



Cheetah Chat

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

March 2016 – April 2016

Noosura



Wonderful news! Mid last year Noosura, who spends a significant amount of time outside the wildlife area and on community land, 'disappeared'. We are excited to announce that Noosura has now resurfaced in Ol Kinyei Conservancy with four new small cubs. As the cubs are quite small and hence vulnerable to stress we are urging guides and visitors to play a role in conservation by keeping a respectful distance.

Nolari's cubs is now almost a year old. After Nolari lost one cub late last year, she and her remaining cub moved to the Talek area near Kananga where they have been sighted for more than three months. She was recently seen heading to Lookout area in the Maasai Mara National Reserve possible because there have been quite a few lions hanging around the Kananga area. Considering this is one of her first litters she is doing well to have raised one cub to a year.



Nolari

Leomom



In our last cheetah chat, we featured Leomom as Lemai male who is usually seen in Mara Triangle. The rangers in the Mara Triangle have named him Leomom which means 'lucky one' in Maasai. He was recently seen in the Maasai Mara National Reserve with Malaika. We are not sure whether Leomom mated with Malaika, but if she is pregnant then this will likely trigger Malaika's current cubs to leave their mother.

Miyale's two male cubs are now approximately 17 months old and could disperse at any time. Cheetah cubs tend to leave their mother when they are between 16-20 months but they can disperse earlier or later than that (Malaika's cubs for example are now about 22 months old and still with their mother). Once they disperse it is possible that they will occupy the area that was left vacant after the two Kisiri males died early last year.



Miyale

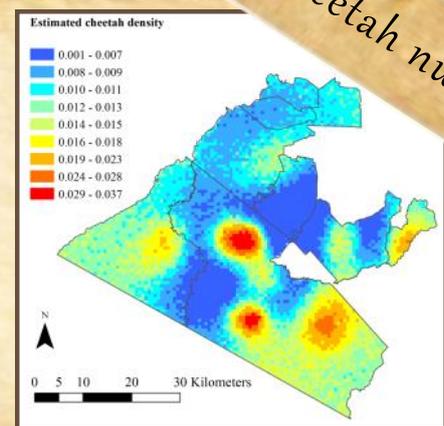
Oloololo



The Oloololo boys used to be a two-male coalition but in October 2015 one of the males died of an unknown disease. The other male also showed symptoms but survived. The remaining Oloololo male is still around and is often seen between hammerkop crossing in the Maasai Mara National Reserve and Olare-Motorogi Conservancy.

How many cheetahs are there in the Mara?

This is an important question but cheetahs are not that easy to count especially as they can be elusive and range over large areas. Using a novel approach, based on 'sighting-resighting' data and a robust statistical method, we have established that the cheetah density in the Maasai Mara National Reserve and the surrounding conservancies is about 1.28 adult cheetahs/100km² which translates into 30 individuals. The analysis also revealed 'hotspots' of cheetah densities. We suspect that these 'hotspots' are related to factors such as prey and that 'hotspot' areas will change according to season.



Cheetah numbers



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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