OUR TIGER LANDSCAPES

Wild tiger current range
Source: IUCN 2015

Wild tiger historic range
Potential reintroduction sites

SOUTHWEST ASIA
Bhutan, India, Nepal

WESTERN INDIA

SATPUDA MAIKAL

SUNDARBANS

TERAI ARC

BRAHMAPUTRA

ILI-BALKHASH

DAKINA TENASSERIM

EASTERN PLAINS

BANJARAN TITIWANGSA

CENTRAL SUMATRA

SOUTH SUMATRA

SOUTHEAST ASIA
Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand

NORTH ASIA
China, Russia

AMUR HEILONG
It’s been nearly half a century since wild tigers were last seen in Kazakhstan. But they could roam the wind-swept steppes of this Central Asian country again. WWF envisions bringing tigers back to countries where they have gone extinct – such as in Kazakhstan and Cambodia, knowing projects like these can only happen with commitment at the highest levels of governments.

Maintaining political momentum is a vital component of our work to double wild tigers. WWF engages tiger range governments - notably through the Global Tiger Initiative and the Global Tiger Forum - to support them with their commitments through engaging partners, policy support, and driving collaborative solutions.

**POLITICAL MOMENTUM**

**POSITIVITY IS NOT ENOUGH. WE NEED LEADERS TO TAKE ACTION**

Together, the Prime Minister of Bhutan and former President of WWF International launched three national strategies focused on tigers, wildlife and people: National Zero Poaching Strategy, Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2017-2026) and Big Cat Human Wildlife Conflict SAFE strategy.

**CAMBODIA**

**PROGRESS**

The Prime Minister of Cambodia emphasized national efforts to reintroduce tigers to Cambodia and urged the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Tourism to work closely with WWF and other NGOs.

**UPDATE / OUTLOOK**

Central Europe, including government officials from India, convened with WWF and the Cambodian government to help build plans for tiger recovery in Cambodia. In turn, Cambodian government officials visited Panna Tiger Reserve in India to learn India’s best practices on tiger reintroduction.

In China, the new National Strategy and Action Plan for Tiger Conservation 2018-2027 was developed with WWF’s inputs, based on a ten-year review of past tiger conservation work in Sumatra.

In Indonesia, a new order issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment maintained the ban on commercial logging of the Korean Pine Forests (overturning an earlier lift of the ban), protecting a key habitat for Amur tigers and the livelihoods of local communities that harvest Korean pine nuts.

In Russia, WWF is supporting the Myanmar government and other stakeholders to help develop Myanmar’s National Tiger Action Plan.

In India, a success for the Return of the King project, the tiger translocation plan of Rajaji Tiger Reserve was approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, thanks to partners Uttarakhand Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India.

In Malaysia, the Sultan of Perak, D’TMM PDah Sri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, HRH Prince of Wales and key officials convened at the Royal Belum Perak - WWF Conservation Summit, declaring their support for Malaysia’s commitment to secure the Belum - Temengor Forest Complex and achieve Zero Poaching by 2020.

In Myanmar, WWF is supporting the Myanmar government and other stakeholders to help develop Myanmar’s National Tiger Action Plan.

In Bhutan, together with former President of WWF International, the Prime Minister of Bhutan launched the National Zero Poaching Strategy, Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2017-2026) and Big Cat Human Wildlife Conflict SAFE strategy.

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PHENTO TSHERING
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND PARK SERVICES, ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
CHAIR, CA|TS COUNCIL

Tiger is not only an ecologically important species but also holds a significant place in culture and history. It is just unthinkable to lose these magnificent stripes from our ecosystems. Therefore, I urge and request all tiger range countries to reaffirm our commitment to saving tigers for now and for future so that their existence is guaranteed in perpetuity.
Tigers have disappeared from 95 per cent of their historical range over the last century. This trend continues as they disappear from current habitats.

WWF is working to bring wild tigers back to two ecologically significant places that hold great promise for long-term tiger recovery - Cambodia’s Eastern Plains and the riverine fields of Kazakhstan’s Ili-Balkhash, where tigers are now functionally extinct. These will be the first international reintroductions ever attempted for wild tigers.

The Republic of Kazakhstan signed a memorandum with WWF to jointly implement a programme that will bring wild tigers back to the Ili-Balkhash region. This is a major milestone for tiger conservation, as it will help to recover the tiger’s former range in Central Asia, where the species has not been seen for over 70 years.

WWF is already working with the government to help improve protection of 5,000km² of protected and buffer zones, recover other important wildlife species that are prey to the tiger, improve law enforcement, and work with local communities to prevent human-wildlife conflict. Together, the goal is to reintroduce 25-30 wild tigers over the next 10 years to Kazakhstan, which has the potential to host up to 100 wild tigers.

As part of the Return of the King Project, tiger translocation plans in Rajaji Tiger Reserve have been approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. WWF and Wildlife Institute of India will work with the Uttarakhand Forest Department in bringing tigers back to the area.

Tigers to Return to the Eastern Plains

Cambodia

A Homecoming After 70 Years

Kazakhstan

Moving to Rajaji

India

A great boost for the future of wild tigers arrived in August, when Cambodia’s Prime Minister publicly endorsed plans to reintroduce tigers at a national forum. The announcement comes 10 years after the last official record of a wild tiger in Cambodia, adding momentum to the existing reintroduction plans for the Eastern Plains Landscape that is identified as the most suitable restoration site.

As a result, high-level representatives from the ministries of Environment and Tourism convened with WWF and global tiger experts to discuss critical next steps, including a vision for sustainable tiger and wildlife tourism that will support tiger recovery and development of the rural northeastern areas of Cambodia. To learn best practices in tiger reintroduction, Cambodian government officials also visited Panna Tiger Reserve in India.
The landscape approach is the backbone of WWF’s strategy in achieving the Tx2 goal. Landscapes are the places where WWF invests in tiger conservation, with funds, scientific expertise and more. These ecologically important spaces comprise of interconnected and often transboundary habitats. They include both protected and unprotected sites that are identified as Tiger Management Units.

Built upon a baseline of comparable data that is rigorously tracked, mapped and analysed, this approach enables us to have a long-term and strategic view of tiger conservation that is both global and site-specific. It is fundamental in helping WWF drive tiger conservation in a highly-informed and dynamic way.

In 2016, a new Tx2 landscape was added – Ili-Balkhash, a wilderness of riverine fields and wetlands in southeastern Kazakhstan – in response to the plans for tigers to be reintroduced there. Here, the baseline for data collection will only start in 2018, which will contribute significantly to the ground-breaking work on tiger reintroduction in Central Asia.

Two existing landscapes (Kaziranga Karbi-Anglong and Greater Manas) were merged into the Brahmaputra Landscape which sits in the northeastern part of India and spreads into Bhutan. The decision to join the landscapes was made as new research showed tigers moving regularly between the two areas that were previously viewed as separate landscapes. Being able to adapt to new scientific findings like this helps WWF maintain relevance and dynamism towards the Tx2 goal.

Landscape data has been collected through a partnership with Infosol, a business analytics company that helped build an interactive dashboard for data collection and visualisation. This tool visualises the Landscape Key Performance Indicators (see pages 9-12) as soon as they are collected, enabling faster adaptive management in the field (if needed) and allowing us to quickly communicate impact across the vast tiger range we work in.

The graphics in the next two pages depict each tiger landscape’s progress against the range of KPIs since collection began in 2012. The darker the ‘box’ the better that landscape is performing in that indicator.
The landscapes Greater Manas and Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong have been merged under the larger Brahmaputra Landscape in 2018. Details will continue to be collected over the next two years and be monitored under Brahmaputra Landscape.
**LANDSCAPE KPIs**

**Area Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corridors</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of sites with management plans in place is increasing – a critical step to effective management for tiger recovery. Tx2 sites that are actively pursuing CA|TS saw a steep rise over the last two years as the implementation of CA|TS across numerous landscapes has been accelerating.

**MONITORING AND HUMAN-TIGER CONFLICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tiger Monitoring</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Tiger Conflict</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The monitoring indicators show a trend of increasing number of sites using standardized protocol, thereby increasing our knowledge of tigers, prey and habitat in the landscapes and also our ability for comparison (due to standardisation).

**Tea Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of tea sites monitored</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of sites where protected area standards, i.e. CA</td>
<td>TS are being monitored</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the majority of sites, sources of Human Tiger Conflict are being identified and monitored. The proportion of sites monitored has been steadily increasing, and WWF will be working to accelerate this trend so that tiger recovery across the landscapes is sustainable.

**PROTECTION AND STAFFING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The landscape KPIs indicate that our dedicated efforts towards Zero Poaching have been having an impact on the number of sites with effective enforcement and those using Law Enforcement Monitoring tools are steadily increasing. Sites which have met their planned staffing targets have fluctuated over the years. In some cases this may be due to the implementation of more ambitious plans, thereby increasing the number of positions needed to be filled.

**PARTNERSHIPS, SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & TRADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Financing</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Database</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sustainable financing for sites has been increasing, although the majority of sites currently lack a sustained financing mechanism. The number of sites where WWF are actively engaged with partners remains steady.

 WWF will endeavour to seek and develop partnerships in the sites where we currently lack a partnership approach in order to increase our impact on the ground.
WWF is learning more and more about tigers, prey and habitats in the landscapes. This is critically important to guide effectively our investments and interventions. More sites are also reaching their carrying capacity for tigers. On the other hand, data from 2017 shows a worrying rise in the areas where tigers are declining, and an increase in information gaps. This gives us more reason to strengthen our work on monitoring and habitats.

Encouragingly, sites with increasing prey density have risen since the Tx2 goal was set.

Due to strategic investments, the number of sites with declining habitat has dropped over the last two years.
THE HEARTLANDS OF TIGER CONSERVATION

The heart of the Tx2 innovation stems from the Tx2 sites – carefully selected for their valuable habitat that can support large wildlife populations, in particular tiger prey. These sites have tremendous potential for tiger populations to thrive, breed and recover, but are held back due to a lack of investment.

We are active across more than 200 sites, with a special focus on around 50 of those that have high potential. WWF is working to ensure that each site has a thorough plan for investment that outlines the funding, management, social and political lobbying and engagement needed to succeed.

Better Together

India, Nepal and Bangladesh started joint tiger censuses in 2017. Supported by WWF, and involving collaboration in transboundary areas such as in the Terai Arc Landscape and in the Sundarbans, the data will be shared to improve count accuracy and as a means of propagating best practices in census-taking and tiger conservation.

TX2 SITES

Love is in the Tropical Rainforest

A pair of wild tigers are seen mating on a camera trap image - a first for the team after 12 years of monitoring! This rare image signals hope for tiger recovery in one of two Tx2 sites within Central Sumatra. This and another Tx2 site, Valmiki-Parsa in India/Nepal, is supported by the KfW German Development Bank with funds of €4 million (ca. USD 4.9 million) over three years.

New Tiger Cubs Found

A tigress and her cubs were caught on video camera trap in Mae Wong and Khlong Lan National Parks, Thailand. Data from the cameras reveal an increase in the number of female tigers and cubs in this site, as well as more prey such as sambar deer and wild pigs. These indicate a growing success in tiger recovery in this area.

Monitoring and Protection

Over 100 wire snares were removed, and more than 100 camera traps were set up to monitor tigers and other wildlife movement in the Royal Belum State Park, Malaysia. This is part of the larger Belum-Temengor Forest Complex – one of three priority tiger sites for Malaysia. Supported by the Maybank Foundation with RM5 million (ca. USD1.3 million) over four years, the monitoring and protection of tigers in this area will help contribute to Malaysia’s national tiger survey and National Tiger Conservation Action Plan.
INFRASTRUCTURE MUST NOT COMPROMISE ECOCLOGICAL HEALTH

At least 11,000 km of roads and railways, along with canals, power lines, and oil and gas pipelines, are planned as part of an estimated US$8 trillion spending on infrastructure in Asia. If built without provisions for wildlife, this would cut through every existing tiger habitat, exponentially increasing habitat fragmentation, poaching and wildlife conflict with people.

WWF is calling for Asian governments to pursue a sustainable development path that incorporates the protection of tigers and tiger landscapes into the design stage of all infrastructure planning. This will preserve corridors that are essential to tiger movement. Well-planned designs of this type will also better consider critical ecosystem services and other factors that might impact the well-being of the millions living near these landscapes.

The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape (DTL), which stretches along both sides of the Thailand-Myanmar border, is home to the largest population of tigers in the Greater Mekong. Here, a proposed highway from Bangkok, Thailand to Dawei, Myanmar will cut through the landscape, causing forest loss, fragmented ecosystems, isolation of tiger populations and likely an increase in poaching as the area becomes more accessible. WWF continues to engage the project developers, governments and financial experts to modify the road design to minimize negative impacts on local communities, wildlife and the natural environment.

A tiger was caught on camera trap last year in a key corridor in Tanintharyi (on the Myanmar section of the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape), confirming that tigers use this corridor, but linear infrastructure would irreversibly fragment this important habitat if constructed without sustainable designs.

Mitigating NH12A Impact on Kanha Tiger Reserve India

WWF is working closely with the administration of India’s newly set-up Amur Tiger and Leopard National Park to assess the impact of planned roads that are expected to affect Amur tigers and leopards. This includes participating in the Hunchun-Donning S206 Road Impact Assessment, which was then submitted to the State Forestry Administration to support mitigation measures. It included a recommendation that four to five wildlife corridors be included as a means to mitigate the impact of the S201 road in this new national park.

WWF released a report (“How would Mae Wong Dam Affect Forest and Wildlife”) detailing the catastrophic impact the proposed dam would have on tigers, wildlife and their natural habitat. Following that, WWF published a position statement clearly stating our stand against the construction of the dam, while continuing work with key partners and stakeholders, such as Seub Foundation. By October, the Royal Irrigation Department withdrew its environment and health impact assessment report on the Mae Wong Dam project after it was considered incomplete, giving hope for renewed discussions on alternatives to the dam.

Hunchun-Donning: Corridors for Wildlife Needed China

Rethinking Mae Wong Dam Thailand

Mitigating NH12A Impact on Kanha Tiger Reserve India

WWF highlighted the negative impacts of a proposed national highway (NH12A) expansion, which threatens to fragment tiger habitat in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Mitigation measures were identified and proposed to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, National Tiger Conservation Authority, and National Board for Wildlife.
WHERE THE CORRIDORS THAT CONNECT HABITATS ARE PROTECTED

WWF-India’s 5th Annual Corridor Walk brought together wildlife lovers of all ages on a six-day trek across half the length of the Kanha-Achanakmar corridor (approximately 100km). This corridor serves as a critical connection for tigers and other wildlife between the Kanha and Achanakmar tiger reserves, and is shared by local communities. Attended by the Member Secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and other senior officials of the state forest departments, such events help to raise awareness and profile for the protection of corridors.

India’s Uttarakhand Forest Department recommended declaring the entire 273km² area of Kilpura-Khatima-Surai corridor as a buffer area of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. Meanwhile, a joint intervention by WWF-India, Wildlife Institute of India and Forest Department helped in accelerating the construction work of overpasses in Chilla-Motichur, Tin-Pani and Kansrao-Barkote corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape.

In Cambodia, an important corridor linking Phnom Prich and Srepok Wildlife Sanctuaries is officially listed for protection. As these areas are potential sites for Cambodia’s tiger reintroduction plans, WWF continues to work with the government and other partners to ensure their connectivity.
CONSERVATION ASSURED TIGER STANDARDS

SECURING SAFE HAVENS FOR WILD TIGERS

Protected areas in Asia are often poorly managed due to insufficient investment, yet most of the world’s wild tigers live in these very places that are meant to be protected – rendering most of them unsafe.

To change the game, Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) was created to develop a network of safe havens for wild tigers. Through a set of global standards and criteria that helps managers better target, achieve and maintain effective site-based management for wild tigers. The realization of CA|TS at scale is instrumental in global efforts to make sure tigers are protected over the long-term.

By achieving the CA|TS standards, approved sites become part of a global league of protected tiger areas that benefit biodiversity conservation.

CA|TS Support Group and Council Secretariat formed

Bhutan

The CA|TS Support Group is now formed, with the participation of 11 leading global conservation agencies, and is committed to establishing a wider and more effective participation in CA|TS. Encompassed within the CA|TS partnership, the shared roles of the support group is detailed in a revised governance structure.

Bhutan was elected the 1st Chair of the CA|TS Council by the National and Jurisdictional Committees, and is represented by Mr Phento Tshering, Chair of the National Committee of Bhutan as well as Director of the Department of Forests and Park Services. This formed the CA|TS Council Secretariat.

A First in Southeast Asia

Malaysia

Global Survey to Understand Needs and Challenges

The CA|TS ‘Lite’ survey was rolled out to collate global data on the most urgent needs and challenges in tiger conservation site management. More than 100 sites have responded, providing an important baseline against which governments and site managers can set targets and priorities for investment, build capacity and measure progress. A report based on the survey will be launched in February 2018.

Achieved by end of 2017

50 sites are CA|TS registered across eight tiger range countries

India’s Lansdowne Forest Division became the third site in the world to be CA|TS-approved, after Chitwan National Park, Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve, Russia

A business plan was completed and endorsed by the CA|TS Partnership, laying the foundation for plans towards 2022

PHENTO TSHERING

DIRECTOR OF BHUTAN DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & PARKS SERVICES AND 1ST CHAIR OF THE CA|TS COUNCIL

Through CA|TS, I am optimistic we can further strengthen our conservation efforts for perpetual existence of tigers in the wild.
Following Nepal’s example since 2014, the Zero Poaching strategy is now widely adopted by many countries to inform their anti-poaching strategies and approaches. From the grasslands of Tanzania to the steppes of Mongolia, this holistic approach to combating wildlife crime has now grown far beyond its original home in tiger landscapes.

Bhutan became the first country after Nepal to develop a National Zero Poaching Strategy, which was launched by the Prime Minister of Bhutan. Going forward, WWF continues to work with other tiger range governments to develop national Zero Poaching strategies.

The Government of India endorsed the Security Audit protocols for all 50 tiger reserves in India. This is the first time tiger reserves will be audited from a security perspective. The exercise will be conducted every year by a mixed group comprised of government officials, wildlife law enforcement specialists and other relevant personnel under the guidance of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Attended by HRH Prince of Wales, the Sultan of Perak, as well as the Chief Minister of Perak, the Royal Belum Perak - WWF Conservation Summit 2017 addressed illegal wildlife trade as an urgent priority for tiger conservation in Malaysia. Collectively, the leaders pledged to support the Perak State government efforts in securing the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex as one of the nation’s most important tiger priority sites in Peninsula Malaysia, including achieving CA|TS accreditation for the Royal Belum State Park, and enabling a well-equipped rapid response team to support the state’s commitment to Zero Poaching by 2020. As a first step, the Economic Planning Unit will be forming a secretariat to manage all efforts related to Zero Poaching.

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Malaysia Commits to Zero Poaching 2020

Bhutan’s National Zero Poaching Strategy

Ensuring Security in India’s Tiger Reserves

Zero Poaching is an aspirational goal towards a world free of poaching. As a framework, it intends diverse initiatives providing a holistic approach to stamping out poaching, promoting tools, technologies, and practices that have proven to be effective for governments, law enforcement agencies and conservation groups to adopt. It is considered achieved when:

- There are no detectable traces of poaching activity in the landscape over a set time period, and
- There is no discernible impact on a species’ ability to recover or sustain an increase in population.
WE NEED HEROES TO BRAVE THE WORLD’S WILDEST PLACES

Working for weeks on end in remote areas and away from their families, rangers risk their lives to face the threat of armed poachers, natural hazards and diseases, among others.

Supporting Asia’s rangers is critical for achieving anti-poaching success, and in protecting some of the world’s most ecologically valuable places but heavily threatened places.

WWF continues to strive for systemic change by advocating that rangers be fully professionalised, and appropriately valued for the vital work they carry out. This means ensuring rangers have the requisite resources, training, technology and welfare (decent wages and insurance) to do their job safely and effectively.

RANGERS

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Better Training for Stronger Ranger

We are so blessed to be sharing our planet Earth with wildlife that plays a pivotal role in the health and rich diversity of nature. My job as a ranger is to ensure that our future generations enjoy the same privilege of seeing wildlife and living in harmony with nature.

WWF is collaborating with the Royal Government of Bhutan to improve the curriculum and capacity of relevant ranger training institutions in Bhutan. In Myanmar, the scoping study for the country’s first ranger training college is now complete. This included a recent study visit by Myanmar’s government to the Southern African Wildlife College to understand the training curricula, infrastructure, trainer and training mechanisms.

Over 400 rangers from 45 forest bureaus across China were trained on anti-poaching, tiger monitoring, law enforcement and using SMART tools to strengthen their capacity before they start work in the Amur region, thanks to collaboration between WWF, Feline Research Centre and the Jilin and Heilongjiang Forestry Bureaus.

WWF is working with its various national offices, conservation partners and government agencies to deliver the most comprehensive ranger survey ever undertaken. By its conclusion in June 2018, thousands of rangers across the majority of the tiger range countries will have been surveyed on a wide range of issues.

To give further context to the survey results, additional research is being prepared to highlight the policies and laws that most impact rangers and their well-being. Added to this, a number of community members who interact with rangers will also be interviewed, both to understand their perception of rangers and how ranger-community collaboration can be maximised.

© Simon Rawles

The Prime Minister of Bhutan launched the Society of Bhutanese Foresters on World Ranger Day, and is now a member of the Ranger Federation of Asia.

The 2nd Rangers’ Competition (March) in Northeast China was joined by two teams from the Russian Far East, contributing to the exchange of expertise between senior rangers and helping to lay the foundation for the restoration of Amur tigers and their transboundary habitat.

The World’s Largest Ranger Survey

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Over 400 rangers from 45 forest bureaus across China were trained on anti-poaching, tiger monitoring, law enforcement and using SMART tools to strengthen their capacity before they start work in the Amur region, thanks to collaboration between WWF, Feline Research Centre and the Jilin and Heilongjiang Forestry Bureaus.

WWF is working with its various national offices, conservation partners and government agencies to deliver the most comprehensive ranger survey ever undertaken. By its conclusion in June 2018, thousands of rangers across the majority of the tiger range countries will have been surveyed on a wide range of issues.

To give further context to the survey results, additional research is being prepared to highlight the policies and laws that most impact rangers and their well-being. Added to this, a number of community members who interact with rangers will also be interviewed, both to understand their perception of rangers and how ranger-community collaboration can be maximised.

© Simon Rawles

The Prime Minister of Bhutan launched the Society of Bhutanese Foresters on World Ranger Day, and is now a member of the Ranger Federation of Asia.

The 2nd Rangers’ Competition (March) in Northeast China was joined by two teams from the Russian Far East, contributing to the exchange of expertise between senior rangers and helping to lay the foundation for the restoration of Amur tigers and their transboundary habitat.
Real-time Action
Nepal

Connecting in the Wild
Snare Detector

Nepal continued to show remarkable results with the innovative real-time SMART, which is being expanded to Bhutan and Cambodia. Two sites in Cambodia and two sites in Bhutan are currently implementing SMART Connect for effective tactical monitoring of law enforcement work.

In response to the snaring crisis in Asia, WWF is developing a technology-based solution to detect snares effectively. This includes developing a detector for electric snares that have taken the lives of many wild animals in the tiger landscapes, in addition to causing two tragic human casualties reported in the Eastern Plains, Cambodia.

SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) is an open-source tool for effective conservation law enforcement monitoring. Designed for those directly responsible for wildlife conservation, from rangers in the field to senior government staff. Deployed in over 600 sites and 46 countries around the world.

People on the frontlines of wildlife protection carry heavy responsibilities, with multiple roles to play and very limited resources. Easy to use, the SMART software makes it possible to collect, store, communicate, and analyze ranger-collected data on illegal activities, wildlife, and patrol routes to understand where efforts should focus, while evaluating ranger performance. This helps increase efficiency and deliver effective conservation efforts for tigers and more.

To date, over 100 sites across Asia are using SMART for improved patrolling and law enforcement monitoring.
Asia Says No: Closing Illegal Wildlife Markets

Stand Against Illegal Tiger Trade

Matching Penalties to the Crime

The illegal wildlife trade fuels a snaring crisis that is devastating Asia’s wildlife, especially the world’s remaining wild tigers. WWF and TRAFFIC are working to analyse trade patterns and help enforcement agencies disrupt persistent illegal trade routes, while reducing demand for tiger parts through behavioural change approaches in major Asian markets.

Together, we are working to break four key trade routes:

- India-Nepal-Bhutan-China
- Indonesia-Malaysia
- Myanmar-Lao PDR-China
- Russia-China

TRAFFIC and WWF are working with 20 of the world’s largest e-commerce and social media companies to find company-led solutions to online illegal wildlife trade. For example, eBay responded to the information provided by WWF and TRAFFIC by removing over 25,000 adverts in eight months that violated the policy put in place to prevent illegal sales of wildlife on their platforms.

The “Top 10 Most Wanted” report was released in November, bringing urgent attention to the open sales of endangered species in the markets of the Golden Triangle, an area that is bordered by Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. WWF has put forth the goal of closing 20 illegal wildlife markets by 2020, calling on all stakeholders to work together, from improving ranger capacity to reducing consumer demand.

On Global Tiger Day (29 July), WWF urged tiger-range governments to strengthen anti-poaching efforts and crack down on a worsening wildlife snaring crisis. A digital campaign in partnership with Tiger Beer achieved over a billion media impressions, and more than 30,000 people around the world pledged to take a stand against illegal tiger trade, using a unique artificial intelligence tool to transform selfies into a digital art portrait, that is then shared on their social media profiles.

With WWF’s support in investigations, the provincial court of the Primorsky region in Russia passed one of the highest penalties in two criminal cases of tiger poaching. One poacher was sentenced to a US$150,000 fine for possessing an Amur tiger skin while another received a 22-month sentence and a fine for killing a young tigress.

If we are to succeed in disrupting and dismantling organised trafficking of tigers and tiger parts, we need international law enforcement, transboundary cooperation, and last but not least, all tiger range countries must step up their game.

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Millions of people live and earn their livelihoods within tiger landscapes. These communities and businesses need to be supportive of wild tiger conservation for it to be a success. As we plan for tiger population growth, managing human-wildlife conflict is a priority.

WWF is advocating for implementation of the Human Wildlife Conflict Safe Systems. This approach tackles conflict comprehensively through preventive measures, mitigation strategies and quick response whenever conflict arises.

Eliminating “Blood Honey”

India

In the Sundarbans, on average five people are killed annually by tigers when they venture into the mangroves to collect wild honey, earning the prized commodity the name ‘blood honey’. To reduce fatalities, WWF in alliance with the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve directorate, created apiary boxes in fenced-off areas, with exceptional results. The daily yield of honey from each apiary box was nearly double than what was collected from wild bees. For locals who had always feared going into the forests to collect honey, the apiary boxes now provide a source of livelihood without risking their life.

Two rehabilitated tigers were released back into the wild with the support of WWF and the Amur Tiger Centre. They are Filippa, a tigress who was dying from starvation and approached the village of Filippovka for food, and Vladik who surprised the people of Vladivostok city with his presence. Both tigers were caught to prevent conflict with people and were then kept at the Rehabilitation Center in Alekseevka to prepare for release. Last year, Filippa was released to Dichun Wildlife Refuge while Vladik was freed in Bikin National Park – far away from people.

A Relief for People and Tigers

India

No retaliatory killing of tigers has been reported for the past three years from the Kanha-Pench corridor in India. This is believed to be a result of the Interim Relief Scheme to compensate the villagers’ loss when tigers come into conflict with their livestock.

Wild and Free Again

Russia

The HWC Tech Challenge led by WWF-Netherlands, and organized in cooperation with WILDLABS was launched in 2017. Together with a panel of WWF specialists including multiple from tiger landscapes, and non-WWF specialists many great ideas were assessed. The innovative early warning system of Alasdair Davies of the Arribada Initiative from the UK was the clear winner. His idea is aimed at the early detection of carnivores like polar bears and tigers. It uses a clever combination of traditional infrared sensors and thermic sensors capable for discriminating between species, allowing it to alert people to the presence of a specific animal, but not when a human or a dog passes.
**PARTNERSHIPS**

**TOWARDS DOUBLING WILD TIGERS, TOGETHER**

From individual acts of giving to the extensive support by foundations, businesses and aid agencies, tiger conservation projects are brought to life – all of which is only possible through working together with our partners.

WWF is deeply grateful for the incredible support for protecting wild tigers and their forests, where some of Asia’s last wilderness stands.

**Our Strategic Partners**

We are thankful to work with a diverse range of partners including those from the public sector, corporations, philanthropic foundations, philanthropists, and members of the public. We would like to thank the following partners especially, for their outstanding contribution and continuous support to multi-year and multi-country projects that have made a considerable difference in the Tx2 goal to double tigers.

**Anonymous donor**

Thanks to the support from a private Geneva foundation we continue to achieve real progress in improved protected area management across the tiger range with the implementation of CA|TS. The support is notably impacting tiger recovery in the Western India Landscape and transboundary Terai Arc Landscape of India and Nepal.

**The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation** creates positive impact with WWF for tigers and communities living in tiger landscapes, particularly in the Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal and in Sumatra, Indonesia.

**The US Department of State (Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau) supports the fight against illegal wildlife trade in the Golden Triangle, which also threatens the tiger. Their contribution creates opportunities for regional governments to take action against open wildlife markets.**

**The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (fpa2.com) is a key partner of WWF. By supporting effective protected area management, their contributions are helping to secure tiger habitats in Sumatra and the Arunachal Hills landscape.**

**The Whiskas, and its parent company Mars, supports WWF’s global tiger conservation efforts – from funding the daily work needed to protect tigers to raising awareness and funds for tigers among cat lovers.**

**Discovery Inc.’s Project C.A.T (Conserving Acres for Tigers) partners with WWF to ensure a future for tigers in the Sundarbans and the transboundary Manas-Godavari area, and raising more public awareness.**

**Tiger Beer** cannot imagine a world without wild tigers. Its partnership with WWF supports Tx2 – by supporting global conservation efforts, raising awareness and inspiring people to take action.

**Dr Bevan Jones’ support for tigers and forests in Myanmar helps us to secure a critical tiger habitat for the long-term. He has very kindly allowed us to share an excerpt from a speech he delivered about his gift to WWF:**

> “Over the years, I have looked on in dismay at how, with expanding population and urbanisation, many of the natural places I knew and loved have been lost or degraded. We took our time looking into organisations that were working in the Asia region to protect and conserve forests and associated wildlife. We shied away from organisations that were focused on short-term goals – and whose initiatives relied heavily on a small group of people, as we considered these may have a higher risk of failure in the longer term.

> I have been enormously impressed with WWF’s response and their development of a suitable project plan, which we assessed as having a sufficiently low risk of failure in the longer term. I have been enormously impressed with WWF’s response and their development of a suitable project plan, which we assessed as having a sufficiently low risk of failure in the longer term. I have been enormously impressed with WWF’s response and their development of a suitable project plan, which we assessed as having a sufficiently low risk of failure in the longer term. I have been enormously impressed with WWF’s response and their development of a suitable project plan, which we assessed as having a sufficiently low risk of failure in the longer term. I have been enormously impressed with WWF’s response and their development of a suitable project plan, which we assessed as having a sufficiently low risk of failure in the longer term. 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In the rainforests of Malaysia’s Royal Belum State Park, pressure from poaching and habitat loss is high, but partners are working hard to turn it around.

Local communities carry out anti-poaching patrols alongside rangers and WWF teams, while Maybank’s support enables us to set up camera traps, deactivate wire snares and create awareness on saving the tigers in Malaysia.

The strong commitment by the Perak state to achieve Zero Poaching by 2020 is matched by the sentiments of the Sultan of Perak, DYMM Paduka Seri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The HRH Prince of Wales, at the Royal Belum- WWF Conservation Summit in November. It is now the first site to become registered for CATS in Southeast Asia - a partnership-led accreditation scheme that involves 11 leading conservation groups. The use of SMART - developed and strengthened by multiple partners - helps equip anti-poaching teams with stronger tools.

We believe strong partnerships are key to reaching goals that are as ambitious as Tx2, and will continue to nurture and create partnerships in the goal towards doubling tigers, together.
Many WWF offices are working together to push tiger conservation forward. Here are a selection of major highlights from 2017.

**February**
- Political Momentum

**March**
- Breaking Trade Chains

**April**
- Zero Poaching

**May**
- Taming Poaching

**June**
- WWF launched the WWF-India ‘I am the Tiger’ Campaign to raise awareness among school kids about tiger protection.

**July**
- A special Commission of independent reviewers to complete a long-term orientation of Bhutan and Myanmar.

**August**
- Conservation efforts in this stage of tiger monitoring in Satpuda-Pench Corridor.

**September**
- WWF-India partnered with WWF-China to undertake Security Audit in 2017.

**October**
- WWF, with the support of Myanmar’s Ministry of Environment andforestry, has come up with an initiative to help develop Myanmar’s and other stakeholders to better track enforcement and protect tigers.

**November**
- Tiger Recovery
- The Thai Minister of Interior invited a tiger and poaching plan to be put into action.

**December**
- WWF-India partnered with WWF-Chinese to develop capacity and systems strategy.

**January**
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WE ARE DOUBLING WILD TIGERS TOGETHER

The WWF Tigers Alive aims to double wild tiger numbers by 2022. We are a collective of dedicated conservationists from over the world. From office desks to field stations, and corporate boardrooms to remote villages, we are united in the goal to achieve Tx2.
WWF Tx2 in numbers

- 13 tiger landscapes
- Covering over 1.5 million km² of tiger habitat

2009
- Working towards Tx2 since 2009

6,000+
- 6,000+ wild tigers by 2022 - the Tx2 goal

WWF Mission
To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Tigers.panda.org