Help us save wild tigers!

Tigers are threatened primarily by poaching and habitat loss. As the map shows, tigers now occupy a much smaller range than in years past. We must work hard to keep those areas from shrinking even more! With your help through conservation education, awareness, and fundraising, we can change the future for the world’s biggest cats.
**Silent Stalkers**

Tigers are stalk and ambush predators. That means they use a surprise attack to catch their prey. A tiger’s feet are padded, which helps them silently sneak up on the prey they hunt. Wild tigers may kill around 50 animals a year (on average).

**Cunning Camouflage**

Tigers are known for their stripes. Just like our fingerprints, each tiger’s stripe pattern is unique to that individual tiger! But those stripes are not just for show, they help tigers blend into their surroundings. Those stripes camouflage a tiger perfectly in its forest habitat.

**Tough and Territorial**

Tigers live a solitary life, which means they like living alone! Each tiger has a territory, which is the wide area it chooses to live and hunt in. Territories can overlap and males’ territories will often overlap those of multiple females, but most of the time they stay solitary. Scent marking is when tigers use a special mixture of urine and other strong smells to mark their territory. Tigers will also mark their territories by scratching surrounding trees and leaving piles of scat (animal poop!) all around.

Home ranges vary between subspecies, but Amur tigers have been known to have territories of over 100 square miles!
A Sinister Smile

Tigers have 30 large teeth in their mouth including four huge canine teeth, which are used to kill prey. In addition to those 30 sharp teeth tigers also have a very muscular and powerful jaw, which means they have a very strong bite! Those teeth pack quite a punch!

Talking Tigers

Tigers produce a number of unique sounds. They will roar when they attack prey, fight one another, or feel threatened. They sometimes make moaning sounds to communicate long distances with other tigers. Growls are considered a warning call between tigers. Chuffing is a soft sound tigers make as a friendly greeting.

Clueless Clubs

Female tigers typically give birth to 2-3 cubs at a time. Tiger cubs are born blind and helpless; they must depend entirely on their mother for food and protection. A mother tiger will hide her young during the day and leave them while she hunts. The cubs won’t hunt by themselves until they are two years old!
Problems Facing Tigers

Poaching

For much of the time tigers have been known to humans they have been hunted for their pelts, their bones, and as trophies. Such hunting is now illegal and is called poaching. Local governments and anti-poaching teams work hard to protect tigers in the wild, but poaching is still a big problem. Some cultures use tiger bones to make medicines, and some people see tiger skins as a symbol of importance. Many people will still pay a lot of money to poachers for illegally hunted tigers.

Prey Loss

Both legal and illegal hunting can drastically alter tiger prey populations. Many tiger prey species such as wild pigs are popular trophy species, and regulations against hunting in a certain area often do not stop people who have been hunting on lands for years.

Habitat loss or change can also cause prey species to die off or move to a new place. Loss of the prey animals that tigers depend on can make tigers have to move further away from their traditional territories, and push them into each other’s spaces or into human lands.

Habitat Loss

Agriculture & Logging

In recent years many forest habitats have been cleared for farming and timber. These areas have long been vital habitats for tigers. These human interventions not only take away habitats, they also fragment large habitat areas into smaller areas. For a territorial animal who needs a lot of space, like a tiger, this can be catastrophic.

Human Expansion

As human populations grow, they expand into previously wild areas to make room for all the people. As both cities and rural areas expand, habitats such as the forests that hold tigers become smaller and more fragmented.
Human-Tiger Conflict

Human settlements and agricultural areas often sit right next to prime tiger habitats. Though in many locations, tigers are wary of these human-dominated areas, they may sometimes travel there in search of food or new territories. This can lead to conflict between humans and tigers, especially when tigers attack livestock and pets as prey, or people – often in self defense or defense of cubs. These conflicts often lead to tigers being killed or being removed from the wild, though efforts are increasingly being made to relocate these tigers into areas that are far removed from people.

How You Can Help

The Tiger Species Survival Plan’s Tiger Conservation Campaign is trying to raise funding to support wild tiger conservation, and raise awareness about the importance of these efforts. We need your help!

Fundraise and Educate

- Start campaigns to raise money through your institution.
- Teach tiger conservation education formally and informally.
- Staff a booth and/or speak to visitors about tiger conservation.
- Even if you don’t already work or volunteer at a zoo, museum or park there are ways to provide assistance to the Tiger Conservation Campaign.
- School teachers, troop leaders, service groups, college students and anyone else who cares about saving wild tigers can help make a difference!
- Have a fundraising event of your own. Large scale or small scale - everything helps save tigers!
- Raise awareness by teaching your group about tigers.

Questions?

See the Tiger Conservation Campaign Overview

Contact Information

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Conservation Efforts

People around the world are working hard to save wild tigers. It is going to take the help of conservation biologists, law enforcement officials, veterinarians, educators, government officials and more to save this endangered species.

Scientific Research

There is still much we do not know about tigers. Researchers are trying to learn more about tiger behaviors and territories, prey species and other important topics, such as how many tigers live in different places. One important aspect of this research is camera trapping. Camera trapping uses Motion Sensor Cameras to study animals in an area without disturbing the animals. This is especially useful when studying an animal species like the tiger that is nocturnal and stealthy. Because each tiger has a different set of stripes, researchers can keep track of individual tigers using camera trapping, and can tell how many tigers use an area.

Anti-Poaching Efforts

Poaching is one of the main threats to the tiger’s survival. Park rangers have the important job of protecting tigers from illegal hunting by patrolling protected areas, dismantling illegal snares, setting up checkpoints and roadblocks to deter poachers, and enforcing wildlife laws.
Outreach and Awareness

Many local people in areas where tigers roam have long revered and feared tigers. Creating and maintaining good relationships with these communities is important for ensuring successful tiger conservation efforts. From outreach and education campaigns, to building tiger-proof enclosures for livestock, conservationists are working with local communities that live near tigers.

In some countries tiger skins are seen as a symbol of status and tiger bones are used in medicines. Campaigns that discourage the purchase of such items and that raise awareness about the dwindling number of wild tigers in Asia are an important part of tiger conservation efforts.
Conservation Efforts

**Legislative Efforts**

*Overall Protection*

Many tiger conservation organizations are currently working together to ensure stronger tiger conservation laws in countries where tigers live. This includes stricter penalties for known poachers, closing down logging roads that fragment tiger habitat and make hunting easier, and regular governmental assessment meetings.

*Protected Habitats, corridors for travel*

Another aspect of better tiger legislation is the creation and maintenance of protected habitats and travel corridors for tigers. It is particularly important that governments work to protect breeding areas for tigers, as well as corridors that connect these protected areas, allowing tigers to travel between them.

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**Health and Wellness**

As tigers come into contact more and more with people, livestock, and pets, there are increased opportunities for tigers to contract diseases and become sick. Veterinarians are working to understand and deal with these disease threats. Also, local veterinarians are being trained to help when tigers become injured, often by illegal snares. These tigers can sometimes be released back into the wild if proper medical care is taken. It is important to have many field vets all over the tiger habitats to provide quick care if there is a problem.

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**WCS Indonesia**

WCS Indonesia staff work to save a tiger cub that was captured in a snare.
Quick & Low-Cost Activities
that can be used for education/fundraising

Activity ideas for zoos and other groups to raise awareness and/or funds.

Tiger face painting
Palm oil swift sort: participants use the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil list cmzoo.org/docs/palmOilShoppingGuide.pdf to figure out which common foods are made using sustainable palm oil.
Behavioral enrichment creation
Kill site tracking activity (who-done-it using fake scat, tracks etc.)
Animals caught on camera: An education table about the importance of camera trapping in tiger research
Paw print mold holiday ornaments
Tiger (or other animal) recycled paper animals
Formal lecture series—tiger conservation
Endangered species poster competition
Local children’s tiger art contest & sale
Limited edition tiger themed products: Posters, T-shirts, etc. to fund Tiger Conservation Campaign (please contact the Tiger Conservation Campaign to coordinate)

What is Palm Oil?
Palm oil is farmed all over tropical forests of Asia such as Indonesia and Malaysia.
Palm oil currently makes up a third of the 151 million tons of vegetable oil produced every year.
Palm oil is used in many products we use every day such as ice cream, breakfast cereals, cakes, margarine, candies, shampoos, soaps, makeup and candles.
Clearing land to harvest palm oil fragments important habitat for animals such as orangutans, elephants, and tigers.
It is important to support companies that use sustainably harvested palm oil in their products.

For more information, see:
cmzoo.org/conservation/palmOilCrisis
elephanttag.org/Professional/professional_palmoil_awareness.html
wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/agriculture/palm_oil/

For in-depth descriptions of these activities and more, please check the Tiger SSP website at www.mnzoom.com/tigerSSP
Quick & Low-Cost Activities
that can be used for education/fundraising

Curriculum / Classroom ideas

Sub-species comparisons
Habitat studies
Tiger-human conflict
  Natural resources, i.e., palm oil, logging
  and other agricultural issues
  Habitat degradation & fragmentation
  Living in harmony
Field Science—“tiger” tracking & study
  Animal signs
  Camera traps, how they’re used to
  study tigers and prey species
  Telemetry & Field mapping
Food webs—predator/prey
  What are their prey options?
  Interconnection and the tiger’s role
  in an ecosystem

Adaptations
  Behavioral
    Territorial, home ranges and solitary
    Hunting habits and patterns
  Structural
    Stripes, camouflage and strength
    Skull structure—skull lab
Genetic diversity (in situ & ex situ)
  How Species Survival Plans work,
  why they’re important
  Tiger Dating Game
  Gummy Bear Genetics
Tigers in zoos
  Special roles
  Care
  Behavioral enrichment
The Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) works with AZA-accredited zoos across North America to

Maintain healthy, self-sustaining, genetically diverse captive tiger populations, as a genetic insurance policy for their wild counterparts.

Support tiger conservation and research, both in captivity and in the wild.

Increase awareness about tigers and their conservation needs.

First Impressions

Class: Mammalia (Mammals)
Order: Carnivora
Family: Felidae
Genus: Panthera
Species: tigris
Subspecies: altaica (Amur)
    tigris (Bengal)
    corbetti (Indochinese)
    amoyensis (South China)
    sumatrae (Sumatran)
    jacksoni (Malayan)

Length: anywhere from
    10 feet (Amur male) to 7 feet (Sumatran female) long

Weight: Maximum of
    600 lbs (Amur adult male) to minimum of 200 lbs
    (Sumatran adult female)

Lifespan: 10-15 years in the wild,
    up to 20 yrs. in zoos

Cubs: gestation is approximately
    104 days and average litters are
    2-3 cubs (but can be up to 6).

Habitat: forests and sometimes
    tall grasses of Asia.

Prey: typically hoofed animals
    such as deer, pigs, and antelope.

What is a Mangrove Forest?

When it comes to biodiversity, the mangrove forests along the coasts of India and Bangaladesh are one of the most diverse places on earth. Mangrove forests are marine tidal forests, which means they are on the water, and the plants of the mangrove are often partially submerged (under water!) In this lush habitat the water is usually a mix of salt and fresh water. The animals that call this place home are uniquely adapted to this environment.

In the Sundarbans, a large mangrove forest in India, Bengal tigers have adapted to be water hunters. They hunt animals such as spotted deer and wild boar that come to the mangroves in search of food.
Amur
Amur tigers, found in the taiga, or Boreal forest, the Russian Far East, are the largest subspecies of tigers alive today. Males can weight up to 600 lbs and be ten feet long!

Bali (Extinct)
Found only on the Indonesian island of Bali, these tigers are now extinct due to habitat loss and over-hunting. Bali tigers were the smallest of all tiger species, similar in size to a leopard or cougar.

Bengal
Wild Bengal tigers are found mostly in India, but there are also populations in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. There are more wild Bengal tigers than any other subspecies of tiger.

Caspian (Extinct)
Formerly found throughout Central Asia in countries such as Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and China, the Caspian tiger is now extinct. However, a recent study found that today’s Amur tiger is almost genetically indistinguishable from the extinct Caspian tiger.

Indochinese
Indochinese tigers are found in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam and formerly in China. They live in thick and remote forests, often with mountainous and rocky grounds.

Javan (Extinct)
Formerly found on the Indonesian island of Java, this subspecies of tiger is now extinct.

Malayan
Malayan tigers can be found in Peninsular Malaysia. It was once thought that Indochinese tigers and Malayan tigers were the same subspecies until genetic research separated them into two subspecies.

South China (Extinct in the Wild)
Most experts believe there are no more South China tigers in the wild. However, approximately 90 South China tigers remain in Chinese zoos.

Sumatran
Sumatran tigers are the only Indonesian island tiger left today. Found on Sumatra they are the smallest living tiger subspecies.