



# Cheetah Chat

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

May 2016 - June 2016

Amani



After having spent a bit of time in the Serengeti, Tanzania, Amani returned to the Mara earlier this year where she was seen in Olare-Motorogi Conservancy looking heavily pregnant. She 'disappeared' for several months to give birth to a new litter and we are excited to announce that she was recently sighted in Mara North Conservancy with two healthy looking cubs.

Finally, towards the end of May Malaika's cubs dispersed from their mother at approximately 23 months old. On average, cheetah cubs tend to leave their mothers when they are between 16-20 months but leaving when cubs are a bit older can be advantageous as the cubs have more time to develop their hunting skills. Malaika was recently seen looking heavily pregnant so we are hoping that there will be another litter soon.



Malaika's cubs

Naborr's cubs



Naborr's three cubs dispersed from their mother at approximately 17 months old. Like their mother they have been seen in Naboisho and Ol Kinyei Conservancies. For the past few weeks they have been sighted together with another young male who we have not yet identified (bottom right corner of the photo). It is not uncommon for young individuals to team up but it is likely that they will split up again at a later stage.

Hodari is one of Amani's sons and Imani's brother from the same litter. He dispersed from his mother towards the end of 2013 and after leaving the Maasai Mara National Reserve in 2014 he has frequently been seen in Naboisho and Ol Kinyei Conservancies and more recently in Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Hodari, which means 'Courageous' in Swahili, was possibly a bit too courageous when he killed several sheep not so long ago.



Hodari

Nabiki



We are sad to announce that Nabiki passed away. We suspect she might have been killed by another predator as hyaenas were seen running around with a cheetah body part. In September 2015 we collared Nabiki so we could track her movements, the birth of cubs and any possible mortalities - during this time she provided us with some valuable information. Nabiki was almost six years old when she died. Whilst she had several litters, she did not raise any cubs to independence.

This year we have seen six dispersal events where a total of 15 cubs left their mothers. The different dispersal groups left at different ages, while some left quite early (12 months), others left much later (23 months). We have continued to monitor all of them on a regular basis and even though most of them are having a difficult time hunting all seem to be doing well on their own.



New generations



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

**If you have photos or a cheetah story that you would like to share in the next update, please email us at [info@maracheetahs.org](mailto:info@maracheetahs.org)**