



Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo persica)

- Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List
- Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, India.
- Included on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), making international trade in this species illegal

HABITAT

Asiatic Lions may be found in scrubland and teak forest of western India.

RANGE

Once roaming from Greece to Central India, Asiatic lions persist in the Gir forest of northwest India.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

- Body Length – 1.6-2.5 m
- Weight – Males weight between 150 to 240 kgs and females weigh between 122 to 182 kg.
- Males are the only wild cats that have manes around the neck.
- Lions have short, tawny coats, white underparts, and long tails with a black tuft at the end.

FAST FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother lions keep their cubs in hiding until they reach about 8 weeks of age. • If litters are born close together, a female may nurse the cubs of another female in the pride too. • Lions have a common greeting ritual of rubbing heads together with tails looped in the air, while moaning. • Manes are thought to be the symbol of fitness of a male lion. Asiatic lions in general have shorter manes than African lions.
POPULATION	Less than 593 Asiatic Lions exist in the wild and all in one particular habitat in Gir forest of India.
THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close proximity with humans and their cattle • Habitat degradation • Single habitat risking scarcity of territory as population increases
<p>Image courtesy - http://thewildlife.wbur.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Dr-HS-Singh-Asiatic-lion.jpg</p> <p>Reference: http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Panthera_leo/ www.arkive.org</p>	