



# Lion Tails

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

June 2016 – July 2016

Lilly  
sub-group



One of the current Cheli pride sub-groups is made up of Lilly (one of the two oldest Cheli pride females), Saba, Amber & Scarlet. They all had cubs around the same time in the fall of 2015. Sadly, there are only three cubs left in total that all four adult females are now caring for. However, they are all looking very healthy and are often all in a joyful mood.

4 females & 8 subs  
sub-group

The Cheli pride sub-group with the four adult females and their combined eight offspring, five females & three males were recently separated from each other for unknown reasons. Two of the adult females were sighted together while the rest of the group were nowhere to be seen. They seemed uneasy and spooked while they were being monitored. Reasons for this could be a confrontation with intruding males who might have attempted to harm the subs. This potential stressful event could have caused the separation and the two remaining adult females might have taken off elsewhere with all or some of the subs. Although unlikely, another reason could be a disturbance/attack from people. This is the first time we have seen the group separated.



The older Cheli  
female subs



The older Cheli sub-adult female who was injured by a buffalo a few months ago has lost one of her three cubs. The remaining two cubs are doing well and they were recently seen resting on top of a warthog den while their mother was busy hunting, not far from MNC HQ. These cubs have apparently not been frequently visited by vehicles as they were quite shy and when approached they quickly went into hiding inside the warthog hole. The cubs are now approximately six months old.



## The Marsh Pride

Members of the famous Marsh pride with Charm in charge are currently residing in Mara North Conservancy. They are ranging in the area around Olchorro Lemusiara luggar up to Fig Tree Ridge, Leopard Gorge and the area between Leopard Gorge and the Korialtu Ranger Base. They are often seen with buffalo kills as was the case of MLP's most recent sighting of them (pictured).



## Cheli Pride males



The two adult males, Dere & Barrikoi, who are currently in charge of the Cheli pride have not been seen for a while. If something has happened to them for one reason or another, it could very well have attracted outside males and this can explain the current split-up of the four females and eight subs.

In the beginning of June we received a report of some lions that were inside a fenced compound near Aitong, apparently having followed some zebra. We responded to the scene and luckily we were able to see them and get ID shots of the individuals. The lions turned out to be Siti, who is one of the two oldest female members of the Cheli Pride, together with Lilly and her three cubs who are now one year four months old. They were 10 km from their usual ranging area. Fortunately, there was no retaliation and all lions left the fenced compound.



## Siti



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**If you have photos and a lion story that you would like to share in the next update, please email us at [info@maralions.org](mailto:info@maralions.org)**