

The Serengeti Lion Project Report June - July 2008

Time again for a new update from Serengeti Lion Project! John Stewart (Ingela's replacement) has finally arrived! With him came our new Land Rover mechanic, Meshack Daudi. They arrived in Seronera 14th of June and directly started to have a look at our vehicles. They found several serious faults, many making the vehicles really unsafe to drive. I have also spent some days in the field with John; this was my only chance to teach him the work before I am leaving for my month off in July. Since he has been in Tanzania and several other countries on this continent, and working with lions before, he will learn quickly. He also speaks a bit of Kiswahili (good, because I don't).

Two nights ago, when I started to write this report, I heard a familiar sound outside the house; it was a buffalo grazing right under John's laundry! After a while the buffalo lay down, and we could go outside and take some pictures of him.

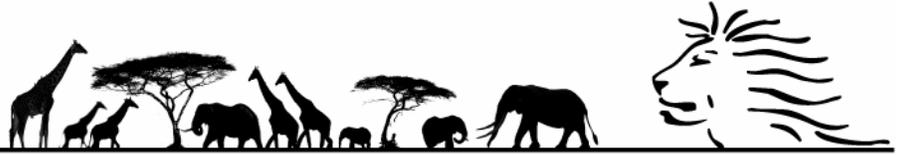


The buffalo just outside our house, like a domestic cow he is laying there and chewing the cud.

Gol Kopjes (Gol Kopjes)

This pride is on the move! The last day in May, Gol Kopjes was hanging around the first kopje you reach from Naabi hill when you going into Gol kopjes, as they so often did during the last rainy season. I saw Sophie, Sasha, Splash, Sabrina, Samantha, Sarah, Sonia, Sammy, Longo-Longo and Ricardo. Splash was not lactating, and there was no sign of SB112, SB113 or SB114, so they are likely dead. On the next morning, when I was driving through Cub Valley (a small valley north and north west of the north western part of Gol kopjes, leading to Sametu kopjes) I found a pride of lions I first thought were Vumbi (with a broken collar... because I got a very faint signal from Vumbi's collar) But when I started to ID one of the males, I realized it was Gol Kopjes! They had walked 14.7 km

Africa Dream Safaris



since last evening! It is of course not that much for a lion to walk, but it is not everyday a pride moves on like that over just one night. But everybody was not there; Sonia and Sammy were not with them for some reason. What could have kept these two young lions somewhere else? Sonia and Sammy are only 1 year and 3 months old, and they are not yet capable to fix their own food. It is a big risk they take to not follow the other ones if they move that far away. They might never find each other again.

The whole pride was walking slowly northwest in Cub valley. When they got closer to a burned area, they spotted some Hartebeests, Topis and Thomson's gazelle. The females started to stalk them and it looked like they might hunt. But then the lions were discovered by the herbivores and the lions decided to just continue walking. They stopped another time, this time only 590 m from the Vumbi pride, a different pride of lions! I don't think Gol Kopjes could see the Vumba lions from their viewpoint, but I could see them with my binoculars (the ground was partly burned with patches of grass intermingled in, so it would otherwise be very hard to see any lions in that environment from such a distance!). If the females of Gol Kopjes did see the Vumbi lions, they definitely have better eyesight than I do! The Vumbi lions had killed or scavenged a dead warthog from hyenas; they had just finished their meal. There were a lot of hyenas around. Even when Gol Kopjes saw the hyenas running around, they did not run into it, as they would normally do, so I really do think they saw Vumbi. From Vumbi's view it was easier to see Gol Kopjes, and they moved away over 2 km away to a water hole while Gol Kopjes stayed where they were. I watched them for some time and then left for a while to visit some other lions.

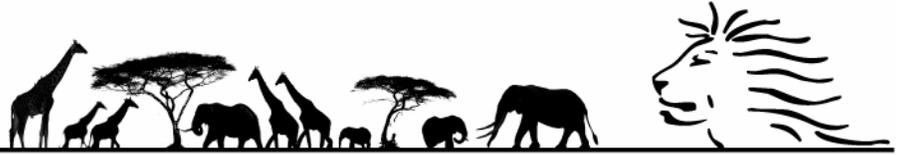
Late in the evening I checked them again. I could still see the same lions I saw earlier that morning. They were on the move again, walking east in Cub valley. The females went first, followed by the two males like a tail....



Sophie and the other lions on their move in the dusk.

The next morning they were on their way back to Gol kopjes again. I could see Sophie, Sasha, Sabrina, Samantha, Sarah, Longo-Longo and Ricardo. Splash had left them for some reason. Longo-Longo and Ricardo were there as usual, following the females like a tail. It looks like the males don't really care where the females are walking to, they just follow them. All lions had full bellies, so it seems their excursion had been successful!

Africa Dream Safaris

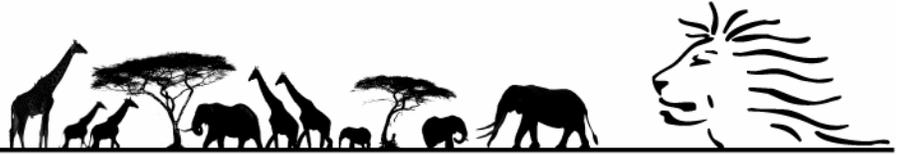


Sophie, Sasha, Sabrina, Samantha and Sarah, one of them just out of the picture. Longo-Longo and Ricardo walking behind.



Ricardo follows his females.

John and I found Gol Kopjes once again in Cub Valley on the 24th June,. This time it was Sophie, Sasha, Sabrina, Samantha, Sarah, Sonia and Sammy there. So obviously Sonia and Sammy had found the other one (or the opposite). Splash was about 1.7 km south west of the other, right out in the sea of grass. None of her cubs were visible.



It will be interesting to see if Gol Kopjes is going to try to hang out around Cub Valley during the dry season. Vumbi had already been in the area, a month or so before Gol Kopjes, so they might compete for the area.

Cub Valley (Sametu Pride)

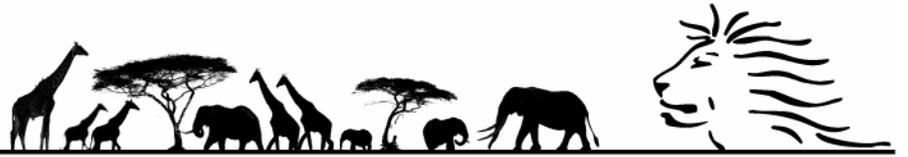
On the 2nd of June I got a better view of Vivian's three cubs; they are all females. Since they are still too young to get any other names than the code names, their names for now are CV81, CV82 and CV83. They were all resting in a recently burned area somewhere between Sametu kopjes and Boma kopjes, together with the other collared female, Vanilla. Valborg was there as well. Vanilla and Valborg were both born somewhere between February and March 2001 to a group of mothers including Vivian, so Vivian could be the mother to both Vanilla and Valborg. She is like an old grand mother, the oldest female in Cub Valley. She was born in July 1993 in the pride Maasai kopjes. Fifteen years on the savannah with a lot of up grown offspring around her!



Vivian with her three cubs, resting in a newly burned area.

A couple hundred meters away Viola was laying down with another set of new cubs. I have given them the names CV85 and CV86, and they are both males. So Cub Valley has had a total of 6 cubs between April and June. It is unclear if Vallmo's cub is still alive; I have not seen CV84 since the first time.

Africa Dream Safaris



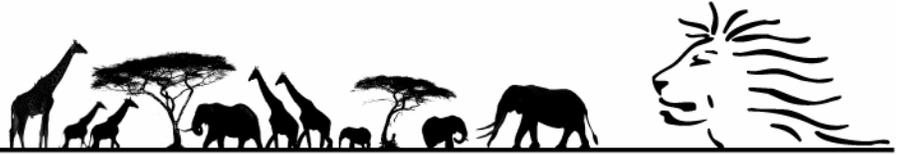
CV85 walking on his mother Viola.

Dawn, Dusk and Twilight were also present. Dusk still has some pus coming out from her wound in her forehead.



Dusk 2nd June 2008, still with some pus coming out from her forehead..

J B (a cousin, born at the same time as Vivian) was also seen alone on one of the kopjes at Sametu kopjes.



When John and I were in the field with our lions, on one of John's first days in the field, we found Cub Valley 20th June. We saw Valborg, together with Zeus (one of four males of the Greek Gods); there were no signs of any consorting or mating activity. Valhalla, Valkyrie, Vivian, Viola and Vallmo were all resting together 400 meter away from them. We could not see any cubs, they were probably around somewhere by themselves. Valkyrie was maybe lactating as well. So there are likely more new cubs here for us to get to know!

Valhalla was seen together with Vanilla 17th May, and Victoria, Valborg, two other unidentified females and the male Demeter (from Greek Gods) were seen at Sametu kopjes 24th May. Still no sight of Triangle eye. So all adult lions and yearlings were seen during this period, except for Triangle eye.

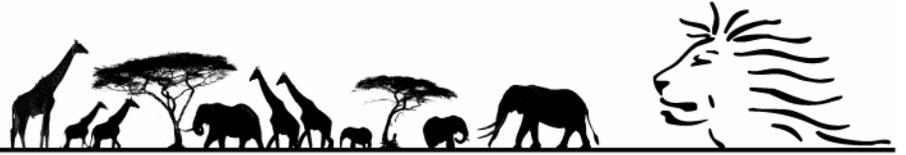
Maasai Kopjes

The biggest news in the Maasai Kopjes pride is no doubt that I have seen the solo female Trinity (MK83) (maybe you remember there are two females in the Maasai kopjes pride with the given name Trinity) resting together with Solo from the pride Maasai on 17th May!



Trinity and Solo resting in the sun. Solo to the left in the picture, she has a collar, but it's not visible.

These two females are both solos, normally living out their lives alone. Why they've joined together now is hard to tell. They are distantly related, even though they can't possibly know it themselves, since the pride Maasai Kopjes is a split of from the pride Maasai since around 1982. Solo was born in May 2001 in Maasai; Trinity was born in March 2003 in Maasai Kopjes. They have never been observed together before; in fact Solo has never been observed with any other female since her mother disappeared in February 2004. Solo was first seen alone at the end of February 2004 at Five-hill track, and she has been a real solo and wanderer since that. She is the only remaining remnant of the once-mighty and successful pride Maasai.



Trinity (MK83) is not very often seen; the last time we spotted her was on 29th September 2007. The time before that was back on 5th June 2007, and before that 29th December 2006. She has always been observed alone after 27th July 2006; she was at that time mating with Fello. About two weeks earlier was the last time she was seen with any other of her relatives in Maasai kopje. Why she left them, nobody knows except for her, or maybe some other members of the pride. Maybe she had cubs, and for some reason never rejoined the other pride members after her cubs died. The sighting 29th December 2006 was during my first month at the Lion Project, and I found her south of Naabi hill, close to the junction between the main road and the track to Lake Ndutu. I remember thinking it a bit strange to find a female so far from the rest of the pride, in spite of the fact our lions do move around a lot in the rainy season. At that time we didn't know she was just a solo female.

I have not seen either Trinity or Solo since that day, so it is going to be very interesting to see if they really did join together! I spoke with Craig last week; he said that a few solo females have joined together in our study area before, but they have yet to start up any new long-lasting pride. Regardless, it is not every day we see lone females join forces and enjoy their lives together like that!

Otherwise there is not much news about Maasai kopjes. I have seen the collared female Kennedy together with the other old females Cordelle, Madeline, Mutant and the younger Matokeo, together with Jello, not far from Dawney's dam the 30th May. And I saw Jezebelle alone the 3rd June along Seronera River, east of the main road. Last time I tracked Maasai kopjes was with John on the 22nd June; at that time Kennedy was hiding in a kopje at Maasai kopjes, and Jane sat alone right at Dawney's dam. Jane was not more than 200 meter away from Little My (from Mukoma Gypsies) and Fellow. There were several tour vehicles near Jane, so we just passed by quickly. Jane then tried to take cover from the tour vehicles for a hunt on Thomson's gazelle.

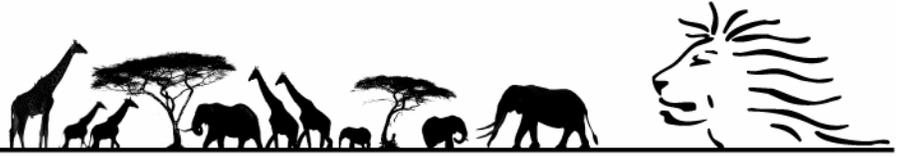
Jordan and Trinity (MK34) have not been seen at all over the past two months. And there are still no signs of Mikari, Meosha or any other cubs. Jello or Fellow have also been absent from the Maasai kopjes during this period.

Mukoma Gypsies

It looks like Fellow prefers Mukoma Gypsies! During the past two months I have seen Fellow only with Mukoma Gypsies. Do Fellow and Jello simply share these two prides, so Jello chooses to spend more time with Maasai kopjes and Fellow more time with Mukoma Gypsies? Time will tell us as always. The last time I saw members of Mukoma Gypsies were 22nd June, when Little My spent her day with Fellow just 200 m from Jane of Maasai kopjes. They were both resting in the shadow of a tree, but we could not see any signs of consorting or mating.

The 15th June Little My, Snork and Moomin were along Seronera River, west of the main road. (Maybe you remember we used to have a female with no name in this pride? Her code name is MH62; she still did not have any name when I started to write this so I gave her the name Moomin.) Moomin was lactating and we also found two new cubs, MYM and MYN, both males. They looked about 2 month old, so they were probably born in April. When I arrived there was an elephant chasing them all away! But not far, he stopped the chase after about 50 m.

Africa Dream Safaris



Adult females Tic, Rhapsody, Filly Jonk, Snuffkin and Moomin Troll have not been seen over the past two months. The yearling male MYA is also missing right now, as are the smaller cubs MYE, MYF, MYG or MYH.

If Mukoma Gypsies have any resident male it must be Jello, likely even Fellow, even though we've never actually seen Fellow together with any of the females.

Mukoma Hill

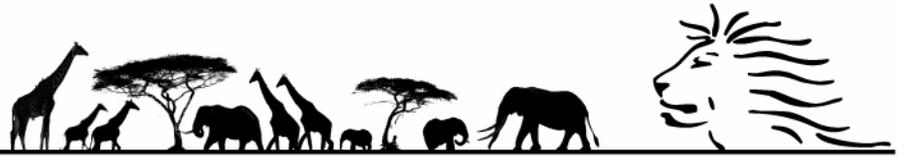
Not much has happened lately in Mukoma Hill's life. On 15th June Mwezi was seen alone with a Thomson's gazelle kill. Mia and Tat were about 1.4 km from Mwezi with much smaller stomachs than Mwezi. They probably didn't realize that Mwezi was so close to them, with a stomach full of food and a Thomson's gazelle beside her; she just had too much food! The Thomson's gazelle could have been scavenged from hyenas, since it had been eaten on in an unusual way for a lion. All the lions were SW of the Mukoma hill. The 22nd May, Mia, Hambo and Schottis (I just gave the male MH92 the name Hambo and the female MH91 the name Schottis) all up on That's kopje (named Black kopje among tour drivers) east of the Mukoma hill. The yearling's mother is Melody, and Hambo and Schottis are two famous old folk dances and music in Sweden, therefore the names. It was time to give them their own names, since they are more than one year old. I also saw one unidentified cub and two other unidentified lions. Likely one of them was Melody. Mia, Tat, Nyota, and one unidentified cub were around the same kopjes 12th May. At the same time I spotted the yearling MH95, one unidentified adult female and one unidentified lions were up on another kopje just 400 meter away.

Mint, Meg and Melody (if she not was one of the unidentified the 22nd May) seem to be missing right now. Nor have I seen the cubs MH93, MH94, MH96, MH97, MH98, MH99 or MH100 during the last months. No sight of Wallace lately either.

Mukoma Mischief

The 13th June a veterinarian called Richard and his wife Sian (both working at SWRC and TAWIRI) darted Miranda. The main reason we darted her was because Richard and Sian were teaching a study course for other veterinarians to learn how to dart wild animals; in this case a big carnivore like a lion. At that time we also spotted Molly (with the collar); Hornavan, Storavan and Uddjaur. (Hornavan is the male MMB, Storavan the male MMC and Uddjaur the female MMD. All three of these names are from three big lakes in northern Sweden) Everything went fine; Miranda has a heart girth of 105 cm and a body length of 120 cm, not counting the tail and the head. Her tail is 80 cm and her shoulder height approx 86 cm. When we do dartings like this, the veterinarians always draw blood samples and pick ticks as I take same hair samples, do body measurements and take photos of the teeth.

Africa Dream Safaris



Students and veterinarian around Miranda. Miranda is under the big umbrella.



The veterinarians together with one student drawing blood samples. We covered Miranda's eyes, because the drug keeps her eyes open and she would be able to see movements around. The blanket also protect her eyes from other things, including the bright sunshine.

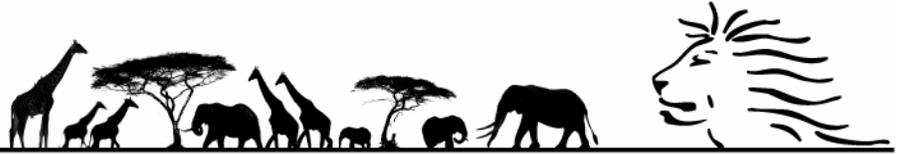


Photo of Miranda's teeth. You can see she has a worn right upper canine.

Usually we check up on the darted lions the day after. This time I checked up on her two days later. Miranda was just fine. Keeping her company was Molly, Mugumu, Hornavan, Storavan, Uddjaur and also a set of four new cubs (unsexed) to Mugumu. The cubs looked like they were about 2 months old (as they almost always do the first time I see them!) and they got the names MMJ, MMK, MML and MMM.

I still have no clue what happened to the other collared female Melba, or where her yearlings MMF and MMH might be.

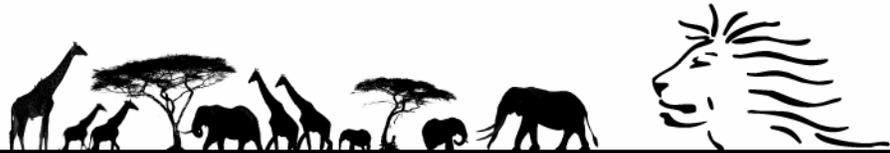
The 7th June a Japanese film team called Cinema Dojin came to interview me early in the morning. They were really interested in what the three Mukoma prides were doing, so we went out to visit some lions starting with Mukoma Mischief. Molly, Miranda, Hornavan, Storavan and Uddjaur were all there. The crew filmed me when I found and identified them. The lions had killed a zebra male, so I took a small sample of meat from the zebra for further analysis. So now I'm going to be on a nature film in Japan as well!

The only female we haven't seen in this pride lately is Melba, but we think she is probably still alive.

New Naabi

Things have happened in New Naabi! There might be a take over! It all started (from my point of view) the 23rd April when I found Porky (I described this in last report as well) together with a younger male south of Naabi hill. I have later recognized the younger male to be Bad Touch Brad. Bad Touch Brad just showed up from somewhere unknown; the first time he was seen was 15th December 2006 with another pride we call Simba Numbers, south of

Africa Dream Safaris



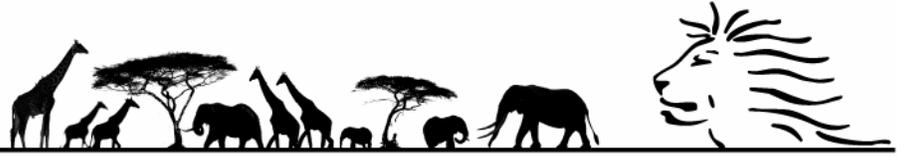
Naabi hill. His estimated birth date is late 2003. I last found New Naabi 23rd April, approx 4 km south of the males. Layla and Vehiclemarthen were together there, and Narnia was there too just a couple of hundred meters away guarding a zebra kill. I never suspected what was about to happen with this pride.

Then I spotted Layla, Vehiclemarthen and Narnia all south of Naabi Hill the 1st May; I did not see any males at that time (even though they were likely there somewhere.). On 15th May, on my way from Gol kopjes, I found Porky and Bad Touch Brad along the track between Naabi hill and Gol kopjes. They were only 1.2 km from Gol Kopjes. When I continued to drive into Naabi hill, I found Caerphilly, Vehiclemarthen and Narnia a bit closer to Naabi hill and Wales Boyo consorting with Layla on the slope of Naabi hill. Porky and Bad Touch Brad were somewhere between this two different lion prides, 3.4 km from New Naabi.



Bad Touch Brad and Porky between Gol Kopjes and New Naabi, along the road between Naabi hill and Gol kopjes.

Africa Dream Safaris

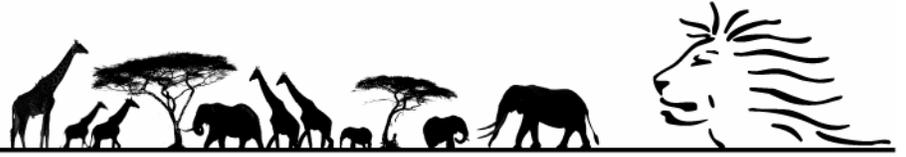


Have a look at the noses of this two lions. They are both pink with dark spots in. We say in general lions with pink noses are younger and as they became older they gradually get dark spots and finally the nose are totally black. But this is in general. As you can see these two males noses don't differ that much. Porky has just a bit more and larger dark spots in his pink nose. Porky is born December 1998, so he is 9.5 years old and Bad Touch Brad's estimated birth date is late 2003, so he is approx 4.5 years old.



Look at Porky's face compared to Bad Touch Brad's. You see many more scars from fights. Bad Touch Brad also has a typical "Mohawk" mane, which lions have until they gradually develop a full grown mane, in general at 5-6 years of age. Bad Touch Brad might be younger than we think, or maybe he just hasn't developed a bigger mane yet, because of genetic or environmental reasons.

Africa Dream Safaris



When John and I last visited New Naabi 24th June, the grass were quite green in the area were the lions were! So it must have rained a bit over the last month or so. Some Elands were also around, along with some Hartebeests and a lot of Grant's gazelle. So the lions could not complain about their food availability. Porky was resting just 80 meters from Layla, Vehiclemarthen and Narnia. Narnia is a young male, born in March 2006, so he is just a bit more than 2 years old. If this really is a take over, Porky will probably chase away Narnia. Or maybe he team up with his father and brother/brothers/cousins and form an even stronger male coalition?

Anyway, it is interesting that Porky, at the age of 9.5 years, was chased away from his prides in Seronera by two old guys his same age or even older. Then he teams up with a much younger male approx 50 km south, out on the plains around Naabi hill. And now maybe he is taking over another pride, alone or with Bad Touch Brad. We have mentioned it before, to follow the lion's life is sometimes like watching a soap opera!

Transect

There is news in the Transects pride as well. The collared female Zico has at least three new cubs. We have not been able to sex them yet, or see their whisker spots. I've waited to give them code names also, because our view has not been clear. Zola also has cubs, or at least she had some; the last time I saw her she was not lactating. Maybe even Zamorano has cubs, but if so they are likely a bit older because she is not lactating any longer.

The 15th June marks my last observations of Transects. At that time Zico, Zamorano and Zola were all together with two cubs that looked to be approximately 4-5 months old, and three cubs looking approximately 3 months old. The three smallest cubs likely belong to Zico, while the other two could be either Zola's or Zamorano's. The females with cubs have spent most of their time over the past two months along the Seronera river, specifically in the part we call Bornes loop. The other yearlings, sub adults and adults have been seen at the other side of the main road, many times close to Kerr's dam or even further south along the Seronera river. I have not had a great view of this pride at the moment, since they are split up because of Nikko and Holger, and the fact that all the yearlings and sub adults are a bit more independent.

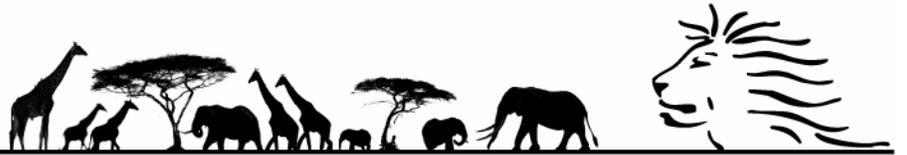
Observed members of Transects during this period include the adult females Z.Z, Zamorano, Ziege, Zola and Zico; the sub adult females TR141 and TR142; the sub adult males TR138, TR139 and TR140; the yearling female TR144 and the two yearling males TR146 and TR147. And of course I've seen the new resident male Nikko. The other ones are probably around as well, I just haven't been able to see them.

This is the end of this report. I'll be returning from leave mid-August or so. Till next time!

Have a nice rest of the summer!

Patrik

Africa Dream
Safaris

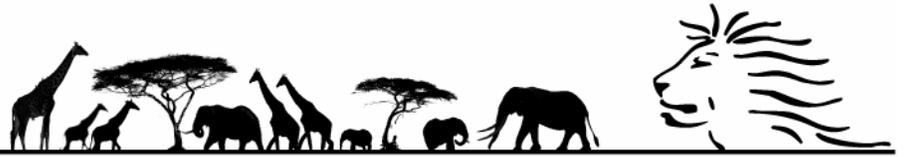


THE SERENGETI LIONS:

A BRIEF HISTORY AND KEY

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





History of the Gol Kopjes Pride (Gol Kopjes Pride)

Many of you already know about our special “adopted” lions in this pride. The Gol Kopjes 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 svehicle on his left hip) and Ricardo (S#84; dark mane and no tail tuft).

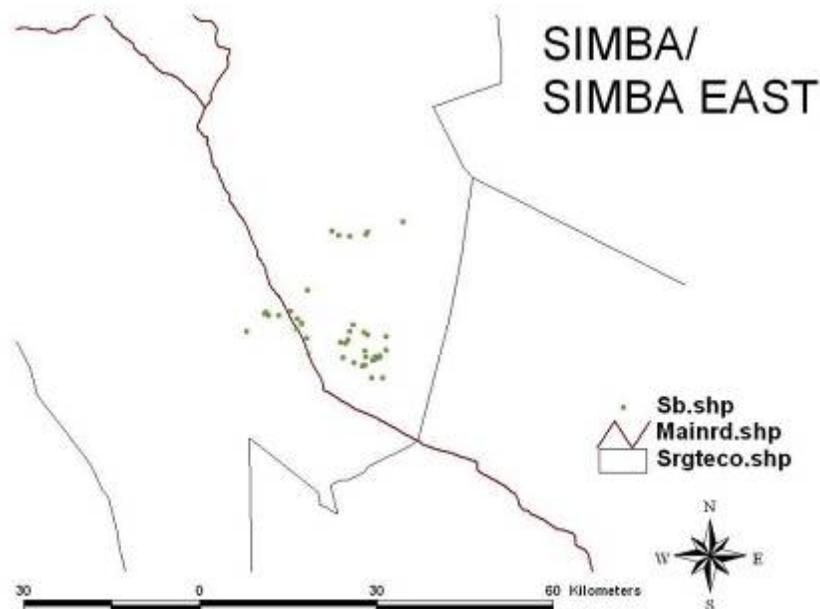
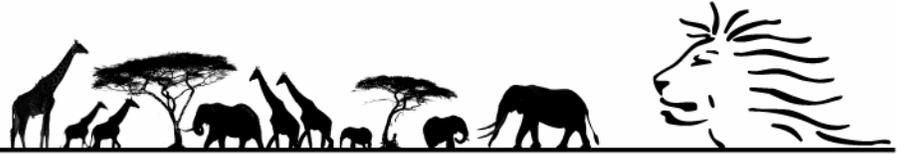


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Gol Kopjes pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area.

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.

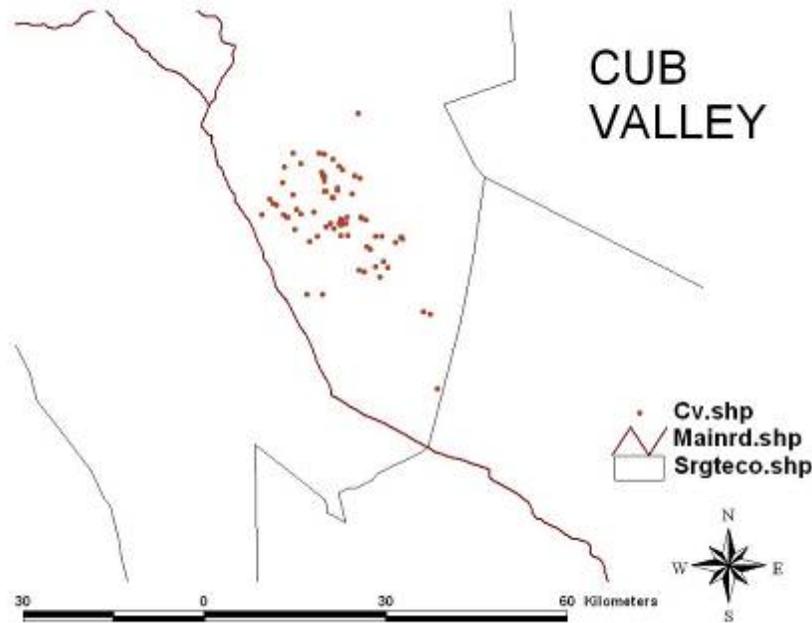
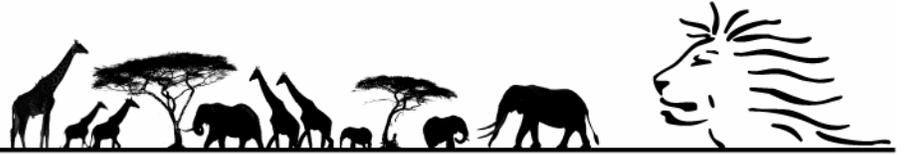


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Cub Valley pride during one year, 2006. The borders between Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area are in grey/blue The main road is dark red. Seronera are just a bit south of the Y-junction of the main road.

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.

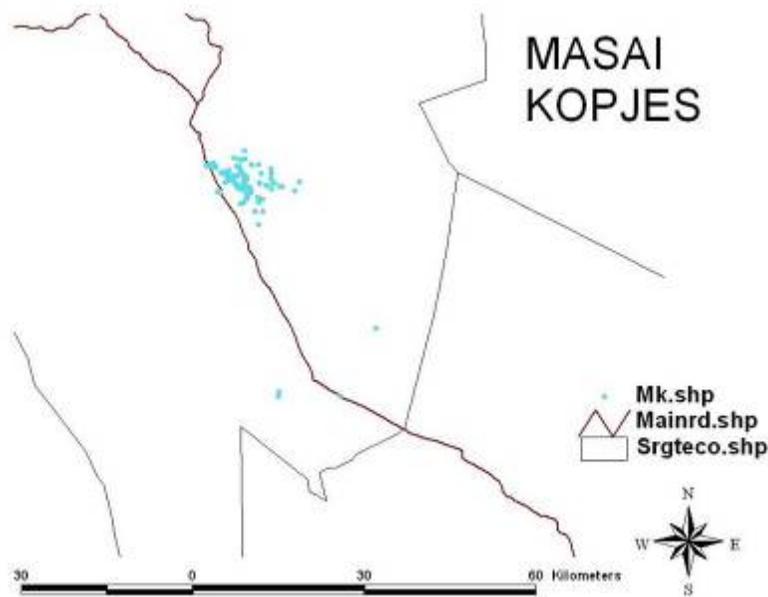
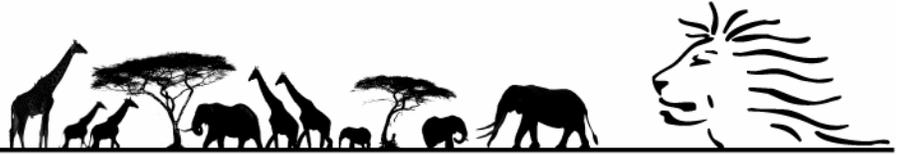


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Maasai Kopje pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the North is in Seronera area.

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).

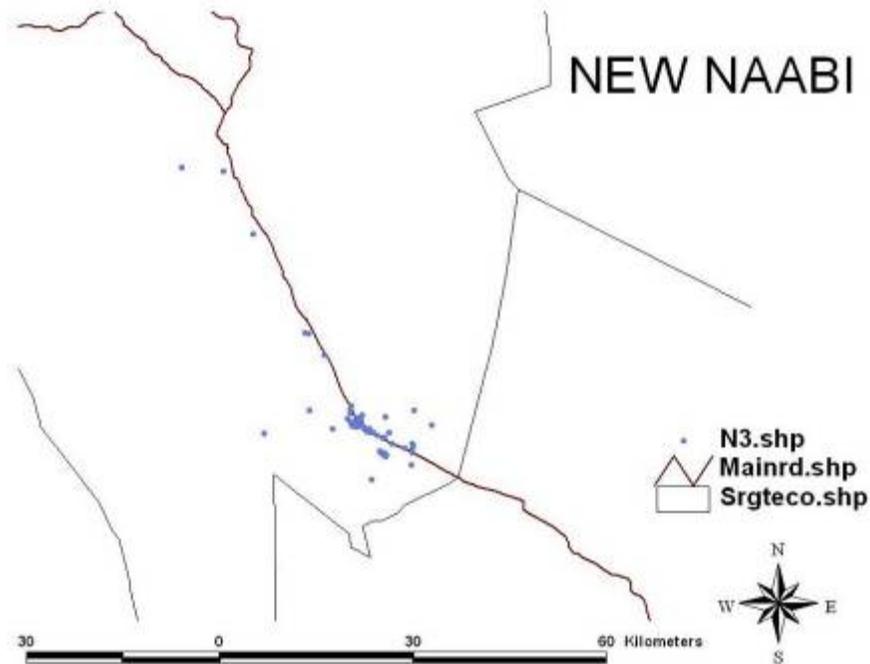
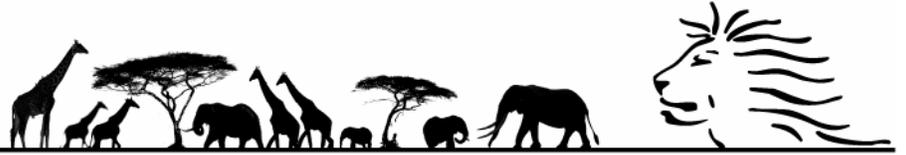


Fig. 1: The observation points of the New Naabi pride during one year, 2006. The coordinates far north of Naabi hill are the observations of NN07 when she was very ill. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the South East is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the 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 Vehiclemarthen (born Mar.'04). Vehiclemarthen 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!

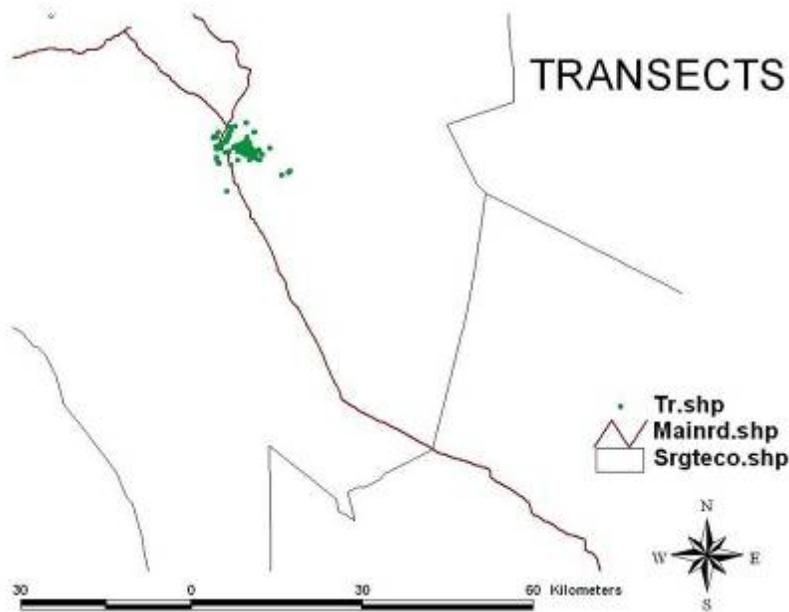
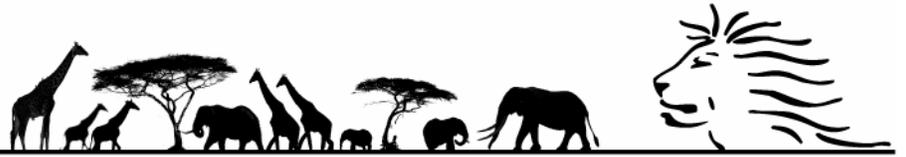


Fig. 1: The observation points of the Transects pride during one year, 2006. You can see the borders to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area in grey/blue. The main road is dark red. The Y-junction of the main road in the North is in Seronera area.

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.

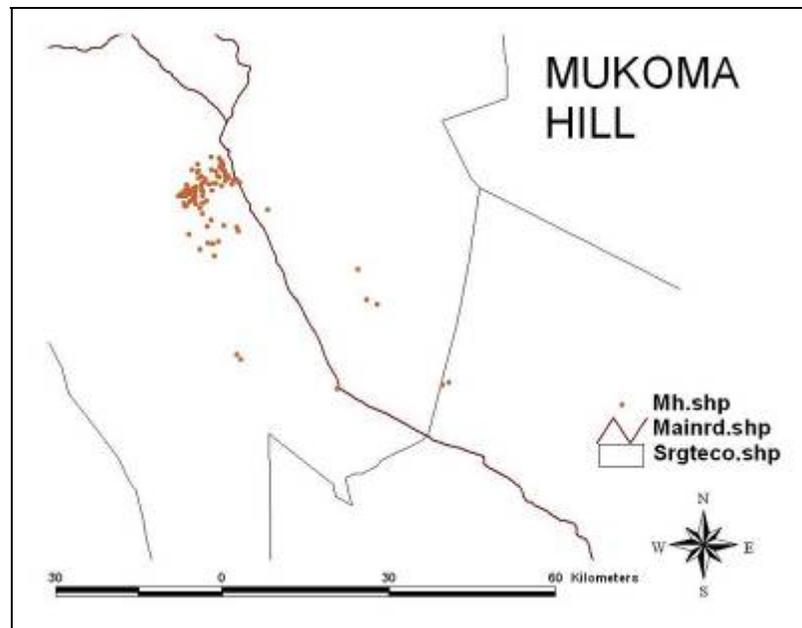
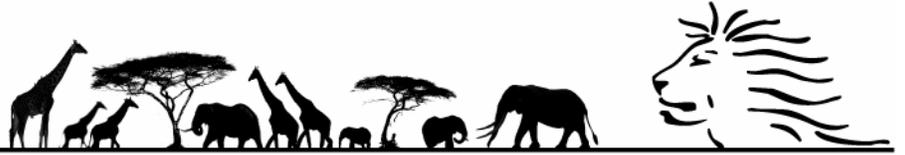


Fig. 1: The map above shows the observation points of the Mukoma Hill Pride during one year, 2006. For easier location; the slight bend in the road in the southeast is the location of Naabi Hill, the Y-junction of main road in the north is in Seronera area. The grey lines are the boundary of Serengeti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

Africa Dream Safaris



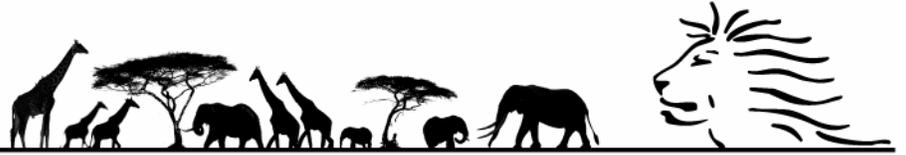
Lion Pride Name Number M or F DOB Other Notes

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	current resident male; blond mane; scar on left hip
	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