PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS MNC - SEVENTH EDITION

DECEMBER - 2022

Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme on lions in Mara North Conservancy

Iseketa males

This powerful male coalition continues to expand their ranging area in search for prides to take over. They began their adventure with the Offbeat pride, moved onto the Cheli core pride, then the Serian pride followed by the Oloisukut (Pusinkariak) pride and now what remains of the Lemek pride. They sired cubs with all the previous prides and are now busy acquiring new cubs with the Lemek females.

Unfortunately, the males do not raise many of their offspring to independence before moving on. This means that when it comes to access to females the males are very successful, but regarding reproductive success, which is what counts in biology, they are not doing well at all.

They have also shown some odd behaviour where one of the males was trying to protect some non-related cubs while taking over the Lemek pride.





Oronkai licking one of these cubs.





Offbeat Pride

This pride has been one of the most difficult ones for us to monitor over the years due to their elusiveness and habitat use.

The original six adult females that were present when we began studying this pride are all gone, and it is their second-generation offspring, fathered by Jesse and Frank in 2015 who are now heading up the pride.

Of the eight females that survived to adulthood from that litter, six are being seen on a regular basis.

They too have been under a lot of pressure from several male coalitions, but they now seem to be stable with the five Engoyanai males.

Cheli Core Pride

Scarlet, Numba and Angavu are taking care of the seven remaining large cubs out of the original nine that were born. They are fathered by Olerai and Olekiti, who now are assumed dead.
The group is not having an easy time as they constantly need to be on the lookout from the dangers of intruding males, as the Cheli pride doesn't have any males to protect them.
It seems however they have adapted to the situation and the mothers know when to separate from and reunite with their cubs.
Amber and her daughter have separated from the main group for the time being and are keeping the incoming males occupied with mating sessions. Amber's son Olomunyak is still seen either alone or together with the main group. Amber is one of the oldest Mara females with her impressive 14 years of age.







Serian pride

Tough luck continues to strike the Serian pride. After the four Iseketa pride males left the area, the pride was once again vulnerable to intruding lions. The Marsh pride with their two pride males needed an escape from their core territory in the Marsh and saw an opportunity to move into the Serian pride's territory and easily displaced the pride, forcing them to leave.
They moved towards the MNC airstrip and Lemek Conservancy and found a place around Naserian Camp where they could be left alone. The four Iseketa males had also moved to Lemek Conservancy, but they were further to the east being occupied by the remaining Lemek pride females.
The Serian pride stayed in the conservancy for a good while but eventually left. Before they did so, the adult female Mpishi had gone missing, and we do not know where she currently is.
After leaving Lemek, the pride split up and Nairoshi was seen back in MNC with most of their offspring from their 2021 litter, which include 4 males and 5 females.
The adult females Nasarian and Swako were also back in MNC and were in the company of the remaining female from their 2020 litter. This was before the Marsh pride retreated to the Marsh.
We hope that the pride will reunite and resettle in their usual ranging area now that the Marsh pride has left.

Marsh Pride

Escaping the pressure of constant intrusion by different male lions and cattle, the Marsh pride moved into MNC. It is not uncommon for the pride to utilise MNC, but they usual stay around Leopard Gorge and its surrounding areas.
What was unusual was the fact that they moved and settled all the way up by the Serian area, displacing the Serian pride in the process, making it a home for a spell. The current pride is comprised of the adult females Dada, Kito, Rembo and Lola, three males and two females from their mid 2021 litter and one male cub.
Lola lost one of her cubs from her litter in June and remains with the one male cub.
After Logol was killed by rival males, the pride stayed for another couple of weeks in MNC before finally moving back to the Marsh area in the Reserve.
All the members are accounted for. The latest news is the pride is back in MNC.









Halftail & Logol

These two pride males were trying it on with MNC females long before they got engaged with the Marsh pride.

Prior to this they were both solitaries. Halftail, who was born in the Purungat pride in the Mara Triangle, and Logol, who was born into the Iseketa pride in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy (OMC), met up in OMC in 2018 before moving on to MNC the following year.
After an unsuccessful attempt in MNC they went to the National Reserve and fully took over the Marsh pride in 2020. In August this year, the two males took the Marsh pride to the Serian side of MNC to evade cattle and nomadic males in the Marsh area, but their greed to constantly search for and gain access to more females turned out to be fatal for Logol, who was killed by three out of the five Engoyanai males near Elephant Pepper Camp in the core on the conservancy.
Halftail remained in MNC after the Marsh pride went back to the Marsh a few weeks after Logol was killed, but they were recently reunited after the pride returned to MNC.
The latest news is that the Serian pride is back in their ususal area, the Marsh pride is by the Leopard Gorge and Half Tail is moving between the two prides.

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