Lions of the Mara Triangle

ANGAMA

VERSION 4.0 UPDATED: JUNE 2022

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 landscape as vast as the Maasai 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 complexities, every person who sees a lion will undoubtably 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.

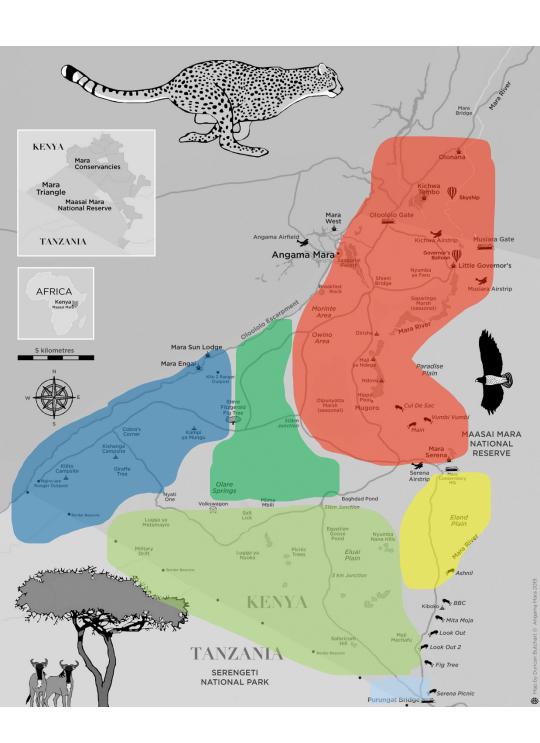
Please contact me should you have photographs that may add to the ongoing database, or have information that you feel could help us in building a history of these magnificent big cats in a landscape so close to many of our hearts.

Enjoy using this Identification Guide

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Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTED IN JUNE 2022

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.

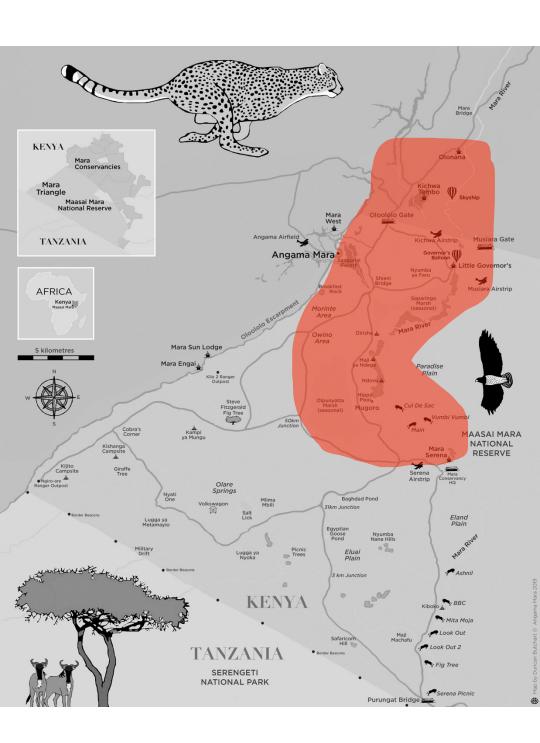
Two fortuitous events happened for these males. The Marsh Pride lionesses returned to their home turf without their previous pride males. And, after the demise of Lipstick, only one of the Topi Plains males was left to defend the pride. The Bila Shaka Males got access to 18 lionesses without any serious 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.

By mid 2021 the 5 remaining Bila Shaka males had firmly established themselves as the dominant males along the Mara River.

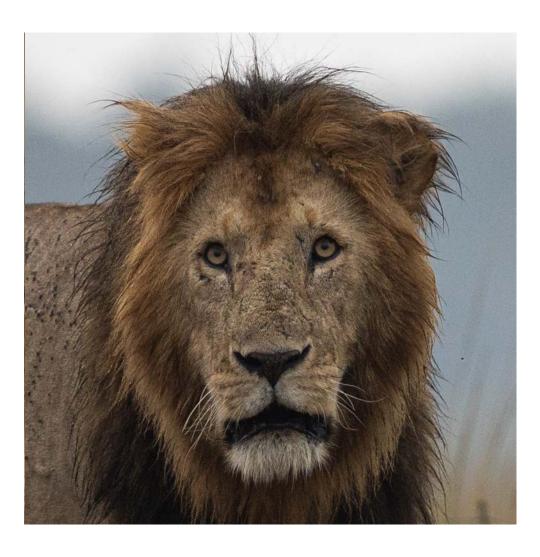
In early 2022 they started spending more and more time with the River Pride, before all of a sudden making a charge south and west into the heart of Owino Pride territory - sending the 6 young Nyati Males into the hills and running for their lives.

Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE BILA SHAKA - JUNE 2022

Doa



FEB 2021 1/4

BORN: MAR 2014

MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'

Doa

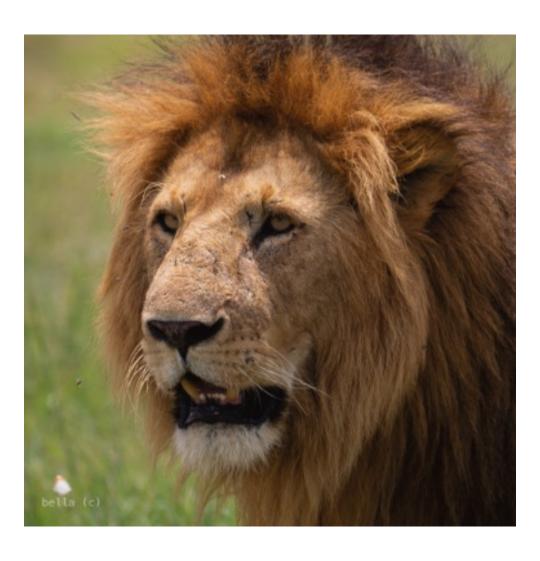


MAR 2020 2 / 4

BORN: MAR 2014

MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'

Doa



MAR 2020 3 / 4

BORN: MAR 2014

MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'

Doa



JUN 2022 4 / 4

BORN: MAR 2014

MEANING: Meaning: 'Spot'

Koshoke



JUL 2019 1/3

BORN: MAY 2014

MEANING: 'One with Big Belly'

Boxy / square jaw

Koshoke



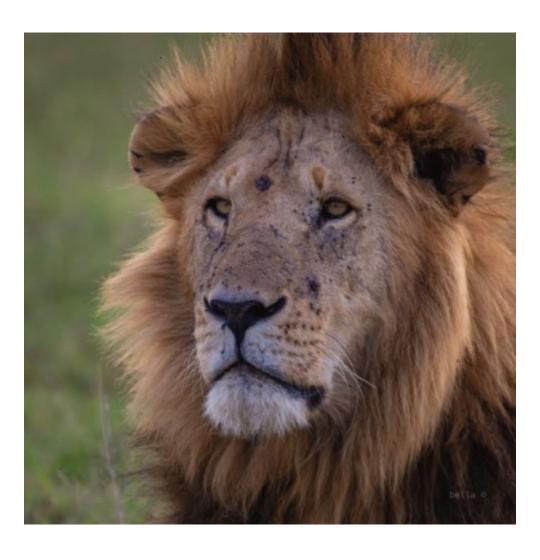
JUL 2019 2 / 3

BORN: MAY 2014

MEANING: 'One with Big Belly'

Boxy / square jaw

Koshoke



JUL 2019 3 / 3

BORN: MAY 2014

MEANING: 'One with Big Belly'

Boxy / square jaw

Kiok



JUL 2019 1/3

BORN: SEP 2014

MEANING: 'Ear'

Smallest mane and lightest in

colour

Mismatched ears

Kiok



JUL 2019 2 / 3

BORN: SEP 2014

MEANING: 'Ear'

Smallest mane and lightest in

colour

Mismatched ears

Kiok



JUL 2019 3 / 3

BORN: SEP 2014

MEANING: 'Ear'

Smallest mane and lightest in

colour

Mismatched ears

Kibogoyo



MAY 2021 1/4

BORN: MAY 2014 **MEANING:** 'Toothless'

Different coloured eyes

Huge holes punched out of left

Kibogoyo



MAY 2019 2 / 4

BORN: MAY 2014 MEANING: 'Toothless'

Different coloured eyes

Huge holes punched out of left

Kibogoyo



JUL 2019 3 / 4

BORN: MAY 2014 **MEANING:** 'Toothless'

Different coloured eyes

Huge holes punched out of left

Kibogoyo



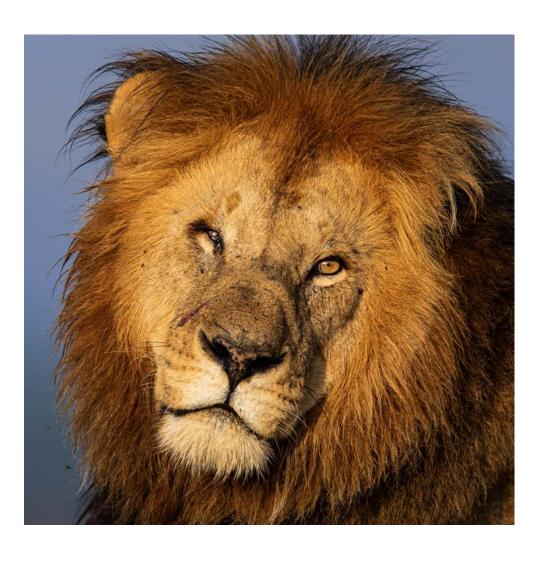
JUL 2019 4 / 4

BORN: MAY 2014 **MEANING:** 'Toothless'

Different coloured eyes

Huge holes punched out of left

Chongo



MAR 2021 1/3

BORN: MAY 2014 MEANING: 'Bad Eye'

Damaged right eye

Chongo



NOV 2019 2 / 3

BORN: MAY 2014 MEANING: 'Bad Eye'

Damaged right eye

Chongo



NOV 2019 3 / 3

BORN: MAY 2014 MEANING: 'Bad Eye'

Damaged right eye

Inselberg Males











Inselberg Males

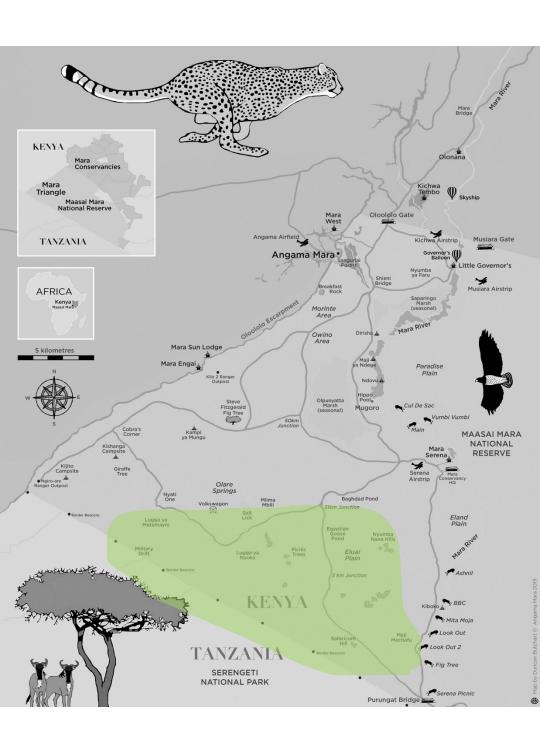
HISTORY & BIO

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 Ngiroare Nomads.

Over the Covid - lockdown months they grew in dominance and expanded their territory northwards. They cemented their reign as the pride males of the Egyptian Pride.

In June 2022 they started a further expansion eastwards towards the Mara River and eventually they would take control of the Purungat Pride.

Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE INSELBERG MALES - JUNE 2022

Slitlip



JAN 2021 1/2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Prominent cut through upper lip

Slitlip

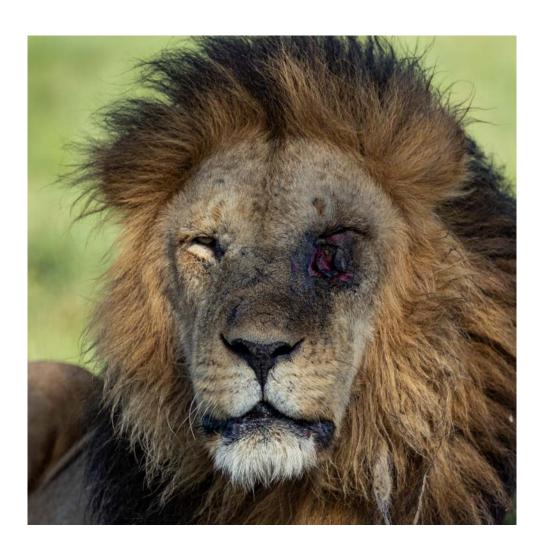


JUN 2022 2 / 2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Prominent cut through upper lip

Ruka



JUN 2020 1/3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Comes from 'Ruruka' which

means 'Tear'

Tears in right ear

Badly damaged left eye in early June 2022 - presumably caused

by fight with Manywele

Ruka



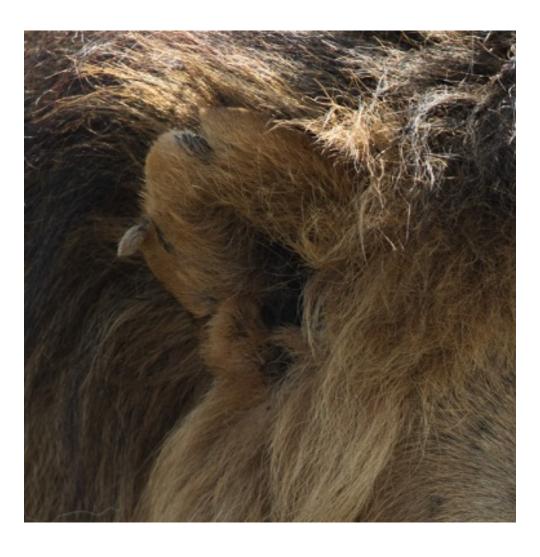
JUN 2020 2 / 3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Comes from 'Ruruka' which

means 'Tear' Tears in right ear

Ruka



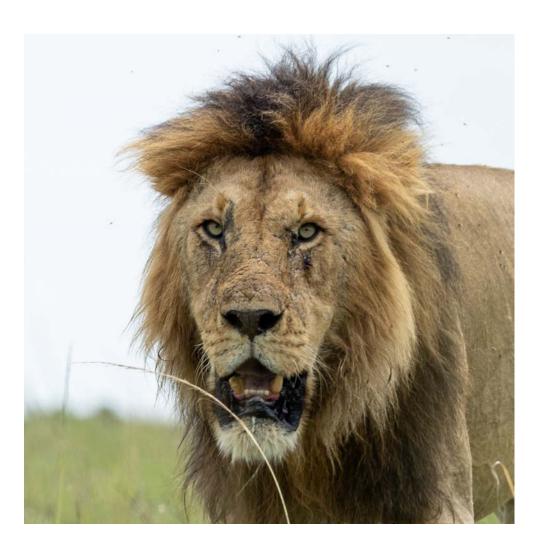
JUN 2020 3 / 3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Comes from 'Ruruka' which

means 'Tear' Tears in right ear

Nusu



JUN 2022 1/4

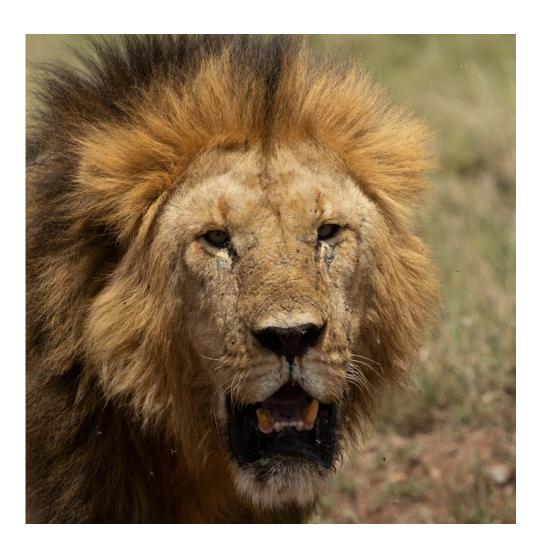
BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Half - as in 'half' of his bottom

right tooth Cut in left ear

Right bottom canine worn down

Nusu



OCT 2021 2 / 4

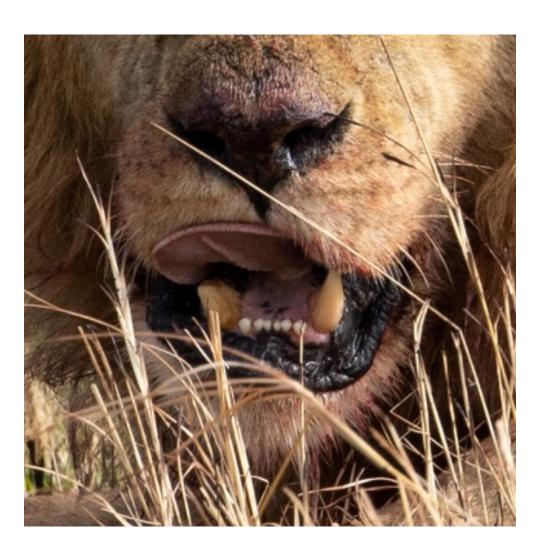
BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Half - as in 'half' of his bottom

right tooth Cut in left ear

Right bottom canine worn down

Nusu



JUN 2020 3 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Half - as in 'half' of his bottom

right tooth Cut in left ear

Right bottom canine worn down

Nusu



JUN 2020 4 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Half - as in 'half' of his bottom

right tooth Cut in left ear

Right bottom canine worn down

Manywele



JUN 2022 1/2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: A lot of shaggy hair

Manywele



JUN 2020 2 / 2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: A lot of shaggy hair

Male 5



JAN 2020 1/4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: This male was presumed dead

for much of 2020 and has not been named yet. He was shy of cars in 2021, but by 2022 seemed

to have settled

Male 5



JUL 2021 2 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Often referred to as the 'Ginger

One'

Male 5



SEP 2021 3 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: AKA: Ololopolosie

$Male_5$



JUL 2021 4 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Often referred to as the 'Ginger

One'

Nyati Males













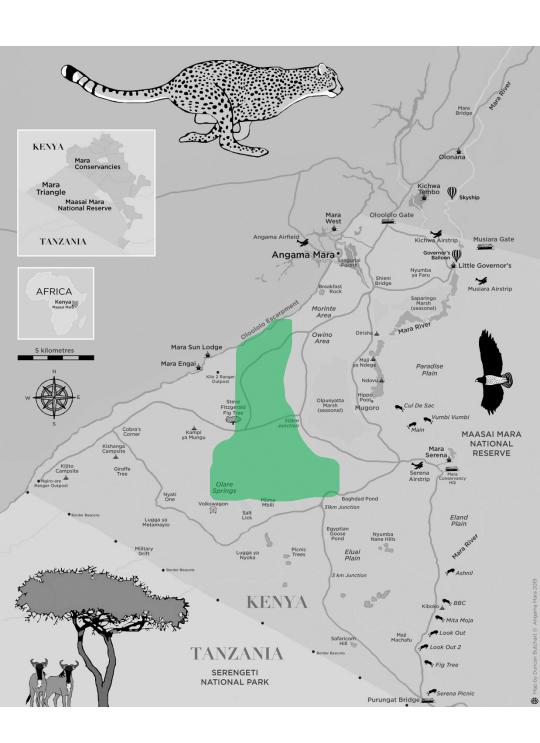
Nyati Males

HISTORY & BIO

These six males were born into the Sausage Tree Pride. Their father (Ol Donyo Paek) was killed iin August 2021 by the Lamai Male. This meant these six young males had to run away from their birth pride. For a few months they lived under the radar at the base of the Oloololo Escarpment near the Breakfast Rock area. By Feb/March 2022 they seemed to be establishing themselves in the territory previously controlled by Olalashe and Kijana. They started to mate with various members of the Owino Pride and all seemed to be settling nicely. They were names 'Nyati' after their tendency to hunt down and kill Buffalos – a trait taught to them by their birth pride.

However, by May 2022, the Bila Shaka Males moved south and into the Nyati Male territory. They chased these males away and began to mate with Owino Pride. By June 2022 the six Nyati males were becoming more and more difficult to find as their territory shrunk and was restricted to largely swampy long grassy areas.

Mara Triangle



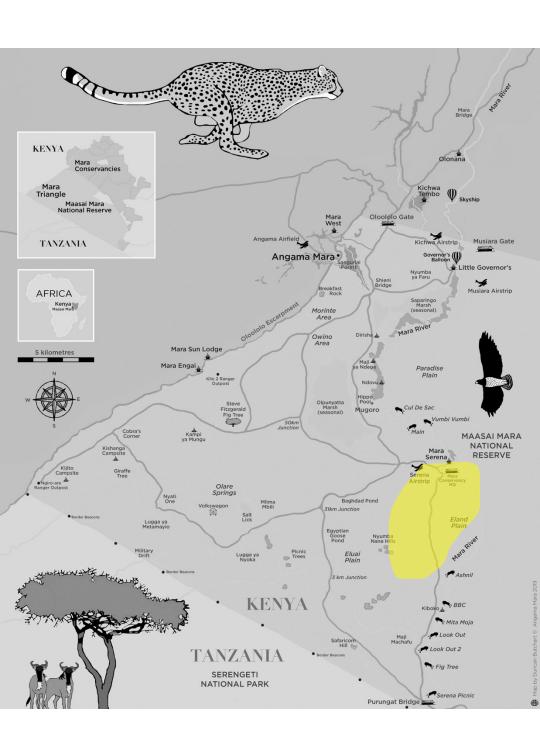
ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTED IN JUNE 2022

Eland Plain Males





Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE ELAND PLAINS - JUNE 2022

Mrefu



JUL 2020 1/3

BORN: UNKNOWN MEANING: Tall One

Manala Inche

Was also known originally as

'Doa Doa Nose'

From June 2020 started joining

the Mugoro Outcast

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

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

Mugoro Outcast



JUL 2020 1/3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originally from the Mugoro Pride

Spot in right eye

Mugoro Outcast



MAY 2020 2 / 3

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originally from the Mugoro Pride

Spot in right eye

Mugoro Outcast



AUG 2020 3 / 3

BORN: UNKNOWN

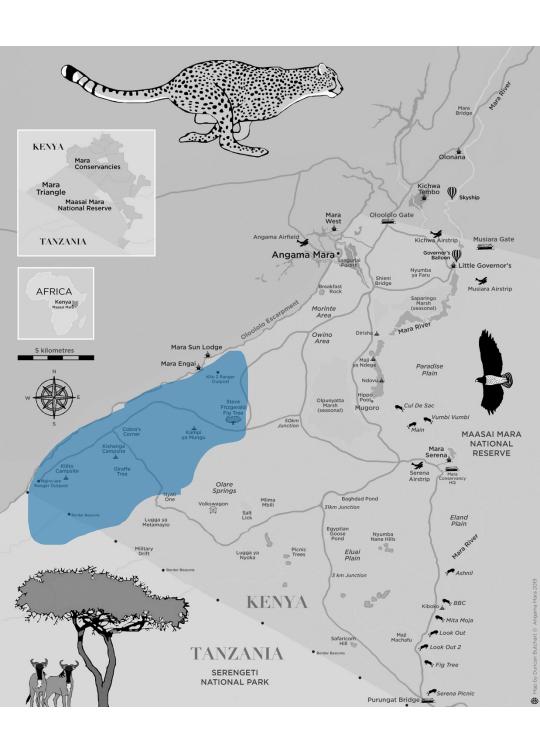
MEANING: Originally from the Mugoro Pride

Spot in right eye





Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE ELAND PLAINS - JUNE 2022

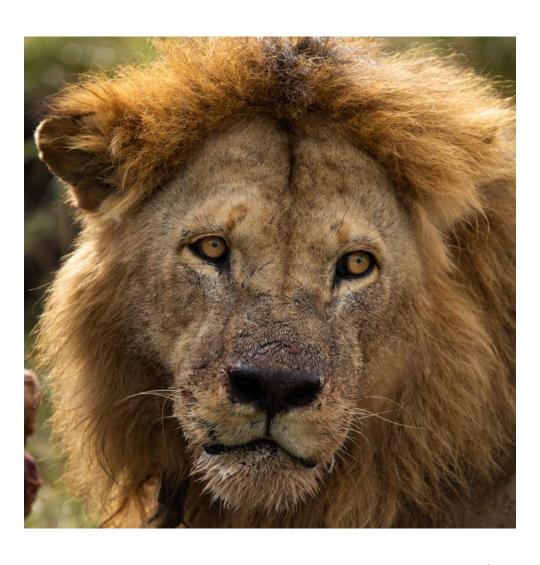
Lamai Males

HISTORY & BIO

These two males arrived into the Triangle in the far south-western corner in late August 2021. They challenged, and ultimately killed OI Donyo Paek and proceeded to take over the area. These males met up with the Sausage Tree Pride in late October and the pride take-over commenced.

By mid June 2022 they appeared to have taken control of the Sausage Tree Pride, but there is still clear tension between the males and females within this grouping.

Main Lamai Male



JUN 2022 1/4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Main Lamai Male



AUG 2021 2 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Main Lamai Male

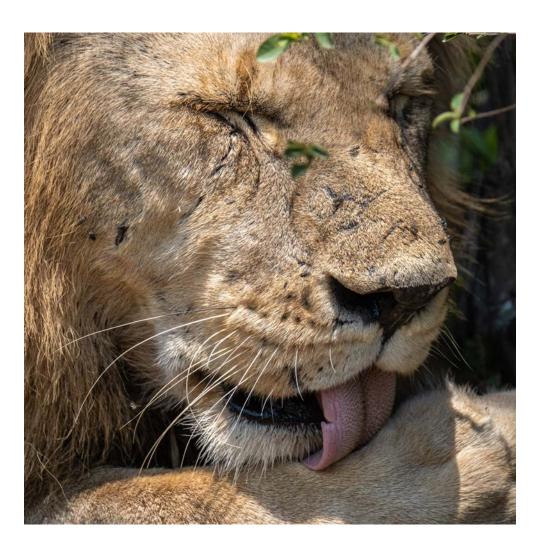


OCT 2021 3 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Main Lamai Male



AUG 2021 4 / 4

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Second Lamai Male



AUG 2021 1/2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Second Lamai Male

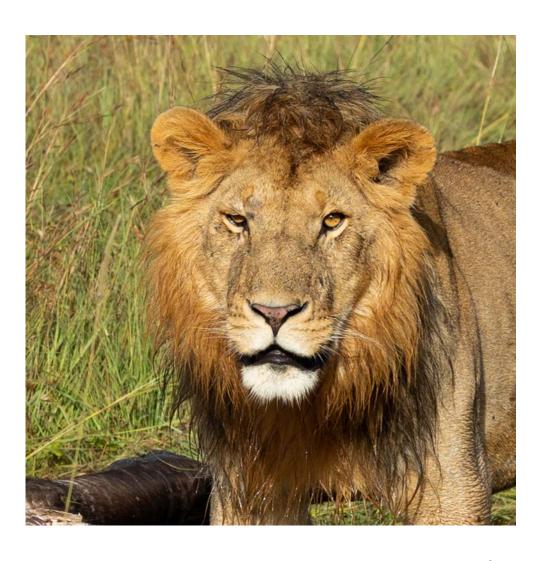


AUG 2021 2 / 2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Kinyangaga Young Male 1



JUN 2022 1/2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: AKA Lazy Eye. Originated in the

Lamai Wedge, Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2 Lamai Males

Kinyangaga Young Male 1



AUG 2021 2 / 2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: AKA Lazy Eye. Originated in the

Lamai Wedge, Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2 Lamai Males

Kinyangaga Young Male 2



AUG 2021 1/1

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2

Kinyangaga Young Male 3



OCT 2021 1/2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2

Kinyangaga Young Male 3



OCT 2021 2 / 2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2

Kinyangaga Young Male 4



NOV 2021 1/2

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2

Kinyangaga Young Male 4



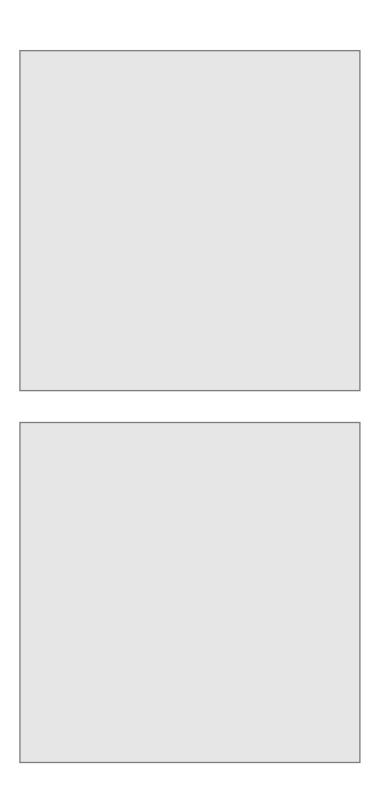
NOV 2021 2 / 2

BORN: UNKNOWN

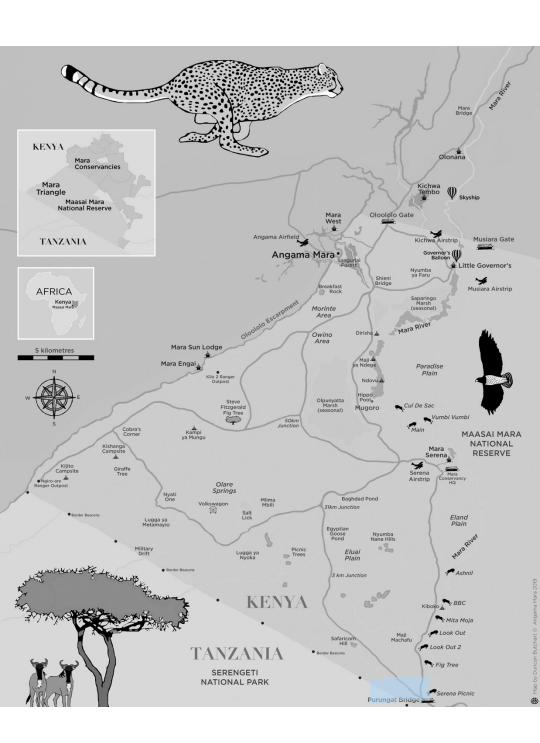
MEANING: Originated in the Lamai Wedge,

Tanzania. Hangs out with the 2

Paradise Boys



Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE PARADISE BOYS - JUNE 2022

Paradise Boys

HISTORY & BIO

Nomads / Status Unknown



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, was involved in a fatal fight with the two Kichwa Males. The remaining single male, Olalashe, lost control of Mugoro Pride in mid-2020, but managed to hold onto the Owino Pride. Towards the end of 2020, Olalashe made attempts to gain control of the Angama Pride, but was easily pushed off by the Bila Shaka Males

In early 2021 Olalashe was struggling as a single male in the area. In a fascinating bit of lion behaviour he seemingly decided to 'adopt' and take on the Owino Young Male / Kijana as a coalition-mate. These two males seemed to be close and always together until mid 2021 when they started being challenged by the Bila Shakas.

By mid 2022 they seem to have disappeared from the Mara Triangle

Olalashe



MAR 2021 1/3

BORN: SEP 2014 MEANING: "Brother"

Very good looking

Olalashe



APR 2020 2 / 3

BORN: SEP 2014 MEANING: "Brother"

Very good looking

Olalashe



SEP 2021 3 / 3

BORN: SEP 2014 MEANING: "Brother"

Very good looking

CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

Kijana



MAR 2021 1/3

BORN: MID 2017

MEANING: Reference to his origins within

the Owino Pride Father: Kapuli

CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

Kijana



APR 2021 2 / 3

BORN: MID 2017

MEANING: Reference to his origins within

the Owino Pride Father: Kapuli

CHELI NOMADS / OWINO PRIDE

Kijana



MAY 2019 3 / 3

BORN: MID 2017

MEANING: Reference to his origins within

the Owino Pride Father: Kapuli

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 by 2021 was no longer being seen at all.

Morani



JAN 2019

BORN: 2008
MEANING: Warrior

The last survivor of the famous coalition. Appeared to have joined up the Rekero Breakaway

in mid 2021

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?

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

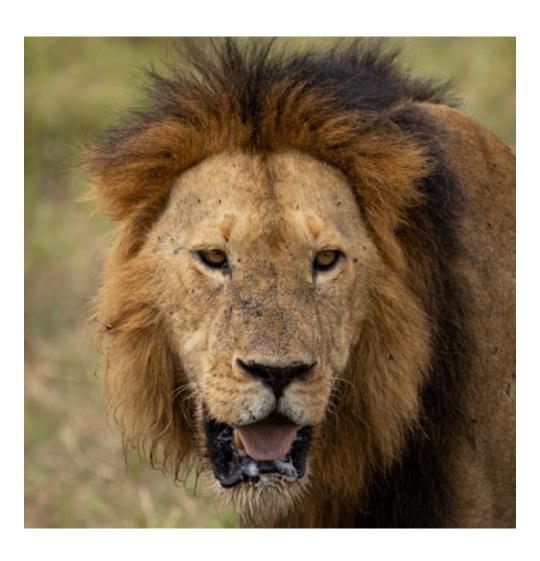
as Musiara

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. Was seen in October 2021 at main crossing with severe damage to his back right leg.

Longface



JUN 2020

BORN: 2011

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.

Kapuli



AUG 2018

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Reference to a nose ring

Pharaoh



AUG 2018

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Used to spend lots of time

around Egyptian Dam with

Kapuli

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

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

Rekero Breakaway



MAY 2020 3 / 3

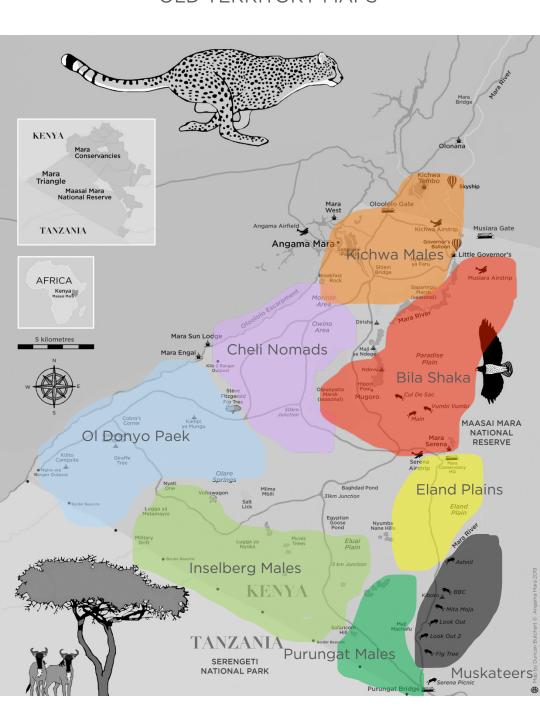
BORN: 2016

MEANING: Originated from the Rekero Pride

Suffered a big wound to back

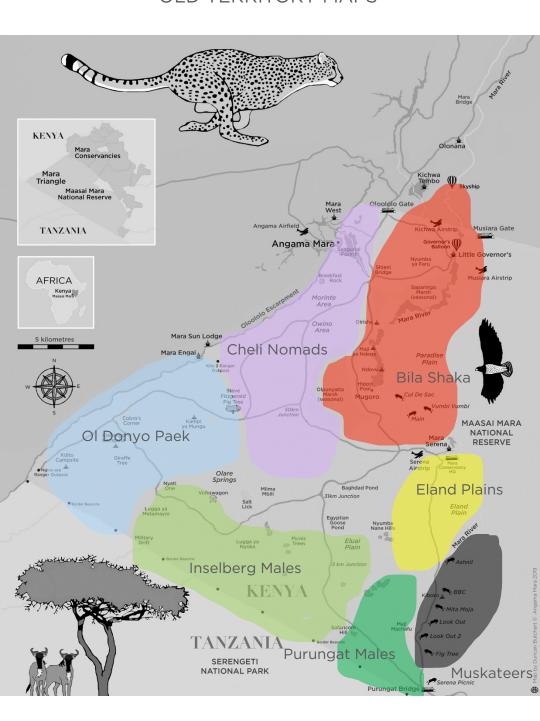
right leg in July 2020

Mara Triangle OLD TERRITORY MAPS



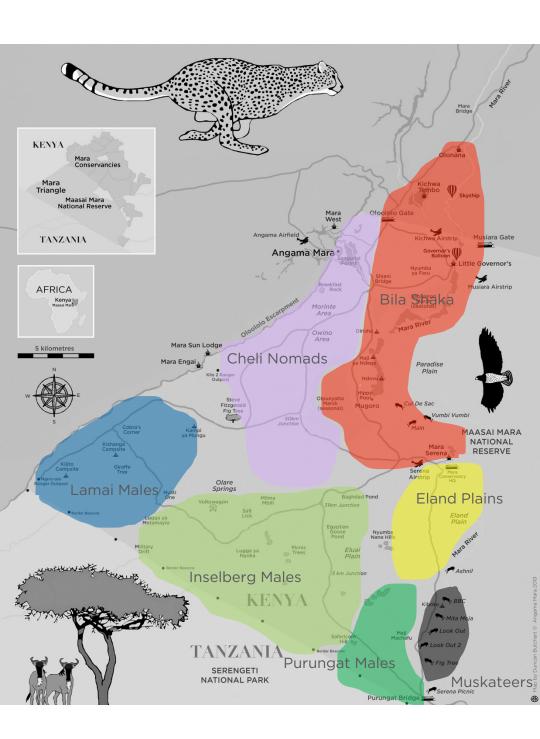
ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTED IN OCTOBER 2020

Mara Triangle OLD TERRITORY MAPS



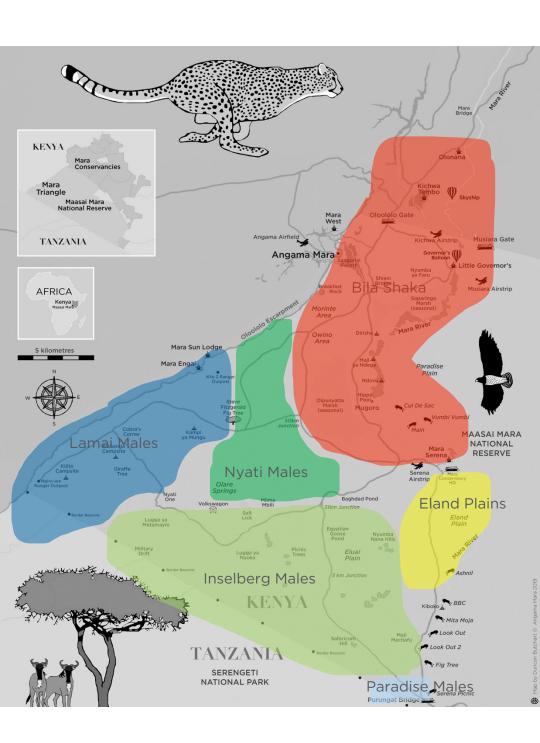
ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTED IN MAY 2021

Mara Triangle



ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTED IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Mara Triangle



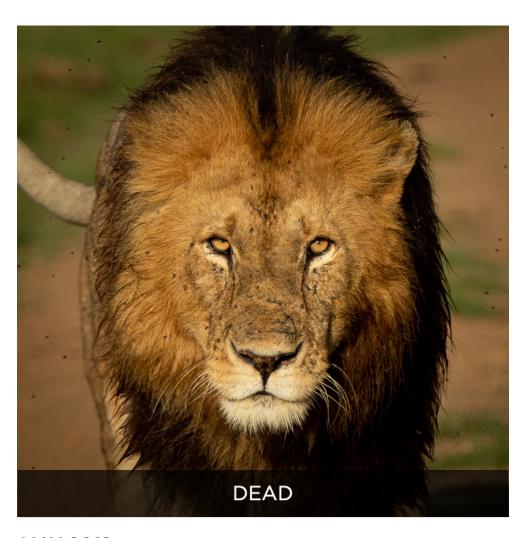
ROUGH TERRITORIAL GUIDELINE DOCUMENTED IN JUNE 2022

Fallen



KICHWA MALES

Short Tail



MAY 2018

BORN: 2010

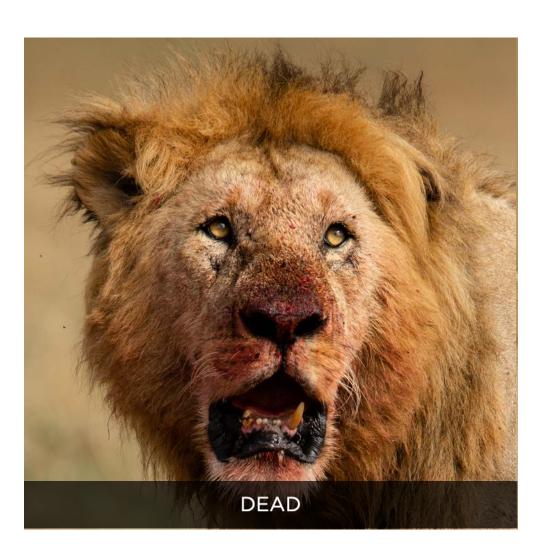
MEANING: Reference to his tail

Missing end hair tuft of tail

Died in late 2020

KICHWA MALES

Fang



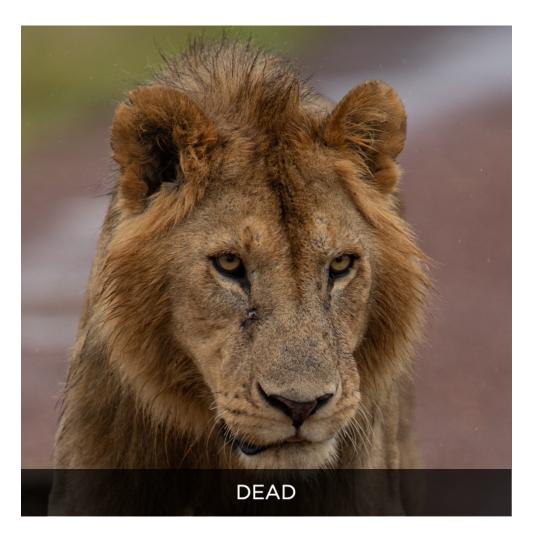
NOV 2018

BORN: 2010

MEANING: Reference to his missing bottom

right canine Smaller left ear

Mkia



APR 2020

BORN: (

OCT 2014

"Prince", only has half a tail

Possibly killed by Kichwa Males in

May 2020 and seems to have been replaced by Owino Young

Male

BILA SHAKA

Baba Yao



JUL 2019

BORN: MAR 2014
MEANING: 'Our Father'

Lumpy back Slight kink in tail Presumed dead Brother of Doa

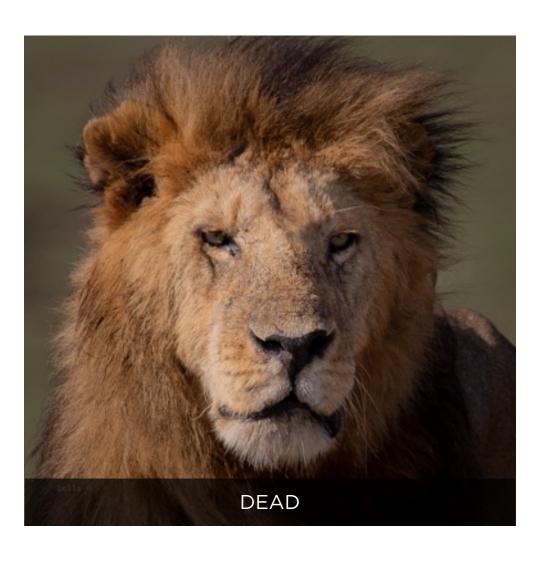
Hunter



MAY 2019

BORN: UNKNOWN

Sikio



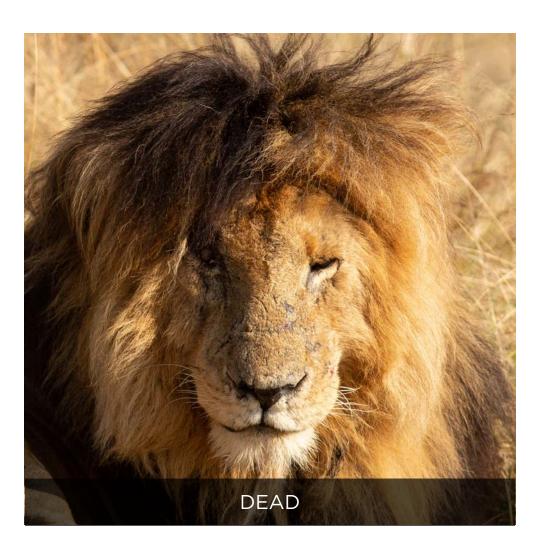
OCT 2019

BORN: 2008

MEANING: Ear - with reference to the

distinctive cut in his right ear

Scarface



JUL 2018

BORN: 2008

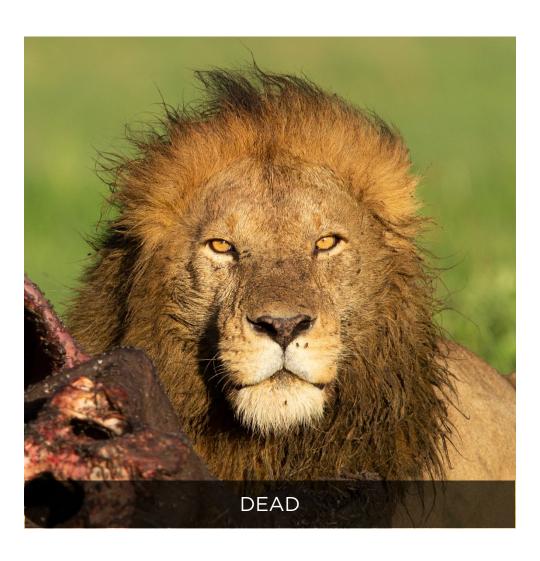
MEANING: Scar through right eye

Died on 11th June 2021 near

Double Crossing

OL DONYO PAEK

Ol Donyo Paek



MAY 2019

BORN: UNKNOWN

MEANING: Died in late August 2021.

Presumably in a fight with two

males from Lamai.

Purungat Males







?

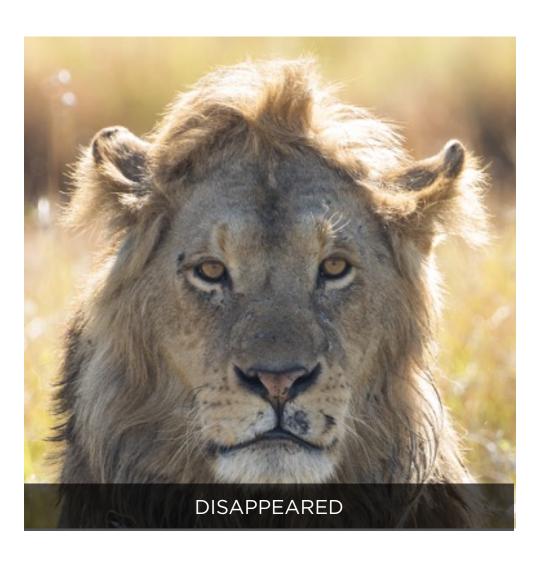
Purungat Male 1



JUL 2020

BORN: UNKNOWN

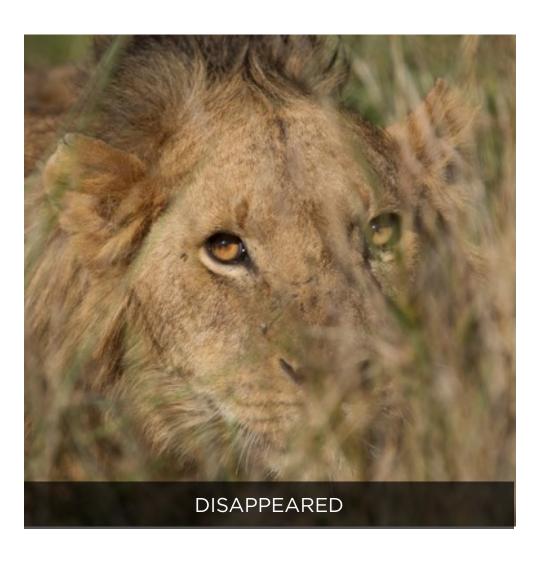
Purungat Male 2



JUL 2020

BORN: UNKNOWN

Purungat Male 3



MAY 2020

BORN: UNKNOWN

Purungat Male 4

?

DISAPPEARED

BORN: MEANING:

ANGAMA

Acknowledgements

ADAM BANNISTER

MARA CONSERVANCY

ANGAMA MARA

LUCY JOHNSON

PETER RETTIG

MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

