PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS NABOISHO- TWELFTH EDITION

AUGUST - 2023

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

Enesikiria core pride

Akilah and Jasmina and their daughter from the 2020 litter and Akilah's three almost one-year-old cubs are doing well. However, they have moved further south away from their original core territory. This shift could be attributed to the presence of the formidable Ilkisiusu pride, to ensure the safety of their small cubs. The controlling Rongai males have also shifted further south away from the Ilkisiusiu pride and are more frequently seen with the Enesikiria pride.

Only one out of the three sub-adult males from the 2020 litter has been seen recently, on his own. We can only hope that the Rongai males will leave the Eneskiria pride for good so that their daughter can continue with her pride and not be forced to disperse.

The pride is small and vulnerable, and is easily pushed around by other groups of lions, so it is essential that the pride can increase its numbers.





Enesikiria Breakaway pride

This pride has been venturing far south in Naboisho after they lost their pride males. They are now back around their usual territory around Encounter Mara.

The pride has brought seven cubs out of hiding, 8-10 weeks old. The Rongai males are the likely fathers.



Sampu Enkare Pride

The Sampu Enkare pride is under the control of the Rongai males, and Lokoman and Nariku have been mating with them. While these two females have occasionally been seen with Maji ya fisi males in the past, there has been no sightings of the Maji males for a while now. Nariku's three daughters always stick together, keeping their distance from the Rongai males. These females are still young and not ready to mate just yet.

The survival of these three daughters is crucial for the Sampu Enkare pride, which has experienced many cub losses over the years. Over the last nine years, eight different male coalitions have tried their luck with this pride. When one of the more recent pride males was killed by the Rongai males and the pride was taken over by the Maji males, the three females faced hardships, but Lokoman and Nariku's bravery and clever tactics helped them to survive.

Sampu Enkare Breakaway pride

As the second-largest pride in Naboisho, this pride frequently moves between Olkinyei and Naboisho conservancies. The male and female sub-adults are often seen together, spending time as a close-knit group but maintaining a safe distance from the adults.

The Lemuny pride's Ilkisiusiu males have expanded their territory and moved further east and south and have been seen with members of this pride. With the absence of the Maji ya Fisi males, the Ilkisiusiu males might soon be taking over the pride.





Moliban Pride

This pride is still spending much of their time in the western part of Naboisho Conservancy. The pride has become more habituated to human activity and is seen more frequently at dusk and dawn.

All the cubs from the first litter are healthy, and the Koka pride males are actively ensuring the pride's protection by spending time with them but are now also actively seeking to expand their territory and take over a breakaway Ilkisiusiu group.

The Moliban pride has also expanded their ranging area towards Naboisho Camp.

Ilkisiusiu pride

Currently, the Ilkisiusiu pride is the largest and most dominant pride in the Naboisho Conservancy, having expanded its territory significantly and surpassing the original prides in the region. However, as a result of becoming so numerous, the pride has split up into separate groups. A group from the 2020 litter has ventured all the way to Naboisho's airstrip while another group has moved south of Naboisho Camp, to name a few.

The Ilkisiusiu males from the Lemuny pride have been associated with the group that is around the airstrip, and they might soon take full control of that area. This is unfortunate, however, as the males are related to the females.

The dispersing young male lions from the pride are still maintaining bonds with their female siblings of the same cohort. Although they have spread out into areas near their natal pride territory, they still remain connected. Some of the pride females have been associating with the Koka males, while others have been in the company of the Maji ya Fisi male coalition. It is likely that the Koka males will take control of one of the breakaway groups.



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