

PREDATOR POST

WILD DOG DIARIES

JANUARY 2018 – MARCH 2018



Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme
on Wild Dogs in the Maasai Mara

OLPUSIMORU PACK



On 4th March, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) team placed a camera trap outside a suspected wild dog den close to Esoit Manyatta in Olpusimoru area, in order to confirm dog presence and estimate the number of puppies in the den.

The den is located within a community area, approximately 43 km from Olderkesi Conservancy, east of the National Reserve and 1 km from the Kenya-Tanzania border.

The den is only accessible from the Kenyan side of the border. The camera trap captured images of 10 puppies, with a pack sighting of at least nine adults (unsexed) confirmed by MPCP's Research Assistant.

The camera trap is still positioned close to the den to help build further estimates from high-quality images in addition to determining wild dog activity and other movements around the den site.



HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

The balance of community attitude and action towards large carnivores determines the species' fate in unprotected areas, with history showing that the balance has been overwhelmingly against them.

Since news of the wild dog denning, there have been reports of several incidences of depredation on sheep and goats by the

pack, prompting well-placed fears of retaliation by those affected community members.

In an effort to prevent any such retaliation and promote coexistent, our community team is working with Olderkesi Conservancy management and nearby Cottar's Camp to explore appropriate short-term conflict mitigation strategies. Fostering positive attitudes within the community will benefit wild dog dispersal from natal home ranges and their future conservation. In line with the above, MPCP will endeavour to:

1. Hold a local meeting (baraza) to discuss the community's emerging concerns and seek possible solutions for coexistence.
2. Assess abundance of potential Wild Dog prey within the site; our Research Assistant will undertake intensive predator monitoring in Olderkesi Conservancy to complement proposed research work in the area.
3. Collaborate with Serengeti Wild Dog Project to monitor border-crossing collared individuals and to explore collaring an individual in the current denning pack, to facilitate monitoring.
4. Undertake a baseline survey to determine status of wild dog in the Greater Mara Ecosystem.



For more information, please visit our website or follow us on social media. If you have photos and a Wild dog story that you would like to share in the next update, please email us at info@marapredatorconservation.org



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