



# KNOW YOUR LIONS

Lions are very important to our country, and especially to the people living in villages around National Parks and Conservation areas. Tourists love to see lions and by visiting our Parks, they bring money into our country and local areas. This money creates jobs for our parents, family and friends and makes life better and happier for all of us.

To help know your lions, here are 5 lion facts:



**1** LIONS PREFER NATURAL PREY, INCLUDING BUFFALOES, ZEBRA, AND WILDEBEEST. THEY WILL EAT LIVESTOCK ONLY WHEN THEY ARE EASY FOR THEM TO HUNT.



**2** LIONS ARE SOCIAL CATS. THEY LIVE IN GROUPS CALLED PRIDES. MALES PROTECT THEIR TERRITORY WHILE FEMALES DO MOST OF THE HUNTING.



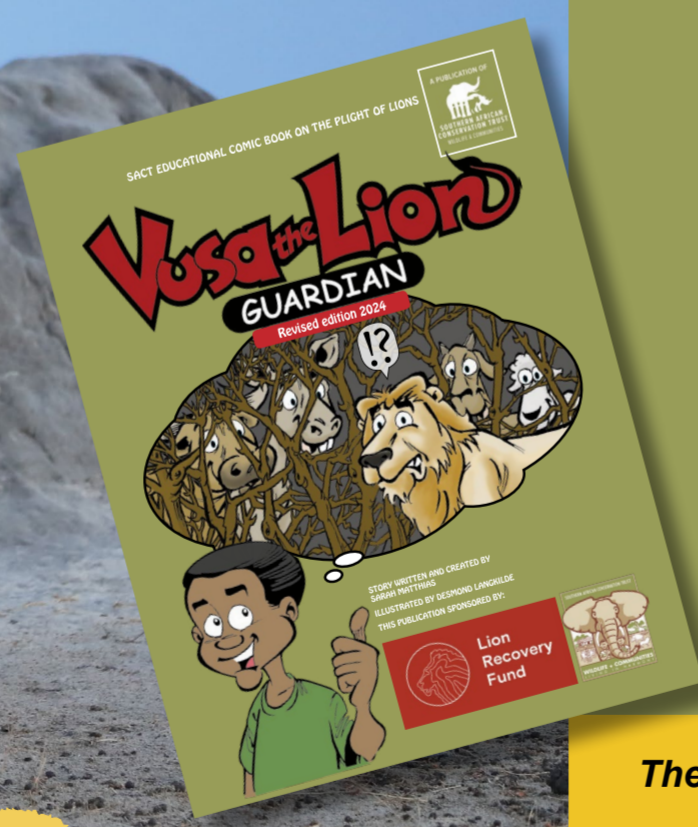
**3** YOUNG MALES LEAVE THE PRIDE WHEN THEY ARE AROUND 3 YEARS OLD AND ARE OFTEN THE ONES THAT CAUSE TROUBLE.

**4** FEMALES STAY TOGETHER THEIR WHOLE LIVES, LIVING WITH THEIR MOTHERS, SISTERS, AUNTIES, AND GRANDMOTHERS.



**5** LIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR COUNTRY AS THEY ATTRACT TOURISTS, WHICH CREATES LOCAL JOBS AND MONEY FOR OUR PEOPLE.

Photo by Brian Courtenay



Lions and other predators can be dangerous! Always treat wild animals with respect and give them space. Do not chase or threaten them.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A LION:

- STAY CALM!** Staying calm keeps you in control and avoids panic.
- STAY TOGETHER!** You are safer in a group, so try not to walk alone in the bush.
- SPEAK LOUDLY!** Talk to the lion loudly and sternly without shouting.
- CLAP YOUR HANDS!** If a lion charges, clap your hands to make noise.
- BACK OFF!** Move backwards away from the lion towards safety.
- DO NOT PANIC!** Think, stay calm and act smart.
- DO NOT RUN!** Running draws attention to you and may make the lion chase you.
- DO NOT TURN YOUR BACK!** Keep eye contact, but do not look directly at the lion's eyes as the lion will see this as a threat.
- DO NOT HIDE!** Look tall and strong without challenging or threatening the lion.
- DO NOT SCREAM!** Screaming and shouting may alarm the lion.

### KNOW YOUR LIVESTOCK PREDATORS:

PREDATOR	SPOOR	LIVESTOCK
<b>LION:</b> Largest predator, social, hunt in groups or alone and mostly at night.		Cattle, donkeys, horses, goats, sheep.
<b>LEOPARD:</b> Hunt alone, mostly at night. Good climbers. They often take prey up into trees.		Young cattle & donkeys, foals, goats, and sheep.
<b>HYENA:</b> Powerful, strong sloped back. They hunt and scavenge alone or in groups.		Young cattle & donkeys, foals, goats, and sheep.
<b>CHEETAH:</b> Tall & sleek. Fast runner. Often hunt in daylight. Usually alone or in small groups.		Goats, sheep, & small calves.
<b>JACKAL:</b> Hunter & scavenger of the dog family. Mostly hunt at night.		Chicken, small goats & sheep.



Did you know? Lion Guardians are working in this area to protect you and your livestock.

**LION HOTLINES:**  
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The VUSA themed educational wildlife conservation programme is an initiative of the SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONSERVATION TRUST (SACT) as part of rural school education programmes and funded by way of generous sponsors.



SACT VISION: "An AFRICA where communities and wildlife live together in harmony as an integrated ecosystem".