

THE MUGIE COLLARED CARNIVORES AND PREDATION REPORT - JUNE 2025

Summary

Over the past four years, Mugie Conservancy has deployed five lion management collars with the support of various partners. In January 2024, three additional lion research collars were deployed and in November 2024, one cheetah was collared. These collars have significantly helped Mugie mitigate livestock predation both within and outside the conservancy by enabling the conservation office to alert herders and communities about the presence of carnivores.

During the month of March, Walimu was re-collared, and a female from Sarabi's pride was also collared.

However, it is important to note that the five original lion collars are currently non-operational, three have run out of battery, and the two remaining were worn by lionesses that have since deceased.

Collared Carnivores

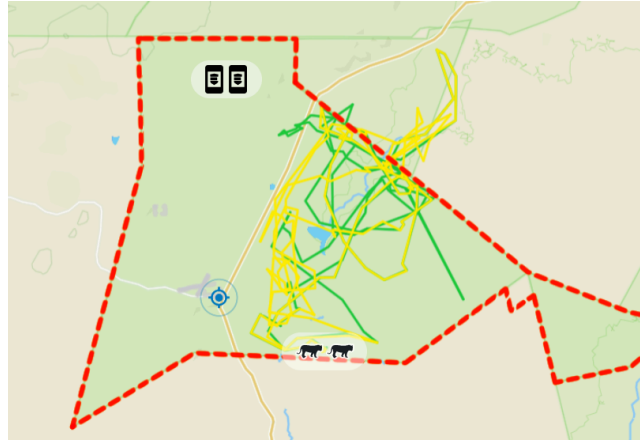
Mugie has 6 collared carnivores as per the below table

Lion	Sex	Animal	Area	Date Collared	Comments
Bast	F	Lion	Western	13/01/2024 30/07/2024 21/02/2025	Research collar deployed by a Harvard PhD student in collaboration with Lion Landscapes.
Walimu	F	Lion	Western	09/03/2025	Management Collar
Vida	F	Lion	Eastern	14/01/2024	Research collar deployed by a Harvard PhD student in collaboration with Lion Landscapes.
Dada	F	Lion	Eastern	14/01/2024	Research collar deployed by a Harvard PhD student in collaboration with Lion Landscapes.
Arawa	F	Lion	Central	10/03/2025	Management Collar
Mwawili	M	Cheetah	Eastern and Western	10/11/2024	GPS collar deployed by Mugie in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Services and CSI Wildlife foundation

LION DATA

Lion Movement Maps

Macheo Pride. The pride, consisting of 7 adult females, 3 adult males and cubs, spent most of the month in the central part of the conservancy, their usual roaming areas, favoring the open savanna where herbivores were abundant. However, in the middle of the month, about 3 days, they extended their home range, Vida stretched into their long time roaming area, Mbugani ya Ngombe and they both also moved into Ndaba's community where Zebras were abundant. This pride makes several movements mostly when hunting more than any other pride in the conservancy



Generally, pride is doing well. The females have shown unstructured companions on different days as some days they could be sighted together and other days sighted either singly or in smaller groups. Sadly, all the four females that had given birth have no cubs and we are unsure of what happened to them.

The picture below shows Macheo pride comprising Dada, Vida and two uncollared female lions hunting Elands at Laga Lowakipi in the evening

Photo Credit: Dominic Mutali

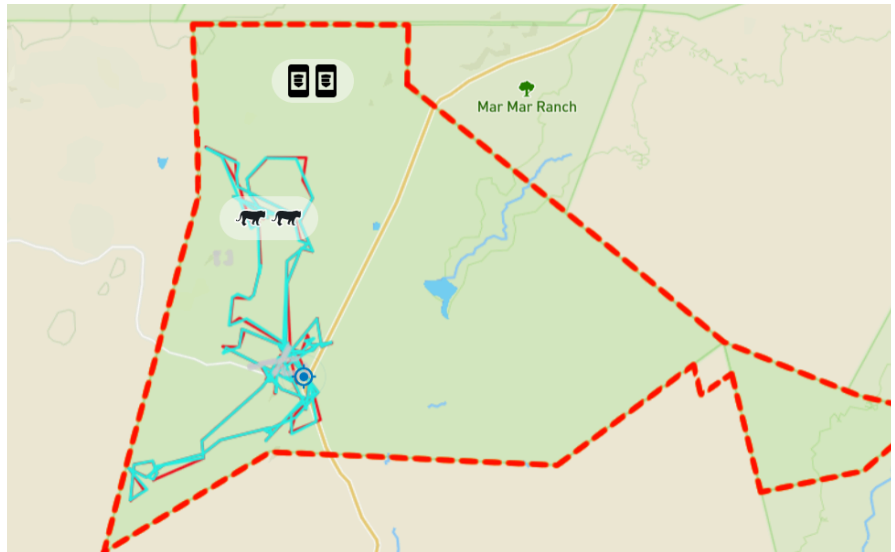


The long-time relatives —five cubs and two females— were not sighted within the pride but we believe they are still around or roaming in the Kanambio area.

Through fission-fusion dynamics, the coalition that leads the pride occasionally splits for short periods, often while courting females or hunting. Another contributing factor for the pride not spending time together as sighted over the month. The three dominant males continue to play a crucial role in shaping territorial dynamics within Mugie, their powerful roars echoing across the conservancy as they patrol, mark, and defend their vast range of central territory. However, during the month under review, they were sighted within the pride less frequently than in previous months.

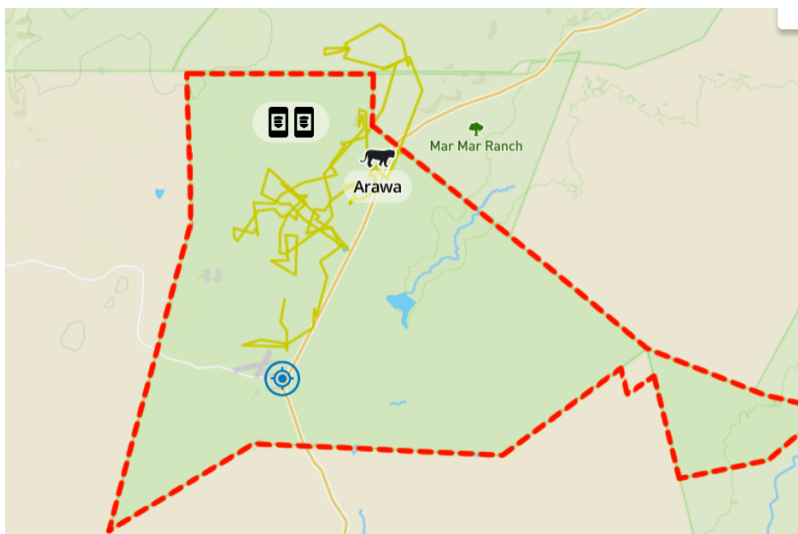
The pride's preferred locations over the month were within the conservancy in the center. While both coalition males are fully mature, observations of mating and courtship behaviors suggest the pride is well-structured and poised for further growth. The males were also seen extending territory boundaries to Arawa's territory. A male from the pride was seen mating with Arawa's sister and few other matings sighted in Macheo's pride.

Jangili Pride. During the month of June, The pride was sighted in the western part of the conservancy and continues to be one of the most well-structured prides, consisting of approximately 15 individuals. Known for their exceptional hunting skills and are known for hunting and killing giraffes. The pride primarily spent most times at the airstrip and Lera areas, often taking cover in thick bush during the day and hunting at night, early mornings and late evening. The cubs are successfully growing.



The Three adult male coalition were not sighted within the but their ruling roaring sounds were heard several nights during the reporting period. Bast was seen with a minor injury on the limp possibly from hunting menace. We are suspecting a male from the pride has taken over the Naisodori pride as a male has been sighted in the pride mating at Konde.

During the month under review, the **Naisudori Pride** exhibited notable movement patterns as usual. They spent most time in the area occupied by Jangili and the long time unsighted pride from Sarabi. They stretched into the logurate community though we didn't receive predation reports. Because of the unstructured movements always shown, we are not sure to which pride the Naisudori came from, over the past few months they seem to have occupied a central territory



in the conservancy extending home ranges typically associated with both Jangili and Macheo prides and this time they went into initially Sarabi's territory. Most of their time they spent time in Jangili's areas and this is associated with one male from the Jangili coalition that has taken over the two sisters.

The pride was rarely sighted by the team. True to their name - *Naisudori*, a Samburu word meaning "one who hides or dodges when they see people" - this pride remains extremely elusive, often vanishing swiftly upon the approach of vehicles or humans. Arawa's sister, in a rare case, was seen mating with a male from Macheo pride.

CARNIVORE DEMOGRAPHICS WITHIN THE MONTH OF KNOWN PRIDES IN MUGIE CONSERVANCY

Pride name	Species	Old adult males	Old adult females	Prime adult males	Prime adult females	Sub adult males	Sub adult females	Cubs-less 1 year	Unknown	Total
Jangili	Lion	1	1	2	2	0	0	8	0	14
Macheo	Lion	0	0	3	7	0	0	1	0	12
Eastern	Lion	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	7
Naisudori	Lion	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mawili	Cheetah	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

CHEETAH DATA



Chongo Coalition (MM20C & MM21C)

During the month under review, MM20C and MM21C —known as the Chongo Coalition— were regularly monitored and confirmed to be in good condition. The coalition continues to traverse a wide range across Mugie, closely overlapping the territory previously held by Zuri’s coalition (2014–2022). Key areas of activity included the Lera Plain, Calvert 8 and Miti ya Watali. Their usual tactics of climbing Miti ya Watali and enjoying the Island at Calvert 8 is fascinating,

possibly indicating their hunting techniques using observation points.

Their extensive movements and overlapping ranges suggest they are actively searching for a receptive female, as evidenced by frequent scent-marking and strong sniffing behavior. Unluckily, a female with her sub adult cubs that the Chongo brothers were chasing trying to mark territory were not sighted over the month.

The picture below shows Chongo coalition watching over a zebra at Lera plains

Photo credit: Dominic Mutali



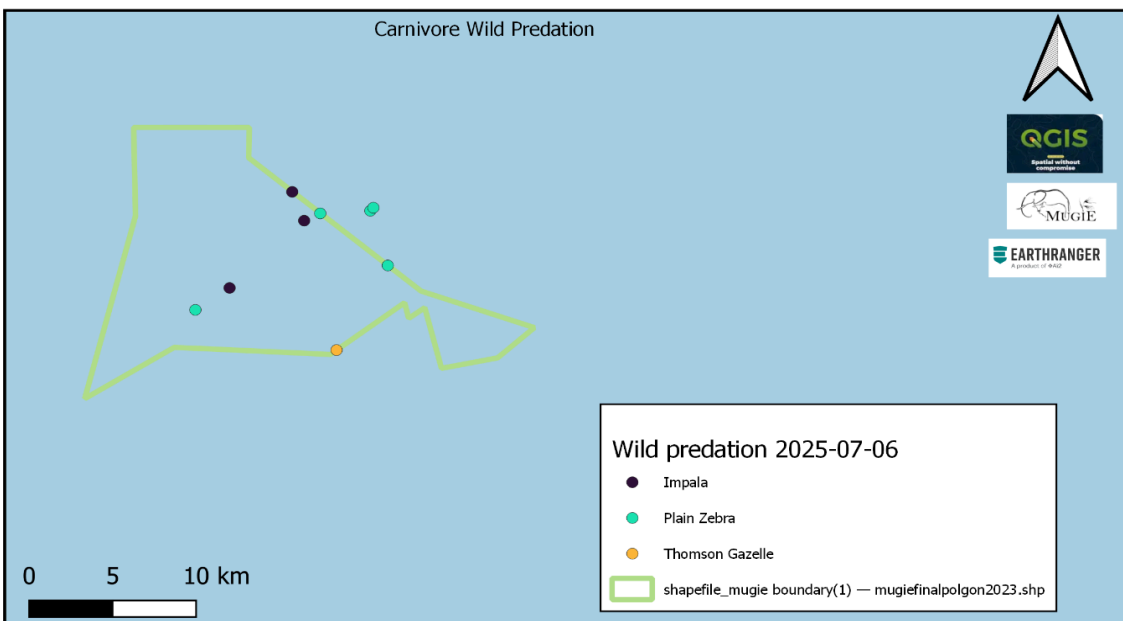
Other Individuals

- **MF20**, a female with a single cub, has not been sighted since October 2024.
 - **MF21**, another female, was also last seen in October 2024.
- MM22**, a skittish male, was spotted early in the month. He remains highly wary of vehicles and avoids human presence.

Carnivore Feeding Behavior and Prey Monitoring – June Overview

Throughout the month, conservation teams and rangers collected data on prey predation to better understand the feeding behavior of various carnivore species. According to the compiled data (refer to map), zebras were the most frequently preyed upon, primarily by the Macheo prides basing on carcass location and prides territory. Jangili pride killed a Zebra fowl after taking advantage of an electrical fence. Most of the Macheo kills were at Ndabas community where most Zebras have been sighted and along Lima 7 and 8. Our team is doing a closeup monitoring of the Lion pride- Giraffe predation behaviour to have insightful findings.

The Map below shows predation of wild prey by large carnivores and their locations



The table below shows predators and wild prey killed over the reporting month.

Predator	Kill/Prey	Comments
Macheo	Impala	1 male, Vida, Dada and 3 uncollared Females
Macheo	Plain Zebra	At ndabas
Jangili	Plain Zebra	Young Zebra Fowl
Macheo	Thomson Gazelle	Nill
Macheo	Plain Zebra	At ndabas
Macheo	Plain Zebra	At ndabas
Macheo	Impala	At ndabas
Macheo	Plain zebra	At Lima 7
Macheo	Impala	At Masai Plain 3 uncollared females

CARNIVORE MORTALITY

During the reporting period, no carnivore mortalities were recorded

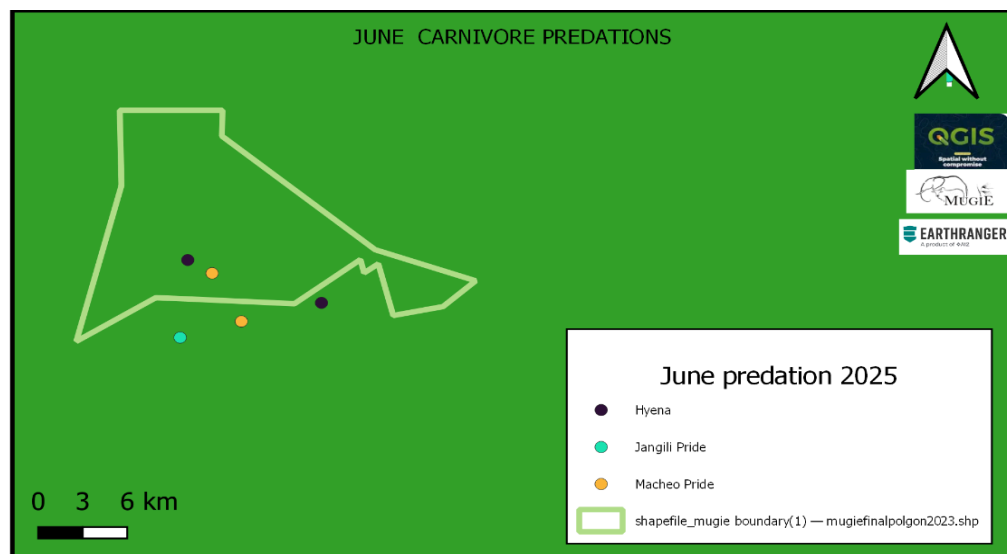
LIVESTOCK PREDATION INCIDENT

The table below shows records for carnivore predation records over the month. Jangili pride was responsible for the three cows preyed on at Naibor from the community. Sadly, Hyenas still pose a significant challenge and economic loss. A clan of hyenas killed 24 sheep from a local farmer at Kanambio, leaving about 2 injured and from data collected on this, the Boma condition was not good and no efforts were made to protect the livestock and the kids were left to look after the sheep in the grazing field which disappeared from their sight falling victims of predation from hyenas. While one male over the reporting period from Macheo was roaming with the females, the other two were victims of predation at Ntumot and Murua Punda inside the conservancy and well guarded bomas. The predation table below shows in details the predation that occurred over the month

The table below shows livestock predation by large carnivores over the reporting period

Date	Time	Location	Predator	Number of Predators	Livestock	Fatalities	Injuries
15/06/2025	Night	Ntumot	Macheo Pride	3	Cow	1	0
15/06/2025	Night	Murua Bobongi Mbili	Hyena	Unknown	Cow	1	0
19/06/2025	Night	Kanambio	Hyena	Unknown	Sheep	24	2
25/06/2025	Night	Murua Punda	Macheo Pride	3	Cow	1	0
27/05/2025	Night	Naibor	Jangili Pride	Unknown	Cow	3	
TOTAL						31	0

The map below is a visual view of predation and predators with location over the reporting period



CONCLUSION

The density and distribution of lions and other apex predators in Mugie Conservancy remain largely unclear due to limited data on their population dynamics and behavioral ecology. However, GPS collaring continues to provide high-resolution insights into movement patterns and habitat use, allowing us to better define home ranges and monitor their movements in real time.

In April, livestock predation incidents within the conservancy and community around were attributed largely to Hyenas. In most cases un-collared lions within the prides were key victims for this predation as

we could not get their real time data. Most of the lion predation was caused by males from both the prides. Despite these challenges, substantial progress has been made in understanding pride dynamics and interactions, critical information for mitigating potential human-wildlife conflict.

To date, five lions, one from Naisudori, two from Macheo, and two from the Jangili group, as well as one cheetah from the Chongo coalition, have been identified within the conservancy. However, challenges such as signal loss from GPS collars highlight the need for continued technological improvements and robust, field-based monitoring operations.

Beyond Mugie, this initiative benefits surrounding communities by enabling timely alerts when collared lions approach or cross conservancy boundaries, fostering coexistence and safety for both people and wildlife.