



Lion Tails

Updates by the **Mara Lion Project** on lions in **Mara North Conservancy**

April 2016 - May 2016

The younger Cheli subs



Eight out of the 16 Cheli Pride cubs that were born from four different mothers in the months of September and October 2014 survived. They have been, like most other lions in the Mara, difficult to find on a regular basis because of the tall grasses and at times, scattered prey. However, this sub-group of four mothers and the now ~1.5 year old subs, 3 male and 5 female, are all looking fit and healthy.

Siti

Siti is one of the 2 oldest Cheli Pride females, easily recognisable by her tattered ears. The two current Cheli Pride males took over the Cheli pride in the spring of 2014. There were eleven Cheli cubs who were only ~1 year old when these males took over and so they would not be tolerated by the two males. Siti therefore took all the five female cubs far away from the main pride in her effort to protect them, while the late older female Nuru took the six male cubs away. When the youngsters were old enough to fend for themselves, Siti and Nuru returned to their natal pride. Siti is now raising three, 1 year, 2 months old cubs. They are often found by the Kicheche area.



The older Cheli female subs



The Cheli cubs that fled with Siti and Nuru are now three year old sub-adults. Three out of the five females were seen mating with an ex-Lemek Pride male in September 2015. One of these females is currently being seen with three cubs between the 7 km junction going to Royal Mara and the MNC HQ. This lioness with the cubs was recently injured by a buffalo but she seems to be recovering nicely. Lions are very resilient and will most of the time heal by themselves without human interference.

Of the 6 males that fled with the late adult female Nuru when the two Cheli males over took the pride, five seem to have survived. The 7th male was speared somewhere and died in Lemek Conservancy. The 5 males were last seen in June 2015 and so they have probably dispersed. One of the 5 three year olds is easily recognized by his left blue eye (pictured). If anyone sees these boys in any area please get in touch with the Mara Lion Project.



The older Cheli male subs

Niels mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Cheli Pride males



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

The two Cheli adult males that took over the Cheli pride in the spring of 2014 have now been given names by MNC guides. Dere, meaning brown with white spots in Maa, is the name of one male (top picture) while the other male is called Barrikoi (bottom picture), which means yellowish-brown. They are keeping busy patrolling the peripheries of their pride territory and checking up on their many off-spring.

The Offbeat pride have been very difficult to find in the past months. They have been leaving MNC at times and entering fenced plots, supposedly following zebra that have broken into these fenced areas at night. Luckily, no lions or people have been injured during these times and the Offbeat lions have been able to get out of these sticky situations.



Offbeat pride



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

For more information, please visit our website (www.maralions.org) or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/Maralions2)

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