



Lion Tails

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

March 2017 - May 2017

New Cheli cubs



The Cheli Pride is once again booming with cubs. At least seven of the females have cubs, ranging in age from four weeks to nine months. Some of the cubs probably belong to the young Marsh males Red, Tatu & Topknot (who have now taken over the Lemek pride), as they were spending some weeks in MNC's northern side, mating with Cheli females. This includes one of the subadult females who has cubs and so hopefully inbreeding has been avoided.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

project Keiwua | Mara Lion Project

Offbeat cubs



Offbeat Camp | Mara Lion Project

It can be confusing to get a grip of what is going on with the Offbeat cubs. In August last year, Napono gave her very young cub to a pride mate for her to care for. Another female is now taking care of seven cubs of three different age classes from three different mothers. The latest batch of cubs were born in April, when a lioness gave birth to three cubs.



Keiwua | Mara Lion Project

First MNC lion collared

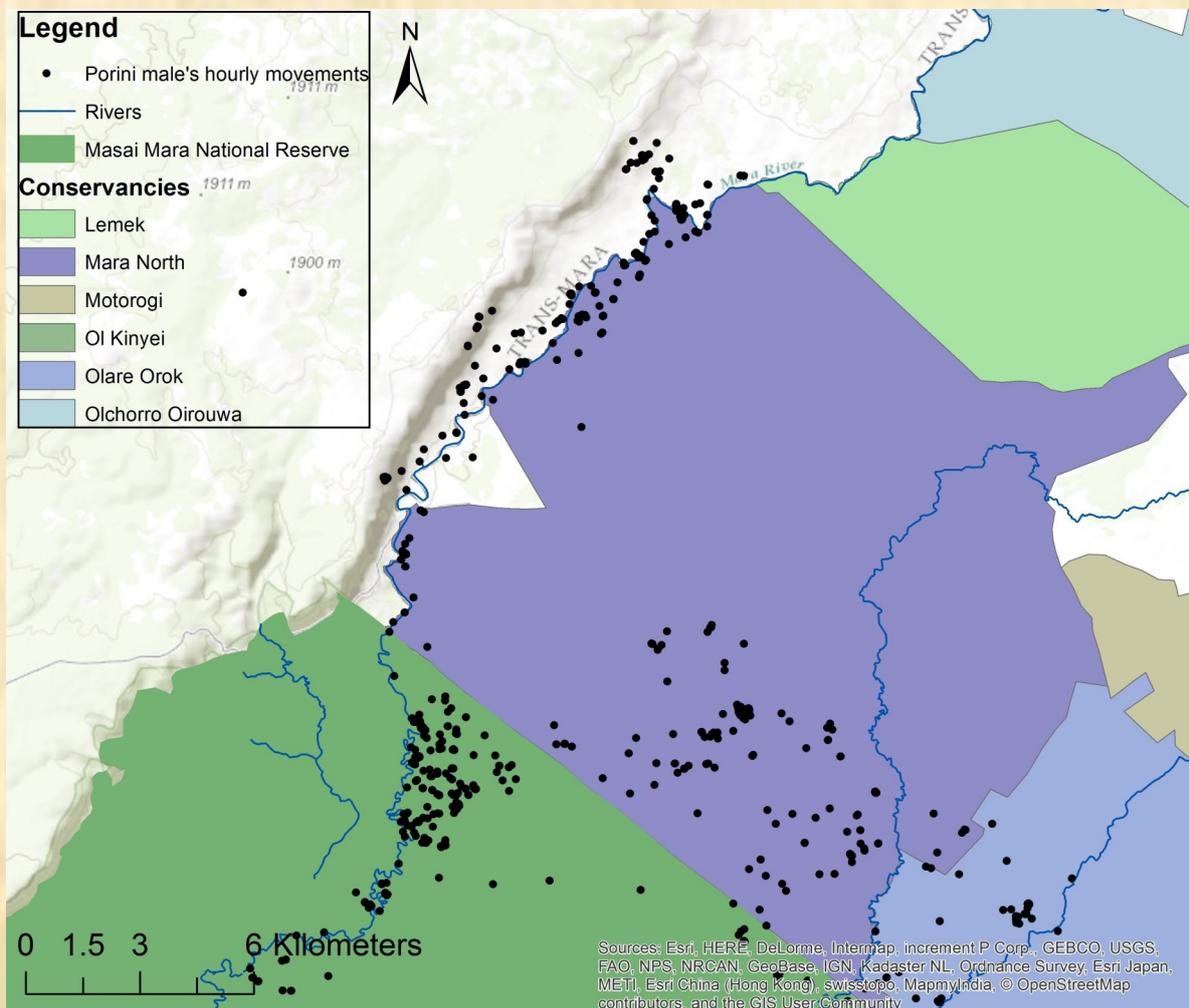
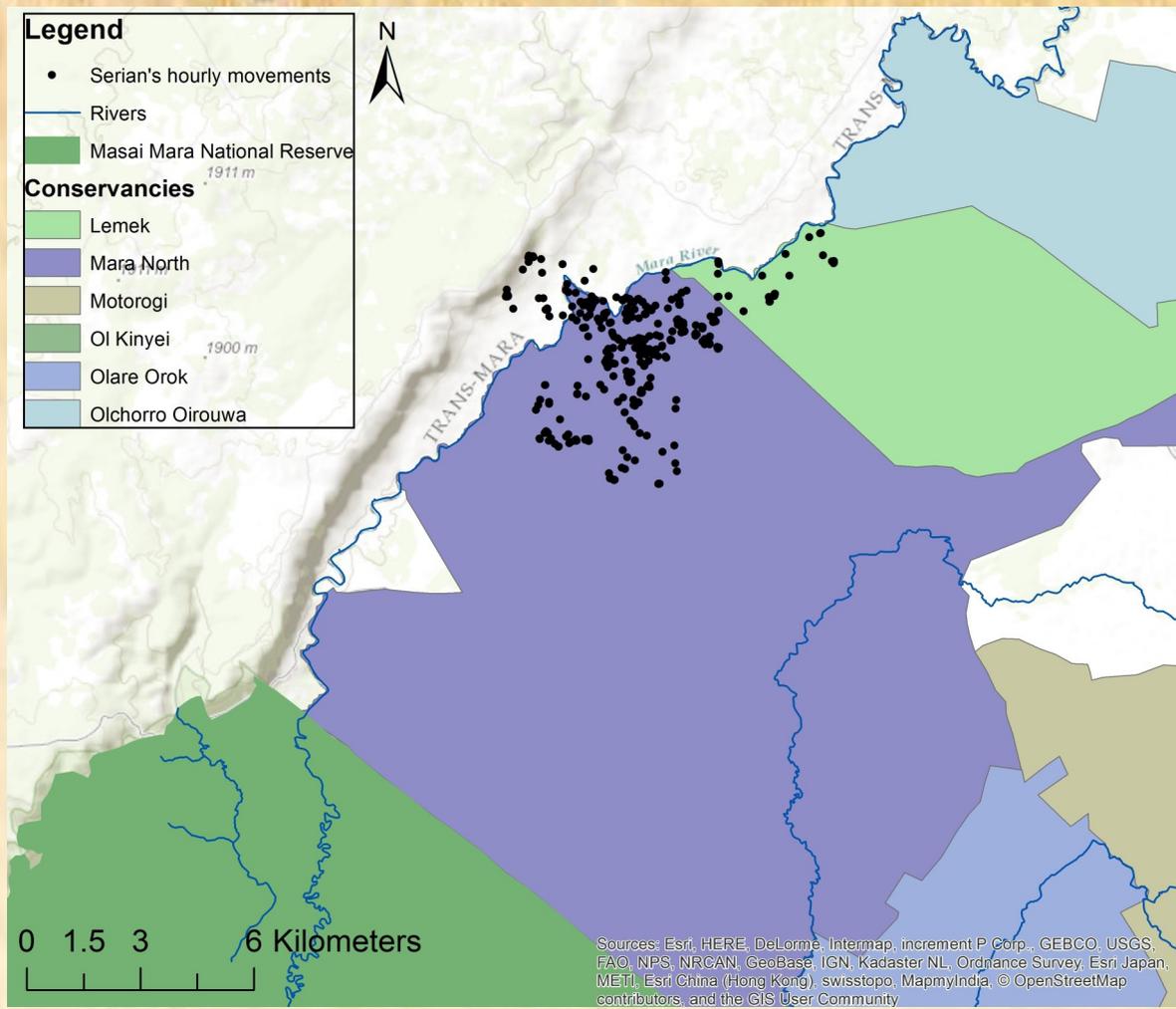


Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

We successfully managed to deploy a GPS collar to a young Cheli male who has been named Serian. He has been part of the group of three boys and five girls that used to be under the care of four adult females. The three males from this group have more or less been by themselves for the last few months and are mostly staying in the northern part of MNC, crossing the Mara river on a few occasions (see top map on the next page, one month of data). This is the first lion to be collared in the northern part of the Mara conservancies and hopefully it will give us valuable data on lion dispersal from this region. Special thanks to Serian Camp for their help in this collaring operation.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project



If recall from our last edition of Lion Tails, the older Cheli pride female Siti was killed by buffalos inside Kicheche Mara Camp. She had a son and a daughter who were 21 months old at the time and we were concerned if they would be able to survive. Fortunately, we found them both and in very good health. They were with one of the second generation females and her own large cubs and it seems that Siti's offspring are now under her care. They were all recently sighted close to the MNC airstrip.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Siti's subs



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Marsh lions



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Members of the Marsh pride have been back in MNC, not far from Leopard Gorge area. We found the famous lioness Charm (top photo) and two of her daughters with five cubs. We saw them just as it was getting dark.

Last year we collared a young male from the Porini pride in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy. He has since been spending a lot of his time in MMNR and the Mara Triangle, following the Mara River up and down. Recently, he went into MNC, spending time in Enkikwei and also in the northern part on the conservancy (see bottom map on previous page, two months of data). He is on his own and so far he has been clever, sticking to the protected areas, although he has ventured across the river on a few occasions.



Kelvin Koinet | Mara Lion Project

Porini sub male



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

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