

PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - EIGHTH EDITION



Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme on cheetahs in Maasai Mara

Kiraposhe's Daughter

Kiraposhe's daughter, from the same litter as Milele & Mbili, who are mostly residing in Mara North Conservancy, was recently seen with a cub in Olarro South Conservancy. We believe this is her second litter as we saw her in July 2018 in Naboisho Conservancy where she was lactating. She most likely lost this litter before she brought them out of the lair. It is usually quite challenging for first time mothers to raise their first set of offspring to independence, and we hope she has better luck this time around.



PHOTO © DANIEL SURURU



PHOTO © DANIEL SURURU

Nasha

Another female that also brought out cubs in Olarro Conservancy is Nasha. She was spotted recently in Olarro South with two small cubs. Nasha's previous litter, that we are aware of, was born mid-July 2016. Here she had four cubs whereof one female is still accounted for.

Kiraposhe

Kiraposhe is also back with a new litter of six small cubs! Olarro Conservancy Warden Daniel Sururu sent us information of a mother with the six tiny fluffy balls and we could ID the mother as Kiraposhe. This female has turned out to be a great mother, successfully raising her previous litters and so we keep our fingers crossed that she also manages with this new litter.

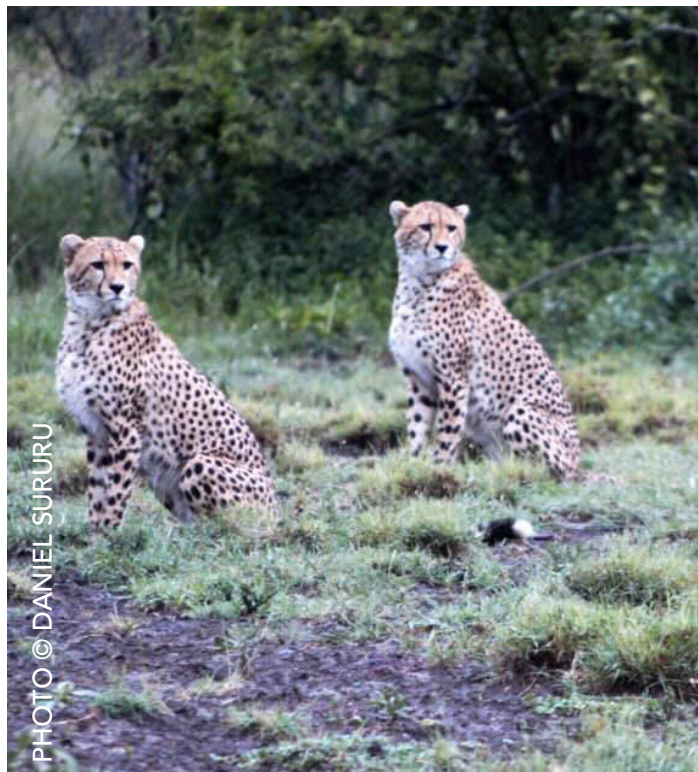


Rosetta's sub-adults

Rosetta's sub-adults, two males and a female, dispersed from their mother at 18 months old around mid-March. This is the first litter that the seven-year-old Rosetta has successfully raised to independence. After separating from their mother, these youngsters have been seen frequenting the different areas their mother had been showing them and they have been demonstrating their hunting skills. Dispersing young of mixed sex usually stick together for six-eight months before the sisters separate from their brothers, who in turn will form a coalition for life.

Nebaati

Five-year-old Nebaati is currently raising her second litter of cubs. In her previous litter of four, two males made it to independence and dispersed. She now has four males to care for, now 15 months old, and they in turn will be dispersing in a few months' time. This family is a commonly sighted in Naboisho and Olkinyei conservancies. It will be interesting to try and follow the sub-adults disperse and perhaps get to witness another great cheetah coalition.



Raisi's sons

Raisi disappeared around mid-December last year with her three sub-adult cubs who were around 10 months at that time. She reappeared in March this year but was alone. We assumed the worst since the cubs were still quite young for dispersal, until three young males show up in Olarro Conservancy. After close examination, we could identify them as the three sons of Raisi. The three youngsters had moved quite a distance, as their mother's home range is in the southern part of the Reserve and the northern Serengeti. However, dispersing males can cover large distances before establishing a territory.

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



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