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Private: Collar a lion

How you can help save free-roaming lions



© Brian Courtenay

Introduction

The African lion is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN red list of threatened species – their **population has decreased by 75%** in just five decades (there are approximately 24,000 wild lions in Africa). Increasing human populations reduce available lion habitat, leading to a rise in **human-lion conflict**. Science and research are essential if we are to preserve future lion populations.

The Southern African Conservation Trust ([SACT](#)), along with project partners WILDCRU (Oxford University), the Trans-Kalahari Predator Programme (TKPP) and Nelson Mandela University, require **GPS satellite collars** to track the natural movement of lions between protected areas and develop lion management plans. These collars provide data to computer simulations, allowing all parties to monitor lion prides on park boundaries. They also provide an **early-warning system** to local communities about the whereabouts of lions, allowing them to react quickly to potential problems and avoid human-lion conflict.

[Read an online PDF](#) with more information about this opportunity to make your mark in lion conservation.

♥ How you can help

You can help by **DONATING** any amount or by **SPONSORING** a collar.

Any **donation** – large or small – will help finance collars and support this critical conservation project. Smaller donations will be combined to enable SACT to purchase tracking collars.

Organizations or individuals with the financial means can **sponsor** a collar exclusively – ZAR 37,000 or US\$ 2,500. Several collars have already been sponsored, including one by team Africa Geographic. Join us and invest in a future for our lions.

READ MORE BELOW about each of these two options.

Lion collar sponsorship includes:

- 12–18 months of satellite tracking time (dependent on battery activity), after which it is replaced with a refurbished collar;
- you get the first option to sponsor the refurbished collar;
- all costs associated with tracking the lion and fitment of the collar, including veterinary assistance, darts, and drugs;
- feedback/reports from SACT on the movements of your collared lion;
- audited report every twelve months showing allocation of funds raised from donors;
- South African sponsors will receive a section 18a tax certificate for submission to SARS as confirmation of their donation to a registered PBO for corporate or personal income tax concessions;
- SACT will cover any unexpected funding shortfall.

How to DONATE

Every donation makes a difference – large and small. Please email your proof of donation to these SACT trustees:

- Brian Courtenay – elephant@satib.co.za and
- David Rosen – david.rosen@sactrust.org

Payment options:

1. Paypal

PayPal account: Southern African Conservation Trust via
donate@satibtrust.com

Reference: collar a lion

2. Bank transfer – South Africans – *ZAR payments only*

Absa Bank, South Africa, branch 631826, account number 4097119050

Account name: Southern African Conservation Trust

Reference: Collar a lion

3. Bank transfer – international donors – *US\$ payments only*

Absa Bank, South Africa, swift code ABSAZAJJ, account number
647875-USD-1057-01

Account name: Southern African Conservation Trust

Reference: Collar a lion

How to SPONSOR a lion collar

Please email proof of payment to these SACT trustees, or alternatively, contact them for more information:

- Brian Courtenay – elephant@satib.co.za and
- David Rosen – david.rosen@sactrust.org

South African sponsors:

Pay ZAR 37,000 to the following bank account:

Absa Bank, South Africa, branch 631826, account number 4097119050

Account name: Southern African Conservation Trust

Reference: Collar a lion

International sponsors:

Pay US\$ 2,500 one of the following accounts:

1. Absa Bank, South Africa, swift code ABSAZAJJ, account number

647875-USD-1057-01

Account name: Southern African Conservation Trust

Reference: Collar a lion

2. PayPal account: Southern African Conservation Trust via

donate@satibtrust.com

Reference: collar a lion

More about the project:

Data from these lion collars also assists Nelson Mandela University researchers with their work. The researchers are studying the effects that living in small fenced reserves have on the spatial and social behaviours of African wild lions. Population isolation and fragmentation as a result of fencing have proven to impact natural mechanisms such as dispersion and genetic diversity in many species. The researchers collect GPS, genetic-stress and behavioural data in a set of fenced reserves in South Africa (namely Pilanesberg Game Reserve, Marakele/Marataba, and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve), and compare this with data from an open system, such as Kruger National Park. With this data, researchers are able to study

how aggressiveness and territoriality regarding kinship between prides are affected by management practices. Find out more about this programme here.

The early-warning system provided by GPS collars involves the help of those enrolled in the Long Shields Guardian Programme, which employs and trains local men and women to protect villages from lions, safeguard cattle, and aid wildlife management. Guardians patrol daily, alerting villagers through a WhatsApp group when lions approach, deterring them from community lands. This innovative 'Mobile Boma' concept safeguards livestock, enhances food security, and reduces lion killings. The programme's expansion has led to an increase in crop yields, a reduction in predation, and fewer retaliatory lion deaths. Community engagement involves consultations, a comic book for children, and school visits to promote lion conservation and coexistence. [Find out more on the Long Shields Guardian Programme here.](#)





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