PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 22ND EDITION

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



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Kulete

Amani's daughter Kulete, born around mid-2018, is almost six years old and has already had three sets of cubs. Out of the three, she lost two but was able to raise one set of two males to independence in 2022 from a litter of four. Towards the end of last year, she lost three cubs when she brought them out of the lair in Olare Motorogi conservancy.

We are excited to report that she seems to have given birth in OMC, but the cubs are still hidden inside the lair, and we have asked people in the field to give her space and time until she starts moving the cubs out of the lair and we hope that her new litter will grow and survive to maturity.



Ripoi Males

Three adult male cheetahs made a surprise appearance in Ripoi Conservancy, and we observed them for the first time in April last year. They looked young, no more than four years old and we suspect they were dispersing. They were pretty shy then, and since they were not used to vehicles, we observed them from a distance. This behaviour is typical of individuals who arrive from outside the protected areas or from areas with low tourism. When we returned to Ripoi in August, we only found two males; the third was missing.

Early this year, though, the group was down to one individual as the second male also disappeared. There were numerous reports of the males killing sheep and goats, so we suspect they succumbed to conflict.

Ruka & Rafiki

Rosetta's boys, Ruka and Rafiki, have permanently established their territory in the Mara Triangle since they crossed the Mara River in 2021. Their sister Risasi also did the same and developed her home range there. The two males are common sightings in the Triangle, with their territory extending to Serengeti National Park, where they are frequently seen along the border, crossing back and forth.

With the arrival of Siligi's three adult males from Serengeti last year, Ruka and Rafiki seem to be going deeper into the central part of the Triangle, and they were recently sighted close to Serena.





Siligi

The female Siligi is one of the few individuals whose home range extends to the Serengeti National Park, as she spends her time in both Mara and Serengeti. Most people remember her when she brought seven cubs out of the lair in June 2019, the largest litter we have recorded in the Mara.

She has successfully raised several litters, and in her 2018 litter, she raised three males to independence. The males spend most of the time in the Serengeti but occasionally show up in the Triangle along the border. We caught up with Siligi recently along the Sand River area, and she might be pregnant.



PHOTO © MPCP

Kara

One of Sila's daughters, who was part of her 2020 litter has suddenly made a reappearance. The litter initially consisted of three cubs, two females and one male. They all dispersed successfully towards the end of August 2021, spending most of their time in Naboisho and Olare-Motorogi conservancies and Pardamat Conservation Area (PCA). After dispersing they spent a lot of time in PCA before finally separating.

Early this year, we received information of a cheetah mother with three large cubs. After further investigation we could confirm that it was one of Sila's daughters. Since their discovery, the family of four have been roaming the areas between PCA, the northern fingertip of Mara North Conservancy and Olchorro Conservancy. The mother has been given the name Kara and her offspring are composed of two females and a male, around one year old.



Milele

Ever since the disappearance of his brother and coalition partner, Mbili, Milele has been faring well on his own. Milele has gotten used to a solitary life and appears to be doing just fine.

He is still roaming their usual ranges, from Lemek and Mara North Conservancies to Olare Motorogi, occasionally moving to Naboisho Conservancy.

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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