PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS

NOVEMBER 2025

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



ANGAMA FEMALE - NOLA/YANA

Nola, also known as Yana, is the sole surviving member of the Angama Pride. She turned nine years old earlier this year. Over time, Nola has endured the loss of several generations. Every time she mates, new males take over and kill her cubs, leaving her without any offspring.

Despite these challenges, Nola has remained resilient, maintaining a low profile while roaming her territory. Her range is also shared by two other prides, the Mara River and Sausage Prides.

Remarkably, she did not give up on raising her current offspring: a subadult male and a subadult female born in mid-2023. Interestingly, the young female appears to be more active during hunts than her brother. We remain hopeful that the pride will rebuild and continue under the same name, and that the daughter will remain with her mother as she matures into an adult.

SERENA - RONGAI DISPERSING SUBS



The Serena North Breakaway Pride, also known as the current Rongai Pride, had a group of 11 dispersing subadults, both males and females, all born in 2022 except Olonkera, who is a year older. The subadult males, Olonkera, Kidong'oe, Ololtapata, Lepiyayoi, and Orongai, dispersed toward the western side of the Rongai Pride territory.

Initially, they headed toward the Ashnil area and were even sighted one evening taking down a buffalo there, but the next morning, trouble arose when the Six-Packers noticed the young males with a kill. The Rongai subadults managed to escape and all got away safely; that was the last time they were seen in the Six-Packers territory. A few days later, they entered Orkirikoi's territory. Orkirikoi narrowly escaped from the five young males, and the Survey Pride females did not welcome the Rongai subadults either.

Since then, the five subadults have been hanging around the Kenyan-Tanzanian border on the Salas Pride territory, taking advantage of the vacant territory left by the Kazkaz boys, who have since taken over the Survey Pride and seem focused on expanding towards the Rongai Pride territory.

The female subadults, on the other hand, kept a low profile for a while after leaving their natal pride, avoiding mating with their fathers. They mostly stayed at the edge of the Rongai Pride territory, sometimes sighted together with their brother, Orongai. Recently, they started mating with the Kazkaz boys, as well as with Mzee and Lorkinyei.

All six females are still around, and we hope we see a baby boom from these first-time mothers soon.



MOLIBANY BOYS

The four sub-adult males were born into the Molibany Pride in Naboisho Conservancy in 2022 along with four sisters. Having recently dispersed, the young males are now ranging widely across Nashulai, Siana, and Isaaten conservancies.

Now confident hunters, the quartet often targets large prey, including buffalo, and has been sighted frequently around the Isaaten area in recent weeks.

For them to establish a permanent territory within Isaaten and Siana Conservancies, they will eventually need to challenge two existing male coalitions: the three Enesikiria males, who regularly patrol this region, and two males, Olopi and his partner, who are occasionally seen on the eastern side of Mara Siana.

Interestingly, the sub-adults have been observed mating with a KWS Pride female in Siana and a 2021-born Isanchu Pride female in Isaaten Conservancy. With no reports of conflict so far, these promising young males seem to be navigating their dispersal phase successfully. We hope they will soon establish themselves within these conservancies.

TOPI PRIDE



The Topi Pride has long been one of the most photographed lion prides in the Maasai Mara, admired for its impressive size and captivating daily activities in the wild. The pride's story reflects the dynamic and ever-changing nature of lion territories and leadership in the Mara ecosystem.

They have occupied areas like Rhino Ridge, Topi Plains, Paradise Plains, and later expanded to the Double Cross area, and to some parts of Olare Motorogi Conservancy.

The Topi Pride is currently split into two groups following the dispersal of the 2021 cohort. Four females, littermates to the seven Topi Boys, are ranging on their own, and two of them, Nashipae and Naretu, each have two cubs sired by Orkuret and Lemoniko. Sadly, Lemoniko died, and Orkuret has since been keeping a low profile. However, the Salas males have been seen at least once interacting peacefully with the cubs, an unusual behaviour considering they are not the fathers. This unexpected tolerance is a positive sign and could greatly improve the chances of survival for the four cubs.

The core females of the pride have shifted east, frequently sighted along the Ng'weng'weny stream and occasionally crossing into Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Additionally, Dunia has recently brought out new cubs sired by the Salas males, who continue to maintain a strong presence with the pride despite the loss of Orkitok.

ENGOYANAI'S DISPERSING SUB-ADULT MALES



Two young subadult males from the Engoyanai Pride have recently dispersed from their natal group and are now in the process of establishing a territory of their own. The duo was once sighted within the KWS pride territory, in the company of a few females from the KWS Pride.

A notable recent encounter occurred along the Simba area inside the Reserve, where the two subadults came face to face with Olbarnoti, the male currently leading the KWS breakaway pride together with Olopi. Olbarnoti appeared unwilling to concede ground or allow the young males an opportunity to take over.

However, there remains a possibility that the two males could eventually ally with Olbarnoti and Olopi, potentially creating a strong coalition that would enhance their chances of maintaining control and ensuring their survival in the competitive Mara ecosystem.



NGIRO ARE NOMADS

The Ngiro Are males, commonly referred to as the Inselberg Boys, were born in 2012 in the Ngiro Are area of the Mara Triangle. Renowned for their nomadic lifestyle, they frequently traverse between the Greater Mara and the Mara Triangle, adjusting their movements based on prey availability and pride dynamics.

The coalition has been mostly seen along the Sand River in the past months and is currently expanding its range in this area. Over the years, they have successfully sired cubs in multiple prides, including the Purungat, Maji Machafu, and Lookout prides.

At present, the coalition controls the three prides, maintaining dominance and contributing to the continued stability and genetic diversity within the region's lion population.

SAMPU ENKARE PRIDE



The Sampu Enkare pride continues to face instability due to the challenging location of their territory, which borders multiple pride ranges. The pride's last successful cub-raising was in 2021, when Nariku's three daughters survived to adulthood and are now part of the current pride composition.

Today, the pride comprises five females, Nariku, her three daughters, and Lokoman. Both Nariku and two of her daughters currently have cubs, bringing hope for a potential rebound in the pride's numbers. Unfortunately, Nariku recently lost her cub following a confrontation with the Enesikiria Breakaway pride near Kicheche Valley Camp as detailed in Predator Watch 11.

The pride currently has their territory around Ndorobo, Olseki water pump and Olare Sampu area. With the Rongai boys as their pride males, we hope they successfully raise their cubs to adulthood this time considering the success that the Rongai boys have had with other prides in Naboisho Conservancy for more than 4 years.



PUSI NKARIAK/ OLOISUKUT PRIDE

The future of this pride was looking promising over the last year with the birth of nine cubs by the two pride females, Komeyian and her sister, until one of the pride males was killed by the Engoyanai males in Mara North and the other male vanished without a trace.
This left the pride vulnerable for male intrusions, and the four Engoyanai males were first in line to cross the river and to take over the pride.

In the takeover process, they killed one of the subadult females, forcing the rest of the subadults to flee from the core area up the escarpment into the community area. Once settled in the community area they started going after livestock and unfortunately towards the end of September, six of the subadults were poisoned.

A swift response from relevant authorities saw an emergency treatment administered to the subadults, however the next day three of the subadult females had not responded to the treatment and were taken to the Mara Triangle shelter for further treatment and observation. Once the females recovered, we fitted one with a collar prior to release.They are back in Oloisukut Conservancy and doing well.

With the collar the conservancy management can monitor them more closely and potentially try to save the remaining lions in Oloisukut.

ISEKETA PRIDE



This is one of the main prides within Olare Motorogi conservancy (OMC) currently. The pride has previously been difficult to locate as they often went into hiding in the early morning hours and only emerged late at night, largely due to the high influx of livestock inside the conservancy previously.

In recent months, however, this pride has become one of the most frequently sighted prides by tourists in OMC. The pride is currently dominated by two Serian Pride born males Ng'urro and his partner, following the departure of the Lemek boys to Naboisho conservancy.

This pride currently consists of nine cubs with five adult females and has been spending a significant amount of time around Karia's Stream and Mahali Mzuri Camp's general areas. We hope these sub-adults will grow into maturity and help restore their former main pride status within OMC.



EGYPTIAN GOOSE PRIDE

In our previous report, we noted that this pride was being sighted and monitored intermittently. However, following this year's wildebeest migration, sightings have become much more frequent, and the pride is now recognized as one of the main resident prides within the central part of the Triangle besides the Nasipa Pride near the Kenyan and Tanzania border.

The pride took full advantage of the abundance of prey brought by the migration, and they continue to thrive as prey numbers remain high across the area. During the recently concluded annual predator survey, we encountered the pride severally within their usual territory around the Egyptian Goose Dam and nearby plains and Mlima Mbili. The pride appeared healthy and well-fed, a clear sign that the current conditions are favourable.

The dominant Taliban boys, fathers of the subadults in the pride, were present during the sightings and were also sighted mating one of the females. These males are in their prime, displaying strength and confidence as they patrol and protect the pride. Their continued presence reinforces the stability of the group and their control over this part of the Triangle.

KOKA BOYS



Oloiborkwe and Kiminati, commonly known as the Koka Boys, continue to do well in Naboisho Conservancy. The two males first took over the Molibany Pride when they appeared in Naboisho, where they successfully sired and raised eight cubs to adulthood, four males, now referred to as the Molibany boys, and four females who remain within the pride.

Early last year, the Lemek Boys from Olare Motorogi Conservancy pushed them out and took over Molibany pride. The young females, already of mating age, were quickly recruited by the incoming coalition.

Following their displacement, Oloiborkwe and Kiminati moved south and took over the Enesikiria core pride from the Rongai males, an interesting move considering the Rongai boys numbers and dominancy for several years in Naboisho Conservancy.

The Enesikiria Pride females, Akilah, Jasmina, and Naisula now have eight cubs sired by the Koka Boys, all thriving under their vigilant protection. Recently, the coalition was sighted near the Simba area inside the Reserve, an indication that the two males might be exploring territorial expansion beyond Naboisho Conservancy.

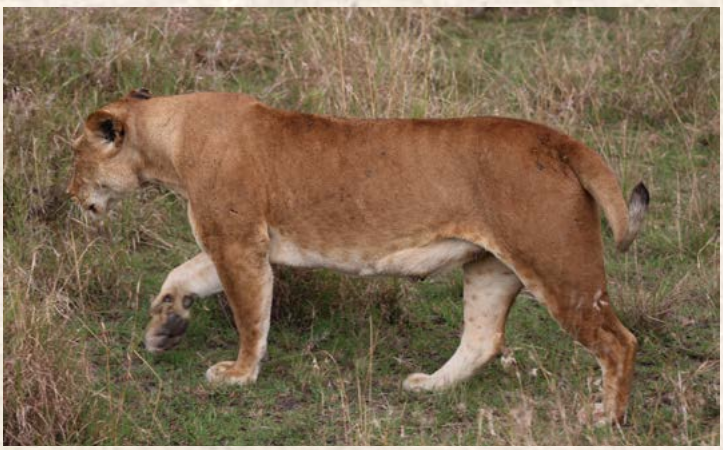
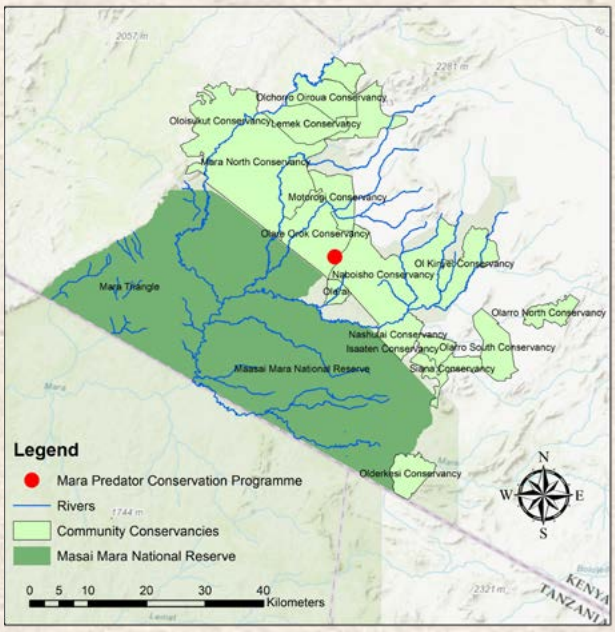


FIG TREE PRIDE

The remaining two Fig Tree females, Samara and Sukari, are currently raising six cubs sired by the Blackrock males Oloshipa and Oloimina. Although this is a vital development for the pride, whose numbers have declined alarmingly in recent years, they now face a big challenge with only one pride male (Oloimina).

Also, the Serena-Rongai pride with their subadults, have been staying more on the edge of their territory where it overlaps with the Fig tree Pride. Although this is safer for the Serena Rongai subadults, considering the intrusion of the Kazkaz boys and the Kisinja males as well, it lowers the chances of the Fig Tree pride cubs' survival but so far the two females have been doing a great job raising the cubs and all the six cubs are doig well.



MAP

Our study area covers the Greater Mara Ecosystem (~ 3000 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

MaraPredatorConservation @marapredatorconservation @MaraPredator

www.marapredatorconservation.org