



Lion

Panthera leo

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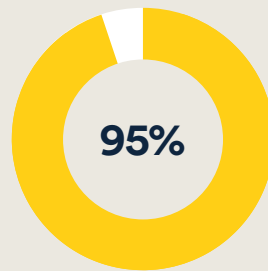
Despite being synonymous with wild Africa, lions have undergone a catastrophic decline and are on the brink of extinction in all but the largest and best-managed protected areas.



● CURRENT Lion Range ● HISTORIC Lion Range

LION CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern Near Threatened Vulnerable Endangered Critically Endangered



24

Lions exist in 24 African countries and one Asian country, but only 8 countries are known to each contain more than 1,000 lions

28

Lions are extinct in 28 African countries

Lions have undergone a catastrophic range reduction of 95 percent

Threats to the Lion

- 1 As humans develop wild habitats, lions and humans come into increasingly closer contact. Livestock begins to replace natural prey, fueling human-lion conflict in which lions are killed in retaliation or because of their perceived threat to human livelihood.
- 2 Rampant bushmeat poaching depletes prey populations and poses a threat to lions themselves; they are often caught and killed in wire snares and traps set for their prey.
- 3 Dramatic habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development confines lions to isolated islands of land, increasing their risk of extinction.
- 4 Poorly managed trophy hunting and the illegal hunting of lions for body parts used in traditional medicine are contributing to the declines of some lion populations.

POPULATION

Over a century ago, more than 200,000 wild lions lived in Africa. Recent estimates that in the last fifty years, lion numbers have declined from approximately 90,000 to about 24,000.

Lions are currently listed as “Vulnerable” on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. The Northern subspecies is now classified as “Critically Endangered.”

SAVING THE LION

Panthera aims to bring lion populations back from the brink. This goal necessitates protecting and connecting core lion populations across Africa. Panthera is collaborating with statutory authorities, local governments, communities and NGOs to address and mitigate human-lion conflict, stop widespread poaching and confront habitat loss and fragmentation.

Panthera is developing and implementing collaborative conservation strategies in the most important areas throughout the lion’s range, with a particular focus on Africa’s large national parks, including Senegal’s Niokolo-Koba National Park and Zambia’s Kafue National Park. Adequately protecting and managing these parks is critical for the long-term conservation of the lion. Through GPS monitoring, remote camera studies and life-saving livestock enclosures, we are slowly seeing progress in our project sites for this big cat species. Carnivore-proof bomas (enclosures) have drastically reduced instances of human-wildlife conflict near Kafue and Hwange National Parks and Panthera is supporting anti-wildlife crime teams that have drastically increased the area protected in Niokolo-Koba NP.