



# Tiger Facts

## Endangered Species:

- The tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is classified as endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
- The tiger population has fallen by about 95 percent since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- No more than 5,000 – 7,000 tigers remain in the wild.
- Recognized throughout the world for its ferocity and unmistakable beauty, the tiger faces an uncertain future.

## Natural Habitat:

- Tigers live across South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Russian Far East.
- They now occupy only seven percent of their historic range and 40 percent less territory than estimated 10 years ago.
- Tiger habitat encompasses evergreen forests, rainforests, temperate forests and, deciduous forests, grasslands and mangrove swamps.
- Large areas of tiger habitat still remain, however we must act now to conserve these valuable landscapes.

## Major Challenges:

- Poaching for global illegal wildlife trade.
- Habitat and prey loss leading to starvation and death.
- Human-tiger conflict caused by expanded development and lost habitat.

## The Solutions:

- We work to conserve and restore wildlife habitat, create ecological corridors for animals to roam, develop sustainable agriculture and forestry practices with local communities, mitigate human-tiger conflicts, and monitor animal populations to improve tiger management strategies and increase prey populations.
- We also seek to influence two major market forces which threaten the tiger's existence: wildlife trade and forestry. WWF strengthens anti-poaching efforts at the local level and works with governments and major corporations on policies and practices that halt wildlife trade and harvesting of timber in protected areas and in unsustainable ways.



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**Where We Work:** Four of WWF's priority regions are important for tiger conservation: Amur-Heilong, Borneo and Sumatra, Eastern Himalayas and Mekong.

**Amur-Heilong:** The Amur tigers, once on the brink of extinction with fewer than 40 remaining, have rebounded to 400 thanks to our collaborative conservation efforts. Today, WWF is saving the temperate forests that are home to the tiger by partnering with local communities and organizations and governments. We have educated 60,000 students and 200 teachers on tigers, and laid the groundwork with Russian partners to designate Annuisky National Park, Mataisky Special Reserve and Kluchevskoy Nature Park. WWF supports vigorous anti-poaching efforts and is helping to establish a regional *Econet*, an ecological network of protected areas providing a connected habitat for the tiger. Our efforts are succeeding, indicated by the recent discovery of two cubs and a female 400 miles northwest of their core range – proof that tigers are breeding and exploring new habitat.

**Borneo and Sumatra:** The Sumatran tiger has a few strongholds remaining, and WWF is working to secure their long-term viability on the island of Sumatra. We successfully lobbied corporate partners and the Indonesian government to declare the Tesso Nilo rainforest on Sumatra a protected area. Tesso Nilo – one of the best remaining blocks of lowland tropical forest for the Sumatran tiger – is fast disappearing by conversion to commercial plantations and illegal logging. Our ongoing work, including documenting illegal forestry and influencing business and government, has resulted in commitments to protect some of the most important remaining forest for tigers. In Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, in the southern most portion of Sumatra, WWF has established community patrols and built guard posts to reduce tiger poaching activities. WWF is also working with the American Red Cross in the wake of the Tsunami to ensure reconstruction efforts do not put further pressure on the northern Sumatran forests in which tigers live.

**Eastern Himalayas:** To save the Bengal tiger, WWF works with partners to strengthen anti-poaching efforts, eliminate illegal trade, establish well-connected protected areas, restore natural habitat and reduce human-tiger conflict. We have successfully led in establishing ecological corridors in the Terai Arc located along the border of Nepal and India, as well as improving the livelihoods of local people and reducing their pressure on forests and grasslands. Recently, tigers and elephants have been detected in one of Nepal's wildlife corridors, indicating that efforts to connect parks and nature preserves are succeeding. In addition, a tiger was caught by a camera set at an elevation of 14,000 feet in Bhutan, perhaps the last place on earth where tiger and snow leopard habitat overlap.

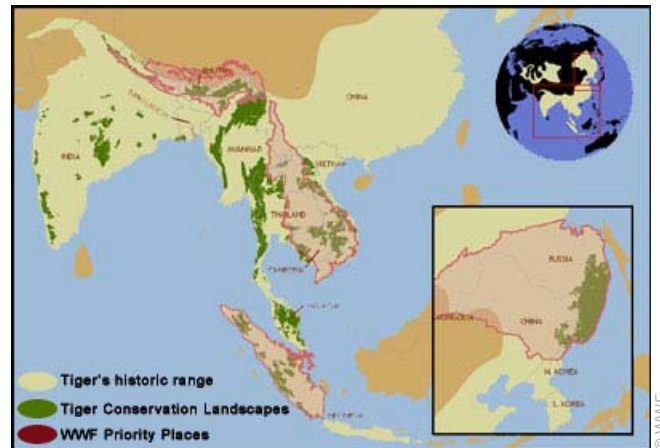
**Mekong:** In the Mekong Forests of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, WWF identified core areas for protection and monitoring the Indochinese tiger and other key species. In 2005, WWF was instrumental in creating two new protected areas in the eastern Cambodia which resulted in 2.5 million acres of connected and contiguous habitat. This restores precious tiger habitat and creates a viable area to develop an income-generating ecotourism industry in the region. Tigers have already made a comeback here. We are also working with government partners to promote sustainable management of the forests with a focus on law enforcement to reduce poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and timber. This effort is greatly aided by the formation of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network in December 2005, developed by all Southeast Asian nations to confront the increasingly sophisticated wildlife crime syndicates based in the region. We are supporting the operations of ASEAN WEN through TRAFFIC, a joint program of WWF and IUCN.

**Support WWF Today:** Tigers are flagship species for their habitats and saving the large landscapes in which they live will also help many other species and maintain the biological diversity of these extensive areas.

- Pressures on tigers because of poaching and habitat loss are increasing. However, it is not too late to save large tiger landscapes and the remaining sub-species of tigers.
- Tiger populations recover quickly if the conditions are right and targeted conservation efforts, such as those in the Eastern Himalayas and Amur-Heilong, can work if adequate resources are available to work with range state leaders and local communities.
- Working together with local communities, governments, corporations and conservation partners we can ensure the sustainability of these habitats while promoting economic livelihoods and the safety of the people who share these lands.

**Make a difference. Join our efforts to save tigers today at [worldwildlife.org](http://worldwildlife.org).**

## WWF Priority Places for Tiger Conservation



WWF's tiger study identifies tiger conservation landscapes (TCLs) to focus tiger conservation efforts.