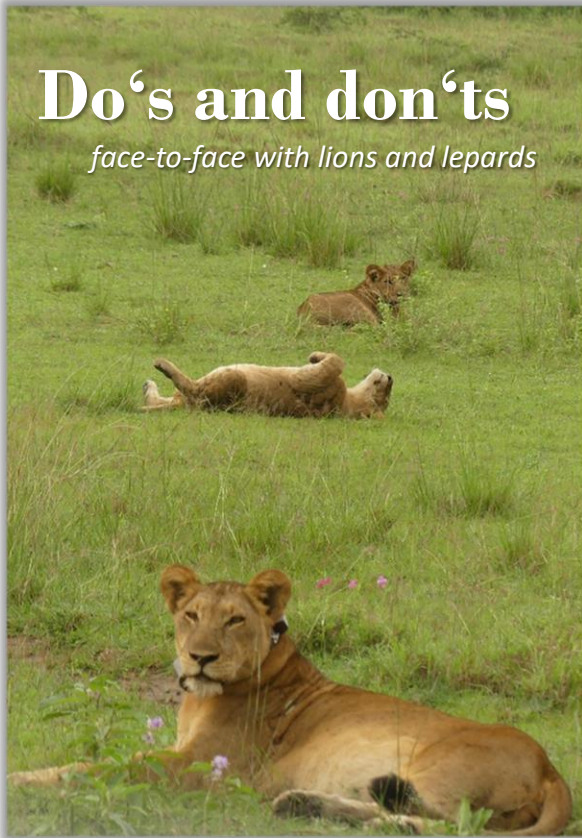


# Do's and don'ts

*face-to-face with lions and leopards*



These are guidelines on how best to behave around big cats and other wild animals. We ask you to follow them carefully, and thereby ensure a great experience for you and the animals.



Uganda Carnivore Program

## General Guidelines

### Don't offtrack

- 🚗 Driving off-road carries a fine of **150\$** per person!
- 🚗 Never follow other cars off-track, these are most likely research or ranger vehicles.

### Don't litter

- ♻️ Some plastics take hundreds of years to degrade. Ingesting them can harm or even kill animals.
- ♻️ Use the bins provided at the park gates or at your accommodation.

### Turn off your engine

Stopping the car while watching animals will not only spare them from toxic exhaust fumes, but also saves fuel and allows you to enjoy natural sounds.

## Driving Guidelines

### General driving suggestions

- 🚗 Keep a minimum distance of **20m** to all animals.
- 🚗 Don't pursue or block the path of moving animals.

### Around elephants

- 🐘 Wait or back off to a safe distance if elephants block your path
- 🐘 Watch out for other herd members

### Around big cats

- 🐆 Keep to a max. of **3 vehicles** at a sighting. Kindly move back for newly arriving cars.
- 🐆 **Don't encircle** the cats. Try keeping all cars on one side, and coordinate your movements.
- 🐆 Don't approach them in a direct line. Get closer by slowly spiralling or zig-zagging towards them

## Spotting stress in big cats

Big cats show distress with certain cues.  
Give them some space and quiet if you see:



Both ears turned back



Head up but eyes closed

More subtle signs of distress include:

### Getting up and/or walking away



Big cats usually rest during the day, and typically only get up to seek shade. Even a seemingly calm walk away can signal distress.

### Moving closer to pride members (*Lions!*)



Lions are highly social and may seek safety with family members if distressed.

## Further help

If you want to help our animals even outside of these guidelines, here are some further suggestions:

### Raise alarm if needed

If you spot illegal activities, severely injured animals or other threats, inform your guide or park rangers at the gate, or call the UWA hotline: 0800100960

### Avoid supporting harmful practices

Make sure you don't buy products or food that come from poaching (Bushmeat, Ivory, Pangolin-scales, Lion bones or skin, ...)

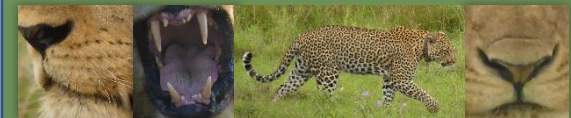
### Consider donations

working on-site and will greatly appreciate your support. Consider donating for example to:

- UCP
- WCS
- UCF
- ...

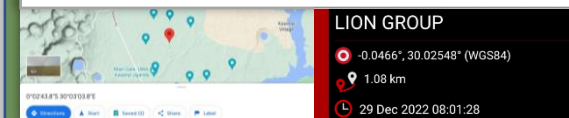
## Citizen science

We always appreciate information on what our Lions and Leopards are up to. We encourage you to send us information about your sighting, especially if you include:



especially pictures of **whisker patterns**  
(also: scars, collar, teeth, ears, nose, ...)

### Location Data



GPS coordinates OR description of the location as accurately as possible

### Additional Information



e.g. Special behaviours, fresh kills, number of individuals, ...

Contact the UCP on our website:

[www.uganda-carnivores.org/contact.html](http://www.uganda-carnivores.org/contact.html)