



Cheetah Chat

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

January 2017 - February 2017

5-male coalition



We are very excited that the coalition of five males, who were sighted towards the end of last year, are still around! After they were in Naboisho for a month they ventured into the Maasai Mara National Reserve. After that they went through Ol Kinyei Conservancy and they are now back in Naboisho Conservancy. It will be interesting to see where they go next.

Raising four cubs is a big job but so far Noosura is doing well. She was recently seen feeding on a fully grown Topi - not an easy prey to take down for a female cheetah. The cubs, who are now just over a year, will be starting to help their mother with hunts. The cubs will have to develop their hunting skills quickly as they will likely leave their mum in about 6 months.



Noosura

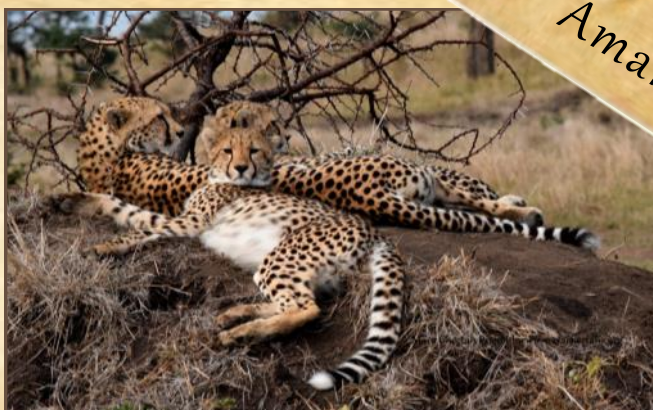
Musiara's cubs



Musiara's three cubs, 2 females and a male, left her towards the end of last year. Since then we have regularly seen her two daughters: one is often seen in Mara North Conservancy whilst the second has moved further south into the Maasai Mara National Reserve where she has been seen as far as Lookout hill. To avoid inbreeding, males will generally leave their natal area. It is therefore possible that their brother has moved on to try and establish his own territory.

Amani

Since Amani's cubs were born she has rarely left Mara North Conservancy. However, a few weeks ago the family ventured out of Mara North and into the Maasai Mara National Reserve where they were seen near Lookout hill. As Amani's two cubs get older she will start exploring new areas with them. This will help the cubs once they leave their mother in about 6 months time.



Imani's cubs



Imani's daughter (Amani's granddaughter) has been given the name 'Selenkei' by the guides and rangers and she is often seen in Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Her two brothers are still hanging out with Nolari's son and they have been seen in Ol Kinyei, Naboisho and Olare Motorogi Conservancies. They are often seen sniffing the ground and trees to find out who else is in the area.

Karemba

Karemba, born in October 2013, left her mother (Amani) when she was only 14 months old. Cubs tend to leave their mother when they are around 18-20 months but she had to leave young as Amani was pregnant with her next litter. After Karemba dispersed we saw her a few times but then she disappeared and, because she left so young, we assumed she hadn't survived. How wrong we were! About 18 months later we sighted her in the Maasai Mara National Reserve.



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

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