PREDATOR POST

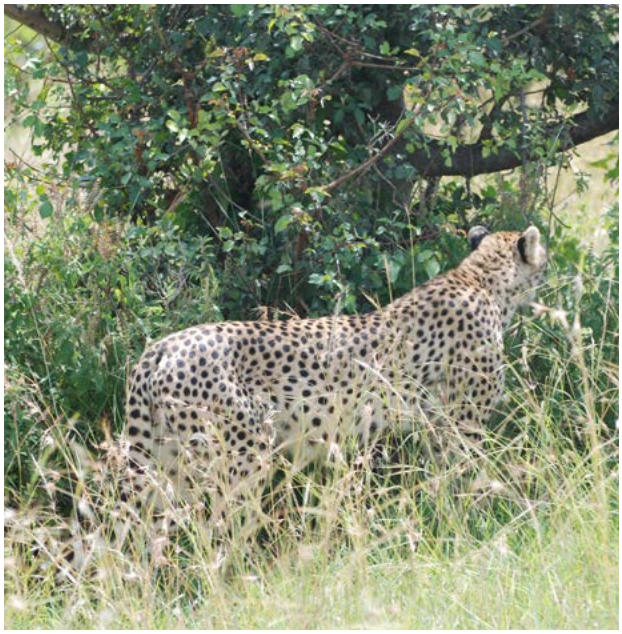
CHEETAH CHAT - 19TH EDITION

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

Nashula's daughter Neboo

Our first encounter with Nashula was in April 2021 when she appeared along the Mara Serengeti border with three cubs that were approximately six months old. We could not identify her in our database so we knew that she must have come from the Serengeti. She successfully raised the three cubs to independence as the sub-adults dispersed in early 2022.

The family disappeared for a while, but we are happy to report that Nashula's daughter, whom the guides have named Neboo, has returned and was first seen with four cubs along the border, but a few days later we found her with only three cubs.





Nolari

Amani's daughter Kisaru gave birth to her second litter in August 2021, and she was able to raise two cubs to independence as they successfully dispersed in February this year. The sub-adults, one of each sex, stayed together for a while before separating.

We are happy to report that both youngsters have been sighted, with the female seen as far as Oloisukut Conservancy. The male, whom the guides have named Olomunyak, which means the lucky one in Maa, has been a frequent sighting in Mara North and Lemek conservancies, and more recently in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy, crossing over to Naboisho Conservancy.
He has really grown into an impressive young male.



New males

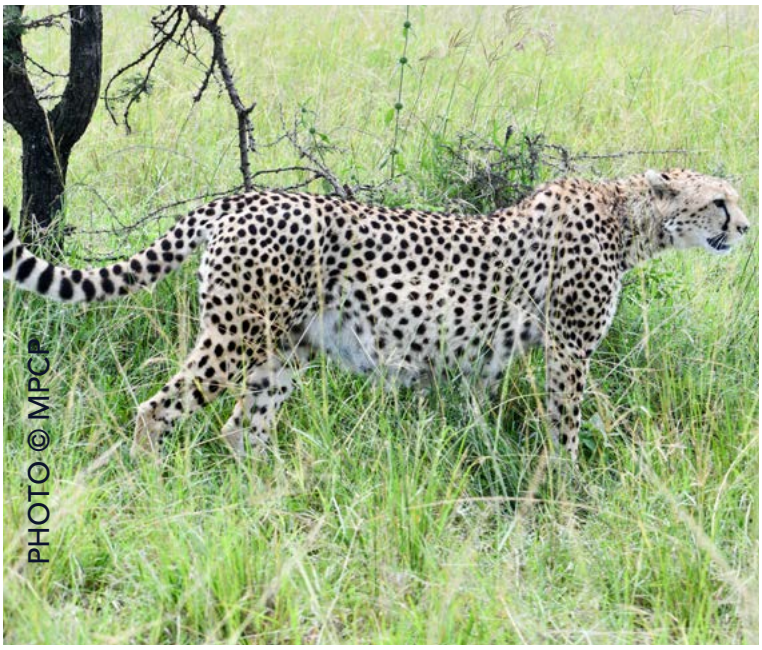
During our recent trip to Ripoi Conservancy, we came across three shy adult male cheetahs who were new to us. Shy and timid cheetahs usually mean that they have not had much interaction with vehicles and when seen in the eastern conservancies it also indicates that they originate from outside protected areas.

The good news is that it looks like the males have settled there and are getting habituated to vehicles and they are now a common sighting in Ripoi Conservancy. The guides have decided to name them Snap, Crackle, and Pop.

Neema

Musiara's daughter Neema had her first successful litter of three cubs in 2020 and they dispersed in March last year. The litter consisted of two females, Nagol and Nariku, and a male named Noma by the local guides.

Ever since then, Neema has not had much luck in raising another litter even though we have seen her on several occasions looking pregnant. A few weeks ago, she was spotted in Mara North Conservancy, and it looks like she was denning and lactating so hopefully she might bring out some cubs soon.





Musketeers

Ever since losing three members of this fascinating five-male coalition in a span of seven months last year, the last remaining members of the Musketeers have been doing well on their own.
The two males, Winda and Olonyok, are still a frequent sighting in their usual territory mostly seen by Tipilikwani signboards area and the Hammerkop area in the National Reserve.

After becoming only two members, they have not had much interest in Olare-Mototrogi Conservancy which they used to frequently visit. The two remaining males are however still big and strong enough to take down large prey like topi and wildebeest.

New female

Also, while in Ripoi Conservancy, we encountered an adult female cheetah who was shy but not as much as the three males. This female is also new to us.

We are thrilled to encounter and document new individuals as they add to the existing Mara cheetah population.





Nebaati's daughter

Nebaati had a litter of four cubs in September 2020, but she only managed to raise two cubs to independence, both female. The sub-adults dispersed in early 2022 and interestingly the two females were inseparable and stayed together for almost seven months which is a bit longer than usual.

We are happy to report that one female was recently spotted in Ripoi Conservancy which was exciting as both females were missing for a while ever since they separated. Recently, she showed up in Naboisho Conservancy where she was born and raised.

Interesting event

Kweli's three sub-adults, two males and a female, left their mother in February this year to start their life of independence.
In July, the three siblings crossed paths with Sila and her male cub, who is seven months younger than Kweli's offspring.

Interestingly, Sila left her cub with the three older cheetahs, and they have been together ever since. The female in the group will leave the males soon and hopefully, Sila's son will remain with Kweli's boys and form a permanent three-male coalition.



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

MaraPredatorConservation @marapredatorconservation @MaraPredator

www.marapredatorconservation.org