

PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - TENTH EDITION



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

Kweli

Amani's daughter Kweli gave birth at a remarkably young age at just 25 months! She brought two tiny cubs out of the lair in August in Olare Motorogi Conservancy where she hung around for a bit before crossing to the Reserve. Unfortunately, she lost a cub and so she is left with one. This is normal for first time, young cheetah mothers, as they need experience over time on how to raise cubs successfully.

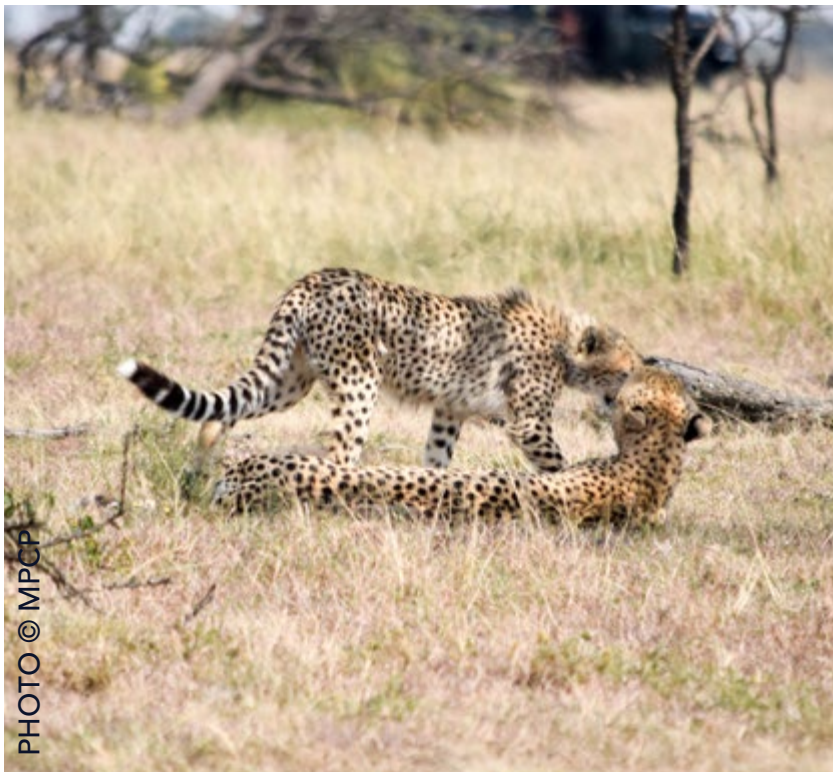


Kiraposhe

Kiraposhe gave birth to six cubs in February this year in Olarro South Conservancy where after she disappeared for a spell before showing up again with four cubs. The remaining cubs have grown remarkably, and we are hoping that they will make it to independence.

New Males

Early this year a coalition of two new males showed up in the Reserve. They enjoyed hanging around Basecamp and Maji ya Fisi areas but occasionally would cross the Talek River to the Olkiombo side. They were a bit shy in the beginning but eventually got used to hanging around vehicles and they don't seem to mind the attention. Recently, we caught up with them in the southern part of the Reserve and it looks like they were moving back up to their favourite hanging spot. The two boys have been named Mkali & Mwanga.

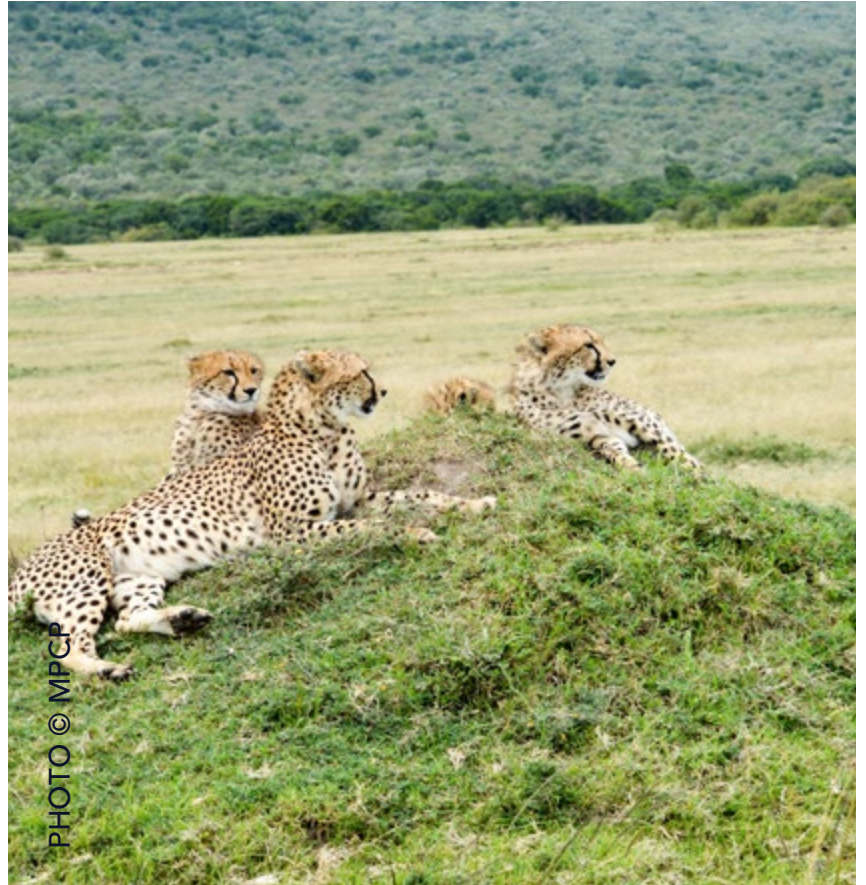


Kuahidi

Ever since she crossed from Olarro Conservancy, Kiraposhe's daughter Kuahidi and her female cub have spent a lot of their time in Naboisho Conservancy. Her daughter is now almost eight months old and has grown big and we hope she will transition to adulthood.

Kisaru

Kisaru has done a tremendous job in raising her six cubs, one male and four females, to around 14 months now. It has been amazing following her journey so far. Recently, three of her daughters separated from the rest and left two females and the male with their mother. It is very early for cheetahs to separate at such a young age and we do not know what exactly transpired, but it is likely that the cause of separation was interference by other lions or people and/or their livestock. However, we do have records of cheetahs dispersing at 12 months of age. We have not seen the three females since they separated but we hope to find them again safe and sound.



Nebaati

Nebaati has also been doing a great job in raising litters to independence successfully. She recently raised four boys to adulthood and they all managed to disperse. A few weeks ago, we caught up with Nebaati in Olare Motorogi Conservancy and it is likely she is already pregnant again.

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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