



# Lion

*Panthera leo*



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Photo by: [Burrad-Lucas.com](http://Burrad-Lucas.com)



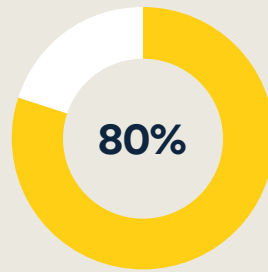
**DESPITE BEING SYNONYMOUS WITH WILD AFRICA, LIONS HAVE UNDERGONE A CATASTROPHIC DECLINE AND ARE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION IN ALL BUT THE LARGEST AND BEST MANAGED PROTECTED AREAS.**



● **CURRENT** Lion Range    ● **HISTORIC** Lion Range

#### LION CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern    Near Threatened    Vulnerable    Endangered    Critically Endangered



Lions have vanished from over 80 percent of their historic range in just the last 100 years.

**28**

**LIONS EXIST IN 27 AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND ONE ASIAN COUNTRY, BUT ONLY 7 COUNTRIES ARE KNOWN TO EACH CONTAIN MORE THAN 1,000 LIONS**

**26**

**LIONS ARE EXTINCT IN 26 AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

## Threats to the Lion

- 1 As humans develop wild habitats, lions and humans come in increasingly closer contact. Livestock begins to replace the lion's 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 local and international (primarily Asian) traditional medicine are both contributing to lion population declines.

#### POPULATION

Over a century ago there were more than 200,000 wild lions living in Africa. Recent surveys estimate that in the last two decades, lion numbers have declined from approximately 30,000 to about 20,000.

Lions are currently listed as "Vulnerable" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. In West Africa, the species is now classified as "Critically Endangered."

#### SAVING THE LION

Through Project Leonardo, Panthera aims to bring lion populations back to a minimum of 30,000 lions. This goal necessitates protecting and connecting core lion populations across Africa.

Panthera is collaborating with statutory authorities, local governments and communities, and NGOs to address traditional killing of lions in local cultures, mitigate human-lion conflict, including retaliatory persecution, address bushmeat poaching, and reduce levels of legal trophy hunting.

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. Adequately protecting and managing these parks is critical for the long-term conservation of the lion. Lions do not readily co-exist with humans, so as Africa's human populations continue to grow, it is likely that many lion populations will retreat to national parks.