

PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - ELEVENTH EDITION

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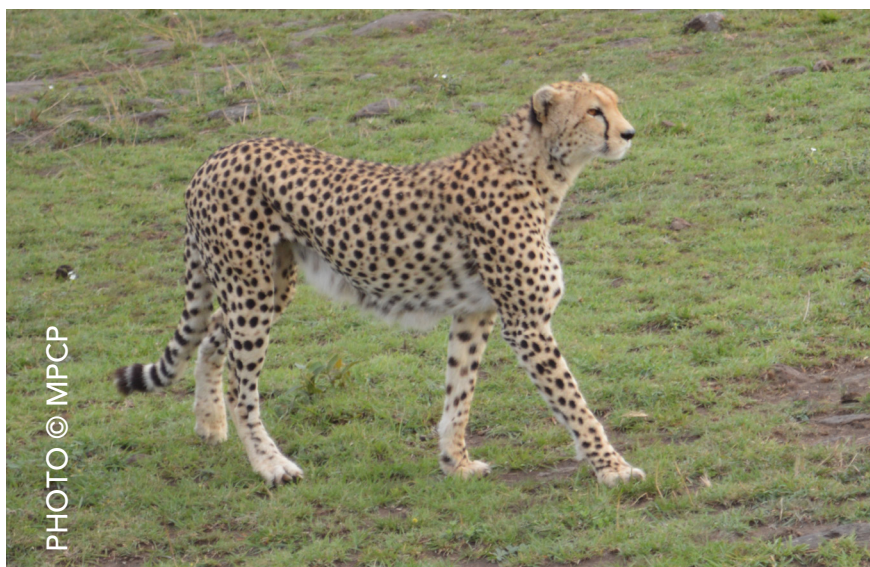
Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme
on cheetahs in Maasai Mara

Sila

Selenkei's daughter Sila recently showed up with 3 cubs in Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC). Sila was part of a litter of 4 born in January 2018 and who dispersed in June 2019. After dispersing, Sila and her 3 brothers were joined by another young male who was unfamiliar to MPCP at the time, and they spent a lot of time in community areas. Our last sighting of them all together was in mid-August 2019 and we saw Sila alone towards the end of that month back in OMC. The males disappeared completely, and we haven't seen them since. After more than a year of absence, Sila reappeared in OMC with 3-seven



months old cubs. To make things more interesting, Sila and her cubs have been joined by Selenkei's 14.5 months old son who recently dispersed from Selenkei, and this young relative has been with them for a month now.



Musiara

In late October towards the end of our intensive monitoring session, we came across Musiara in the Mara Triangle. This was particular interesting because she is one of the few cheetahs who we know uses both sides of the Mara River. Furthermore, we were delighted to observe that she was lactating, which was also very exciting.

Rosetta's Boys

Ever since they dispersed early this year, Rosetta's Boys, who local guides named Ruka & Rafiki, have been sighted frequently, which is great as most young males disperse and disappear completely. The young males have chosen to settle in the northern part of the Reserve around the Rhino Ridge area, Paradise Plains, Topi Plains and up to the Musiara Marsh area. This is positive news as we haven't had resident territorial males in that area in a long time.



Chai Males

The three Chai males, who MPCP reported for the first time in August last year in the National Reserve and early this year in Naboisho Conservancy, have mysteriously split up and we are only seeing two of them. We really don't know what happened to the third one or why they chose to separate.

Imani

8-year-old Imani hasn't had a lot of luck raising cubs over the last couple of years and was losing all her litters. The good news is she recently brought 4 small cubs out of the lair in the National Reserve! Up to 75% of cheetah cubs don't survive within the first three months of life when the cubs are most vulnerable. But, knowing that Imani has successfully raised a litter of cubs previously, we are hopeful that she will have better luck this time.



Nebaati

Naborr's daughter Nebaati is one Mara's very successful cheetah mothers having raised two successful litters to date at an age of only 5 years. Born in 2015, she has so far raised a total of 6 cheetahs, all males, to independence. Towards the end of November, Nebaati was back again with new cubs. She brought four tiny fluffy balls out of the lair in Naboisho Conservancy. She is currently in Ol Kinyei Conservancy but has already lost one of the cubs. Good luck Nebaati!

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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