



Lion Tails

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

January 2017 – February 2017

Cubs in camp



To avoid confrontations with the Rekerro males and to keep new-borns out of harms way, Simaloi chose to deliver and keep her cubs inside Encounter Mara Camp. The camp is obviously on high alert and fortunately there has not been any confrontations between lions and guests/staff. The cubs were born in the beginning of November and are now quite mobile and so we hope that they will all leave the camp area soon. They are all quite comfortable just where they are, however, safe from buffalos and elephants who cannot pass through the fence around the camp. Impala can easily jump the fence and are providing the lions with sufficient amount food.

Many of the Enesikiria females gave birth after the take-over by the four Rekerro males. Amongst these females are Jasmina, Akilah, Isina, Simaloi and Dada. To our shock, the cubs of Jasmina, Akihla and Isina have all been killed by the Rekerro males, who are most likely the fathers of the cubs. The Rekerro males might have killed the cubs because of uncertainty in who the fathers are. During the time when these males were first mating the Enesikiria females, some of the Enesikiria sub-adult males were still around. They could have hypothetically snuck in a few copulations. Dada on the other hand had four cubs around a month later than the other females and the Rekerro males seemed to be confident of parentage as they were seen resting peacefully in the presence of the cubs for while. But now, these cubs have also been killed by the same males.

Birth & death of cubs



Hairy Lokoman



Lokoman has been mated with several times by a number of different males for more than a year, but she did not seem to be receptive and we thought that she could be infertile. However, we finally witnessed Lokoman as a first-time mother. She gave birth to two cubs and we saw them when they were just nine days old.

The four Rekerro males that came into Naboisho in May last year are showing very odd behaviour. So far they have managed to kill all the cubs that they have fathered within the Enesikiria pride. It will be detrimental for Naboisho lions if they will continue to do so and we can only hope that they will start taking care of their own offspring or leave Naboisho Conservancy, giving "better fathers" a chance to take over. All the Sampu Enkare cubs, who are also fathered by the Rekerro males, are still accounted for but these cubs might also be in danger the next time the males passes by the Sampu Enkare area. The killing instinct might be in their genes, passed on from the famous Notch and his sons. They also went around killing their own offspring.

Rekerro males



Moniko females



The adult females from the Moniko pride, who used to live in the neighbouring Olare Motorogi Conservancy, have been resident in Naboisho's southwestern part for nine months now. Some of them have given birth and the fathers are most likely the Rekerro males. Olonyori, pictured, has characteristic eyes as her left eye has become dark-brown after an injury. The Moniko females can be seen around Eor Olkimaita, Moliban and Osilale.

In August last year, two sub-adult males from the Fig Tree pride intruded into Naboisho. They then left again and were seen back in their usual ranging are in the National Reserve. They have come back to Naboisho and this time they brought along third brother. They have been fighting with the Sampu Enkare sub males and it ended badly for Laikam. It seems that his left hip is either dislocated or broken. He is putting no wait on it and his leg has wasted away. Chances of his survival are slim and unfortunately there is nothing a vet can do about it in this instance. The three Fig Tree boys are looking very healthy however and it will be interesting to follow their further activities.

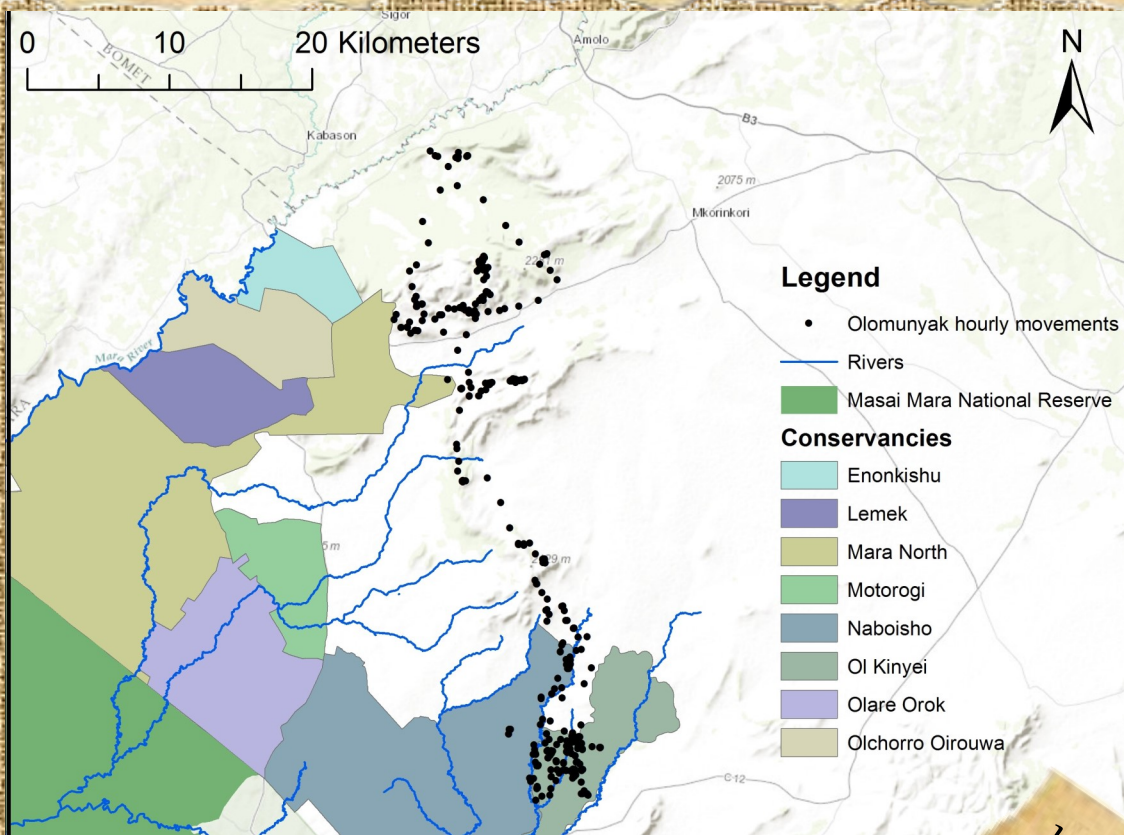
Fig Tree subs



Collaring of Olomunyak



We successfully managed to deploy another GPS collar to a young Enesikiria male named Olomunyak. He has been part of the group of five boys and two girls that Sero has been taking care of for quite some time. The five males have now all dispersed so we were lucky to collar him just in time. He was collared in Ol Kinyei Conservancy but has since been on the move, showing very interesting movements. He has ventured very far northwest to the border of Bomet County, encroaching on massive wheat fields (see map on further down). Sero and the two girls are still venturing between Ol Kinyei and Naboisho Conservancies.



Joining forces

The Enesikiria three year old sub-adult male Rusei (bottom photo), a son of Dada and brother to Nolari, was seen together with Nkaate (top photo), a three year old sub-adult male from the Ilkisiusu pride. We have not seen Rusei for seven months and Nkaate for five months and so seeing them together was a great surprise. Time will tell if they have formed a permanent coalition.





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