PREDATOR POST

LION TAILS

OCTOBER 2026

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



OSUPAT AND THE MONIKO SANKAI PRIDE

Nadupoi, a collared female from the Moniko Sankai Pride, continues to demonstrate how extensively lions move between different management areas of the Mara. Since being collared in Naboisho Conservancy in November 2025, she has regularly moved between Naboisho, Olare Motorogi Conservancy and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

The pride remains relatively elusive, frequently using the rugged areas around Iseketa Ridge, Moniko Hill and Naboisho. One of its members is an older female originating from the former Moniko Pride.

Nadupoi and her pride mates are currently alternating their range between Olare Motorogi and Naboisho. A particularly interesting recent observation was Nadupoi mating with Osupat along Andy's Road, raising the possibility of a new litter within this elusive pride.

LEMUNY PRIDE

Naramat and Nempiris, both born in 2014, are currently the oldest females in the Lemuny Pride. Together with the late Sero, they separated from the Enesikiria Pride in Naboisho Conservancy in 2018. Since then, the pride has experienced a complex demographic history, including several episodes of infanticide.



In 2021, Naramat and Nempiris successfully raised a litter of six, four females and two males, to adulthood. Two of these females are now lactating, while the other females have recently lost their cubs. The two males have dispersed and settled with females from the Enchipae Pride in Olarro Conservancy.

The pride is currently showing strong fission–fusion dynamics. The 2021-born females remain around the traditional range near Oloiborr Murt Hill, Cheetah Camp and Cottage Hill, while Naramat and Nempiris, accompanied by 11 sub-adults from three age groups, have shifted farther east.

This eastern area currently appears relatively unoccupied, and the group may be establishing a new core area. Continued monitoring will show whether this is a temporary shift or a longer-term expansion of the pride's range.



SAMPU ENKARE BREAKAWAY PRIDE

The Sampu Enkare Breakaway Pride has now been resident in Ol Kinyei Conservancy for almost two years. Leyai, Napono and Nentubui, the oldest females in the pride, will turn 12 towards the end of this year.

The Ilkisiusiu-born males Ole Cook and Lembalang continue to control the pride.

The pride now consists of more than 45 lions, including adult females, sub-adults and cubs. Fission–fusion dynamics remain evident, with different groups frequently separating and rejoining. During a recent sighting, one group consisted of four adult females and six cubs approximately five to six months old, while another was led by five females born in 2021.

It was particularly interesting to see members of the pride hunting within their former range in Naboisho Conservancy. Their continued movement between Ol Kinyei and Naboisho highlights the pride's dynamic use of the landscape, while the Rongai males are also occasionally recorded in this area.

THREE ENESIKIRIA MALES IN OL KINYEI



These three Enesikiria-born males originated in Naboisho Conservancy and were first recorded by our monitoring team in 2024 within the Lemuny Pride's range in Ol Kinyei Conservancy. The coalition has since successfully reproduced, with some of their offspring now approaching dispersal age. Although the males usually remain together, they occasionally separate for several days before reuniting.

One male, Letabo, sustained an injury to his left eye during an altercation with one of his brothers over access to a female. Following veterinary treatment, he has recovered well and is functioning normally within the coalition.

During a recent sighting, we observed a particularly strong affiliative interaction when one male emerged from dense vegetation and greeted his two resting brothers through close physical contact before settling beside them. Such interactions help maintain the social bonds that are fundamental to successful male coalitions.

We will continue monitoring the males to understand their ranging behaviour, coalition stability, reproductive success and interactions with neighbouring males.



ISEKETA PRIDE AND THE CHELI SUB-MALES

Since the death of his coalition partner following a territorial fight with Osupat and his males in Olare Motorogi, Half Tail has continued to hold the Iseketa Pride alone.

Under his tenure, the pride has grown and now includes several adult females, sub-adults and a new generation of cubs. In recent months, they have spent much of their time around Mahali Mzuri Camp and the Esanangururi Stream, where prey and dense vegetation provide favourable conditions for females raising young.

Half Tail may now be facing his greatest challenge. The young Cheli sub-males have steadily expanded their range from the Offbeat area in Mara North Conservancy, through Engoyanai and into Iseketa territory.

The young males have already been sighted within the pride's range. Whether they eventually challenge Half Tail remains to be seen, but their continued expansion could signal an important shift in the future dynamics of the Iseketa Pride.

LELESHWA PRIDE



The Leleshwa Pride is a relatively new pride that we first recorded around August 2025 in Mara Ripoi Conservancy, near Porini Giraffe Camp. During our early encounters, the lions were very shy and appeared to favour the conservancy's dense and hilly areas.

The pride currently consists of three healthy adult females and three cubs approximately seven months old. They mainly range around the Leleshwa and Mara Siana camp areas and appear to be becoming increasingly comfortable with the presence of monitoring vehicles.

During a recent sighting, the pride was feeding on a warthog. One of the older females allowed the cubs and younger female to feed first before taking her share, providing an interesting glimpse into the social tolerance and maternal behaviour within this small pride.

A STRONG AND UNITED COALITION



Unlike the Topi males, who have recently separated and begun ranging independently, the Rongai Boys remain closely associated.

Their cohesion may give them a considerable advantage in defending the Rekero Pride and surrounding territory.

At present, they appear to face relatively little competition from neighbouring adult males and have been recorded across a broad area extending from Olkeju Rongai to Rhino Ridge.

How long the coalition remains intact will be important in determining the stability of their tenure and the future recruitment of cubs into the pride.



THE RONGAI BOYS TAKE OVER THE REKERO PRIDE

The Rekero Pride has recently experienced another episode of infanticide following a takeover by the five Rongai males. The coalition displaced the remaining Moniko males that previously controlled the pride and subsequently killed cubs sired by the former males.

Infanticide is commonly observed following male takeovers in lions, allowing incoming males to bring females back into reproductive condition sooner.

Kidongoe, easily recognised by the distinctive tuft on his shortened tail, appeared to play a prominent role during the takeover. The Rongai males are now mating with Rekero females, marking the beginning of a new reproductive period for the pride.

ORKIRIKOI AND KINGI



Orkirikoi appears to be developing an association with Kingi, a young male from the Salas Pride, although the relationship is still in its early stages.

During recent observations, Orkirikoi has frequently chased Kingi away, but the two have also spent periods together without aggression. This may indicate that Orkirikoi is gradually assessing whether Kingi could be accepted as a coalition partner.

If the association develops into a stable coalition, the partnership could improve their ability to defend themselves, hold territory and withstand challenges from rival males.

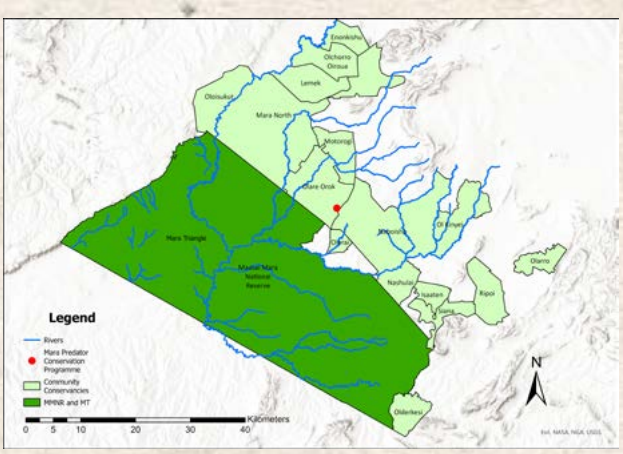


MILAU – TOPI PRIDE

Milau, one of the young males from the Topi Pride and a son of the Salas males, is showing clear signs of maturity. His mane is developing and he is becoming increasingly muscular.

He is also approaching one of the most important transitions in a young male lion's life. Recently, his father Olepolos has been observed chasing him away from the pride, suggesting that Milau may soon have to disperse from his natal range.

Although he still retains some youthful characteristics, his physical development indicates that adulthood, and the challenges of life as a dispersing male, is rapidly approaching.



MAP

Our study area covers the Greater Mara Ecosystem (**~ 3000 km²**) in the south-western corner of Kenya.

We work in the National Reserve and all 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

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