**Basic Information: Lion (*Panthera leo*)**

**Names: Lion**

**Identification pointers:** Huge, powerful cat; coat uniformly straw-yellow coloured; males larger than females with a mane of long hair around the head and neck.

**Can be confused with:** unmistakeable

**Activity period:** mainly nocturnal, but will occasionally hunt and patrol in the mornings and evenings.

**Length:** 250-320cm **Height:** 110-120cm **Weight:**  110-250kg

**Gestation period:** ±3.5 months

**Lifespan:** ±10-14 years

**Diet:** Mostly large prey species such as large antelope but will take smaller prey when pressed. Will often kill smaller predators and stealing their kills, and will often eat carrion.

**Predators:** cubs killed by lions and leopards

**Preferred habitat:** wide habitat tolerance, from deserts to woodlands.

**Red List status:** Vulnerable

**Population:** Decreasing – particularly

**Threats:** Habitat fragmentation and isolation of populations within protected areas is a major risk. Lions are often persecuted by livestock farmers for killing livestock. Lions are popular with trophy hunters. Lion body parts are used for traditional medicine in Africa and Asia, and there is a growing market for lion meat in the bush meat trade. Over-hunting of their prey base is also having a detrimental effect.