PREDATOR POST

CHEETAH CHAT - 29TH EDITION

OCTOBER - 2026

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



Milele – RIP

Milele was one of the well-known lone male cheetahs in the Mara landscape. He was the son of Kiraposho and the littermate of Mbili, who disappeared several years ago. Milele was occasionally sighted across Olare Motorogi, Mara North, Lemek and Olchorro Conservancies, as well as within the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

One interesting behaviour observed was his interaction with spotted hyenas. On one occasion, a hyena approached while Milele was resting. Rather than immediately moving away, he remained relaxed before quietly leaving without drawing further attention. It was a fascinating example of his calm response and ability to avoid unnecessary confrontation.

Milele was also an impressive hunter and successfully brought down medium-sized prey, including topi. These hunts demonstrate the remarkable acceleration, speed and precision that make cheetahs such effective predators.

Recently, Milele was involved in a serious territorial fight with Olope in Olare Motorogi Conservancy. He sustained injuries to his hindquarters and leg and remained in the area for several weeks, struggling to hunt larger prey and relying mainly on Thomson's gazelle fawns. Veterinary intervention was provided to treat his injuries.

Milele recovered but sadly, he did not survive a lion attack some weeks later, while he was feeding on a topi. Milele, as his brother, will be missed roaming the savannas of the Mara.

Nabaya and her new cubs



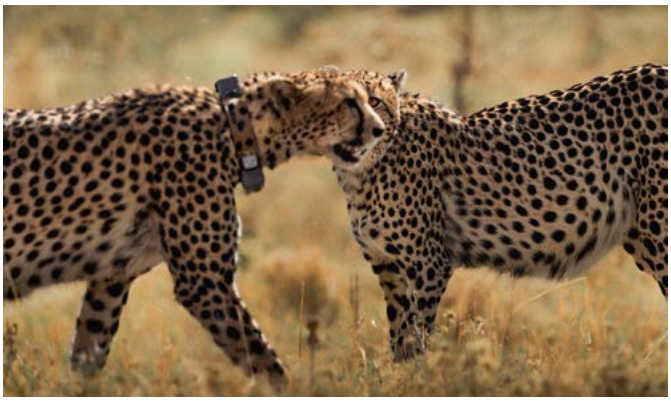
It was encouraging to recently see Nabaya with her four healthy-looking cubs in Olarro Conservancy. The sighting is particularly promising given her previous success in raising Nalala and Naanyu to independence.

As a mother, Nabaya must continually balance the need to find sufficient prey with keeping her cubs safe from larger predators such as lions and spotted hyenas. Her familiarity with the landscape allows her to move between areas that provide both good hunting opportunities and suitable cover.

For now, the family appears to be doing well, and prey availability within Olarro is providing Nabaya with important hunting opportunities while she raises four growing cubs.

Successfully raising a cheetah litter to independence is no small achievement. Cubs face numerous risks during their first year, and Nabaya's previous success gives us reason for cautious optimism for this new litter.

We will continue to monitor the family closely as the cubs grow and develop.



Kulete

Kulete has entered a new chapter following the dispersal of her son, Sadala. In collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), we recently fitted Kulete with a GPS collar in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy. The timing could hardly have been better- just one day later, Sadala left his mother at 18 months old and began life on his own.

Kulete is one of the few remaining breeding female cheetahs in the Mara, making her particularly important to monitor. Since 2019, several adult females have disappeared from our monitored population, and we still do not fully understand where they go or what risks they encounter. One possibility is that females range more widely after their offspring become independent, including into community areas where the risk of conflict with people and livestock may increase.

Kulete's collar now provides near real-time information on her movements through EarthRanger. Our Predator Ambassadors and partner rangers can use these locations to monitor her closely and respond if she moves into higher-risk areas. The data will also help us better understand how breeding females use the wider Mara landscape once their offspring become independent.

Kulete recovered well following the collaring and is doing well. Interestingly, since Sadala dispersed, she has already moved back from Olare-Motorogi to Mara North Conservancy. We will be following her journey closely over the coming months, while also hoping that Sadala will soon be sighted again somewhere in the Mara.

Nagol



Nagol, Neema's daughter, has recently been spending more time in Mara North Conservancy.

So far, she has not successfully raised a litter to independence.

This is particularly significant given the low number of resident cheetahs currently found in the Mara and the importance of successful reproduction for the population's future.

We last saw Nagol on the northwestern side of Mara North Conservancy during the second week of September. Seven weeks later, she appeared in central Olare-Motorogi Conservancy (OMC), this time with six cubs. It was a remarkable and very welcome surprise.

We are now working closely with OMC rangers to monitor Nagol and her cubs and help keep the family safe as the cubs grow.

Seeing all six cubs reach independence would be an extraordinary outcome, particularly given Nagol's previous reproductive history. We know how challenging the months ahead will be, but for now, it is wonderful to see her with a healthy new litter.



Naimutie and her four new cubs

Naimutie, one of Nashipae's daughters emerged from her lair with four cubs on the Oloolaimutia side of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Unfortunately, she has already lost two of her cubs.

This is Naimutie's first litter and an exciting milestone for the family. Their emergence from the lair marks the beginning of a demanding new stage as she begins guiding and protecting them through the landscape.

The first months of a cheetah cub's life are particularly vulnerable, with predation and starvation posing significant risks. Naimutie will need to remain vigilant as her two remaining cubs become increasingly mobile, much as her mother Nashipae did while raising her own litter.

We hope her cubs continue to thrive and will be following their progress closely as they begin their journey towards independence.

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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