

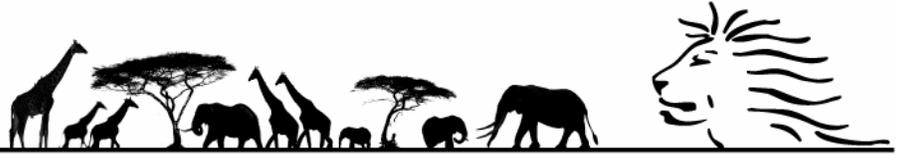
## The Serengeti Lion Project Jan. & Feb. 2008 Report

Two months have now passed since we last up-dated you on the where-abouts and what-about of your favorite lions - now it's time again! Sun is just peeking over the horizon, birds have been chirping for a good while, lions must be distant 'cause there were no roaring this night – nice cool hours to sit down by the computer to put down the news of the past couple of months.

The Migration is around on the South-East short-grass plains; massive herds of wildebeest and zebras, and herds of 50+ elands that quickly trot off as one gets in sight of them (I wonder what have made the Elands so incredibly shy, whatever it is the trait is being inherited down the lines). Gazelles are about as well of course. The place is fantastic, and I reckon the lions are quite exited about it as well! Quite a few of “our” lion prides have started shifting southwards; some of them moving about a lot, others have moved to a new place and settled there for a while.



The green season is here, a time of abundance and new life! Here 3 tiny lion cubs pause on the rocks of Gol Kopjes.



## Gol Kopjes Pride (Simba East)

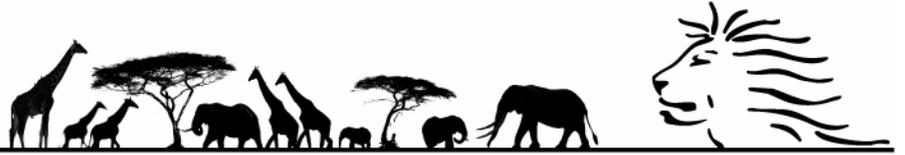
As during the last green season, the Simba East pride has settled at the Gol Kopjes. They now mostly hang out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of Kopjes as you arrive from Naabi Hill. Good news: Splash has been seen with cubs! We hadn't seen Splash since early Oct-07 Finally she was seen again on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. At that observation, Ricardo and Longo-Longo (the resident males of Simba East) were first spotted, lazing in the shade by a kopje. On the other side of the kopje, Splash scurried up the rocks and I got a quick glance of her nipples - Yepp, clear lactation stains! A second later a little cub peered out from the rocks – and that was all we saw at that first meeting. Since then Splash with cubs have been seen 3 times, and in total three cubs have been seen. They are given the code name IDs SB112 (sex yet unknown); SB113 (female); SB114 (male). We estimate they were born in early Nov. last year. Splash had cubs again after her last set of cubs (SB104 and SB105) were only 1.5 years. This is a bit early, seen as her previous cubs have not reached age of independence yet (which they reach at approximately 2 years). Splash seems to have trusted her sister Sasha and mum/aunt Sophie to care for her half-grown daughters. Makes you wonder how these decisions are made. Does Sasha and Sophie gain any benefit from having SB104 and SB105 with them? Are they helpful during hunts, and/or do they add another voice in the night to scare off other intruding lions? Or do they just add another 2 bellies that need filling when a prey is caught, and Sasha and Sophie just tolerate it because this is what lions do, and eventually this'll benefit them by spreading their genes indirectly through closely related pride members???

Ricardo and Longo-Longo don't seem to pay their Simba East ladies much attention. They haven't been seen very much, and twice Longo-Longo was seen mating with non-pride females. Once he mated with Nila (NN22), an old female who is a member of the tiny Snaabi pride that ranges in the Gol-Barafu area. The other female that Longo-Longo paid his due to was PN91 of the confusing lost Girls pride. During the rainy season Aphrodite (PN91) and her sister Athena (PN87) (who appears to be the only members of this pride) hang out in the short-grass plains. This is not the first time these females have been seen mating with resident males from another pride or other nomadic males. Such a small pride has troubles finding males that will stick with them and become their protective resident males. Males don't seem to want more than a "one-estrous-stand" with such small pride females, and the same goes for solitary females.

All in all the Simba East pride are doing really well; all are looking healthy and fit. All or most of the members have been seen on our weekly visits out to the Gol Kopjes. Sarah, Sammy, and Sonia - the cubs of Sasha - have now survived their crucial first year, and now the chances for surviving into adulthood is much better. So this is the time we draw each of them their own ID cards.



A shot of a young Sarah, Sammy, and Sonia with mum.



Not Simba East, instead 10 or 11 (impossible to count them as they crawled about in the tree!) of the Simba Survivor's cubs – a pride that has split off from the Simba East. I found them here in the tree by a kopje also used from time to time of the Simba East pride. If you have a chance, drive past this kopje that lies in-between the Simba Kopjes and the northern Gol Kopjes, along a poor less traveled road. There's often something interesting lurking about her.

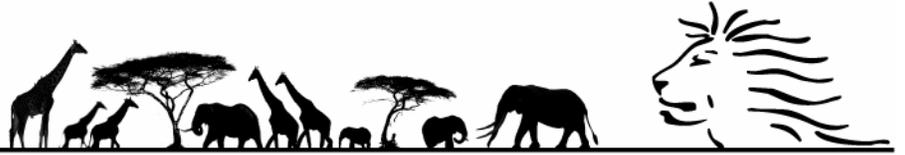
## **Cub Valley (Sametu):**

If you remember from earlier reports, the Greek Gods (4 males; Zeus, Ares, Apollo and Demeter) took over the Cub Valley pride since Nov. last year. Interestingly we have seen, on a number of occasions, the 3 sub-adult females Dawn, Dusk and Twilight in the company of the males, always along with other adult females. These young females are not at all near the age of mating (they're just 1.5 years), and should have been chased off by the new males, according to all we know about lions. But then as always there is the case by case variation. Are these males just being more tolerant than other males? Or have these males been accompanying the Cub Valley females before? Is it possible they have actually fathered these 3 young ladies??

The Cub Valleys have moved SE of their usual hang-out around the Sametu Kopjes, and during January they were most often found on the plains between Sametu and Zebra Kopjes, in the area that is called the "Water-hole Ridge" in Jeanette and David's book "Lions share". In mid- and end Jan. all the adult females were seen together, except for Triangle eye, the three sub-adult females and one of the new pride males. On one of these observations the pride was seen in the late evening heading south. The following day Patrik saw them again at the northern end of the Gol Kopjes, almost 8 km south of where he saw them the previous night. Even for a lion that is a fair hike! Since then smaller groups of the pride have been seen, and always at or near the Zebra Kopjes.

The excitements of having new pride males dominate our sightings of this pride during the last two months. On 8<sup>th</sup> Feb the recently collared female, Vanilla, was consorted by Demeter, on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Zeus had taken over Vanilla, and was then mating with her. Much of this new-found love takes place on and near the Zebra Kopjes, in a secluded off-road area. The new pride males for Cub Valley, the "Greek Gods" are currently paying little attention to their other 3 prides, the Vumbi, Barafu, and Kibumbu. It seems as females in estrous beats the duty of cub-protection!!

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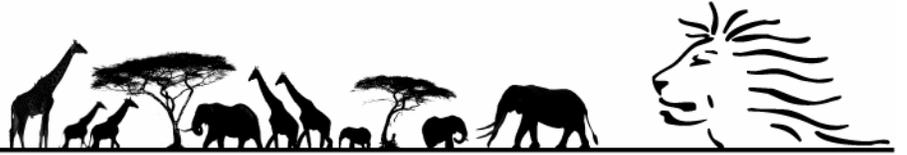
The older collared female, Vivian, was on her own when I last visited her. She looked a bit skinny, though I think it is actually age that is taking its toll on her. She is now 14.5 years old and definitely reaching the autumn of a lioness' lifetime. That's the age when they start to look really worn, and the normally round and muscled shape of the hips is instead bony and edgy. Vivian has been seen soliciting the new males, who mated with her reluctantly at her eager initiations. Do the males sense that this old female is not likely to mother any further cubs, and they therefore don't waste much energy on her?? Lions live long enough to go through menopause (which is quite rare in the animal world), and most females cease giving birth after the age of 14.

Another interesting note that should have been mentioned in the last report, but is easier for me to remember as I was with on this immobilization. On the 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. we darted Dusk to disease sample her. We especially targeted her as we had noticed that her face was always a bit weird, slanted and contorted, though overall she was looking just as healthy as her sisters. Since October we had seen pus oozing from her forehead. All sorts of theories were suggested: a virus infection causing facial pareses, an injury with abscess breaking open after a trauma (interestingly we saw pus oozing from forehead just when the take-over of males was happening)... When we had Dusk asleep for the sampling, we noticed there was a hole on her forehead and that a piece of fractured bone was protruding. Very likely she has had a big injury, for example a kick of a zebra, to the skull, which slightly fractured it. Like I said this female has a face that looks a bit weird, but otherwise she looks as well as her 2 sisters. This really shows you how resilient lions and animals in the wild are in general – and it keeps fascinating us!

Triangle Eye and her cubs (if the cubs are still alive) have not been seen in the last 2 months. I have a feeling she struggles to keep the cubs, but has to stay away from the rest of her pride as they are now involved with new males that did not father her cubs.



A Picture of Triangle Eye and her 3 cubs, last seen in December 2007.



## Maasai Kopjes

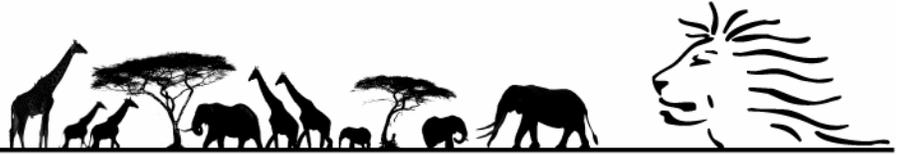
This pride has been seen numerous times in the last 2 months, never the whole pride together but mostly a gathering of 2-5 adult females, now and again a few cubs and the resident males Fellow and Jello have come and gone a bit. All of the adult females, except the solitary Trinity, have been seen in the last couple of months.

The survival of the cubs is a bit unsure. MK119, MK125 and MK128 were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, though surprisingly they were on their own along the marshy edges of Seronera River. However, it is likely their mums were nearby, lying hidden in the reeds. MK119 have not been seen since, but MK125 and MK128 have been seen twice. At the end of Jan. they were both rather skinny. The area the Maasai Kopje hangs out in is not great during the rainy season, as possible prey don't have to gather around the river as during the dry season. Some members have ventured a bit south, though never as far as the short-grass plains (and the Migration).

On the 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Jane was seen in company with Madeleine, Kennedy, Matokeo and one of her 3 cubs (MK118). That's the latest sighting of Jane and her cubs, and we can't say how they are doing, or if her cubs are surviving. I'm hoping I'll come across them one day out on the short-grass plains, fat and healthy from a recently killed wildebeest....time will tell.



Two of the 4-month old Kibumbu cubs, getting some exercise in a small tree. Mum and Aunties resting lazily nearby.



Patrik noticed lactation stains on Kennedy on the 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – i.e. she has had a litter. I've been to see her often since then, though I've had no luck in finding any cubs. She has either been with other adult females, mainly Cordelle and Matokeo, or she was seen on her own. Mind you, grass is getting really high, and the pride tends to dive right into it. Terribly hard to spot any cubs that may have been present. However, on my last sighting of Kennedy her lactation stains were really faint, so I presume she has lost her cubs. That is the 2<sup>nd</sup> litter she's lost in a short span as she also lost a litter in mid-2007.

## **Mukoma Gypsies**

A lot of our "sightings" of this pride have been non-sightings – we have gotten really strong signals but haven't seen the collared lioness. Little My has been hiding in a little drainage overgrown with shrubs and grass. After a few visits having the same thing; strong signal into a good hiding place, we can safely presume the lioness is denning. Sure enough, yesterday (25<sup>th</sup> Feb.) I finally got to see Little My. After some patient waiting she eventually turned up her belly and I could see the little lactation stains from small cubs that have suckled her. So she is a mother, and I hope she will succeed this time. Very likely she gave birth in mid-2007, though we never got to see any of her cubs before she lost them.

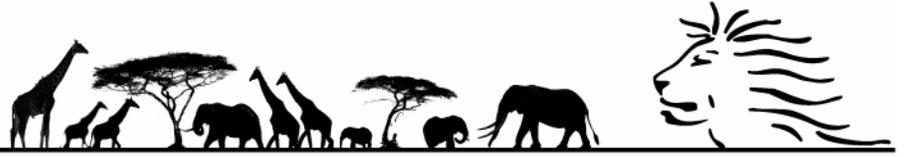
As for the rest of the pride, there have been only few sightings. With the collared female away denning (a period when they spend most of the time alone) we don't have the radio-tracking to help us to the other members. Also I suspect that some of the M. Gypsies are visiting the short-grass plains with the migration. In any case, all of the adult females (Tic, Rhapsody, Filly Jonk, Snork, MH62 and Moomin Troll) have been seen in the last 2 months, but none of their cubs. Filly Jonk was still lactating on our last sighting of her (5<sup>th</sup> Jan.) and I hope her 2 cubs are still with us.

## **Mukoma Hill**

All of the females, except Mint (who really is a solitary) have been seen during the last two months on our weekly visits to this pride. The biggest news in this pride is a litter of new cubs, born end of Jan. to Mia, the collared female. Normally you have some "advance notice" of cubs being born to the collared female, as she keeps very much to herself for a while and that you track her down to the same place week after week, often to a kopje or a secluded place along a drainage (see Mukoma Gypsies). Mia showed none of these behaviours. Prior to seeing her with cubs at the den we saw her on our weekly visits in various places, always near the Mukoma Hill, in company of her pride members. Once, for example, I tracked down Mia who was with Meg, Melody, Mwezi and Nyota – all just lazing around as lions so often do. Driving on, a kilometer later I came across 4 of the M. Hill cubs; MH91, 92, 93 and 95. The cubs were playing and resting near a small road, almost a kilometer away from their mums. Supposedly cubs spend quite a bit of time on their own, when they stay well hidden from any lurking dangers. I got a bit surprised seeing them so out in the open and so un-perturbed by having me visit them. MH94, a little female born to Meg, has not been seen since Nov., so she must have died.

Back to Mia; on the 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. I found her walking into some nice shrubs and trees along a drainage line. It was lunchtime and as often I stay with the lions I've just seen, quietly eating my leftovers from dinner.

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Most times nothing happens as you stay on with lions, they just keep resting. But at times activities are seen, like they start stalking some prey, other lions appear etc. Staying with Mia this time, I heard her starting to call out softly.

Hmmm, I thought, why is she calling on her pride-members like they are cubs? (A lioness calls to her cubs in a different way than calling on pride members. It is like a softer call, with a different “tune”.) The grass around Mia was really tall, so it was difficult to see anything, but suddenly I caught a glimpse of something really tiny – a cub! It looked like it could easily fit in my two hands, and I presume it was just a week or two old, at the most. Often when you see mums return to their den, the cubs get very noisy as they hurry to suckle her. But this cub was quiet – I suppose it was still too young to call?!?

A week later I saw Mia again in her den with 2 cubs (MH96 and -97). It is likely that more cubs were present, as it was terribly hard to see what went on in the den among grass and shrubs. About 50 meters away Wallace was resting alone under a tree, most likely a very proud father!

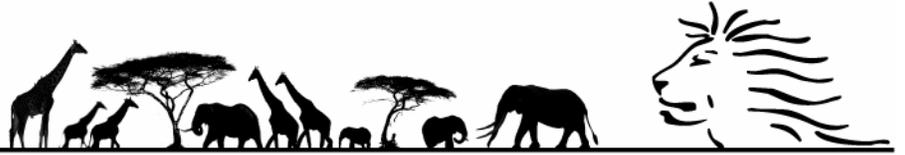
The latest news on this pride; I think Mia’s cubs may be lost. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. I got signals for Mia well inside Moru area. The area is highly protected because of the few Rhinos living there, so we are not allowed to drive in off-road there to track down “our lions”, hence I could not see Mia (nor her company, if she had any). Moru is about 25 km away from where Mia was denning and for sure she is on the move to find food (the migration in the south east a big attraction). Either she has gone on a short trip for a day or so, which the cubs can survive. Though yesterday evening she was not back in her usual place... Most likely she has decided to abandon her cubs (or the cubs have died of some other reason) and Mia is now traveling south to better feeding grounds, as so many of the lions do at this time of the year. We’ll keep you up-dated!

## **Mukoma Mischief**

Getting opportunistic sightings of lions in the Seronera area, where the Mukoma lions hang out, is difficult at this time of the year when the grass tall. Also many lions from here venture south towards the plains and the Migration. Finding these lions is immensely difficult without the help of radio tracking. We’ve had no great sightings of the Mukoma Mischief pride in the last two months; we have just seen Melba (the collared female) and her two cubs.

We are really hanging out to see the other pride members; to see how the 3-5 cubs of Miranda and Molly are coping, and if Mugumu as a first time mother managed to keep her cub(s). But all of last year Melba for some reason has been really un-social. Why didn’t she pool her cubs with those of Miranda and Molly, to raise them in a crèche and to protect them from danger in a bigger group? Ok, there is an age-difference of 3-4 months between these cub litters, but lions often pool litters that are born within a year from each other. Well, as often there is great variation in the strategies the animals end up taking. In this case we expected Melba to pool her cubs with her sisters/cousins, which is what happens most of the time when pride lionesses have cubs around the same time. But Melba didn’t, and I’m sure if we could ask her she would give us a good reason why.

After having failed to find Melba for a few weeks, we found her on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 30-40 km SE of her usual area, near Gol Kopjes – she was on the move to the Migration. Since then she has been seen weekly somewhere on the short-grass plains together with her two cubs MMF and -G. The cubs really have walked far considering their little legs! All are doing fine. I’m sure they are eating fairly well out there, although we have not seen them on a kill, nor have they looked extremely well-fed.

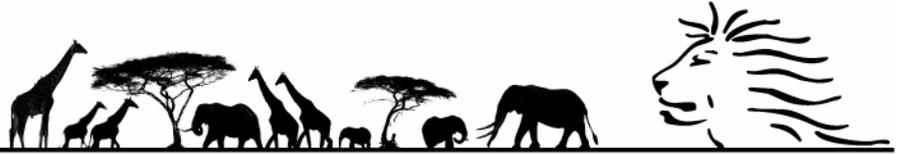


The young male MMF resting in a tree. Beside him in the tree were his sister MMH and their mother Melba in another tree.

## **New Naabi**

This pride doesn't present us with many surprises. Since the rains have started and the migration have returned to the short-grass plains they have resumed their usual rainy season hang-out by a line of waterholes just inside the "Ndotu Triangle", not too far off the main road though a bit too far to be seen from the road. This pride seems to stuff their faces for a half year, gaining reserves that will sustain them far into the coming dry season. On my last two sightings of these cats however, they were lying right near the road just before Naabi Hill – and of course making a great welcoming for the incoming tourists. Perhaps some of you also met them. By the road I saw Layla (the collared female), Caerphilly, Carmarthen and Narnia – all full bellies as usual. Most of the times that we see this pride it really looks like they are suffering; they've often had too much to eat for comfort and the sun is beating down on a shade-less plain. The Naabi members just sit there panting away, digesting last night's dinner that makes them even hotter.

I stayed out in the "Ndotu Triangle" on the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. As usual Layla, Caerphilly, Carmarthen and Narnia were panting away by the nearby waterholes that evening. Early the next morning I wake up while still dark. Lion roaring fills the breaking dawn. I make a mug of hot tea, then steer my Landrover towards the roars. Thompson's gazelle scatter away as I see Wales Boyo hurrying north, walking fast, breaking into a trot at times and roaring now and again. I move with him, at a good distance to not interfere with his movements. Then further ahead I spot another male – yep, like expected it is Dafyd (Wales Boyo's presumed son, which he now seem to have taken as his coalition partner – see earlier reports). Younger and very fit, Dafyd moves ahead with long strides, roaring very often. It is clear that Wales Boyo has to struggle to keep up. A bit later they pause by a waterhole for a drink and rest, but then move on again. I went to see some other lions in the meantime and then tracked down the Naabi Pride again. At mid-day I found the group from last evenings sighting together with Wales Boyo and Dafyd. To meet up



with their pride the two adult males had moved ca 11 km that same morning – and who said lions were lazy cats!?! (Hey, they are, but not all the time!)



Part of the Naabi Pride 15<sup>th</sup> Jan-08, as Wales Boyo and Dafyd has joined the rest of the pride. Herds of wildebeest and zebras nearby.

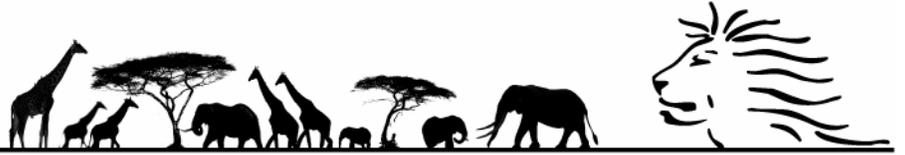
The 2 other young males Llandudno and Llanelli have only been seen once in the last 2 months; on the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. together with Layla and Narnia near Naabi's usual area. It seems like the 2 males have left their natal pride now to take up a nomadic lifestyle, grow bigger and stronger and eventually find a pride of their own. 'Cause that is what males do...

## **Transect**

It really looks like a pride that has had some disruptions. Remember the attempted Take-over by Holger and Nikko that Patrik wrote about in last report. It seems like they were partly successful, but that 4 of the adult females (ZZ, Zenden, Ziege and Zico) have chosen to escape with their yet dependent offspring (TR136-147) instead of abandoning them to start a "new family", i.e. start mating, with the new males. Their former male Porky has been seen occasionally with these females and the 12 offspring that he has fathered. The Take-over attempt that we observed (I'm sure plenty of other action of this kind occurred nighttime, unobserved by us) happened 15<sup>th</sup> December. It appears that Zola and Zamorano stayed on with these 2 new males. By the end of the "Take-over day" they were either soliciting or mating with Nikko and Holger. We have only seen these males once since then, on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. They were in the Seronera area, not far from where the take-over event took place. Zamorano and a female I presume was Zola was just 300 meters away. That is also the only sighting we've had of these two Transect females, and they seem to have stopped (for the time being!?) to interact with the rest of the Transects.

After this Take-over event we have had sightings of the Transect group in unusual places. During the last year they never really left the proximity of the Seronera River. But now they have been found at the base and well behind "Fuji Mountain" and on hills along the "Death Valley". Although still close to Seronera, this is the longest move we have observed for this pride for a good while.

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On 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Patrik saw Tanga (TR118) with her 2 cubs (TR148-9) again. Porky has been seen with her and the cubs once, and for sure he is the father of the 2 male cubs. We see this trio very rarely, and last observation was in October. Even if Patrik saw them only a few hundred meters from the rest of the Transect (that had just killed a buffalo and were feasting on that), he saw no signs of there being any connections with Tanga and her former/natal pride. For sure she has departed from her natal pride and is now either living as a solitary, raising her cubs alone, or she lives in a new pride with other former Transect females. Though it would be a bit surprising, it is not impossible that a pride lives nearby and remains un-detected by us - the woodlands and riverine thickets north of Seronera is perfect terrain for lions to hide in!

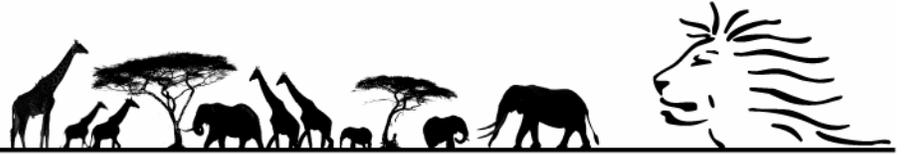
*Hunter or the Hunted?* On 4<sup>th</sup> Jan we had a really interesting observation of this group of females and offspring. We found them resting in tall grass in Acacia woodlands, when a mixed herd of buffaloes started to approach. After a while the buffaloes pushed nearer, then finally went for the lions that scattered away. About four of the youngsters ran up a small kopje with shrubs – too small to fit all of them. They kept pushing about, trying to fit in among the shrubs and siblings, ever worried to lose the grip and fall down on the surrounding and threatening herd of “Bufffs”. It was hard to distinguish whether we were hearing lions or buffaloes growl, though I think both animals were rather vocal. It was a really interesting observation, and it really makes one understand the difficulties in catching a buffalo for dinner! In fact, most of the time buffaloes are killed it is an old male from a tiny group of retired old bulls. They don't have the huge cooperative herd to protect them.



Picture of Buffaloes interacting with the Transect females. See the lions hiding in the far right corner of the trees!

Now towards the end of Feb. the Transect behavior remains the same. In most sightings we see the majority of the 4 females and their 12 offspring, and they are mostly back around the Seronera River and SRI area. Some of

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the young ones are starting to look a bit skinny, and TR145 had an ugly looking puncture wound under her chin. The rainy season is not the best time of the year here. Prey is scattered as there is water to find all over the place. Also I presume that having the threat of intruding males inhibit much of the hunting for this pride. We shall keep you up-dated on the coming events on this temporarily divided pride!

## Something more...

Your drivers and clients have maybe seen a pride with at least 12 and later 11 cubs in the southern part of Simba kopjes since late August or September this year? Often amazing sights for the tourists! This pride is a pride we call Simba Survivors and mentioned briefly in the first report about the lions from us, the one about Simba East. The 24<sup>th</sup> October we got info from tour drivers they had seen a dead collared lioness just beside the main road about 10 km North West of Naabi hill at the murrans pits there. This collared female was SB65, a member of Simba Survivors. She had by this time about four cubs, born in early August. She died of infections from severe wounds caused probably from a fight with other lions. Maybe she tried to defend her cubs from a strange male, there has been and still are movements with new and old males around that area. Or some other lions, maybe the females of Simba East? They were in that area at that time as well. Even if they are close related, they probably don't know each other, SB64 and SB66 in the pride we call Simba Survivors had split up from their mothers pride in 1997 by the time when SB69 (the collared female in Simba East) was born.

Anyway, we are sure that all or at least some of SB65s cubs are today still alive, they have been adopted by the other three females having cubs in Simba Survivors! So next time you see all this cubs by the southern Simba kopjes together with their three mums, devote a thought of SB65 and her probably fight for her cubs and the cubs you see, some of them are hers. And don't forget the three females who have adopted SB65 cubs.



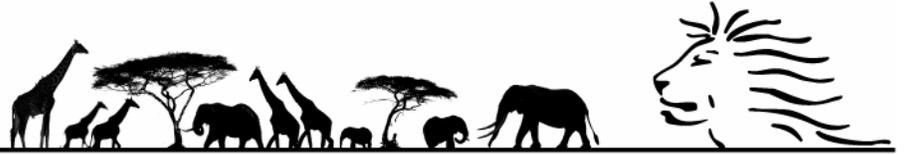
SUK and the 11 cubs.

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Beautiful isn't it?



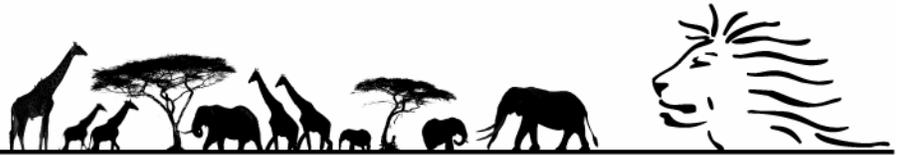


That's all we have from our side for this report. Hope you have enjoyed the reading and learning about the developments of your favorite prides here in the Serengeti.

Till Next time, Safari Njema!

Ingela, Patrik and the Lions

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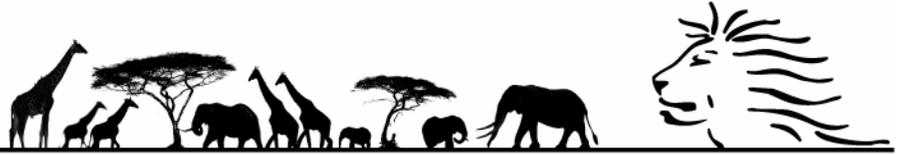


# THE SERENGETI LIONS:

## ***A BRIEF HISTORY AND KEY***

***INFORMATION PROVIDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICA DREAM SAFARIS  
BY THE SERENGETI LION PROJECT***

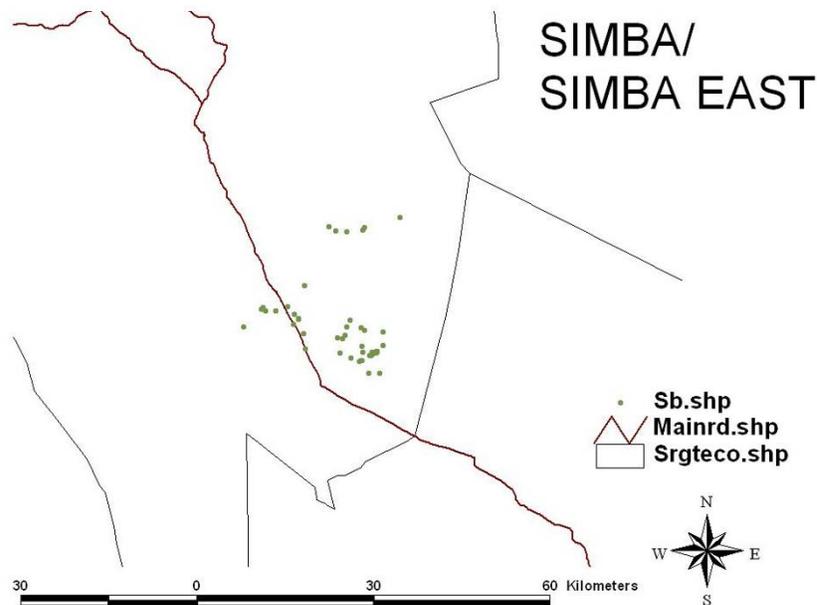




## History of the Simba East Pride (Gol Kopjes Pride)

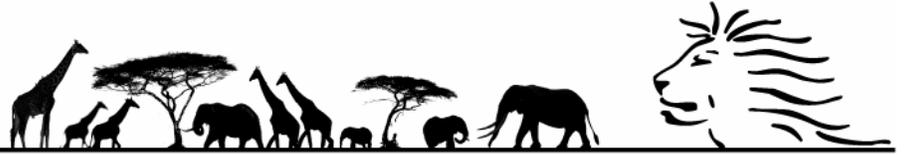
Many of you already know about our special “adopted” lions in this pride. The Simba East Pride, a.k.a. the *Gol Kopjes Pride*, consists of three females – Sophie (SB69, born June ‘97), Sasha (SB87, born Feb. ‘02), and Splash (SB88, born Feb ‘02), as well as eight adorable lion cubs. Starting in early April of 2007, many of our clients and staff witnessed the playful antics of this special pride first hand and with such tiny cubs it is not surprising we all fell for them.

The eight lion cubs range in size and age: The two older female cubs, Sabrina and Samantha, were born in June 2006; they also had a sister (SB103) which sadly perished around Aug 2006. The three middle cubs were born in early Feb 2007, and are comprised of two females, Sarah and Sonia, and one male by the name of Sammy. The three youngest cubs, Stacia, Sky, and Simone (all females) were born in early March 2007; these 3 cubs regrettably perished in the late dry season of 2007. The fathers of these cubs are a coalition of two magnificent male lions, both born in August 2002; their names are Longo-Longo (S#82; blond mane and a scar on his left hip) and Ricardo (S#84; dark mane and no tail tuft).



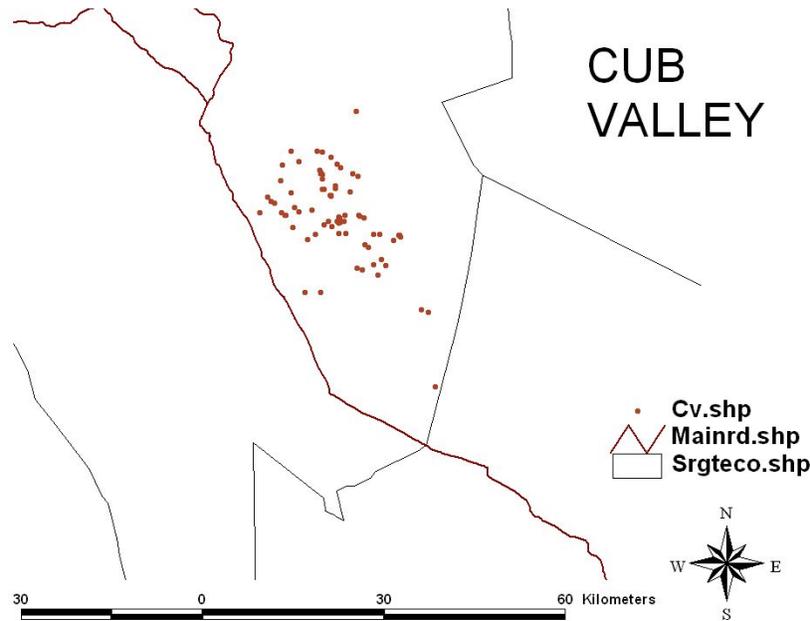
**Fig. 1:** The observation points of the Simba East pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area. .

As it turns out, the lions of the Gol Kopjes Pride are direct descendents of one of the very first prides studied by the Serengeti Lion Project when it began in 1966. This original pride had split up several times, forming a family tree that branched throughout history in prides such as the Simba Numbers Pride (still living, last seen south of Naabi Hill), the Sympatica Pride (now gone, last seen in 1990), the Simba West pride (now gone, last seen in 1987), the Simba Survivors (still living, last seen near Simba Kopjes), and the Simba Ramblers (now gone, last seen in 1996).



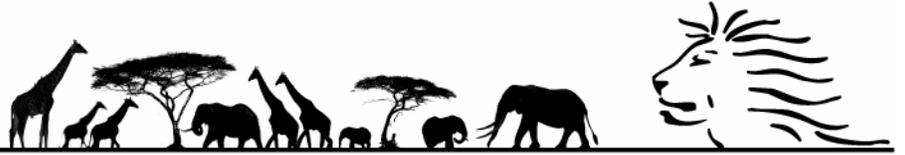
## History of the Cub Valley Pride (Sametu Pride)

The Cub Valley Pride got their name from Cub Valley where they hang out sometimes during the green season. We often fondly refer to them as the *Sametu Pride*, as we often see them at Sametu Kopjes as well. This is a large pride, thriving mainly in the long grass plains of the Serengeti. They hold their territory in the green season around Sametu Kopjes, and it extends southeast following the valley we call Cub Valley, ending between Zebra kopjes to the north and north Gol kopjes to the south. In the dry season they are still found around Sametu kopjes, but more likely north of Sametu, into Kibumbu kopjes and Ngare Nanyuki river. They are also sometimes around Bomas kopjes and the grasslands into Five hill track.



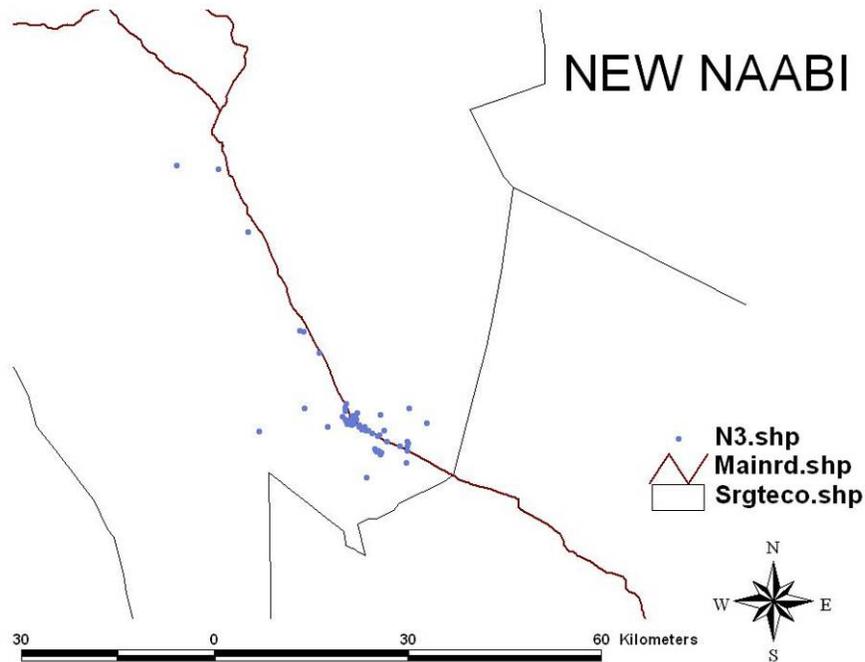
**Fig. 1:** The observation points of the Cub Valley pride during one year, 2006. The borders between Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area are in grey/blue The main road is dark red. Seronera are just a bit south of the Y-junction of the main road.

The origin for the Cub Valley pride began several years ago with the pride Maasai Kopjes. Once a pride gets too large, some members usually leave to establish a new territory for themselves. Somewhere between late 1996 to early 1997 a group of 11 young females, all born between June to September 1993, split up from their mothers' pride Maasai Kopjes and formed the Cub Valley Pride. They found a new territory to the east of where they had grown up. Today only three of the founding ladies who once left the Maasai kopjes pride are still alive... Vivian (with a collar), Victoria and JB. The rest of the core of this lion pride is formed by their daughters Valkyrie, Valhalla, Viola, Vallmo, Valborg, and Triangle Eye, all born between 1999-2001. Dawn, Dusk, and Twilight are newly initiated members, born in mid-year 2006. Up until late 2007, Garth and Dougal were the resident male lions for this pride, but they were getting older.... Garth at 11 years and Dougal at 9. In November of 2007, a fearsome coalition of 4 strong male lions initiated a take over of the pride. These four handsome males are known as the "Greek Gods" and are comprised of the individuals Zeus, Apollo, Ares, and Demeter. These new resident males are young by comparison to the elders they ousted, all born between 2000 and 2001. It will be interesting to observe the activity of this pride in the future with these new males now residing.



## History of the New Naabi Pride

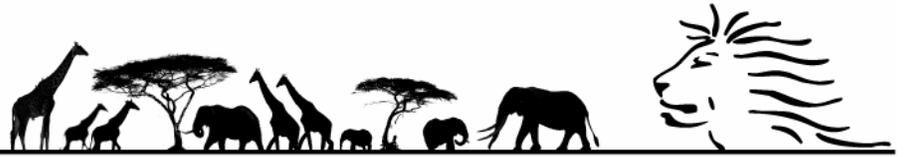
The lion pride that is often seen around the Naabi Hill is called the New Naabi Pride. The origin of this pride is unknown, but they were first observed, and henceforth recognized as a pride, in April 1983. The range of this pride is limited to the short-grass plains, with its center being Naabi Hill. The pride ventures away from the hill as far as Hidden Valley, however they do not seem to use the Gol Kopje area (that lies 15 km NE of Naabi Hill).



**Fig. 1:** The observation points of the New Naabi pride during one year, 2006. The coordinates far north of Naabi hill are the observations of NN07 when she was very ill. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area.

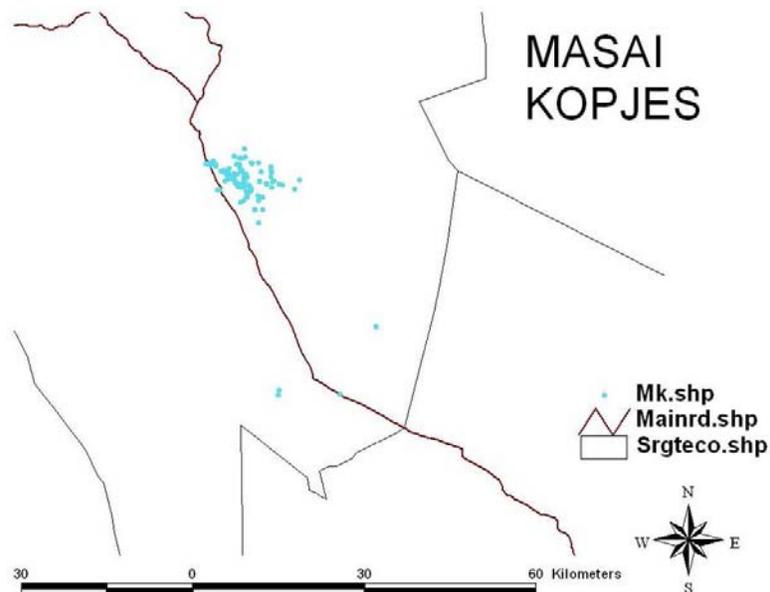
Today the New Naabi Pride consists of 2 adult females, Lea (born Apr. '92) and Layla (born May '98). Both these females wear a radio collar. Until Oct. '06 we still had regular sightings of Lychee, a female member of this pride. Lychee is our all time Grand Old Lady lion, as she was born in early 1987. We suspect Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> will remain our last sighting of her and that she died shortly after. She was then almost 20 years, and is the oldest lion that we've known of in the wild! Further, in the New Naabi Pride there are another 2 sub-adult females, Caerphilly (born Jan '04) and Carmarthen (born Mar. '04). Carmarthen is easy to distinguish with her broken off tail-tip and her cloudy left eye. Then the pride has 4 sub-adult males; Dafyd (born Jun -03), Llanduduo (born Mar '04), Llanelli (born Mar '04) and finally NN56 (born Mar '06).

Wales Bolo (born 1998-99 from unknown origin, first seen in Nov -03 when he was mating with Lea) is "king" in this pride, a lone male residing in the pride since late 2003. For a single male to hold the reign of a pride for this long, and successfully raise a large number of litters, is quite unusual. Normally a single male gets ousted long before he gets an opportunity to protect his pride until the offspring reach an age of independence. Wales Bolo is a strong lion indeed!



## History of the Maasai Kopjes pride

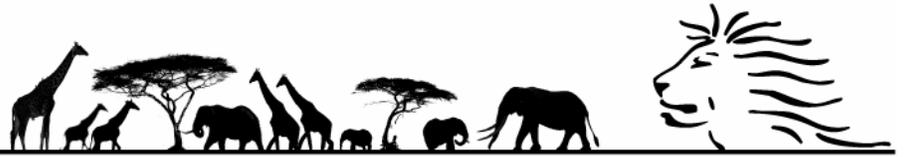
This pride has as its base the Maasai Kopjes, in the very heart of Serengeti. They frequently hang out on and among the kopjes themselves. The Seronera River, and to a lesser extent the Wandamu Rivers, are big attractions to these lions, and they are often seen in the high grass along the rivers, stalking prey sometimes, but mostly doing what lions are really great at; just sleeping. Their territory is a rich one in the eyes of a lion. It has many good sites for denning, plenty of fresh water (lions in Serengeti like to drink at least once per day), and prey available year around. The large kopjes offer good shelter and shade, the rivers nearby offer water, and the territory offers good hunting opportunities for stalking prey that is forced to come close to drink from the rivers. Thus the pride can house many members, even though the territory size is relatively small. See below for a map of observed locations of the members of this pride over a year's time. During the rainy season when the migration is down in the South Eastern short grass plains, we now and again see members of the Maasai Kopje pride going SE for a short while to feed on the ample supply of wildebeest and zebras.



**Fig. 1:** The observation points of the Maasai Kopje pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area.

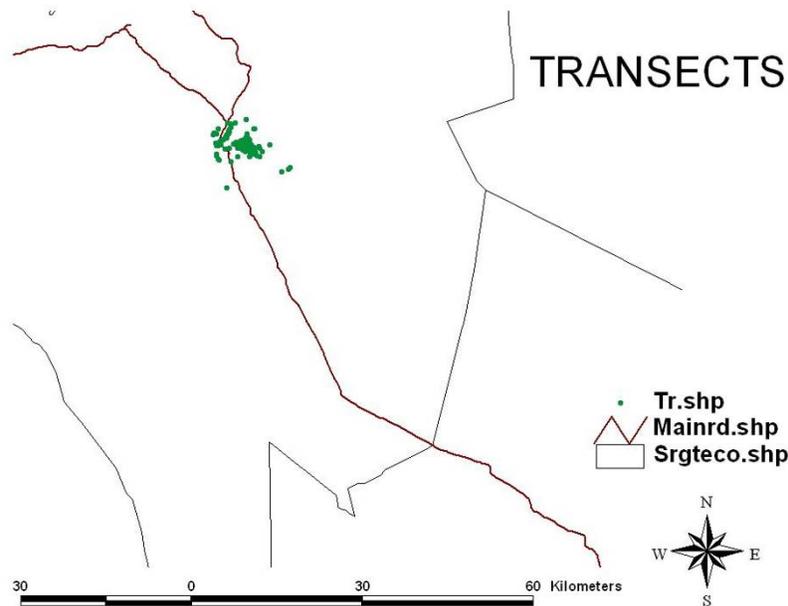
The Maasai Kopje pride originates from a group of 6 sub-adult females (born between Apr-80 and May-81) who split off from the Maasai Pride at the end of 1982 to escape a coalition of four males (BC1, 2, 3 and 4) who had taken over their natal pride. (The Maasai Pride was a primary focus for the original researchers of the Serengeti Lion Project, George Schaller and Brian Bertram, as early as 1963.)

Today the Maasai Kopjes pride consists of 12 adult females: Madeleine, Jezebel, Trinity, Kennedy, Cordelle, Jordan, Mutant, Jane, Trinity II, Matokeo, and 3 sub adults Mikari, Meosha, and Malick. Sadly Malick passed away at the very end of 2007. The resident males are the aging "Fellow" and "Jello," and they were first seen as the reigning males of this pride in early 2002. They may look quite worn with age, but the old chaps are still doing grand!



## History of the Transects Pride

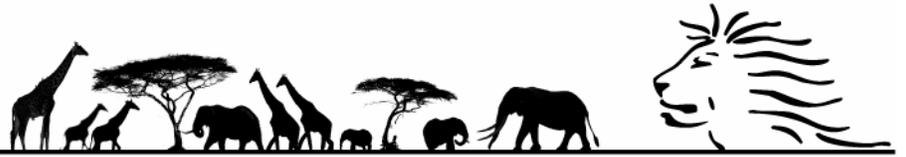
This is a huge lion pride often seen during the dry season along Seronera River, just opposite Kerr's dam and the Seronera Wildlife Lodge. The origin of this pride is unknown, but the first sightings of this pride were in early March 1981. The Transects' territory includes the open woodlands around Seronera roughly bordered to the West by the Seronera River, to the East SRI, to the South by the Seronera airstrip, and to the North by Nyaraswiga Hill. During the dry season, these lions often just hang out around the Seronera River. In reality, these lions hold a very small territory compared to other lion prides on the plains. They are able to thrive due to the abundant resources of this small but rich territory. Here in the Seronera River Valley they can find prey, water, and good den sites to rear their cubs no matter the season. Everything a lion could wish for! The support offered by these ideal conditions significantly lowers cub mortality and therefore increases the number of members in the pride. Many sub-adults of such a large pride eventually move away to form new prides. So the Transects Pride continues to populate surrounding areas with a healthy supply of lions!



**Fig. 1:** The observation points of the Transects pride during one year, 2006. You can see the borders to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area in grey/blue. The main road is dark red. The Y-junction of the main road in the North is in Seronera area.

The *Transects* pride has split up several times, forming various prides that seemingly share similar territories without too many squabbles; they are all “family,” after all. Some of these other prides are the *Young Transects*, the *Transect Troublemakers*, and the *Transect Truants*.

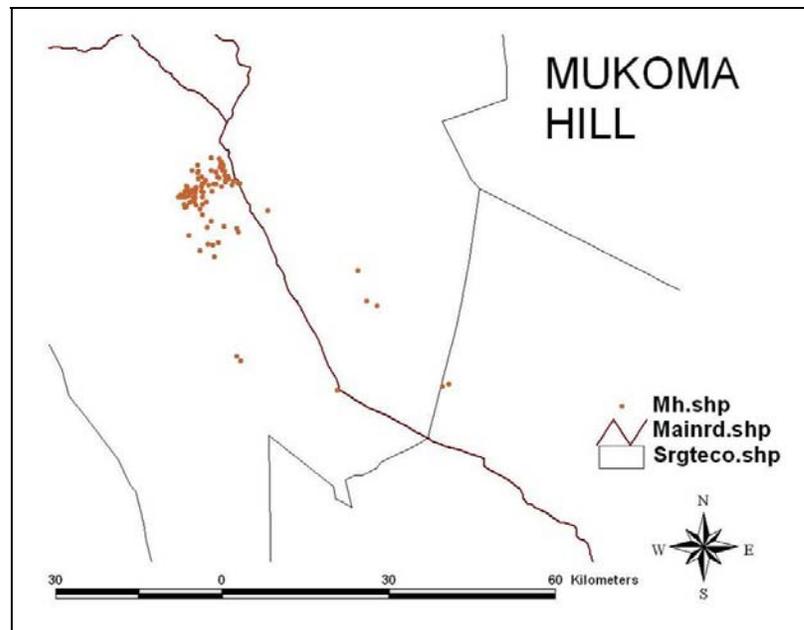
As of late 2007, the core of the Transects pride members include: 7 adult females: ZZ, Zenden, Zamorano, Ziege, Zola, Zico, Zizophus, and Tarragon. Tagging along are 4 sub-adult females, 3 sub-adult males and 5 older cubs. The resident males in Transects today are a coalition of two lions, Porky and Pie. These two males were both born together in the Plains Pride in December 1998 and January 1999, and they claimed the Transects Pride as their own in late March of 2006. This pride has been famous for its large numbers; during the year 2002 and 2003 there were around 40 members!



## History of the Mukoma prides

The Mukoma prides of today are actually split up in three different prides; the original *Mukoma Hill Pride* (which we'll focus on here), and the 2 branch prides that have split apart from them; the *Mukoma Mischief Pride* and *Mukoma Gypsies Pride*. As is common when prides split apart, the newly formed prides have taken up a territory that adjoins their natal pride. These three prides hang out around the Mukoma Hill (hence their pride name).

The Mukoma prides live in good lion habitat. See the below map for the most recent positions of our observations of members of these prides. They have good access to Seronera River – with its water and constant prey availability. At certain times of the year, the grass plains between the river and the Mukoma Hill have big passing herds of wildebeest, zebras and gazelles on them. Denning sites are easily found in the thick vegetation along the River and its tributaries. Some of the lions den inside niches of Mukoma Hill the Thatch Kopjes.

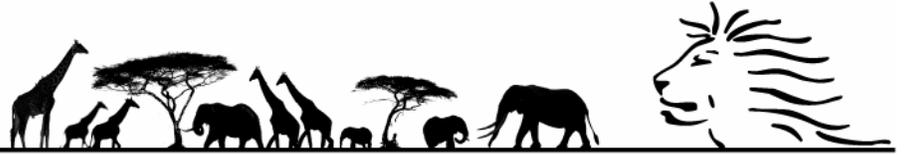


**Fig. 1:** The map above shows the observation points of the Mukoma Hill Pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the southeast is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the north is in Seronera area. The grey lines are the boundary of Serengeti NP.

The origin of the Mukoma Hill Pride is unknown, and they were first observed and recognized as a pride from early Feb 1986. The lions that were first seen were the 7-year old females “Hatari” and “Hadhari”, the 6-year old female “Hasira” and the 4-year old females “Hamaki” and MHE. In April 1987 they got “Cocktail” and “Truman” (both approx 6-years old) to join as their resident males. It seems that were some young females that had split away from their natal pride and started a pride of their own – which they did successfully.

Today the core of the Mukoma Hill Pride consists of 4 adult females, Tat, Mia, Meg, and Melody, along with their various cubs, plus another female Mint that we now regard as solitary. The resident males, Wallace and William, were first seen consorting with the Mukoma females at the beginning of 2006. Wallace and William still hold the residency of all three Mukoma prides.

# Africa Dream Safaris



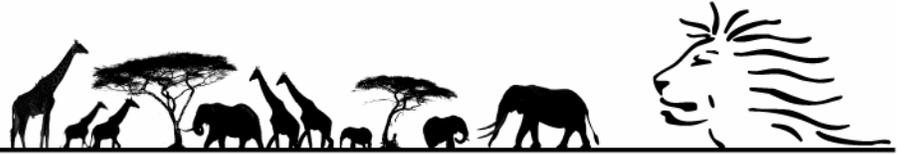
**Lion Pride    Name    Number    M or F    DOB    Other Notes**

New Naabai	Lea	NN07	F	Apr-92	collared lion; has been missing since Oct '07
	Layla	NN32	F	May-98	
	Lychee	-	F	Feb-87	Presumed Dead; last seen October 2006
	Caerphilly	NN51	F	Jan-04	
	Carmarthen	NN52	F	Mar-04	
	Dafyd	NN49	M	Jun-03	
	Llanduduo	NN53	M	Mar-04	
	Llanelli	NN54	M	Mar-04	
	TBD	NN56	M	Mar-06	
	<b>Wales Bolo</b>	-	<b>M</b>	<b>Oct-98</b>	<b>current resident male</b>

Cub Valley (Sametu)	Vivian	MK11	F	1993	has a collar
	Victoria	MK19	F	1993	bluish right eye, maybe blind
	JB	MK21	F	1993	
	Valkyrie	CV03	F	1999	
	Valhalla	CV08	F	1999	
	Viola	CV18	F	1999	bluish right eye, maybe blind
	Vallmo	CV24	F	2001	
	Valborg	CV25	F	2001	
	Triangle Eye	CV27	F	2001	
	Vanilla	CV32	F	2001	
	Dawn	CV61	F	Jun-06	subadult
	Dusk	CV62	F	Jun-06	subadult; has distorted facial features maybe from an injury to the head
	Twilight	CV63	F	Jun-06	subadult
	<b>Zeus</b>	<b>PN89</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Jan-00</b>	<b>current resident male</b>
	<b>Apollo</b>	<b>PN90</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Feb-01</b>	<b>current resident male</b>
	<b>Ares</b>	<b>PN92</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Feb-01</b>	<b>current resident male</b>
<b>Demeter</b>	<b>PN94</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Feb-01</b>	<b>current resident male</b>	

Gol Kopjes (Simba East)	Sophie	SB69	F	Jun-97	
	Sasha	SB87	F	Feb-02	
	Splash	SB88	F	Feb-02	
	Samantha	SB104	F	Jun-06	
	Sabrina	SB105	F	Jun-06	
	Sarah	SB106	F	Feb-07	
	Sammy	SB107	M	Feb-07	
	Sonia	SB108	F	Feb-07	
	Stacia	SB109	F	Mar-07	missing
	Sky	SB110	F	Mar-07	missing
	Simone	SB111	F	Mar-07	missing
	<b>Longo Longo</b>	<b>S82</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Aug-02</b>	<b>current resident male; blond mane; scar on left hip</b>
	<b>Ricardo</b>	<b>S84</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Aug-02</b>	<b>current resident male; dark mane; no tail tuft</b>

# Africa Dream Safaris



**Lion Pride    Name    Number    M or F    DOB    Other Notes**

Lion Pride	Name	Number	M or F	DOB	Other Notes
Maasai Kopjes	Madeleine	MK29	F	Mar-96	
	Jezebel	MK30	F	Mar-96	
	Trinity	MK34	F	Jun-96	has 5 teats; normal is 4
	Kennedy	MK37	F	Jun-96	wears a radio collar
	Cordelle	MK39	F	Aug-96	
	Jordan	MK42	F	Sep-96	
	Mutant	MK45	F	Jan-97	
	Jane	MK76	F	Oct-01	
	Trinity	MK83	F	Mar-02	solitary
	Matokeo	MK91	F	Mar-02	
	Malick	MK108	M	May-06	named by ADS; died of broken back in Dec '07
	Mikari	MK109	F	May-06	named by ADS
	Meosha	MK110	F	May-06	named by ADS
	<b>Fellow</b>	-	<b>M</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>current resident male</b>
	<b>Jellow</b>	-	<b>M</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>current resident male</b>

Mukoma Hill	Mint	MH19	F	May-96	solitary; blind in left eye
	Tat	MH22	F	Aug-98	
	Mia	MH37	F	May-99	missing tail
	Meg	MH39	F	Jun-99	
	Melody	MH52	F	Aug-02	
	Mwezi	MH80	F	May-04	
	Nyota	MH81	F	May-04	
	Kadoko	MH82	M	Aug-04	subadult; gradually separating from pride
	Moran	MH86	M	Sep-04	subadult; gradually separating from pride
	<b>Wallace</b>	-	<b>M</b>		<b>current resident male</b>
	<b>William</b>	-	<b>M</b>		<b>former resident male coalition with Wallace; probably died in Nov'07</b>

Transects	ZZ	TR28	F		
	Zenden	TR33	F		
	Zamorano	TR37	F		
	Ziege	TR39	F		
	Zola	TR54	F		
	Zico	TR56	F		
	Tarragon	TR132	F		
	Ziziphus	TR52	F		always has a limp, since an incident in 2005
	OTHER	OTHER	-	-	5 subadult females; 3 subadult males; 5 older cubs
	<b>Porky</b>	<b>PN70</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Dec-98</b>	<b>resident male</b>
	<b>Pie</b>	<b>PN79</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Jan-99</b>	<b>resident male who is now missing; may be dead</b>