



# Lion Tails

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

September 2016 – October 2016

## Rekero Males



The 4 males Drongo, Caesar 2, Ron 2 & Blue Eyes, who originally dispersed from the Rekero Pride in the MMNR and have taken over the Enesikiria Pride, have now killed most of the Enesikiria cubs. One exception is Willow's two remaining cubs (see below). All mature Enesikiria females have now mated with these males and we hope to see a new generation of cubs with fresh genes in the near future. They have also started to engage with the Ilkisiusiu sub-adult females and Tikki, Esiriwua & Lokoman from the Sampu Enkare Pride.

In April, we were excited to report that we found Sero and the 5 sub males and the 2 sub females in her care, deep in Ol Kinyei Conservancy after being missing in Naboisho for 4 months. They disappeared again but showed up mid-September in the Olare Sampu area, on the Naboisho side. All individuals are looking healthy and we hope that Sero and the 2 young females will eventually return to the main Enesikiria Pride once the subs are sexually mature. All 7 subs are now around 2 years and 4 months old.

## Sero & her gang



## Ilkisiusiu pride



The Ilkisiusiu pride also vanished in early 2016 due to incoming new males. Luckily, MLP has also managed to find them again. Most of its members, including the two pride females Jemjabi and Shukunyi (pictured), were sighted by the border between Naboisho and Ol Kinyei, close the Paiya ranger post. Only 2 small cubs were missing. Three out of the 4 sub females (top photo) decided to stay close to their usual pride area and mated with the Elomai males. Noolamala had three cubs in August and another female is heavily pregnant. The new Rekero males have been approaching the three females lately and they have been trying to occupy the males in order to keep the cubs safe. The very latest news is that it looks like Noolamala has lost her cubs to the Rekero males.

In mid-July we underwent a collaring operation with KWS and we successfully deployed 4 GPS collars. Two of the collars were attached to the Naboisho lions Nkoeki & Laikam. The Enesikiria lion Nkoeki (3 years, 5 months old) is a son of the late Mickey and is currently in a coalition with Sero's oldest son Olushushui and Ledama, a son of the late Spot. Laikam (3 years old) is from the Sampu Enkare pride and was collared in Ol Kinyei Conservancy where most of the pride were residing for a spell. They are now both back in Naboisho. Both Nkoeki and Laikam have been traveling outside the conservancy boundaries and it will be interesting to see where they will settle down once they leave their pride for good.

Nkoeki & Laikam



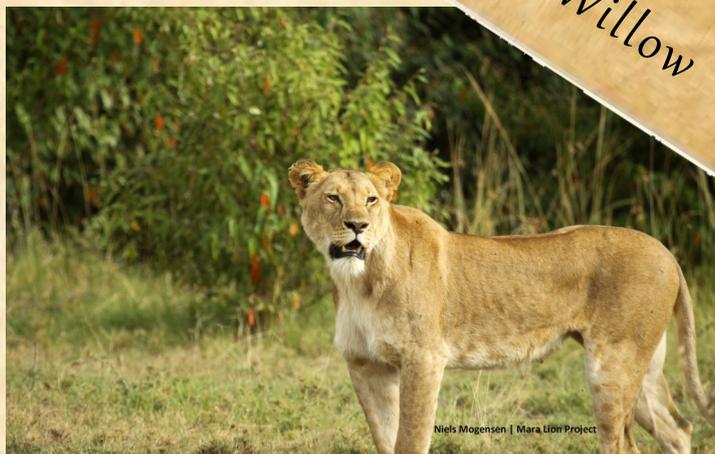
Sub-adult male intrusions



Young males, who are not originally from Naboisho have been sighted in the conservancy. Two 3.5 year old males (1 pictured top) who dispersed from Mara North Conservancy's Cheli pride were seen close to the Paiya ranger post in July. Two young males (2.5 years old, one pictured left) from the Fig Tree/ Talek Pride in the Reserve were seen close to the C-circuit in August. They had chased Simaloi and her three sons off a giraffe kill. The Fig Tree sub adult males were around for one week and on one occasion the Rekerro male Caesar 2 was on the giraffe kill next to these two boys. This may seem odd at first but Caesar 2 is actually their father. The most recent visitor (bottom photo) is a 3.5 year old male who was born into the Lemek Pride. He was last seen with his pride in July 2015 and had not been seen since until a few days ago in Naboisho. It's quite amazing to suddenly see him again in good health. A big thanks to Kicheche Valley guides for the help in spotting him.

The Enesikiria pride lioness Willow, who is Sero's oldest daughter and a sister to Olushushui, had three cubs in January 2016. She lost one of the cubs to one of the Elomai males in August. Recently, Willow's two remaining cubs were seen on a warthog kill together with the Rekerro male Drongo. Amazingly enough, Drongo was sharing the kill with the cubs and let them have most of the share. This seems quite strange but one plausible explanation for Drongo to tolerate the cubs and not kill them could be that the Rekerro males are actually related to Willow's cubs. These cubs are fathered by one of the Rekerro Breakaway males, whose mothers broke of the Rekerro pride some time back.

Willow



# The S.O.L coalition



Simiren, Osidai & Leshaan (pictured top, middle & bottom, respectively) were ruling Naboisho Conservancy for quite some time. They gradually left the conservancy and its prides by their own choice and have settled in Ol Kinyei Conservancy, taking on the resident Ol Kinyei Pride. We caught up with the three males quite recently in Ol Kinyei and they are still doing great, if looking a little old and battered.



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