



Lion Tails

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

September 2016 – December 2016

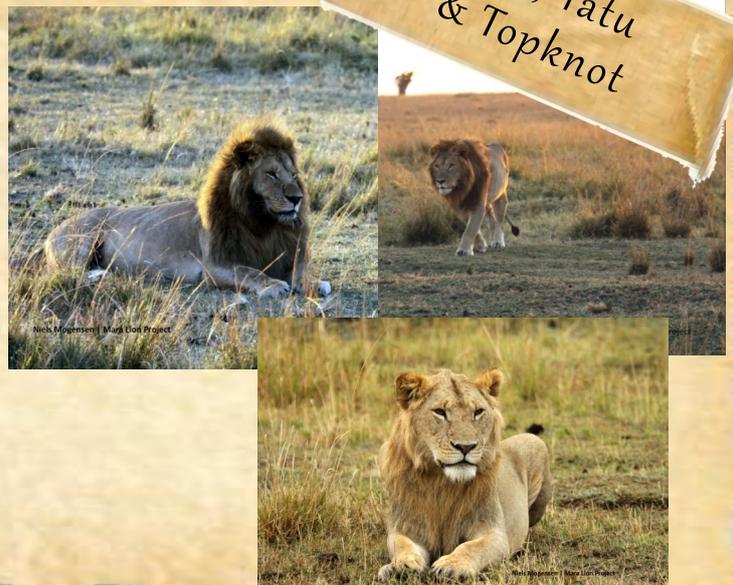
Cheli's 8 subs



The Cheli Pride has eight subs that are just over three year old who are still seen regularly within MNC. The three boys have now separated from the five females and they will probably soon disperse. One of these three males has a very small mane (far left photo) and so this group is easy to recognise. The question remains if the five females will settle within their pride area or also disperse as the Cheli Pride already has nine pride females.

Three brothers from the Marsh Pride, Red, Tatu and Topknot, entered MNC to look for females to mate with earlier this year. Before this happened, the eight sub-adults mentioned above were always together with their four Cheli mothers but the incoming of the three males caused the subs to separate from their mothers. The females then mated with the Marsh lions to keep the subs out of harms way. The two MNC Cheli pride males were busy elsewhere in MNC protecting cubs while this was happening. In October, Red, Tatu & Topknot left MNC and started to make their way into Lemek Conservancy causing havoc there. They have killed most of the cubs of different ages and many of the Lemek Pride females fled to the Naretoi area within Enonkishu Conservancy to seek refuge. The two former Lemek pride males, originally from OMC's Engoionai Pride, were not able to put up much of a fight and have fled to the surrounding hills.

Red, Tatu & Topknot



Jesse & Frank



The two Offbeat Pride males named Jesse & Frank are in their absolute prime. Originally from the Cheli Pride, these two males took over the Offbeat Pride around April 2014. Their first batch of offspring are now between 21 and 23 months old and now these two stunning males are the fathers of a new generation that are less than four months old. Jesse & Frank are seen almost on a daily basis close to Offbeat Camp.



The Offbeat Pride has been split into smaller groups for some time now. The 17 youngsters, of which 14 were born during the first three months of 2015, were pushed away by their aggressive fathers, Jesse and Frank, at an early age. Five of these subs are often seen in the Enchorro Naibor area with at least one of the adult females with them at a time. At least one young female seems to have been rejected from the pride and has been killing livestock just outside MNC. Two other pride females had cubs in August this year. The older female Naponon (bottom photo) rejected her cub but it was adopted by another female who is now taking care of four cubs.



Offbeat lions



New Cheli cubs



The youngest Cheli adult female gave birth to two males in September. This is her second litter. She lost her first litter of cubs when they were about eight months old. Let's hope that she will have more experience now and raise the two males successfully. Another Cheli lioness also had two cubs during the same month and they were seen recently seen by Elephant Pepper Camp.

R.I.P. Siti
2001-2016

Siti, one of the two oldest Cheli Pride members died mid-November, most likely from a confrontation with buffalos inside Kicheche Camp. Siti had three cubs, one male and two females, in February this year but one was found dead in September, probably also to a buffalo. Siti and her two remaining subs were spending a lot of their time in and around Kicheche Camp, where lots of buffalo also thrive. The 21 months old male and female should be able to fend for themselves but their fate is still uncertain.



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