CONNECTING LIONS - CONNECTING RESEARCHERS – CHANGING CONSERVATION

Would you like to contribute to lion conservation?
Help by sharing your lion photographs with Lion Landscapes & LINC!

ABOUT LINC – THE LION IDENTIFICATION NETWORK OF COLLABORATORS

To conserve lions, researchers across Africa need to understand where lions live, how far they roam, and how different groups are interconnected. But these are huge questions that are difficult for isolated researchers to answer. The **Lion Identification Network of Collaborators** (LINC) is an online software that helps these researchers collect, store, and share data related to lions' identities and movements, creating a rich network of information that crosses international and inter-institutional boundaries. This valuable information helps to guide broad-scale conservation strategies.

HOW LINC WORKS

You can contribute by sharing photographs of the lions you see on your safari. Your guide will work with a local conservation organization called **Lion Landscapes** to add your lion sightings to the **LINC** system. They will then use **LINC's** artificial intelligence (AI) lion recognition tool to identify each individual that you've seen. By doing this you will be contributing to the records and long-term dataset on the lions in this ecosystem, that feed into actions to protect them.

To get the best results when taking lion photographs for **LINC**:

Photograph each individual in profile, both sides of the face.

A lion's whisker spots are like our fingerprints, unique to each individual.

Get multiple front-facing photographs of each individual.

These photos are used by the AI algorithm to assess facial structure and areas of interest, thereby enabling the software to identify the individual.

Try to get photos of each lion standing up.

This helps estimate the lion's age and provides information on unique markings, such as scars and mane size.

www.lionlandscapes.org | www.linclion.org

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To take photos that are usable by our team, all photos from the same individual lion need to be grouped in the same file. To make this process easier, please focus on one lion, take all the shots you can from that lion, then take a picture of the sky before focusing on the next lion etc. We will then know which frontal face picture goes with which whisker spot pictures! Finally, please speak to your guide about how best to share your pictures with us.

Thank you for helping us achieve our goal of having all of Laikipia's lions documented on the LINC system, and contributing to the wider network of lion knowledge!

The Lion Landscapes Team.

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"Lions roam over such vast areas that no one research group can effectively study them across their entire range. Platforms like LINC enable us to work together and identify lions from photos more easily, thereby increasing the chances of picking up potential movement between zones."

- Stephanie Dolrenry –
Director of Science, Lion Guardians

PLEASE NOTE:

By sharing your photographs with this programme you are giving us permission to upload any/all photographs placed into the LINC photo drive to the LINC website under Lion Landscapes. Your photographs will not be used for any other purpose without expressed permission.

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