



Cheetah Chat

Updates by the **Mara Cheetah Project** on Cheetahs in the Mara

May 2014 - June 2014

Siriwua



In May, Siriwua was seen trying to flirt with Imani (Amani's offspring) - unfortunately for him she did not seem overly interested. In early June we found Siriwua feeding on a juvenile wildebeest. Strangely he left before he had finished his meal, possibly because of overcrowding by vehicles. With high season kicking in we would like to ask guides to please respect the animals and keep a respectful distance.

Last year the Ol Kinyei female raised 3 cubs to independence (2 females and a male). One of these female cubs is often seen in Naboisho Conservancy and has recently been named 'Nkini' by the Naboisho guides. Nkini is about 26 months and gave birth to what is probably her first litter. Usually cheetahs will have their first litter between 30-36 months, but tend to lose the first few litters due to inexperience. Fingers crossed she can raise at least one of the cubs to adulthood.



Nkini

Nabiki



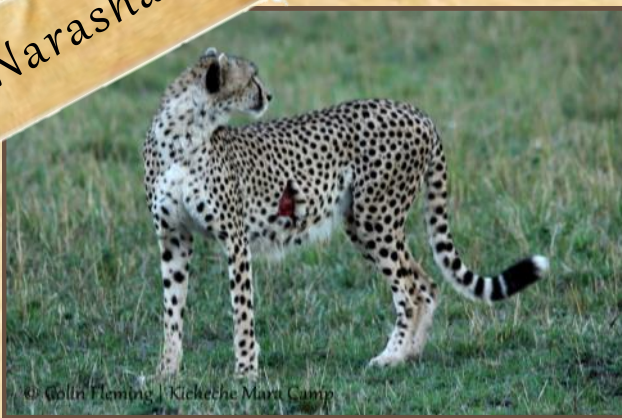
Nabiki was recently seen in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy. She still seems to have remnants of mange but it looks like she is managing to recover well without treatment. The other bit of interesting news is that she looked heavy and had an unusually big tummy. It is possible she might have had a very big lunch but we are hoping that she might be pregnant. We will keep you posted!

We witnessed an interesting interaction between two female cheetahs in the Maasai Mara National Reserve! There was a bit of hissing and spitting when they approached but this was soon followed by curious sniffing and some very odd growling noises. Eventually the two sat about 20m apart and stared at each other before going their separate ways. These two females are often seen in the same area and it could be that they are related. Female cheetahs are philopatric, which means they tend to stick to their natal area, whereas male cheetahs tend to disperse.

Two females



Narasha



Narasha was recently seen in Mara North Conservancy with a big open wound on her left side. We are not sure how she sustained the injury but it might have been from a horn of a prey animal. A couple of days later she was seen on Rhino Ridge. Even though the wound looks big, we have been monitoring her injury and it is healing nicely. Any reports and photos of her will be highly appreciated.

Baby boom

There has been a bit of a baby boom in the last 2 months with Nkini (Naboisho Conservancy) and Miyale (Maasai Mara National Reserve) both giving birth. Mothers with small cubs are extremely sensitive to disturbance and if stressed it could cause cub mortality, either directly or indirectly. Please play a role in cheetah conservation by keeping a respectful distance and minimising stress on the mothers and cubs.



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

For more information, or to report a sighting, visit our website (www.maracheetahs.org) or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MaraCheetahProject)

If you have photos or a cheetah story that you would like to share in the next update, please email us at info@maracheetahs.org