

African Lion



Fast Facts



Scientific Name: *Panthera leo senegalensis*

Conservation Status: Vulnerable



Body Length: 1.7–2.5 m

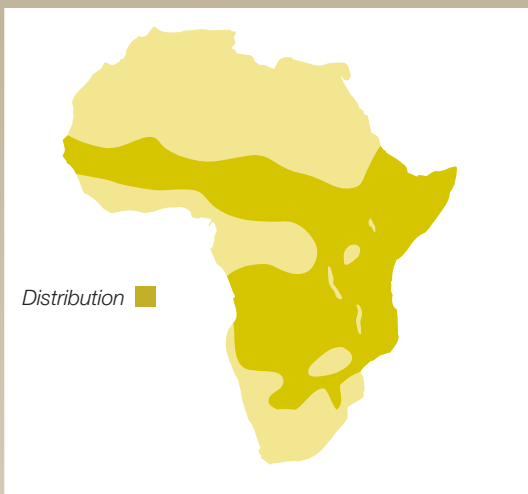
Weight: 150–250 kg

Gestation: 100–120 days

Number of young: 1–6

Habitat: Grassy plains, savannahs, semi-deserts

Distribution: Central and southern Africa



Description

African Lions are a golden or tawny-brown colour and have large padded feet and retractable claws. The male lion has a mane which makes him look bigger than he actually is and protects his throat from the claws and teeth of other animals.

Diet

Lions are carnivores. They hunt in packs for large prey like zebra, wildebeest and buffalo. Individuals also forage for small rodents, hares and reptiles.

In the wild

Unlike other cat species, lions are quite social and live in groups called 'prides'. These prides contain 4–6 adults and their cubs. Adult males defend a large area against other males and hold mating rights over the prides within their territory. Spotted Hyaenas and African Painted Dogs are the natural predators of old, young or sick lions that are too weak to defend themselves.

Threats

Lions are threatened by human overpopulation, poaching, habitat loss and disease.

At Perth Zoo

The lions can be seen in the African Savannah.

DID YOU KNOW?

Because male lions are so big and have a full mane, they are often too slow and conspicuous to be good hunters. The male lion protects the pride while the lionesses hunt. Male lions always eat first.

A lion's roar can be heard up to 8 km away.