



Lion Tails

Updates by the **Mara Predator Conservation Program** on lions in
Mara **Naboisho** Conservancy
December 2017 - January 2018

R.I.P.
Dada



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project



Andrew Conway | Mara Lion Project

Naboisho Conservancy has lost another one of its iconic lions. The old lioness Dada, was found dead, after being seriously injured from a fight, most likely with the three Ilkisiusiu lionesses (she was found dead the morning after the bottom photo was taken). Dada was one of the first lions who we became familiar with when monitoring of lions in Naboisho Conservancy began in 2010. She was one of the most easily recognisable lions as she had very distinctive ears. For the time we knew Dada, she only managed to raise four lions, two of each sex, to independence (excluding any of the youngsters that were with the Enesikiria pride in 2010, of whom Dada might have been a mother to). Sero is now only remaining old adult female originating from the Enesikiria pride (see below). Dada will truly be missed.

Nolari never left her mother Dada. The two were true companions up until Dada's death. The female Malaso was also part of this group. Malaso is a daughter of Dada's niece named Spot. Spot died a few years ago from an unknown disease. Malaso was still a dependant cub at that time and so she, along with her sister Nempiris, were adopted by Dada's sister Sero to begin with. Sero moved on to settle in Ol Kinyei Conservancy and Nempiris decided to go with Sero while Malaso stayed in Naboisho under Dada's care. Nolari is now an adult, just having turned four-year-old, while Malaso will turn four in six months. We shall see if they will continue to be companions in the future.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Nolari &
Malaso



Keiwua | Mara Lion Project

Sero



Jesper Thind | Mara Lion Project

Sero is now the last remaining old lioness from the original Enesikiria pride. She fled to Ol Kinyei Conservancy with seven youngsters, five males and two females, in the beginning of 2016, to protect them from the Elomai male coalition. The five males latter dispersed and Sero decided to permanently settle down in Ol Kinyei Conservancy with her daughter Naramat and her niece Nempiris. All three are often seen within the conservancy.

The five adult females of the Moniko pride have been full time residents in Naboisho Conservancy for more than two years now. They have 12 cubs together of three different age groups. The 17 lions are mostly spending their daytime resting periods around Naboisho Camp's Fly camping area. They have recently been seen venturing down to valley below Naboisho Camp. This is now the largest group of lions in the conservancy.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Moniko Pride



Roelof Schutte | Mara Lion Project

Rekero males



Nirmalya Banerjee | Mara Lion Project



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

The four Rekero males are still roaming Naboisho as kings, going between the four resident Naboisho prides, tending to all of their many offspring. Yet this does not seem to satisfy their needs. They have been entering the neighbouring conservancy, Ol Kinyei, on several occasions, where they have killed a few cubs of the Sampu Enkare subadult females and started to mate them. The three young Fig Tree males are trying to establish themselves there and so it will be interesting to see what will happen. There is twist to the drama as the Rekero males are the fathers of the Fig Tree males.

Boxernose

An old, weak, and beaten up male lion was found recently close to the Iseketa bomas. We managed to ID him as a famous male called Boxernose, from the Reserve. He had an unrelated coalition partner called Earless, who has recently been seen unharmed in the Reserve, and together they controlled the Observation pride. Our guess is that younger and stronger males fought with the two pride males and won the fight, making Boxernose flee all the way to Naboisho. He is easily recognised by the dent on his nose bone, hence his name. He was last seen close to the old KGS airstrip.



Ron Soit | Mara Lion Project



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