PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS

MARCH 2024

Updates by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme on lions in the Greater Mara



ISEKETA PRIDE

The Iseketa pride is currently found within Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC), particularly around the Mahali Mzuri Camp and its surroundings. Their territory extends into a nearby community settlement to the north and east of the conservancy, leading to occasional conflicts with locals due to livestock predation during livestock incursions into the conservancy or when lions venture out to the community areas. Recently, sub-adult lions from the pride were noted to have ventured into the north-eastern part of the conservancy, bordering community settlements. Notably, a male from the Fig Tree Pride, Osupat, was observed mating with a pride female, taking advantage of the Lemek boys' absence within the pride.

This pride is currently controlled by the Lemek boys, who also control neighboring prides like the Hammerkop Pride near the OMC Airstrip and Oldikdik Pride to the west of Mahali Mzuri. The intrusion of the Fig Tree male into this territory has no chance of surviving once the Lemek boys are back from patrolling their expansive territory.

OLDIKIDIK PRIDE

This pride is found within Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC) and their territory expands to the southeastern border of Mara North Conservancy (MNC) and eastern part of OMC overlapping with the Iseketa pride's territory.

Presently, the pride consists of five mature females and eight cubs, approximately 7 months of age. The group is currently under the control of the Lemek boys.





RONGAI PRIDE

The Rongai pride within the National Reserve are controlled by the famous Black Rock males (*Oloshipa, Lolkulup and Oloimina*). This pride is growing as large as the Topi pride which seems to have split into smaller groups through the fission-fusion pride dynamics. Due to this pride size, they are now more adept at hunting and bringing down large prey like buffaloes.

The pride is expanding their territory towards the Fig Tree area and seems to have pushed the Fig Tree Pride away, who are now more frequently sighted within Olerai Conservancy. Among Rongai's offspring, the eldest son, Oloonkera, is gaining global recognition for his tactical hunting skills, particularly in bringing down large prey alongside the pride members and standing out for his playful and caring behavior towards the younger members of the pride, earning him admiration worldwide.

In a previous incident, Olobor and Oloshipa were reported to have entered the territory of the KWS Pride, where they were responsible for the killing of at least six cubs through infanticide.

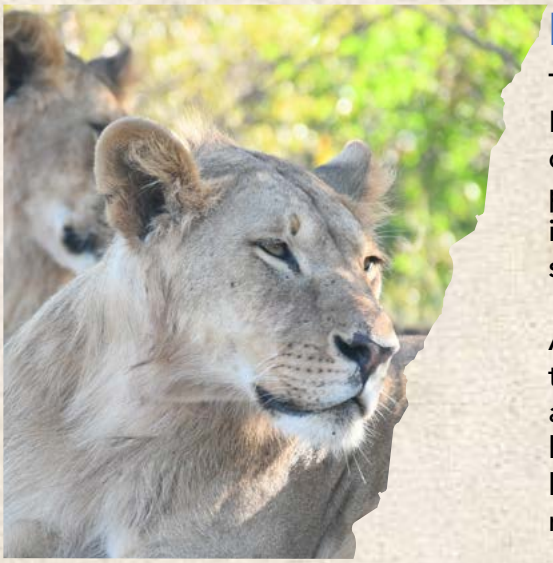
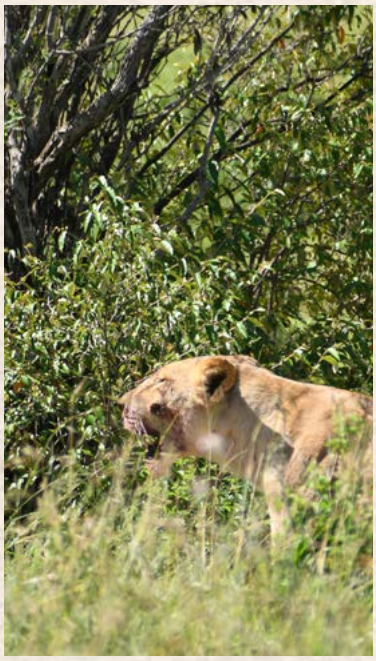


FIG TREE PRIDE

This pride has been moving from their natal territory around the Fig Tree general area to Olerai Conservancy. This movement can be attributed to several factors, including livestock pressure around their range within the National Reserve, incoming Black Roack males, and the Rongai Pride, which seems to be expanding their territory to the Fig Tree area.

As they move between the two protected areas, they pass through the heavily settled areas, reportedly causing conflict as they predate on livestock. This poses a threat to both the lions through possible retaliation attacks and also affects the local source of livelihood. This pride currently comprises nine members including three adult females and six sub-adult males.



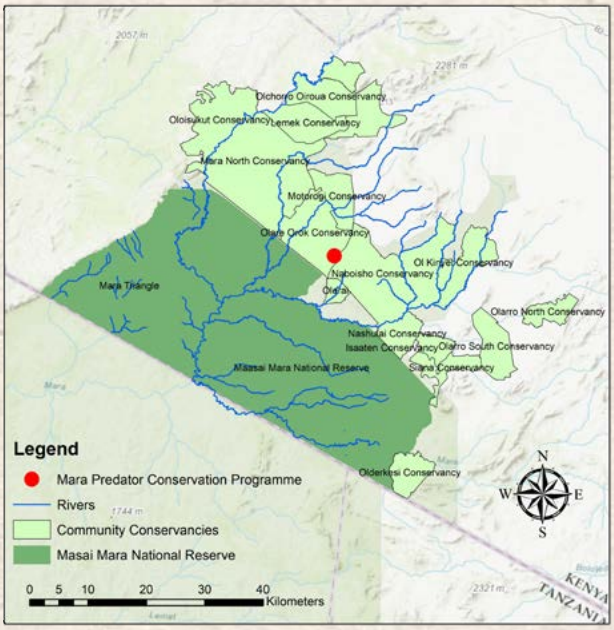


KWS PRIDE

This Pride within the National Reserve covers the general areas around Sarova, 24Km junction, KWS Hills, Kisinja general areas, Keekorok lodge and sometime crosses into the adjacent Siana Conservancy to the East.

Sometimes it is difficult to see this pride while they move into the hilly areas of their home range.

During the recent sighting the current composition of this pride includes four adult females and six sub adults. The pride recently faced a blow back from the Black rock males who killed at least six cubs.



MAP

Our study area covers the Greater Mara Ecosystem (> 2750 km^2) in the south-western corner of Kenya.

We work in both the National Reserve and the surrounding conservancies.

For more information, please visit our website or follow us on social media. If you have photos and a lion story that you would like to share in the next update, please email us at info@marapredatorconservation.org

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