PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 17TH EDITION

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

Jasiri

Four-year-old Jasiri is Amani's son from her last litter. He is from the same litter as Kweli & Kulete and they dispersed in October 2019.

He was travelling long distances after he left his sisters and was seen in Olarro, Naboisho and Olare Motorogi conservancies and the National Reserve.

Over the last couple of months, he has been a frequent sighting in the southern part of the Reserve and ever since the two Sopa males have disappeared, he seems to have taken over that area. We found him a few weeks ago in the Oloolaimutia/Sopa area and he looks to be in good shape.





Risasi

Rosetta's daughter Risasi dispersed with her two brothers Ruka and Rafiki back in March 2020. She settled in the National Reserve for a while and we saw her looking pregnant on two occasions but she never successfully brought cubs out of the lair.

Last year, her two brothers crossed to the Mara triangle and later on she was spotted there as well, looking heavily pregnant. A couple of months ago she brought four cubs out of the lair.

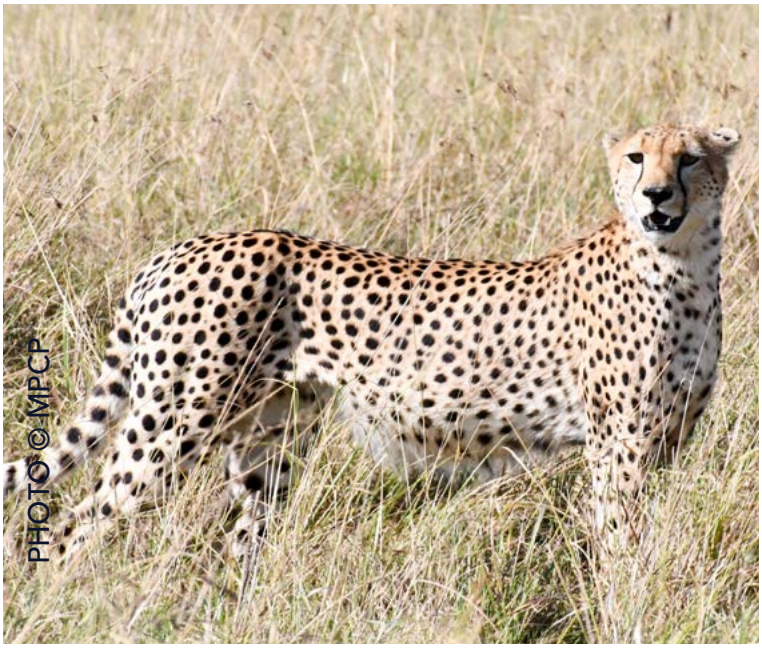
Unfortunately, rangers found one of her cubs dead, but her three remaining cubs are doing well and we hope she has better luck raising this litter.

New Male

On our visit to the Mara Triangle last month as part of our intensive monitoring session, we came across an adult male who we did not recognise.

Although he probably came from the Serengeti, he was surprising calm and very tolerant to vehicles during our first encounter with him.

The Serengeti cheetahs we encounter are usually quite shy. He was most likely following the wildebeest migration.





Entito's Daughter

Entito disappeared mysteriously in April this year and without a carcass we can only speculate as to what transpired. She left three daughters behind who had to suddenly fend for themselves at an age of only 12 months.

The three sisters were seen briefly in Olkinyei Conservancy where after they vanished.

In October however, one of the daughters was sighted in Naboisho Conservancy, and despite all odds she seemed to be doing fine.

Nashipae

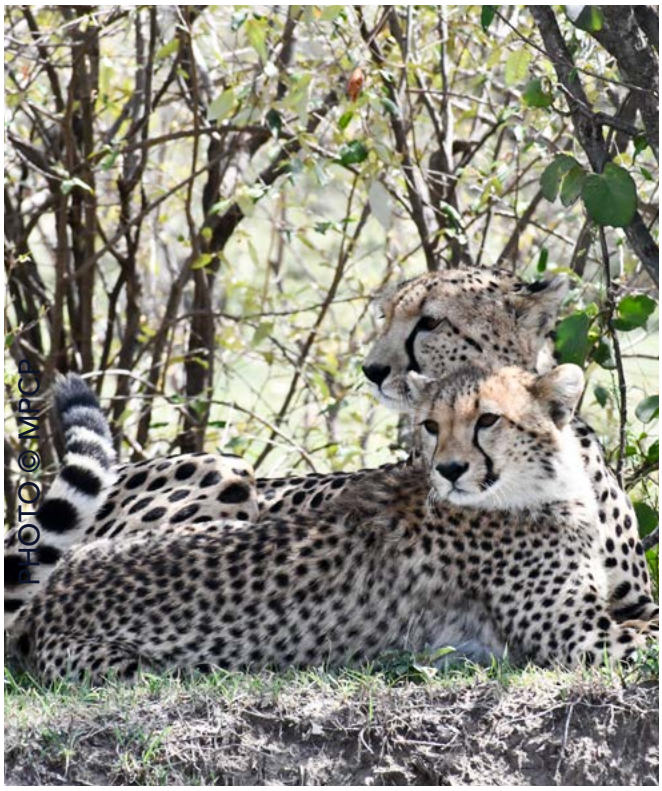
Ever since raising her first successful litter of two cubs in May 2020, Musiara's daughter Nashipae has not had any luck raising another litter. She was able to raise one male and one female to independence who the local guides named Namelok and Ngao.
Unfortunately, when the cubs dispersed and crossed the Mara River to the Triangle, her daughter Namelok was sadly killed by lions.
Nashipae has since then been seen nursing on two different occasions but has not been able to bring cubs out of the lair.
We caught up with her a few days ago and she seems to be pregnant and hopefully she might have better chance this time.



Imani

Ten year old Imani has so far had six litters but she has only managed to raise one litter to independence. Born in 2012 with her brother Hodari, she is the mother to Selenkei, Lemara and Leteipa.
She has been losing litters frequently with her two concurrent litters being killed by lions, but it is likely that mass tourism has played a major role in this as vehicle gatherings can attract curious lions to denning sites.
Although it is unlikely for cheetahs of her age to raise more cubs, we first saw her to be lactating and later we heard that she was seen walking around with three cubs, but always overcrowded with vehicles.
Unless they are protected the chances of cub survival are slim.





Selenkei

Imani's daughter Selenkei brought five cubs out of the lair in Naboisho conservancy towards the end of January. She lost two cubs fairly quickly to lions before moving to Olare Motorogi Conservancy with her three remaining cubs but unfortunately lost another cub in the Motorogi area of the conservancy.

She then proceeded to the National Reserve which she rarely visits and sadly again lost another cub to lions. After that, she went back to Naboisho Conservancy with her last remaining cub and has been going back and forth between there and Ol Kinyei Conservancy.

The remaining cub, who is a male, is doing well and is now 13 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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