PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS NABOISHO- ELEVENTH EDITION

DECEMBER - 2022

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

Enesikiria core pride

The Enesikiria pride is under a lot of pressure from the Ilkisiusiu pride and its many sub-groups. Their four sons and one daughter from their mid 2020 litter have left and the two pride females Akilah and Jasmina have given birth to new litters, totaling six cubs.
Unfortunately, it seems that only three are still alive.



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Enesikiria pride Breakaway group

The three remaining pride members Namelock, Enchore and Naisudori and their six surviving cubs from their 2021 litter are moving over a much larger area as they are without pride males. They shifted their usual space-use around Encounter Mara Camp towards Nashulai Conservancy and lost a cub in the process.
They eventually returned to their usual spot and seem to be comfortable there for the time being. The six cubs are composed of three males and three females.

Ilkisiusiu pride

The Ilkisiusiu pride continues to be the most numerous resident pride in the conservancy and the most we have seen together at any one time are 20 individuals.
There is a group of five including four females and one male that seems to have split off permanently and are hanging around an area called Ndorobo. Most of the youngsters in the pride are from the litters in 2020, totalling 23 subs, from which 10 are female and 13 are male. As there is limited space around the core area of the pride, besides all the sons, most of the daughters will probably disperse as well, especially if the fathers stick around.









Koka Male Coalition

The two Koka males Oloiborkwe and his partner Kiminati were recently seen in the Ilkisiusiu lion territory, chasing one of the female subs around.
The males are aware of the powerful Rongai males and are only trying their luck when they are not around. Otherwise these two Koka males are mostly staying close to their Moliban pride. Oloiborkwe was born in the Koka pride while Kiminati is an unrelated partner whose natal pride is unknown to us.

Sampu Enkare Breakaway pride

The pride is currently composed of five adult females, 10 sub-adult females, three sub-adult males, one large male cub and one large female cub, making them 20 in total. The two Maji ya Fisi males are with them most of the time. Although the pride still moves between Ol Kinyei and Naboisho conservancies, we have recently noticed a split in the pride into two groups with one group in each conservancy. We have seen the pride move as far as the core area of the Sampu Enkare pride around the Rocky Crossing.







Sampu Enkare Pride

Talk about a pride being stuck in the middle, being surrounded by all the other Naboisho prides.
Despite the odds, this small pride is still able to keep the three 19 month old sub-females from Esiriwua's daughter's litter alive and well. We have now named Esiriwua's daughter Nareku. Lokoman, who lost all her cubs is pregnant and we will soon be seeing new cubs.

Rongai males

These three males have had a terrific reproductive success, but for this to truly manifest itself they need to be replaced by new males once their daughters become receptive. If the males stay, then all their daughters will be forced to move on which will decrease their chances of survival. If anyone stays, inbreeding will take place which will decrease the genetic diversity.







Moliban Pride

This elusive pride moves between Naboisho and Olerai conservancies. They are quite shy and not too habituated to vehicles. There are two pride females and eight cubs (4 males, 3 females and 1 unk) from three different litters, ranging from 4-7 months old. There was a third adult female, but she has disappeared. The fathers of the cubs are the two Koka males Oloiborkwe and Kiminati.
We recently deployed a collar on one of the females to gain more insight into their ranging patterns, especially since they move in areas with high cattle pressure.

Ron2

The famous Rekero male Ron2 was back in Naboisho Conservancy, after being seen previously in Ol Kinyei Conservancy.
Although we have no evidence, his brothers are most likely dead as Ron2 was alone during the last sightings of him in Siana, Ol Kinyei and now Naboisho conservancies, respectively.
He was only on a transfer through the conservancy. His job there is done, and we do not want him to mate with any of the females as he is related to many of them from his time when he had pride tenure in the conservancy.



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