



FACT SHEET

TIGER II WWF's Global Tiger Conservation Programmes



Recognizing that viable Tiger populations might not survive in the wild beyond the turn of the century, WWF has launched several emergency and long-term projects. The approaches include investigating and monitoring the illegal wildlife trade related to Tiger parts, enhancing habitat protection, initiating education and training activities for field staff, park guards and villagers, as well as stepping up anti-poaching efforts.

WWF began its Tiger protection efforts in India in 1966 and today works in nearly all of the countries in which Tigers are found and Tiger parts are consumed. WWF's Tiger conservation efforts seek to protect not just the species itself but also the habitats that have sustained Tigers for thousands of years.

India

- India is the country with the largest population of Tigers, estimated to number between 2,500 and 3,750.
- In 1973, WWF helped the Indian government launch Project Tiger, establishing a system of 23 Tiger reserves which helped, in the space of ten years, the Tiger population rebound from under 2,000 to over 3,000.
- WWF produced identification manuals for wildlife species and products, and trained customs officers to detect illegal wildlife products.
- WWF established the Centre for Environmental Law, which provides training and expertise in prosecuting wildlife offenses.
- WWF supports *TRAFFIC India's work with wildlife law enforcement authorities to monitor illegal hunting and trade. In the past three years, TRAFFIC's investigations have led to numerous seizures of Tiger bones en route to Nepal, Bhutan and China.

Bhutan

- WWF has developed a national Tiger action plan, which includes training conservation staff in Tiger monitoring and survey methods, developing antipoaching measures and techniques, and securing the buffer zones around important national parks, such as Royal Manas National Park.



Russian Far East

- The Russian Far East is home to the last 437 to 506 Siberian Tigers living in the wild.
- WWF supports four antipoaching brigades in eastern Siberia, training wildlife personnel to monitor Tiger populations, and building awareness in schools and local communities of the Tiger's plight.
- WWF has also established a Russian TRAFFIC office to focus on monitoring the illegal trade in Tiger parts and those of other threatened species.
- These efforts have led to a decrease in poaching and a possible increase in the Siberian Tiger population in the last three years.

Nepal

- WWF supports antipoaching units, trains law enforcement personnel and undertakes public awareness campaigns.
- WWF works with local communities around Royal Chitwan National Park. Recently, Tigers have moved back into areas where habitat has been rehabilitated.
- WWF cooperates with the government of Nepal on ecotourism initiatives that directly benefit Tiger conservation.

Indochina

- Indochina is the region where between 1,180 and 1,790 Tigers may still survive in the wild.
- WWF builds local capacity to protect Tigers and other endangered species in this region.
- WWF conducts Tiger surveys, training for wildlife and customs officers, and investigates the illegal trade of Tiger parts in this region.
- WWF places particular emphasis on creating transboundary protected areas like the Virachay-Xe Pianee-Yok Don area, which straddles Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Indonesia

- WWF has supported for years a number of protected areas including Kerinci Seblat National Park in Sumatra, the largest protected area in the world where Tigers occur.

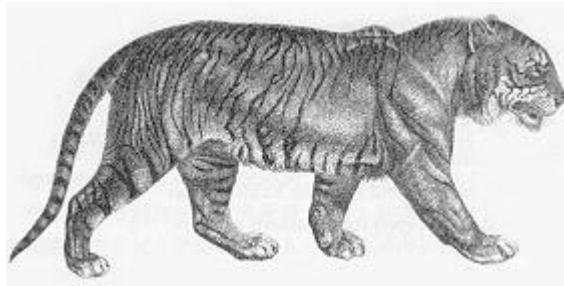


Thailand

- Tiger conservation in Thailand is supported mainly through WWF's work in the Huai Kha Kaeng and Thung Yai Naesuan protected areas complex, and Khao Yai National Park.

Malaysia

- Malaysia was one of the first countries to draft a preliminary national Tiger action plan. It revised this draft in 1996, with assistance from WWF.
- In 1995, WWF - Malaysia organized with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP) a Regional Training Course on Tigers and prey species.



*TRAFFIC is the wildlife trade monitoring programme of WWF - World Wide Fund For Nature and IUCN - The World Conservation Union.

Further reading:

- "Wanted Alive! Tigers in the wild", WWF International
- "Tigers in the wild: a chance to survive", WWF US
- "WWF Tiger Status Report: 1998 The Year for the Tiger", WWF UK