

# PREDATOR POST

## LION TAILS - MNC

SECOND EDITION



Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme  
on Lions in Mara North Conservancy

### CHELI CORE GROUP



PHOTO © NIELS MOGENSEN, MPKP

The different groups within the Cheli pride have gone through a rough time recently. One of the older females Saba, from the core group close to Elephant Pepper Camp, was killed earlier this year. The cause is unknown, but it was likely fighting with the intruding Offbeat males. Amber is no longer with her 18-months-old son and we don't know if he is still alive or has also fallen victim to intruding males.



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PHOTO © KIRSTEN FROST

Amber is highly pregnant after being mated by the Offbeat males. Scarlet's young cubs were killed by the Offbeat males, who subsequently have mated with her. A former splinter group consisting of Numba and Angavu, have resettled with Amber and Scarlet, after the Offbeat males killed Numba's (pictured carrying a dead cub) and Angavu's cubs and later took the two females for a mating session close to the horse safari mobile camp area.



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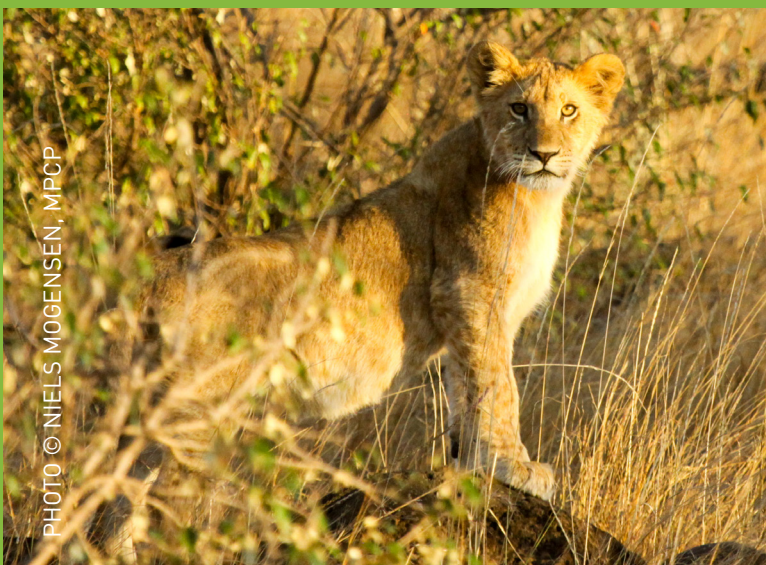


## CHELI MAIN BREAKAWAY GROUP

This large group was thriving around the north-western section of MNC. The two older adults, Kali (pictured) & Nairoshi, gave birth to two sets of cubs each in June & July respectively, but Nairoshi's cubs were killed by the newly intruding males (see below) while Kali has managed to keep her cubs safe for now. The four younger adult females Naserian, Mpishi, Napono & Swako have so far surprisingly only lost one of their nine cubs which they had together.



Two females at a time are keeping the intruding males busy and away from the cubs, who are not that far away from the males. The question is how long they can keep this scenario going. It's surprising that some of the mothers have not taken all the surviving cubs on the run, far away from the males.

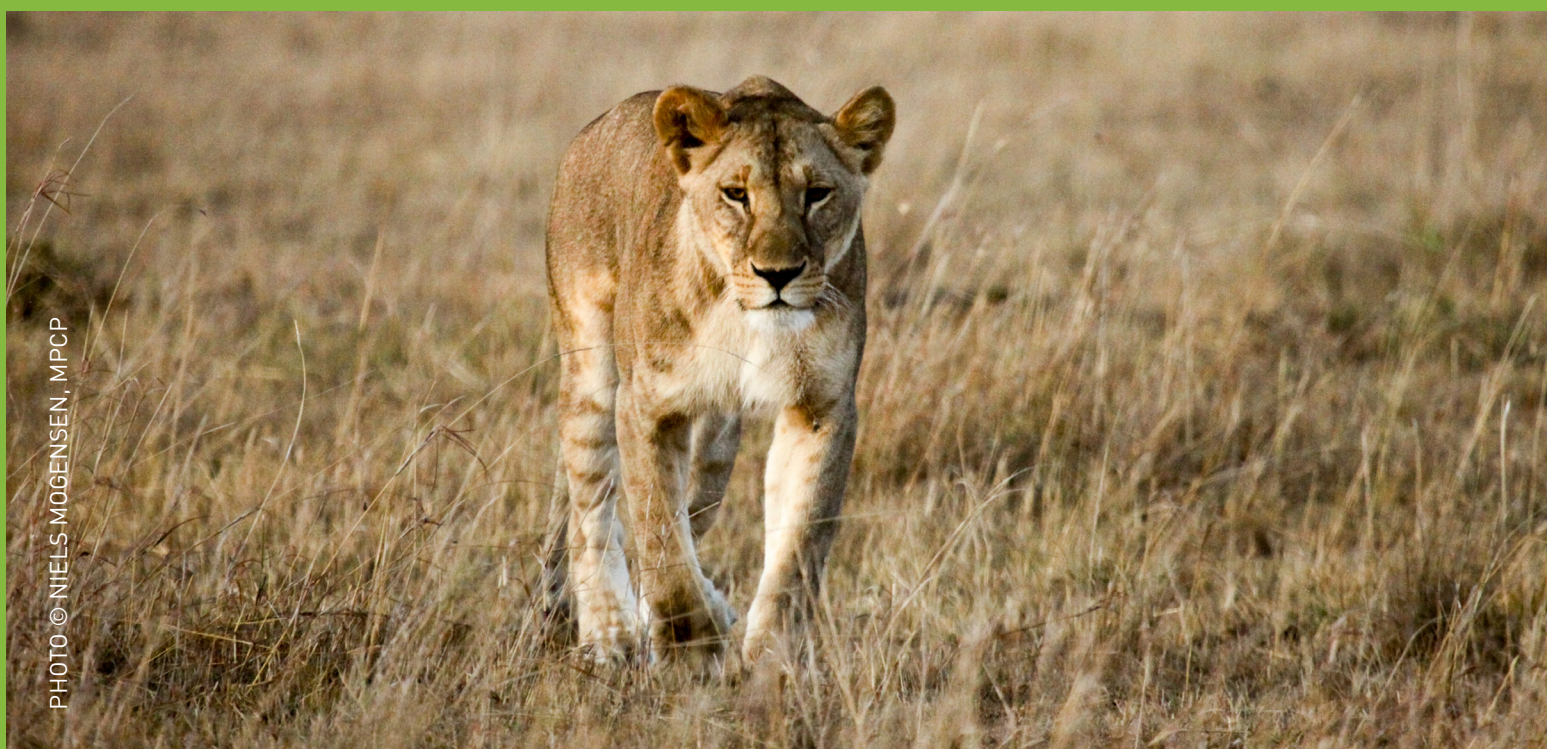




## CHELI SMALLER SPLIT GROUP



Badi, her 3-year-old daughter, and almost 4-year-old niece (the late Siti's daughter) are still together, roaming the area between the airstrip and Buibui. If you recall from a previous edition of Lion Tails, Badi and her niece were mating with one of the current intruding Angama males in April, but he quickly vanished and the females were later mated by the Rafiki and Karibu duo.





## MORE CHELI LIONS



The unnamed female with two male subs, born in September 2016, are still by themselves and not often seen. We last saw them close to the Cheli ranger base. It's amazing to see that the young boys are still with their mother with all the intruding males around.



## R.I.P. KARIBU



The male coalition Karibu (pictured) & Rafiki were well settled in MNC and everything seemed to be stable. Sadly, Karibu was attacked by two males (see below) and severely injured, resulting in his death. The 6.5 year old Karibu was still in his prime and he and his partner Rafiki's first set of offspring have not yet reached independence. Rafiki is somehow still hanging in there after the loss of Karibu and is still seen from time to time close to the Cheli females and cubs. We really hope that the cubs survive to reproduce and continue their gene line so that Karibu's and Rafiki's venture into MNC has not been in vain.

## ANGAMA MALES



Two males have started to show great interest in the MNC area north of the public main road. We ID'ed them as originating from the Angama pride in the Mara Triangle. Before coming into MNC, these males were with one of the prides across the Mara River in Olosukut Conservancy. They are currently mating with the main Cheli breakaway group after killing some of the cubs and Karibu. Time will tell if they fully take over this territory and share their time between Olosukut Conservancy and MNC.



## OFFBEAT MALES



The current males in charge of the Offbeat pride, whose natal pride is the Iseketa pride from Olare-Motorogi Conservancy, have taken over the Cheli core pride. The four males have become a powerful coalition. It seems like these males have taken over the south side of the main road while the Angama males have taken over the north side of the road.





## OFFBEAT DISPERSING MALES



This pride is spilt in different directions. The older female Napono has disappeared and is most likely dead. The two females Lucinda (pictured) & Leah are taking care of the two remaining cubs out of the previous eight they had with Napono. The six cubs that died probably succumbed to the major floods that occurred earlier in the year. Another female gave birth to a set of cubs in November, close to Offbeat Camp, while another two adult females are unaccounted for. Some of the Offbeat sub-adult females (one pictured), fathered by Jesse and Frank and some of whose brothers are in Olerei Conservancy, have also given birth recently. The females have been residing around the Enchorro Naibor area for most of this year.





## DISPERSING CHELI MALES

It's been really interesting following some of the dispersing Cheli males. From previous Lion Tails you can read about how one sub-adult male (top) dispersed with two brothers but later returned alone to his mother Amber. He has now left again and this time he showed up in Ol Chorro Conservancy, still looking to be in good shape. Another lone disperser (bottom) was sighted after more than 1.5 years of absence from our radar. He is the late Siti's son and so a brother to the female, who is with Badi and her daughter, see above. We found him by himself between Lemek & Ol Chorro Conservancies, in good form.



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