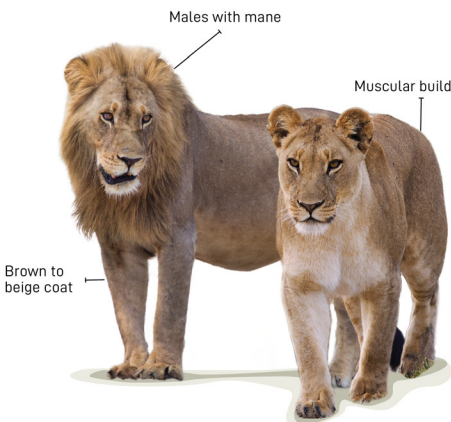




AFRICAN LION

Panthera leo

VULNERABLE



AFRICAN LION AT A GLANCE	
Total length:	2.5-3.3 m
Height:	120 cm
Weight:	120-250 kg
Life-span:	8-14 years
Gestation:	105 days
Litter- size:	1-6 cubs

The lion is a generalist and able to survive in virtually any habitat condition.

Despite a uniform, brown to beige fur, the African lion (*Panthera leo*) is unmistakable. Standing at a shoulder height of a meter, the lion is the second-largest cat on the planet (after the tiger). Males develop a massive mane that varies in coloration from bright blond to dark black. While males can weigh up to 250 kg, females average at about 150 kg. Subadult lions are recognizable by a set of faint spots on their fur, which slowly disappear as they age. In contrast to leopards and cheetahs, which both have a white tail tip, a lion's tail tip is black.

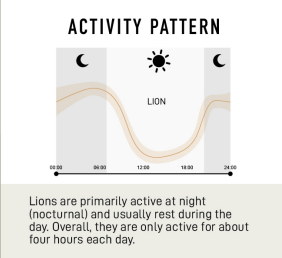
Lions are the undisputed apex predators in the African savannah and fear little threat from other carnivores. Unless substantially outnumbered, lions will stand their ground against hyenas and wild dogs. They primarily predate on medium- to large-sized prey, including buffalo, zebra, giraffes, kudu, and, in some cases, even elephants.

Lions live in prides, which improves their hunting success and enhances survival of their offspring. Although females conduct most of the hunting, males will typically feed first at a kill. Males that move into an already occupied territory will kill all cubs.



LION PREY

COMPETITORS



TAXONOMY LION

Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Felidae
Genus:	Panthera
Species:	leo

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Lions live in prides comprising 3-30 individuals. A pride is usually composed of 1-4 adult males, several related females, and their offspring. Males may associate with multiple prides at the same time.



STATUS & CONSERVATION

Lions used to range across entire Africa, as well as across parts of Asia. In response to human persecution, trophy hunting, habitat loss, and a loss of their prey base, lions nowadays only occupy a small fraction of their historic range. The most recent IUCN red list assessment estimates that between 23,000 and 39,000 wild-living lions remain. Even though lions are largely extirpated from Asia, a small but isolated subpopulation of around 600 lions has survived in the Gir National Park in India. At present, the species is listed as endangered by the IUCN. Trophy hunting of lions is still legal in many African countries and is an important source of income. The species also faces particular challenges due to it being mystified in Chinese medicine, thus often becoming victim to poachers that sell lion bones abroad.



The Wild Entrust research program.

BPC has been monitoring local lion prides using GPS radio collars, activity sensors and through behavioral follows. This has resulted in an extensive database on pride composition and vital rates. We also study interactions between lions and other large carnivores, including leopards and wild dogs, to learn how climate change affects intra-guild competition.

wildentrust.org/about-bpc



VULNERABLE

Help protect an African lion for just \$5/m

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