



# Tiger

*Panthera tigris*

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Photo by: Steve Winter/National Geographic

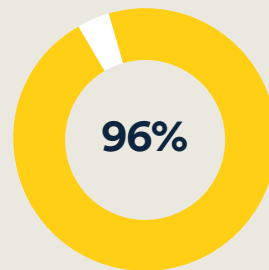
# Tigers are the only big cats that are classified as Endangered — but there is still hope for the world’s biggest cat.



● **CURRENT** Tiger Range    ● **HISTORIC** Tiger Range

## TIGER CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern    Near Threatened    Vulnerable    Endangered    Critically Endangered



Tigers no longer live in 96% of their historic range. Much of this decline has occurred in the past century.

# 20

Tigers are extinct in approximately 20 countries.

# 10

Tigers still exist and breed in 10 countries in Asia, including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Russia and China

## Threats to the Tiger

- 1 Wild tigers are hunted to meet the demands of the \$20 billion/year illegal wildlife market.
- 2 Tiger parts are consumed for traditional medicinal purposes across many parts of Asia.
- 3 Wild tigers are persecuted in retaliation as measures to protect their livestock and communities.
- 4 Tiger prey, like deer and wild pigs, continue to be overhunted, forcing tigers to attack livestock to feed themselves and their cubs, thus fueling human-tiger conflict.
- 5 Tiger habitat is still threatened by agricultural developments, especially monocultures like palm oil plantations.
- 6 Tiger habitats are being fragmented by development activities such as increased roads and growing human habitation centers.

## POPULATION

Over a century ago, as many as 100,000 wild tigers lived in Asia. Today, fewer than 4,500 remain. However, the most recent IUCN Red List Assessment has revealed that tiger numbers are potentially increasing across their range but are still declining in parts of Southeast Asia.

There are nine subspecies of tigers, four of which (Javan, Caspian, Bali and South China) are extinct in the wild. The existing subspecies are Bengal, Indochinese, Sumatran, Siberian and Malayan. As a species, Tigers are globally listed as “Endangered” on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. But the Malayan, Indochinese and Sumatran subspecies are listed as “Critically Endangered.” However, Panthera Chief Scientist and tiger expert Dr John Goodrich has cautious optimism that the species may be “upgraded” to Vulnerable if current population trends persist.

## SAVING THE TIGER

Panthera’s Tigers Forever program works at key sites in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, and Thailand to increase tiger numbers at each site by at least 50 percent over ten years. The Tigers Forever program focuses on addressing the most serious threats to tigers, including direct killing, prey depletion, habitat loss, and fragmentation.

Panthera is utilizing and contributing to the development of conservation technology tools such as SMART and PoacherCams to enhance our understanding of poaching patterns to inform our crime prevention strategies, working with local communities to reduce human-tiger conflict and improve livelihoods while reducing dependency on tiger habitats and identifying, protecting and connecting critical tiger habitats and corridors. Since 2006, Panthera has seen increasing tiger populations in 7 sites. In 3 of these sites, tiger populations have more than doubled.