



Lion Tails

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

July 2017 – September 2017

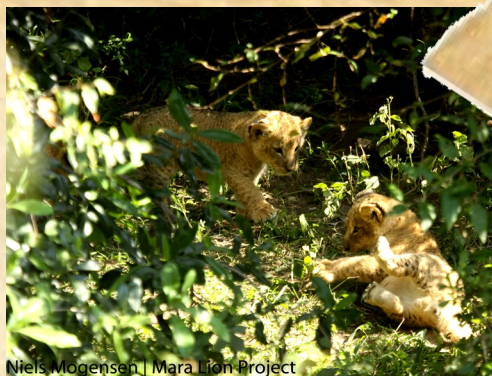
Jasmina



Nirmalya Banerjee | Mara Lion Project

Jasmina has not yet been successful in recruiting any cubs past a few months old. She had three cubs in her third litter, and they were all killed, probably by buffalos. They were only around four weeks old. She first lost two of the cubs and although Jasmina tried to move the remaining cub to a different location, it also died. She was seen shortly after her loss with Caesar 2 (pictured), one of the Naboisho males.

The Enesikiria lioness Simaloi lost all her three cubs who she gave birth to inside Encounter Mara in November last year. She had three cubs again (top photo), who are now two months old. She is hiding them in a luggar in riparian habitat, downstream from Encounter Mara. Willow (bottom) and her cubs are staying mostly by themselves, although we have seen them mingling on a few occasions with other Enesikiria females. Willow's three cubs are now six and a half months old and are doing well.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Simaloi & Willow



Ben Kiseimei | Mara Lion Project

Dada, Nolari & Malaso



Keiwua | Mara Lion Project



Keiwua | Mara Lion Project



Keiwua | Mara Lion Project

Dada (bottom), her daughter Nolari (right) and Dada's niece Malaso (top) are still staying together. Dada and Nolari both had cubs but only one is now remaining. All four of them are often seen hanging around Naboisho Camp. Dada is now 13 years of age and the oldest Enesikiria lion resident in Naboisho, but she is still going strong.

The seven cubs of the three Ilkisiusiu females Nasha, Noolamala and Noonkuta are doing great and there is never a dull moment to observe these youngsters, who are all less than seven months old. Their fathers, the Rekero males, are interacting with them peacefully which is a great relief, as we were all fearing yet another case of infanticide.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Ilkisiusiu
Pride



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Esiriwua &
Lokoman



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project



Keiwua | Mara Lion Project

The two remaining Sampu Enkare pride females both have cubs. Esiriwua has three and Lokoman two, 1.5 months apart. Esiriwua gave us quite a scare recently. She was found one afternoon with a very swollen head, throat and neck, having difficulty breathing. The following day the vet unit from Kenya Wildlife Service came to make an assessment. It would be too risky to immobilise Esiriwua and so the vet decided to inject her with anti-inflammatory drugs via his dart gun instead. This seemed to be of great help, bringing down the swelling which eased her breathing. Within 24 hours, the lioness was recovering quickly and a day later, she was back to her old self. We hope that the female cubs will be recruited into the pride when they become sub-adults and not disperse, increasing the pride's strength in numbers.

Nguru female

The lone female from the Nguru pride, who used to roam in OMC, has been in Naboisho Conservancy for some years now. She is often found in the Eor Olkimaita area. She has three new cubs. This female has a very low cub recruitment rate as she always tends to lose her litters, most likely because she is alone.

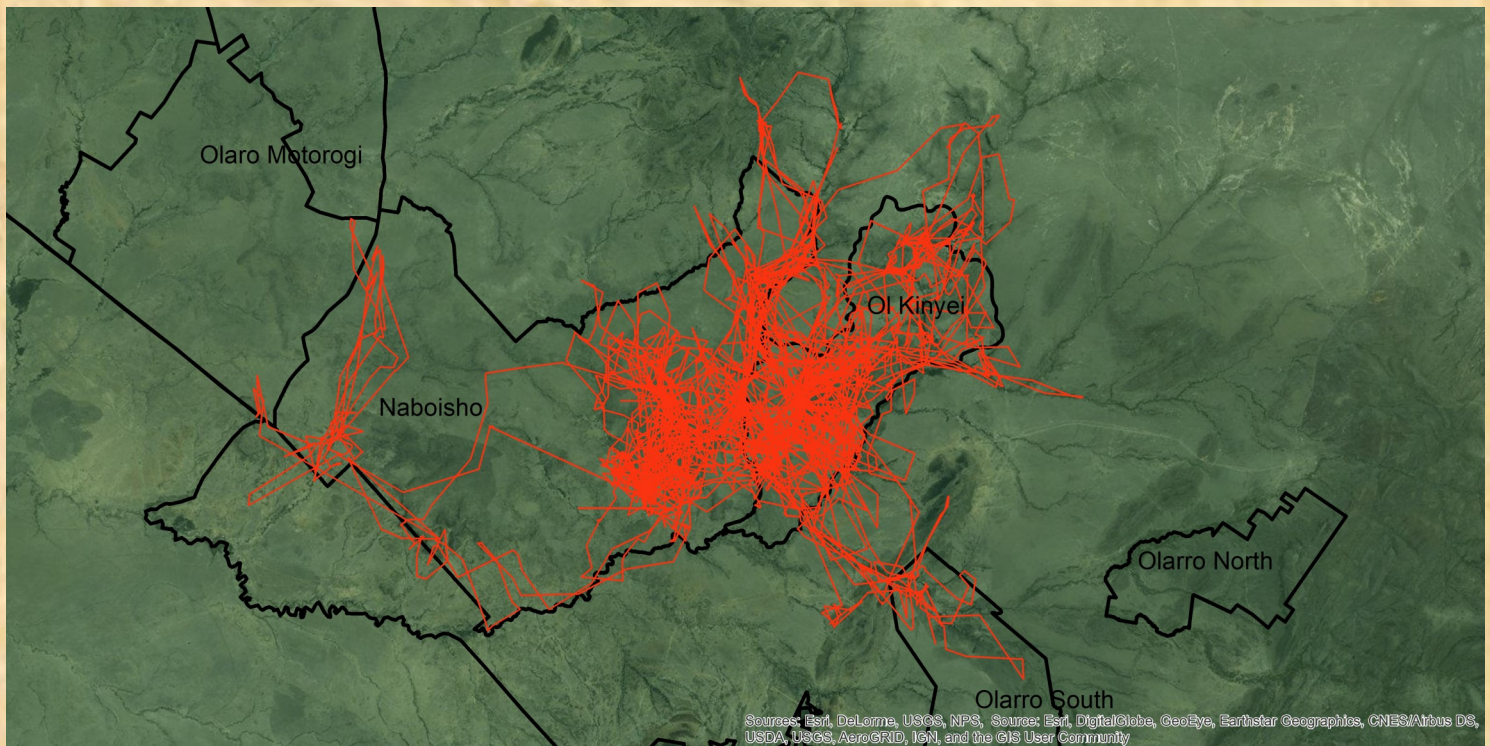


Stratton Hatfield | Mara Lion Project

R.I.P Laikam



Tikki's oldest son Laikam, who was collared last year in July, was found dead inside Ol Kinyei Conservancy a few months ago, where he was spending most of his time. Laikam was two months short of turning four years old. We can't determine exactly how he died, but we can rule out any human causes. In December of last year he sustained a serious leg/hip injury from fighting with the Fig Tree sub-adult males, but he managed to survive. His death could potentially be related to this old injury. Below is a map of his movements during the year that he was collared. Although he was almost an adult, he had not yet fully dispersed, possibly due to his injury.



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