PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 18TH EDITION

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

Nagol

Musiara's daughter Neema gave birth to her first litter at the end of December 2020 in Olare Motorogi Conservancy. She successfully raised all three cubs to independence as they dispersed in March 2022. The youngsters, two females and a male, whom the local guides named Nagol, Nasieku & Noma, stayed together for about two months, but the female Nagol separated from the two siblings and started her independent life early.

Nagol seemed to prefer the northern part of the Reserve while her sister Nasieku, who left her brother at a later stage went to Mara North and Lemek areas. Their brother Noma has been missing for a while now and we do not know where he dispersed to. This year Nagol was found to have difficulties with walking and was in a bad state with no physical injuries. The local vet was called and proceeded to administer treatment with no immobilization and Nagol successfully recovered.





Sila

Selenkei's daughter Sila gave birth to two cubs in May 2022 in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy (OMC). This is her second litter after successfully raising two females and a male to independence in 2021.

She lost one cub from the current litter in September last year but has been doing well with her remaining male cub and spending a lot of time recently in OMC. The male cub is now a year old, and we hope he makes it to independence.

Kweli

Amani's daughter Kweli brought three cubs out of the lair in October 2021 in OMC. She was spending a lot of time in Mara North Conservancy (MNC) for the better part of 2022 but occasionally crossed to OMC until recently, when she settled full time within OMC and where she has regularly been sighted.

The sub-adults eventually dispersed on February 25th, at the age of 16 months, which is the average age for Mara cheetah dispersal.





Milele & Mbili

Kiraposhe's boys, Milele and Mbili, continue to thrive and expanded their range to Naboisho Conservancy late last year. In January of this year, we received reports that one of the males, Milele was limping badly.

After a close examination, it appeared that the injury was likely a sprain as there was no visible open wound or physical injury, we suspected that he probably got the injury from prey while hunting, as we have seen similar cases previously.

As usually happens, they recover quickly by themselves, and he is now much improved.

Imani

10-year-old Imani has had a very poor cub recruitment success rate over the last many years, and her last litter was no exception. She brought three cubs out of the lair towards the end of last year but again lost the entire litter soon after.
Tourism vehicles overcrowding cheetah sightings is a major loss for the loss of the cubs because they obscure the cheetah surrounding visibility from oncoming lions and hyenas and who are often attracted to areas where many vehicles congregate. Our data has shown that there is a strong negative correlation between a high number of tourist vehicles and cheetah cub recruitment.



Nolari

Nolari is one of the oldest females we have in the Mara, and she is also one of the adult female resident cheetahs in the National Reserve.
She is almost 11 years old but hasn't had much luck raising cubs to independence, much like Imani. In October last year, she was seen with one cub in the Reserve, but she lost it soon thereafter before even bringing it out of the lair.
This year, though, she gave birth to one cub in February near the Balloon Crossing area. The cub is still alive and we hope she succeeds in raising it to independence.





Nashipae

Musiara's daughter Nashipae, raised her first successful litter to independence in 2021, a male named Ngao and a female named Namelok. Namelok, unfortunately, died from a lion attack in the Mara Triangle. Nashipae has however not had much luck raising another litter since.

We have seen her looking heavily pregnant on several occasions and so it seems she has been losing her cubs. We caught up with her recently, and a few days later she was seen mating with Olonyok and Winda, the two last remaining Musketeers, so hopefully, we will be seeing new cubs soon.

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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