



# Cheetah Chat

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

January 2016 - February 2016

Kakenya



At approximately 20 months old, Kakenya's cubs have finally dispersed. Usually cubs remain dependent on their mother for 16-20 months after which they remain together as a sibling group for about six months. The Mara Cheetah Project team sighted the four cubs in the Mara Triangle a few days after they left their mother and by the look of things they were having a hard time trying to hunt. Some hunting skills can take up to 3.5 years to master!

In 2013/2014 Roza managed to raise one female cub to independence. A few weeks ago we sighted Roza and her recent litter killing a young Thomson's gazelle in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Although we are not sure how many cubs she gave birth to, the remaining three cubs, who are about 14 months old, seem to be doing well.



Roza

Kisiri



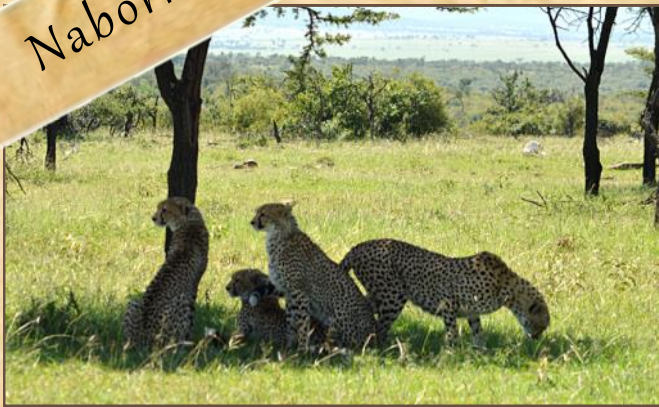
Kisiri (which means secretive in KiSwahili) is often seen in the South-eastern part of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. As the name suggests she is very 'secretive' and elusive making it hard to sight her. She was recently seen in good health lying about 200 meters away from Miyale and her two male cubs. Over a year ago Kisiri managed to raise two male cubs to independence and we are hoping she will have another litter soon.

Lemai male

The Lemai male (named as he was first sighted near the Lemai wedge) is a young male who is usually seen in the Mara Triangle. Reports suggest that he frequently ventures up the Ooloolo escarpment near human settlements. This could possibly explain why, compared to other Mara cheetahs, he is a bit more nervous around people and vehicles .



Naborr



Naborr is currently one of eight females in the Maasai Mara National Reserve and the surrounding conservancies who has cubs. Naborr is usually seen in Naboisho Conservancy and her cubs are just over a year old. With all the cubs at the moment we are likely to see a high number of them dispersing this year, including Malaika's cubs who should be leaving their mum any time soon.

Two months ago Imani was seen with several injuries, including a large gash on her left side (top photo). While the wound looked serious, Imani, with the help of her cubs, managed to keep it clean by licking it. A few weeks ago we caught up with Imani in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy and this is what her wound looked like without any human intervention (bottom photo).



Imani



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

**For more information, or to report a sighting, visit our website ([www.maracheetahs.org](http://www.maracheetahs.org)) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/MaraCheetahProject](http://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](mailto:info@maracheetahs.org)**