



Cheetah Chat

Updates by the **Mara Cheetah Project** on Cheetahs in the Mara

July 2015 – August 2015

Imani



Last year Imani was seen on the Eastern side of Rhino Ridge in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. with her first litter of cubs. Unfortunately she lost the whole litter when they were only a few months old. But almost a year later Imani has been seen with a brood of four in the Lookout hill/Survey hill area in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. The cubs are just over three months old and are doing well—the long grass at the moment is helping the cubs to stay hidden.

The Musiara female, daughter of Sita/Shakira from African Cats, was recently seen in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy with three small cubs. Since we have known the Musiara female we have seen her pregnant a few times but this is the first time we have seen her with cubs. Let's hope she has better luck this time around!



Musiara

Bawa



Bawa is back in town! Bawa, a male from Malaika's last litter, left his mum around July 2013, when he was about 16 months old. After he dispersed he hung around in the Maasai Mara National Reserve for a while before 'disappearing'. After a long absence he was recently seen in the Southern part of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. He is now just over three years old and by the looks of it he might be big enough to hold his own territory.

At the end of June we came across three young male cheetahs. We suspect that the males are of 2 different ages—one of the males is very distinct looking as he was missing half his tail. We have no idea where they came from but since they appeared they have been sighted in Ol Chorro Conservancy, Mara North Conservancy, Naboisho Conservancy, Olare-Motorogi Conservancy and the Maasai Mara National Reserve. If anyone sees these (or other) new individuals, please send us an email info@maracheetahs.org.



New males

Hammerkop



The Hammerkop male was resident in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy (OMC) until he was displaced by the Ooloolo coalition. Since then we have seen him in Naboisho Conservancy and the Maasai Mara National Reserve. However, in August he was back in OMC actively scent marking the marking trees that are usually used by the Ooloolo males. The next day the Ooloolo males were seen at the same spot checking out who the intruder was. Scent marks on prominent landscape features are important for communication between cheetahs.

In our previous Cheetah Chat we reported a heavily pregnant Nolari (daughter of Narasha). We are excited to announce that she was recently seen in the Maasai Mara National Reserve with her new brood of four (not to be confused with Imani and her four cubs). Nolari is just over 3 years old and this will be her first litter.



Nolari



KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

For more information, or to report a sighting, visit our website (www.maracheetahs.org) or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MaraCheetahProject)

If you have photos or a cheetah story that you would like to share in the next update, please email us at info@maracheetahs.org