

LION
P.R.I.D.E.

INITIATIVE



JOHN BANOVIK
Artist & Conservationist

Lions have enchanted man throughout the ages with all of our ancient influencing cultures and current civilizations having rich lion myths, fables, and folklores. Historically this charismatic beast has been a symbol of all of the human traits we have come to admire.

But unfortunately today the popular “King of Beasts” is severely threatened in many parts of its range. In Africa, the human population has swelled to an estimated 900 million (and growing). With most of its rural people possessing livestock, the human/animal conflict has escalated to a point where lions in many areas are disappearing at an alarming rate. Often local communities, which must bear the brunt of those conflicts, have very little incentive to co-exist with predators. In the future the Lion will only survive if communities benefit from their presence.

We are proud to be partnering with the African Wildlife Foundation as they have a long history of working with African communities and linking wildlife to the economic well being of the people that live with them. Together, we have launched the Lion P.R.I.D.E. initiative aimed at saving lions through supporting important scientific research, preserving large conservation landscapes, and benefiting community development. This initiative is both an “educational and on the ground” project with all our resources being strategically placed at “the root of the issues.” We pride ourselves on working with some of the most passionate and brightest scientific minds in the field today.

Please join us in this important effort to secure a future with Lions.

BANOVIK



PATRICK BERGIN
*African Wildlife Foundation
President & CEO*

Scientists understand that a strong predator presence is indicative of a healthy ecosystem – one that will support a viable balance of wildlife species. And this is why the African Wildlife Foundation and its researchers have put special emphasis on monitoring the African lion - to gauge the future of wildlife on the African continent.

Working in Africa for over 45 years, AWF has become increasingly alarmed at the dramatic decline in African lion populations. This disturbing decline is a result of a myriad of factors including habitat loss, increased human/lion conflict, and poaching throughout the lion’s range. Viable lion populations are being pressured to live in confined areas; increasing the chance of conflict with people and reducing opportunities for genetic exchange.

To address threats to the African lion’s future, AWF is pleased to partner with internationally acclaimed artist John Banovich. Funds raised by John’s P.R.I.D.E. initiative will be used to support on-going lion research and conservation efforts in Kenya, Tanzania, and areas in southern Africa.

AWF understands the importance of wildlife in intact ecosystems, and recognizes the need for sustainable community development that delivers tangible benefits to local people who are willing to co-exist with wildlife. By strategically guaranteeing the future of the African lion, AWF believes we can both ensure the future of Africa’s wildlife and enhance the prosperity of its people.

We invite you to join AWF and John in this effort.

Patrick Bergin

The Lion P.R.I.D.E. initiative mission is focused on conserving lions for future generations through supporting important scientific research, preserving large conservation landscapes and benefiting rural community development.

PROTECTION

Protection of large areas of suitable habitat is fundamental to the long-term survival of lions in Africa. But few protected areas are large enough to protect big game, which moves beyond park boundaries. These large conservation landscapes of suitable habitat must include not only national park and game reserves, but also safari areas, and private and community lands. Governments desperately need help in providing better protection for wildlife outside of parks. Wide scale killing in defense of livestock must be urgently addressed. Bush meat poaching has decimated wildlife populations; game departments need help in developing the capacity to police the snaring and sale of game meat.

RESearch

Research is the cornerstone to developing better methods of preventing predators from becoming livestock raiders. In most of Africa, lions are disappearing because local people can no longer tolerate the costs of living with them. If we are to save wild lions for future generations, we must understand the complex dynamics between wildlife needs and ever-growing human needs. Critically, we require sociological work on perceptions of lions in rural Africa, and on how to help people appreciate the value of intact ecosystems that include top predators.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of income from hunting and tourism can help solve the problems of rural people, but we need to develop and implement totally transparent and equitable distribution of profits among the human communities that live with wildlife. Rural communities that could benefit from sport hunting profits need networks of well-trained, well-paid, well-equipped game scouts to control poaching. We need to work with hunters and hunting operators to ensure that wildlife is managed sustainably and hunted ethically. Development of an accreditation system which rates hunting companies on these criteria would drive market-based improvement that would contribute to conservation.

DEVELOPMENT

Development of rural communities must be directly linked to protection of wildlife. A significant portion of hunting/tourism income must go to a fund that pays compensation to individuals, supports effective game scouts and benefits rural communities by building and staffing schools, clinics and other essential infrastructure.

EDUcATION

Education in rural African communities must show that wildlife can be an economic asset rather than a liability. To avoid needless and counterproductive killing of game, people must learn ways of minimizing wildlife damage to crops and livestock. Game management officials need to continue learning more about principles of sustainable wildlife management. African universities need support in improving wildlife management curricula.

LION

THE KING OF BEASTS



“STILL KINGS”

HABITAT & DISTRIBUTION

Once distributed across most of North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, lions are now found only in sub-Saharan Africa, with a tiny relict population in India. Probably numbering around 25,000, they are largely confined to scattered parks and reserves, too isolated to protect populations long-term from disease, genetic inbreeding and political instability. Lion habitat ranges from severe desert to cold montane forests, but most are found in Africa's grassland and thornscrub savannas.



“SISTERS”

HEART OF THE PRIDE

Closely related females form the stable core of a pride. A single matriline (female family) occupies the same territory for generations. Mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, they cooperate in hunting and caring for their cubs. Lone females which leave the pride rarely are able to raise cubs, and are likely to become livestock killers.



“NEW FATHER”

PRIDE DYNAMICS

Pride females usually give birth at about the same time and nurse each other's offspring. Female cubs stay in their pride for life, but young brothers and male cousins eventually leave as a group and become nomadic, looking for another pride of females to take over.

"We will either learn to live with lions or we will lose them."

DR. LAURENCE FRANK

Research Associate, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley



"MARK OF A KING"

MALE & TERRITORY

Pride males defend their territories and females against the nomadic male coalitions, but in the end they are overthrown in fights that sometimes end in death. Incoming males kill the prides' young cubs, bringing the females into heat. Thus, new males guarantee that they sire at least one litter of their own offspring in their often brief tenure as pride males.



"SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME"

COURTSHIP

When a female comes into heat, she and one of the pride males leave the group, mating every twenty minutes for days on end. Given the high mortality of lion cubs, it may take several thousand matings to produce one lion that survives to maturity.



"WE THREE KINGS"

HUNTING

The great cats are Nature's most awesome predators. Hunting through stealth, they stalk prey ranging in size from gazelles to bull buffalo and giraffe; usually, only large prides can take prey of this size. Pride males leave most of the hunting to their females, but are also fully capable of feeding themselves. An adult male can consume over 100 pounds of meat in one meal. Livestock are easy and abundant prey.

LION P.R.I.D.E.



Laikipia Predator Project
Kilimanjaro Lion
Conservation Project
WWW.LIONCONSERVATION.ORG

INITIATIVE

The P.R.I.D.E. initiative will focus our efforts in key strategic areas throughout the African lions' range. The Laikipia and Kilimanjaro predator projects and the African Heartland program are historically successful conservation efforts that need further support to expand and secure a future with lions.

LAIKIPIA PREDATOR & KILIMANJARO PROJECT

Project Outline: Due to conflict with livestock, **lions have been in steep decline in most of Africa, threatening them with extinction in all but the largest protected areas.** In southern Kenya, the Kilimanjaro Lion Conservation Project is working to reverse the recent decimation of lion numbers due to spearing by Masai warriors. The work of the Laikipia Predator Project has shown that **Living with Lions** is not difficult – the ancient livestock management methods developed by African herding tribes millennia ago still work well if properly implemented.

However, these are being lost to modernization, and predators are being exterminated as a result. With biologically sound management, **we can reverse this trend** wherever trophy hunting or tourism gives lions financial value. However, there has never been any attempt at scientific management of lion populations.

The Kenya Wildlife Service and the landowners of Laikipia District have asked us to develop and coordinate lion management in this region, which is Kenya's great conservation success story. Based on our research over the last eight years, the LPP has developed comprehensive plans for managing lions in livestock-producing rangelands with the intention of increasing lion numbers while decreasing their impact on livestock. **We are working to reintroduce sustainable use as a way to create economic value to the wildlife of Kenya.** Because many Laikipia lions are shot as problem animals every year, management principles we develop can be broadly applied throughout Africa, including hunting blocks.

To effectively manage the Laikipia lion population and reverse the current lion slaughter in Masailand, we need more personnel, more radio collars, another vehicle, a light plane for radio tracking and transport between projects, and lion hounds for use in research and Problem Animal Control.

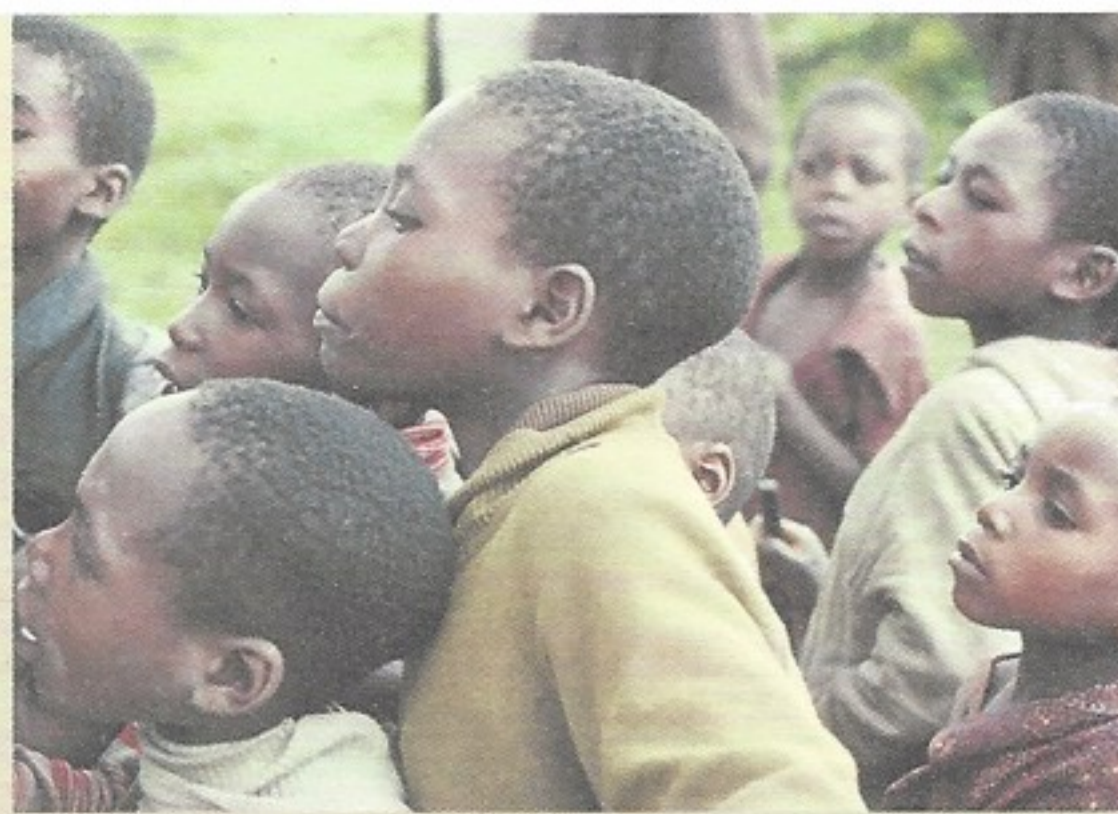


0 100 Kilometers

Major Protected Areas
Study Areas



Tracking lions with VHF radio collars in Botswana.



Sustaining wildlife populations that help to enhance the livelihoods of local people, especially children, is an important part of AWF's conservation strategy.

THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

AWF's Conservation Approach to Ensuring the Future of the African Lion

Applied research is a fundamental tool of the species protection work of the African Wildlife Foundation. Presently, much of AWF's large cat research activities are appropriately focused on African lions because **lions are both extremely threatened and an important indicator of a balanced and healthy ecosystem.**

To protect Africa's remaining lion populations, more information and new knowledge about lion behavior and their interactions with people is desperately needed. And based on well analyzed current base line data, sound management plans for regions that are lion strongholds, as well as for depleted areas, must be designed. More information on individual lions and their prides is required and maps indicating areas of conflict and livestock depredation are desirable to better comprehend lion/human dynamics. This will allow conservation and local authorities to document movement patterns and institute strategies to alleviate wildlife and human conflict.

AWF is presently conducting and/or supporting lion research in three of the most critical lion strongholds in Africa – these include **1)** the trans-boundary region on the Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia border where lions regularly move in and out of the protected Chobe National Park, **2)** the increasingly human-impacted savannah landscape surrounding Tanzania's Tarangire National Park and AWF's Manyara Ranch, and **3)** the patchwork of protected areas, private lands, and community group ranches in Kenya's Northern Frontier and Laikipia region.

Using VHF radio collars, radio tracking antennas and global positioning equipment, AWF is seeking to develop a better understanding of the extent of the range required by lions to hunt, maintain the integrity of their prides, and ensure genetic exchange between unrelated individuals. This knowledge will assist AWF to liaise with critical governmental and community partners to strategically **ensure the future of the African lion while designing sustainable enterprise programs that enhance the livelihood of people willing to co-exist with Africa's greatest cat.**



PLEASE JOIN THE PRIDE

Help us define the landscape to secure a future with lions



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