



SUMATRAN TIGERS



Status: Critically Endangered

Population: less than 400

Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris sumatrae*

Weight: 165 – 308 pounds

Habitats: Tropical Broadleaf Evergreen,
Forest, Peat Swamps, and
Freshwater Swamp Forests

Places: Borneo and Sumatra





OVERVIEW

This tiger subspecies is found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. As late as 1978, experts estimated the population of Sumatran tigers at 1,000. Today fewer than 400 Sumatran tigers exist.

Today, the last of Indonesia's tigers — now fewer than 400 — are holding on for survival in the remaining patches of forests on the island of Sumatra. Accelerating deforestation and rampant poaching mean this noble creature could end up like its extinct Javan and Balinese relatives.

Sumatran tigers are the smallest surviving tiger subspecies and are distinguished by heavy black stripes on their orange coats. They are protected by law in Indonesia, with tough provisions for jail time and steep fines. But despite increased efforts in tiger conservation—including law enforcement and antipoaching capacity—a substantial market remains in Sumatra and the rest of Asia for tiger parts and products. Sumatran tigers are losing their habitat and prey fast, and poaching shows no sign of decline.



WHY THEY MATTER

The island of Sumatra is the only place where tigers, rhinos, orangutans and elephants live together and the presence of Sumatran tiger is an important indicator of biodiversity in a forest. Protecting tigers and their habitat means many other species benefit—including humans.

THREATS



Habitat Loss

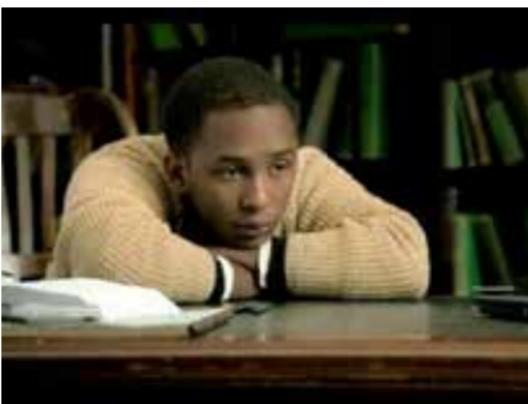
Habitat for the Sumatran tiger has been drastically reduced by clearing for agriculture, plantations, and settlement. On many parts of the island, illegal timber harvesting and forest conversion are out of control. Approximately 25,868 square miles of forest—larger than the state of West Virginia— was lost in Sumatra between 1985 and 1997. Even protected areas face problems. National parks have been isolated from one another through forest conversion.

Illegal Wildlife Trade

Most tigers in Sumatra are killed deliberately for commercial gain. According to a survey from TRAFFIC, the global wildlife trade monitoring network, poaching for trade is responsible for over 78% of estimated Sumatran tiger deaths—consisting of at least 40 animals per year. There is no evidence that tiger poaching has declined significantly since the early 1990s. This is despite intensified conservation and protection measures in Sumatra, and the apparent success globally in curtailing markets for tiger bone.

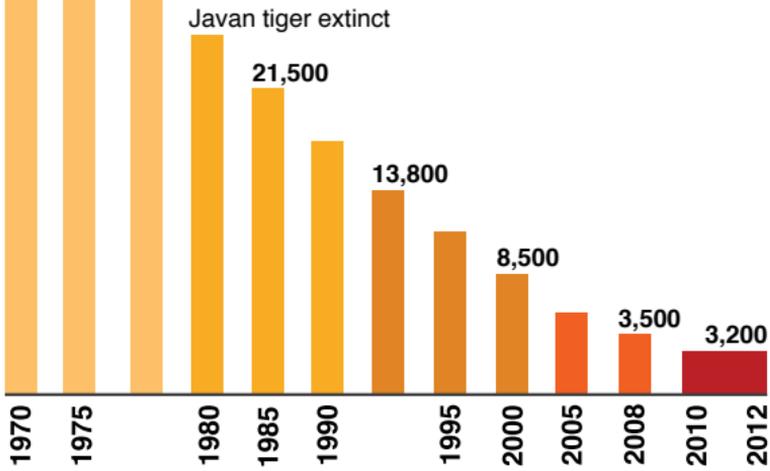
Human-Wildlife Conflict

Habitat destruction forces tigers into settled areas in search of food, where they are more likely to come into conflict with people. Human-tiger conflict is a serious problem in Sumatra. People have been killed or wounded, and livestock fall prey to tigers. The retaliatory action by villagers can result in the killing of tigers.



Caspian tiger extinct
40,000

TIGER POPULATION



2022: WWF HOPES TO DOUBLE TIGER POPULATION TO 7,000

1/3 TIGER SPECIES
EXTINCT
Java, Bali, Caspian



An adult tiger can consume a day
40 POUNDS
of meat.



97% **L O S S**
of the population
IN OVER JUST 100 YEARS

Tigers are the **LARGEST** of the big cat species.



2 MILLION YEARS
tigers have been
roaming the earth.



A tiger collective is
called a **'STREAK'**

Usually **2-6 TIGER CUBS**
are born per litter.



Tigers are **GREAT SWIMMERS.**
They are one of the only big
cats that enjoy spending time
in the water.



HOW IS WWF HELPING

Antipoaching and Conflict Mitigation Efforts

WWF works to decrease Sumatran tiger poaching incidents and helps law enforcement officers increase surveillance. WWF Tiger Protection Units patrol vulnerable areas, gather intelligence against wildlife crime, and help keep forests safe by removing poachers' traps and snares. The units have eliminated or drastically reduced poaching where they operate. They also respond to reports of human-tiger conflict and captured tigers, and educate communities about how to live with tigers.

Influencing Land-Use Planning

WWF helps design land-use plans that incorporate critical wildlife habitat. Sumatra's district and provincial governments are integrating this information into their plans, including zoning decisions and concessions for economic activities. WWF's efforts to improve the palm, pulp and paper, and timber industries' impact on the island's biodiversity, also helps Sumatra balance environmental realities with social and economic needs.

Protecting Tiger Habitat

WWF successfully lobbied corporate partners and the Indonesian state government to declare the Tesso Nilo tiger landscape a protected area in 2004. It is most likely the last remaining block of lowland tropical rainforest for tigers in Sumatra. Using the momentum of the Year of the Tiger in 2010, WWF pushed for six priority landscapes for tigers to be included in the National Tiger Recovery Program.

Monitoring Tigers

WWF is undertaking groundbreaking research on tigers in central Sumatra. With the use of camera traps to estimate population size and distribution as well as habitat use, we can identify wildlife corridors that require protection across the central Sumatra tiger landscape.

For more information about WWF please visit worldwildlife.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Take Action

We need your help to remind President Obama that our government's inaction to close loopholes on captive tigers leaves wild tigers—and people—vulnerable.

Fundraise

Create a Panda Nation page for your next birthday, athletic event, or other occasion and raise money to support WWF's global conservation efforts.

Learning

Learn about tigers and support the conservation efforts to save them—such as the Global Tiger Initiative which is working to double the number of wild tigers by 2022. The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute has been studying tigers and working to save them for decades. Most recently it became part of the Global Tiger Initiative which is working to double the number of wild tigers by 2022. As part of the Global Tiger Initiative, SCBI has held training courses in Asia specifically for people on the frontlines charged with protecting tiger habitats. The courses helped them learn to tailor their forest patrols to find on hotspots of illegal activity using the latest technology.

You can learn about tigers by visiting them at the Smithsonian's National Zoo or visiting the Zoo virtually on social media or at nationalzoo.si.edu.

Donating

Donate and support the National Zoo's tiger conservation and outreach efforts to further the help.

Avoiding Products

Many products—especially food—are made with palm oil. Palm oil is produced in tiger-range countries and plantations can sometimes threaten valuable tiger habitat.

Organizations

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) prohibits the sale of tigers or tiger parts. Do not support the illicit tiger trade by purchasing anything made with tiger pelts/skins, bone, meat etc. (Associated of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoos do not buy or sell tigers. They work together to keep the insurance population of tigers in captivity healthy.)



REMEMBER:

Tigers are an umbrella species, which means by saving the tigers you can help save their habitats and their prey bases. If we save tigers we will save much more than just the apex predator of Asia.



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