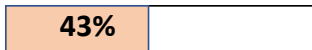




African Lion Database

African Lion Database Annual Project Report August 2022



Of known lion areas captured in the ALD with population & distribution data



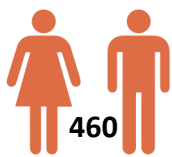
Distribution Records in the ALD



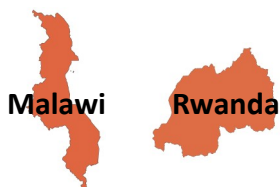
Population Records in the ALD



Lion Mortality records in the ALD



Individuals contacted for data



Countries best represented in the ALD



About the Project

It is generally understood that our knowledge of the status and trends in African Lion (*Panthera leo*) numbers is quite poor, and the collective ability of governments and the wider conservation community to identify priorities, or to assess the impacts of interventions, is limited. This can largely be attributed to the lack of a single repository of information on lion abundance, status, trends, and fine scale distribution. Information that currently exists is often siloed and therefore of limited conservation value. The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) was awarded a grant from the Lion Recovery Fund and National Geographic in 2018 for a project to establish such a database and work began on this in October 2018. In 2020, we received further funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Services.

The African Lion Database (ALD) Project is endorsed by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group (CatSG) of the Species Survival Commission, and the goal of this project is to create a database that consolidates reliable data on the population and distribution of lions across the continent. With this database, we aim to provide a platform from which to assess priorities, to measure conservation progress, and to monitor trends in lion populations and their threats in Africa.

Brief Update

The ALD has been capturing and recording lion related data for almost four years. We have been productive and substantial progress has been made in the last year. The distribution mapping component of the project is well underway with ~ 43% of lion areas included in the ALD with associated references. We have made positive progress collecting population data with the number of lion areas recorded increasing to ~43% of lion areas.



African Lion Database Annual Project Report

August 2022

Data in the ALD

1) ALD Distribution

To date, there are an estimated 393 protected areas, private reserves and concessions included in the ALD distribution map (Figure 1). We have also received 17,812 ad hoc distribution points that have been included in the ALD that will contribute to creating range maps.

While we are making good progress, there are still significant data gaps in the ALD. These gaps are evident in Figure 1. We estimate that approximately 43% of lion range is captured in the ALD with both population and distribution data.

2) ALD Population

To assess the trends in lion populations throughout their range and determine the current population status we require accurate population data. In the last quarter, an extensive literature review has been done to search for lion population data. We have 795 individual population records included in the ALD from 377 lion areas across their African range.

It is becoming evident that there are many areas where lion population estimates are not available. This is often due to a lack of resources (e.g. financial, experienced people to correctly carry out surveys).

3) ALD Mortality Data

In late 2019, we began the process of capturing anthropogenic lion mortality events in the ALD. This was done in an effort to record the number of anthropogenic mortalities and identify threats to lion across the continent. This task has a specific focus on the potential trade (both international and local) in lion body parts (e.g., paws, claws and bones). Currently, there are a total of 1,557 records in the ALD.

The ALD is an ongoing project and to remain as up-to-date as possible, please continue to submit your data that has yet to be included in the ALD. Data templates for population, distribution and mortality data are available for your use.

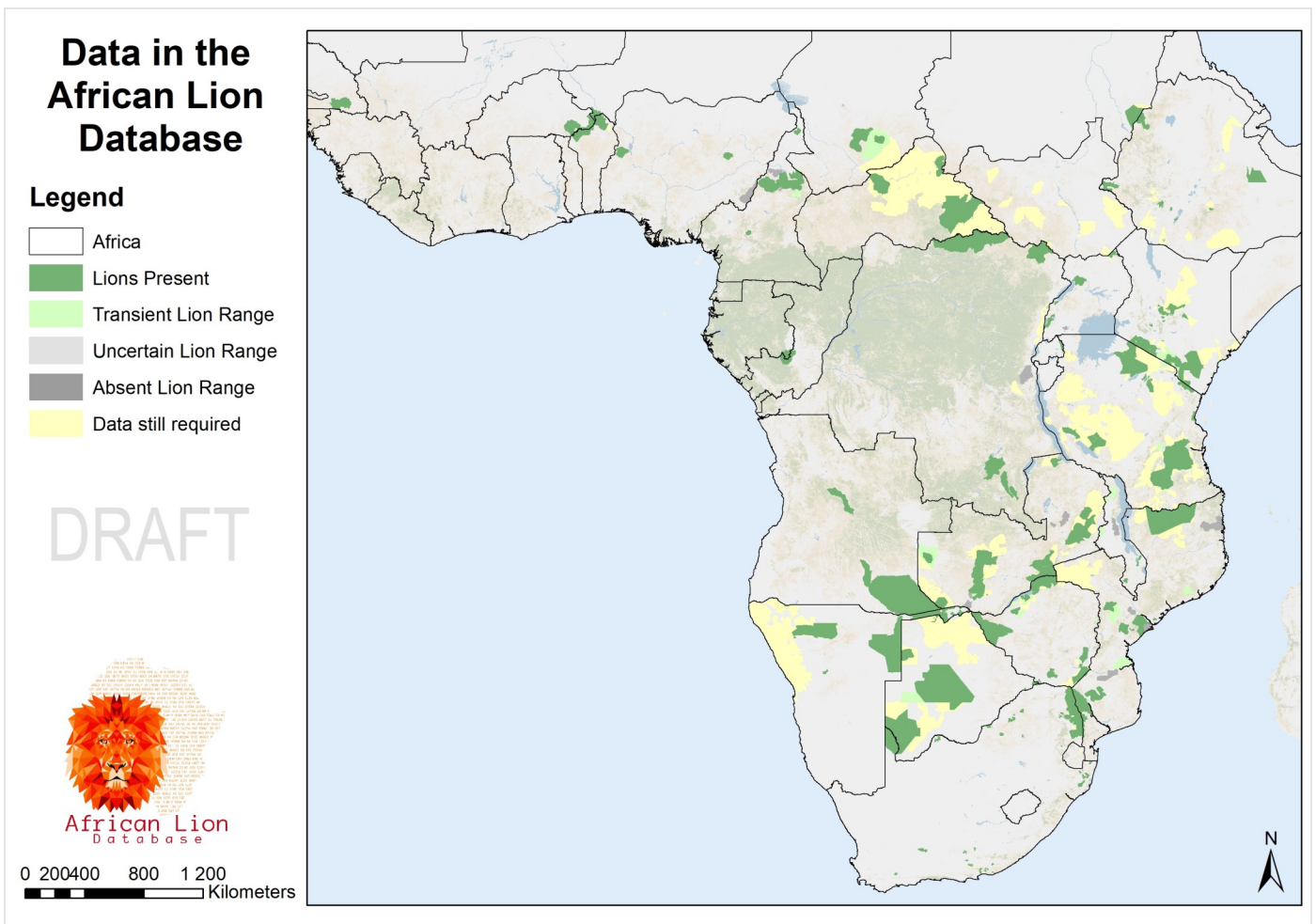


Figure 1: Current areas (n = 393) included in the African Lion Database shown in green. These areas all have associated population data and suitable references.

African Lion Database Annual Project Report

August 2022



Organisation that has contributed the most distribution records



Organisation that has contributed the most population records



Country with the most population records



Country with the most distribution records



Organisation that has contributed the most mortality records



ALD Facebook Page

A Facebook page for the ALD has been set up to share information and results from the project and will hopefully also encourage additional information.

<https://www.facebook.com/AfricanLionDatabase/>

Your Contribution to Lion Conservation

Through your data submission to the ALD you are contributing to lion conservation in the following ways:

- 1) Assisting the continuous assessment of the status of lion populations
- 2) Informing range countries and national and international institutions about the status of lions
- 3) Disclosing the reliability of information and identifying knowledge gaps
- 4) Continuously improving the monitoring of lions, and conservation planning and resourcing for the species.

Your help is still needed

While we are making progress on the ALD, we still need your help. Please continue to submit data and reports on lion distribution, population and mortality. Data templates are available from the ALD project manager (samanthan@ewt.org.za).

If you can recommend people or organisations whom we can contact that are able to assist with data, please let us know.

Please continue to spread awareness for this exciting project that will aid in conservation of this iconic African species. Encourage people to contribute their research, and share information about the project

ALD Online Platform

We are very excited to announce that we have begun work on the first-ever, African Lion Database online platform. The creation of the platform will commence in August with a tentative completion date of early 2023.

We envisage that this platform will serve as an online resource for updated lion information and important resources for their conservation.

African Lion Database Annual Project Report

August 2022

Some of the organisations that have contributed significant amounts of data to the ALD (in alphabetical order). A full list of contributing organisations will be available on our online platform in early 2023.

