

Lion hunting

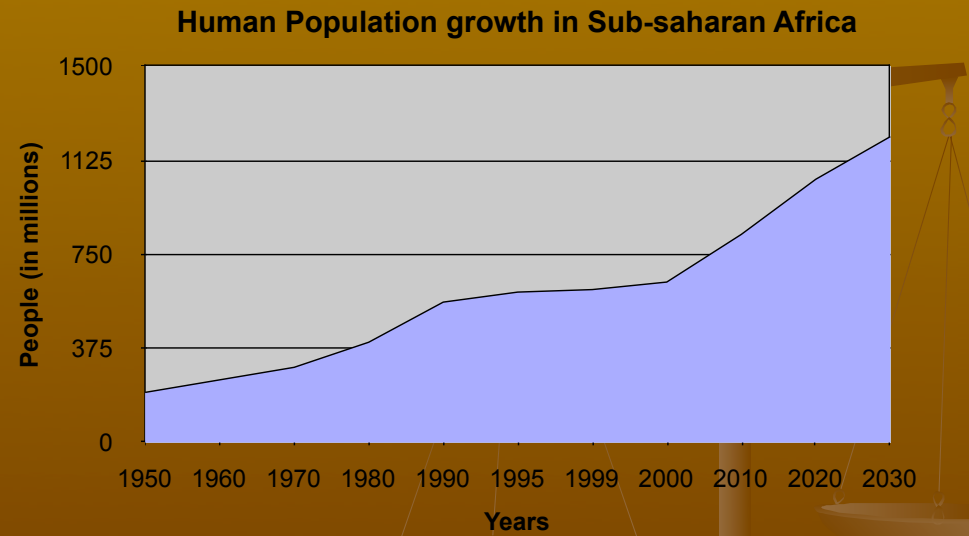


**An attempt to attain
enduring sustainable
utilization**

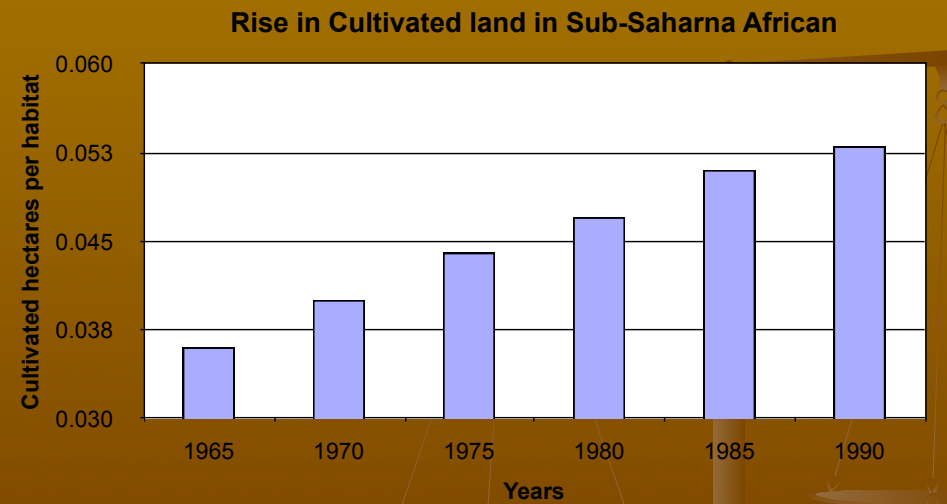
Status of free-ranging lions in Africa

- Population status definitely uncertain.
- Occur on 15% of land surface of SSA.
- Non-gazetted or pastoral areas = 7%.
- Conservation areas = 8%.
- Threatened by over-exploitation, agriculture, encroachment, poaching, inbreeding & disease.
- Everybody agrees that free-ranging lions are decreasing at an unknown rate.

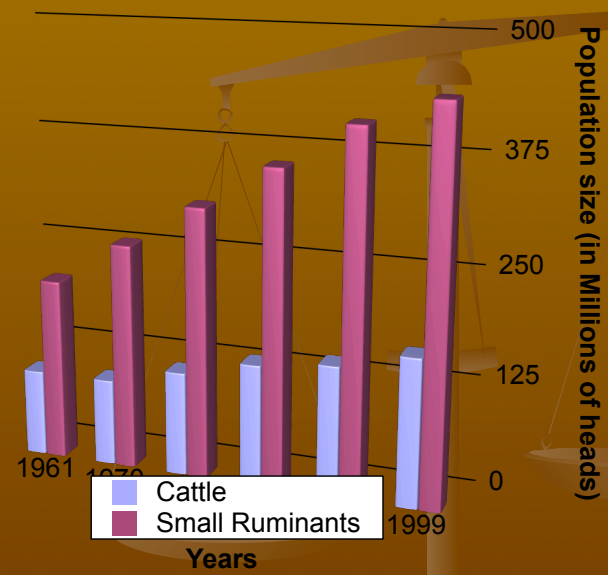
Human population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa



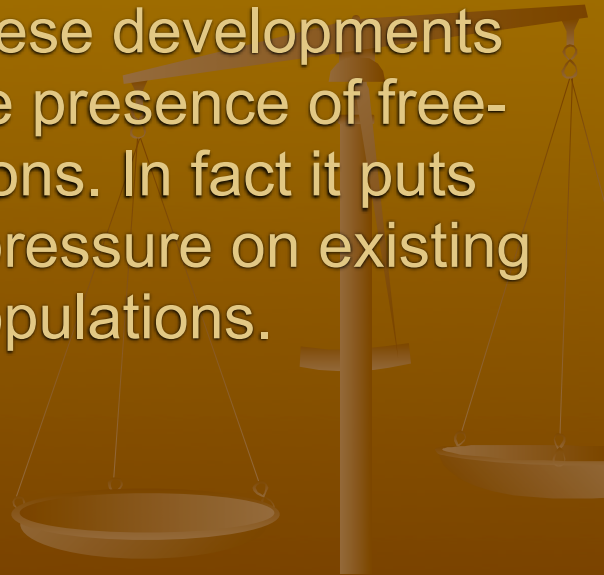
Rise in cultivated land in Sub-Saharan Africa



Increase in number of domestic animals in Africa

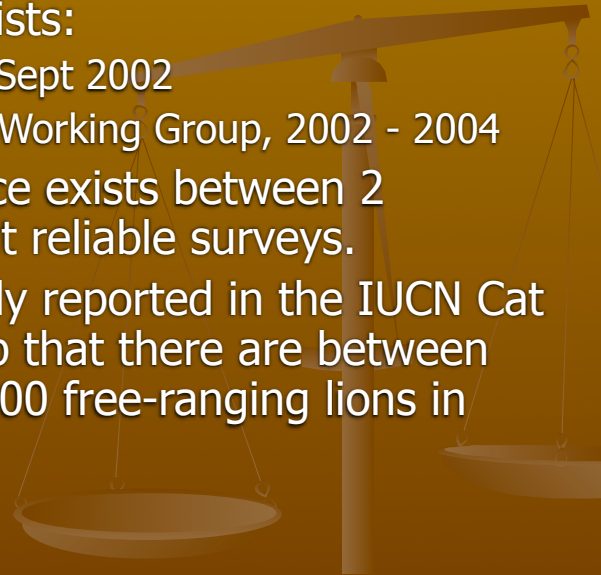


None of these developments tolerate the presence of free-ranging lions. In fact it puts excessive pressure on existing populations.



Survey results

- Two surveys exists:
 - 1 Chardonnet, Sept 2002
 - 2. African Lion Working Group, 2002 - 2004
- Large divergence exists between 2 independent but reliable surveys.
- It was previously reported in the IUCN Cat Specialist Group that there are between 30 000 & 100 000 free-ranging lions in Africa (1996).



Estimated lion population size in SSA (From Chardonnet 2002).

Regions	Estimated lion population size			% of estimated lions per region
	Minimum	Estimated	Maximum	
Western Africa	968	1 163	1 358	3%
Central Africa	2 092	2 815	3 538	7.2%
Eastern Africa	11 268	15 744	18 811	40%
Southern Africa	14 526	19 651	23 425	49.9%
SSA	28 854	39 373	47 132	

Estimated lion population size in SSA (From ALWG 2002)

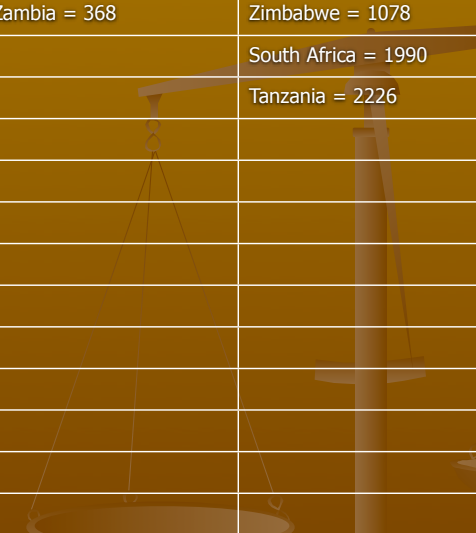
Regions	Estimated lion population size			% of estimated lions per region
	Minimum	Estimated	Maximum	
Western Africa	558	815	1 122	3.6%
Central Africa	418	700	1 208	3.1%
Eastern Africa	8 794	11 123	12 980	49.2%
Southern Africa	8 281	9 998	11 713	44.2%
SSA	18 051	22 636	27 023	

ALWG stated that this may be an underestimation.

South Africa Free ranging lions according to ALWG (2002)

Region	Estimated	Est Min	Est Max	Source
Addo, Kwande & Shamwari	13	12	14	Slotow/Van Dyk (2001)
KNP Complex	2 200	2 200	2 200	Mills (2002)
HIP	120	90	150	Slotow(2002)
Phinda & Tembe	19	19	19	Hunter (2002)
Karongwe, Kapama, Sandringham, Tshukudu, Balule, Driehoek, Venice, Uhlametsi, Makalali, Tongati & Thorney Bush	161	153	169	Liversage/Sussens/ Yule/Lose Noord, Jones, Thomson, Nieman, Owen, Pieterse (2002)
Venetia	30	20	41	Kruger (2002)
Kgalagadi	225	200	250	Funston (2001)
Tswalu	8	8	8	Hunter (2001)
Mabula, Entabeni, Shambala, Welgevonden, Marikela	54	54	54	Slotow/Van Dyk (2001)
Total	2 830	2 756	2 905	

Exporting Ranges States of lion hunting trophies (1991 – 2000)



Exported < 100 hunting trophies	Exported 100 < > 1 000	Exported > 1 000 hunting trophies
Mali = 0	Namibia = 188	Botswana = 1008
Niger = 0	Zambia = 368	Zimbabwe = 1078
Chad = 0		South Africa = 1990
DRC = 0		Tanzania = 2226
Sudan = 2		
Senegal = 4		
Malawi = 11		
Kenya = 12		
Benin = 13		
CAR = 20		
Burkina Faso = 34		
Ethiopia = 42		
Mozambique = 84		
Cameroon = 98		

Major role players

- From this table it is clear that four countries were providing the vast majority of lions up to 2002.
- Botswana was not participating for a while.
- Zimbabwe has lost clients due to political circumstances.
- Only South Africa & Tanzania remains.

South Africa's role

- Responsible for approximately 30% of the Continental off-take.
- Of this more than 80% are captive bred lions.
- Whatever we decide in South Africa will have a rippling effect on the rest of Africa.

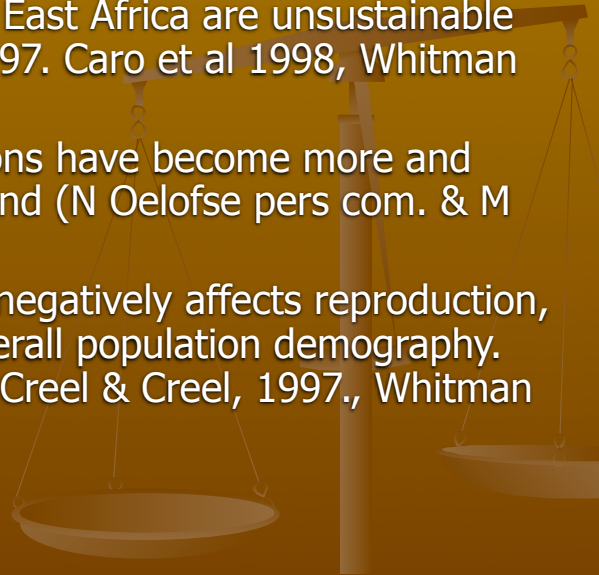


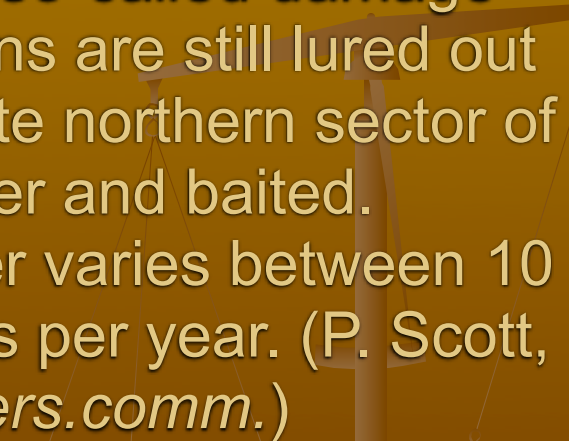
The Lion Factor

- Man would forever want to hunt lions.
- If he does not find it here he will find it somewhere else.
- Mostly large maned and preferably black, are in demand – a very small sector of the population. Less than 8 %.
- Lions have extraordinarily complex social behaviour patterns. Disrupting these patterns by removing territorial males leads to changes in population size and structure

What is current effect of sports hunting on free-ranging lions?

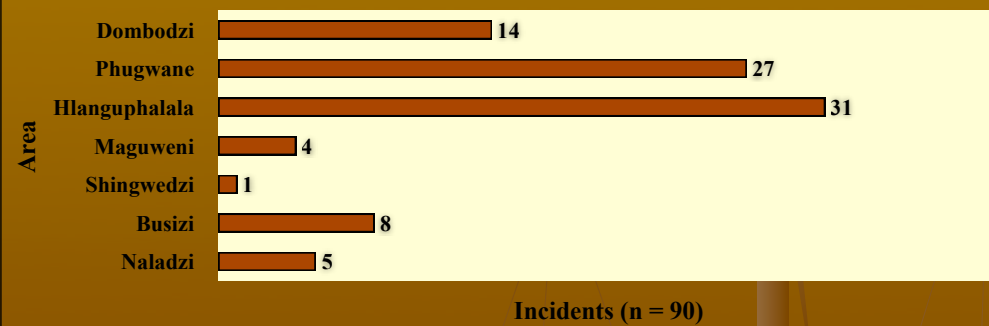
- Current quotas in East Africa are unsustainable (Creel & Creel, 1997. Caro et al 1998, Whitman in prep).
- Suitable trophy lions have become more and more difficult to find (N Oelofse pers com. & M Tout in litt).
- Current quotas – negatively affects reproduction, behaviour and overall population demography. (Yamazaki, 1996. Creel & Creel, 1997., Whitman in prep).





However so-called damage
causing lions are still lured out
of the remote northern sector of
Kruger and baited.
This number varies between 10
and 15 lions per year. (P. Scott,
pers.comm.)

Summary of lion-luring incidents per area at Shangoni (2001-2004) Compiled by Peter Scott, Sh



SUMMARY OF LION-LURING ACTIVITIES OBSERVED ALONG THE FENCE AT SHANGONI 2001-2004

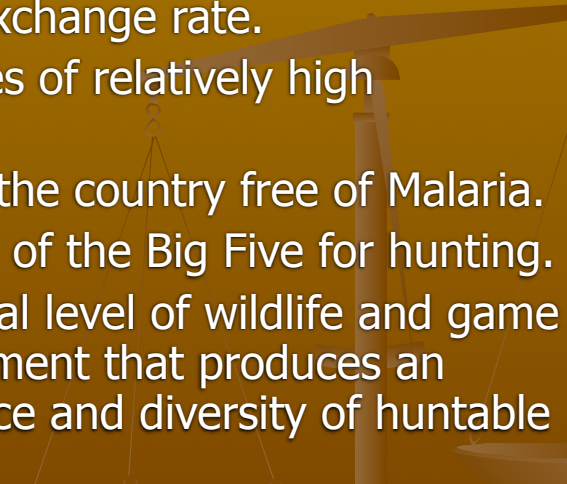
Activity observed	Area							TOTAL INCIDENTS
	Naladzi	Busizi	Shingwedzi	Maguweni	Hlanguphalala	Phugwane	Dombodzi	
Bait placed outside KNP	2	2		1	6	5	2	18
Shooting hides		2			7	4	2	15
Hunters' vehicles observed along	1	1		1	4	4	2	13
Bait placed inside KNP				1	6	2		9
Bait dragged along the fence		1			2	4	1	8
Lure with sound			1			3	4	8
Remains of carcasses	2	2			1		2	7
People inside KNP					3	2		5
Live bait used					1	2	1	4
Tampered with fence				1	1	1		3
TOTAL KNOWN INCIDENTS	5	8	1	4	31	27	14	90

Internet 8th Aug 2005

- Lion
- “There are lions which are continuously causing problems with the cattle of the local communities along the Kruger Park border. Sometimes it is full prides, or old male lions being displaced from their prides by younger males, or young males. Throughout the 300 km Kruger Park frontier we have lion problems at any moment in time, so big male lions are available almost continuously”. A pre-bait fee is payable 30 days before hunt commences.



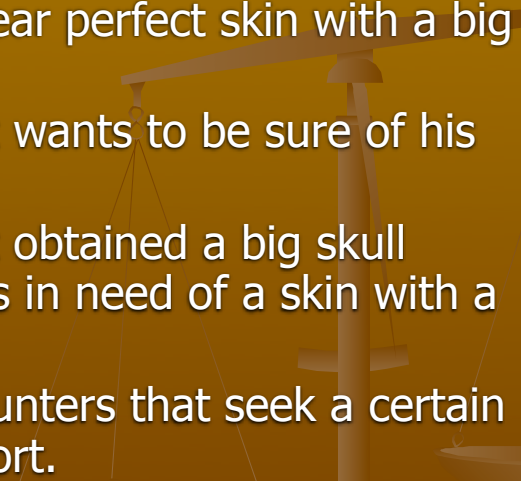
Why do people want to hunt in SA?

- A favourable exchange rate.
 - Medical facilities of relatively high standard.
 - Large parts of the country free of Malaria.
 - The availability of the Big Five for hunting.
 - The professional level of wildlife and game ranch management that produces an abundant source and diversity of huntable wild animals.
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Hunting of captive bred lions

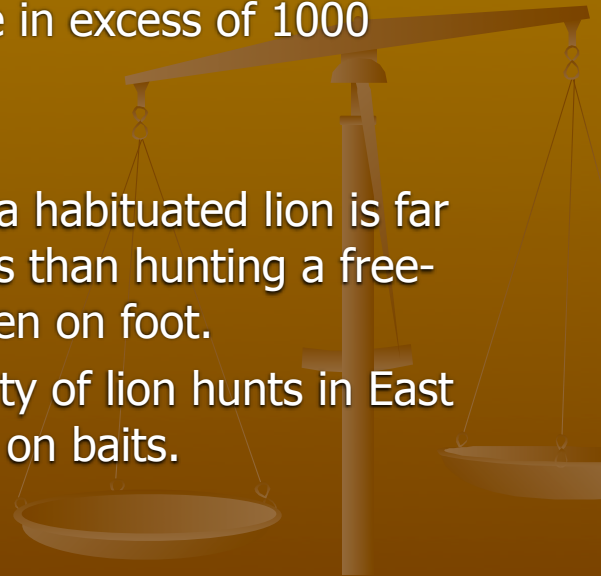
- This activity is by all means a conservation tool as it removes some of the pressure on the selective hunting of free-ranging lions.
- It generates foreign revenue.
- It generates jobs.
- The hunting of lion is the main drawing card to an area. Hunters then also hunt plains game.
- The hunting of captive bred lions are not condemned by SCI or Rowland Wards.

Who are the clients?

- Looking for a near perfect skin with a big mane.
 - The hunter that wants to be sure of his trophy.
 - The hunter that obtained a big skull elsewhere but is in need of a skin with a mane.
 - And probably hunters that seek a certain degree of comfort.
- 

How ethical is such a hunt

- Large enclosure in excess of 1000 hectares.
- Done on foot.
- Such a hunt of a habituated lion is far more dangerous than hunting a free-ranging specimen on foot.
- The vast majority of lion hunts in East Africa are done on baits.

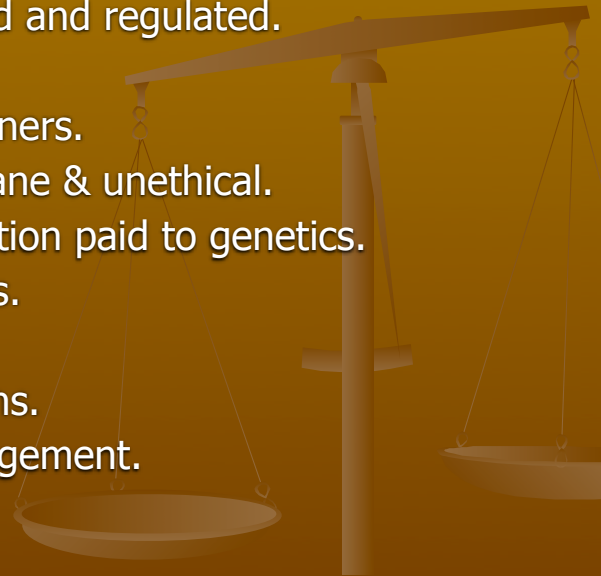


Managed lion populations

- The proposal that a lion must have been re-established for a period of 6 months before it can be hunted is unrealistic and dangerous.
- During this period of re-establishment all social requirements must be met.
- In order to obtain this goal, social interaction will take place which may include intra-specific fighting, infanticide and even consequent escaping.
- We propose that if the decision was made to hunt an animal, this period must be much shorter.
- If the animal had been drugged for any reason, fourteen days is long enough for complete metabolization of pharmacological agents.

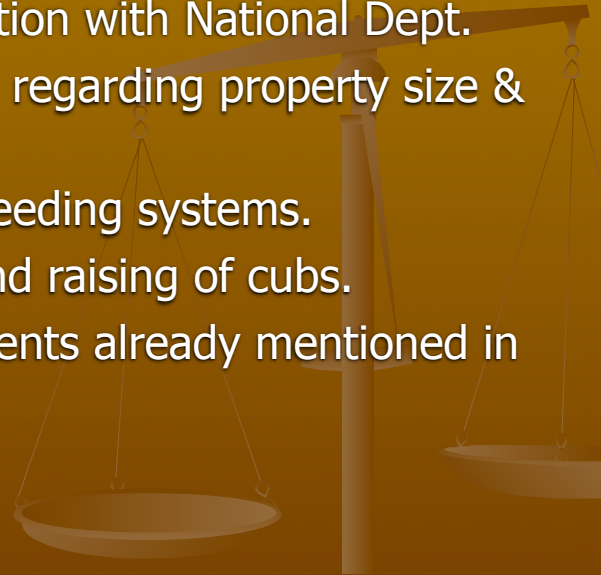
Criticism on current system

- Not well organized and regulated.
- Young industry.
- Too many lion owners.
- Said to be inhumane & unethical.
- Not enough attention paid to genetics.
- Illegal movements.
- Drug abuse.
- Habituation of lions.
- Unscientific management.



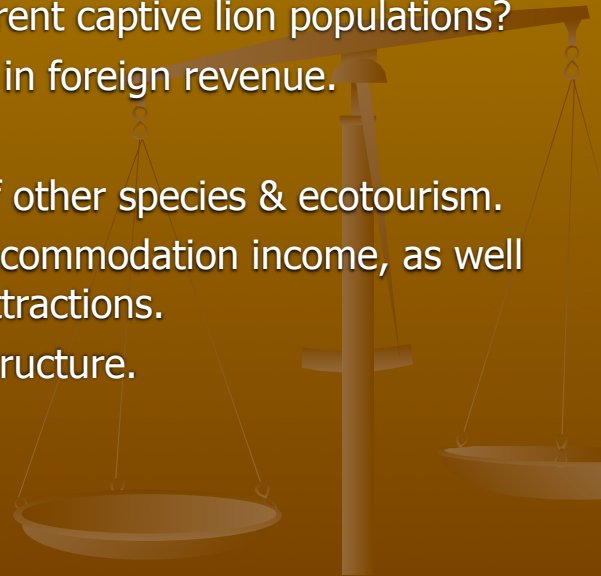
Proposal to DEAT

- Central registration with National Dept.
- Standardization regarding property size & enclosures.
- Alteration of breeding systems.
- Prohibit the hand raising of cubs.
- Other requirements already mentioned in Draft.



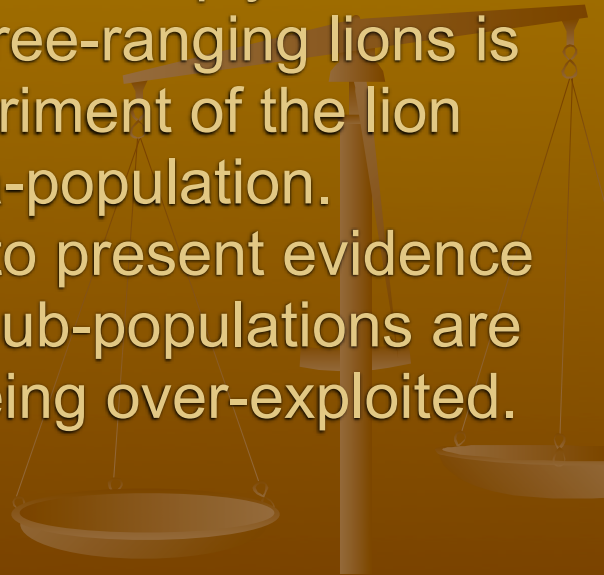
What would happen if the industry is closed down?

- Euthanasia of current captive lion populations?
- Astronomical loss in foreign revenue.
- Job losses.
- Loss in hunting of other species & ecotourism.
- Loss in flight & accommodation income, as well as other tourist attractions.
- Redundant infrastructure.
- Taxidermy losses.



It is not the aim of this presentation to imply that the hunting of free-ranging lions is to the detriment of the lion meta-population.

It is merely to present evidence that some sub-populations are at risk of being over-exploited.



To conclude

- We would now like to request that the hunting of captive bred lions continues but with appropriate amendments so as to clear the historic stigma attached to this Endeavor.
- When well-practiced this will be an asset to future lion conservation on the African continent.

