PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 15TH EDITION

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

Selenkei

Imani's daughter, Selenkei, has now successfully raised two litters to independence. One litter from 2018 included her daughter Sila and three males who disappeared after dispersal and were not seen again, and one male that she successfully raised in 2019. Selenkei had another litter of four cubs in 2020, but she lost the entire litter due to an injury in her rear limb that prevented her from successfully hunting for a while. She was sighted with five small cubs in Naboisho Conservancy earlier this year, but she sadly lost two of them soon after. She subsequently crossed over to Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC), where she lost another cub in the Motorogi area, bringing her total cubs down to two. We're hoping for the best with the remaining cubs.





Sila

Selenkei's daughter, Sila, has successfully raised her first litter to independence. Most people know her after she adopted her younger brother, who had just dispersed from Selenkei, and they stayed together for a couple of months until he was ready to leave and start his solitary life. A few months after he left, Sila's offspring, two females and a male, also left their mother. They have so far been spotted in the National Reserve together, and recently one of the daughters was seen in Naboisho Conservancy. The good news is, that Sila has also been hanging around Iseketa within OMC and she looks like she is lactating, so she might be having cubs hidden somewhere around.

Nashula

Nashula is a female cheetah who surfaced in the southern part of the national reserve early last year with three cubs in tow. We couldn't figure out who she was, so we suspected she was a new cheetah in the Mara, probably from the Serengeti. She roamed around Sand River for a while before moving to Siana Conservancy and settling there, preferring that area because of the short grass as compared to the southern part, where the grass is very tall. We are glad to report that she has successfully raised the three cubs, two males, and a female, to independence, and that they have been spotted frequently in Siana Conservancy, doing well so far.





Kweli

Amani's daughter, Kweli, has been having a difficult time trying to raise cubs. She had her first litter of two cubs in 2020 and she lost them both. She again tried in 2021 whereby she had a litter of five and she ended up losing them all again soon after. In the middle of December last year though, she brought 3 tiny cubs out of the lair in Olare Motorogi Conservancy and so far she has been doing a good job in raising them. They are currently in Mara North Conservancy and she still has all three cubs with her.

Olarishani

We lost another musketeer named Olarishani by the local guides just a few weeks after Dartonian (Olpadan) was killed. He was found dead in the National reserve with his body covered with bite wounds. After the vet examined the wounds, he concluded that the injuries were likely caused by an attack by other cheetahs. The Musketeers, who were once a formidable force of five cheetahs, are now down to three.



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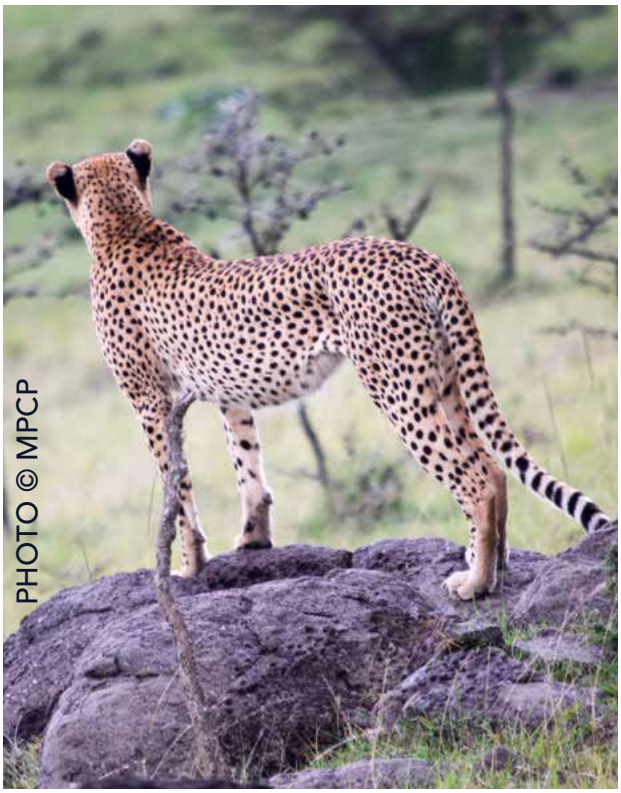


PHOTO © MPCP

Mwanga

Mkali and Mwanga are part of a cheetah coalition that first appeared in the National Reserve towards the end of 2019 and since we couldn't find them in our database, we suspected they were new individuals from the Serengeti. They established a territory around the Basecamp area near Talek and occasionally crossed the Talek River to the Olkiombo area, sometimes even to the Topi Plains area. In 2021 they started showing up in Olare Motorogi Conservancy and also crossing over to Naboisho Conservancy.

In September 2021 though, we got a call from the guides that there was a lone male with a deep wound on his hind right leg in the Olkiombo area and apparently he was attacked by a leopard. The injured male turned out to be Mwanga and he was treated by the vets and recovered, but his coalition partner Mkali was missing and has not been seen again. Mwanga also disappeared for a while but he recently showed up in Naboisho Conservancy seeming in good shape.

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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