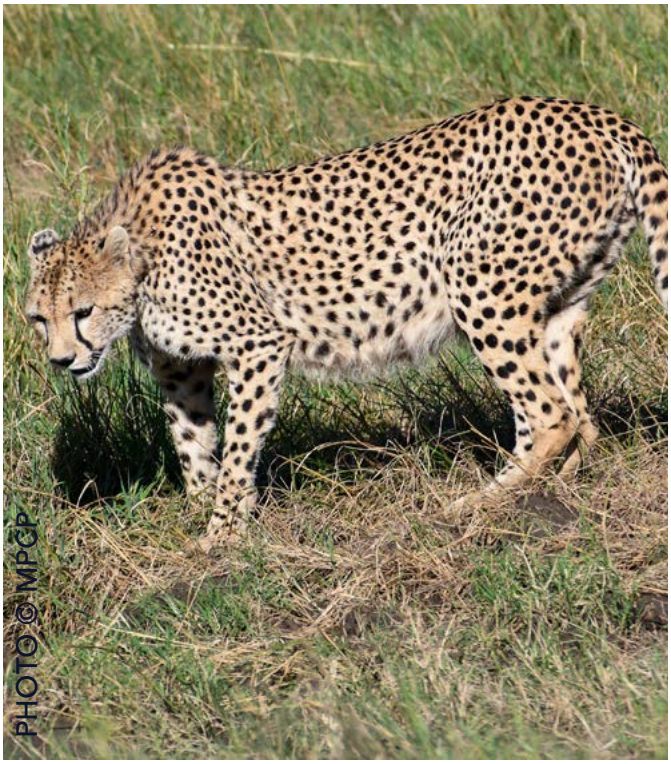
PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 23RD EDITION

JULY - 2024

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



Nagol

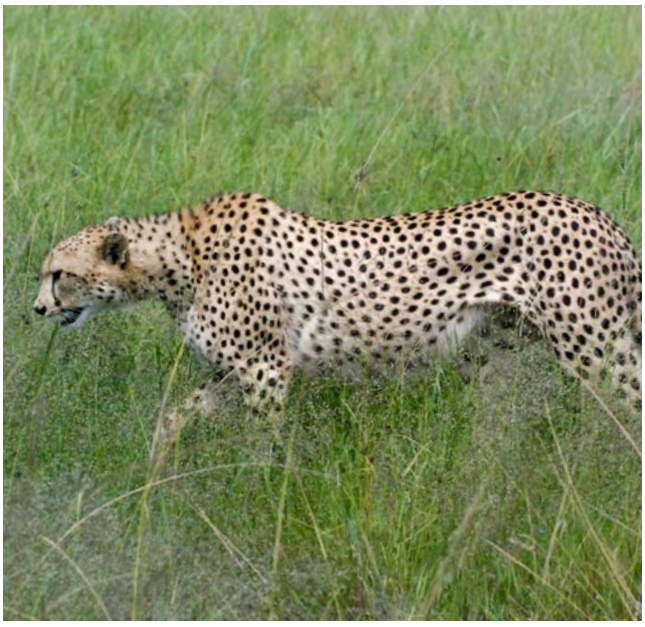
Nagol was born towards the end of 2020 to the female Neema and was part of a litter of three cubs, including her sister Nariku and brother Noma. When they dispersed in early 2022, the three stayed together for a while before Nagol decided to leave the group first, with her littermates staying together for several months before also going their separate ways.

Nagol started her solitary life at 17 months of age and quickly learned to survive on her own and has been doing very well since. She, however, has also faced challenges and one time she was reported having walking difficulties, but the vets came to her rescue, and she recovered. We recently found her in the National Reserve, and we were excited to see her looking heavily pregnant so hopefully, she will surprise us soon with her first litter.

New Male

We recently came across an adult male while monitoring along the Mara-Serengeti border around the Koka Hills area. He appeared shy when being approached we could tell that the individual was new. We were also unable to match him with any of the males in our database.

We often find dispersing cheetahs from time to time along the Mara-Serengeti border coming from the Serengeti. They are shyer than the Mara cheetahs who are more relaxed around vehicles. These new individuals are particularly important to our resident Mara population as they not only increase the population but also diversify our gene pool.







Namunyak

Nebaati's daughter Namunyak gave birth to her first litter of six cubs last year in Naboisho Conservancy, but unfortunately, she has not had much luck in raising the litter. Like most first time mothers, their first litter is usually not successful.

For Namunyak's case, she lost more than half the litter soon after bringing them out of the den and was down to only two cubs early this year. She was doing well with the remaining two cubs, moving between mostly Naboisho and Olkinyei conservancies.

Sadly, she was spotted towards the end of May in Ol Kinyei Conservancy with only one cub, calling for the other cub who she lost during the night. She is currently in Naboisho Conservancy with her remaining male cub who will have his first birthday in September and seems to be doing well.

Nashipae

Musiara's daughter Nashipae has been doing an excellent job in raising her litter of four cubs ever since she brought them out of the lair in September last year in the National Reserve.

After spending some time in the Reserve, the family crossed to Olare-Motorogi Conservancy and then to Naboisho conservancy, where they spent a significant amount of time, before moving back to OMC and then back to the Reserve where they currently reside. The cubs, three females and a male, are now one year old.



Neema

Another daughter of Musiara, called Neema, born in 2015, raised her first successful litter in 2020. The litter consisted of two females, Nariku and Nagol, and a male the local guides named Noma. The litter successfully dispersed in 2022 with Nagol being frequently sighted in the National Reserve, but Nariku and Ngaol disappeared ever since they dispersed.

We have observed Neema on several occasions looking pregnant, but she has not been able to bring cubs out of the lair. Recently, we received information that she might have given birth to a new litter in Mara North Conservancy, and we hope she might bring the cubs out of the lair this time.



Olarro Male

Our first encounter with this individual was back in September 2022 in Olarro Conservancy. He was a big, impressive male approximately five years of age, but extremely shy, and roaming the hills of the conservancy.

On a recent trip to Olarro Conservancy, we saw him again in an open area, and we got to spend more time with him. He was much more relaxed and we were able to take good photos of him before he disappeared into the bushes.



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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