



Lion Tails

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

March 2017 – May 2017

R.I.P. Tikki



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

The Sampu Enkare pride was hit by a tragic event. The iconic female Tikki has died. She was found dead, or rather what was left of her, one morning and we do not know what happened. Tikki was most likely born in 2005 and we had our first encounter with her in 2011. She was given the name Tikki because of the many ticks that were attached to her upper neck when she was named. During the time that we knew her, she managed to raise three sets of offspring to independence, including five males and four females. Tikki's true companion throughout most of her life was Esiriwua, who must now carry the Sampu Enkare pride forward alone with Lokoman. We really hope that Tikki's three youngest daughters will return to their natal pride someday to increase its number of core females.

Nkaate (top), the sub-adult male from the Ilkisiusu pride had teamed up with Dada's son Rusei. Sadly, Nkaate was found dead by Naboisho Conservancy rangers, very close to the Moliban ranger post.

Nkaate most likely died from wounds inflicted from fighting with other lions, presumably the Rehero males. If you recall, we deployed a GPS collar to a the young Enesikiria male Olomunyak (bottom), who was collared at the end of last year.

Unfortunately, he was killed by people on the Lemek hills. This was plausibly as a retaliatory act as two bulls had been killed a few days previously. Were it not for the GPS satellite collar, we would not have been able to document this human-wildlife conflict nor his death and this is one of the reasons why it's so important to collar young dispersing males.



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R.I.P. Nkaate & Olomunyak



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Rusei



Ryan Cuthel | Mara Lion Project

We were wondering if Rusei suffered from the same fate as Nkaate. However, a few months later, Rusei was sighted again, together with a lone female from the Nguru pride (she is the sole remaining member of this pride from OMC). It will be tough for Rusei to survive on his own but we hope that he will stay within the protected areas, away from territorial males and avoid using the community land where he might get killed by people.

As mentioned in our last edition of Lion Tails, Willow lost her cubs to the Rekerro males. She was mated with shortly after this drama took place and as a result of that she delivered a litter of three cubs which are now 11 weeks old. Everything is looking great and we are all crossing our fingers that the Rekerro males, who have fathered the cubs, will not kill them. The Ilkisiusiu female Noonkuta also gave birth to three cubs. Her previous litter, along with her two sisters', were also killed by the Rekerro males. Noonkuta was seen recently seen with her two companions, Napolos and Noolamala. No cubs were present but Noonkuta is still lactating and so we are also hoping that the Rekerro males will protect them.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project



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New cubs

S.O.L. males



Britt Klaassen | Mara Lion Project



Britt Klaassen | Mara Lion Project

The S.O.L. males Leshaan (top) and Osidai (bottom) have been sighted by some of our colleagues in Olarro Conservancy! We are hoping that Simiren is also there. These three males took over and ruled Naboisho Conservancy after the Triple S males went into, and overtook, the Ol Kinyei Pride in the neighbouring Ol Kinyei Conservancy. After spending years in Naboisho, the S.O.L. males left by their own will and took over Ol Kinyei Conservancy. They had not been seen there for some months and we were wondering what might have happened to them, until this recent sighting of them. We do not know for how long they have been there and we are yet to confirm whether they have settled with any females or if they have been challenging any pride males in Olarro Conservancy. We are also unsure whether they are still walking between Ol Kinyei and Olarro Conservancies, as the males still have cubs in the former.

Simaloi's oldest offspring, three males who are now 2.5 years old have also been sighted, this time in Ol Kinyei Conservancy. They left their mother and dispersed a few months ago but are still not too far from where they were born.



Niels Mogensen | Mara Lion Project

Simaloi's oldest



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

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