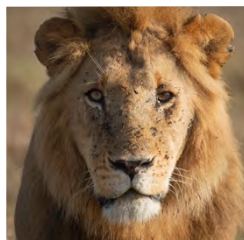
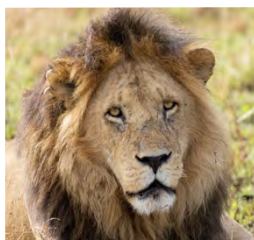
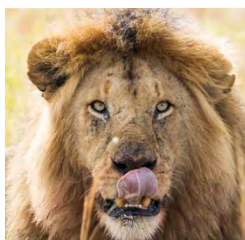
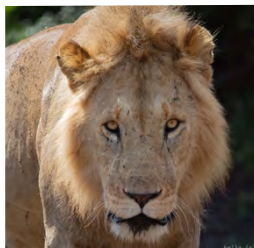
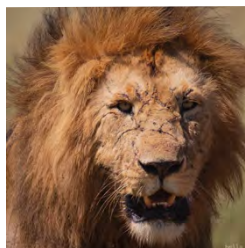
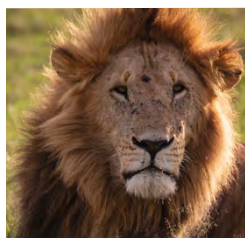
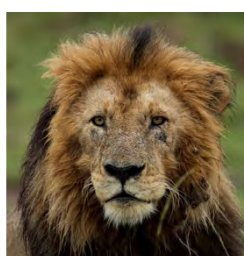


# Lions of the Mara Triangle

A N G A M A

VERSION 1.0  
UPDATED: OCT 2020

# Male Lions



# Introduction

The intention of this document is to provide a user-friendly identification and information guide to the male lions frequently sighted in the Mara Triangle portion of the Maasai Mara ecosystem. It is also an attempt to record their histories so that as years go by, we do not forget the icons of this landscape.

But I must start with a caveat. Attempting to document the individuals who fight tooth and claw for territory is a huge challenge, especially in a landscape as vast as the Maasai Mara. Understanding male lion dynamics is inherently difficult. Just when you think you understand their behaviour, something unexpected happens and leaves you baffled. Such is the joy of wildlife. In addition to various complications and complexities, every person who sees a lion will undoubtedly have their own experience and interpretation on events which will alter the way in which a sighting is remembered. Ultimately history is often remembered differently.

The biographies and histories are therefore my interpretation of events, based on personal encounters and conversations with guides and lion-lovers out in the field, backed up with a wealth of knowledge provided by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme. We welcome a diversity of opinions and from the onset acknowledge that this is a working document with no finish line.

Ultimately, I hope that this document increases the enjoyment of your time spent in the company of these big cats and if it helps to start debate and fuel discussion, then I have achieved my goal. The spirit with which it has been compiled comes from a place of love and respect for these legendary apex predators.

Please contact me should you have photographs that may add to the ongoing database, or have information that you feel could help us in building a history of these magnificent big cats in a landscape so close to many of our hearts.

## Enjoy using this Identification Guide

ADAM BANNISTER

+254780105100

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# Kichwa Males

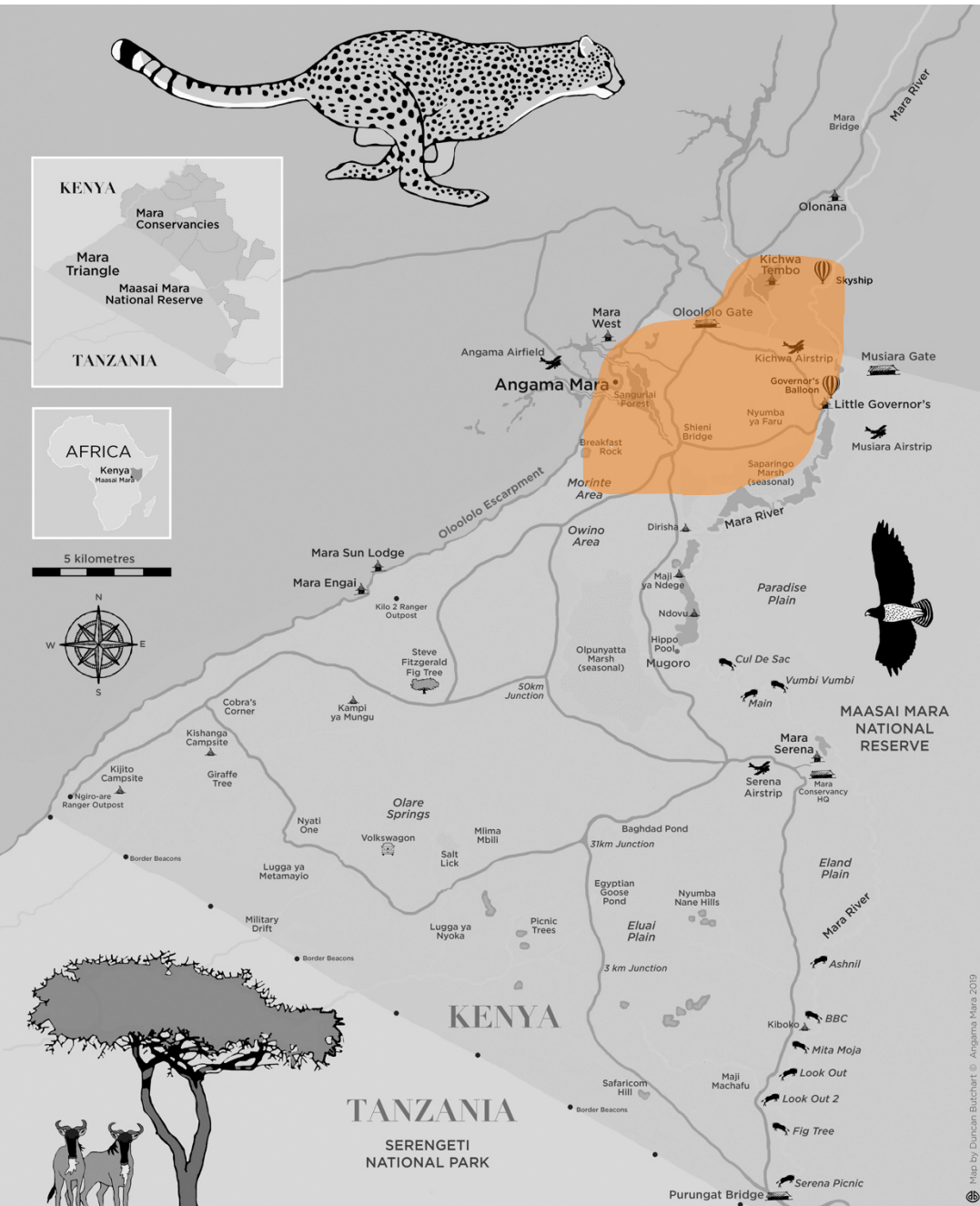


# Kichwa Males

## HISTORY & BIO

Short Tail and Fang were most likely born into the Moniko Pride (Olare Motorogi Conservancy) in 2010. Their father is one of the old Moniko Males, either Mzee or Lolalai, which were ousted by Lolparpit and Olbarnoti in 2010/2011. There were seven young males dispersing from the Moniko Pride in 2012, three age cohorts. A year later, mid-2013, only five of them were seen in the Musiara Marsh on a buffalo kill. The Musketeers chased them away, badly injuring at least one of the males. Three of them were seen in the Mara Triangle in the first half of 2014, Short Tail, Fang and a younger male with a missing eye. The latter vanished in 2015. In 2016, a mystery third male joined them. Some believe he was one of the five seen in the Musiara Marsh mid-2013, but he was never positively identified. In the first half of 2018, this third male vanished. The Mara Conservancy rangers reported that he was chased off by Short Tail and Fang. All three males were seen crossing the Mara River in May 2017, where they got into a fight with the Bila Shaka males. Perhaps the third male was fatally injured in this encounter? During the 'Coronavirus Lockdown Period' of 2020, these males moved across the river into the Musiara area where they were badly injured and by October 2020 were showing signs of losing their territory completely.

# Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE  
KICHWA MALES - OCT 2020



KICHWA MALES

# Short Tail



MAY 2018

1 / 2

---

BORN: 2010  
MEANING: Reference to his tail  
Missing end hair tuft of tail

KIWCHA MALES

# Short Tail



JULY 2019

2 / 2

---

BORN: 2010  
MEANING: Reference to his tail  
Missing end hair tuft of tail

KICHWA MALES

# Fang



NOV 2018

---

BORN: 2010

MEANING: Reference to his missing bottom right  
canine  
Smaller left ear



# Cheli Nomads



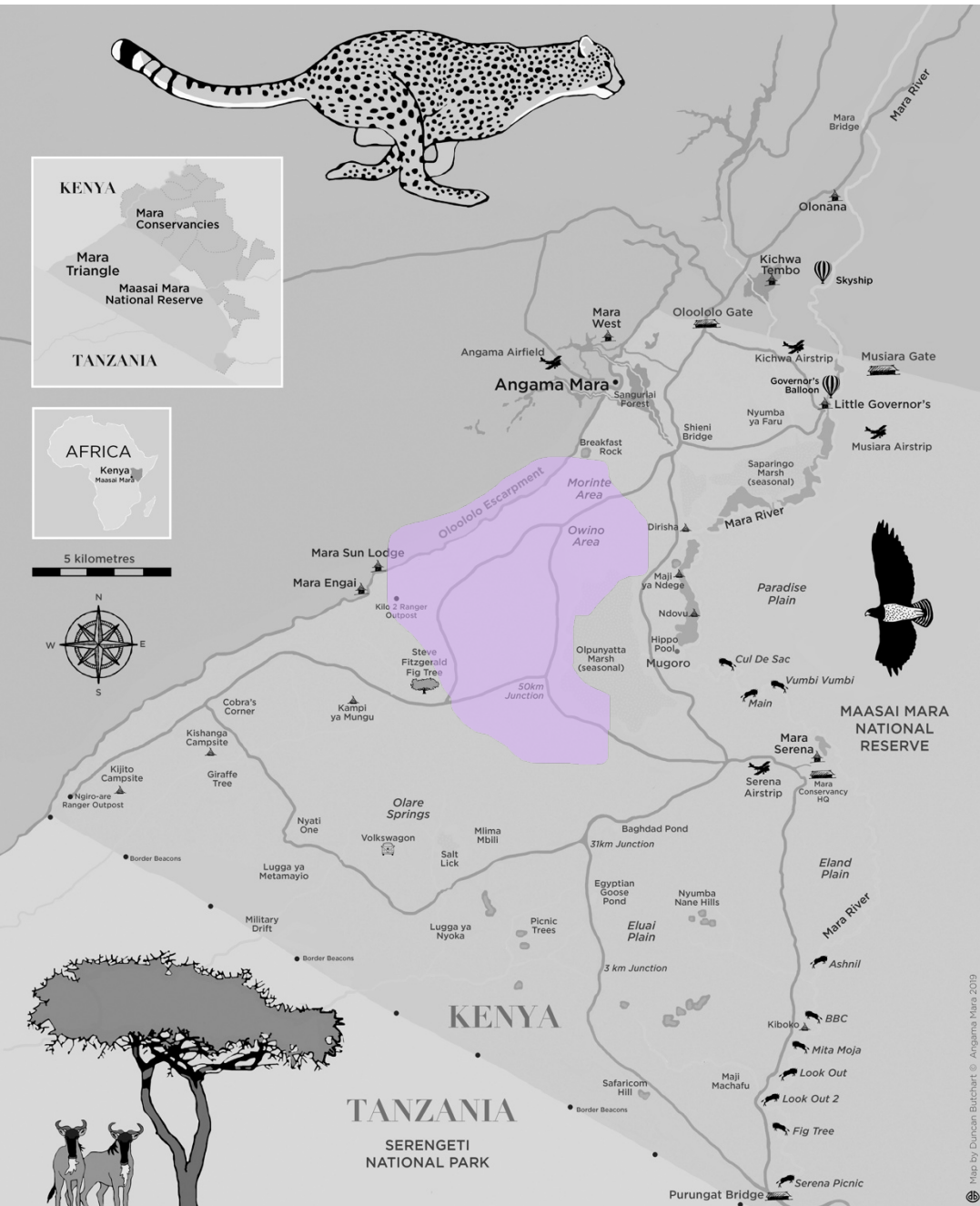
# Cheli Nomads

## HISTORY & BIO

These two males were born into the Cheli Pride in the Mara North Conservancy in 2014. They were fathered by Dere and Barrikoi. There was a third male (Serian), who was involved in a big fight in mid-2017. This male was collared by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme and when the vet came to look at the injured male, the decision was made to remove the collar. The collar was placed onto his brother, Mkia, in August 2017. The two males started spending more time in the Mara Triangle. At some stage, his collar fell off, and in Sept/Oct 2018, he had his tail cut in half – presumably bitten by a hyena. These two males took control of both the Owino and Mugoro Prides. On the 13th May 2020, Mkia, who was in a poor condition, had a run in with the two Kichwa Males and has not been seen since. The remaining single male, Olalashe, lost control of Mugoro Pride in mid-2020, but managed to hold onto the Owino Pride.



# Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE  
CHELI NOMADS - OCT 2020

CHELI NOMADS

# Olalashe



APR 2020

---

BORN: SEP 2014  
MEANING: "Brother"  
Very good looking

CHELI NOMADS

Mkia



APR 2020

---

BORN: OCT 2014  
MEANING: "Prince", only has half a tail  
Possibly killed by Kichwa Males in May  
2020 and seems to have been replaced  
by Owino Young Male



CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

# Owino Young Male



AUG 2020

1 / 4

---

BORN: MID 2017  
MEANING: Reference to his origins within the  
Owino Pride  
Father: Kapuli

CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

# Owino Young Male



MAY 2019

2 / 4

---

BORN: MID 2017  
MEANING: Reference to his origins within the  
Owino Pride  
Father: Kapuli



CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

# Owino Young Male



MAY 2019

3 / 4

---

BORN: MID 2017  
MEANING: Reference to his origins within the  
Owino Pride  
Father: Kapuli

CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

# Owino Young Male



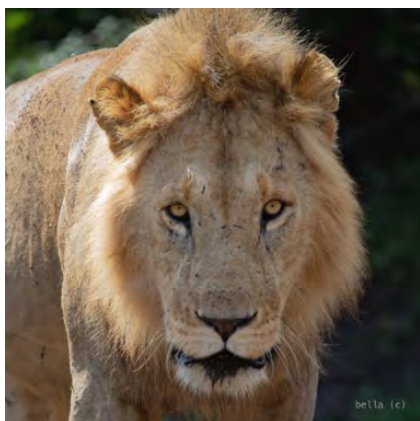
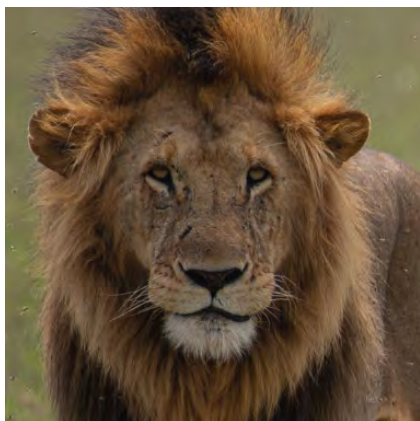
MAY 2019

4 / 4

---

BORN: MID 2017  
MEANING: Reference to his origins within the  
Owino Pride  
Father: Kapuli

# Bila Shaka



# Bila Shaka

## HISTORY & BIO

These six males were born into the Moniko Pride in the Olare Motorogi Conservancy in 2014, fathered by the legendary Lolparpit and Olbarnoti. They arrived in the Musiara area in early-2017, invading Marsh Pride territory and covering all the Musiara and Bila Shaka areas. For some reason, the two Marsh Pride Males, Karibu and Rafiki, did not chase them off, but the six young males never tried to attack or court the Marsh Pride lionesses. In May 2017, the Marsh Pride decided to leave their territory along with the nine cubs and moved north-east into the Mara North Conservancy. Karibu and Rafiki followed leaving the Bila Shaka males in control of all the land in that area. They were known by many at this stage as 'The Six Warriors' and also 'The Contenders'. They moved further east and north towards Silanga, Rhino Ridge and Topi Plains but always returned to the Bila Shaka area. The Kichwa Males occasionally crossed the Mara River and stole kills from the young males. However, with no pride in the area, there was nothing to fight for and the Kichwa Males always crossed back. The Bila Shaka Males were very lucky not to get into any serious fights, instead keeping to themselves and growing stronger. This changed by mid-2018, as they had grown in size and confidence. They no longer tolerated other male lions entering their territory. They confronted the Kichwa Males and chased them back into the Triangle, these males never returned and one member went missing.



In the first half of 2018, the Bila Shaka Males had bonded with the Marsh Pride satellite lionesses, Spot and Little Red, as well as Yaya and her two daughters. The first cubs were born but all litters were lost. In June 2018, five of the males were moving around a great deal, while Chongo preferred to stay with Little Red and Spot. The five males covered a lot of ground, including the Greater Windmill area, the southern parts of the Mara North Conservancy, as well as Topi Plains Pride territory. Obviously, they were looking for prey, but also for the scattered Marsh Pride members and more females to mate with.

Two fortuitous events happened for these males. The Marsh Pride lionesses returned to their home turf without their previous pride males. And, after the demise of Lipstick, only one of the Topi Plains males was left to defend the pride. The Bila Shaka Males got access to 18 lionesses without any serious fights. Many cubs were born in late 2018 and into the beginning of 2019. But the question was whether or not the six males would stay, or simply move on to take over more lion prides. Large male coalitions can be fickle, they tend to constantly expand their territory and then often leave their offspring without proper protection. This is precisely what started to happen in the beginning of 2019 when the Bila Shaka Males began to move around more, even having confrontations with their fathers, Lolparpit and Olbarnoti, in the Double Crossing Area. In general, they spent more time with the Topi Pride than the Marsh Pride. By mid-2020, it appeared as though they had left the Marsh and Topi Plains Prides for good.



Doa seemed to be intent on remaining behind as the sole protector. Why did the other five leave their kingdom? What we do know is that the Bila Shaka males have had a number of battles with the three Salas Males, and it is more than likely that Baba Yao lost his life in one of these fights. By May 2020, the Bila Shaka five were spending most of their time in the Mara Triangle taking over the Mugoro Pride.



BILA SHAKA

# Doa



MAR 2020

1 / 3

---

BORN: MAR 2014  
MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'  
Lump on his back  
Spot in his left eye  
Brother of Baba Yao

BILA SHAKA

# Doa



MAR 2020

2 / 3

---

BORN: MAR 2014  
MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'  
Lump on his back  
Spot in his left eye  
Brother of Baba Yao

BILA SHAKA

# Doa



MAR 2020

3 / 3

---

BORN: MAR 2014  
MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'  
Lump on his back  
Spot in his left eye  
Brother of Baba Yao



BILA SHAKA

# Koshoke



JUL 2019

1 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'One with Big Belly'  
Boxy / square jaw

BILA SHAKA

# Koshoke



JUL 2019

2 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'One with Big Belly'  
Boxy / square jaw

BILA SHAKA

# Koshoke



JUL 2019

3 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'One with Big Belly'  
Boxy / square jaw

BILA SHAKA

# Kiok



JUL 2019

1 / 3

---

BORN: SEP 2014  
MEANING: 'Ear'  
Smallest mane and lightest in colour  
Mismatched ears



BILA SHAKA

# Kiok



JUL 2019

2 / 3

---

BORN: SEP 2014  
MEANING: 'Ear'  
Smallest mane and lightest in colour  
Mismatched ears

BILA SHAKA

# Kiok



JUL 2019

3 / 3

---

BORN: SEP 2014  
MEANING: 'Ear'  
Smallest mane and lightest in colour  
Mismatched ears

BILA SHAKA

# Kibogoyo



MAY 2019

1 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'Toothless'  
Different coloured eyes  
Huge holes punched out of left ear

BILA SHAKA

# Kibogoyo



JUL 2019

2 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'Toothless'  
Different coloured eyes  
Huge holes punched out of left ear



BILA SHAKA

# Kibogoyo



JUL 2019

3 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'Toothless'  
Different coloured eyes  
Huge holes punched out of left ear

BILA SHAKA

# Chongo



NOV 2019

1 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'Bad Eye'  
Damaged right eye

BILA SHAKA

# Chongo



NOV 2019

2 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'Bad Eye'  
Damaged right eye

BILA SHAKA

# Chongo



NOV 2019

3 / 3

---

BORN: MAY 2014  
MEANING: 'Bad Eye'  
Damaged right eye



BILA SHAKA

# Baba Yao



PRESUMED DEAD

JUL 2019

1 / 3

---

BORN: MAR 2014  
MEANING: 'Our Father'  
Lumpy back  
Slight kink in tail  
Presumed dead  
Brother of Doa

BILA SHAKA

# Baba Yao



PRESUMED DEAD

JUL 2019

2 / 3

---

BORN: MAR 2014  
MEANING: 'Our Father'  
Lumpy back  
Slight kink in tail  
Presumed dead  
Brother of Doa

BILA SHAKA

# Baba Yao



PRESUMED DEAD

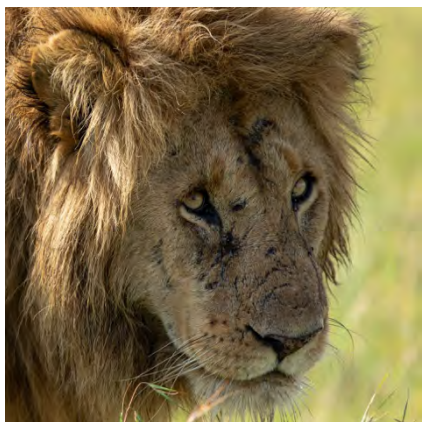
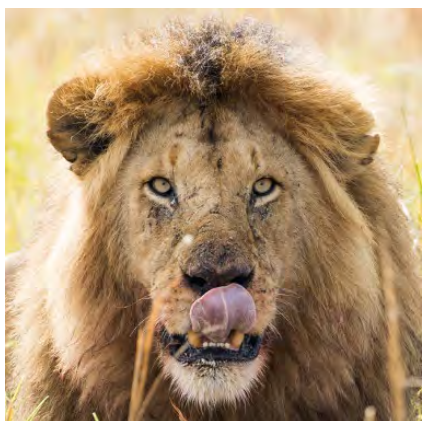
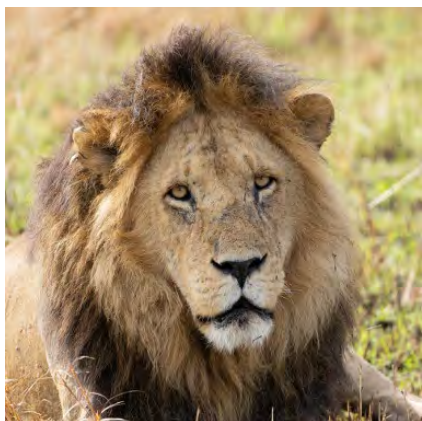
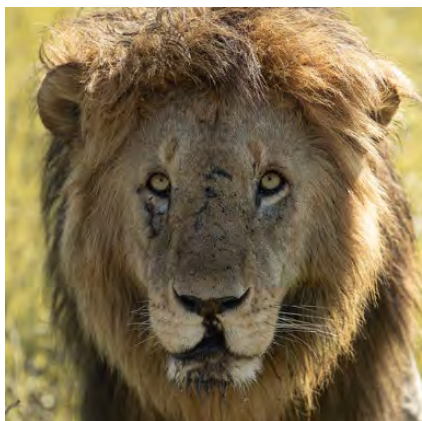
JUL 2019

3 / 3

---

BORN: MAR 2014  
MEANING: 'Our Father'  
Lumpy back  
Slight kink in tail  
Presumed dead  
Brother of Doa

# Inselberg Males





# Inselberg Males

## HISTORY & BIO

Very little is known about the origins of these males, but it is believed they come from the Serengeti. What is certain is that in January 2020, there were five of them. The fifth member seemed to disappear for many months before returning in mid-2020. These five males are currently the dominant force along the border between Kenya and Tanzanian. They are also known by some as the Ngiro Are Nomads.



INSELBERG MALES

# Slitlip



JAN 2020

---

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Prominent cut through upper lip

## INSELBERG MALES

# Ruka



JUN 2020

1 / 2

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Comes from 'Ruruka' which means 'Tear'  
Tears in right ear



INSELBERG MALES

# Ruka



JUN 2020

2 / 2

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Comes from 'Ruruka' which means 'Tear'  
Tears in right ear

## INSELBERG MALES

# Nusu



JUN 2020

1 / 3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Half – as in 'half' of his bottom right  
tooth

Cut in left ear

Right bottom canine worn down

## INSELBERG MALES

# Nusu



JUN 2020

2 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Half – as in ‘half’ of his bottom right  
tooth  
Cut in left ear  
Right bottom canine worn down



## INSELBERG MALES

# Nusu



JUN 2020

3 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Half – as in ‘half’ of his bottom right  
tooth  
Cut in left ear  
Right bottom canine worn down



INSELBERG MALES

# Manywele



JUN 2020

1 / 2

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: A lot of shaggy hair

INSELBERG MALES

# Manywele



JUN 2020

2 / 2

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: A lot of shaggy hair



## INSELBERG MALES

# Male 5



JAN 2020

1 / 2

---

**BORN:** UNKNOWN  
**MEANING:** This male was presumed dead for much of 2020 and has not been named yet. He is fairly shy of cars.

## INSELBERG MALES

# Male 5



JAN 2020

2 / 2

---

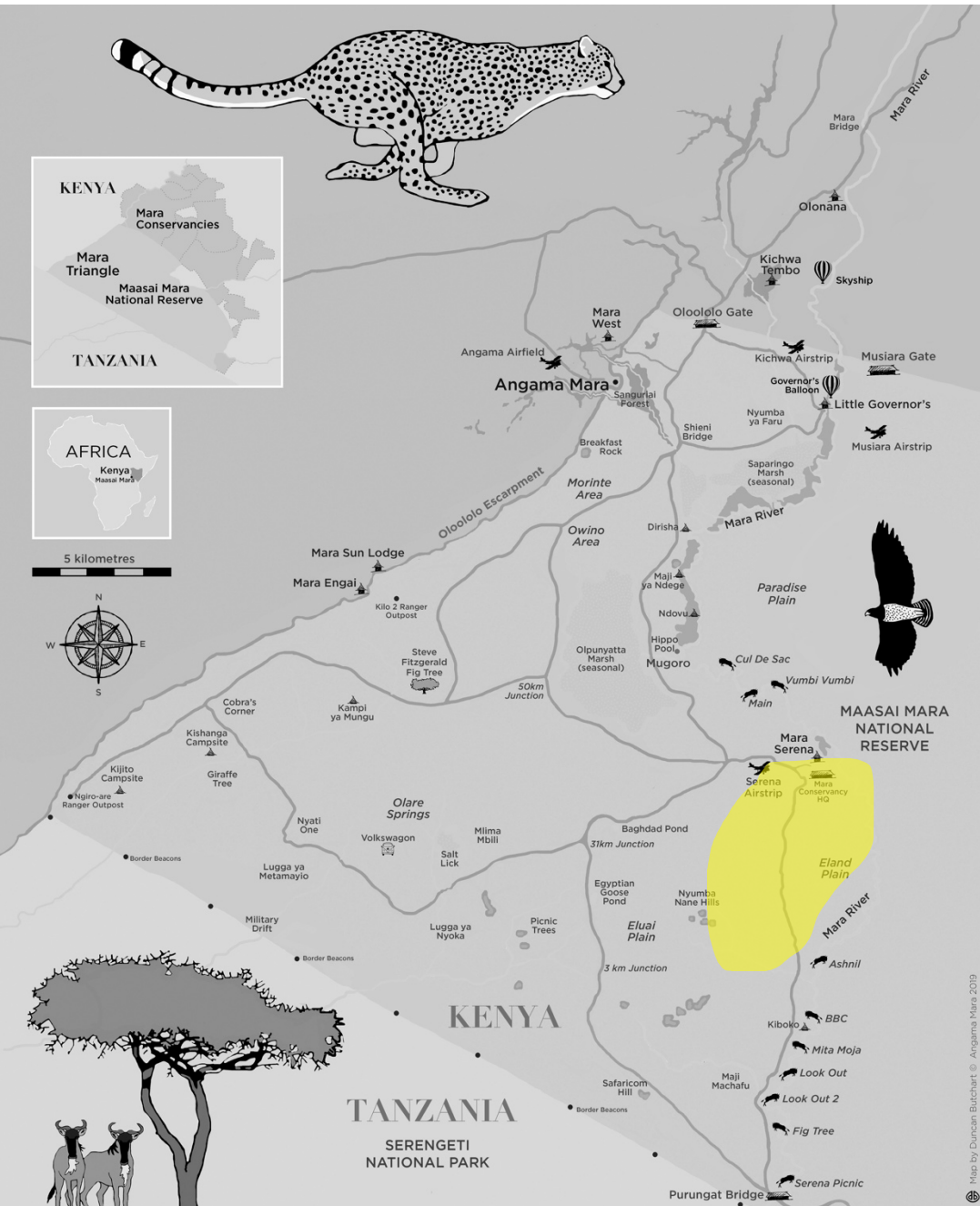
**BORN:** UNKNOWN  
**MEANING:** This male was presumed dead for much of 2020 and has not been named yet. He is fairly shy of cars.



# Eland Plain Males



# Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE  
ELAND PLAINS - OCT 2020

## ELAND PLAIN MALES

# Mrefu



JUL 2020

1 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Tall One  
Was also known originally as 'Doa Doa  
Nose'  
From June 2020 started joining the  
Mugoro Outcast



## ELAND PLAIN MALES

# Mrefu



JUL 2020

2 / 3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Tall One

Was also known originally as 'Doa Doa Nose'

From June 2020 started joining the Mugoro Outcast



## ELAND PLAIN MALES

# Mrefu



JUL 2020

3 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Tall One  
Was also known originally as 'Doa Doa  
Nose'  
From June 2020 started joining the  
Mugoro Outcast

ELAND PLAIN MALES

# Mugoro Outcast



JUL 2020

1 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Originally from the Mugoro Pride  
Spot in right eye

ELAND PLAIN MALES

# Mugoro Outcast



MAY 2020

2 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Originally from the Mugoro Pride  
Spot in right eye



ELAND PLAIN MALES

# Mugoro Outcast



AUG 2020

3 / 3

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Originally from the Mugoro Pride  
Spot in right eye



# Ol Donyo Paek



# Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE  
OL DONYO PAEK - OCT 2020

OL DONYO PAEK

# Ol Donyo Paek



MAY 2019

1 / 2

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:



OL DONYO PAEK

# Ol Donyo Paek



NOV 2020

2 / 2

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:



# Musketeers

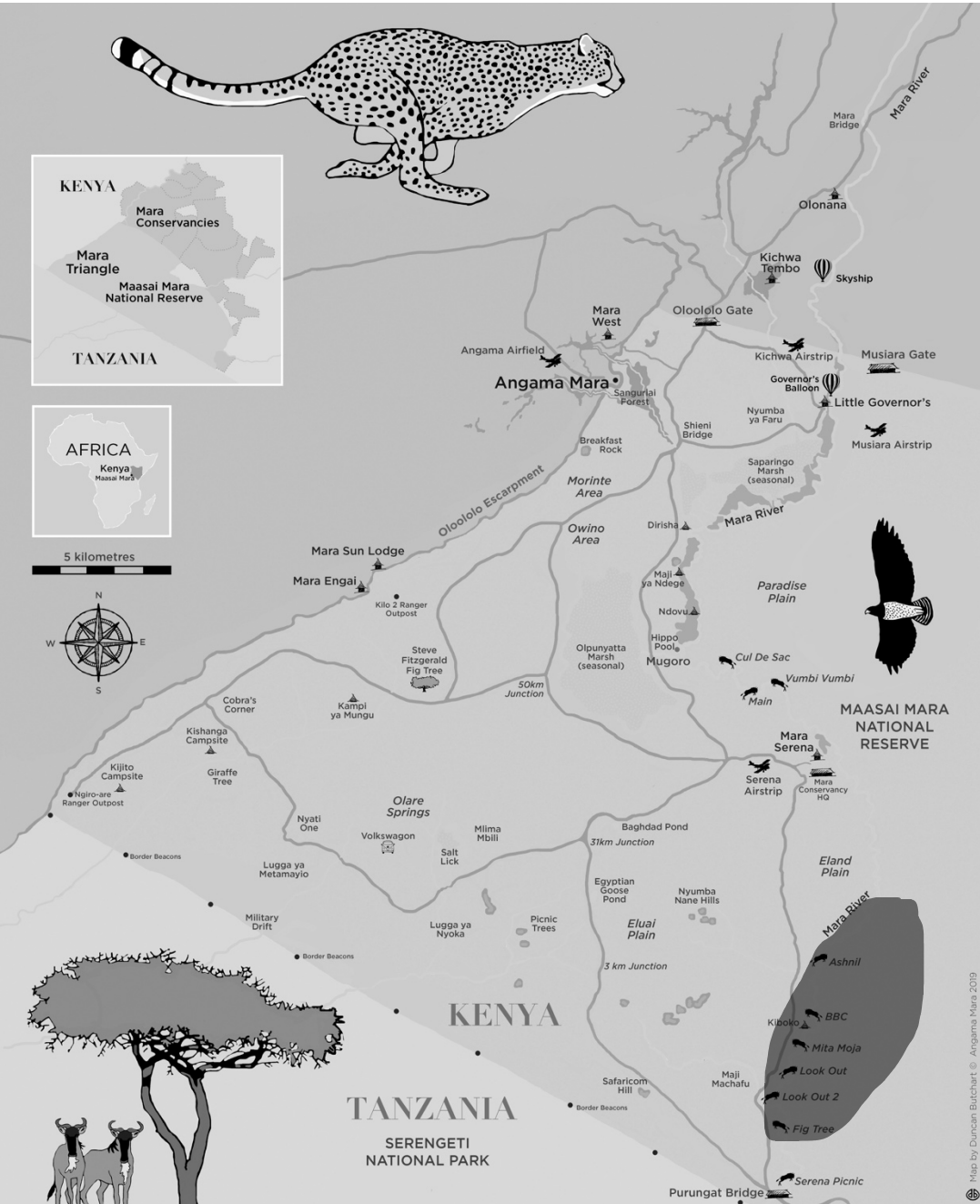


# Musketeers

## HISTORY & BIO

The Four Musketeers were born in the first half of 2008 into the Olkiombo Pride. Their fathers were Cheza, Sala and Junior, the famous Olkiombo Males. They arrived in the Musiara area in October 2011 and took over the Marsh Pride and then the Topi Plains Pride. They left the area for good in late-2014 and took over the Paradise Pride, the Mugoro Pride and then the Rekero Pride. Hunter was last seen at the end of August 2019 crossing the Mara River towards the Triangle and he was never seen again. He was most likely caught by some other Males and killed or fatally injured. By Sept/Oct 2020, Sikio was in a very poor condition and amazingly Scarface continues to survive.

# Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE  
MUSKETEERS - OCT 2020

MUSKETEERS

# Scarface



JUL 2018

---

BORN: 2008

MEANING: Scar through right eye



MUSKETEERS

# Hunter



PRESUMED DEAD

MAY 2019

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:

MUSKETEERS

# Morani



JAN 2019

---

BORN: 2008  
MEANING: Warrior

MUSKETEERS

# Sikio



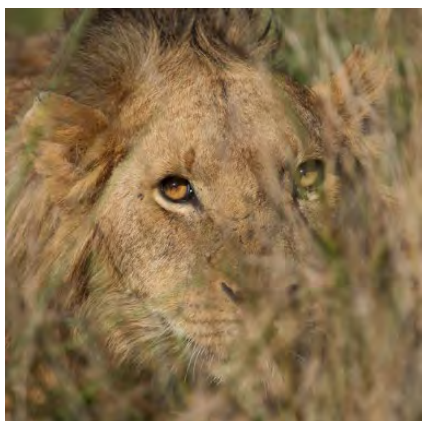
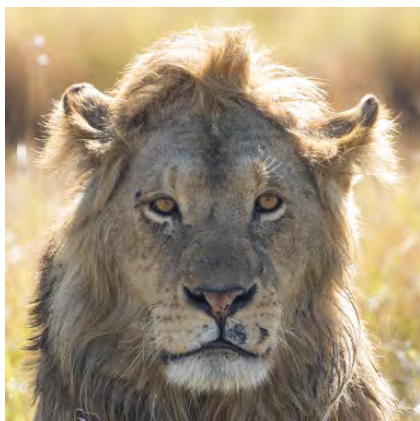
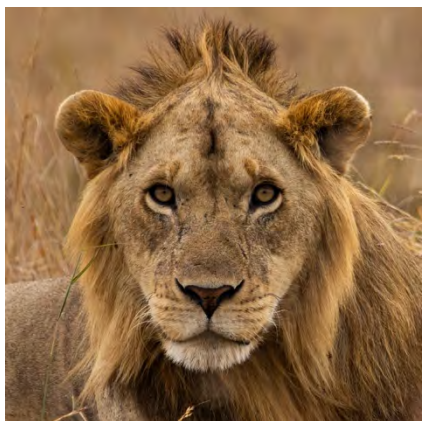
OCT 2019

---

BORN: 2008

MEANING: Ear – with reference to the distinctive cut in his right ear

# Purungat Males



?





# Purungat Males

## HISTORY & BIO

Little is known about these 4 males. They started becoming more dominant in mid 2020 and have since started slowly moving further and further north from the Kenyan/Tanzanian border (around the picnic tree area).

NOMAD

# Purungat Male I



JUL 2020

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:

NOMAD

# Purungat Male 2



JUL 2020

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:



NOMAD

# Purungat Male 3



MAY 2020

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:

NOMAD

# Purungat Male 4

?

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING:

# Nomads



# Splitnose

## HISTORY & BIO

Born into the Marsh Pride at the beginning of 2008, his father is Romeo or Clawed. His litter mates are the Topi Plains Pride lionesses (Mdomo, Summer, Autumn and Winter). He had five brothers who began dispersing at the beginning of 2011. One was killed by a crocodile, the other four took over the Oloololo Pride. They then took over the Mugoro Pride. Two of the four males vanished and Splitnose and his partner took over the Egyptian Goose area. They managed to hold onto this area for several years before they got pushed further south and took over the Purungat Pride. He was in control of this pride until late 2019 or early 2020 when it appeared he lost his coalition mate and subsequently lost control of all prides.

It is thought that for the majority of 2020, Splitnose moved north and into the Musiara area. In September, he suddenly appeared in the northern parts of the Mara Triangle and immediately started mating with the Angama Pride lionesses. Was this because the two Kichwa Males were no longer able to patrol their territory?



NOMAD

# Splitnose



APR 2019

---

BORN: 2008

MEANING: Reference to the growth on his nose -  
Bio: used to be dominant, together with  
his partner, around Purungat, but has  
since gone rouge and been seen as far  
afield  
as Musiara

# Longface

## HISTORY & BIO

Longface was born at the end of 2011 into the Mugoro Pride in the Mara Triangle. His father is one of the famous four KM Males (Lipstick, Blackie or "No. 3"). By the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016, he and his coalition partner, Mohawk, took over the Rongai Pride from the famous Notches who had moved further south to the Lookout Hill. The Notches used to return occasionally and on one occasion fatally injured Mohawk who vanished forever, leaving Longface as the single male of the Rongai Pride. He was ousted sometime in the first half of 2017 and has been a nomad ever since. In mid-2020 he started making appearances in the northern portions of the Mara Triangle.

NOMAD

# Longface



JUN 2020

---

BORN: 2011  
MEANING:

# Kapuli

## HISTORY & BIO

Kapuli was chased off from the Sausage Tree Pride and Owino Pride in the course of the first half of 2018. He then moved around with his two younger coalition partners and in March/April they were seen with several lionesses and cubs, said to be from the Salt Lick Pride. One of these coalition partners was the lion we called Pharaoh. Sightings of Kapuli are rare and although it is unlikely, it is possible he may still be in the Salt Lick area.



NOMAD

# Kapuli



AUG 2018

---

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Reference to a nose ring

NOMAD

# Pharaoh



AUG 2018

---

BORN: UNKNOWN  
MEANING: Used to spend lots of time around  
Egyptian Dam with Kapuli

NOMAD

# Rekero Breakaway



MAY 2020

1 / 3

---

BORN: 2016  
MEANING: Originated from the Rekero Pride  
Suffered a big wound to back right leg in  
July 2020



NOMAD

# Rekero Breakaway



MAY 2020

2 / 3

---

BORN: 2016  
MEANING: Originated from the Rekero Pride  
Suffered a big wound to back right leg in  
July 2020



NOMAD

# Rekero Breakaway



MAY 2020

3 / 3

---

BORN: 2016  
MEANING: Originated from the Rekero Pride  
Suffered a big wound to back right leg in  
July 2020

# ANGAMA

## Acknowledgements

MARA CONSERVANCY

ANGAMA MARA

LUCY JOHNSON

PETER RETTIG

MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

