



Cheetah Chat

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

November 2017 – December 2017

Neebati



Neebati, Naborr's first daughter, was born in January 2015 and she left her mother in May 2016. Neebati recently gave birth to her first litter which is exiting as we have known Neebati's mother since she was a cub. This is therefore the 4th generation that we are following since the start of the Mara Cheetah Project in June 2013. Neebati and her four bundles of energy are frequently seen around Encounter Mara and the KGS airstrip in Naboisho Conservancy.

The Sopa males are a two-male coalition often found in the Eastern part of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. We recently found one of the males with an injury to his left eye, possibly as a result of a fight. For cheetahs their eyesight is extremely important, especially when hunting, but we have seen other males with similar injuries who have managed to survive. In this case, the male is lucky as he has his coalition mate to help him out.



Sopa males

5 Musketeers



This five-male coalition was formed in December 2016 and it has been interesting to see how their movements have changed over the last year. They were first sighted in Naboisho Conservancy but they then started roaming across the Mara, possibly in search of a territory. It seems that they have now established a territory as their movement in the last 3 months has reduced dramatically and they are now mostly found around Hammerkop crossing in the Mara National Reserve with occasional excursions to double crossing.

Selenkei

In the previous Cheetah Chat we reported that Selenkei, Imani's daughter, had lost her first litter of cubs. Since then she has been seen wandering around Naboisho Conservancy and we suspect that she might be giving birth to her second litter soon. Watch this space!



Kiraposhe's
sub-adults



Kiraposhe's three sub-adults (2 males and a female) are still together with no sign that they might be splitting up any time soon. Once cubs become independent they will usually stay together for several months but they will split up before they become sexually mature to avoid inbreeding. Once Kiraposhe's cubs split up, the female will go off on her own and the two males will stay together as a group, also known as a coalition. At the moment they are spending most of their time in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy.

Forester, who was the resident male around Ol Seki airstrip in Naboisho Conservancy, was likely killed by the 5 Musketeers a few months ago (see our previous Cheetah Chat). We were curious to see how quickly new males would move into his territory so we set up camera traps at trees where Forester used to mark his territory. We very quickly caught two unknown males on the cameras! We are hoping that we will get a sighting of them soon.

New males?



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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