

PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS OMC - THIRD EDITION



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

OMC Nomads

Half-tail, the Purungat young male that lost his brother towards the end of last year, has spent his time roaming around OMC. He has teamed up with one of the Iseketa nomads that was also a loner and they have formed a coalition. Both were born in March 2015 but the Purungat male is bigger and has a larger mane, making him appear older than his mate. They have been trying to take over the Enguyanai pride from Lolpapat and Olbarnoti, who are the fathers to the Iseketa boy. Recently, we sighted the two young lions near Mara Plains Camp, where the Purungat male had some injuries, suggesting they had been involved in fights.



Sankai nomads

The Sankai nomads have been using the area between Andy's Road and the Albia crossing for some time. The group had six females and seven males but only five males have been sighted in OMC with their six sisters. Towards the end of June, the males separated from some of the females who have reunited with the core pride. We have sighted at least two of the young females with their natal pride. The males have shifted to the Reserve where six of them have been sighted in the Rongai area of the National Reserve. The Oldikdik dispersing group seems to be using the edge of OMC and they have been sighted in the Double Cross areas.

OMC Pride Males

The Offbeat males (photo), a coalition of four, have fully taken over the Sankai Pride. These males were originally six when they started dispersing from Mara North Conservancy. They later separated in two groups of two and four. Both groups have spent time in OMC, Naboisho and the Reserve. The group of two is now in Olarro Conservancy.



PHOTO © KELVIN KOINET, MPCP

The Croton Island Males have only been with the Oldikdik pride as their other prides have been taken away. The Sankai pride have been taken by the Offbeat boys and the Hammercop pride by the Rekeru Breakaway Boys. Towards mid-June, they appeared to be venturing into other territories, as we would not find them with their own pride for days before eventually reappearing. There are reports from guides that they have been seen towards the Double Cross area.

The Rekeru Breakaway Boys have been spending their time with the Hammercop pride, and we have sighted them quite a few times in the recent past. The two boys are well known in the community areas around the Olkuroto area. These males are sons of Lipstick and Blackie and the two look like a replica of their fathers. One of them looks like Lipstick with a huge dark mane and the other has a smaller mane. It would be suitable to name them Lipstick2 and Blackie2.

Sankai Pride

This pride has moved back from the areas around the Predator Hub, the Maa Trust and the Olpurkel base to their core areas in Naronyo and Kicheche. The four Offbeat boys have fully taken over the pride and they have been mating with some females who are now looking expectant and we may have cubs in July. The pride will have many females if some of their daughters choose to stay with them.



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Iseketa Pride

The Iseketa pride has been faced by a lot of challenges since the Moniko males left them around mid-2017. They originally had five females, but they lost two. One had died at the end of 2016 of what the KWS vets unit called Fibrinous Pneumonia. A post-mortem was carried out and it turned out there were fibre like clotting in the veins. Another female has been missing since August 2017. This was the time when the Moniko males started moving towards the Double Cross area and the Breakaway Boys started taking over the pride, killing some cubs.



There were two breakaway groups from the Iseketa pride. The first had four females and the Croton Island males were with them for the better part of 2016-2017. We have not seen members of this group since 2018. The second group had five females. The two groups tried reuniting with the core pride in 2017-2018 after the Moniko males left. Only one of its members is currently being sighted in the areas close to Enoomorijo. She had four cubs, but one was killed in January inside a boma, where it had injured 23 lambs. The remaining three still hang around the same areas with their mother and they seem to be doing great.

Recently, the Iseketa pride has increased their usage surrounding the community. We have sighted them across the main road and they have been killing livestock on several occasions. When we sighted them in mid-June, one female had an injury on her right hind leg that looked like a sword or spear wound, indicating human-lion conflicts.

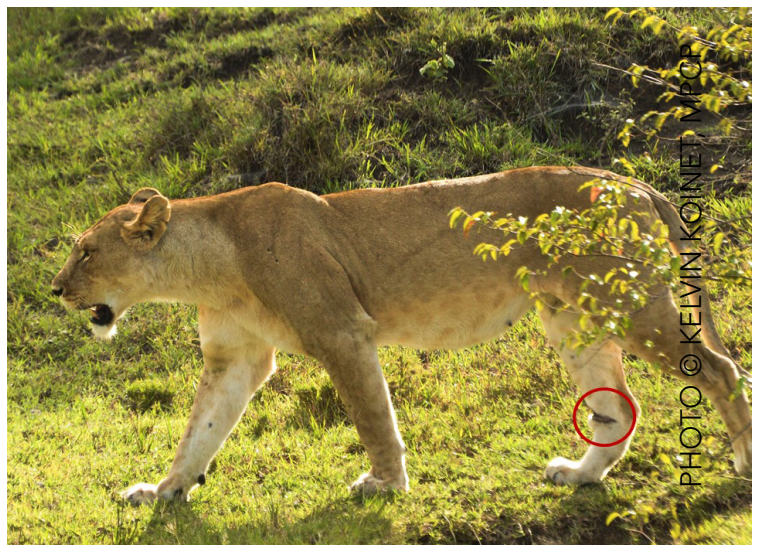




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Hammercop pride

Since the Rekeru Breakaway Boys took over this pride, they have been using the area near Enormorrijo and the OMC air strip. Around mid-last month, we sighted one of the females denning by the lugga on Enormorrijo rivulet. She had new cubs about three months old of which we sighted three.

Oldikdik pride

The Odikdik pride is one of the prides that are thriving in OMC. The pride had eleven cubs late last year, but one female lost two from her litter of three. She later left her remaining cub for rest of the pride to take care of. The female has now three new cubs from March-April 2019. Olerai and Olekiti are doing a great job of taking care of this pride.



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