

PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 27TH EDITION

NOVEMBER - 2025



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



Nabaya

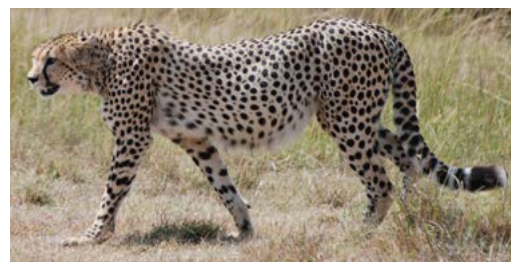
Nabaya and her son and daughter, now approximately 19 months old, have their home range within Olarro Conservancy and the adjacent community lands. The trio is mostly seen while they are within the conservancy; however, once they move into the community areas, where they also spend a significant amount of time, their sightings become rare.

While roaming in the community land, they occasionally cause conflict by preying on shoats. To help mitigate such conflicts and to better understand the movements and space use of dispersing subadult males, we opted to deploy a collar prior to the male's dispersal.

After an extended period of absence, the family of three returned to Olarro Conservancy and we successfully collared Nalala in October. The offspring were both named by the Olarro rangers; the male was named Nalala and the female Naanyu.

Noma

Noma was born in 2020 alongside his littermates Nagol and Nariku, to their mother Neema. The trio was raised primarily within Mara North Conservancy and Olare Motorogi Conservancy during their formative years.



Upon dispersal, Noma began wandering across the Mara landscape in search of unoccupied territory to establish himself. His movements took him along the Kenya–Tanzania border, where he spent several months before crossing into the northern Serengeti.

In August, Noma reappeared on the southern side of the Reserve, where he has since been frequently sighted. His consistent presence in this area suggests that he may have finally settled there. Interestingly, Nasieku and Naimutie, daughters of Nashipae, also spend considerable time in this same home range, and Noma could mate with the young females, soon to be first-time mothers.



Nashipae

Towards the end of September, Nashipae was observed denning close to the Kisinja area. She was later seen relocating one of her cubs to a safer spot, likely away from lions and other potential threats in the area.

However, she was not seen moving the second cub, suggesting that she may have relocated it earlier, later that night, or perhaps lost it. After a few days, it became evident that Nashipae had lost her cubs, as she was sighted far from the den site and resumed ranging within her usual home territory.

Threats from other predators, habitat and loss, and the pressure of mass tourism continue to pose significant challenges to cheetah cub survival in the Mara. Despite this setback, we remain hopeful that Nashipae will soon have another chance to raise a new litter to adulthood.

Kulete

In July, Kulete brought out a single cub from the lair in Mara North Conservancy. The news sparked excitement and hope across the conservation community. At that time, she was the only known cheetah with a cub in the entire Greater Mara ecosystem, highlighting the worrying decline of cheetah populations in this landscape.

Since then, Kulete and her young male have been thriving under the close watch of the Mara North Conservancy team, who have done an excellent job monitoring them. Now, at six months old, Kulete's cub is growing strong and has a good chance of survival, a success story that will bring optimism for cheetah population in the Greater Mara ecosystem.

Kulete's journey continues to remind us of the fragile balance of predator conservation and the importance of collective efforts to secure a future for this iconic species.





Ranger

Ranger, the surviving son of Risasi, was born in the Mara Triangle. Tragedy struck early when he lost his littermate in a hunting incident soon after the two dispersed. From then on, Ranger first moved into the northern Serengeti, later returning to the Triangle before making an intriguing move across to the Reserve side.

Since then, Ranger has become a true wanderer, ranging widely across the Reserve with occasional sightings in Olare Motorogi and Mara North conservancies, looking for a territory to settle in. In the last quarter, he has been frequently sighted in the northern side of the Reserve and the surrounding conservancies, particularly OMC and Mara North.

Namunyak

Namunyak, a well-known female in the Greater Mara landscape, has long been a familiar figure within the conservancies, particularly Ol Kinyei and Naboisho conservancies, where she has spent most of her life. Known for her adaptability and as a strong mother, Namunyak successfully raised her son Olomunyak to adulthood.



However, this quarter brought an unexpected twist in her story. After the loss of her last litter in the lair, as detailed in our previous cheetah chat, Namunyak made a surprising move southward. In August, she was sighted near the Kenya–Tanzania border, close to Cottar's Camp, ranging between the Reserve boundary and Olderkesi Conservancy. This marks a an unusual significant shift from her usual range; an area she has thrived in for years.

Her sudden movement raises important questions. In recent years, there has been a growing mystery surrounding the disappearance of several adult conservancy female cheetahs from their long-established home ranges around the conservancies. Whether Namunyak's move is connected to this trend or simply part of a broader ecological pattern remains uncertain. Yet, her shift could serve as a valuable insight into the increasing pressures from the human footprint female cheetahs face.



Naimutie, Nasieku, and Nempiris

The three Nashipae daughters dispersed in the first quarter of this year. For a couple of months, they stayed together before ultimately splitting up. Naimutie was the first to go her separate way, but shortly after, the others followed suit, each beginning their solitary lives. Interestingly, Nempiris made a brief visit to Serengeti before returning to the Reserve.

All three have been frequently sighted in the Reserve, spending time in different areas as they attempt to establish their home ranges. Their presence in the Mara ecosystem is highly significant, especially given the alarming decline of female cheetahs across the Greater Mara landscape.

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