



# Datasheet Tiger

For internal WWF use only, compiled by Femke Koopmans (fkoopmans@wwf.nl), June 2012

**Name:** Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

**IUCN status:** Endangered

**CITES status:** Appendix I

**Subspecies:** Luo et al. (2004)

- Amur Tiger (*P. t. altaica*): Russian Far East and north-eastern China
- Northern Indochinese Tiger (*P. t. corbettii*): Indochina north of the Malayan peninsula
- Malayan Tiger (*P. t. jacksoni*): Peninsular Malaysia
- Sumatran Tiger (*P. t. sumatrae*): Sumatra
- Bengal Tiger (*P. t. tigris*): Indian sub-continent
- South China Tiger (*P. t. amoyensis*) (although this subspecies has not been directly observed in the wild since the 1970s and is possibly extinct)



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## Distribution and population size

About 4,000, and possibly as few as 3,200, tigers survive in the wild, scattered among 13 Asian Tiger Range Countries (TRCs; Table 1). Figure 2 shows the historic and present ranges.

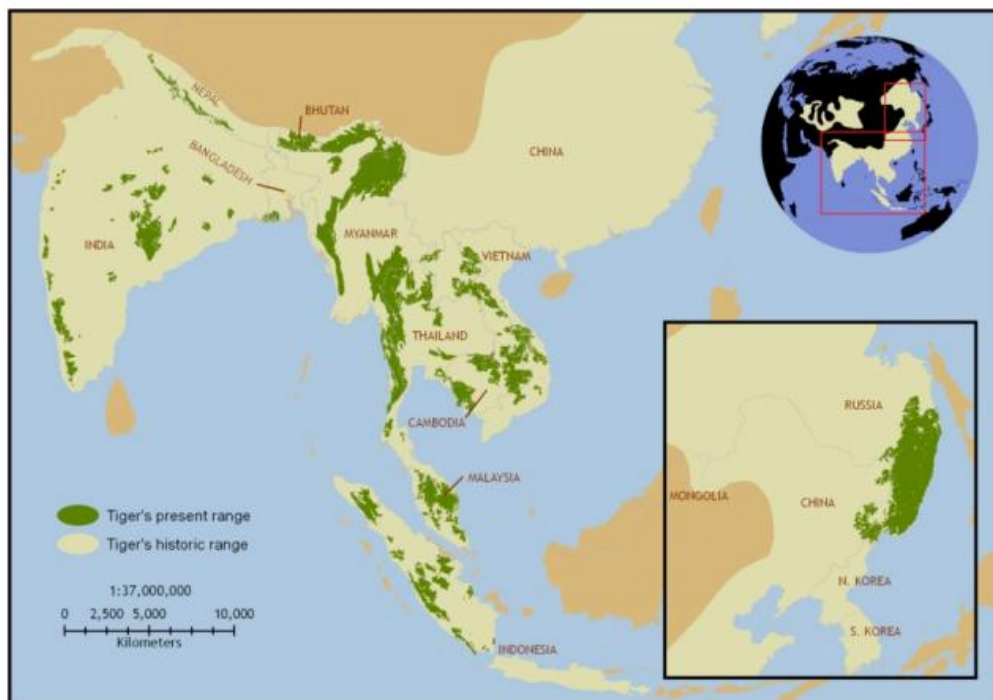


Figure 2. Historical and current range of wild tigers (published in Tiger Range Country meeting proceedings 2010)

Table 1. National tiger population estimates and estimates in protected "source sites" (IUCN, 2010)

Country	National tiger population estimates from range country governments <sup>1</sup> *	Estimated tiger population in protected "source sites" <sup>2</sup>
Bangladesh	440	300
Bhutan	75	-
Cambodia	20	-
China	45	-
India	1,706	970
Indonesia	325	293
Lao PDR	17	17
Malaysia	500	163
Myanmar	85	-
Nepal	155	155
Russia	360	71
Thailand	200	185
Viet Nam	20	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,948</b>	<b>2,154</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source (except for Nepal and Lao PDR): Global Tiger Recovery Program Table 2.1 (GTRP 2010) except India, from the most recent national tiger census (Jhala et al. 2011)

<sup>2</sup> Source: Walston et al. (2010a) except for Nepal (GTRP 2010)

\* Except for India, Nepal and Russia (reliable population data), population numbers are officially published but there have been no recent national censuses to confirm these figures.

For conservation means, a total of 76 Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCL) are recognised. Each landscape is classified into a "taxonomy" measuring their contribution to current tiger conservation and further prioritized in terms of their contribution to representation of tigers across the range. The WWF Tigers Alive Initiative (TAI) supports 12 TCLs (Table 2).

Table 2. The 12 Tiger Conservation Landscapes supported by the WWF Tiger GI

TAI landscape name	Involved countries	TAI landscape totals (Km2) <sup>1</sup>	Tiger numbers (based on estimates/ guesstimates) <sup>2</sup>
Amur-Heilong	Russia, China	1062500	429-502
Terai Arc	India, Nepal	36397	<400
Satpuda Maikal	India	91630	400
Sundarbans	India, Bangladesh	8588	274*
Forests of the Lower Mekong	Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam	61518	no consolidated or collated data
Banjaran Titiwangsa	Malaysia, Thailand	42771	<500
Central Sumatra	Indonesia	48492	187
Greater Manas	India, Bhutan	36399	152
Dawna- Tennaserim	Thailand, Myanmar	53072	40
Western Ghats- Nilgiris	India	23257	400
Southern Sumatra	Indonesia	9762	136
Kaziranga Karbi Anglong	India	32457	~100

<sup>1</sup> WWF Tigers Alive Initiative

<sup>2</sup> WWF Tiger GI, 2009. Tigers alive! Saving tigers in the wild. Strategic plan 2010-2015

\* or 70-74 acc. to the Indian Statistical Institute

## Population trends

Tiger numbers have plummeted from about 100,000 a century ago to about 4,000 today, and they continue to decline in number. The trajectories in figure 3 indicate tiger population and habitat declines (NB only 7% of historic range remains), and targeted recovery. Continued declines along the approximated trajectory will result in populations reaching a 'tipping point' from which recovery may not be possible. The potential for recovery is aligned to the 2020 and 2050 goals of the WWF Tiger GI.

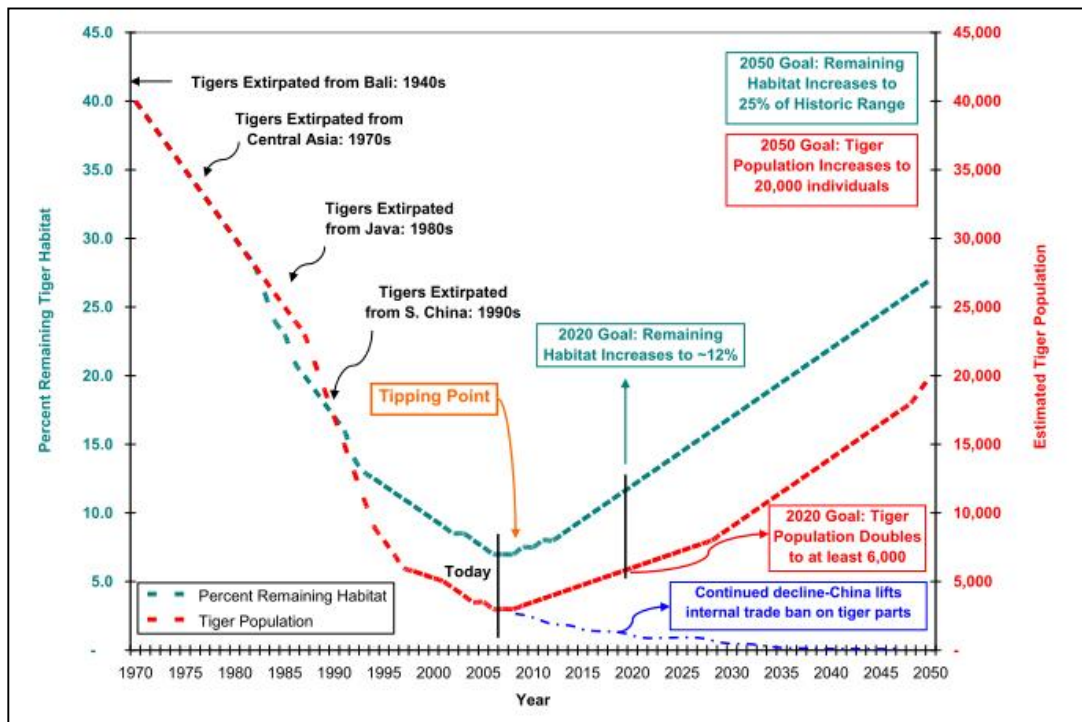


Figure 3. Tiger population and habitat declines and potential recovery (Wikramanayake et al., published in WWF Tiger GI strategic plan, 2009)

## Main threats

### Habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss

Habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss are driven by clearing forests and grassland for agriculture to support growing human populations; by commercial logging, both legal and illegal; by conversion of forests and grasslands to commodity plantations; and, most recently, by rapid infrastructure development and mineral extraction to support Asia's burgeoning economic growth. Along with habitat loss, tigers suffer from severe loss of natural prey populations especially ungulates like wild deer, sambar, gaur, and boar, due to direct hunting by people or through competition with domestic animals.

### Poaching and illegal trade

Poaching and the illegal trade and trafficking in tigers and their parts and derivatives driven by consumer demand is a primary and immediate threat to the survival of wild tigers. Tigers have been extirpated by poaching in many areas even where excellent habitat remains. Combating crime against tigers and wildlife crime in general has not been a high priority within TRCs and globally, and wildlife crime is growing. Much of the illegal trade is transnational, and thus requires regional and global cooperation to eradicate.

Data on seizures between 2000 and 2010 in 11 out of the 13 tiger range countries (no data on Cambodia and Bhutan) reveal a notable increase in the reported seizures from Nepal, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Thailand since 2004. A steady increase in reported seizures was found in India, leading to an overall increase in reported seizures. The total number of 481 seizures is believed to have involved 1,069 and 1,220 tigers taken from the wild.

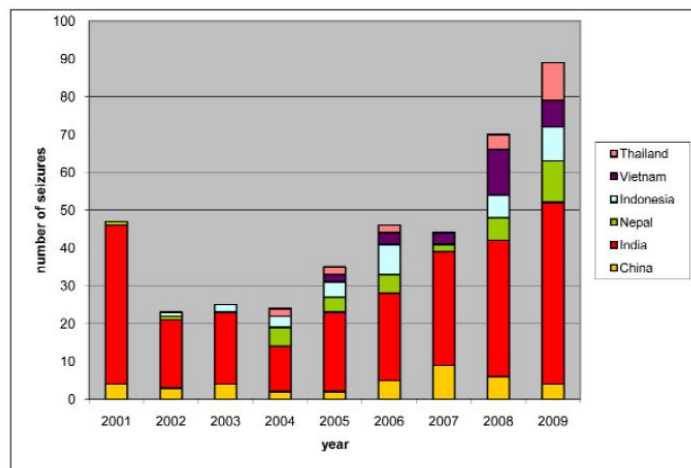


Figure 4. Annual totals of seizures of Tiger reported for China, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, 2001-2009 (Verheij et al., 2009)



### Human-tiger conflict

Tiger attacks on livestock and people can lead to intolerance of tigers by neighbouring communities and presents an ongoing challenge to conservation managers to build local support for tiger conservation. Moreover, retaliatory killing by people affected by tigers puts significant additional pressure on tiger populations. Tigers killed as “conflict” animals often end up for sale in the black market, creating a link between human-tiger conflict and poaching for the illegal trade in tiger body parts.

### WWF Programmes

The WWF programmes focussing on tiger conservation cooperate strategically in the WWF Tigers Alive Initiative. WWF-NOs and PO's in tiger range states implement their own tiger conservation programmes, which are aligned to this initiative. WWF field programmes work closely together with responsible authorities (i.e. government authorities/agencies) as the primary partner. In the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit, the Range State Governments committed to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme which calls for a doubling of tiger numbers in the wild by 2022. Tiger Range States coordinate and collaborate under the umbrella of this programme.

### Vision of WWF Tiger GI

Tigers will thrive in viable wild populations in priority landscapes, and in restored, interconnected habitats, secure from the threats to their survival and coexisting with local communities.

### Meta-goal for 2020

The wild tiger population increases to at least 6,000 by 2022, through conservation in 12 priority landscapes.

The Tiger GI designed a strategic plan for tiger conservation between 2010 and 2015 which acts as the Tiger Species Action Plan for the Network. This Network strategic plan presents a portfolio of immediate actions and targets to help achieve the overall goal of doubling the wild tiger population by 2020. The strategies focus on:

- protection and recovery of depressed tiger and prey populations in the field;
- habitat management and restoration to maintain critical linkages and core areas;
- creating innovative, sustainable funding mechanisms;
- creating local, national and regional partnerships that will commit to tiger conservation, including garnering commitment from the highest levels of government;
- closing national and regional markets and trade routes.



### References

- WWF, Save the tiger fund, Wildlife conservation society, Smithsonian national zoological park, conservation & research centre, 2006. Setting priorities for the conservation and recovery of wild tigers 2005-2015
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- Tiger Range Country meeting proceedings 2010. Global tiger recovery programme (2010-2022)
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