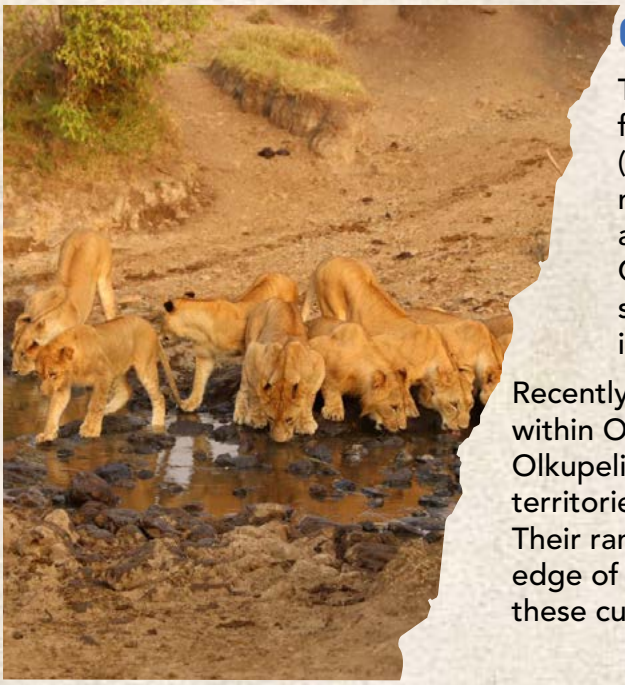
PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS

JULY 2024

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



OLDIKDIK PRIDE

This pride currently consists of twelve lions: four adult females, four sub-adults, approximately one year old (three males and one female), and four cubs around six months old. This pride is one of the currently successful and frequently sighted lions within Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC), providing guests with excellent sightings. The pride's movement patterns have been interesting.

Recently, these lions have moved between several locations within Olare Motorogi Conservancy, including Richards Camp, Olkupelia, and near Mahali Mzuri, overlapping with other pride territories like the Iseketa Pride within Motorogi Conservancy. Their ranges have been extending to the settlements on the edge of the conservancy boundary. The Lemek boys have sired these cubs, contributing to the pride's lineage.

FOUR LEMEK MALES



These four males were born in the Lemek pride within Lemek Conservancy in 2017. They disappeared for a spell after dispersing from the pride but showed up in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy in early 2022, close to Mahali Mzuri camp. Since then, the males engaged with several prides including the Iseketa, Hammercop and Oldikidiki prides, who they sired several cubs with. We often see the males splitting up and dividing their time between their prides, which is normal for larger male coalitions in order to protect their cubs.

Towards the end of last year, the four males ventured into the western side of the neighboring Naboisho Conservancy where trouble started to arise. The first males to feel the presence of the Lemek coalition were the Koka males, Kiminati and his partner Oloiborkwe, who oversaw the Molibany pride. The Lemek males pushed further into the conservancy and have also fought with the Maji ya Fisi males and the three Rongai males. The Rongai males have had a long-term presence in Naboisho Conservancy and it is indeed time for them to move on. For now, however, the Rongai males have moved towards the eastern side of Naboisho Conservancy. The Koka males have made a sudden return after they were chased away.

The Lemek males have been back to visit the Moliban pride and are currently mating with at least one of the females and we are expecting another litter from Moliban pride soon.



SAMPU ENKARE BREAKAWAY

Nentubui, Napono, and Leyai are the oldest females in the pride who will turn 10 years old towards the end of this year. The pride has twenty-nine members, including 15 adult females, two pride males, Ole Cook and Lembalang, and 12 cubs of two different age sets. The pride has been sighted intermittently together and are often breaking away into smaller groups and then rejoining through fission-fusion lion pride dynamics. The pride has for now settled within Ol Kinyei Conservancy.

The females from the 2021 litter, who are sired by the two Maji ya Fisi males, Limpy and Bully, now have cubs of their own. These cubs, in turn, are sired by the Ilkisiusiu pride born males Ole Cook and Lembalang, who now have offspring with two prides in Ol Kinyei Conservancy, the second pride being the Lemuny pride.



ILKISIUSIU PRIDE

Combined, the Ilkisiusiu Pride still has the highest number of members in Naboisho Conservancy, with 15 adult females, two new pride males, Limpy and Bully (who were evicted from Ol Kinyei Conservancy by Ole Cook and Lembalang), and 16 cubs totaling 33 individuals. However, their pride has split into two distinct groups for now.

All the cubs are sired by Limpy and Bully. Nasha, Noolamala and Noonkuta are the oldest females in the pride born 2013, sired by the SOL males, Simiren, Osidai and Leshaan, and the remaining adults are from 2020. This litter were sired by the Rongai males, Olowang, Oloisula and Lenkisiu, who were chased away by the Maji ya Fisi males.

LOOKOUT EAST PRIDE



The Lookout East Pride, which is likely a breakaway group from the Lookout pride, originally consisted of two females born in 2012. Our last sighting of the two females was in 2017 when they were together with five cubs. However, after disappearing from our radar for seven years, we recently found one of the two adults together with two of her daughters, estimated to be three years old. Their territory potentially spans from the Lookout area to the Mara River edges, and they occasionally cross into the Purungat area in the Mara Triangle.

Their absence could be contributed to these lions crossing to the Purungat area in the Mara Triangle where sighting lions can be difficult. It is quite spectacular to find lions that have been missing after so many years.



NORMASI PRIDE

Ripoi Conservancy was formed after the demise of Olarro South Conservancy. The conservancy used to have two resident prides, the Roplie and the Normasi prides, but currently only the Normasi pride resides within the conservancy and consists of three adult females, three sub-adult females, three cubs and three pride males.

We recently collared one adult female as part of our real-time conservation efforts, and the collar data shows that she has given birth to a new set of cubs, who are sired by one of the three Enesikiria males Lerai, Nkarabali and Oloitore. Another female also shows signs of having delivered a new set of cubs as well.

SERENA NORTH PRIDE



The Serena North pride, also known as the Paradise pride, is one of the prides that utilizes the National Reserve and occasionally crosses over to the Mara Triangle with sightings of them on both sides of the main crossing and Serena areas.

The Paradise pride has been very successful in recent years, especially with the constant presence of the Six pack males, Kibogoyo, Koshoke, Kiok and Chongo, having raised all the nine cubs from their 2021 litter.

After the successful dispersal of this litter in the Mara Triangle, the females are now mostly seen on the Reserve side spending most of the time in the main crossing area and Paradise Plains.

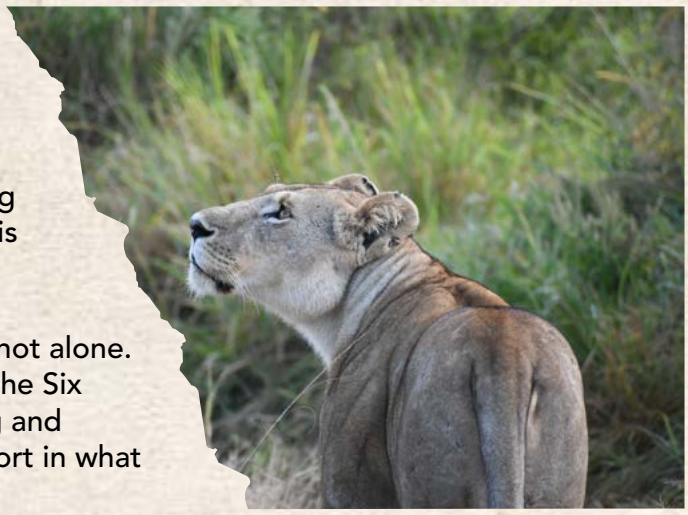


SERENA NORTH-RONGAI

This pride is known by many as the Rongai pride. The former, actual Rongai pride vanished and was replaced by a breakaway group from the Paradise pride (Serena North pride). The current Rongai pride is renowned for being one of the most filmed prides in the Mara. This pride has gained significant attention due to its large number of pride members and unique hunting behavior, particularly their frequent hunting of buffaloes almost on a daily basis.

The pride's territory spans from Olkeju Ronkai to Maji ya Fisi, covering a substantial area within the National Reserve. One of the pride sons, Oloonkera, has been missing from the main pride during our recent sightings and that suggest that the females have kicked him out and he is now living a nomadic life.

ANGAMA FEMALE



The Angama female (Yana) is the sole surviving member of the Angama Pride, following a tragic incident where the other pride members were killed after leaving the Mara Triangle and crossing into Transmara, onto community settlements. This event left Yana as the last lioness standing from her pride.

Despite the loss of the rest of the pride, Yana is not alone. She has two sub-adult males that were sired by the Six Pack males. These young males are her offspring and provide her with some companionship and support in what must be a challenging time for her.

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