

LEOPARD SURVEY

Maasai Mara

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KWS 2019

LEOPARD SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Objectives of the study:

1. Determine whether there is a correlation between habitat type and leopard occurrence
2. Determine whether species richness is related to leopard occurrence.
3. Determine whether sympatric carnivore occurrence is related to leopard occurrence



LEOPARD SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS



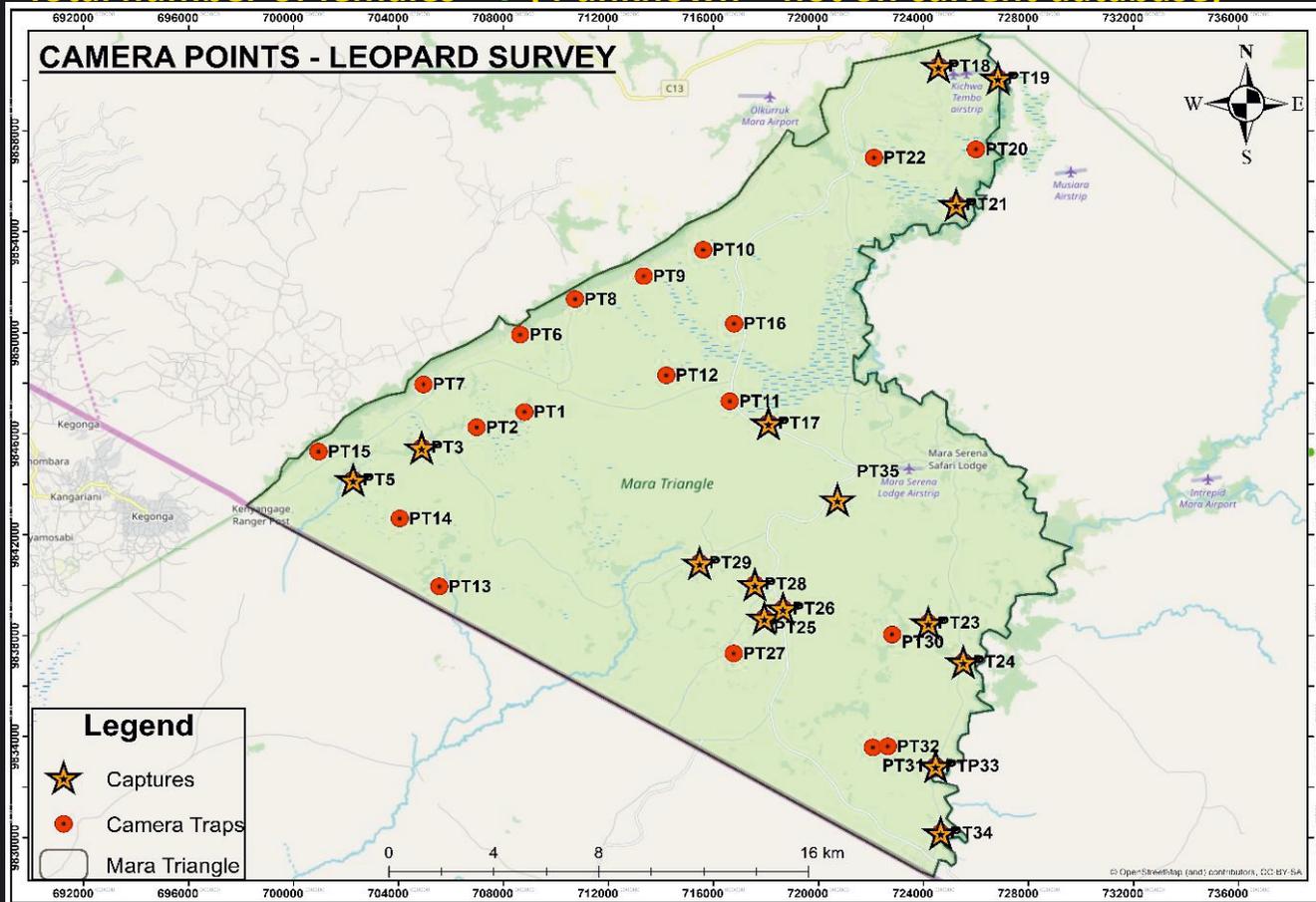
Study conducted by Eve M. Hills (Brighton University, UK) with assistance of Jackson M. Otuke (MMCP Research assistant), using non-invasive methods: camera trap study and Facebook photo survey

Camera trap survey in the Mara Triangle (April-June 2019): 70 camera traps, 725 leopard images

Total of 13 photo-captured individuals:

Total number of males = 6 (3 unknown – not on current database)

Total number of females = 7 (4 unknown – not on current database)



Red circles indicate camera trapping locations and gold stars indicate where leopards were photo-captured.

Map produced by Jackson Otuke
Map source: ArcMap 10.6.1

LEOPARD SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Images captured from one of the camera trap locations: one of 7(3.4) unknown leopards



Female with a juvenile female cub is relaxed in the presence of the camera. Some tall vegetation in front of the camera have been cleared unwittingly providing her with a resting area



LEOPARD SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS



The Facebook/photo Survey yielded total of **97 (42.55)** individuals:

Combined survey (Camera trap and FB) results for individuals identified:

Reserve = 45 (21.24)

Triangle = 32 (16.16)

Conservancies (Facebook photos of sightings in Naboisho, OMC, MNC, Ol Chorro, Lemek, Ol Kinyei) =**21 (7.14)**



Three males are presumed to have died, 1 male is definitely deceased (based on public knowledge or age of individual at the date of last photo).

Two males are known to have dispersed from the Reserve to the Triangle (1 possibly now deceased), 3 males are known to have dispersed from the Reserve to other conservancies, while 1 conservancy male was observed challenging a male for territory inside the Reserve.

Five females are presumed to have died, 5 females are definitely deceased.

1 female is regularly sighted inside the Reserve but is also seen in the Triangle, while 1 Triangle female has been sighted inside the Reserve.

Only individuals known to have died have been removed from the final totals (n = 6).

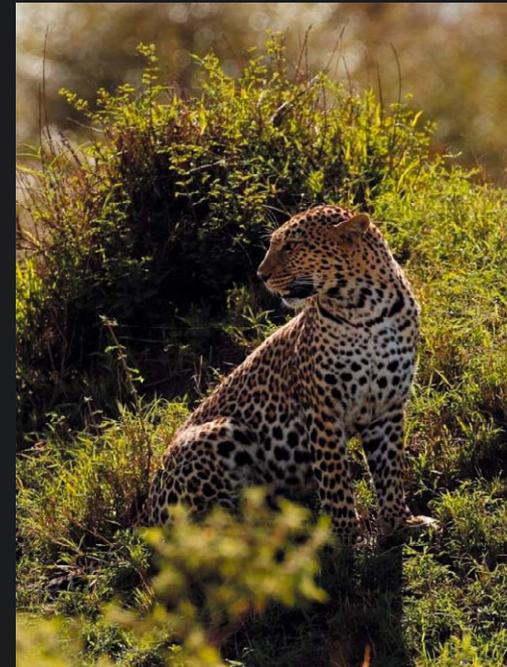
LEOPARD SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Preliminary results of the study:

1. There was no correlation between prey species and the presence of leopards.
2. There was no correlation between the presence of lions and the presence of leopards.



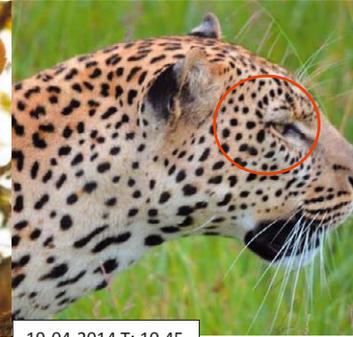
3. Leopard occurrence was most strongly influenced by the presence of spotted hyenas
4. Site selection by leopards was not influenced by habitat type.



LEOPARD DATABASE

Example of the Database page:
Leopard male with known name
M001R, where R-Maasai Mara
National Reserve

ID: M001R/Name Keekorok male

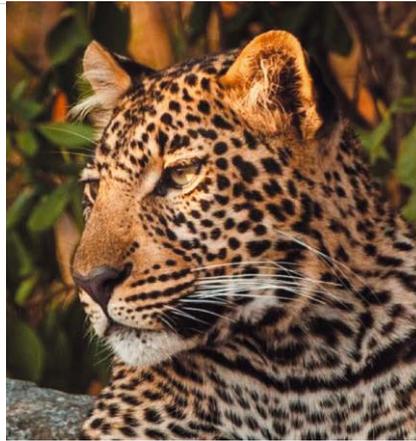


Born: appr. 2010
Estimated age: 7-9
Mother: Unknown
Area: Keekorok

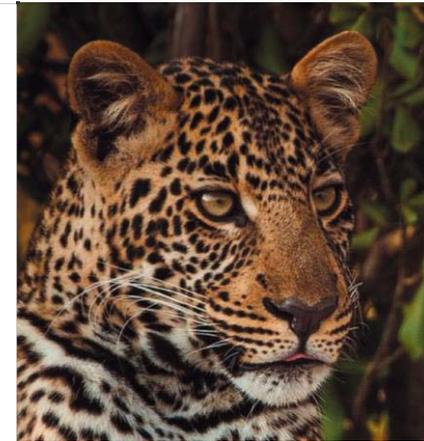
LEOPARD DATABASE

ID: M012T/name: Carlos/Shujaa

Example of the Database page:
Leopard male with known name
M012T, where T - Triangle



August 2012, Frederico Veronesi



August 2012, Frederico Veronesi



October 2016, Mike Kowalski



September 2016, Merkel Erasmus

Born: October 2011
Estimated age: 7 yrs
Mother: F014/Siri
Area: Triangle – Mara Serena to BBC crossing.

LEOPARD DATABASE

ID: F008R/name: Bahati



Posted: March 2017 Freeman

Posted: Nov 2017 (BCoMM)

26-04-2018 T: 11:46 Intrepids



Posted: Feb 2018 Freeman Safaris



Posted: Nov 2017 Freeman Safaris



Posted: March 2018 (Leopards of the Mara Triangle)

Born:

Estimated age: 8 yrs

Mother: Olive

Siblings: Saba

Area: Talek river, Rekeru crossing,

Comments: seen with 2 cubs in 2015, pictured with 3 small cubs March 2017, and 1 year later with two juveniles (pictured). Shares distinctive pattern above right eye with sibling Saba.

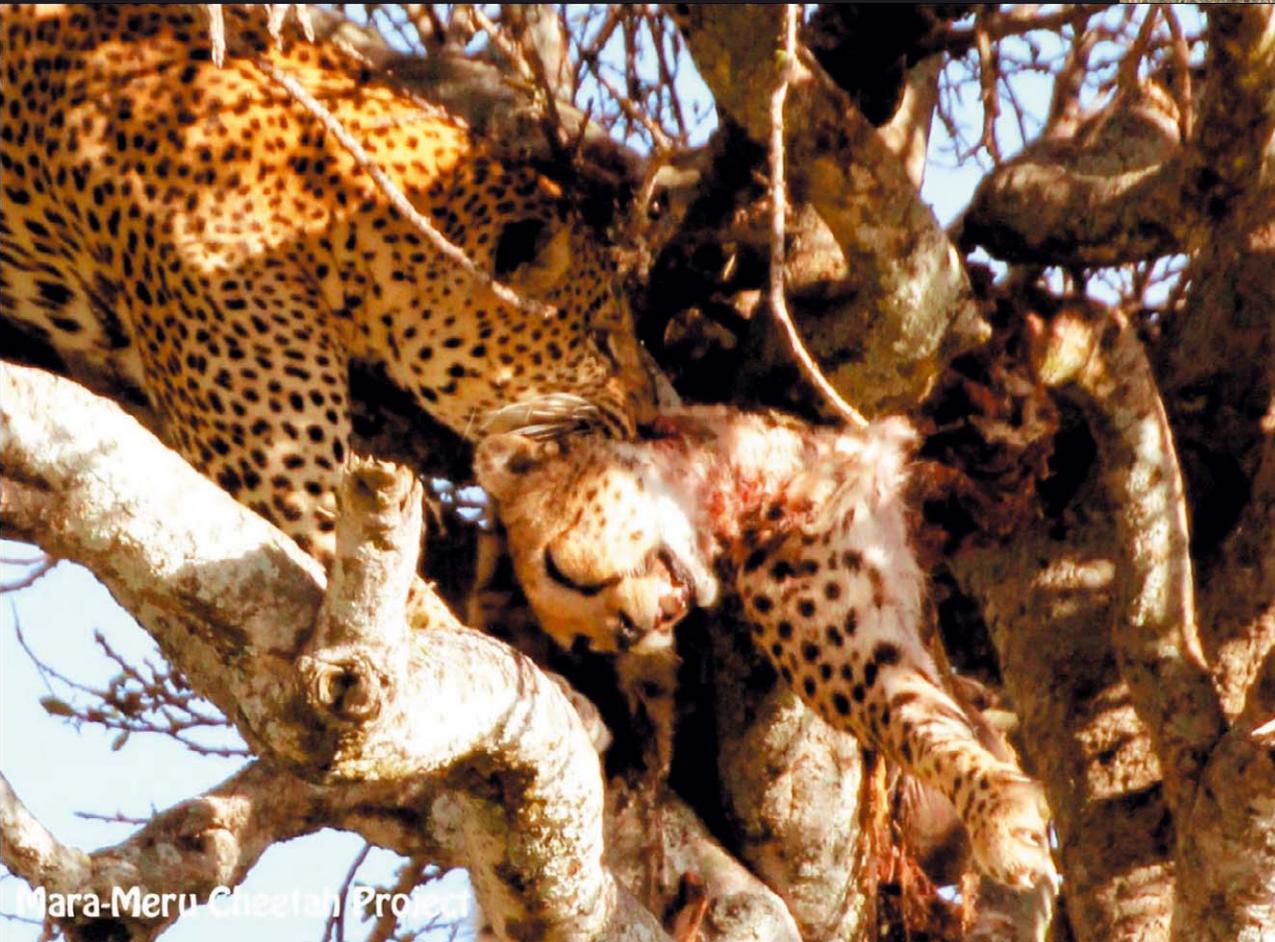
Leopard female with known name **F008R** from the Maasai Mara National Reserve

Leopard-cheetah interactions



*7-year old female
Amani attacked by
a female leopard*

*10-year old female Sidai
killed by a male leopard*





Research assistant S. Mandere and Community liaison officer J. Masek interviewing Mara pastoralists

60% out of all respondents who blamed cheetahs for their livestock loses, confused cheetah for a leopard

Interviewing local communities around MMNR

89% respondents confused cheetah for a leopard



Project founder Dr. E. Chelysheva interviewing a pastoralist in the Mara

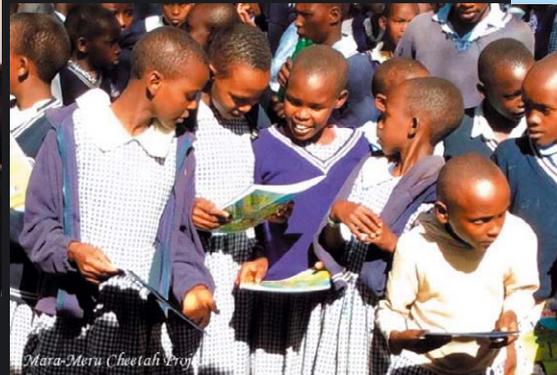
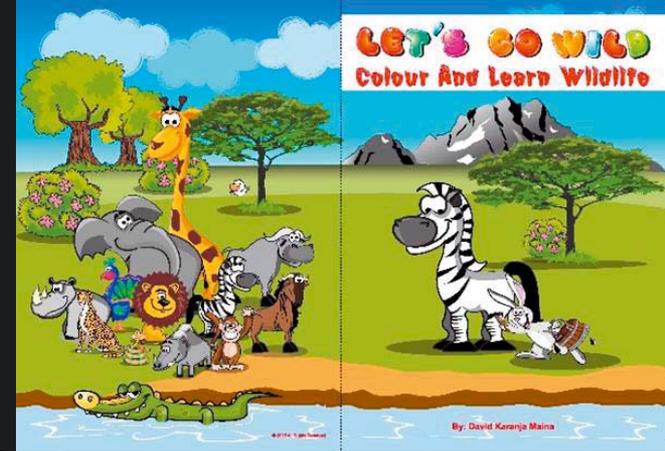
WORKING with MARA COMMUNITY



Research assistant S.Mandere

What we do:

1. Donating text books and colouring books (designed by our project team together with The Laikipians) to schools

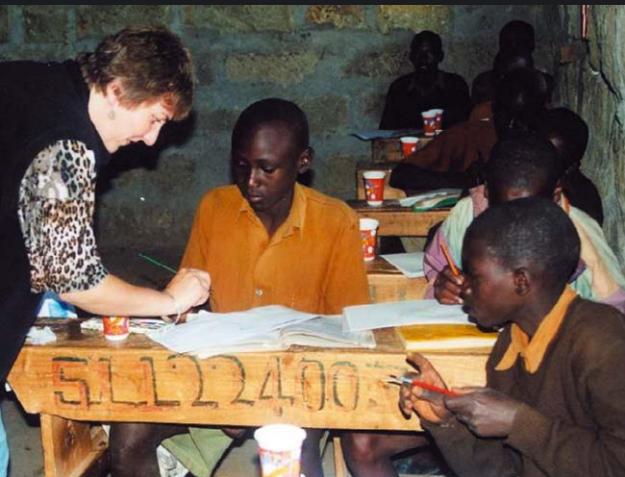


Mara-Meru Cheetah Project



Community liaison officer J.Masek

2. Conducting Nature Conservation and Art Conservation lessons at local schools



Mara-Meru Cheetah Project

3. Taking pupils and teachers to the Reserve for Conservation lesson in the field



Mara-Meru Cheetah Project



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