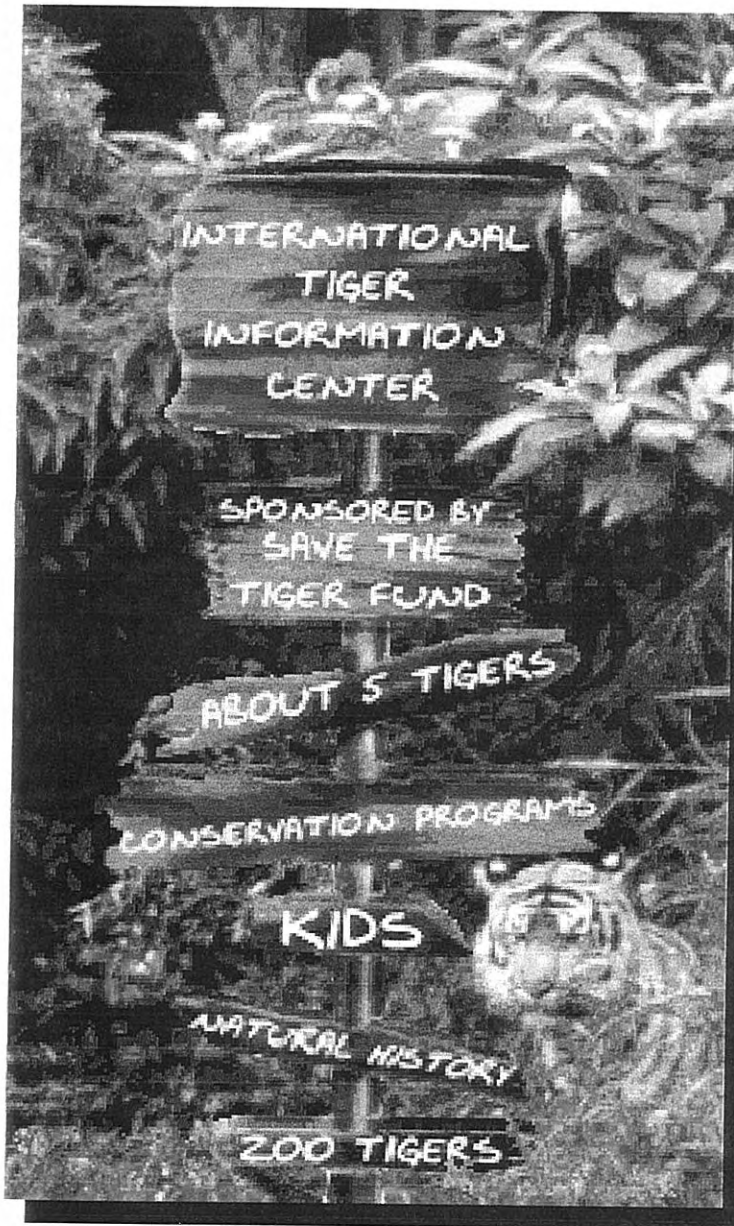


International Tiger Information Center



<http://www.5tigers.org>

1-800-5TIGERS



Save the Tiger Fund



The International Tiger Information Center

is sponsored by

Save the Tiger Fund

a joint effort of Exxon Corporation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
to generate awareness and raise funds for the tiger's fight for survival.

The International Tiger Information Center is located in the Conservation Department of the Minnesota Zoo at 13000 Zoo Boulevard in Apple Valley, Minnesota, 55124. It is staffed by

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Estimates of numbers of wild tigers used by the Tiger Information Center are derived from *Wanted Alive! Tigers in the Wild*, 1994, a WWF Status Report compiled in part by P. Jackson, Chairman, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group. Estimates of numbers of zoo tigers were derived from the IUCN CBSG 1992 *Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan*, the 1994 *International Tiger Studbook*, and the 1995 Indonesian, Thai, and Chinese tiger master plans, which are currently in press.

12 October 1995

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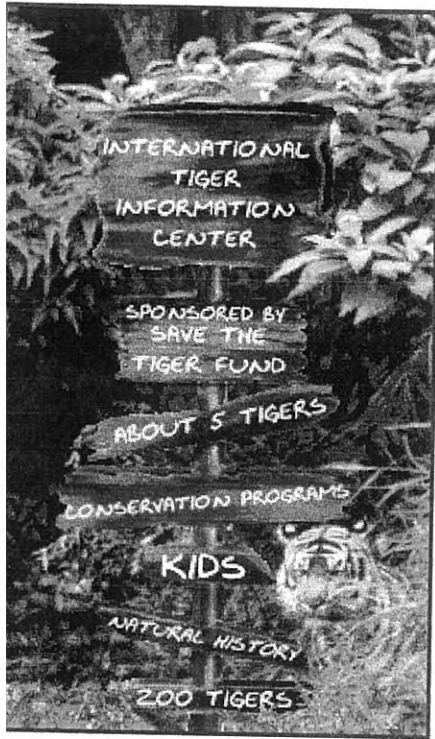
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WELCOME TO 5 TIGERS



Welcome to the [5 Tigers](#) Web site sponsored by [Save the Tiger Fund](#). Why 5 Tigers? As recently as 55 years ago, 8 tiger subspecies prowled the forests of Asia. Today there are only 5 subspecies left, and their numbers continue to decline. The [International Tiger Information Center](#) is dedicated to providing information to help preserve the remaining tigers. This site is just one part of a much larger effort to ensure a future for these endangered animals.

To learn more about tiger [natural history](#), [zoo tigers](#), and the [conservation programs](#) designed to protect them, click on the sign post.

Be sure to visit our [Kids page](#).

Accurate and up-to-date information is vital to making good decisions. Information concerning tigers and their habitat is changing every day. This WEB Site and the 1-800-5tigers information line were created to provide the public, scientific, and conservation communities with an international forum for exchanging information relevant to the preservation of wild tigers across Asia and in zoos worldwide.

In an effort to keep the public informed this Web site is continually under development. We welcome any comments or information to be included.

This web site was created by staff of the Minnesota Zoo's Conservation Department.

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SAVE THE TIGER FUND

What Is The Save The Tiger Fund ?



joint and unprecedented effort by Exxon Corporation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will help generate awareness and raise funds for tigers' fight for survival.

What Does The Save The Tiger Fund Do?

Created by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Save The Tiger Fund provides an independent vehicle for public contributions to support ongoing international research projects and public education programs to save tigers from extinction. Donations will be used to fund projects that will help stabilize and improve tiger populations in the wild; support habitat protection; enhance conservation breeding programs in zoos, particularly in the U.S., Europe and Australia; and educate the public on the need for tiger conservation, and involve the public in that effort.

Who Will Oversee The Save The Tiger Fund ?

An independent council including several of the world's leading zoologists, conservationists and tiger authorities. Council members include:

Mr. Amos S. Eno

Executive Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Mr. Sydney J. Butler

Executive Director of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association

Mr. Mohd Khan bin Momin Khan

Chairman, Species Survival Commission, Asian Rhino Specialist Group
IUCN - World Conservation Union, Malaysia

Dr. Ulysses S. Seal

Chairman, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
IUCN - World Conservation Union

Dr. John Seidensticker

Curator of Mammals, National Zoological Park
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lee G. Simmons

Director of the Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha

Mr. Marshall P. Jones, Jr.

Assistant Director, International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Edward F. Ahnert

President of the Exxon Education Foundation

Why Is There A Need For The Save The Tiger Fund ?

Tigers have never been in greater danger of becoming extinct. Only five of eight subspecies remain in the world. Unless extraordinary conservation measures are taken, the tiger's continued existence in the wild is in serious jeopardy.

What Is Exxon's Involvement With The Save The Tiger Fund ?

Exxon has been involved in a worldwide tiger conservation effort for the past five years, providing grants to U.S. and international programs. The company has provided the funding to launch the Save The Tiger Fund, and will be contributing this year to fund U.S. and international tiger conservation programs. Exxon has made a commitment of \$1 million per year for five years to save the tiger.

How Does One Contribute To The Save The Tiger Fund, And/Or Obtain More Information?

For more information and to contribute to the Save The Tiger Fund, contact:

Save The Tiger Fund

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 857-0166

For general information about tigers, call the
Tiger Information Center at 1-800-5-TIGERS.



Today only about 5,000-7,400 wild tigers live across Asia. The past and present ranges of the remaining five tiger subspecies are illustrated. The northernmost living tiger, the Siberian tiger, lives primarily in southeastern Russia. The South China tiger occurs only in southern China. The range of the Indochinese tiger extends across most of Southeast Asia. The Bengal tiger is found primarily in India, while the Sumatran tiger is restricted to the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The Bali, Caspian, and Javan tigers have become extinct in the past 70 years.



SIBERIAN TIGER

Panthera tigris altaica

The Siberian or Amur tiger lives primarily in eastern Russia, and a few are found in northeastern China and northern North Korea. It is estimated that 150–200 Siberian tigers still exist in the wild. About 490 captive Siberian tigers are managed in zoo conservation programs.



SOUTH CHINA TIGER

Panthera tigris amoyensis

The South China tiger is the most critically endangered of all tiger subspecies. Found in central and eastern China, it is estimated that only 30 to 80 South China tigers still exist in the wild. Currently 48 South China tigers live in 19 zoos, all in China.



INDOCHINESE TIGER

Panthera tigris corbetti

The distribution of the Indochinese tiger is centered in Thailand, and it is also found in Myanmar, southern China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and peninsular Malaysia. An estimated 1,050-1,750 Indochinese tigers are left in the wild, and about 60 live in zoos in Asia and the U.S.A.



BENGAL TIGER

Panthera tigris tigris

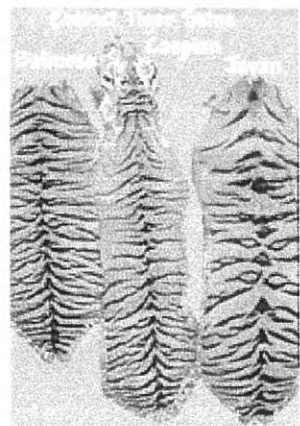
Most Bengal tigers live in India, and some range through Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar. The estimated wild population is approximately 3,250-4,700 tigers, with about 333 in captivity, primarily in zoos in India. White tigers are simply a color variant of Bengal tigers and are rarely found in the wild.



SUMATRAN TIGER

Panthera tigris sumatrae

The Sumatran tiger is found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. About 400-500 wild Sumatran tigers are believed to exist, primarily in the island's five national parks. Another 235 Sumatran tigers live in zoos around the world.



EXTINCT TIGERS

Three tiger subspecies are considered to have become extinct in the past 70 years. The Bali tiger, *Panthera tigris balica*, once lived on Bali, where the last tiger was believed to have been killed in 1937. The Caspian tiger, *Panthera tigris virgata*, once ranged in Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Mongolia, and the Central Asiatic area of Russia and probably went extinct in the 1950s. The Javan tiger, *Panthera tigris sondaica*, formerly ranged on the Indonesian island of Java and was last seen in 1972.



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Tigers are an endangered species and their decline in the wild is of global concern. The main threats to tigers are habitat destruction, poaching of tigers and their prey, and fragmented populations. There are many organizations around the world that are trying to help tigers. These groups focus on protecting tiger habitat and conducting field programs, educating the public, and legislating international agreements. Zoos play a major role in tiger conservation through their captive management and education programs.





THREATS TO TIGERS

Across all of Asia, once vast forests have fallen for timber or conversion to agriculture. What is left are small islands of forest surrounded by a growing and relatively poor human population. They collect firewood from the forests. Their livestock graze to the forest edges, and common tiger prey—wild pigs and deer—are shot, poisoned or snared for food by poachers. Worse yet, bones and other tiger body parts used in Chinese folk medicine now command premium prices on the international black market, and poachers now poison waterholes or set steel wire snares to kill tigers.

Forestry and wildlife departments are too understaffed and underbudgeted to be effective against this onslaught. Conservation efforts that emphasize increased protection for large felids like tigers have failed or are failing across all of Asia. Simply put, tigers are disappearing in the wild. If we continue to maintain the status quo, then we run the risk of losing all wild tigers.

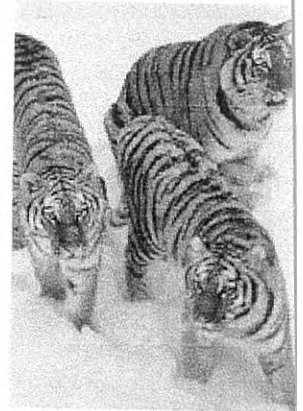
FIELD PROJECTS

Current knowledge of tigers is derived almost exclusively from a single long-term study of Bengal tigers in Nepal in one of the most prey-rich habitats of Asia with the highest known density of tigers. Another Bengal tiger field study being conducted in Nagarahole National Park of southern India is also in a prey-rich area. Field studies in Russia and Indonesia are designed in part to answer questions about tiger ecology in quite different habitats and how these factors relate to the viability of wild tiger populations. Other information that we lack about tigers, and what is critical to their long-term survival in the wild, includes needs of humans and tigers for forest resources, conflict resolution when these needs overlap, and human attitudes towards local conservation. We are vague on how either poaching or official removal of tigers from forests impacts wild populations; yet, this is a critical issue regarding tiger viability. We need models of human growth trends in villages adjacent to tiger sanctuaries and how they will impact forest resources in the future. We need new concepts in the study of wild tiger populations to answer these questions while there are still sufficient numbers of tigers in the wild to conduct the studies. Some projects currently underway are:

-  [Siberian Tiger Project](#)
-  [Sumatran Tiger Project](#)

SIBERIAN TIGER PROJECT

The Russian-American Siberian Tiger Project combines the skills of researchers from the Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve with researchers from the Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute based at the University of Idaho. Their project, now in its fourth year of following the movements and activities of radio-collared tigers throughout the year will provide critical insights on how to better conserve tigers and their habitat. They are working on organizing small but effective anti-poaching teams to combat further loss of tigers. They are also encouraging the maintenance of a controlled harvest of forest products with the construction of a model mill to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices. During the next few years they will assess the reserve system of the Russian Far East through a large-scale landscape approach, looking at each reserve, the types of nearby land use, and the connectivity between reserves. Other facets of their integrated approach to tiger conservation include the development of conservation programs for local school children and the expansion of protected habitat through land purchasing.



SUMATRAN TIGER PROJECT

The Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Project is a collaborative study involving the Indonesian Department of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA), Taman Safari Indonesia, and the IUCN/SSC CBSG Tiger GASP. It was initiated in the summer of 1995 in Way Kambas National Park in South Sumatra. This long-term field study is designed to develop a cost-effective field censusing system for wild tigers using ground-based census counts, remote camera census, and radiotelemetry that can be modified and used as a model for long-term population monitoring in Way Kambas and other protected areas. Researchers will establish a set of life history characteristics that will be critical in developing effective interactive management strategies for wild populations. Another facet will establish a community-based education program to decrease tension in human-tiger interactions and allocate forest resources equitably. Such studies will bring a heightened awareness of problems in tiger conservation and thus serve a valuable public relations function at local, national, and international levels, which will attract funds and political action. A final effort will be to train university and PHPA counterparts to become future conservation leaders, particularly for tigers, in Indonesia.

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KIDS STUFF


Tigers are the biggest cats in the world. They live in steamy hot jungles as well as icy cold forests. There are five different kinds or subspecies of tiger alive in the world today. These tigers are called Siberian, South China, Indochinese, Bengal, and Sumatran. Their Latin name is *Panthera tigris*. Tigers are an endangered species; only about 5,000 to 7,400 tigers are left in the wild. Three tiger subspecies, the Bali, Javan, and Caspian tigers have gone extinct in the past 70 years. *Cool Facts About Tigers*


 Where do tigers live?


 What do tigers eat?


 How do tigers catch their food?


 How long is a tiger's tail?

 What sounds do tigers make?

 Why do tigers have stripes?

 When are tigers active?

 Do different kinds of tigers look different?

 Why are tigers endangered?



Kids Art Gallery

Where do tigers live?

Tigers live in a place called Asia, in many kinds of areas, like rain forests, edges of grasslands, and even swamps. Siberian tigers live the farthest north of any subspecies, in forests much like those in Minnesota. Sumatran tigers live the farthest south in the steamy jungles of Indonesia. Tigers like areas where forest and grassland are next to each other because it makes it easy for them to sneak up on the animals that they like to eat, like wild cattle, deer, and pigs.

What do tigers eat?

Tigers love meat. Their favorite meals are animals like wild cattle, deer, and pigs. It's hard work to catch these animals, so tigers don't get to eat everyday. When they do make a kill, they stuff themselves, eating as much as 40 pounds in a single day. To keep tigers in zoos from getting too fat, they are put on a diet of about 10 pounds of meat a day.

How do tigers hunt?

Tigers ambush their prey. They lie in wait or sneak up on their prey, getting as close as they can, and then jump out and bite the animal's neck or throat. The neck bite cuts the animal's spinal cord, and is usually used on small animals like pigs and little deer. The throat bite, used on much larger animals like wild cattle and large deer, causes the animal to stop breathing.

How long is a tiger's tail?

A tiger's tail is 3 to 4 feet long, about half as long as its body. Tigers use their tails for balance when running through fast turns, and for communicating with other tigers. When tigers are feeling relaxed their tails are relaxed. When they meet a friendly tiger their tails are upright and move slowly back and forth. When tigers are excited, their tails swish back and forth. A lowered twitching tail means that a tiger is mad.

What sounds do tigers make?

Tigers don't purr like your pet cat, they ROAR (.wav file 28K). They make different sounds to talk to each other. They use a greeting call to say hello, and a locating roar to find each other in the forest. When mad, they make a loud angry growl and sometimes a very loud roar.

Why are tigers striped?

No one knows exactly why tigers are striped, but scientists think that stripes act as a kind of camouflage so tigers can sneak up close to their prey. All tigers have stripes, and some have more than others. Sumatran tigers have many thin dark stripes, while the stripes of Siberian tigers are broader and lighter. All the other tigers are somewhere in between. Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints, no two tigers have the same pattern.

When are tigers active?

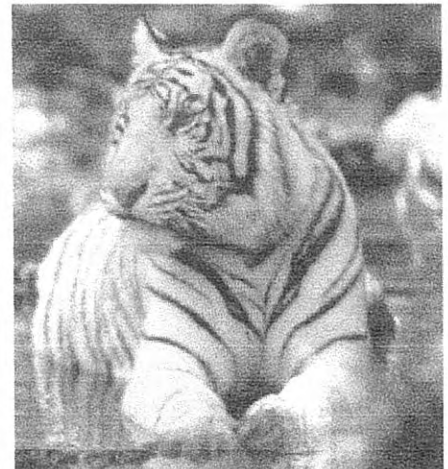
Most tigers are active at night and do a lot of their hunting in the dark. They have specialized eyes that help them to see in dim light. Tigers can see things in the dark six times better than a person can! They can also see in color.

Do all tigers look alike?

Most tigers have an orange coat with dark brown or black stripes accented with white. However, there are differences in the subspecies. Tigers that live in cold climates are bigger with lighter and thicker fur than tigers that live in warm climates. Siberian tigers are giants in the tiger world, weighing up to 600 or 700 pounds. The smallest are Sumatran tigers, which weigh 200-250 pounds. Male tigers are bigger than female tigers. Some tigers are white.

White tigers

White tigers are just white-colored Bengal tigers, they are not a separate subspecies of tiger, and they are not albinos. They have blue eyes, a pink nose, and creamy white fur with chocolate colored stripes. White tigers are only born when two tigers that both carry the unusual gene for white coloring mate. Wild white tigers are very rare, and today they can only be seen in zoos.



Why are tigers endangered?

Tigers are an endangered species. A hundred years ago there were hundreds of thousands of tigers. Today only 5,000-7,400 wild tigers remain. The South China tiger, with only 30 to 80 left in the wild, is the closest to extinction. Both Siberian and Sumatran tigers number in the low hundreds, and the Indochinese tiger numbers 1,500. The Bengal tiger, numbering around 3,000 to 4,700, is the most numerous. All of these tigers face the same problems. There are fewer places for tigers to safely live in, and they can't visit their friends living in other forests. The food that they need to live on is becoming hard to find, and they have to be very careful not to get caught in a traps or eat poisoned food set by poachers.

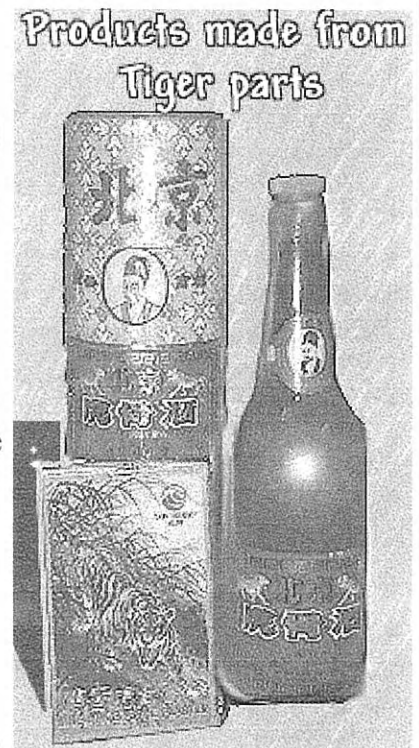
There are many organizations around the world that are trying to help tigers. Some groups focus on protecting the tiger's home and educating people so that they will not try to kill tigers. Others study tigers to better understand how they live in their forest. Zoos also play a role in tiger conservation.

Problems

Poaching: Even though it is illegal to kill a tiger, wild tigers are still being poached today because their bones, whiskers and other body parts can be sold on the black market for a lot of money. Tiger parts are used in Chinese folk medicine because some people believe that the tiger has special powers.

Habitat destruction: Habitat destruction means that as the world's population grows, the forests that tigers need to live in are being cut down so that people can use the wood, and grow crops. When this happens tigers and humans are forced to live closer and closer together. This is dangerous for both tigers and humans. There is less food and space for tigers, so they begin to prey on livestock, and sometimes people. People then feel that they must kill tigers to protect themselves and their livestock.

Fragmented population: When human populations move farther into the forest, groups of tigers become separated from each other by villages and farms. This means that tigers in one area can no longer mate with tigers nearby. Instead, they must breed with the same tigers, and the cubs of those tigers, over and over. This is called inbreeding, and means that no new genes enter the population. Over time, inbreeding weakens the gene pool, and tigers are born with birth defects and mutations. The same thing happens over time when tigers are killed. As the tiger population gets smaller, there is more and more inbreeding.



KID'S GALLERY

Joshua Michael Roodell; 3rd grade



Laura Holzer; age 11



Christopher Alden; age 9



NATURAL HISTORY

protect tigers and their habitat.

The tiger's appearance is unmistakable. It is the largest member of the cat family and is the only wild felid with stripes. Unlike lions, who live in social groups, tigers are basically solitary. They inhabit a wide range of habitats, from the snow-covered forests of Siberia to the steamy jungles of Sumatra. The more we understand about the behavior and ecology of wild tigers, the better we can

TIGER FACTS

- 🐾 *Weight:* Siberian tigers are the heaviest subspecies at 500 or more pounds (225 kg), with males heavier than females. The lightest subspecies is the Sumatran; males weigh about 250 pounds (110 kg) and females around 200 pounds (90 kg).
- 🐾 *Measurements:* Depending on the subspecies, the head-body length of a tiger is about 4½ to 9 feet (1.4-2.8 m). The length of the tail is 3 to 4 feet (90-120 cm). The foot pads vary in size with age, resulting in inaccurate estimates when used in censusing wild populations.
- 🐾 *Eyes:* Tigers have round pupils and yellow irises (except for the blue eyes of white tigers). Due to a retinal adaptation that reflects light back to the retina, the night vision of tigers is six times better than that of humans.
- 🐾 *Claws:* Like domestic cats, tiger claws are retractable. Tiger scratches on trees serve as territorial markers.
- 🐾 *Stripes:* No one knows exactly why tigers are striped, but scientists think that the stripes act as camouflage, and help tigers hide from their prey. The Sumatran tiger has the most stripes of all the tiger subspecies, and the Siberian tiger has the fewest stripes. Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints; no two tigers have the same pattern of stripes.
- 🐾 *Life span:* The life span of tigers in the wild is thought to be about 10 years. Tigers in zoos live twice as long.
- 🐾 *Cubs:* Tiger cubs are born blind and weigh only about 2 to 3 pounds (1 kg), depending on the subspecies. They live on milk for 6-8 weeks before the female begins taking them to kills to feed. Tigers have fully developed canines by 16 months of age, but they do not begin making their own kills until about 18 months of age.



TIGER BEHAVIOR & ECOLOGY

- *Social Behavior*
- *Mating & Cubs*
- *Hunting*
- *Man-eaters*

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Adult tigers are solitary animals that establish their territories in areas with enough prey, cover and water to support them. The difficulty of locating prey in tiger habitat makes it more efficient for tigers to hunt alone. As a result, they do not tend to form social groups like lions. A female tiger and her cubs are the exception to this, and will form a family group for 2 to 3 years, until the cubs are able to fend for themselves.

The territory of a tiger usually ranges in size from about 10 to 30 square miles (26-78 sq. km), although the territory of a Siberian tiger may be as large as 120 square miles (310 sq. km). The size of a tiger's territory depends on the amount of prey available. Tiger territories are not exclusive. Several tigers may follow the same trails at different times, and a male's territory usually overlaps those of several females.

Both male and female tigers spray bushes and trees along their route with a mixture of urine and scent gland secretions. This is a way of declaring their territory. They also leave scratch marks on trees, and urinate or leave droppings in prominent places.



MATING & CUBS



Female tigers reach maturity when they are about 3 years old, males a year or so later. In temperate climates, a tigress comes into estrus (heat) only seasonally; however in tropical climates, she may come into estrus throughout the year. She signals her readiness with scent markings and locating roars. The brief act of copulation occurs continually for a five day period. Tigers are induced ovulators, and must be stimulated through frequent copulation in order to become pregnant. To help stimulate ovulation, the male tiger's penis has spines. This explains in part why the female roars and lashes out at the male immediately following copulation.

Following mating, the gestation period for tigers is approximately 103 days. The average litter size of tigers is 2 or 3 cubs (the largest is 5). One usually dies at birth. Tiger cubs are born blind and weigh only about 2 to 3 pounds (1 kg), depending on the subspecies. They live on their mother's milk for 6-8 weeks before the female begins taking them to kills to feed. They begin making their own kills at about 18 months of age.

Young tigers leave their mother's range at anywhere from a year and a half to three years of age, depending on whether the mother has another litter. Females tend to stay closer to the mother's range than males.

HUNTING

Over much of the tiger's broad geographic range, wild pig, wild cattle and several species of deer are its major prey. All prey are forest or grassland ungulates that range in size from 65 to 2,000 pounds (30-900 kg). Tigers are ambush hunters, stalking their prey, approaching as closely as possible, and then charging the animal from behind. They usually bite the neck or throat of their prey. The neck-bite, which severs the spinal cord, is typically used on small or medium sized prey, while the throat bite, which causes suffocation, is used on larger animals.

After killing their prey, tigers drag the animal to a safe place, consuming it over the course of several days. Typically, wild tigers gorge themselves on fresh kills, and can eat as much as 60 pounds (27 kg) of meat at one time. Several days may pass before they are hungry enough to hunt again.

MAN-EATING TIGERS

Although tiger attacks on humans are unusual, they do occur. Because the Asian human population is increasing, farmers and loggers are beginning to use areas where tigers live. This causes increasing conflicts between tigers and human. It is thought that most tigers who eat humans are sick or injured and unable to kill their usual prey. Once they have acquired a taste for human beings, however, they will in all likelihood continue to kill them.

While man-eating tigers are a rarity in most parts of Asia, they are notorious in the Sunderbans, a 4,000 square mile (10,360 sq km) densely forested river delta area in India and Bangladesh that is the home of 250 tigers. No one lives in the mangrove forests and swamps of the Sunderbans; however people do enter to fish and gather wood and honey. The Sunderban tigers seem to have targeted humans as prey, and human casualties are reported every year.

Several different methods have been used to combat man-eating tigers in the Sunderbans. One method uses human dummies fitted with electric wires from car batteries which administer a shock when touched by a tiger, training tigers not to attack humans. Another method uses simple masks of human faces which are worn on the back of the head. This effectively made both sides of the wearer appear to be the front, deterring attacks from tigers which normally attack from behind. While this method seemed to work for several years, it appears that the Sunderban tigers have discovered the trick.



ZOO TIGERS

The purpose of captive management programs for tigers in the world's zoos is to reinforce, not replace, wild populations. These programs are a "genetic insurance policy" to serve as backups for the recovery or reinforcement of wild populations, which are currently too small and fragmented for long-term survival. Zoos provide the facilities and expertise to maintain small tiger populations that may be the last option against extinction. Zoos also play an important role in global education by providing their visitors (600,000,000 people each year) with the opportunity to view living tigers and learn more about them.

Scientific management of tiger pedigrees and cooperation is essential for the world's zoos to be effective in conserving tigers. North American zoos manage their tigers through the Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) coordinated by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). Similar programs for tigers in other countries are integrated globally through the Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP) coordinated by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG). These captive programs are also pursuing "frozen zoos" as an additional option to prevent the extinction of tigers.

TIGERS IN ZOOS

About 1,160 purebred tigers are managed in cooperative breeding programs in 300 zoos around the world.

490 Siberian tigers are managed in 155 zoos in Europe, Russia, North America and Japan.

48 South China tigers are managed in 19 zoos in China.

61 Indochinese tigers are managed in 14 zoos in Southeast Asia and North America.

333 Bengal tigers are managed in 20 zoos primarily in India.

235 Sumatran tigers are managed in 85 zoos in Indonesia, North America, Europe and Australasia.

TIGER PEDIGREES

To preserve healthy and pure genetic lines of tigers in captivity, zoos must know the background and pedigree of each tiger. Zoos around the world send records on over one million exotic animals to a central database maintained by the International Species Information System (ISIS). This enables zoo staff to develop studbooks, which trace the "family tree" of each tiger back to its ancestors from the wild. Studbooks aid managers in selecting the best tigers for breeding to preserve genetic diversity in the population and avoid inbreeding among relatives.

TIGER SSP

The Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) was the first SSP developed by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Over 90 zoos in North America are members of the Tiger SSP, which is coordinated by a Species Coordinator and Management Committee. By analyzing the growth trends and genetics of the captive tiger population, the Tiger SSP can recommend the best pairs of tigers for breeding to preserve genetic diversity and avoid inbreeding. The Tiger SSP also makes recommendations regarding tiger management practices and animal health procedures. Currently the Tiger SSP manages 151 Siberian, 60 Sumatran, and 10 Indochinese tigers.



TIGER GLOBAL ANIMAL SURVIVAL PLAN



Many regions of the world have developed cooperative management programs for zoo tigers similar to the Tiger SSP in North America. These include the European EEP, Indonesian PKBSI, Chinese CAZG, Thai ZPO, Japanese SSCJ, Australasian ASMP, and Indian IESBP. These programs are integrated on a global level through the IUCN/SSC CBSG Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP). The Tiger GASP ensures the efficient management of captive tiger populations to maximize their possible contribution to the conservation of wild tigers. Recent programs include the development of organized captive tiger programs for the Sumatran tiger in Indonesian zoos, the South China tiger in Chinese zoos, and the Indochinese tigers in Thai zoos. In addition, the Tiger GASP also supports programs focusing on wild tigers, such as field research, development of management strategies, and conservation education in local communities.

FROZEN ZOO

Captive tiger populations are managed to preserve genetic diversity which may someday be used to strengthen small, inbred wild tiger populations. It is now possible to preserve sperm and eggs from animals like tigers in liquid nitrogen, forming a "frozen zoo". This would preserve the genetic lines of animals long after their death. Assisted reproduction techniques are now being developed to use sperm (artificial insemination) or embryos (in vitro fertilization) to produce pregnancies.

Possible uses of these procedures include the exchange of genes between captive and wild tiger populations without capturing wild tigers for zoos or releasing captive tigers into the wild.



1-800-5-TIGERS Information Line (1-800-584-4377)

The 1-800 5TIGERS Information Line of the International Tiger Information Center is located at the Minnesota Zoo. It is supported by the Save The Tiger Fund, a special partnership between Exxon Corporation and the National Fish And Wildlife Foundation to help generate awareness and raise funds for the tiger's fight for survival.

[SCRIPT]

Hello and welcome to the new 1-800-5-Tigers line at the Tiger Information Center. The following recording provides you with a range of options to hear information about tigers. This system also allows you to have information sent directly to you by fax or mail.

TIGER INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WORLD WIDE WEB SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.5TIGERS.ORG](http://WWW.5TIGERS.ORG).

TO HEAR INFORMATION ON WHY WE'RE CALLED 5 TIGERS, PRESS 1.

FOR INFORMATION ON CONSERVATION ISSUES, PRESS 2.

TO LISTEN TO OUR KIDSLINE, PRESS 3.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE BEHAVIOR AND ECOLOGY OF WILD TIGERS, PRESS 4.

FOR INFORMATION ON TIGERS IN CAPTIVITY, PRESS 5.

TO FIND OUT WHERE TO SEND A DONATION TO THE SAVE THE TIGER FUND, PRESS 6.

TO HEAR A LIST OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FROM THE TIGER INFORMATION CENTER, PRESS 7.

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION BY FAX, PRESS THE NUMBER OF THE DOCUMENT DURING ANY PAUSE IN THE RECORDING OR PRESS 9 TO HAVE A LIST OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS FAXED TO YOU.

TO RETURN TO THIS MAIN MENU, PRESS STAR AT ANY TIME.

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO AN OPERATOR OR HAVE DOCUMENTS MAILED TO YOU, PRESS "0" FROM THIS MAIN MENU.

[Closing]

THANK YOU FOR CALLING THE TIGER INFORMATION CENTER.

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 1]

Why 5 tigers? As recently as 60 years ago, 8 subspecies of tiger roamed the earth. But today, only 5 of these subspecies remain, and their numbers continue to decline. There are 150 to 200 Siberian tigers in Russia, fewer than 30 to 80 South China tigers in China, about 1,000 to 1,800 Indochinese tigers in Thailand and neighboring countries, somewhere around 3,300 to 4,700 Bengal tigers in India, and 400 to 500 Sumatran tigers in Indonesia.

To receive a page that summarizes the distribution and status of the 5 tigers, request document 11.

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 2]

Tigers are an endangered species, and their decline in the wild is of global concern. All tigers are protected by an international trade agreement called CITES, which is enforced in the United States by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The main threats to tigers are poaching of tigers and their prey, habitat destruction, and fragmented populations. It is illegal to kill a tiger, but wild tigers are still poached today so their bones and other body parts can be sold on the black market for use in traditional Chinese medicine. As the world's population grows, the forests where tigers live are being cut down for fuel, timber, and cropland. This leaves less room for tigers and their prey, and the remaining forest patches isolate tigers into small populations. This leads to inbreeding among relatives that often causes birth defects and other health problems. All of these problems combine to threaten the tiger's survival.

There are many organizations around the world trying to help tigers. They focus on protecting tiger habitat, conducting field programs, educating the public, and legislating international agreements. Zoos play a major role in tiger conservation through their captive management and education programs.

For a list of conservation organizations, request document 221 and for a brief description of some tiger field projects, document 222. A bibliography of references on tiger conservation issues, request document 23. A complete list of documents is available by pressing 9.

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 3]

Hello Kids! Did you know that tigers are the biggest cats in the world—and they *don't* live in Africa.

Tigers live in Asia, in many different habitats, like rain forests, grassland edges, and even swamps. Siberian tigers live farthest north of any subspecies, in forests much like those in Minnesota. Sumatran tigers live farthest south in the steamy jungles of Indonesia. Tigers like areas where forest and grassland are next to each other, because it makes it easy for them to sneak up on their prey.

Scientists think stripes may make it more difficult to see an approaching tiger. All tigers have stripes, and some have more than others. Sumatran tigers have many thin dark stripes, while the stripes of Siberian tigers are broader and lighter. All the other tigers are somewhere in between. Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints—no two tigers have the same pattern.

Tigers don't purr like your pet cat, they ROAR. They make different sounds to talk to each other. They use a greeting call to say hello and a locating roar to find each other in the forest. When they are mad, they make a loud angry growl and sometimes a very loud roar.

Tigers are an endangered species. A hundred years ago there were about 100,000 tigers. Today only 5,000 to 7,400 wild tigers remain. All of these tigers face the same problems. People are cutting down forests for firewood, timber, and to make room for farmland. Few places for tigers and their prey are left, and they are far apart. Tigers also have to avoid traps and poisoned food set out by poachers.

More information on this subject is available in documents 36 and 37.

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 4]

Tigers inhabit a wide geographic range. Siberian tigers, which live in the cold forests of Russia, are the largest, weighing 500 pounds or more. Sumatran tigers, living in tropical forests, are the smallest, weighing 200 to 250 pounds.

Adult tigers are solitary animals that establish their territories in areas with enough prey, cover, and water to support them. The size of a tiger's territory depends on the amount of prey available, but in general, territory sizes range from about 10 to 30 square miles. Both male and female tigers spray bushes and trees with a mixture of urine and scent gland secretions to mark their territories.

Female tigers are only sexually receptive at certain times. Male tigers locate them by scent and vocalizations. They stay together for several days, mating frequently, and then they separate. After a gestation period of about 103 days, the female delivers 2 to 3 cubs weighing 2 to 3 pounds each. The cubs live with their mother for 1½ to 3 years, learning how to hunt and survive on their own.

Over much of the tiger's broad geographic range, wild pig, wild cattle, and several species of deer are its major prey. Tigers are ambush hunters. They charge from behind, usually biting the neck or throat. After the kill, tigers drag the carcass to a safe place, where they will eat it over the course of several days. Typically, wild tigers gorge themselves on fresh kills. They can eat as much as 60 pounds of meat at one time, and then may wait several days before hunting again.

To have a bibliography of references concerning tiger behavior and ecology, request document 44.

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 5]

About 1,160 purebred tigers are managed in cooperative breeding programs in 300 zoos around the world. Captive tiger programs are designed to reinforce wild tiger populations, not replace them. These programs are a "genetic insurance policy" to serve as backups for wild populations, which are currently too small and fragmented for long-term survival. This begins with the development of a studbook which contains the pedigree of every tiger back to its wild ancestors. North American zoos manage their tigers through the Tiger Species Survival Plan, or SSP, which is coordinated by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Similar programs for tigers in other countries are integrated globally through the Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan, or GASP, which is coordinated by the IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.

Another important role of zoos is educating more than 600 million zoo visitors each year by providing them with the opportunity to view living tigers and learn more about them.

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 6]

If you would like to make a donation to the Save the Tiger Fund, send it to

Save the Tiger Fund
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Department 0642
Washington, DC 20073-0642

For more information on the Fund, please call

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation at 202-857-0166

[CALLER HAS PRESSED 7]

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS CAN BE FAXED OR MAILED TO YOU:

For information about 5 tigers, request Document 11.

For a bibliography on Tiger Conservation and Status, request Document 23.

For information on the Siberian tiger, request Document 211.

For information on the South China tiger, request Document 212.

For information on the Indochinese tiger, request Document 213.

For information on the Bengal tiger, request Document 214.

For information on the Sumatran tiger, request Document 215.

For information on Conservation Organizations, request Document 221.

For information on Field Research Projects request Document 222.

For the Kids Page, request Document 36.

For information on Kids' Books About Tigers, request Document 37.

For a Bibliography on Tiger Ecology and Behavior, request Document 44.

For information on Zoo Tigers request Document 51

[voice mail message, heard if caller has tried to speak to the Tiger Information Center operator, but the operator is with another caller]

Hello you've reached the 1-800 5tigers line . We're not available to take your call right now. If you would like us to return your call please leave your name and number. If you would like to request documents, please leave your address and a list of the documents you would like to receive. Our tiger specialists are available from 8:30 to 4:30 central standard time.

Document 9: Documents Available from the Tiger Information Center as of 12 October 1995

Document 11: About 5 Tigers (1 page)

Summary information on the range and numbers of all tiger subspecies.

Document 23: Bibliography on Tiger Conservation and Status (1 page)

List of 20 references related to tiger conservation and numbers in the wild.

Document 211: Siberian Tiger (1 page)

Information on the status of wild and captive Siberian tigers.

Document 212: South China Tiger (1 page)

Information on the status of wild and captive South China tigers.

Document 213: Indochinese Tiger (2 pages)

Information on the status of wild and captive Indochinese tigers.

Document 214: Bengal Tiger (1 page)

Information on the status of wild and captive Bengal tigers.

Document 215: Sumatran Tiger (1 page)

Information on the status of wild and captive Sumatran tigers.

Document 221: Conservation Organizations (2 pages)

A list of organizations that have programs on tigers, their addresses, phone and fax numbers

Document 222: Field Research Projects (1 page)

A summary of two current field studies on tigers

Document 36: Kids Page (2 pages)

Answers to nine commonly asked questions about tigers.

Document 37: Kids' Books About Tigers (2 pages)

List of 16 children's books about tigers along with brief description of each.

Document 44: Bibliography on Tiger Ecology and Behavior (1 page)

List of 18 references related to natural history information for wild tigers.

Document 51: Zoo Tigers (2 pages)

The role of zoos in tiger conservation, tiger pedigrees, numbers of tigers in zoos, Tiger Species Survival Plan, Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan

Document 60: Save the Tiger Fund Fact Sheet

Summary information and how you can contribute to the Save the Tiger Fund.

Document 11

About 5 Tigers

In 1994, the IUCN Cat Specialist Group reported that only 5,000–7,400 wild tigers now live across Asia. They are divided into five subspecies: the Bengal tiger in India, the Indochinese tiger in Southeast Asia, the Sumatran tiger in Indonesia, the Siberian tiger in Russia, and the South China tiger in China. Three other tiger subspecies, the Bali tiger, the Javan tiger and the Caspian tiger, have gone extinct in the past 70 years.

Bengal Tiger, *Panthera tigris tigris*

The Bengal or Indian tiger lives in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar. In 1994 the Cat Specialist Group estimated that the wild population is approximately 3,250–4,700 tigers. The 1994 International Tiger Studbook lists 333 Bengal tigers in captivity, primarily in zoos in India. White tigers are simply a color variant of Bengal tigers and are rarely found in the wild.

Indochinese Tiger, *Panthera tigris corbetti*

The Indochinese tiger is found in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, southern China, Myanmar, and peninsular Malaysia. As of 1994, the Cat Specialist Group estimated 1,050–1,750 Indochinese tigers left in the wild. As of 1995, the CBSG Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP) estimated about 60 Indochinese tigers live in zoos in Asia and the United States.

Sumatran Tiger, *Panthera tigris sumatrae*

The Sumatran tiger is found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. In 1992 the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry reported that about 400–500 wild Sumatran tigers are believed to exist, primarily in the island's five national parks. Another 235 Sumatran tigers live in zoos around the world according to the 1995 Tiger GASP.

Siberian Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*

The Siberian or Amur tiger lives primarily in eastern Russia, with remnant populations in northeastern China and northern North Korea. The Cat Specialist Group estimated that only 150–200 Siberian tigers still exist in the wild as of 1994. About 490 captive Siberian tigers are managed in zoo conservation programs through the CBSG Tiger GASP.

South China Tiger, *Panthera tigris amoyensis*

The South China tiger is the most critically endangered of all tiger subspecies. The Cat Specialist Group estimates that only 30 to 80 South China tigers still exist in the wild in central and eastern China. In 1995, an unconfirmed Chinese Ministry of Forestry report indicated that perhaps fewer than 20 tigers remain. According to the 1995 South China Tiger Studbook 48 South China tigers live in 19 zoos, all in China.

Extinct Tigers

Three tiger subspecies have gone extinct in the past 70 years. The Javan tiger, *Panthera tigris sondaica*, formerly ranged on Java and was declared extinct in the 1980s. The Bali tiger, *Panthera tigris balica*, once lived on Bali, where the last tiger was killed in 1937. The Caspian tiger, *Panthera tigris virgata*, once ranged in Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran and the Central Asiatic area of Russia, and was extinct by the 1970s.

Document 211

Siberian Tiger—*Panthera tigris altaica**Wild Tigers: Russia and China*

Russia. In this century, the Siberian tiger (sometimes called the Amur, Manchurian, or Northeast China tiger), has survived four wars, two revolutions, and now an onslaught on its forests. Its IUCN status is considered Critical, its numbers in the wild fluctuating from a low of 24 tigers in the 1940s to IUCN estimates of about 150 to 200 in 1994. There are three protected areas for tigers in Russia—the Sikhote-Alin (3,470 km²), Lazovsky (1,165 km²), and Kedrovaya Pad (178 km²) Reserves—inland from the Sea of Japan in the Russian Far East.

China. Sightings of Siberian tigers in Changbaishan, near the Chinese border with North Korea, were reported in Chinese newspapers in 1990, and some are still found along the Russian border. The Cat Specialist Group suggests that there are probably fewer than 50 Siberian tigers in China. Regardless of their authenticity, it is the tigers in Russia that will define the future of the subspecies. The other sites are too small to harbor tiger populations large enough for long-term viability.

The survival of wild Siberian tigers will be linked to securing and enlarging their current habitat and protecting them from poachers. The Law of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection and Management of 1992 gave the Siberian tiger legal protection. Despite this, poaching has received considerable attention in the press, but the reports are rife with rumors. Authorities admit that the killing of tigers is a new enterprise, in part arising from an unstable and worsening economic situation for most people, open borders to China and Korea, and a demand for tiger body parts for traditional Chinese medicine. Many agencies and organizations are promoting efforts to assist Russia in stopping the poaching on tigers and their prey, the marketing of their skins and bones, and the loss of available habitat.

Zoo Tigers

The captive program for Siberian tigers is the largest and longest managed program for any of the subspecies. The Siberian tiger served as one of the models for the creation of scientifically managed programs for species in captivity in zoos and aquariums worldwide. According to the 1994 International Tiger Studbook there are about 490 Siberian tigers managed in zoos: 226 in Europe, 151 in North America, 93 in Japan, and about 20 more scattered among Asian zoos. This captive population is descended from 83 wild-caught founders. For the most part, the Siberian tiger is considered secure in captivity, with a large, genetically diverse and stable population.

Document 212

South China Tiger— *Panthera tigris amoyensis***Wild Tigers: China**

China is unique among tiger range countries because four of the surviving tiger subspecies at one time lived within its borders: the Siberian tiger in the far northeast bordering Russia and North Korea; the South China tiger (which is considered the evolutionary antecedent of all tigers) in the central parts of China; and the Indochinese and Bengal tigers in the far south bordering Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Assam (India). The tiger is a favorite subject of Chinese artists, depicted as fierce and powerful.

The current status of wild South China tigers is vague. Only 40 years ago there were reputed to be more than 4,000 tigers, but the government declared them pests, and they were hunted mercilessly. A 1987 field survey by Chinese scientists reported a few tigers remaining in the Guangdong mountains bordering Hunan and Jiangxi, and another survey in 1990 noted evidence of about a dozen tigers in 11 reserves in the remote mountains of Guangdong, Hunan, and Fujian Provinces of South China. No tigers were seen. The only sightings were anecdotal stories from old hunters who had quit the business (or so they said). A 1995 unconfirmed report from the Ministry of Forestry suggests that the wild population is fewer than 20 individuals.

The current situation is that no wild tigers have been seen anywhere by Chinese officials for more than 20 years. The Chinese Ministry of Forestry lists 21 reserves within the presumed range of the tiger, and Chinese specialists believe between 30 and 80 tigers are still left in the wild. The last time a wild tiger was seen in the wild was 10 years ago. These facts suggest that the South China tiger is the rarest of the five living tiger subspecies, the most threatened, and the closest to extinction.

Zoo Tigers

According to the 1995 *South China Tiger Studbook* the captive population of 48 South China tigers is confined to 19 Chinese zoos. They are descended from only six wild-caught tigers (about 120 tigers descended from 30 wild-caught tigers would be closer to the ideal). The last time that a wild tiger was brought into captivity was 20 years ago. The situation for the future does not look good.

Conservation Action

To counter these disturbing trends, China has made some valiant efforts. It joined CITES in 1981 and passed the Wild Animal Protection Law of the People's Republic of China in 1988. This year the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens, under the Ministry of Construction, invited the IUCN's Tiger GASP team to evaluate their tiger husbandry and medical management procedures, to verify origin and parentage of each tiger, and to perform a population management analysis at a masterplan workshop. Two significant outcomes were a *South China Tiger Studbook* and a *South China Tiger Masterplan*. Additional plans are to meet with the Ministry of Forestry and to further define the status and threats to wild populations using a computer-based landscape analysis (GIS) and to draft an Action Plan on what might be done to secure wild tigers for the future.

Document 213

Indochinese Tiger-*Panthera tigris corbetti***Wild Tigers: Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysia**

The status of wild populations of the Indochinese tiger is relatively unknown. This is mostly due to its very broad distribution across most of Indochina, which includes southern China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia, and eastern Myanmar. In these countries, tigers live in remote forests in hilly to mountainous terrain, most of which occurs along boundaries with neighboring countries. Access to these areas is often restricted, and biologists have only recently been granted limited permits for field surveys. According to the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, as of 1994 there were 1,050 to 1,750 Indochinese tigers in the wild.

Thailand. In Thailand, the center of the Indochinese tiger's range, a 1990 survey reports that about 250 tigers were still left, while Thai Royal Forest Department (RFD) officials suggest an estimate of 600 tigers. Many of these tiger populations are subject to encroachment, fragmentation, and isolation; conditions which lead to even fewer tigers. To Thailand's credit, eight interconnected forest areas larger than 2,000 km² are currently maintained; one is larger than 12,000 km², making it one of the largest contiguous habitats for tigers in Southeast Asia. The RFD is currently making a country-wide assessment of all protected areas using Geographic Information System (GIS) to more accurately assess the extent of tiger populations and available habitat.

Lao PDR. The status of the Indochinese tiger in Lao PDR (formerly Laos) is unclear, because only recently has a protected areas system been established. Most of these areas exist only on paper, and they have yet to be staffed. In 1992, the first general surveys of these areas were initiated by the Lao Wildlife Department. Tigers were reported to occur in at least 17 sites, but definite signs of tigers were only found in four of the five larger sites, and then only occasionally. Also disturbing was the near absence of common tiger prey in all of the sites. Most lowland forest is gone, restricting tigers to prey-poor upland forests. Illegal trafficking in wildlife is well documented, and poaching is considered to be heavy. The Lao Wildlife Department considers its tiger populations to be declining. These observations suggest a bleak future for Indochinese tigers in Lao PDR.

Cambodia. The status of Indochinese tigers in Cambodia is even less precise. The Cambodian Wildlife Department is virtually nonexistent, trafficking and poaching are reputed to be heavy, and no zoos are established. According to the Cat Specialist Group, there are probably 100 to 200 tigers in Cambodia. Until better information is available, the tiger's future must be considered bleak too.

Myanmar. Under the Wildlife Conservation and Sanctuaries Division of the Forestry Department of Myanmar (formerly called Burma), a Protected Areas System of 16 Wildlife Sanctuaries and five National Parks was established in 1981. Today 40% of the country is still covered with closed forest. The Ayeyarwaddy River, which separates the Indochinese and Bengal tiger subspecies, flows from the north to the south through the middle of Myanmar. Fifteen years ago estimates placed about 3,000 tigers in Myanmar, half of these Indochinese. Despite these optimistic numbers, the general consensus of field biologists who have made brief forays to several protected areas suggests that current tiger numbers are dramatically lower. Like Lao PDR and Cambodia, trafficking and poaching are heavy. The Government of Myanmar is seeking ways to improve the situation for tigers. Wildlife and Protected Areas legislation was enacted in June 1992, placing the tiger in the Completely Protected category of their Protected Species List. They have also drafted a comprehensive Tiger Conservation Action Plan.

Vietnam. According to the Ministry of Forestry in Vietnam, the Indochinese tiger is found in 24 of the 87 established Nature Reserves and National Parks. Some reserves are quite large, and a comprehensive interview census is currently underway to establish tiger numbers. In 1994 the Cat Specialist Group reported an estimated 200-300 tigers were living in seven Nature Reserves. Poaching is ongoing, and tiger skins, teeth, and bones can be readily purchased in major cities. Officials admit that tiger populations are declining in Vietnam.

Save the Tiger Fund is a joint effort of Exxon Corporation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Tiger Information Center is located at the Minnesota Zoo, 13000 Zoo Blvd., Apple Valley, MN 55124, directed by Ron Tilson, IUCN/SSC CBSG Tiger GASP coordinator (tel 612-431-9267, fax 612-431-9452).

Malaysia. Under the Protection of Wildlife Act, the Indochinese tiger in Malaysia has been designated a totally protected species since 1976. At that time, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks estimated that some 300 tigers were found on the Peninsula; its numbers have now increased to about 520 individuals in about 10 existing sites, and possibly as high as 600–650 if restricted access security sites are included. Most of these sites are quite small, and the resident tiger populations may be too small to be considered viable. The existing protected system area of Malaysia is over 1.1 million hectares, and another 2 million hectares could be considered tiger habitat. Unlike elsewhere in Asia, Malaysia has been very effective in reducing poaching. They estimate the rate has decreased from about 19 tigers per year (during 1972–1976) to one tiger per year. Malaysia is interested in establishing two transborder reserves with Thailand, where some 40 tigers are believed to occur.

Zoo Tigers

In July 1995 the Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand (ZPO) held a masterplan meeting to develop a captive management program for Indochinese tigers in Thai zoos. Participants from zoos and wildlife agencies in Malaysia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Singapore assisted at the meeting in the analysis of the origin of captive tigers, the role of Thai and other Asian zoos in supporting the conservation of wild tigers, and the development of a *ZPO Indochinese Tiger Masterplan*. Similar masterplans may be developed in neighboring tiger range countries. Zoos in Malaysia in particular have a relatively large and successful captive management program for Indochinese tigers. The CBSG Tiger GASP estimates that in 1995 there are about 60 Indochinese tigers in captivity in Asian and North American zoos. Only four wild-caught founders have bred and contributed to the managed captive population. Captive management programs for Indochinese tigers in Asia are currently being developed and expanded.

Document 214

Bengal Tiger—*Panthera tigris tigris**Wild Tigers: India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh*

The Bengal tiger occurs primarily throughout India, with smaller populations in southern Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and western Myanmar. The IUCN Cat Specialist Group reported a total of 3,250 to 4,700 Bengal tigers throughout the range in 1994. For several decades, the status of wild tigers in India has been estimated from the individual identification of pug marks (or footprints), a methodology that has been challenged on grounds of human error and manipulation. The first all-India census in 1971 produced a baseline figure of 1,800 tigers. Project Tiger and Wildlife Institute of India officials reported in subsequent censuses that tiger numbers increased to 4,334 in 1989. These estimates were disputed by Indian biologists, who suggested the number is much lower. The Cat Specialist Group reported 2,750 to 3,750 Bengal tigers in India in 1994. These tigers are distributed among 66 protected areas, of which more than 20 fall under the umbrella of Project Tiger, a program based on total protection of tigers and conservation of selected habitats as reserves managed primarily for tigers. Another 150–250 tigers live in three protected areas in Nepal, 50–240 tigers are in four protected areas in Bhutan, about 300–460 tigers live in three protected areas in Bangladesh, and an unknown number of tigers remain in Myanmar. Although the wild Bengal tiger populations are considered more secure in India than other tiger subspecies found elsewhere in Asia, there exists the potential for rapid demise of wild populations through recently increased levels of poaching and poisoning.

Zoo Tigers

Indian zoos have bred tigers since 1880, the first time being at the Alipore Zoo in Calcutta. In the last two decades they have bred so successfully that there are now too many. Unfortunately other subspecies of tigers brought by dealers from outside India over the years have been mixed with Indian tigers, so that many zoo tigers are of questionable lineage and therefore not appropriate for conservation purposes. The 1994 *International Tiger Studbook* lists the current global captive population of Bengal tigers at 333 tigers; 289 have the typical orange coloration of most free-ranging tigers, the remaining 44 are the white color morph, a rarely observed form in the free-ranging population. All of the studbook-registered captive population is maintained in Indian zoos, except for one female Bengal tiger in North America. Completion of the *Indian Bengal Tiger Studbook* is a necessary prerequisite to establishing a captive management program for tigers in India.

Document 215

Sumatran Tiger- *Panthera tigris sumatrae****Wild Tigers: Indonesia***

The historical documentation of tigers in Sumatra is sketchy. In 1978, a question-and-answer survey in Sumatra estimated the number of tigers to be about 1,000. Since then, Sumatra has undergone much agricultural development, and subsequently tiger habitat has declined. More recent surveys for Sumatran tigers by the Indonesian Department of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) put the number "not in the thousands but in the hundreds." In 1985, a survey of local forestry staff and people living near tiger areas estimated the distribution of tigers and tentatively identified 26 protected areas in Sumatra where tigers might live. If these habitats were completely saturated with tigers, there could be up to 800 Sumatran tigers.

In 1992, the Indonesian Department of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) estimated that about 400 Sumatran tigers were living in five National Parks and two Game Reserves and another 100 in unprotected areas that would soon be lost to agriculture. Some poaching occurs, and forest loss has further fragmented these populations. The largest population is estimated to be about 110 tigers in Gunung Leuser National Park; the remaining populations are about one-half this number or fewer. These small populations are extremely vulnerable to poaching or removal of problem animals. To address this crisis, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry developed the *Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Conservation Strategy*, a document that outlines management strategies for both wild and captive tiger populations.

Zoo Tigers

The situation for captive management of Sumatran tigers is much better. For three years, the Indonesian Zoological Parks' Association (PKBSI) has been working with the Tiger GASP to develop a conservation program for Sumatran tigers. In addition to the 58 Sumatran tigers living in Indonesian zoos, there are 58 tigers managed by North American zoos, 108 in European zoos, 6 in Australasian zoos, and 2 in Japanese zoos. This captive population is descended from 37 wild-caught founders.

The Indonesia Sumatran Tiger Masterplan now has the potential to function as the heart of the Sumatran tiger population worldwide. It is designed to preserve sufficient genetic diversity to reinforce both captive and wild populations, thus fulfilling its goal to ensure that the *in situ* tiger program comprises verifiable founders permanently identified and registered in the *Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Studbook*. It also extends the capabilities of Indonesian zoo staff to professionally manage their tiger programs in Indonesia, and at the same time serves as a model for other range country tiger management programs in Southeast Asia.

Document 221

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Document 222**Field Research Projects on Tigers*****Siberian Tiger Project***

The Russian-American Siberian Tiger Project combines the skills of researchers from the Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve with researchers from the Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute based at the University of Idaho. Their project, now in its fourth year of following the movements and activities of radio-collared tigers, will provide critical insights on how to better conserve tigers and their habitat. They are working on organizing small but effective anti-poaching teams to combat further loss of tigers. They are also encouraging the maintenance of a controlled harvest of forest products with the construction of a model mill to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices. During the next few years they will assess the reserve system of the Russian Far East through a large-scale landscape approach, looking at each reserve, the types of nearby land use, and the connectivity between reserves. Other facets of their integrated approach to tiger conservation include the development of conservation programs for local school children and the expansion of protected habitat through land purchasing.

Sumatran Tiger Project

The Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Project is a collaborative study involving the Indonesian Department of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA), Taman Safari Indonesia, and the IUCN/SSC CBSG Tiger GASP (Global Animal Survival Plan). It was initiated in the summer of 1995 in Way Kambas National Park in South Sumatra. This long-term field study is designed to develop a cost-effective field censusing system for wild tigers using ground-based census counts, remote camera census, and radiotelemetry that can be modified and used as a model for long-term population monitoring in Way Kambas and other protected areas. Researchers will establish a set of life history characteristics that will be critical in developing effective interactive management strategies for wild populations. Another facet will establish a community-based education program to decrease tension in human-tiger interactions and allocate forest resources equitably. Such studies will bring a heightened awareness of problems in tiger conservation and thus serve a valuable public relations function at local, national, and international levels, which will attract funds and political action. A final effort will be to train university and PHPA counterparts to become future conservation leaders, particularly for tigers, in Indonesia.

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Document 36**KIDSPAGE**

Tigers are the biggest cats in the world. They live in steamy hot jungles as well as icy cold forests. There are five different kinds or subspecies of tiger alive in the world today. These tigers are called Siberian, South China, Indochinese, Bengal, and Sumatran. Their Latin name is *Panthera tigris*. Tigers are an endangered species; only about 5,000 to 7,400 tigers are left in the wild. Three tiger subspecies, the Bali, Javan, and Caspian tigers have gone extinct in the past 70 years.

COOL FACTS ABOUT TIGERS!!!***Where do tigers live?***

Tigers live in a place called Asia, in many kinds of areas, like rain forests, edges of grasslands, and even swamps. Siberian tigers live the farthest north of any subspecies, in forests much like those in Minnesota. Sumatran tigers live the farthest south in the steamy jungles of Indonesia. Tigers like areas where forest and grassland are next to each other because it makes it easy for them to sneak up on the animals that they like to eat, like wild cattle, deer, and pigs.

What do tigers eat?

Tigers love meat. Their favorite meals are animals like wild cattle, deer, and pigs. It's hard work to catch these animals, so tigers don't get to eat everyday. When they do make a kill, they stuff themselves, eating as much as 40 pounds in a single day. To keep tigers in zoos from getting too fat, they are put on a diet of about 10 pounds of meat a day.

How do tigers hunt?

Tigers ambush their prey. They lie in wait or sneak up on their prey, getting as close as they can, and then jump out and bite the animal's neck or throat. The neck bite cuts the animal's spinal cord, and is usually used on small animals like pigs and little deer. The throat bite, used on much larger animals like wild cattle and large deer, causes the animal to stop breathing.

How long is a tiger's tail?

A tiger's tail is 3 to 4 feet long, about half as long as its body. Tigers use their tails for balance when running through fast turns, and for communicating with other tigers. When tigers are feeling relaxed their tails are relaxed. When they meet a friendly tiger their tails are upright and move slowly back and forth. When tigers are excited, their tails swish back and forth. A lowered twitching tail means that a tiger is mad.

What sounds do tigers make?

Tigers don't purr like your pet cat, they ROAR. They make different sounds to talk to each other. They use a greeting call to say hello, and a locating roar to find each other in the forest. When mad, they make a loud angry growl and sometimes a very loud roar.

Why are tigers striped?

No one knows exactly why tigers are striped, but scientists think that stripes act as a kind of camouflage so tigers can sneak up close to their prey. All tigers have stripes, and some have more than others. Sumatran tigers have many thin dark stripes, while the stripes of Siberian tigers are broader and lighter. All the other tigers are somewhere in between. Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints, no two tigers have the same pattern.

When are tigers active?

Most tigers are active at night and do a lot of their hunting in the dark. They have specialized eyes that help them to see in dim light. Tigers can see things in the dark six times better than a person can! They can also see in color.

Do all tigers look alike?

Most tigers have an orange coat with dark brown or black stripes accented with white. However, there are differences in the subspecies. Tigers that live in cold climates are bigger with lighter and thicker fur than tigers that live in warm climates. Siberian tigers are giants in the tiger world, weighing up to 600 or 700 pounds. The smallest are Sumatran tigers, which weigh 200–250 pounds. Male tigers are bigger than female tigers. Some tigers are white.

Why are tigers endangered?

A hundred years ago there were as many as 100,000 tigers in Asia. Today only 5,000–7,400 wild tigers remain. The South China tiger, with only 30 to 80 left in the wild, is the closest to extinction. Both Siberian and Sumatran tigers number in the low hundreds, and the Indochinese tiger numbers about 1,500. The Bengal tiger, numbering somewhere around 3,000 to 4,700, is the most numerous. All of these tigers face the same problems. There are fewer places for tigers to safely live in, and they can't visit their friends living in other forests. The food that they need to live on is becoming hard to find, and they have to be very careful not to get caught in a traps or eat poisoned food set by poachers.

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An introduction to tigers, beautiful solitary creatures of the Asian continent.
- Bailey, J. 1990. *Save the Tiger*. Heinemann, Oxford, England.
Akbar, a tracker for a tourist lodge, works with villagers, would-be poachers, and those involved in Project Tiger to protect the diminishing number of tigers in his part of India.
- Bender, L. 1995. *Lions and Tigers*. Shooting Star Press, New York, NY.
Describes the habitats and behavior of lions and tigers, with a discussion of how they continue to survive.
- Biel, T. 1990. *Tigers*. Creative Education, Mankato, MN.
Discusses the physical description, habitats, behavior, and future of various tigers, using numerous pictures.
- Bowden, J.C. 1993. *A World Without Tigers?* Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, NY.
Pop-up illustrations and a brief text describe the modern-day tiger and four of its prehistoric ancestors.
- Cajacob, T. 1986. *Close to the Wild: Siberian Tigers in a Zoo*. Carolrhoda Books, Minneapolis, MN.
A behind-the-scenes look at Siberian tigers living in a zoo, focusing on various aspects of tiger behavior, the care provided by the zoo, and the zoo's role in preserving endangered species.
- Cowcher, H. 1991. *Tigress*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, New York, NY.
Herdsman work with a wildlife sanctuary ranger to keep their animals safe from a marauding tigress.
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A young tiger describes life with its family in the Asian jungle.
- Hewett, Joan 1993. *Tiger, Tiger, Growing Up*. Clarion Books, New York, NY.
Describes the special care and training of a tiger cub at Marine World/Africa USA through her first nine months of life.
- Hogan, P. 1993. *The Tiger*. Steck-Vaughn, Milwaukee, WI.
Describes in simple terms the life cycle of tigers.
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Discusses the physical characteristics and behavior of tigers.
- Stidworthy, J. 1987. *Tiger*. Silver Burdett, Morristown, NJ.
Describes a year in the life of a female Indian tiger who lives on the edge of a forest.
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Discusses the physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle of Sumatran tigers and their current status and an endangered species.
- Vargo, V. 1992. *Tiger Talk*. Child's Play, Swindon, NY.
A mother tiger explains to her cub that they must stay away from Man, who despite being small and weak can kill tigers if they are not careful.

Zov Taigi. *The Siberian Tiger* (translated into English from Russian).

Includes artwork, games, and lots of information about the life of the largest cat in the world. Available from PERC, Siberian Forests Protection Project, 1055 Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94695. Proceeds support forest and wildlife protection projects in Russia's Far East.

Tigers in Fiction:

Allen, J. 1992. *Tiger*. (illustrated by T. Humphries). Candlewick Press, Cambridge, MA.

Villagers ask a famous hunter to kill a tiger in the woods, but this is no ordinary hunter. A beautiful and informative story.

Blake, W. 1993. *The Tyger*. Harcourt Brace & Co., San Diego, CA.

An illustrated version of Blake's well known poem.

Kipling, R. 1994. *Mowgli Stories from "The Jungle Book."* Dover Publications, New York, NY.

A selection of stories from the Jungle Book.

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Document 51

Zoo Tigers

The Role of Zoos in Tiger Conservation

The purpose of captive management programs for tigers in the world's zoos is to reinforce, not replace, wild populations. These programs are a "genetic insurance policy" to serve as backups for the recovery or reinforcement of wild populations, which are currently too small and fragmented for long-term survival. Zoos provide the facilities and expertise to maintain small tiger populations that may be the last option against extinction. Zoos also play an important role in global education by providing their visitors (600,000,000 people each year) with the opportunity to view living tigers and learn more about them.

Scientific management of tiger pedigrees and cooperation is essential for the world's zoos to be effective in conserving tigers. North American zoos manage their tigers through the Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP), one of over 100 SSPs coordinated by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). Similar programs for tigers in other countries are integrated globally through the Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP) coordinated by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG). These captive programs are also pursuing "frozen zoos" as an additional option to prevent the extinction of tigers.

World's Zoos

About 1,160 purebred tigers are managed in cooperative breeding programs in 300 zoos around the world.

Subspecies	No. of Tigers in Zoos	No. of Zoos with These Subspecies	Major Countries
Siberian Tiger	490	155	Europe, Russia, North America & Japan
South China Tiger	48	19	China
Indochinese Tiger	61	14	Southeast Asia and North America
Bengal Tiger	333	20	India
Sumatran Tiger	235	85	Indonesia, North America, Europe & Australasia

Tiger Pedigrees

To preserve healthy and pure genetic lines of tigers in captivity, zoos must know the background and pedigree of each tiger. Zoos around the world send records on over one million exotic animals to a central database maintained by the International Species Information System (ISIS). This enables zoo staff to develop studbooks, which trace the "family tree" of each tiger back to its ancestors from the wild. Studbooks aid managers in selecting the best tigers for breeding to preserve genetic diversity in the population and avoid inbreeding among relatives.

Tiger Species Survival Plan

The Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP) was the first SSP developed by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Over 90 zoos in North America are members of the Tiger SSP, which is coordinated by a Species Coordinator and Management Committee. By analyzing the growth trends and genetics of the captive tiger

population, the Tiger SSP can recommend the best pairs of tigers for breeding to preserve genetic diversity and avoid inbreeding. The Tiger SSP also makes recommendations regarding tiger management practices and animal health procedures. Currently the Tiger SSP manages 151 Siberian, 60 Sumatran, and 10 Indochinese tigers.

Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan

Many regions of the world have developed cooperative management programs for zoo tigers similar to the Tiger SSP in North America. These include the European EEP, Indonesian PKBSI, Chinese CAZG, Thai ZPO, Japanese SSCJ, Australasian ASMP, and Indian IESBP. These programs are integrated on a global level through the IUCN/SSC CBSG Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP). The Tiger GASP ensures the efficient management of captive tiger populations to maximize their possible contribution to the conservation of wild tigers. Recent programs include the development of organized captive tiger programs for the Sumatran tiger in Indonesian zoos, the South China tiger in Chinese zoos, and the Indochinese tigers in Thai zoos. In addition, the Tiger GASP also supports programs focusing on wild tigers, such as field research, development of management strategies, and conservation education in local communities.

Frozen Zoos

Captive tiger populations are managed to preserve genetic diversity which may someday be used to strengthen small, inbred wild tiger populations. It is now possible to preserve sperm and eggs from animals like tigers in liquid nitrogen, forming a "frozen zoo". This would preserve the genetic lines of animals long after their death. Assisted reproduction techniques are now being developed to use sperm (artificial insemination) or embryos (in vitro fertilization) to produce pregnancies. Possible uses of these procedures include the exchange of genes between captive and wild tiger populations without capturing wild tigers for zoos or releasing captive tigers into the wild.

For additional information regarding captive management programs for tigers, contact

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Document 60**Save the Tiger Fund Fact Sheet*****What is the Save the Tiger Fund?***

A joint and unprecedented effort by Exxon Corporation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will help generate awareness and raise funds for tigers' fight for survival.

What does the Save the Tiger Fund do?

Operated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Save the Tiger Fund provides an independent vehicle for public contributions to support ongoing international research projects and public education programs to save tigers from extinction. Donations will be used to fund projects that will help stabilize and improve tiger populations in the wild; support habitat protection; enhance conservation breeding programs in zoos, particularly in the U.S., Europe and Australia; and educate the public on the need for tiger conservation, and involve the public in that effort.

Who will oversee the Save the Tiger Fund?

An independent council including several of the world's leading zoologists, conservationists and tiger authorities. Council members include:

Mr. Amos S. Eno, Executive Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Mr. Sydney J. Butler, Executive Director of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association

Mr. Mohd Khan bin Momin Khan, Chairman, Species Survival Commission, Asian Rhino Specialist Group, IUCN - World Conservation Union, Malaysia

Dr. Ulysses S. Seal, Chairman, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, IUCN - World Conservation Union

Dr. John Seidensticker, Curator of Mammals, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lee G. Simmons, Director of the Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha

Mr. Marshall P. Jones, Jr., Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Edward F. Ahnert, President of the Exxon Education Foundation

Why is there a need for the Save the Tiger Fund?

Tigers have never been in greater danger of becoming extinct. Only five of eight subspecies remain in the world. Unless extraordinary conservation measures are taken, the tiger's continued existence in the wild is in serious jeopardy.

What is Exxon's involvement with the Save the Tiger Fund?

Exxon has been involved in a worldwide tiger conservation effort for the past five years, providing grants to U.S. and international programs. The company has provided the funding to launch the Save the Tiger Fund, and will be contributing this year to fund U.S. and international tiger conservation programs. Exxon has made a commitment of \$1 million per year to save the tiger.

How does one contribute to the Save the Tiger Fund, and/or obtain more information?

For more information and to contribute to the Save the Tiger Fund, contact:

Save the Tiger Fund

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

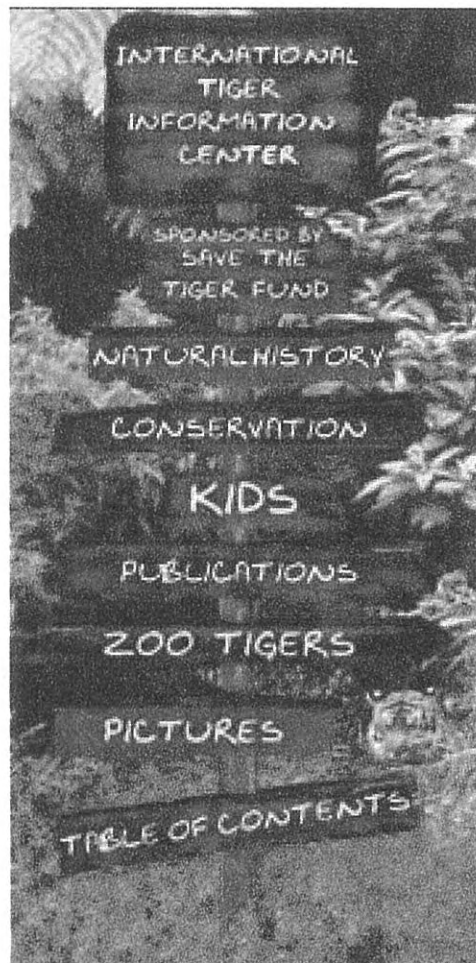
Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 857-0166

For general information about tigers, call the Tiger Information Center at 1-800-5-TIGERS.

International Tiger Information Center

PROGRESS REPORT
September 1996



<http://www.5tigers.org>
1-800-5tigers

Sponsored by Save the Tiger Fund

Tiger Information Center Staff

Ron Tilson, Ph.D., Director

Anne-Marie Alden and Janet Wallace Tilson, Web Editors and Operators

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INTRODUCTION

The International Tiger Information Center (ITIC) was created to provide the public, scientific, and conservation communities with an international forum for exchanging information relevant to the preservation of wild tigers across Asia and in zoos worldwide. It provides multiple levels of information ranging from general to scientific and is continually updated to provide the most current information about tigers available. ITIC is located at the Minnesota Zoo and went on-line on 28 September 1995, the same day its sponsors, the Exxon Corporation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, publicly announced the creation of the Save the Tiger Fund. The Information Center currently includes a Web site on the World Wide Web (<http://www.5tigers.org>) and an information telephone line (1-800-5TIGERS).

The 5Tigers Web site intends to integrate tiger information from international newsletters—*Cat News*, from the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, *Tiger Link*, from the Ranthambhore Foundation, *Tigris*, from the CBSG Tiger Global Conservation Strategy, occasional reports from TRAFFIC and World Wildlife Fund—the development of a geographical information system (GIS) database of Asian tiger habitat, that would incorporate information from as it is generated from the WWF-US and Wildlife Conservation Society's "A Framework for Identifying High-Priority Areas and Actions for the Conservation of Tigers in the Wild"; "A Habitat Protection Plan for Amur Tiger Conservation" from the Hornocker Wildlife Institute; the GIS database from the Royal Forest Department of Thailand, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, and other organizations; and the Tiger Protected Areas System of Sumatra from the Sumatran Tiger Project. We will include relevant information about wild tigers from reports on tiger workshops, conferences, and symposia, books, publications, popular articles, and bibliographies, newspaper articles, legislative updates, graphics, audio and video tapes. All of this information will be immediately available to anyone with access to the Internet, around the clock, and around the world at no cost.

The 5 Tigers Web site also intends to expand to be exhaustive in its coverage of information about zoo tigers from around the world. Future plans are to include information on tiger studbooks, breeding recommendations and other concerns of the CBSG Tiger Global Conservation Strategy, which includes regional tiger programs in North America, Europe, India, Japan, China, Southeast Asia, and Australia. Because the Web site has the ability to provide a great volume of information, as well as to provide e-mail links among members of regional programs, it has the potential to be the vehicle of the future in managing captive tigers.



Currently, the 5 Tigers Web site includes the following information categories:

- Distribution and status of the five tiger subspecies, natural history and behavior of tigers, and threats to tigers
- Tiger conservation organizations, programs, and field projects

- Zoo tiger information, organizations, tiger husbandry manual, genome resource bank, and regional tiger management reports
- Scientific publications, conferences and workshops, book and video reviews, an extensive bibliography, travelogues and pictorial essays, and newspaper abstracts of tiger-related articles
- Information and games for kids, question and answer e-mail capability, and a gallery of tiger art by kids

WEB SITE ACTIVITY

Right from the beginning, response to the Web site was very encouraging.

YAHOO! gave us a "Cool Site"  rating, and the  linked to 5 Tigers as a featured "Hot Site." The UBS for Kids Online Monthly Web Tour for June 1996 featured our site as part of its Virtual Zoo Tour. Other conservation organizations, such as Defenders of Wildlife, the Pacific Environmental Resource Center, Tiger Watch Canada, and the Technology Assisted Counter Poaching Network, have requested that we provide information about them or links to their sites.

Instant Access International in London featured our site on its Virtual Web Tour CD-ROM, released last spring, and Discovery Communications (parent company of the Discovery Channel) new CD, Animal Planet, will add a link to our site among others with "high-quality resources related to the animal world."

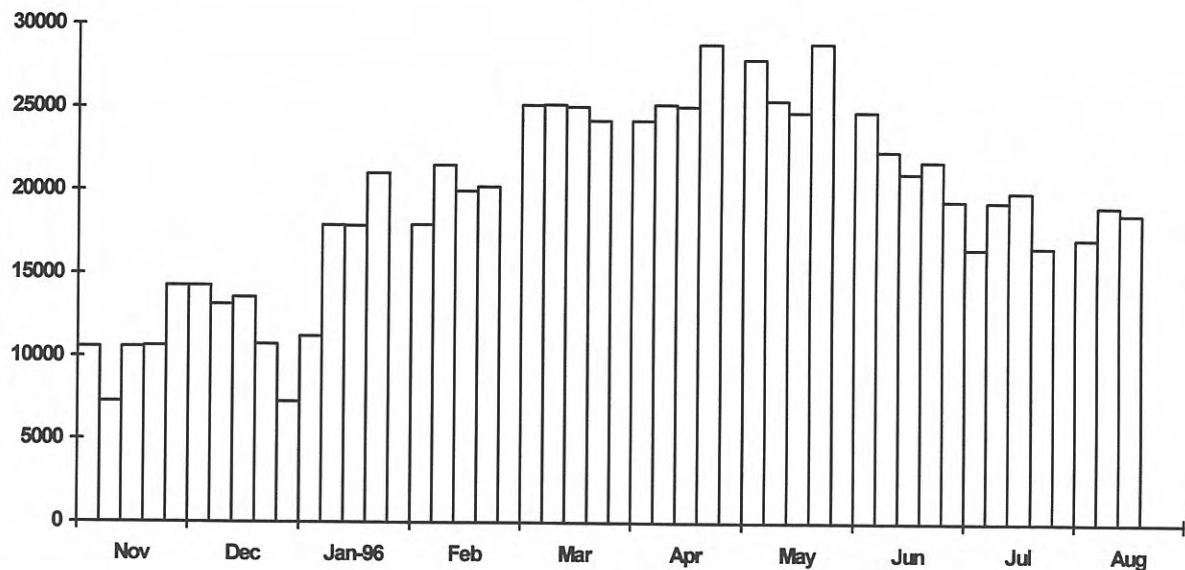
Most recently, the September 1996 issue of  cited the International Tiger Information Center as one of Ten Cool Critter Pages in Noah's Electronic Ark.

The number of visitors to the 5 Tigers Web site (measured as number of "hits") grew steadily over the course of the 1995–1996 school year. The numbers declined after schools let out, but usage has been steady over the summer.

The total number of hits, as of the third week of August, was reported to be 832,180. This represents 44 weeks of Web usage, averaging 18,913 hits per week. At this rate, we should reach the one-million hits mark near our one-year anniversary at the end of September 1996.

An Internet search (via Alta Vista) to find who else on the World Wide Web has links to our site found 200 pages that cite us, ranging from personal home pages to environmental directories (attached in Supporting Documents).

Total Hits per Week on 5TIGERS Web site



WEB SITE CONTENTS

Reorganization of Opening Page and Table of Contents

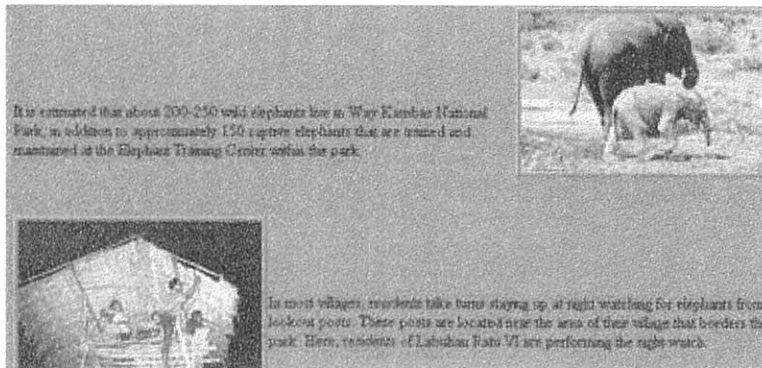
As the amount of information added to the site grew, we received increasing requests via e-mail for information that was already on the site. In April we revamped the "shortcuts" page into a Table of Contents (in Supporting Documents), an outline list of hypertext links to include all documents on the site, so that viewers would easily see all the documents available. The sections identified on the opening signpost were also reformatted so that each section's opening page would provide outline links to all the material in that section. This greatly helped to remove "dead-ends" that required the visitor to back up. We also began adding section links at the bottom of new pages so viewers could go to any other major section from any page.

Search Engine

The newest feature on the site, which will greatly enhance its usefulness, is a "search engine" that will allow visitors to search our site. For example, those interested in a particular subspecies or region or "white tigers" will be able to find all the references to that subject, whether they are in the Kids Pages, Publications, or anywhere else on the site. As we add more and more information, the ability to search will be increasingly important.

Additions to Conservation

The Conservation section has grown most significantly in recent months. Documents received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Siberian Tiger Project, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund Canada have been added to those already posted from the Arjan Singh Foundation, Ranthambore Project, Tiger Tops Monitoring Project, and Wildlife Protection Society of India. Descriptions of the Sumatran Tiger Project, including a new pictorial essay on the Community Conservation and Education Program, have been added. We are currently updating the Organizations and Addresses information to include others who have requested links to our site and links to other Web pages, such as Earth Trust, World Wildlife Fund, and Defenders of Wildlife.



Additions to Publications

Cat News. A significant source of information was added to the site when Peter Jackson, chairman of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group, agreed to let us post his biannual newsletter on the site. He sent diskettes with all 24 issues of *Cat News*. We have posted all the Tables of Contents, and at this time have entered articles on tigers from the most recent 7 issues, from Spring 1996 back to March 1993.



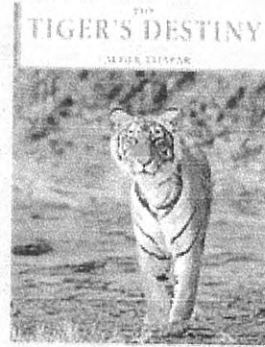
Book Reviews. A new section on books about tigers has just been started this summer. Both fiction and nonfiction for adults and children will be listed and described briefly. When reviews are available, they will be added to the site. There is lots of room for expansion here.

The Tiger's Destiny. 1993 Text by Vahnik Thapar, photographs by Fatch Singh Rathore and Mahipal Singh

Book Review Digest

SUMMARY: The author examines the fate of the tiger 'in his discussion of India's Ranthambore National Park . . . In the early chapters he details tiger folklore . . . The middle section includes . . . color photographs, with captions that explain tiger behavior and ecology. In the concluding chapters, Thapar . . . [examines] the complexity involved in tiger conservation.' (Libr J.) Bibliography. Index

REVIEW: "The second section would be worth the purchase price even if it were published without text. Beautiful full-page and half-page full-color photographs of th tigers in India's Ranthambore National Park depict the lives of tigers in the wild. From a photograph of a female and her cubs to pictures of tigers who have been forced to a nocturnal life in their quest for survival, these pictures say more about the daily lives of tigers than any textbook or environmental-awareness pamphlet could ever communicate. . . . Young adult." (Booklist v90 p231 O 1 '93)



Other Additions. Dr. Bruce Marcot, a wildlife ecologist for the USDA Forest Service, presented us with two of his reports from a journey to Siberia. The Sumatran Tiger PHVA (Population Habitat and Viability Assessment) is largely available, with some chapters still to come. News reports gathered from Lexus-Nexus information service are updated approximately monthly. And the entire Tiger Bibliography originally circulated by the Minnesota Zoo's Conservation Department (current through 1995) can be found on the site. Several callers have mentioned their appreciation for this reference material.

SEJARAH ASAL USUL



Kebudayaan Siam
Perkembangan dan Isya

- 5 Jenis-jenis hariman
 Jenis-jenis hariman
 Hariman Sibesia
 Hariman China Selatan
 Hariman Indochina
 Hariman Betawi
 Hariman Pania
 Hariman Sumatera
 Hariman yang telah punah
- Sifat sifat hariman
 Sifat-sifat morfologi hariman
 Keberanian Hariman

Zoo Tigers and Natural History

The Natural History section contains the basic information on distribution of tigers in the wild, subspecies, and behavior; which is for the most part unchanged since the site was

launched, with one major exception—the addition of pages translated into Indonesian. This ongoing feature of the site may lead to production of a CD or Intranet version of the site for distribution in Indonesian schools. Eventually we hope to provide translated pages in all the languages of tiger range countries.

The section on Zoo Tigers has been fleshed out with the addition of the IUDZG-World Zoo Organization's "World Conservation Strategy," the CBSG's "Tiger Genome Resource Bank Action Plan," and information provided by the Zoological Society of London on Tiger Week in the zoos of the United Kingdom.

Kids' Stuff

The emphasis in the KIDS section of the 5tigers web site, has been on creating an environment that is both educational and interactive. To that end, the Kids' page has several unique sections that encourage kids to communicate with us; the "Art Gallery," "Ask Annie," and "Kids Helping Tigers."

Art Gallery:

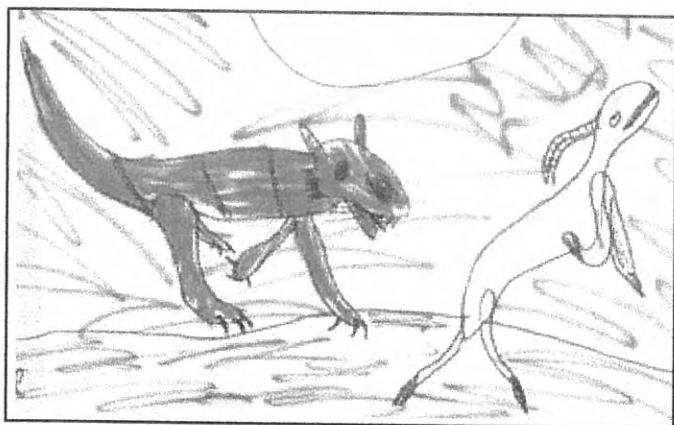
The Art Gallery features tiger art sent to us from kids age 12 and under. In addition to artwork done by individual kids, we have received tiger art from 4 different school classes that have done drawings as part of a class unit on tigers (see example of web page below). When teachers call or send e-mail requesting information for their classes, we always encourage them to send us tiger art.

Winthrop Primary Center, Bellmore, NY

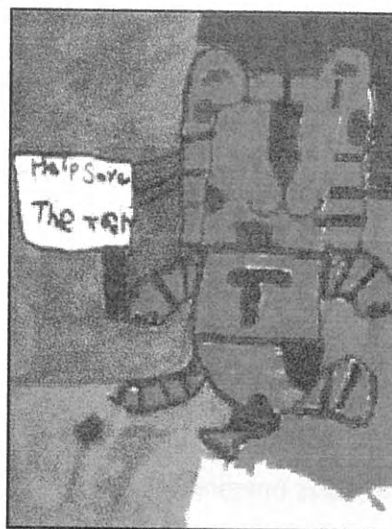
Dr. Myra Lieblich, Principal

Rose Sava, Coordinator

The second graders at Winthrop Primary Center held a fundraising drive for the Save the Tiger Fund and raised more than \$250! We thank them and all the second grade teachers for their contributions and their great artwork!!!



Patrick McAree

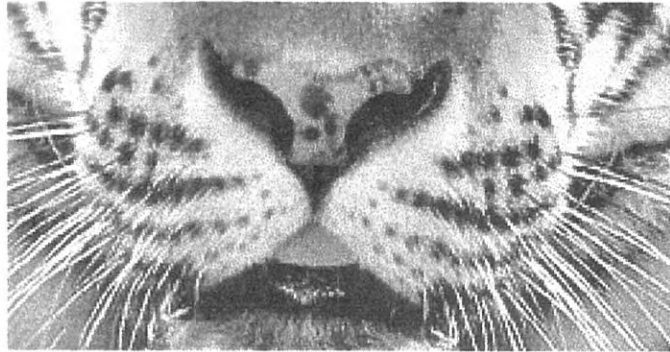


*Billy Harkins, Mike Siwick
Matthew Zafrin, and Jared Goldstein*

Ask Annie:

The Ask Annie section allows kids to ask us their questions about tigers through e-mail. They can also read some of the questions that other kids have asked, and our responses to them. This has been one of the most successful sections of the kids' page, and we receive e-mail from kids all over the world on a daily basis. The Tiger Information Center staff responds to each e-mail question individually, and really good questions are added to the Ask Annie page. Kids and adults alike use this page for everything from single questions to in-depth term paper research. Here are some examples of what kids "Ask Annie."

Ask Annie



The Year 6 children at Port Macquarie Public School in New South Wales Australia would like to know how many stripes an average tiger has. We just want an estimate, can you help us please?

Val Grey, age 11 (New South Wales, Australia)

Do tigers feel emotions the way we do, like love or sadness? *Anna Cilluffo (Maine, USA)*

Do you think that a man with claws has some chance of winning a fight with a tiger? *Jose Salgado, age 11 (Ribatejo, Sanarem, Portugal)*

I've heard both sides of this question, and I'm dying to know: do tigers purr? *Teleny*

Do tigers climb trees or just stay on the ground? And if they can go up, can they come down head first or backward or what? *Kathy, 1st grade (Vermont, USA)*

Do you think human behavior or environmental factors caused the tigers to become endangered? *Eric Larson, 5th grade, (Connecticut, USA)*

Do tigers have any enemies? *Amanda Farley, age 13 (Maine, USA)*

Why are people hunting tigers so much that they will become extinct? *Taylor Whalen, age 9*

Are tiger cubs striped when they are born, or are they spotted like lions? *Katie Holzer, age 9 (Minnesota, United States)*

Do tigers live in families? *Poppy Groves, Age 9 (England)*

Kids Helping Tigers:

Kids Helping Tigers is the newest addition to our Kids' Section - a place where kids who want to make a difference are acknowledged for their efforts (see web page example below). Although this section is only a few weeks old, we already have three entries; two schools who raised money for the Save the Tiger Fund, and one little girl who started her own tiger web page! As the new school year begins, we hope that this page will encourage other kids to get involved in tiger conservation. The Tiger Information Center is currently developing a certificate of achievement to be mailed out to kids who help tigers.

Kids helping tigers



Kids are doing all kinds of things to help tigers. Alone and in groups, kids are teaching people about the plight of tigers and raising money to help support tiger conservation. This page tells you about some of the ways kids are helping tigers. Tell us your story!!! You can write to the Tiger Information Center at 13000 Zoo Blvd., Apple Valley, MN 55124, or send us e-mail. If you have any photographs, send those too!

Hamilton Junior High Cypress, Texas



Students at Hamilton Junior High, whose school mascot is a tiger, raised \$1,000 for the Save the Tiger Fund by placing collection boxes in the lunchroom to gather left-over change. Teachers pitched in too, and offered special incentives (like a day off of homework!) to kids who made donations. Here, Rita Browning, a teacher at Hamilton, hands a check to the Exxon tiger. GOOD WORK you guys!!!

In praise of Kids' Stuff

The Kids' section of the 5tigers web site receives a lot of mail! We hear from kids, their parents, schools and other organizations who let us know how they feel about the contents of the Kids' page. Here are some of the messages that we have received.

Congratulations! Your Tiger page has been selected as the "TnT Daily Cool Stuff for Kids" site for January 24, 1996. Tristan gave it 5 poodles and Tiffany gave your site 5 poodles out of 5 to score a perfect 10.

TnT can be reached at <http://www.polar7.com/tnt>. There is an award badg available at <http://www.polar7.com/tnt/poodle10.gif> that you can use at your site to prove you were selected if you are interested.

Keep up the great work (and good luck with the Tiger conservation).

Sincerely,
Greg (Their Dad)

Congratulations! Your site is on the UBS For Kids Online Monthly Web Tour for June. June's theme is the Virtual Zoo to celebrate National Zoo's Month. Your site has distinguished itself as a valuable animal resource for kids trying to sort the good from the bad on the ever-expanding World Wide Web.

UBS For Kids Online is just a part of the University Book Store's commitment to offering quality resources on the Web. We try to introduce kids and their parents to great books, software and web sites with a fun, creative style.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Attached to this document is an icon I hope you can use on your site. If you do, please link it to UBS For Kids Online (<http://www.ubs-for-kids.com>).

Thanks, Jason Joyce
The University Book Store
Madison, Wisconsin

Hullo, my name is Janine Thorpe and I live in Perth Western Australia. I am 10 years old. My father found your Tiger page and quiz when I had some homework to do about tigers. I love the graphics, and I think it is an excellent page

Nine-In-One Grr! Grr!. 1989. Children's Book Press, San Francisco, CA. Text by Cathy Spagnoli. Pictures by Nancy Hom. ISBN 0-89239-110-3.

Reviewed for the Tiger Information Center by *Whiskers*

REVIEW:

This delightful folktale from the lore of the Hmong people of Laos tells the story of when the great god Shao who lives in the sky, promises Tiger, the first and only tiger on earth, that she will have nine cubs each year. When Bird hears this she becomes frightened, and comes up with a clever plan to keep the land from being overrun by tigers.

Nine-In-One Grr!Grr! is told by Blia Xiong, who heard it when she was a small child in the mountains of Laos. It is richly illustrated with strikingly colorful paintings modeled after the needlepoint "story cloths" of the Hmong. It is a very Asian story with a universal theme, full of warm, whimsical humor, where cleverness saves the day. It is a story for all children.



[Natural History](#) | [Conservation](#) | [Publications](#) | [Zoo Tigers](#) | [Kids Stuff](#) | [Pictures](#)
[Internation Tiger Information Center](#) | [Save The Tiger Fund](#)
[Table of Contents](#)

TELEPHONE AND FAX-BACK ACTIVITY

The International Tiger Information Center continues to attract many visitors to its Web site and phone-fax line, but the balance between the two information sources is weighted heavily toward the Web site. Telephone activity was very heavy in the first few days and weeks after the Center was announced. Callers who listened to the recorded messages and held to speak to Information Center staff numbered 324 in the first 6 months from September 28, 1995, through March 31, 1996. In the following 5 months, 117 calls from 29 states, Canada and the United Kingdom were made to staff (or voice mail).

Calls Made to 800-5 Tigers Automated Line

Period	No. of Calls	Minutes
December 1995-January 1996	1801	3901
February 1996	666	2174
March	425	1553
April	328	988
May	292	1022
June	258	819

Fax Back Activity Log — March 31 to July 28, 1996

Total number of calls:	321	(how many times the system dialed out)
Number of successful calls:	54	(how many times the system faxed documents requested)
Number of failed calls:	267	(system dialed but fax was not transmitted)
Total connect time:	525:40	

Document	Requests	Successes	Failures	Attempts
(Default Document)				
1 Cover page	6	0	36	36
9 Document List	44	27	107	134
11 About 5 Tigers	28	15	83	98
211 Siberian Tiger	41	21	129	150
212 South China Tiger	21	12	55	67
213 Indochinese Tiger	21	14	44	58
214 Bengal Tiger	41	19	138	157
215 Sumatran Tiger	19	12	44	56
221 Conservation Orgs.	26	20	47	67
222 Field Research	24	17	51	68
23 Bibliography-Conservation	25	17	57	74
36 Kids' Page	31	19	84	103
37 Tiger Books for Kids	16	12	35	47
44 Bibliography - Behavior	21	16	35	51
51 Zoo Tigers	15	11	25	36
60 Save the Tiger Fund	2	1	4	5

The odd numbering of the documents available to callers arose from our original script for the recorded phone messages. We envisioned a three-tiered system, where callers would press 2 for information on the current status of tigers in the wild and their conservation, then 1 for species-specific information and 2 for conservation material. We reasoned that the European numbering system for each section, i.e., 2.1.1, 2.1.2, etc., would allow us flexibility in adding more documents later on. At the very last minute, however, we discovered the Fax Back system only allowed one tier of options, so the script was hastily rewritten. Because the documents had already been loaded in the system, we could not change the numbers without delaying the process beyond the launch date. We intend to rerecord the message and restructure the documents in the near future.

TIGER INFORMATION CENTER FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The 5 Tigers Web Site

School curriculum. One more exciting development in progress pertains to interaction with schools. We have had many requests over the past year from teachers and parents for ways that children and classes can become involved with tiger conservation. We are working on curricula for tiger studies at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels that can be distributed via the Web site and Information Center.

Kids' Certificate. When children contribute to the Save the Tiger Fund or tell us about their involvement in tiger conservation activities, we would like to send them a certificate of appreciation and acknowledgment. Through an on-line form, parents or teachers would be able to fill out the relevant information (Ms. Thoreau's sixth grade class at Kennedy Elementary School...) and submit it. We would mail out a certificate for the classroom (or bedroom) wall.

Video reviews. Whiskers, the video-addicted critic, will make her debut this fall, reviewing the various videos on tigers relative to content, quality, and entertainment value.

Book reviews. Although the Book Review section has already been initiated, many more books need to be added, and we intend to greatly expand this section. When outside reviews are not available, the in-house Whiskers will provide summaries and reviews.

Tiger glossary. The field of tiger conservation uses many specialized words or "jargon" that the general public may not be familiar with. We believe a glossary will be helpful to these users.

Photo gallery. We are constantly being asked to provide more photographs, and we are looking into ways to expand the selection on the Web site. Many callers to the 800-5

Tigers line also request pictures or posters, and we hope to find a means of satisfying these requests.

The 5 Tigers telephone line

As mentioned earlier, re-recording the greeting message on the 800-5tigers line is a top priority. We need to let callers know that they can talk to an operator without listening to all the recorded information.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Web Site Table of Contents

List of Links to the 5 Tigers Web Site

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(much revised and improved)

Welcome to 5 Tigers (opening page) *(updated)*

The International Tiger Information Center

About Save the Tiger Fund

Projects funded as of June 1996 *NEW !!!*



Search our site (search engine)

NEW !!!



NATURAL HISTORY

5 Tiger Subspecies

Distribution Map

Siberian tiger

South China tiger

Indochinese tiger

Bengal tiger

White tigers

Sumatran tiger

Extinct tigers

Physical Characteristics

Facts about the Tiger

Tiger Guts *NEW !!!*

Behavior and Ecology

Social Behavior

Mating and Cubs

Hunting

Man-eating Tigers

CONSERVATION

Conservation Organizations

Addresses and Contact Names *(being updated)*

Threats to the Survival of Tigers

Threats

Tiger Parts used for Traditional Chinese Medicine (diagram) *NEW !!!*

Killed for a Cure: A Review of the Worldwide Trade in Tiger Bone *NEW !!!*

News from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *NEW !!!*

Projects and Programs

Siberian Tiger

The Siberian Tiger Project (overview)

The Siberian Tiger Project

South China Tiger

South China Tiger Masterplan

Bengal Tiger

The Arjan Singh Foundation
Ranthambore Project
Tiger Tops Monitoring Project
Wildlife Protection Society of India

Indochinese Tiger

Indochinese Tiger Masterplan for Thailand

Sumatran Tiger

The Sumatran Tiger Project

Exxon Joins International Fight to Bring Tigers back from the Brink of Extinction **NEW !!!**

Community Conservation and Education program, Way Kambas

Picture Essay **NEW !!!**

General

Wildlife Conservation Society **NEW !!!**

TRAFFIC International

On the Trail of Tiger Traders

The World's Conservation Partner

World Wildlife Fund Canada: Canada's Role in the Tiger Trade: Recommendations for a Tiger-Safe Nation **NEW !!!**

ZOO TIGERS

Tigers in the World Zoos (an overview)

Tiger Week in British Zoos **NEW !!!**

Organizations

IUDZG's World Zoo Conservation Strategy **NEW !!!**

American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA)

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)

International Species Information System (ISIS)

Husbandry

Management and Conservation of Captive Tigers, known as "the Tiger Husbandry Manual"

Medical Management of Tigers

Blood Values

Tiger Holding and Exhibit Facilities

Nutrition, Food Preparation and Feeding

Reproduction and Propagation in Tigers

Birth, Growth and Rearing of Tiger Cubs

Policies for Managing Tigers

Regional and Global Management of Tigers

Husbandry Section of the Tiger Bibliography

Managing Tigers in Zoos

AZA Tiger Species Survival Plan

1995 Tiger SSP Report

1996 Tiger SSP Report **NEW !!!**

IUCN/SSC CBSG Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP)

Tigers in Zoos according to ISIS

South China Tiger Studbook Analysis and Masterplan Report - 1995

Indochinese Tiger Masterplan for Thailand - 1995

Breeding log at the Minnesota Zoo**Tiger Pedigrees**Tiger Studbooks (*under construction*)**Frozen Zoos**About Frozen ZoosArtificial Reproduction (link to the National Zoo)CBSG Tiger Genome Resource Bank Action Plan *NEW !!!***Travelogues**A Trip to China - November 1995**KIDS' STUFF****All About Tigers****Kinds of Tigers**Siberian tigerSouth China tigerIndochinese tigerBengal tigerWhite tigersSumatran tigerExtinct tigersGeographyHabitatReproductionHunting & EatingSocial BehaviorFun Facts about TigersFun Facts about Tigers II *NEW !!!***Teachers' Features** School curricula for tiger studies (*under construction*)**General**Tiger GutsTigers at the Minnesota ZooArt Gallery (pictures by kids) (*updated*)Kids Helping Tigers *NEW !!!***Threats to Tigers**ProblemsWhat Tiger Parts are used for Traditional Chinese Medicine *NEW !!!***Test Your Knowledge**Kids' QuizAsk Annie (questions kids ask) *NEW !!!***PUBLICATIONS**Books (summaries and reviews) *NEW !!!*

Conferences and Workshops (reports and proceedings)Tiger GIS WorkshopSouth China Tiger Studbook and MasterplanIndochinese Tiger Masterplan for ThailandSumatran Tiger PHVA *NEW !!!*Report on Tigers and Leopards of the Russian Far East and Northeast China *NEW !!!*Tiger Habitat Corridors in Far East Russia, Northeast China, and Northern North Korea:Need for a Conservation Strategy *NEW !!!***Newsletters***Cat News*Tables of Contents *NEW !!!*No. 24 - Spring 1996 *NEW !!!*No. 23 - Autumn 1995 *NEW !!!*No. 22 - Spring 1995 *NEW !!!*No. 21 - Autumn 1994 *NEW !!!*No. 20 - April 1994 *NEW !!!*No. 19 - September 1993 *NEW !!!*No. 18 - March 1993 *NEW !!!*Newspaper Abstracts from newspapers around the worldNews Summaries #1News Summaries #2News Summaries #3 *NEW !!!***Bibliography**Conservation and StatusGeneralPoachingSiberian TigerSouth China TigerBengalWhiteIndochineseSumatranExtinctEcology and BehaviorManeatersGeneticsHunting Accounts and TraveloguesHusbandryMedicalMiscellaneous ReferencesLegislationTiger FarmsReproductionStudbooksTigers in Art and LiteratureAudio and Visual

Video Reviews "Whiskers" rates the documentaries for content and quality (4 paws up!) (*under construction*)

PHOTOGRAPHS

[Mother and cubs \(JPG 7K\)](#)

[Mother and cubs #2 \(JPG, 27K\)](#)

[White tiger \(JPG, 41K\)](#)

[Young Siberian tigers \(JPG, 27K\)](#)

[Tiger scratching tree \(JPG, 22K\)](#)

[Tigers at play \(GIF, 27K\)](#)

[Tigers at play #2 \(JPG, 32K\)](#)

[Tigers at play #3 \(JPG, 21K\)](#)

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[Internation Tiger Information Center](#) | [Save The Tiger Fund](#)
[Table of Contents](#) | [Indonesian Translation](#) *NEW !!!*

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TnT - Tristan and Tiffany's Cool Stuff for Kids
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<http://www.polar7.com/tn/archives.html> - size 22K - 13 Jun 96

CSUBIOWEB - MAMMALOGY
CSUBIOWEB. MAMMALOGY. Bat Research Laboratory is developing a bio-sonar model for target recognition and classification, based on the sonar system used by.
<http://130.17.2.15/MAM.html> - size 3K - 19 May 96

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