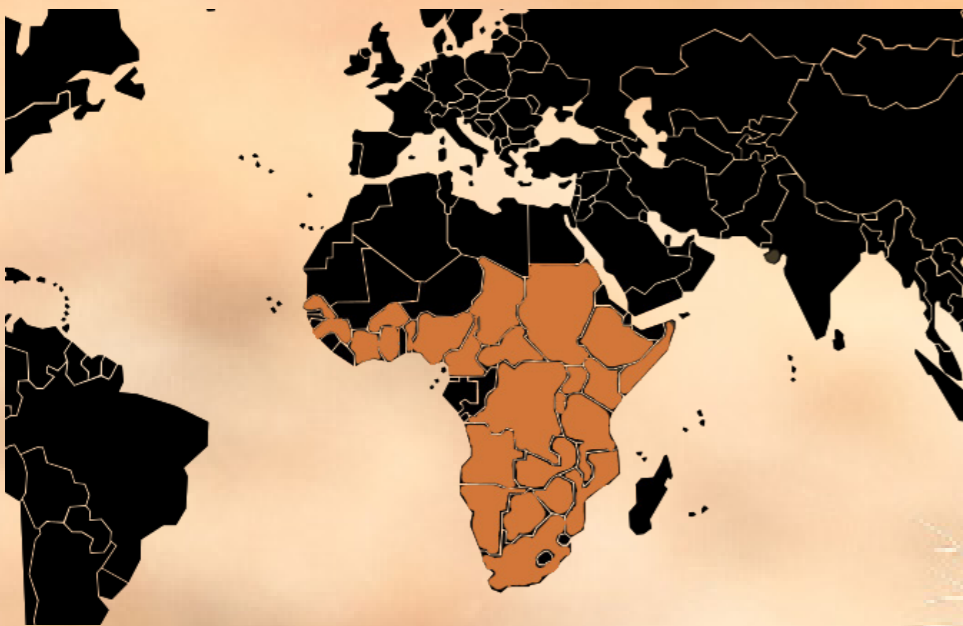


Photo Courtesy Linda LeNoir



Eyes

Highly developed night time vision aids hunting in low light, forward facing eyes for judging distance and depth.

Mane

Male lions have a mane, this indicates health and fitness to females, protects its throat during fights and makes the lion look bigger to rivals. The mane gets darker in colour as the lion gets older.

Teeth

Sharp teeth to grip prey, tear off meat and for fighting.

Tongue

Rough tongue to strip meat from bones and remove parasite during grooming.

Camouflage

Tawny colour - camouflaged with savannah habitat. Cubs are born with darker brown rosettes to help them blend in.

Claws

Long, retractable claws to grab and hold on to prey; and for fighting other males.

Stomach

Loose skin on stomach protects from kicking prey.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- EX Extinct
- EW Extinct in the wild
- CR Critically endangered
- EN Endangered
- VU **VULNERABLE**
- NT Near threatened
- LC Least concern

IUCN Red List of Endangered Species

Roar

Loud roar, which can be heard up to 5 miles away warns off other lions and to communicate with other members of the pride.

Legs

Powerful front limbs and paws, used to grapple and overcome prey. Can run up to 50 mph.

AFRICAN LION

Lions once roamed most of Africa and parts of Asia and Europe. Today they are found only in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, except for one very small population of Asian lions that survives in India's Gir Forest. There were 200,000 lions in Africa a century ago. Today there are only about 20,000 left.

For more information on lions and other big cats visit www.davidshepherd.org

