



Lion Tails

Updates by the **Mara Lion Project** on lions in Mara Naboisho Conservancy

April 2016 - May 2016

Enesikiria
male subs



The three Enesikiria youngsters, Ledama, Olushushui (pictured) and Nkoeki, seem to have formed a coalition. Ledama is now 3 years, 4 months old and is the son of the late Spot. Olushushui is 3.5 years old and is the son of Sero, who has disappeared. Nkoeki is almost 3 years old. He is the son of Mickey who has not been seen since January 2015. These three youngsters are trying to push the Elomai males (see below) out of Naboisho, not happy with the competition. Ideally, Ledama, Nkoeki and Olushushui should leave Naboisho Conservancy as they are old enough to and have been mating with members of their own Enesikiria pride resulting in inbreeding.

The 3.5 year young lioness Willow was mated in September 2015 by a young male, initially from the Rekeru Pride in the National Reserve. He dispersed a while back from his natal pride along with two pride mates. They were briefly in Naboisho Conservancy where they found Willow in estrus. This resulted in three cubs being born at the beginning of January. They are all doing well and Willow is keeping them out of harm's way, especially from the Elomai males. We hope that they will all survive, especially because they are carrying genes from unrelated males.



Willow

The Elomai
coalition



The Elomai males were first seen by the Mara Lion Project in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy April, 2014. In May, 2014 were sighted in Mara North Conservancy before returning to Olare Motorogi Conservancy where they took control of a group of sub-adult females from the Moniko pride. The Elomai males then disappeared for a5 months before suddenly showing themselves in Naboisho Conservancy. The S.O.L. males have been spending a lot of their time in Ol Kinyei Conservancy, trying to take over the Ol Kinyei Pride. This opens up opportunities in Naboisho Conservancy for other male coalitions and the Elomai males have been seen mating with a young female from the Ilkisiusiu Pride inside Naboisho.

Ilkisiusiu Pride

The Ilkisiusiu pride is now 14 members strong. Fortunately for the pride, the 4 sub-adult females are staying with the two adult females, Jemjabi and Shukunye. If they remain with the core pride it will mean that the ilkisiusiu pride will have 6 adult females in a couple of years. The only sub-adult male, Nkaate, is now 2 years and 3 months old and is also still with the pride. The youngest cubs are now 5 months old and belong to Jemjabi. The whole pride has often been seen hanging around the XX crossing, bordering Olesere.



Lokoman



Sampu Enkare pride's sub-adult female Lokoman is now 2.5 years old. She has an unusual appearance as she has a lot of hair growth, around her head and neck resembling a mane, although it's not quite as big as her brother Laikam's. Lokoman is also behaving like a male lion at times. She has been seen scent marking a tree which is very odd behaviour for female lions. It will be interesting to follow her to adulthood to see her further mental and physiological developments.

Sero

The older Enesikiria adult female Sero has been taking care of 8 young sub-adults, including 3 of her own offspring. Since the beginning of 2016, they have all disappeared from Naboisho Conservancy. However, Sero and 6 of the 8 subs were suddenly sighted, to our great relief, in Ol Kinyei Conservancy in the beginning of April. Also, 1 out of the 8 subs was sighted recently together with the pride female Dada in Naboisho. As all of these subs are less than 2 years old it is likely that Sero took them far away from the Naboisho when the Elomai males came as they would not tolerate the youngsters.



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