PREDATOR POST

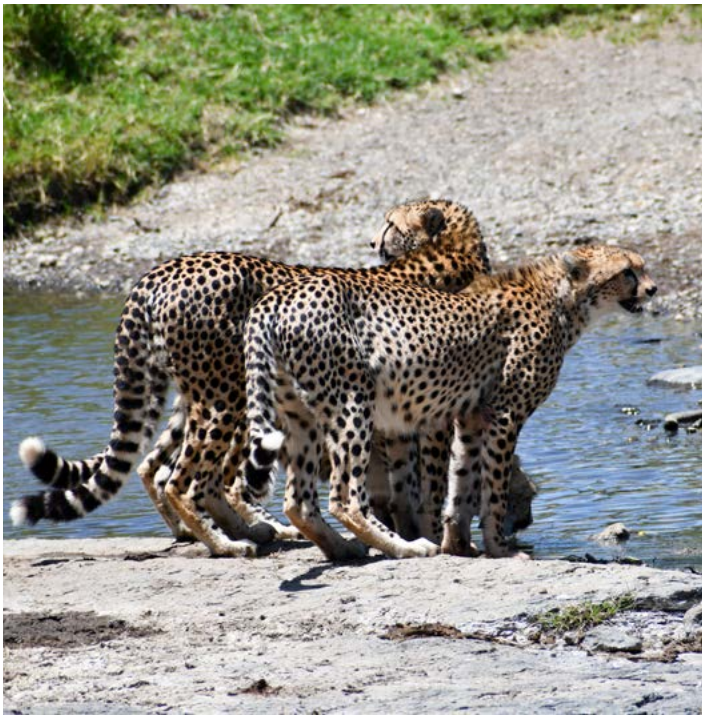
CHEETAH CHAT - 16TH EDITION

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

Kulete

Amani's daughter Kulete has been an excellent mother to her first litter. She brought four cubs out of the lair in March 2021 in Olare Motorogi Conservancy and moved to Naboisho Conservancy shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, she lost one male cub to lions in August and another cub in December 2021.

So far, she seems to be doing well with her remaining litter of two sons, after the two unfortunate incidences. The cubs are about 16 months old. The cheetahs have been doing a bit of exploring lately, spending a few days in the National Reserve before moving back to Olare Motorogi Conservancy and then again to Naboisho Conservancy where they currently are residing.





Hodari

Ten-year-old Hodari is the oldest male cheetah we currently have around. He was born in a litter of four cubs in 2012 and was able to survive to independence with his sister Imani. Unfortunately, he didn't have the privilege of having a brother or forming a coalition with any other males, and so he has been a loner. Being a floater male led us to collar Hodari in 2017 to monitor his spatial movements. Data from the collar showed that he made frequent visits to the Serengeti. The collar was removed in early 2018. He stayed around for a while before disappearing again in 2019. He returned in 2021 and has frequently been sighted in the National Reserve this year looking in good condition for his age.

Rahisi

Eight-year-old Rahisi has so far had two successful litters. We recorded her first litter in 2019, where she was able to raise three male cubs to independence.

Last year, towards the end of September, she was seen crossing the Sand River to Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, and she is one of the females that have a home range extending to the Serengeti. Towards the end of April this year, we caught up with her and she seemed to have lost two cubs, so she remains with three.
The cubs are of a good size now and we hope that they make it to independence.





Siligi

Siligi became an overnight sensation when she brought seven cubs out of the lair back in 2019. Unfortunately, we only saw her with one large female cub from that litter the following year and we don't know if she survived. In April last year, she brought five cubs out of the lair in the National Reserve but lost one cub on the same day to lions. She did well with the remaining four cubs and moved further south to the Sand River, where she disappeared for almost a year until we caught up with her a few weeks ago.
We were delighted to see her with three large male cubs that are almost 14 months old.

Three Musketeers

The three remaining males of this impressive male coalition continue to show their hunting prowess as they continue to provide great hunting sightings to the coalition's enthusiasts and tourists alike. They are still commonly sighted in the Tipilikwani signboard areas, and they still make occasional trips across the Talek River to the Olkiombo and Kananga areas and up to Olare Motorogi conservancy.
You can read the story behind the former five male coalition here. They are currently in Naboisho Conservancy, where the story of the five male coalition began.





Entito & Cubs

Entito gave birth to four cubs in April last year in Naboisho Conservancy and we were with her when she brought them out of the lair just over two months later. She lost one cub a few months later but was doing a great job raising the three remaining cubs. Towards the end of April this year, Entito's 12-month-old cubs were seen alone in Naboisho, and they seemed distressed and calling for their mother. They stayed in the same area for two days, still looking and calling, but unfortunately, Entito was nowhere to be seen, and we fear that she might have been killed.

The cubs have previously been sighted outside in the community area close to Nkoilale, and recent reports indicated that they were in Ol Kinyei Conservancy. We hope that they will continue to stay in the protected areas, but their chances of survival are not high becoming independent at only 12 months old.

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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