

# PREDATOR POST

## LION TAILS OMC - SECOND EDITION



Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme on lions in Olare Motorogi Conservancy

### Sankai pride

The Sankai pride, also known as Moniko Breakaway pride, is the largest pride in OMC consisting of five adult females and thirteen large cubs, some of which are just starting to disperse. Seven of the dispersing youngsters are males. If these males manage to stick together they will form a coalition bigger than any other seen in the Mara today, after their cousins the Six Pack who are currently in the Marsh/Paradise area in the Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR). Recently, we have seen members of the dispersing young with one adult female as their caretaker, moving around the peripheries of the conservancy. They caused some conflict, killing six cows near our HQ at the Predator Hub and so this is a group that we are keeping an eye on.

In December last year, the Rekero Breakaway males came down from Iseketa to try to take over the territory around Hammercop and Naronyo. They were involved in fights with the females trying to protect their cubs and the males injured one female cub.

Two females were lactating in the beginning of the year but we have not seen their cubs yet. According to reports they have moved the cubs outside OMC to hide in the Mara hills but the mothers still come out to hunt in OMC.







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## Odikdik pride

This pride of four females, were originally six dispersers from the Enguyanai pride. One of them died and one disappeared in 2015 when they were dispersing. In April 2016, they had a male and female cub, and the daughter has recently re-joined them and so now five females are seen together with eight cubs after losing one. (top photo). A previous litter of nine are now sub-adults of which eight are still being seen, five females and three males, are hanging around Rocky Crossing areas (bottom photo).



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## Hammercop pride

The Hammercop pride, a sister pride of the Sankai pride, have been sighted with one cub in January, meaning that they lost one of the two cubs they had in October last year. Their three sub-adults have dispersed and we have seen them only once this year around the Hammercop area.



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## Iseketa pride

The Iseketa pride is mostly being seen around Loltana and the salt lick area near Mahali Mzuri. In January, some individuals have been moving out of OMC into the community areas, where they have been killing livestock and intruding into fenced areas.

In December, two dispersing young males (one has a distinctive half tail) from the Purugat pride in The Mara Triangle tried to take over the Iseketa pride, killing three small cubs. One female that had separated with her four cubs was able to keep three of these cubs safe. The remaining cub was supposedly killed inside a boma in the Olkurroto area, when they tried to invade it.

## Croton Island Males

The two males, Olerai (pictured) and Olekiti, originally from the Oololaimutia pride in MMNR, have pushed Lolpapit and Olbarnoti away from OMC and have taken over the Sankai, Odikdik and Hammercop prides in the core of OMC.



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## Rekero Breakaway boys

The Rekero breakaway boys have been controlling the Iseketa pride. However, in December they left the pride, who had five big cubs and seven small ones to try to take over the Hammercop and Sankai prides. At this time, Olerai and Olekiti were busy with the Oldikdik pride. The Rekero Breakaway boys injured one of the Sankai pride cubs but were pushed back by the pride males when they became aware of the intrusion.

## Nomadic males

We have seen different groups of Nomadic males around OMC. The two Purrugat males (top photo) have been all over OMC in late 2018. They tried to take the Odikdik and Sankai prides but were kicked out by Olerai and Olekiti. In December, when the Rekero Breakaway boys were trying to take over the Hammercop pride, the Purrugat males tried it on with the Iseketa pride and killed three of the smallest cubs. The Rekero Breakaway boys reclaimed the pride and later on, one of the Purrugat males was found dead. Another set of nomadic males in OMC are three of the four dispersing Offbeat males (bottom photo), who were previously in Naboisho and Olerai Conservancies, after taking over most of the old Moniko females in Naboisho. They have been using the area close to our Predator Hub and have been seen mating some of the Sankai pride females in January.



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