



Cheetah Chat

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

September 2016 - October 2016

Imani's cubs



Imani's cubs recently left their mother - this is the first litter that Imani has raised to adulthood. Since leaving, they have been exploring new areas beyond the ones they visited with their mother. They left their mum in the Maasai Mara National Reserve after which they traveled all the way up to Enonkishu and Ol Choro, down to Mara North and across to Olare-Motorogi and Naboisho conservancy - quite a distance!

Interesting discovery! Through the use of historic photographs, the Mara Cheetah Project has discovered the origins of the two males often seen patrolling the Kenya - Tanzania border in the Mara Triangle. They were born and raised in Naboisho Conservancy together with their sister Nabiki, who recently passed away. Their mother was killed by a lion and within months they traveled 55km (as the crow flies) south west to the Mara Triangle to establish their own territory!



Triangle males

Malaika



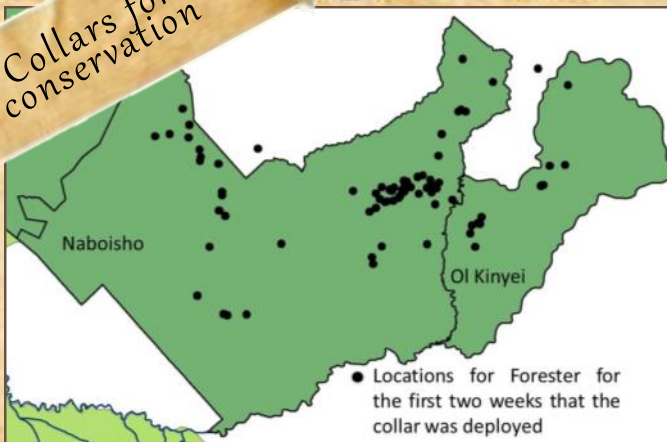
Malaika is one of the most experienced mums in Maasai Mara. In early August she lost one cub from the new litter and reports suggest that it was trampled by buffalo. Since then she is continuously on the move and by the look of things this strategy seems to be working well for the family. Although the two remaining cubs are still small and prone to fatal encounters they are doing well and growing fast.

In the past few months we have sighted several new cheetahs. Most have been sighted in the Southern part of Maasai Mara National Reserve so we suspect that they have come from Serengeti National Park. In early September we sighted this young female near Keekorok - Sopa area. This young female was having a hard time hunting but we eventually saw her take down a juvenile Thomson's gazelle. Not a bad catch for a cheetah who has recently left her mum.



Maridadi

Collars for conservation



With the global cheetah population rapidly dwindling, mostly due to habitat loss, a better understanding of cheetah ecology is most important for their long term conservation. In our endeavor to identify and respond to threats facing this iconic species, the Mara Cheetah Project, with help from the KWS Mara vet team, deployed GPS collars on two males, Leomom and Forester. These collars will collect and send GPS locations to the research team thus helping in the continuous and intensive monitoring of these two cheetahs.

Last year the Mara Cheetah Project deployed a collar on Noosura to understand how much time cheetahs spend outside wildlife areas. This October MCP removed her collar as we got some very useful information from her. With the help of a GPS collar, we found that she spends significant amounts of time outside wildlife areas and yet she has been extremely successful in raising cubs to adulthood. Noosura still has all four cubs from her most recent litter and all seem to be doing well.



Noosura



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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