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Title:Need to evolve a long term programme for conservation of Asiatic Lions in Gir Regions of Gujarat.

DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): The last population of Asiatic Lion survives in the Greater Gir region of the southern Saurashtra Peninsula of Gujarat. The Gir Eco system can take legitimate pride in saving critically endangered Asiatic Lion from the threshold of extinction affording it a relatively safe habitat. As per 2010 estimation, greater Gir area had about 411 Asiatic Lions. Greater Gir, the only home of Asiatic Lion, needs to be intensively protected and managed with all out efforts in conservation of Asiatic Lion. In spite of successful conservation efforts over last four decades registering a sustained increase in population trend, the Asiatic Lion is still critically endangered on account of its total population being only about 411. Therefore, a long-term attention for conservation of Asiatic Lion is required. In the recent times poaching of large cats for international market has imposed a serious threat to lions also.