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A Lion Population under Threat. Understanding lion (*Panthera leo* Linnaeus, 1758) ecology and human-lion interactions related to livestock predation in Waza National Park, Cameroon

1. Intensive human pressure on Waza National Park will cause the lion population in the park to go extinct within 10 years time if management does not implement effective measures to secure the park (this study).

2. A high rate of livestock depredation is on one hand a survival strategy for lions faced with declining prey populations; on the other hand it is the main reason for the decline of the lion population in Waza National Park (this study).

3. Improved husbandry methods can substantially reduce livestock losses to lion predation in Waza National Park, if tailored according to whether a pastoralist is a nomad or a resident (this study).

4. Without an increase of the natural prey density, improved livestock management practices aiming at a reduction of livestock losses to lion attacks will result in a further decline of the lion population in Waza National Park (this study).

5. The conclusion of Woodroffe & Ginsberg (1998) that small-isolated lion populations face a higher risk of extinction due to the risk of inbreeding depression is less absolute than these authors argue given the fact that the addition of a single lion once in several years may significantly improve the fitness of such populations.
6. The negative impact of sport hunting on lion populations in and around protected areas threatens the survival of lions (Whitman et al., 2004; Loveridge et al., 2007; Packer et al., 2011a; Croes et al., 2011; Sogbohossou, 2011) and thus contradicts the claim generally made by hunters that hunting zones contribute to lion conservation.

7. Contrary to general opinion (cf. IUCN/SSC, 2006; Binot et al., 2006; De Iongh & Bauer, 2008), human population growth and the consequent increase in livestock production and cropland in West and Central Africa are not the main factors causing lion range reduction and fragmentation, the main factor being weak institution and under-capacity of park management services in the region.

8. The claim by Foggin (2012) that co-management has the best perspectives for wildlife management, is contradicted by practice when compared with other conservation strategies like the fencing of protected areas together with good law enforcement.

9. Teaching in universities can be greatly improved by obligating teachers to attend a range of short courses throughout their careers.