

DISTRIBUTION



AFRICAN LION

Panthera leo

The lion is the tallest (at the shoulder) of the felines but even a fully grown male, which can weigh over 250kg, doesn't weigh as much as an adult male tiger.

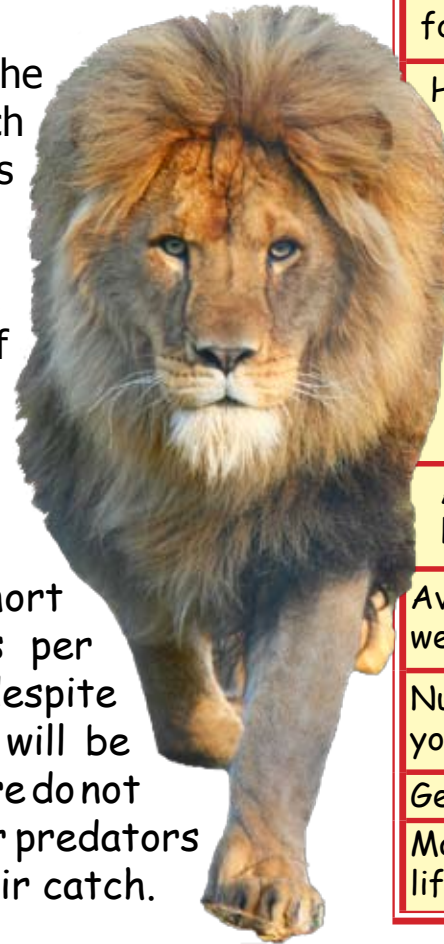
Lions are the only members of the cat family to display obvious sexual dimorphism - that is, males and females look distinctly different.



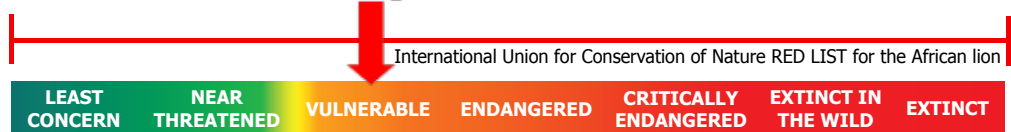
The canine teeth of an adult lion can grow up to 8 cm long!

A lion can run for short distances at 50 miles per hour and leap as far as 36 feet, despite this, the majority of hunts will be unsuccessful, lions therefore do not hesitate to drive other predators away from their catch.

Karla pictured with 3 of her cubs born here on 7th May 2006.



FACTS & FIGURES	
Where found	Central and Southern Africa
Habitat	grassy plains, savannahs, open woodlands and scrub country
Diet	Large mammals: gazelles, warthogs, wildebeest, buffalos and zebras, occasionally smaller mammals.
Average length	5-8 feet
Average weight	Males 180kg, Females 130kg
Number of young	1-6
Gestation	3 ½ months
Maximum lifespan	Wild - 15 year Captivity 25 years



THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *VULNERABLE* IUCN RED LIST