compensation Fund, which helps to reduce the motivation for retaliatory killing of predators in response to livestock depredation. As a result, the lion population in Big Life’s area of operation is one of the few populations in all of Africa that is growing, not declining.

## Habitat Protection

The human-wildlife conflict in the ecosystem is a direct result of people and wildlife competing for limited resources in the same shrinking land areas. To reduce conflict, wildlife habitat must be strategically protected. One shining example is the Kimana Sanctuary, 5,700 acres in the heart of the ecosystem, which is important habitat for a variety of wildlife, including some of the world’s last remaining tuskless elephants. Big Life manages both wildlife protection and tourism opportunities within the sanctuary, at the request of the Maasai community and in close coordination with local partners.

## Community Support

Winning the hearts and minds of the community and providing a mutual benefit to people through conservation is the only way to protect wildlife and wild lands far into the future. To that end, in addition to being one of the largest employers in the region through the employment of community rangers, Big Life provides a number of services in support of the community, including educational scholarships and healthcare and family planning initiatives, as well as responding to non-wildlife-related crimes and conducting search and rescue operations.

Please donate to help us achieve our mission:

[BIGLIFE .ORG /DONATE](https://biglife.org/donate)

“Thanks to Big Life, it is wonderful that Amboseli is more secure, and now one of the few places in Kenya where killing of elephants for ivory is not out of hand.”

—Iain Douglas-Hamilton, *Save the Elephants*



**Big Life’s ethos:** If conservation supports the people, then people will support conservation.