

The Serengeti Lion Project Report March-May 2008

Time again for a new update from Serengeti Lion Project! Ingela recently completed her research term with our lions here in the Serengeti and at the end of April she returned to Sweden to start her new job as a field assistant to the Scandinavian Brown Bear Project. Her replacement, John Stuart, is not here yet; he is still in Arusha waiting for his research permits. So I (Patrik) am alone here at the moment. I hope you enjoy the report I've prepared!

Simba East Pride (Gol Kopjes Pride)

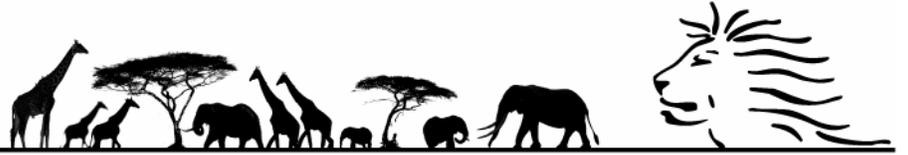
The only news from this pride is that one of Splash's new cubs seems to be lost. A film crew found one small cub all alone on a kopje, while Splash and her two other cubs were on a different kopje over 800 m away. Did that one lonely cub belong to Splash? It is impossible to say for certain, but who else's cub could it be? One of her other cubs, the female named SB112, was also looking really skinny and lethargic. Just two days after the film crew was there, I observed the two remaining cubs myself (SB112 and SB113.) The male cub SB113 looked really fat and healthy, so it was a bit strange to see them walking beside each other. I don't know what was wrong with the little female SB112, but she was much smaller than her brother. None of us have seen the third female cub SB114 since this final observation, so it was probably her the film crew saw sitting alone on the distant kopje. What ever eventually happened to SB114 is "written in the stars" and we will never know for certain. The female cub SB112 on the other hand is still alive and looking much better; maybe she suffered from a disease early on in her short life and has since recovered. The male cub SB113 is still looking strong and healthy!

This pride still hangs out at their old haunt in Gol kopjes, including the collared female Sophie, Sasha, Splash (and Splash's new cubs SB112 and SB113), Samantha, Sabrina, Sarah, Sonia, Sammy and their resident males Longo-Longo and Ricardo. Ingela wrote in the last report that we don't often see Longo-Longo and Ricardo anymore, but during March and April we have seen them several times with the females. Maybe the reason was Sophie get into estrous, because Longo-Longo was seen mating with Sophie 17th April.



Simba East Pride getting a drink from water that collected in a crevice on the kopjes, March 9th, 2008.

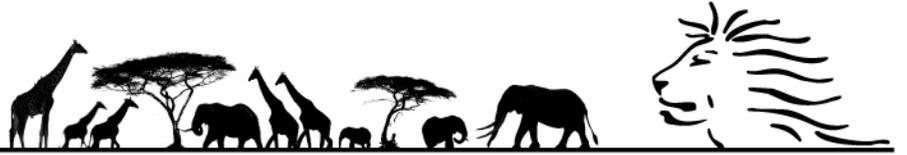
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Sabrina & Splash's young cub SB114 posing in the early morning sunlight on March 9th, 2008.



That's Sasha in the acacia tree, looking out over her pride's present territory in the Gol kopjes on 21st March 2008. Just one year ago, this territory belonged to the remnants of another pride, the female Glory from the Gol United pride. But on 14th July 2007 I found Glory really beaten up, probably from a fight with Sophie, Splash and Sasha. These females had spent the whole rainy season 2007 at the first and second kopjes you reach from Naabi hill when you go into Gol kopjes. But during this time they were moving North West in Gol kopjes, into Glorys territory. They actually stole her territory and beat her up so severely that she eventually died, around 20th August 2007, from her wounds. So you can say that Simba East now resides in a stolen land.



Cub Valley (Sametu Pride)

Last time I visited the Cub Valley was late in the evening on 26th April, the same day Ingela was leaving Tanzania, and I have never in my time here heard lions roaring so much! It must have been a celebration for Ingela! They roared from everywhere around me! Ingela actually took the pictures below on her last meeting with the Cub Valley Pride.

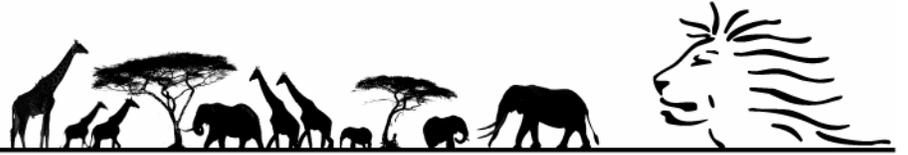


Dawn wanders through the sea of grass in search of her pride, as distant wildebeest keep an eye on her location.



Dawn calling softly for her pride mates

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The Greek Gods seems still to accept the three young females Dawn, Dusk and Twilight. In the last report, Ingela wrote about Dusk and her slanted face that is the result of injury and infection. She got her slanted face long before we saw any signs of infection. Below are pictures of her that I took at different phases of her injury.

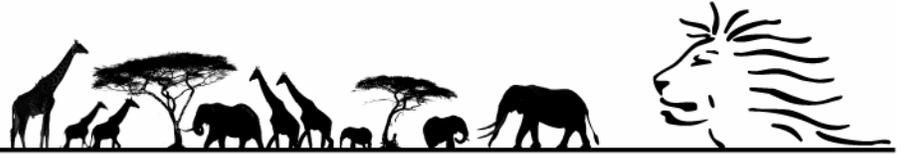


Dusk in July 2007, with a slanted face. You can see the dark line of hairs in her forehead, where the pus oozed out later. She probably fractured her skull long before the infection.



Dusk in October 2007 with pus from the infection oozing from her forehead.

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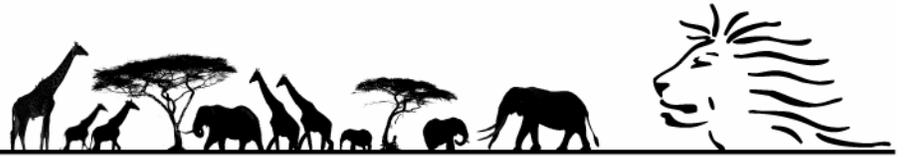


Dusk in January 2008, with some pus still oozing from her forehead, but looking much better overall.

Cub Valley has recently been hanging out around Sametu kopjes, so if you go there in the near future and see lions, it is very likely the Cub Valley pride. The migration has been moving North; from time to time wildebeest and zebra have been seen marching past the Sametu kopjes, so the members of Cub Valley can't complain about a lack of available prey at the moment. The older collared female, Vivian, has at least three cubs! So she is not yet in menopause, as Ingela maybe thought. The first time I saw the cubs was at the beginning of April. Vivian was a bit nervous of my car, and the cubs' eyes were barely open. I estimated them at 2 weeks old, but I can't say for sure. Vivian and her three cubs are currently denning just a km or so to the South East of Sametu kopjes.



Vivian with one of her new cubs, just a couple of weeks old. See him in the bottom right corner of the photo?



All lions in this pride have been observed over the past few months, except for Triangle Eye. She has not been observed since November 2007, and that sight was actually the only time so far we have ever seen her three cubs. Maybe she will show up again with the rest of the pride in the future, when her cubs are either grown up or lost. Or maybe she had to fight to defend her cubs, either against the new male lions the Greek Gods or with other females in a territory nearby when she tried to escape the new males? A fight like this could have taken her life. We saw an example of this when the collared female in Simba Survivors was found dead, after a fight in October 2007. Her cubs were adopted by the other females in Simba Survivors. Maybe the future will tell us what is going on in Triangle Eye's life.

In mid-April I saw Vallmo for the first time with one new cub! There might have been more cubs, but Vallmo and the cub were hiding together with Vanilla in a kopje, and it was just impossible to see anything more.

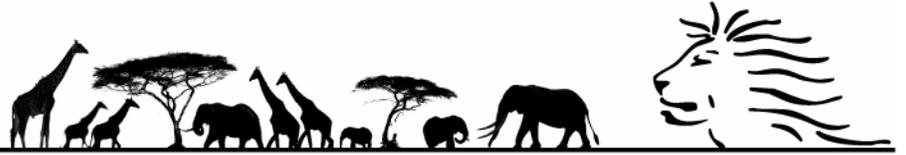
Maasai Kopjes

This rainy season has only given us a few heavy showers. One afternoon at the end of March I was waiting for Ingela at Sametu kopjes; she had run out of spare wheels after two punctures, and since I always have three with me, I could give her two. But while I was waiting for Ingela a heavy rain started, which didn't stop until the next morning. Ingela showed up there in the rain, I gave her the spare wheels, and then I just drove home. Many of the tracks are almost impossible to drive on in heavy rain; the volcanic ash they consist of make them too slippery when wet. To avoid getting stuck in a muddy crossing or ditch, I actually drove off-road until I reached Seronera river. On my way home I found the Maasai Kopjes pride, close to the junction of the Barafu track and Sametu track. They were just laying there in the grass, looking miserable in the downpour! When caught in a heavy rain, lions often just press their bodies and heads into the ground, close their eyes and look like they really want to be somewhere else. So did these lions when I approached them. But after ten minutes something happened!



A member of the Maasai Kopjes pride trying to shake off the rain.

First, the whole pride just started to walk. But then they suddenly began to come alive... running, stalking, pouncing, and playing with each other! They seemed to be having so much fun! In all my experience I have never



seen lions playing and enjoying themselves like that! It looked absolutely absurd in the heavy rain. The whole pride was there except for a couple of missing cubs and the solitary lioness Trinity. Remember there are two lions named Trinity in the Maasai Kopjes pride... one born in July '96 (also named MK34), and then there is this solitary Trinity, born in March '02 (also named MK83). So the adult females Madeline, Jezebelle, Trinity, Kennedy, Cordelle, Jordan, Mutant, Jane and Matokeo were all there. The three cubs present were just impossible to ID, but I'm guessing they were MK116, MK118 and MK119.

My last sighting of this pride was on 24th April, when I found them on a kopje in the Maasai kopjes complex, where their name was derived from. I just saw Kennedy (with the collar), Jezebelle, and Cordelle up there on the rocks, but there were probably more lions out of my sight.

None of the older yearlings cubs you named have been seen since Malick broke his back in early December 2007. I had hoped that Meosha was still alive, but we still don't know that for sure. Mikari is probably dead, since she has not been observed since 29th September 2007. The younger cubs, MK125 and MK128, have not been seen since the end of February and the end of January, respectively, so I am concluding that they may be lost as well.

During the last two months we have just observed Jello with the Maasai Kopjes females. I have seen Fellow only once, then mating with the collared female of Mukoma Gypsies.

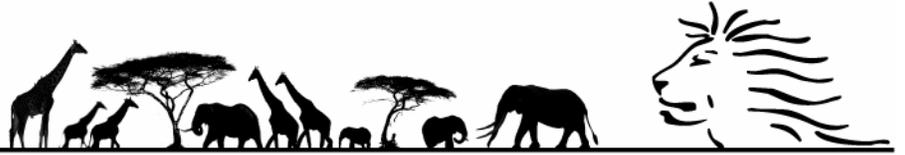


Madeline resting alone in a tree 11th March along upper parts of Seronera river.

Mukoma Gypsies

Little My has probably lost her litter (again), as she was observed on 15th March and was no longer lactating at that time. Since then she has been observed several times, both alone and together with her pride members. She was last seen around Kibumbu kopjes, about 15 km to the East outside of her normal territory. As you may remember, Ingela wrote in our last update that she had seen Little My lactating on 25th February; that was the only time we have seen her lactating. It's hard to tell why she has lost her litter again; maybe she is an individual who just don't can take care of her small cubs for some unknown reason.

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I recently saw Snork with a new set of cubs, four cubs approximately 2 month old. They were together with Little My and Moomin Troll on 29th March.



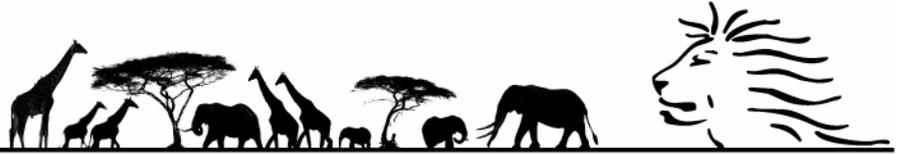
One of Snork's new cubs.

On 22nd April I saw Little My, Moomin Troll and Snork back in their normal territory again, not far from the Nyamanje river. This was the first time I also saw wildebeests in the area, on their way North from the short grass plains in South East. This was a huge herd of wildebeests, and they were strolling right next to the resting place of Little My, Moomin Troll and Snork. Unfortunately Snork did not seem to be lactating anymore, as I could no longer see any lactating stains. Maybe she has also lost her litter of four cubs. These females are not very good at raising litters! In fact, since these lions were formally considered to be a pride in October 2006, they have successfully raised only two lion cubs (MYA and MYH.) It is possible that more cubs have lived on too, but only time will tell me if they are still alive or not. The last time I saw any member of the Mukoma Gypsies was on 24th April, when I spotted Little My alone in a tree along the Seronera river.

Neither of the resident males Wallace or William (we think William is dead since 5th November 2007) have been observed with Mukoma Gypsies since the 22nd November 2006. Instead, the resident males of the Maasai Kopjes pride (Fellow and Jello) have been seen with them several times since September 2007. These boys are probably the new resident males of this pride, although we haven't seen a clear take-over. It's hard to say if MYA, who is the oldest still living cub (born October 2006), is an offspring to Wallace & William or Jello & Fellow. Most likely he is an offspring to Wallace & William, and for some reason Jello & Fellow have accepted him anyway, even though he is a male. Or maybe this pride doesn't have any real resident males? Maybe Jello & Fellow just consider these females to be mistresses and therefore don't care if there are some other male's cubs or yearlings in the pride? So many times I wish I could just ask the lions!

Mukoma Hill

The biggest news in this pride is that Mia's cubs, or at least one of them, is still alive! On 15th March I saw Mia and her two cubs hiding in a big bush. You may remember that Ingela wrote in the last update she thought Mia's cubs were dead. Since Ingela found Mia so far away from her den, she assumed Mia had abandoned the cubs. But that is not the case! Unfortunately we have not been able to track Mia and her companions since 15th



April, but during that time Ingela observed Mia still lactating and so were Tat, Meg, and also Nyota. Probably a lot of new cubs have been born in this pride! All six adult females were seen during this time, as well as the yearlings MH91 and MH92 and the cubs MH93 and MH95. One of Mia's cubs, MH97, was also seen together with a newer cub, MH98, whose mother is yet unknown. Wallace is still the resident male in this pride, last seen with the females on 5th April.

Mukoma Mischief

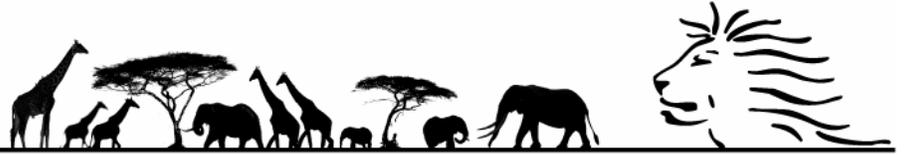
During March we have been able to find many members of Mukoma Mischief pride, primarily around That's kopjes, which is just East of Mukoma hill. But ironically we have not been able to find the collared female Melba. Not even through flight tracking were we able to hear her collar's signal. What happened to her is still a mystery. On 9th April Ingela managed to collar Molly along the main road, a few km South of Sixteen km tree. At that time Molly and Miranda, and their young cubs MMB, MMC and MMD, were hanging around in this area quite a bit. They were also observed in the area a few km South West of Sametu kopjes. This location is about 20 km from their normal dry-season territory. But all lions seem to move about, away from their normal territory, from time to time. The last time I heard the signal from Molly's collar was on 24th April from Mukoma hill. I could not drive closer to them because I ended up having a serious problem with my car and instead I had to go back to the garage in Seronera. But I'm guessing they will be back around their normal dry season territory by now, around Mukoma hill, as some of the wildebeest and zebra migration occasionally move through this area.

We wonder what happened to Melba and her cubs.... if they are alive, they will probably show up again in the next couple of months, depending on the movements of the migration.



Melba's cubs MMF and MMH, born in May 2007. They just have to follow Melba wherever she walks... this time somewhere between North Gol kopjes and Naabi hill. They are sometimes found trying to hide from the heat of the sun inside holes in the ground, as shade is scarce in this region of open plains. The above picture was taken 2nd February 2008.

Up until March '08, the resident males of this pride, William and Wallace (we actually believe William is now dead) have not been seen with Mukoma Mischief since the end of July 2007. But now we know at least Wallace is still serving as resident male, as Ingela observed him with the females on 10th March.



New Naabi

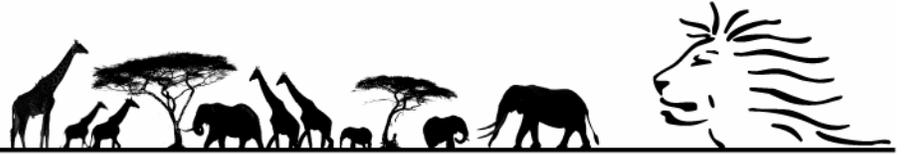
Many members of this pride have been recently sighted, including Layla, Caerphilly, Carmarthen, and the 2 year old male Narnia. The resident males, Wales Boyo and Dafyd, have only been sighted with the females once this year. This pride has been hanging around the water holes lately, as usual. During Ingela's last visit to them, she found Layla up on Naabi hill. This is a bit unusual, because they normally hang out on the surrounding plains around the hill. Maybe she was denning? When I last visited New Naabi, on 23rd April, our guessing was confirmed because Layla seemed to be lactating.

Narnia has now grown up. The migratory herbivores have given him a lot of protein for growing up and building up his body. He is now two years old, and almost as large as an adult female.



A young lion stalks his brother who is sleeping nearby.

The most interesting happenings with this pride over the past year have to do with what's going on in the lives of the resident male and the younger males. As Ingela wrote in her last report she found Wales Boyo far away from "his" pride, within the Ndotu triangle, meeting up with Dafyd and then together they walked over to the New Naabi pride. When I met two of your Africa Dream Safaris (ADS) vehicles on the main road on 1st April, I had the opportunity to discuss these lions with Sharon (ADS Rep) and other ADS clients. I had a look at some of their digital photos, specifically of the male lions they had found around Lake Ndotu. I think I saw Wales Boyo in some of these pictures, together with Llandudno and Llanelli. Thanks for taking the time to share these photos and



information with me! One person's photos showed Llandudno and Llanelli in a location not far from Lake Ndutu. And they were not alone there! Llanelli was mating with an unknown female, probably a member of another pride around Lake Ndutu. Even though Lake Ndutu is technically outside our study area, we have started to take a look at the prides there. Since we are very busy with the study lions, and Lake Ndutu is quite far away, we do not go to this area very often. Instead we often collaborate with the cheetah researcher Laura; as she is often in this area, she will take pictures of the lions she sees there for us. And when we see cheetahs in our area, we take pictures for her! So far this seems to be the best way for us to learn more about the lions around Lake Ndutu.

Transect

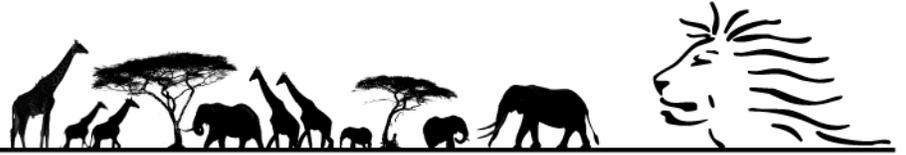
Holger and Nikko are still the resident males for the large Transects pride. One of the most interesting (and exciting) observations of this pride happened on the evening of 11th March, just around the Biodiversity house (approx 50 m from the Lion house). Ingela and I were among a group of people gathered there for a barbeque and guitar-playing around a campfire. Long after sunset, in the black of night, we heard some zebras neighing excitedly; something had obviously startled them. Then we heard the sounds of a zebra being killed, then lions roaring and later on elephants trumpeting. All this was happening very close by, maybe just a few hundred meters. Then we heard the lions' roaring – it was coming even closer...! We quickly jumped into our Landrovers, because we really wanted to know what was going on out there in the darkness. After driving just a few meters in the car, we visually saw the first lions coming; they were jogging straight into the Biodiversity house! We quickly shouted to all the rest of the people so they too could hurry up and get into the safety of their vehicles! MANY lions came to the house! Yearlings, sub adults, and four adult females from Transects passed around the house, followed by Nikko the resident male lion! After everything had calmed down, approximately a half hour later, we went back to the house thinking all the lions had gone away. But much to our surprise, one straggling sub-adult passed by the veranda just a few meters away! It is always exciting out here in the bush!

Ingela tracked these lions down the next morning, where she found them lying near the zebra kill from the evening before. Around mid-day I checked up on them again, and I found Nikko resting peacefully just a few meters from all the yearlings and sub adults. Little did I know this peaceful scene was about to change...



Nikko with the yearlings, all in peace just 5 minutes before he changed his mood.

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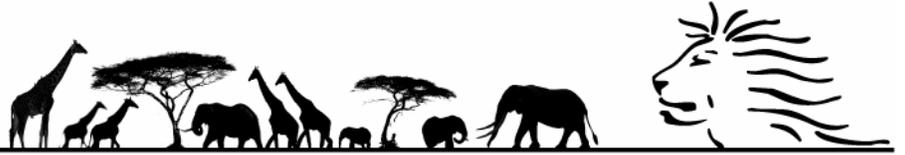
Nikko eventually rose and strolled over to a nearby puddle to have a drink of water. When he finished drinking, he walked approximately 10 meters away to lay down again for more resting. Some minutes later Holger left the zebra carcass, passing Nikko on his way for drinking water at the same puddle Nikko did. As Holger was peacefully lapping water, Nikko suddenly changed his mood. He quickly passed Holger, jogged straight into the middle of all the young lions and violently chased them away! Once again, just like the night before, some of the young lions ran into the Biodiversity house! Some of them skirted beside it and hid into the crevice of a kopje just behind the house. Some of the other young lions did not run away that far (all the adult females stayed.) One female yearling tried to go back, only to be attacked by both Nikko and Holger! So she had to flee away again. Less than ten minutes later I saw a sub adult male, TR140, resting approx 30 meters from Holger and Nikko. I was surprised as he started to move closer to them! Slowly, slowly, meter by meter, until he was only 10 meters away from them. Holger and Nikko saw him the whole time, but for some reason they had calmed down and let him rest just right beside them! Finally I had to leave the scene. But my conclusion is that a pride “take-over” is a much longer and more complicated process than I ever thought! I used to envision new males coming in, immediately killing the younger cubs and chasing the older cubs away, all the while somehow keeping the adult females around them. I used to think this all happened within a week or so at the most. What a naïve vision! Instead, this process is STILL going on in Transects during these days, months after the official take-over happened.

The last time I saw the Transects, it was in the early morning on my way to Moru Kopjes. That morning I found Z.Z, Ziege, Tarragon, and one unidentified female with all the eleven yearlings and sub-adults resting a few short meters from the main road, not far from the Seronera airstrip. Zico were somewhere else, probably busy with her new cubs, which we still haven’t seen in person.

On 17th March I found the three females of Transect Truants. They had just killed an adult female buffalo and were starting to eat.



Zukaer, Zawadi and Pointless feeding on their newly killed buffalo.



Then suddenly the original Transects pride shows up! They chased away the Transect Truants (remember, these two prides are related) and started to eat the buffalo themselves. Eleven of the yearlings and sub adults were there (TR136 has not been observed since 6th February) together with Z.Z, Zenden and Ziege. The collared female Zico was denning at a kopje approx 2.5 km away.

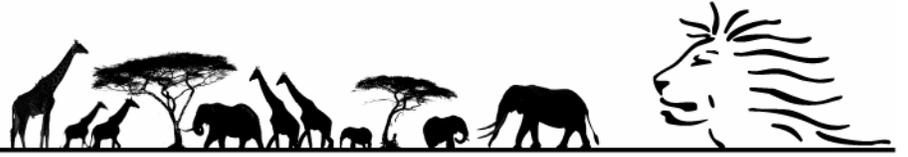
Forty-five minutes later the females of the Transect Truants returned to the scene of the buffalo and the feeding Transects, only to be chased away a second time! This time it got more violent. Z.Z and a sub adult male severely attacked the younger female Pointless in Transect Truants. It was interesting to see how Z.Z first walked a few meters away from Pointless, waited until she was distracted by the other sub adult male, and then attacked Pointless from behind, trying to bite her on her back and hips. Witnessing this interaction between these three lions gave me a better understanding of all the puncture wounds we so often see on a given lion's back, hips and thighs. The lions not attack bravely from the front; they use teamwork and attack from behind if possible. After this last attack, the Transect Truants females seemed to officially give up as they walked over to a tree that was approximately 290 m away from the kill and climbed up into it.



Zavadi up in the tree.

The story might have ended here had I left them, but I didn't. One and a half hours after the last chase and the attack on Pointless, the yearling female TR145 left the other lions in Transect and walked straight over to the shadow of the tree where the Transect Truants females had chosen! Why did she choose this tree? Funny lion, there were plenty of other trees around. Maybe she was looking for trouble. She walked the last 20 meters really slowly and cautiously. But all the lions stayed cool, aside from a quiet growls from the lions up in the tree.

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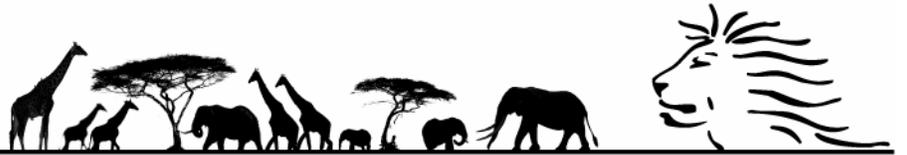
And I finally have a report on Porky, the former resident male in Transect and Transect Truants. I saw him on 23rd April together with a younger male (identity unknown) just South of Naabi hill. His third pride, the Campsite pride, has been occupying Naabi hill and the surrounding plains to the West, South West and North West since the end of February 2008. The two pride females, Thing-a-me-bob and Doobry, have been moving long distances with their young cub, CS115, born in July 2007 as they normally occupy a territory around the Seronera river.

So that's it for this time! I hope you enjoy reading about your favorite lions and seeing new photos!

Till next time, Safari Njema!

Patrik and the Lions

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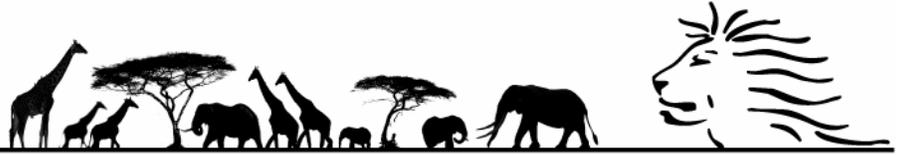


THE SERENGETI LIONS:

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).

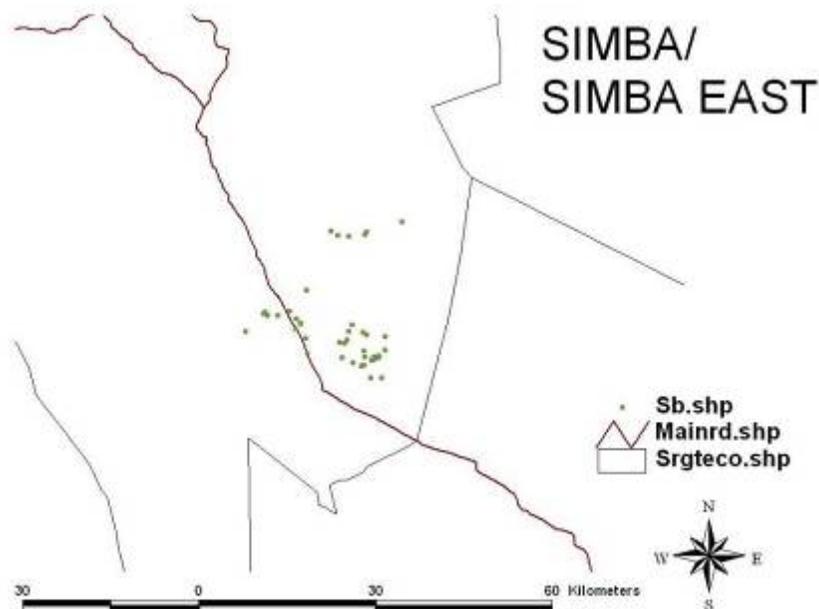
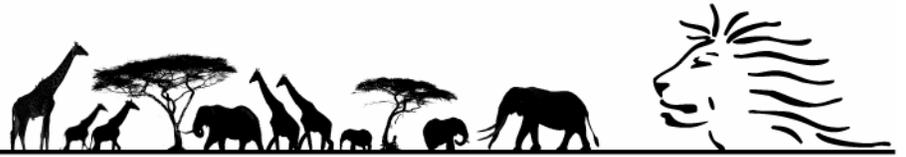


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Simba East pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area. .

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.

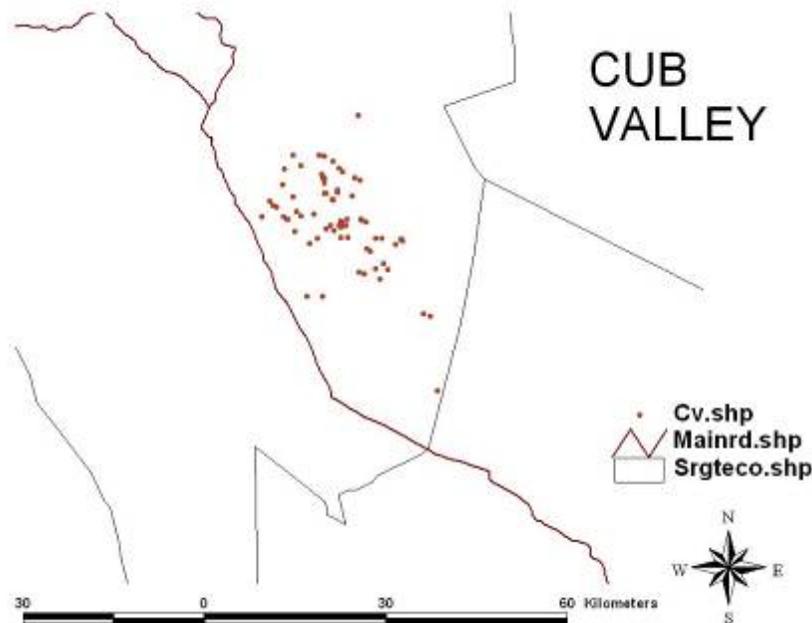
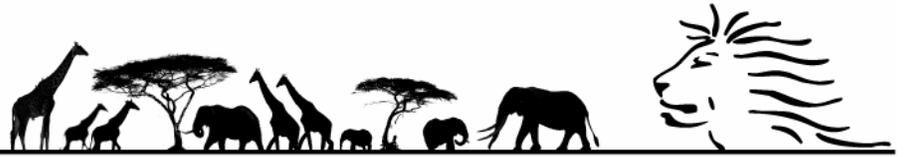


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Cub Valley pride during one year, 2006. The borders between Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area are in grey/blue The main road is dark red. Seronera are just a bit south of the Y-junction of the main road.

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 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.

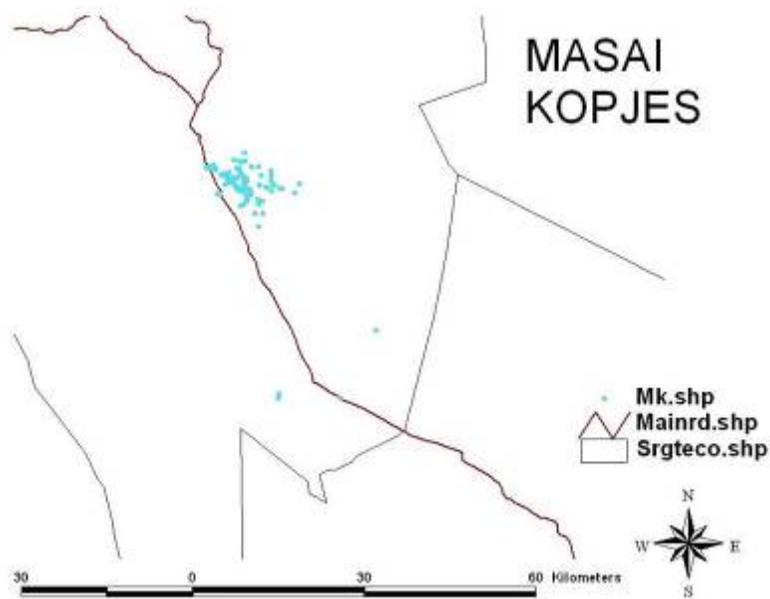
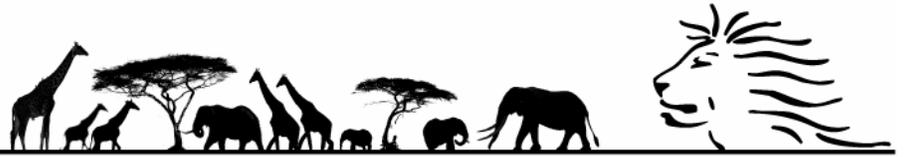


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Maasai Kopje pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area.

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 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).

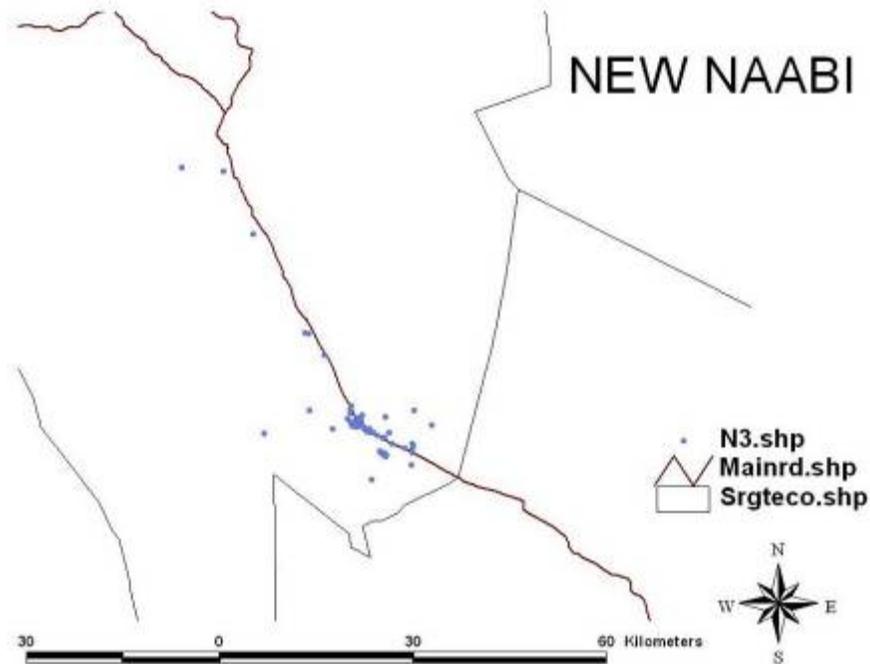
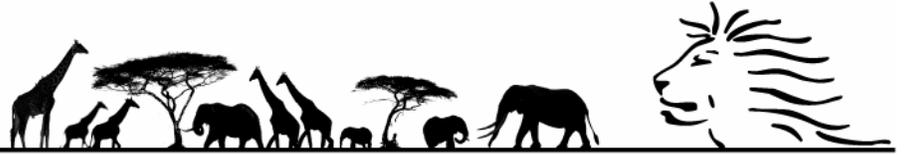


Fig. 1: The observation points of the New Naabi pride during one year, 2006. The coordinates far north of Naabi hill are the observations of NN07 when she was very ill. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the 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. 26th 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 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!

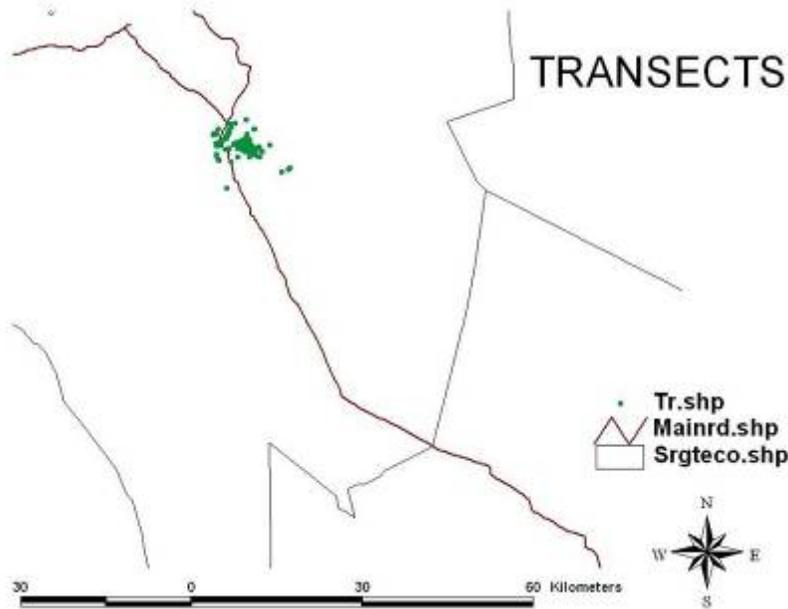
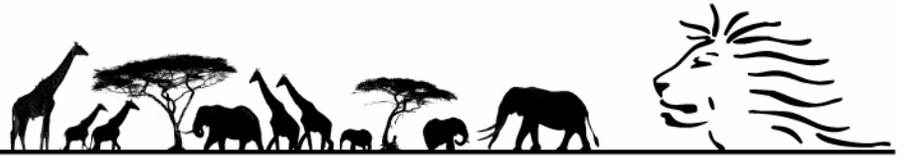


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Transects pride during one year, 2006. You can see the borders to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area in grey/blue. The main road is dark red. The Y-junction of the main road in the North is in Seronera area.

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, Ziziphus, and Tarragon. Tagging along are 4 sub-adult females, 3 sub-adult males and 5 older cubs. From March 2006, up until recently, the resident males in Transects today were a coalition of two lions, Porky and Pie. But a male lion's reign only lasts for so long out here in the bush! This pride was recently taken over by two younger lions, Nikko and Holdger. This pride has been famous for its large numbers; during the year 2002 and 2003 there were around 40 members! Today there are well over 20 lions, including all the sub adults and cubs.



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.

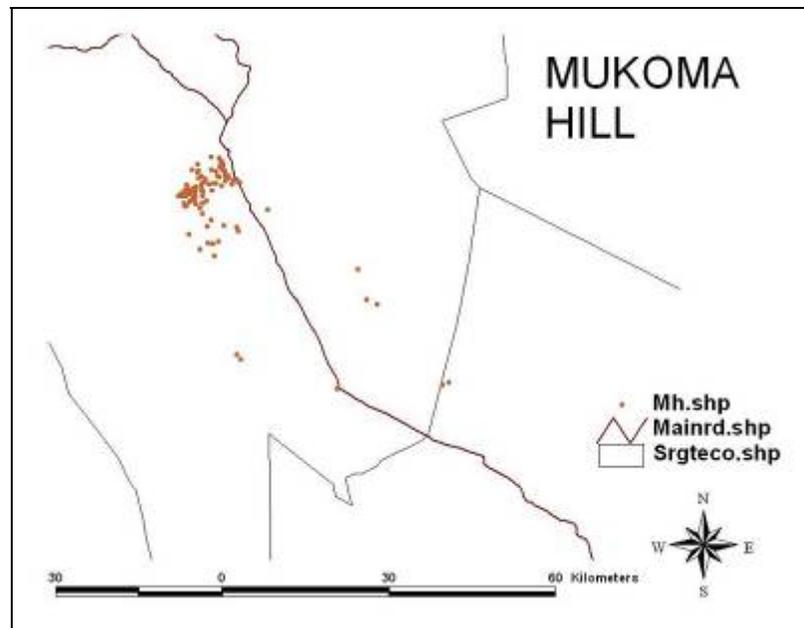
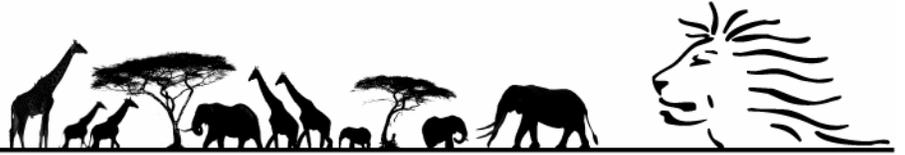


Fig. 1: The map above shows the observation points of the Mukoma Hill Pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the southeast is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the north is in Seronera area. The grey lines are the boundary of Serengeti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

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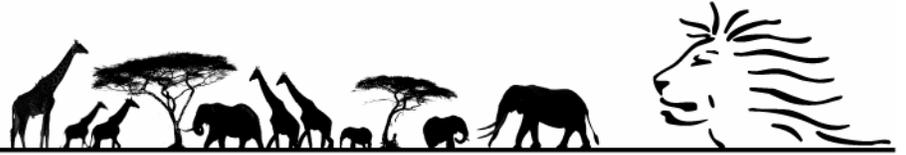
Lion Pride Name Number M or F DOB Other Notes

Lion Pride	Name	Number	M or F	DOB	Other Notes
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	named by ADS
	Sammy	SB107	M	Feb-07	named by ADS
	Sonia	SB108	F	Feb-07	named by ADS
	Stacia	SB109	F	Mar-07	missing, presumed dead
	Sky	SB110	F	Mar-07	missing, presumed dead
	Simone	SB111	F	Mar-07	missing, presumed dead
	Not yet named	SB112	F	Feb-08	smaller than brother
	Not yet named	SB113	M	Feb-08	
	Not yet named	SB114	F	Feb-08	missing, presumed dead
		Longo Longo	S82	M	Aug-02
	Ricardo	S84	M	Aug-02	current resident male; dark mane; no tail tuft

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	
		Wales Bolo	-	M	Oct-98

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	
		Zeus	PN89	M	Jan-00	current resident male
		Apollo	PN90	M	Feb-01	current resident male
		Ares	PN92	M	Feb-01	current resident male
		Demeter	PN94	M	Feb-01	current resident male

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	
	Jezebelle	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 - Ms. Eilert's 5th Grade Class
	Mikari	MK109	F	May-06	named by ADS - Ms. Eilert's 5th Grade Class
	Meosha	MK110	F	May-06	named by ADS - Ms. Eilert's 5th Grade Class
	Fellow	-	M	1997	current resident male
Jellow	-	M	1995	current resident male	

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
	Wallace	-	M		current resident male
	William	-	M		former resident male coalition with Wallace; probably died in Nov'07

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
	Nikko				current resident male
	Holger				current resident male
	Porky	PN70	M	Dec-98	old resident male, no longer in power
	Pie	PN79	M	Jan-99	resident male who is now missing; may be dead