

ENONKISHU

CONSERVANCY

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCT-DEC 2021:

- There were no reported sightings of wild dog in Enonkishu this quarter, but two were seen in Lemek toward the end of December.
- Kisaru, a female cheetah who put Enonkishu on the map after raising 6 cubs in 2019, spent a week in Enonkishu in early October (Figure 1). A daughter from her first litter gave birth to seven cubs in Lemek.
- Barikoi, a male lion who has been frequently seen in Enonkishu since 2019 seemingly reestablished his pride after an attempted takeover in November where he was injured (Figure 2), but recovered (Figure 3).
- Rainfall was slightly lower in Q3 2021 than Q2 2021, confirming the first true dry season since 2018 (Figure 4).
- The conservancy was flooded with cattle this quarter due to the “drought” in the rest of Kenya. At its peak in November, 2112 head were surviving in Enonkishu.
- Enonkishu responded to the influx of cattle by procuring a new design of mobile bomas and meeting frequently with visiting herders to ensure all abided by the grazing plan (Figure 5).
- Fifty three livestock were killed or injured by lions, the highest number of incidents since incidents have been recorded. Possible reasons include more cattle than game and additional herders who were inexperienced in the wildlife habitat.
- Cattle were offered a different mix of minerals and salt to equip them in utilizing the dry grass for energy (Figure 6).
- Mara Mbokishi Conservation Area is progressing in its formation on the eastern boundary of the conservancy.
- The 2021 Ultra MARAthon was a success (Figure 7), with MEP once again taking home the bull prize from the ranger relay category. Proceeds from the run will support participating conservancies, African Mission Services, and Mara Elephant Project.



Figure 1. Kisaru at a Thomson Gazelle kill on 4 October 2021.



Figure 2. Injured Barikoi on 21 October 2021.



Figure 3. Barikoi reunited with his pride on 21 December.



Figure 4. On several occasions the rain narrowly missed Enonkishu this quarter.



Figure 5. New mobile boma extension to accommodate a growing herd in addition to extra cattle who flooded the conservancy during



Figure 6. Cattle offered plain salt in addition to a mineral mix helps cattle digest oxidized grass more efficiently.



Figure 7. Start line of the 2021 Ultra MARAthon on 12 December 2021.