PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 14TH EDITION

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

EM Male

The EM male is an individual who resides mostly in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy and occasionally shows up in Naboisho too. Our first sighting of him was in 2018. He tends to mostly use the whistling thorn areas or places with dense vegetation and so sightings of him tend to be rare and go unnoticed. Our last sighting of him was early last year and it seemed that he had a confrontation with Kiraposhe's Boys, Milele and Mbili and he appeared to be injured. He disappeared and we assumed the worst, but he surprised us a month ago when he showed up in Naboisho Conservancy in good condition.





Kiraposhe

It was super exciting seeing Kiraposhe with three small cubs towards the end of October. She had gone missing for a while after her cubs successfully dispersed in May. She has had three previous litters and so this will be her fourth. She has a good record in raising litters to independence and so we hope that she has the same luck in raising this group of three new cubs to independence as well.

Leteipa

Leteipa and Lemara were a coalition of two males that were born by Imani in 2015 together with their sister Selenkei. Since then, they had established a territory in Ol Kinyei and Naboisho conservancies and they were a common sighting. They started to disappear for some time and we suspected that they were spending time in the community area east of Ol Kinyei Conservancy. A few months ago, Leteipa showed up in Ol Kinyei Conservancy and he was alone. Since then, he has been a frequent sighting mostly in Naboisho Conservancy while his brother Lemara has not shown himself again. We highly suspect that he has been killed.





New Cheetahs

Last month as we were visiting Olarro Conservancy as part of our intensive monitoring session, and we came across a group of three sub-adult cheetahs that were quite shy and we were not familiar with them. From the nature of their behaviour, we could tell that they were not used to vehicles, potentially coming from an unprotected area. It's not uncommon that we have sightings of new cheetahs in Olarro Conservancy, and we suspect that these individuals are coming from community areas bordering the conservancy.

Dartonian/Orpadan

Most people are probably aware that the 5 Musketeers/the Tano Bora Male coalition split up and how they turned on Orpadan. He was able to fully recover from the attack and he is doing well on his own. He has been a frequent sighting in the National Reserve and is doing a lot of exploring on his own and seems to be keeping a low profile, probably to avoid another confrontation with his former coalition mates. His eye injury has healed up well and so far, he has been hunting successfully and so it looks that he will be just fine on his own.





Kisaru's Daughter

Kisaru's daughter from her 2019 litter of six cubs has had her first litter recently and the guides in Lemek Conservancy confirmed a sighting of seven cubs! The cubs were still very small and still in the lair and had not opened their eyes yet. We advise guides and tourists to stay clear of the denning sites so as not to attract attention of other predators and stress the cheetahs in general. We contacted the conservancy warden, and he had his rangers close of the area until the mother is ready to take her cubs out and about. Unfortunately, the mother only came out with 2/7 cubs.

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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