Mara Cheetah Project

Kenya Wildlife Trust

Quarterly Report
1st April—30th June 2017

KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

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Cover photo: Britt Klaassen (One of Kiraposhe's cubs - Olarro South Conservancy)

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Maasai Mara, Kenya

www.maracheetahs.org

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Introduction

Project overview

Background

In light of a plummeting global cheetah population (over 90% in the last century), the Mara Cheetah Project was established by the Kenya Wildlife Trust in June 2013 to secure one of the species' last remaining strongholds. The Mara Cheetah Project is the first long-term cheetah conservation research project in the Mara and its long-term goal is to ensure that the cheetah population in the Maasai Mara is stable and healthy. To achieve this, the Mara Cheetah Project is using a research-driven conservation approach through a combination of long-term population monitoring, ecological research, community-based conservation and stakeholder engagement.

Aims and objectives

1. Develop and implement robust population monitoring
2. Quantify threats to cheetahs
3. Provide information for evidence-based policy and management decisions
4. Engage with the local community to improve tolerance of cheetahs

Approach

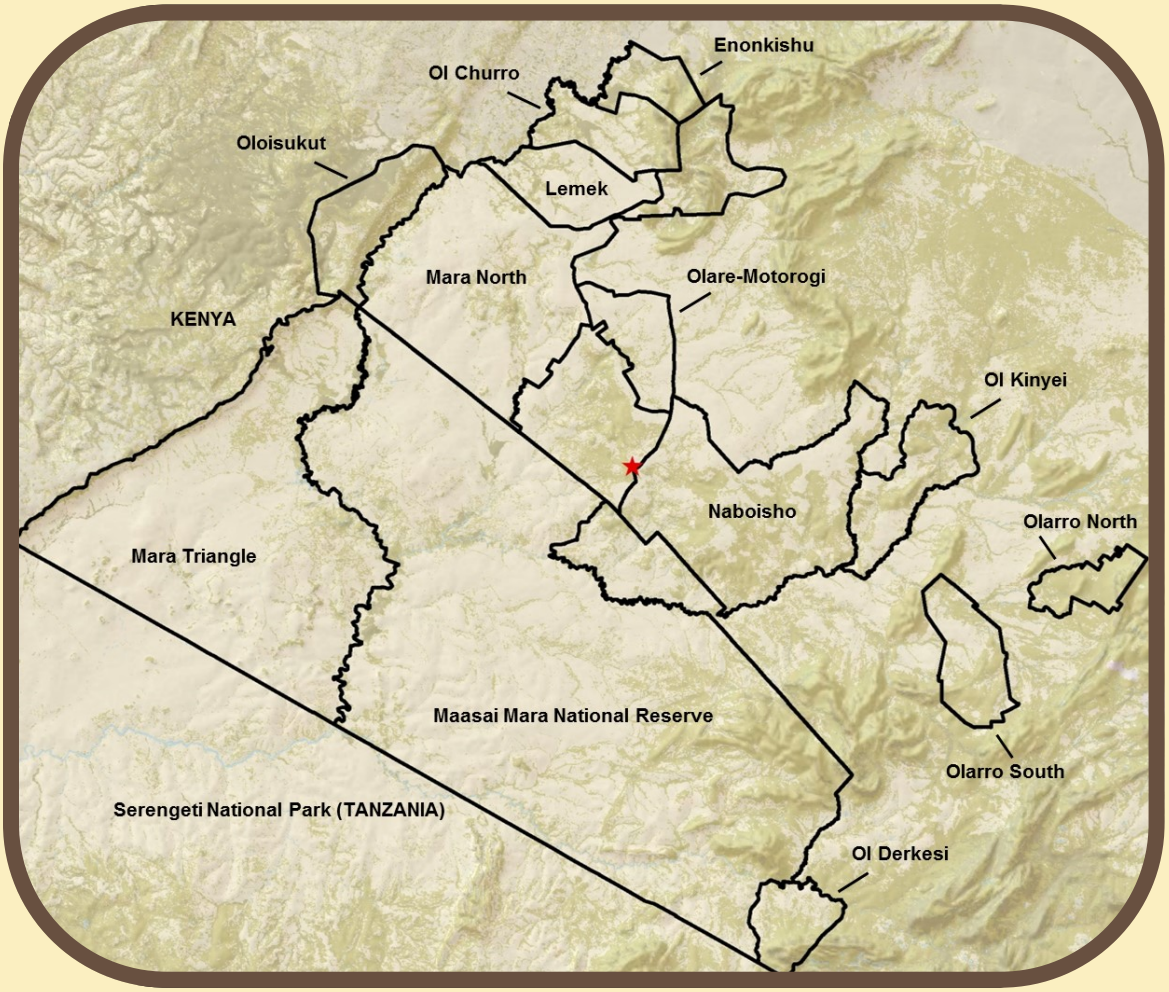
To provide key stakeholders with sound scientific recommendations that they consistently use to inform conservation strategies, and to work with community members and land owners to increase understanding and appreciation of the role of predators in the ecosystem.

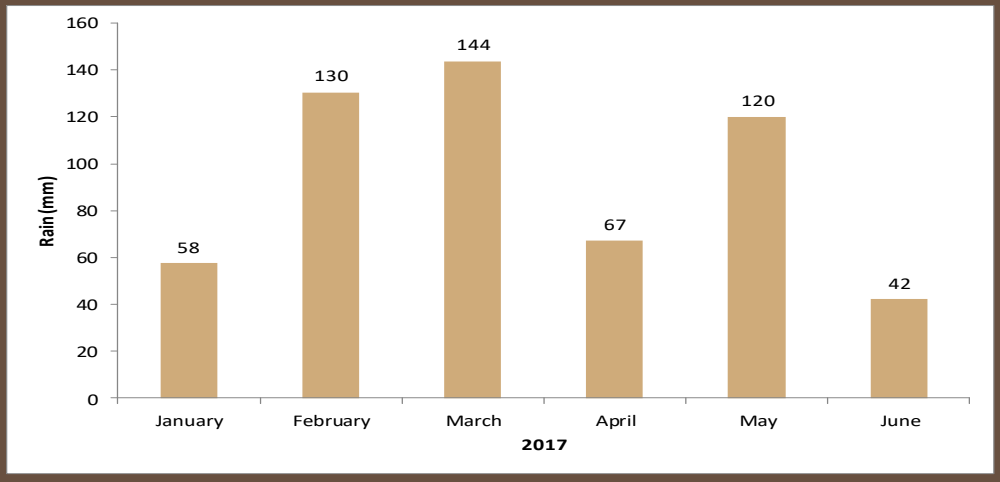
Our Mission:

To enable viable predator populations within the Greater Mara Ecosystem

Where we work

The Mara Cheetah Project is based in the Maasai Mara landscape in the South-west of Kenya. The study area covers approximately 2525 km² which includes the Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR), which falls under the authority of the Narok County Government, and the adjacent conservancies which are privately managed. To the south, the Maasai Mara borders Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, to the north and west it borders intensive agricultural land and east of the Maasai Mara is largely pastoralist settlement. The project's Community Team works with the communities around the Mara thereby almost doubling the area that the project covers.





So far this year we have recorded 651 mm of rain.

Meet the Team

Dr. Femke Broekhuis - Project Director

Femke is the Project Director and Principle Investigator of the Mara Cheetah Project. Femke's career with cheetahs began in 2007 as part of her Masters dissertation, investigating cheetah habitat selection in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. From there she joined the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust (BPCT) to set up a cheetah project and begin her D.Phil research with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) at the University of Oxford. She spent four years studying cheetahs in the Okavango Delta, Botswana, investigating whether the spatio-temporal behaviour of lions and spotted hyaena influenced that of cheetahs. In June 2013 she was entrusted by the Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) to start up the Mara Cheetah Project. Femke has attained her affiliation with WildCRU as a member of WildCRU's research staff.

Mr. Kosiom Keiwua - Field Assistant

Kosiom Keiwua was born in 1988 at Letaari Ololulung'a Division of Narok and from a young age he has loved animals. In 2010 Kosiom joined the Koiyaki Guiding School and after graduating he worked at Karen Blixen Camp as a junior guide. After working at Karen Blixen Camp for almost two years, Kosiom decided to embark on a B.SC. in the hope that one day he could combine his experience in the technology sector with his passion for wildlife. In January 2016 Kosiom joined the Mara Cheetah Project as a Field Assistant.

Mr. Michael Kaelo - Community and Public Relations Manager

Michael was born and raised in Enkobiletai in the Maasai Mara where he grew up seeing wildlife as he grazed shoats and cattle. In 2005 Michael joined Kenyatta University for a B.Sc. in Environmental Studies and Community Development and in January 2012 Michael started his M.A. in Environmental Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi. In September 2014 Michael joined the Mara Cheetah Project and the Mara Lion Project. His interests are geared towards enhancing coexistence between communities, their livestock and wildlife .

Mr. Dominic Sakat - Community Outreach Officer

Dominic is the Community Outreach Officer for both the Mara Cheetah Project and the Mara Lion Project and works in the surrounding communities in an effort to reduce human-wildlife conflict. In 2007 he enrolled in the Koiyaki Guiding School, where he achieved his bronze KSPGA guiding certificate. Dominic is from the Koiyaki region of the Mara and has a keen interest in conservation.

Mr. Julius Makibior - Camp and Vehicle Maintenance Operator

Julius was born in Kakimirai, Bomet County. He is a trained automotive technician with over 20 years of experience in vehicle maintenance. He has previously worked at Transworld Safaris and Sun Africa Hotels as a workshop supervisor and head mechanic. Julius is in charge of all the project vehicles and the maintenance of the Tony Lapham Predator Hub. He is an important member of the project as he ensures that the vehicles are in tiptop condition so that the project is able to conduct its community and field work.

Mr. Billy Kaitet - Caretaker and chef

Billy was born and brought up in Naroosura in Narok County. He attended Kanunga Primary school and then Naroosura Secondary school. He trained as a room steward, laundry service and maintenance person at Crocodile Camp, Maasai Mara, where he worked from 2013 to 2015. Billy joined the project in April 2016 as a chef and caretaker. He also helps Julius in the day to day activities at Tony Lapham Predator Hub.

Holistic Assessors

The role of the Holistic Assessors (HAs) is to create awareness on improved livestock husbandry (herding and boma structure), to collect human-wildlife conflict reports and to map and monitor environmental and anthropogenic variables. In the photo from left to right: Sylvester Kipeen (HA), Dominic Sakat (Community Outreach Officer), James Saago (HA), Francis Kumum (HA), Daniel Korio (HA), James Sairowua (HA), Michael Kaelo (Community and Public Relations Manager), Kelvin Koinet (Mara Lion Project Research Assistant).

Interviewers

In June and July we are conducting interviews across the Mara to quantify human-wildlife conflict and people's attitudes towards predators and to identify areas that could be potential conflict hotspots. We have hired 10 people from around the Mara to conduct approximately 800 interviews. In the photo from left to right: Michael Kaelo (MCP/MLP), John Noosaron, David Naurori, Eric Taki, Danson Kaelo, Wilson Rotiken, Daniel Kirapash, Jonathan Noosaron, Richard Letoluo, Clevers Ntokowuan, Saningo Pesi.

Mr. David Thuo - PhD candidate, University of Canberra (Australia)

David, who used to be the Senior Research Assistant on the Mara Cheetah Project, as recently embarked on a PhD in cheetah genetics at the University of Canberra in Australia. For his PhD, David will be using blood, tissue and faecal samples collected by the Mara Cheetah Project to determine population structure and relatedness of cheetahs in the Mara. In addition, he will be collecting samples from other areas in Kenya to determine genetic structure and connectivity on a nationwide level to help inform cheetah management and policies in Kenya.

Ms. Britt Klaassen - MSc student, University of Leiden (The Netherlands)

Britt Klaassen was born in The Netherlands and from a young age she has had a huge passion for nature and wildlife. Britt is currently working on her Master's degree and joined the Mara Cheetah Project in March 2017 to work on her final thesis. For her research project Britt will be using collar data to investigate cheetah habitat selection and movement patterns in the Mara ecosystem in relation to both natural and anthropogenic factors.

Ms. Emily Madsen - MSc student, Royal Veterinary College (United Kingdom)

Emily Madsen has had a passion for the outdoors and wildlife since a young age growing up in the countryside of the UK. Since completing her B.Sc. in Zoology at the University of Bristol, Emily has spent time traveling and has undertaken a Master's Degree in Wild Animal Biology at the Royal Veterinary College in conjunction with the Zoological Society of London. For her M.Sc. Project, Emily will be using interview data to assess the distributions of wildlife outside of the protected areas in the Mara.

Research

Monitoring

The Mara Cheetah Project field team, together with the Mara Lion Project field team, are out and about on a daily basis collecting information on cheetahs and other predators in the Maasai Mara. This quarter we completed our first intensive monitoring survey for 2017 and we expanded our monitoring efforts into Olarro South and North Conservancies and Ol Derkesi conservancy (see map on page 3). In total, the team spent 535 hours in the field and drove over 6487 km in search of cheetahs, lions and other predators. The table (right) summarises the number of sightings per predator that were recorded this quarter. The data collected will be used to determine the number of cheetahs (and other predators) over time, including population parameters such as births, deaths, emigration and immigration.

Predator species	Count
Spotted hyaena	175
Lion	124
Black-backed jackal	129
Cheetah	78
Leopard	8
Bat-eared fox	11
Serval	2
Side-striped jackal	1
Caracal	1

Population parameters

Below is a summary of the births, survivors, dispersers and deaths that were recorded during this quarter:

Parameter	Number	Notes
Births	4	This quarter Musiara gave birth to four cubs.
Cub deaths	8	We recorded 8 cub deaths - in all cases the case of death was unknown.
Dispersers	0	No dispersal events were recorded
Adult deaths	1	We recorded the suspected death of one male but the cause of death is unknown.

Cheetah sightings

In the past three months we recorded 36 different adult cheetahs in the study area. Of these 21 were female and 15 were male. Of the females, ten were seen with cubs, some of who died during the course of this quarter. The next few pages include summaries of the number of cheetahs that were recorded in each of the wildlife areas in the Maasai Mara between 1st April and 30th June 2017.

Maasai Mara National Reserve

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Amani	1	2	
	Imani	1	0	Daughter of Amani
	Karembo	1	0	Lost all 4 cubs that were born in March
	Malaika	1	2	
	Malkia	1	0	Daughter of Malaika
	Miyale	1	1	
	Musiara	1	0	Lost all 4 cubs in June
	Musiara's daughter 2	1	0	
	Nolari	1	0	
	Roza's daughter	1	0	Was seen with the Oloolulo male
	Roza's daughter 2	1	3	
	Sub-total	**11**	**8**	
Male	5 Musketeers	5	0	Coalition of 5 males
	Hodari	1	0	Amani's son and Imani's brother
	Miyale's son	1	0	
	Oloolulo male	1	0	Was seen with Roza's daughter
	Sopa males	2	0	
	Sub-total	10	-	
	Total	**20**	**8**	

21 different adult cheetahs (11 females and 10 males) and 8 cubs were recorded in the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Mara Triangle

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Kakenya	1	0	
	Kakenya's daughter 3	1	0	
	Sub-total	**2**	**0**	
Male	Triangle males	2	0	Two-male coalition
	Serena male	1	0	
	Sub-total	3	-	
	Total	**5**	**0**	

5 different adult cheetahs (2 females and 3 males) were recorded in the Mara Triangle.

Mara North Conservancy

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Amani	1	2	
	Musiara's daughter 1	1	0	
	Total	**2**	**2**	

2 different adult female cheetahs and 2 cubs were recorded in the Mara North Conservancy.

Naboisho Conservancy

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Karembo	1	0	
	Naborr	1	2	
	Naborr's daughter 1	1	0	Daughter born 2015
	Sub-total	**3**	**2**	
Male	5 Musketeers	5	0	Coalition of 5 males
	Forester	1	0	Seen with Naborr
	Sub-total	**6**	**-**	
	Total	**9**	**2**	

9 different adult cheetahs (3 females and 6 males) and 2 cubs were recorded in the Naboisho Conservancy.

Ol Kinyei Conservancy

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Noosura	1	3	Lost one cub
	Naborr	1	0	Seen with Forester
	Sub-total	**2**	**3**	
Male	Forester	1	0	Seen with Naborr
	Ol Kinyei males	2	0	Imani's sons (without Nolari's son)
	Sub-total	**3**	**-**	
	Total	**5**	**3**	

5 different adult cheetahs (2 female sand 3 males) and 3 cubs were recorded in the Ol Kinyei Conservancy.

Olare-Motorogi Conservancy

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Amani	1	2	With 2 female cubs
	Karembo	1	0	Daughter of Amani
	Malkia	1	0	Daughter of Malaika
	Musiara	1	0	
	Musiara's daughter 2	1	0	
	Nolari	1	0	
	Selenkei	1	0	Daughter of Imani
	Sub-total	**7**	**2**	
Male	5 Musketeers	5	0	Coalition of 5 males
	Hodari	1	0	Son of Amani and brother of Imani
	Sub-total	**6**	**-**	
	Total	**13**	**2**	

13 different adult cheetahs (7 females and 6 males) and 2 cubs were recorded in the Olare-Motorogi Conservancy.

Olarro South and North Conservancies

Gender	Name	Number of adults	Number of cubs	Notes
Female	Harabika	1	0	
	Kiraposhe	1	3	
	Nasha	1	4	
	Total	**3**	**7**	

3 different adult female cheetahs and 7 cubs were recorded in the Olarro South Conservancy.

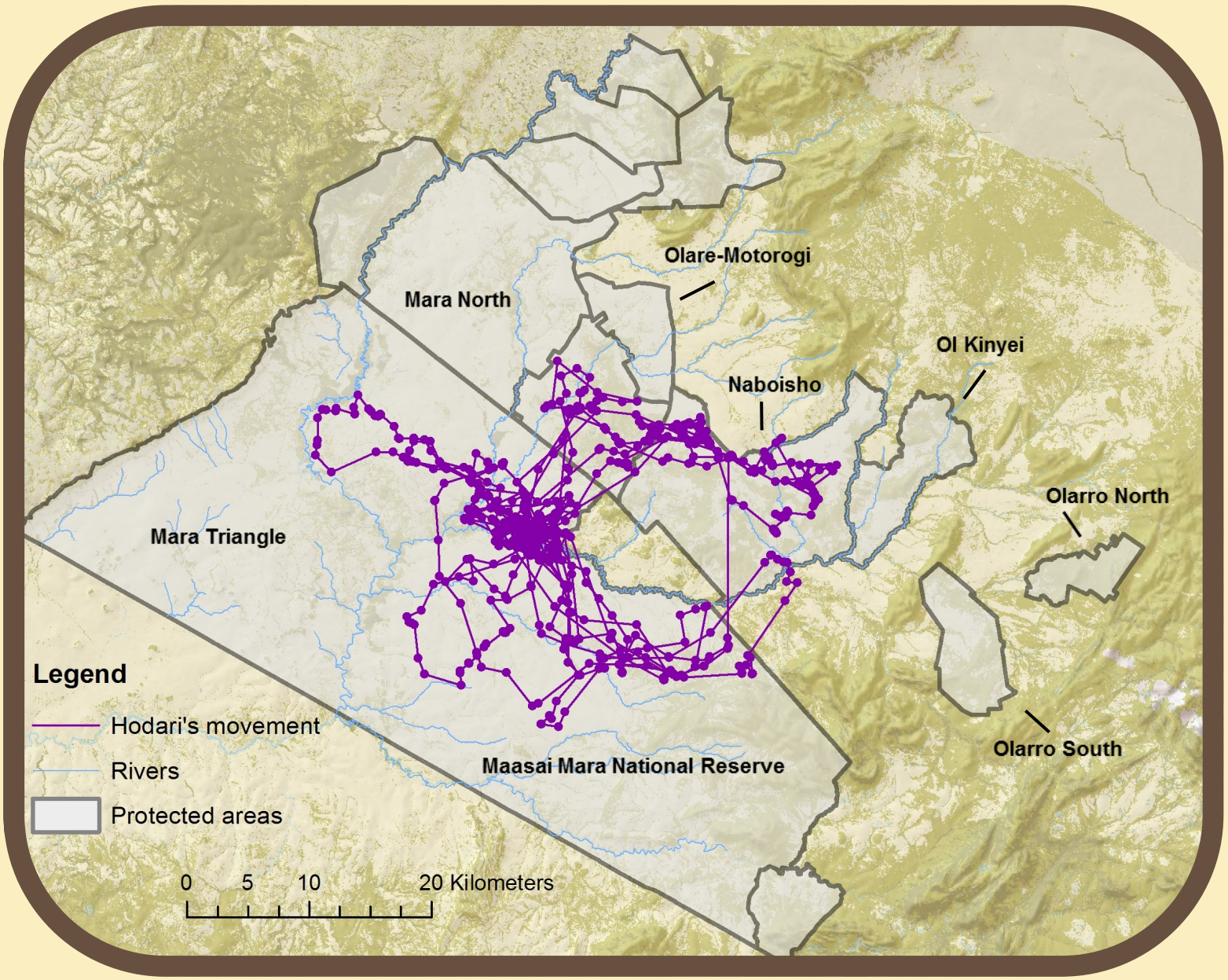
Satellite collars

Cheetahs face a kaleidoscope of threats but with the aid of collars we will able to better understand, identify and respond to threats. As part of our ongoing collaring project we deployed a total of six collars over the last two years. We currently have collars on three groups of males; Hodari (a single male), Forester (a single male) and Dartonian (a member of a five-male coalition also known as the 5 Musketeers).

Hodari

Since Hodari was fitted with a collar in February 2017, he has spent most of his time in the Maasai Mara National Reserve but has also ventured into Olare-Motorogi and Naboisho Conservancies.

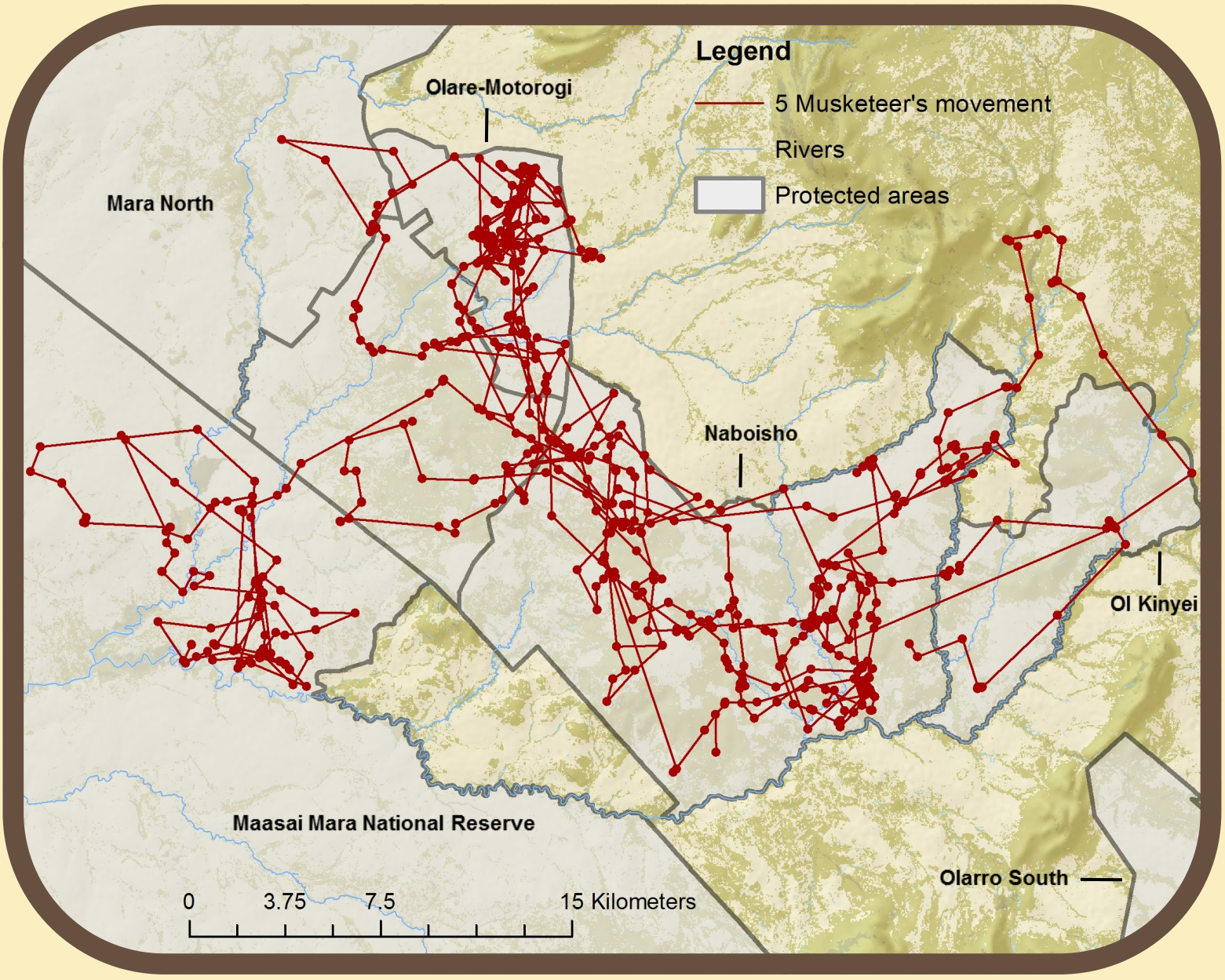
We have known Hodari since he was a cub and it is believed that males move away from their natal areas to avoid mating with their mother or sisters. However, Hodari overlaps greatly with is mother (Amani), his sister (Imani) and now also his niece (Selenkei). We are hoping that David's PhD research will shed some light on the genetic relationship between individuals. (see page 7).



The 5 Musketeers

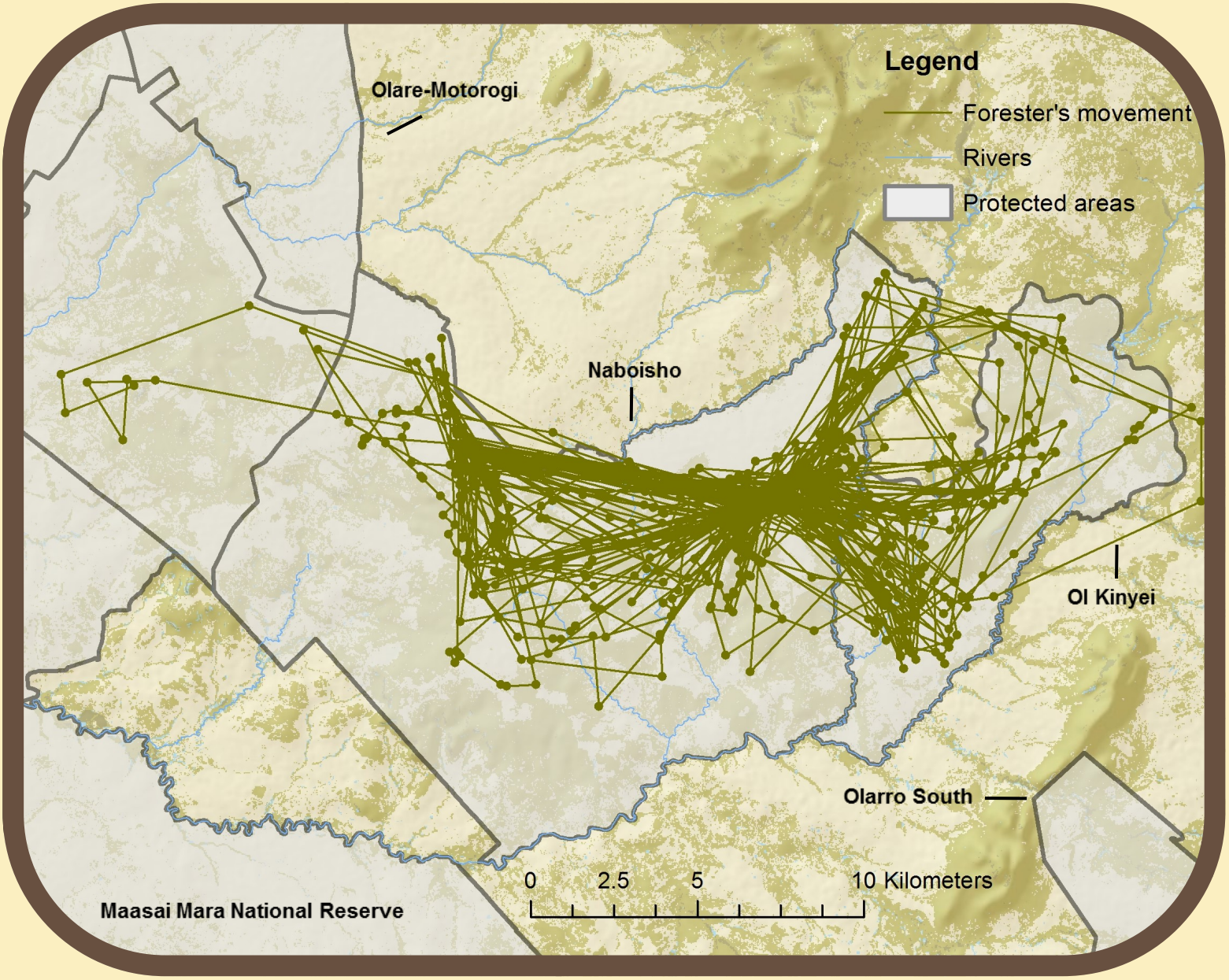
The 5 Musketeers are an interesting coalition as they are currently the biggest coalition of male cheetahs that have been recorded to have been together for such a long period of time. We believe that the coalition is made up of males from three different mothers.

In March 2017 we deployed a collar on the oldest male who we previously saw alone in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Since the collar was deployed they have been in Ol Kinyei Conservancy, Naboisho Conservancy, Olare-Motorogi Conservancy and the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Their home-range overlaps greatly with that of the other two collared males and they don't keep their presence a secret as they are often seen scent marking trees. The interactions between the five are not as amicable as other coalitions and it is possible that once they males are ready to reproduce that they will split up. Time will tell.



Forester

Forester was collared in October 2016 and of the four males that have had collars he seems to have the most restricted range as he sticks to Naboisho and Ol Kinyei Conservancies. Since he has had the collar he has only ventured into Olare-Motorogi Conservancy once. His core area of activity is around Ol Seki airstrip in Naboisho Conservancy but when he does travel further a field he tends to use the same routes. As with the other collared cheetahs, he rarely leaves the safety of the protected areas. Using his GPS data we have also been able to identify several marking trees that he uses to mark his territory and we are planning to set up camera traps at some of these trees to see how many other cheetahs come in to use the. Watch this space!



Community

Questionnaire survey

In 2015, we carried out an extensive questionnaire survey across the Maasai Mara aimed at quantifying human-wildlife conflict, determining people's attitudes towards wildlife and producing a conflict 'hotspot' map to help direct interventions where they are most needed. This year we are repeating the survey to try and see if there is a change in the spread of conflicts and assess whether people's attitudes towards wildlife have changed over the span of two years.

Similar to two years ago, we hired 10 interviews from around the Mara to conduct the survey and on the 15th of May we organised a training session at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub. A majority of the interviewers were the same people who carried out the interviews in 2015 and so consistency is maintained. We randomly selected 820 *manyattas* (settlements with livestock enclosures) in the same zones as in the previous survey. The two-month survey started at the beginning of June and will be completed by the end of July. This year's survey is carried out in collaboration with the Mara Lion Project and the Peregrine Fund.

This year we are repeating the questionnaire survey that we conducted in 2015. The aim of the questionnaire is to quantify human-wildlife conflict and people's attitudes towards wildlife, particularly predators. In addition, the data will be used to identify conflict hotspots and animal presence outside the protected areas.

Holistic Assessor Programme

This quarter we have expanded out Holistic Assessment programme by adding another zone. Our newly recruited team member, Mr. Dominic Yiankere, will cover the hills in Pardamat. While the hills are unlikely to be suitable for cheetahs, collar data from sub-adult male lions is showing that this is potentially an important area for them.

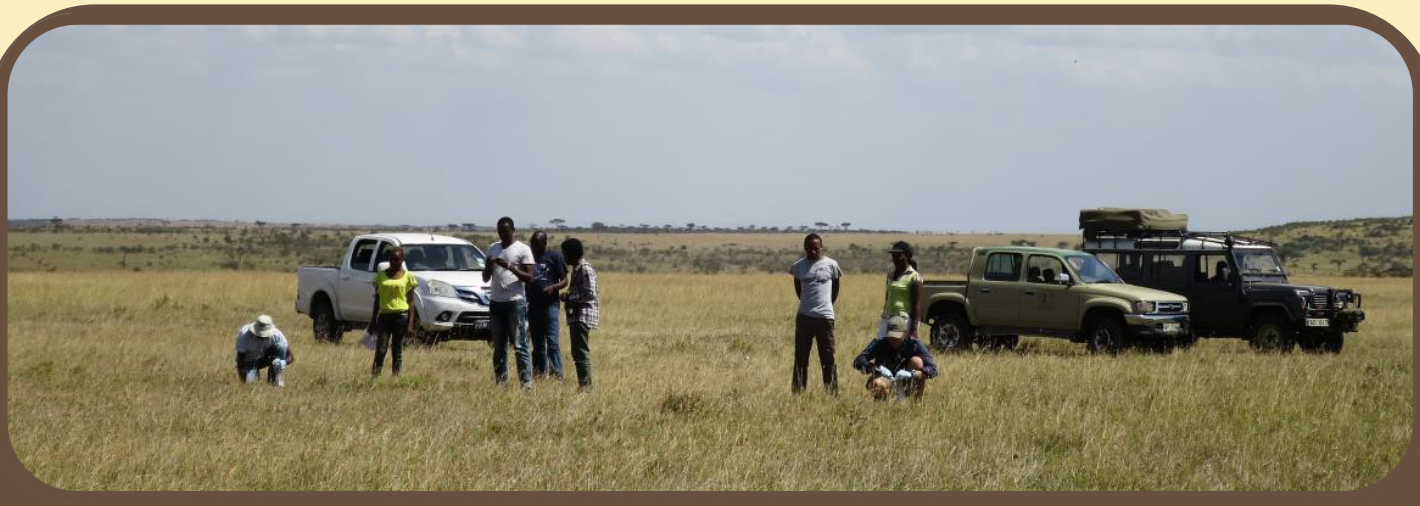
Our other five Holistic Assessors have increased their data collection which augments our fieldwork in the protected areas. They now carry out similar monitoring where they record livestock, predators, people and many other aspects which will enable us compare data collected in protected areas to those collected in community areas.

Environmental DNA (eDNA)

Obtaining detailed knowledge about how human activities may alter the state and distribution of biodiversity is a key element in conservation. However, traditional biodiversity survey methods are based on visual detection and counting of species, which are time consuming, costly and are unable to detect the majority of species.

A relatively new approach involves the use of environmental DNA (eDNA). This technique extracts DNA from water, soil, or even air and represents an efficient, non-invasive sampling approach. eDNA allows researchers to assess how species composition, and even the relative abundances of certain species, differ between land-use or habitat types. To date, the majority of eDNA work has been conducted in freshwater and marine ecosystems. However, the application and potential value of eDNA in terrestrial ecosystems remains largely unknown, particularly in Africa, but it is now being tested in the Mara ecosystem for the first time as part of the AfricanBioServices project.

AfricanBioServices is an EU funded project focusing on ecosystem services in the Greater Serengeti -Mara Ecosystem. Understanding how land-use change in and around the ecosystem affects biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and in turn, the provision of ecological services, is an important component of the work. In June, Dr. Craig Jackson from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) joined forces with the Mara Cheetah Project, the Mara Lion Project and the Kenya Wildlife Service to collect soil and water samples in the Maasai Mara. These samples will be used to assess how the extraction of eDNA from these samples may assist in cataloguing the ecosystem's biodiversity. This approach will consequently contrast biodiversity within well-protected wildlife habitats with neighbouring areas that support far greater livestock and human densities. During the first phase, there is a strong emphasis on testing sampling methodologies in an attempt to optimize survey techniques. After that the hope is that we will be able to create species lists of vertebrates and invertebrates for the Mara. The team will also be assessing how eDNA may be used to assess the variability in large carnivore distribution and density, particularly in response to land-use type. This is a novel application of the technique and we are excited to see what the results will yield!



Dr. Craig Jackson collecting eDNA samples in the Maasai Mara to determine biodiversity and (hopefully) carnivore distribution and density.

Outreach and Education

Community engagements

Wildlife Clubs

The Wildlife Clubs in the six schools are actively engaging in the planned activities in their curriculum. Other schools are now also interested in the Wildlife Clubs and we are hoping that we will be able to extend our programme to four new schools in the next quarter. One of the biggest challenges that we faced this quarter was that funds from donors were not released in time for us to carry out a majority of the planned activities which included the annual visits to the conservation areas. We are hoping that we can do this in the coming quarter.

Community meetings (*barazas*)

Last quarter the project's Holistic Assessors conducted a small survey to determine what materials people use to construct their *bomas* (livestock enclosures) and the quantify the use of Marshall, a potent pesticide which is locally used to kill fleas in livestock but sometimes abused to poison predators (see previous Quarterly Report for the findings).

In April and May we organised five community meetings (*barazas*), in the five areas where the survey was carried out, to discuss our findings with the community members. The five feedback sessions were attended by over 200 participants! The participants showed an interest in switching to plastic poles to build their *bomas*, which would minimize deforestation of the Mau forest. In the coming quarter we will purchase plastic posts to build a demonstration *boma*. The participants were also interested in finding an alternative to Marshall that will kill fleas but that will not harm their livestock and predators.

Over 200 people attended our community meetings to discuss the use of plastic poles to construct *bomas* and finding alternatives to Marshall, a pesticide that is occasionally used to poison wildlife.

Workshops and meetings

Narok County Natural Capital Assessment workshop

Michael Kaelo took part in a three day workshop which was geared at engaging experts in modeling a natural resource plan for the Narok County Spatial plan. The workshop, which was organised by WWF and Narok County, brought together more than 40 experts from various organisations and interest groups to discuss the future of natural resources in the county. The workshop helped participants to model a "Worse case scenario" a "Status quo scenario" and a "Best case scenario" to identify factors that shape the future of natural resources in Narok county.

Poison Protocol Review workshop

On 8th June, we were invited by Nature Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Service to take part in a review process in the formulation of the country's poison protocol, an initiative that was set in motion after the success of last year's Poison Response workshop. The workshop, which was held at the KWS headquarters in Nairobi, was attended by many other stakeholders who presented their opinions focused at improving the protocol. The workshop focused on various recommendations, including policy and legislation sections to be left to legal experts to be identified by the technical team, a need for a database for emerging poisons and the KWS veterinary team to supply the literature of laboratory details of commonly used poisons and evidence from literature review to back up the protocol.

As a result of last year's Poison Response workshop, the Kenya Wildlife Service, together with other partners including MCP and MLP, is formulating a countrywide poison protocol to deal with wildlife poisoning events.

Other Updates

News

Visiting Lion Guardians

This quarter the project's Community Team were offered an opportunity by one of our collaborators, Nature Kenya, to visit Lion Guardians in Amboseli. The purpose of the visit was to exchange knowledge and experiences about preventing and tackling the poisoning of wildlife.

The two day visit incorporated various other stakeholders from the Maasai Mara including Chiefs, Friends of Maasai Mara and a representative of the Buffalo dancers. From our team (MLP/MCP), Dominic, Michael and our six Holistic Assessors attended. The visit offered the team a great chance to engage with the Lion Guardian's warriors working to conserve lions, and learning how they track lions in the wild and how they prevent retaliatory killings after a conflict incidence has happened.

Presentation at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Project Director, Femke Broekhuis, was in the United Kingdom in May/June to spend some time at the Wildlife Conservation Research Centre (WildCRU) at the University of Oxford to discuss and work on various ideas with other researchers. In addition, Femke was invited to give a presentation at the Zoological Society of London on the Mara Cheetah Project and the general status of cheetahs.

Partners and collaborators

We are proud to be working with both local and international partners, without whom we would not have been able to achieve what we have. We would like to thank the following partners for their continued support and we look forward to continuing these partnerships going into the future:

- **Narok County Government**
- **Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS)**
- **Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA)**
- **Mara Lion Project**
- **Dr. Arjun Gopalaswamy**
- **Smithsonian Institution**
- **Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford**
- **Mara Triangle (Mara Conservancies)**
- **Mara North Conservancy**
- **Olare-Motorogi Conservancy**
- **Olarro South and North Conservancies**
- **Ol Derikesi Conservancy**
- **Naboisho Conservancy**
- **Ol Kinyei Conservancy**
- **Lemek Conservancy**
- **Ol Chorro Conservancy**
- **Enonkishu Conservancy**

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in this project and we hope your support will continue into the foreseeable future.

Donations

The running costs, from vehicle fuel and maintenance to salaries and equipment, are the hardest things to find funding for, yet without it we would not be able to monitor cheetahs on a day-to-day basis and collect the necessary data needed to establish the ecology and threats that cheetahs face in the Maasai Mara. We are therefore particularly grateful to the following donors for their unrestricted funding which enables us to run this project:

- **Delta Trust**
- **Evergreen II Trust**
- **Angus & Margaret Wurtele**
- **Mason Thalheimer and Samlyn Capital**
- **J.A. & H.G Woodruff, Jr. Charitable Trust**
- **Asilia Africa**
- **Margaret Prentice and John Dyson**
- **Naboisho Camp**
- **Sala's Camp**
- **Rekero Trust**
- **William and Crystal Ribich**
- **Big Cat Rescue**
- **Various anonymous donors**

We would also like to thank the following donors for supporting specific projects:

- **BAND Foundation** for providing the funding for the biomedical project.
- **Banovich Wildscapes Foundation** for funding the purchasing of five satellite collars and for covering veterinary costs.
- **African Wildlife Foundation** (AWF) for funding Holistic Assessor Program and covering local salaries and vehicle running costs - without which we would not be able to do our work.

Data and photos

Thank you to all of you who have provided us with photos and reports on cheetah sightings both from the Maasai Mara and the Serengeti.

Logistic support

We would like to thank Asilia, The Safari Collection, Seiya and Kicheche for their support on the ground. In particular we would like to thank Asilia and Kicheche Camps for helping bring vehicle spares to the Mara including new tyres and a wind screen for one of our project vehicles.

How you can help

There are various ways in which you can support to work by the Mara Cheetah Project.

Report cheetah sightings

Sightings of cheetahs help us in our monitoring efforts. If you would like to help then please provide your cheetah sightings through one of the following channels:

- Download Spot-a-Cat (http://www.maracheetahs.org/spot-a-cat/), an Android App available in Google Play that allows everyone to record cheetah sightings. The App allows users to upload sightings with photos, view an interactive map of their sightings and learn about cheetahs in the "fact file".
- Fill in the online sighting form on the project website (http://www.maracheetahs.org/how-to-help/cheetah-sightings/).
- Email your sightings to sightings@maracheetahs.org

Make a donation

To ensure the long term success of the Mara Cheetah Project it is crucial that there is funding available for the core running costs which include staff salaries, vehicle maintenance and fuel, fees for permits and basic project equipment. With these costs covered the team can continue with the important day-to-day monitoring of the cheetah population in the Maasai Mara.

US $300

Can purchase a camera which can be used by safari guides to help with cheetah monitoring

US $1,500

Covers the cost of research equipment needed to monitor and collect data on cheetahs

US $2,000

Covers the cost of fuel and vehicle maintenance for all project vehicles for 3 months

US $7,500

Covers the salary for a local research assistant

Donations can be made through the Mara Cheetah Project website (http://www.maracheetahs.org/how-to-help/donations/).

Email:	**info@maracheetahs.org**
Website:	**www.maracheetahs.org**
Twitter:	**www.twitter.com/MaraCheetahs**
Facebook:	**www.facebook.com/MaraCheetahProject**
Instagram:	**www.instagram.com/MaraCheetahs**