

PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS - OMC

FIRST EDITION



Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme
on Lions in Olare Motorogi Conservancy

SANKAI PRIDE



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

The females in this pride are all descendants of the old Moniko females, who have moved to and settled in Naboisho Conservancy.

The Sankai pride is the largest pride now in OMC, being seen from Naronyo, Kicheche, Observation, Andys' road and the areas around OMC airstrip.

The last time we sighted them all together, the pride had five adult females and 15 cubs. They seem to have lost three other cubs early in the year and we found one of them dead near OMC airstrip.

The Sankai pride share the pride male coalition the Croton Island Males (Olerai and Olekiti) with their sister pride, the Hammerkop pride, who are also descendants of the old Moniko females.

NOMADIC FEMALE

One nomadic old female, who was sighted alone once near the Wedding Tree in July last year, has been sighted again this year close to the Albitsia crossing.



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

This year she we sighted her with a large male cub. We have not been able to identify her yet from any of our cataloged lions. It is quite Interesting to see old lions in known areas that people are not familiar with.

HAMMERKOP PRIDE



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

This pride consists of four Moniko sub-adult females. As mentioned above, they are the daughters of the old Moniko females, who are now in resident in Naboisho.

They are the sisters to the 6 Pack males who are now at the Marsh area in the Reserve.

The four females have settled in OMC's Hammerkop area and the guides gave them names early this year. They had their first litter of four cubs in December 2017. More recently, they are now often seen in the Olkupelia area.

ISEKETA CORE PRIDE



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

The Iseketa pride have been all over OMC recently. Oloopapit and Olbarnoti, who are the pride males, are having a hard time managing this pride along with their two other prides, the Oldikdik and the Enkuyanai prides.

The Rekeru Breakaway males have pushed the Iseketa core pride away from their territory and the pride has split.

Some females have joined their satellite prides while others have not been sighted. We suspect one of the adult females was killed in Motorogi when she went inside a boma and killed 105 sheep and goats.

Five females and three males have dispersed. One of the dispersing males was sighted alone in late April near Olare Camp.



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

DISPERSING ISEKETA SUB-ADULT FEMALES



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

Two groups who dispersed from the Iseketa pride settled down by Iseketa gorge and Morijo area to start new prides, but the two groups seem to have merged as we have sighted members of the two groups together. The first dispersing group, born in 2012 and 2013, had four females and the second dispersing group, from 2014, had five females, but only 5/9 are currently sighted.

Three of the females from the older group and two cubs have been seen near Mahali Mzuri, which means they have lost two of their cubs early this year.

OLDIKDIK PRIDE

The Oldikdik Pride, whose founders broke away from the Enguyanai pride, is currently made up of four females and 11 cubs.

They are mostly using the areas around Porini camp.

This pride has not been very successful in hunting and they look hungry and thin most of the time.

They are often seen feasting on warthogs.



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

MONIKA MALES

Olbarnoti and Lolpapit are still looking healthy and going on strong. They have been spending most of their time mating with the Enguyanai pride on the National Reserve side.

The Enguyanai pride has many female members now that their six dispersing daughters have resettled with the four Enguyanai adult females. As Olbarnoti and Lolpapit are spending most of their time with the Enguyanai's, the other two prides under these male's control, the Oldikdik and Iseketa prides are vulnerable to intruding males, which is the reason why the Iseketa pride have been moving around trying to escape other males like the Rekeru Breakaway males.



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

REKERO BREAKAWAY MALES



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

The Rekeru Breakaway males settled with the Iseketa dispersing female groups in the Motorogi area. We have sighted only two of the three males this year.

These males might have been responsible for the loss of the Iseketa core pride and Sankai pride cubs

CROTON ISLAND MALES

Olerai and Olekiti are controlling the Sankai and Hammerkop prides. They are now more often with the Hammerkop pride than the Sankai pride. The third Croton Island male has been missing for some time now.

The three brothers were originally born into the Oololaimutia pride in the Reserve.



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