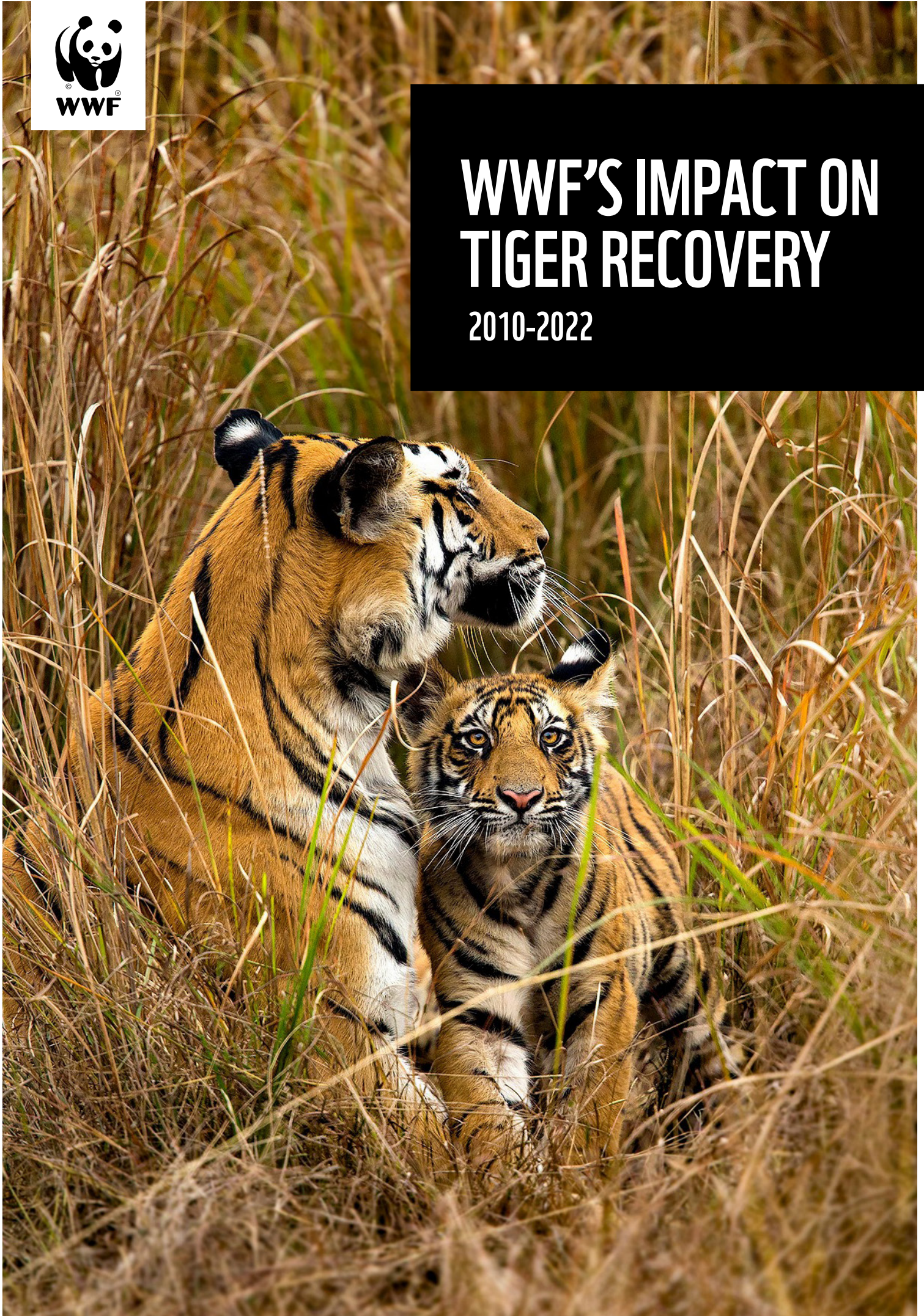




WWF'S IMPACT ON TIGER RECOVERY

2010-2022





SEE THE DIGITAL VERSION OF THIS REPORT TO
ACCESS VIDEOS AND OTHER ADDITIONAL CONTENT

Hold your device over this QR Code so that it’s clearly visible within your smartphone’s camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the above web page.

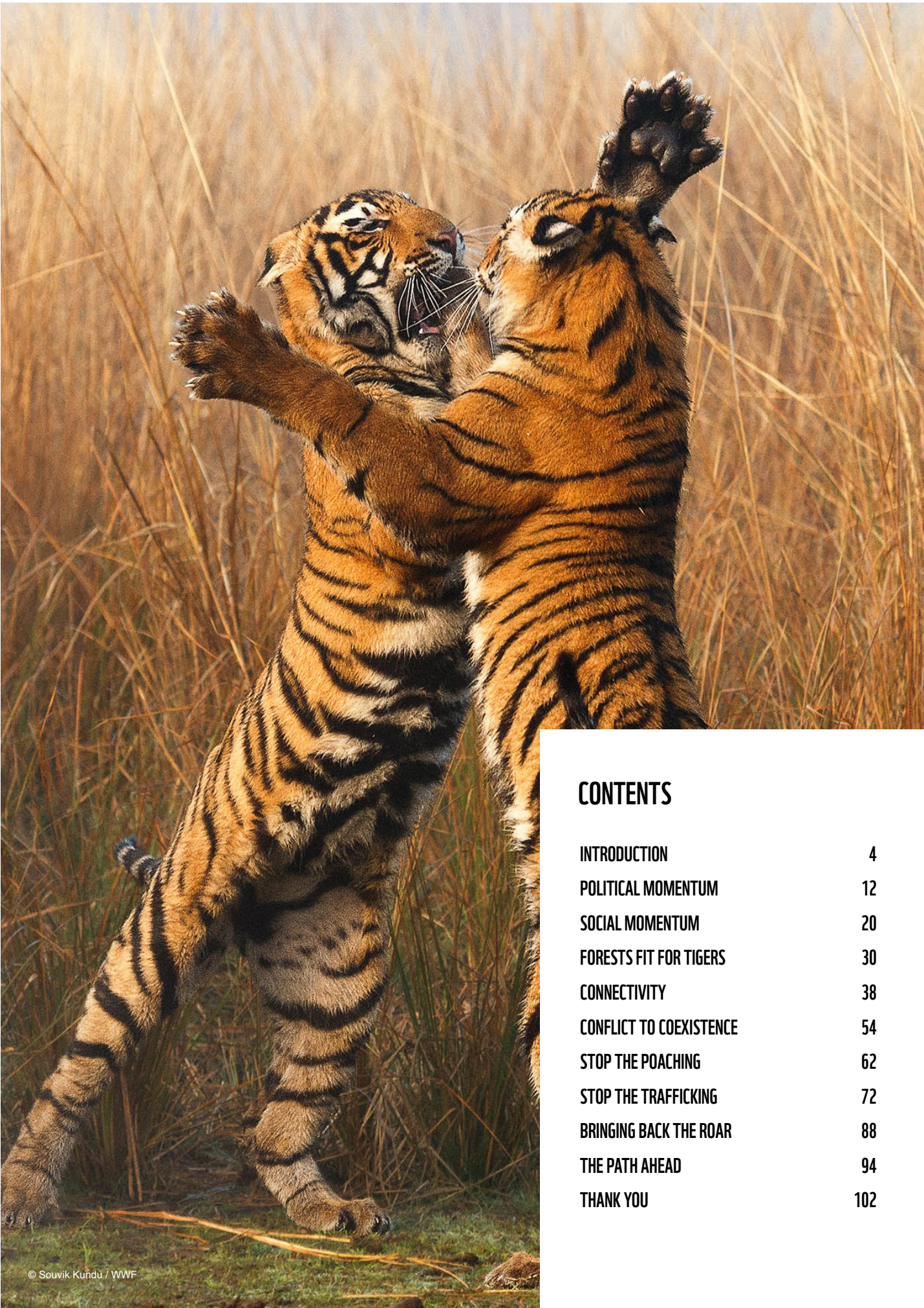
Cover Image © Suyash Keshari / WWF

Prepared by WWF Tigers Alive Initiative and designed by Abby Hehmeyer in partnership with Yearly LLC. Published in February 2022 by WWF. Any reproduction in full or in part must mention the title and credit the above-mentioned publisher as the copyright owner.

© Text 2022 WWF
© 1986 Panda symbol WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature

(Formerly World Wildlife Fund)
® “WWF” is a WWF Registered Trademark. WWF, Avenue du Mont-Bland, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111. Fax. +41 22 364 0332.

For contact details and further information, please visit our international web-site at www.panda.org.



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
POLITICAL MOMENTUM	12
SOCIAL MOMENTUM	20
FORESTS FIT FOR TIGERS	30
CONNECTIVITY	38
CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE	54
STOP THE POACHING	62
STOP THE TRAFFICKING	72
BRINGING BACK THE ROAR	88
THE PATH AHEAD	94
THANK YOU	102



BOLD, AMBITIOUS AND VISIONARY

From a population of perhaps 100,000 a century ago, wild tiger numbers hit an all-time low — as few as 3,200 in 2010. That same year, all 13 tiger range governments came together for the first time at the St. Petersburg Summit where they committed to double the number of wild tigers by 2022, the next lunar Year of the Tiger.

Tiger range countries are now beginning the process of outlining their priorities for a new global plan to be adopted at the 2nd Global Tiger Summit (Vladivostok, September 2022), which will once again convene tiger range country leadership, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, and other experts. WWF is reflecting on the impact we have made on tiger recovery since 2010, the lessons we have learned and the unrelenting challenges we will strive to address with partners moving forward.



*TX2 stands for 'tigers times two', signaling the goal to double wild tigers.

© Shutterstock / Ondrej Prosicky / WWF International

FOREWORD

The formation of the Global Tiger Initiative and subsequent 2010 Tiger Summit represents one of the greatest degrees of political will ever mustered for the protection of a single species — as well as a clear turning point in the history of tiger conservation. In the decade since that event and adoption of the Global Tiger Recovery Plan, there is evidence that a centuries-long trend of wild tiger decline has finally been reversed — a rare and hard-fought conservation success story. WWF has driven towards the TX2 goal for the last decade, supporting the 13 tiger range country governments to act and fulfill their commitments with partnerships, policy advice, and collaborative solutions.

In saving tigers, we also save so much more. As apex predators, wild tigers are ecosystem controllers, keeping other carnivores and herbivores in check, which helps to maintain healthy vegetation and habitats. In turn, this supports invaluable ecosystem services for billions of people living in tiger landscapes — from clean air and freshwater to fuel and medicinal plants. Globally, tiger landscapes play a significant role in containing greenhouse gas emissions in their forests, grasslands, and soils, and buffering against the impacts of natural disasters.

Over the last 12 years, WWF has accelerated its investments and interventions to support range state commitments and the comeback of this incredible species. WWF has invested or leveraged over US \$200m across 10 offices, 14 landscapes, and 50 heartlands — those areas identified as having the highest potential for tiger recovery. However, despite the positive trends in wild tiger numbers, it is important to acknowledge that these gains are fragile and have not been uniform across Asia's sub-regions. While globally tiger numbers may be on the rise, tiger range has continued to decline and tigers today are restricted to less than 5 per cent of their historic range. As we reach the next Year of the Tiger in 2022, there is a pressing need not only to continue the global tiger recovery efforts, but also to strengthen all necessary actions to achieve long-lasting tiger conservation.

This report highlights the progress made since 2010. We have come so far, yet there is still much work to be done.

Signed,

Stuart Chapman,

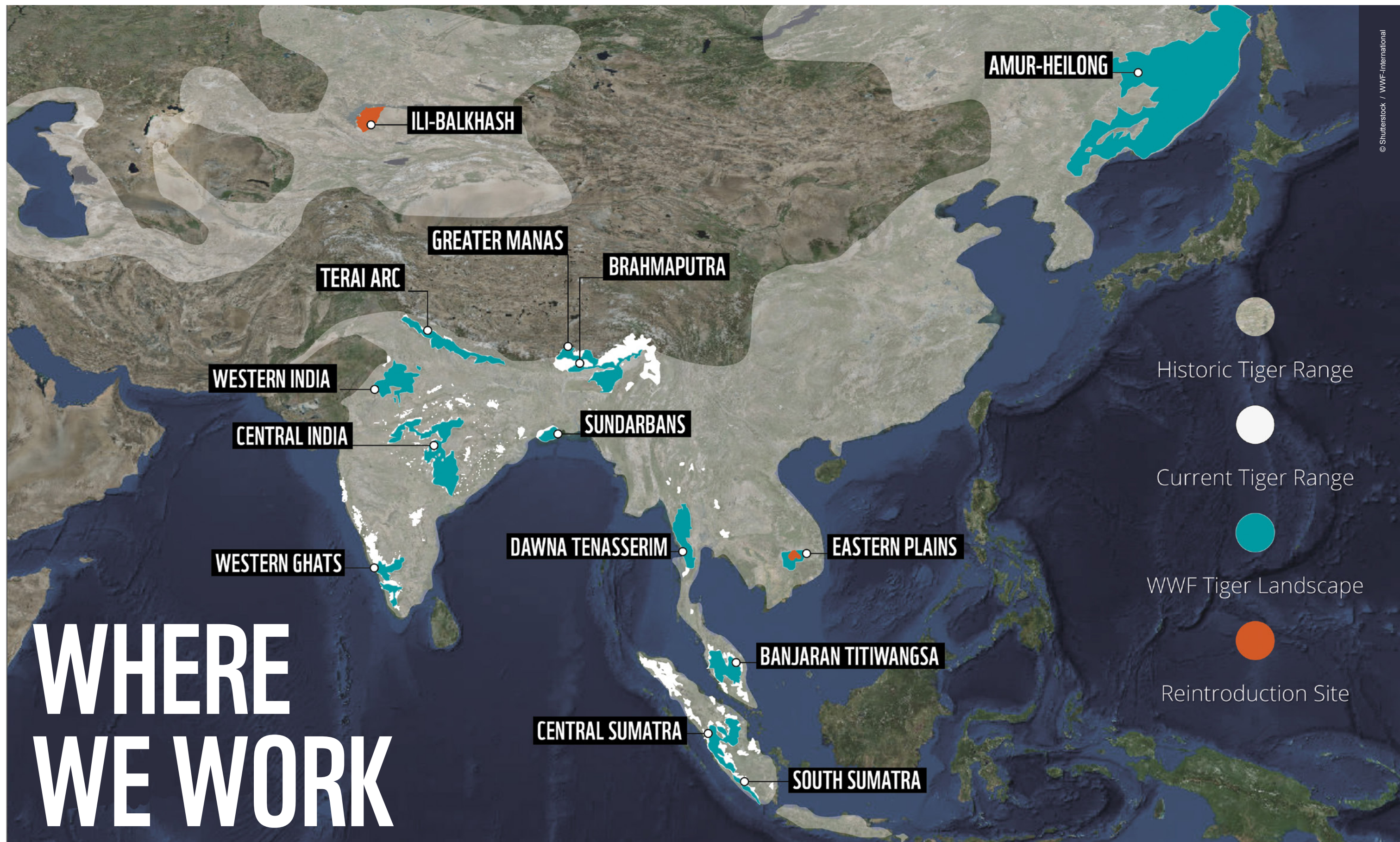
Leader of WWF
Tigers Alive Initiative

Margaret Kinnaird,

Leader of WWF
Wildlife Practice

Sejal Worah,

Chair of WWF
Tiger Advisory Group



LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OF OUR TIGER LANDSCAPES

Hold your device over this QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the above web page.

WWF LANDSCAPES

Tigers require large home ranges to live and breed. Therefore, it is vital that tiger conservation is delivered at an ecological scale relevant to the challenge — the tiger landscape. Tiger landscapes represent a move away from site-based approaches of the past that focused solely on the protection of small populations within protected areas. A landscape approach recognises that social-ecological processes, tiger behaviour and the genetic interaction of multiple small tiger populations across a landscape are critical for sustainable and long-term tiger recovery.

Existing in some of the most densely populated regions of the world, tiger landscapes are typically a mosaic of habitat types which also include human settlements, agriculture, and industry. To maintain the health of each population of tigers, we must manage tiger habitat and areas of the surrounding matrix synergistically to mitigate threats, reduce conflict risks for humans and tigers, and maintain connectivity.

Since 2010, WWF has become increasingly strategic and holistic in its approach to tiger conservation, recognising the wider ecological and social contexts within which our sites exist. This integrated social landscape planning ensures that tiger conservation is done in ways that benefit rather than hinder the ambitions of local people. This means partnering with governments, communities, and grassroots organisations to develop a shared vision for the landscape which supports local economic development.

© Hkun Lat / WWF-US

**OVER 80% OF WILD TIGERS LIVE IN
WWF SUPPORTED LANDSCAPES.**

**THESE LANDSCAPES CONSTITUTE 60%
OF THE CURRENT TIGER RANGE.**

SAVE TIGERS SAVE SO MUCH MORE

Our unrelenting focus on ensuring prioritisation of tiger recovery has numerous highly significant benefits for local people, biodiversity, and the climate.



© Thomas Cristofolletti / WWF US



- 1 Tiger habitat overlaps with 332 key biodiversity areas and 10 natural world heritage sites.



- 2 Tiger landscapes provide water for drinking and irrigation for local and downstream communities. For example, water collected in the catchment area of the Leuser Ecosystem in Sumatra is used by at least four million people as well as for irrigating oil palm and pulpwood plantations downstream.



- 3 Tiger landscapes also provide local communities with protection from natural hazards, such as floods, landslides, and the impacts of climate change. Vegetation in these areas helps to slow the passage of water to nearby rivers, reduces erosion, and reduces loss of nutrients and



- 4 These landscapes also help to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration — forests protected for tigers store more carbon on average than other forests in the region. The value of timber and carbon from just ten of India's 50 tiger reserves is valued in the range of US \$1.8 billion to
- 5 Tiger reserves secure direct medicinal benefits to many local people, while protecting tiger habitat reduces the snaring and poaching of wildlife — and thus exposure to — species carrying zoonotic diseases.

A tiger with orange fur and black stripes is walking through tall, dry grass in a forest. The tiger is facing right, and its head is turned slightly towards the viewer. The background shows blurred tree trunks and foliage.

POLITICAL MOMENTUM

A TURNING POINT FOR TIGERS

In 2010, the high-level and public national commitments to a common goal of TX2 was a turning point in tiger conservation. WWF played a major role in arriving at this moment, sending expert delegations to all planning sessions that took place over a three year period prior to the Summit (starting with the Kanha Circle meeting in November 2007). Maintaining political momentum at the highest levels is essential to achieving TX2. To do this, WWF has spent the decade continuing to engage

government officials across all tiger range countries, at all levels of the political process, ensuring that tigers remain a priority and commitments are kept.

Through the Global Tiger Initiative, Global Tiger Forum and other critical platforms, WWF supports governments in fulfilling their commitments with partnerships, policy advice, and by forging collaborative solutions. We continually strive to elevate and sustain political

momentum within tiger range countries, while at the same time supporting inter-governmental processes. Within these processes we push the agenda and dialogue towards the most pressing tiger conservation problems — those that might lead to the quickest recovery of tigers if they were better addressed by governments.

Though the 2010 moment is celebrated for having a species-specific goal, it also stemmed from the recognition

that the tiger decline was an indicator for ecosystems in crisis and on the brink of collapse. It drew attention to the fact that the development philosophy needed to find a balance between the economy and nature. Securing tigers beyond 2022 will rely on an unwavering commitment from governments in tiger range countries to implement policies that prioritise tiger habitats and protect them from exploitation. WWF's policy work underpins all our efforts toward doubling tigers.

PROGRESS SINCE THE SUMMIT

2010

1ST MINISTERIAL

Critical pre-Summit meeting held in Hua Hin, Thailand.



2010

GLOBAL TIGER SUMMIT

Landmark event hosted by the Russian Federation and World Bank, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Convened more than 600 participants, four heads of government, the Chinese premier, and ministers from all other tiger range countries, to formally commit to TX2.

2012

1ST STOCKTAKING

Country representatives met in New Delhi, India to review progress on the TX2 goal.

2012

2ND MINISTERIAL

Countries convened in Thimphu, Bhutan. Agreed on action agenda, calling for more support to combat illegal poaching.

TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION AND TRADE MEETING

The Chinese government held a meeting in Kunming, China, where WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative and TRAFFIC presented a report on tiger trade to range country representatives.

2014

2ND STOCKTAKING

Recommendations are adopted, including a commitment to achieve a range-wide tiger census, during the meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2013

4TH MINISTERIAL

4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation hosted by Malaysia.

2ND GLOBAL TIGER SUMMIT

Russia will host the second Tiger Summit in Vladivostok. WWF is working to ensure this is a transformative moment, in which global efforts for the species are greatly accelerated.

2022
THE YEAR OF
THE TIGER

2016

3RD MINISTERIAL

WWF supported the 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in New Delhi, India, inaugurated by India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The conference parties adopted the New Delhi Resolution, committing to align global tiger conservation with the economic development agenda.

3RD STOCKTAKING

Conference hosted by the Government of India, in partnership with Global Tiger Forum and WWF, explicitly recognised Southeast Asia's tiger decline crisis.

2019

2022

2022

NATIONAL POLITICAL ATTENTION

Since the landmark 2010 Summit, tiger conservation has garnered increased political attention at the national level. In Nepal, the national government formed the National Tiger Conservation Committee under the chairmanship of the prime minister, to provide a high-level mechanism for policy setting and to coordinate stakeholders in tiger conservation. The committee, of which WWF Nepal is a core member, includes representatives from six ministries as well as national and international tiger experts nominated by the committee.

Other coordination bodies were created in parallel, such as the National Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, to ensure illegal wildlife trade was addressed at all levels of government.



PROTECTED AREAS

In many range countries, new protected areas were designated for tigers. In 2017, China approved a massive 14,500 sq. km park along the Russia-China-North Korea border — the largest tiger protected area on the planet. WWF was the most important NGO partner in the creation of this park including our habitat assessments which influenced border delineation and facilitation of transboundary cooperation. Russia established the Komissarovskiy Wildlife Refuge with support from WWF, an 800 sq. km transboundary protected area, as well as Bikin National Park; more than 11,600 sq. km of forest often referred to as “the Russian Amazon”. Bikin is also the traditional land of the Udege and Nanai indigenous people, who co-manage this important area.

Since 2014, India has established 14 new tiger reserves spanning an area of over 15,000 sq. km. WWF helped to influence some of these increased designations while remaining sensitive to the necessary collaboration with local communities. One example is the 2014 establishment of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. The reserve is a narrow strip of forest surrounded by one of the highest human population densities of all tiger landscapes. And yet, the tiger population here has approximately doubled and is now home to over 50 adult tigers.

© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-US



© Simon Rawles / WWF-UK

IMPROVED TIGER MONITORING

A vital step in a goal to double wild tigers is to know how many tigers there are and where they are. In 2016, following pressure from WWF, all tiger range countries committed to conduct tiger censuses — no small feat, particularly for a country such as India, where the last estimation covered over 380,000 sq. km of forest. WWF has supported national tiger surveys in Bhutan, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, and Thailand, with inputs ranging from site-based monitoring, technical support and capacity building, to provisioning of equipment and data analysis.

In India for example, WWF biologists worked with the National Tiger Conservation Authority and State Forest Departments to support the All India Tiger Estimation in numerous sites. WWF also conducted capacity building workshops for field staff on sign survey methodology, camera trap deployment, and data management. India’s 2018 tiger estimation was the world’s largest camera trap survey ever undertaken for a single species with the deployment of camera traps at 26,838 locations, making it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

TIGER SURVEYS

Over the past 12 years, tiger surveys have notably improved across monitoring techniques, data quality and effective national reporting. India and Bhutan are now conducting joint tiger surveys, and other countries have proposed doing the same, such as Bangladesh-India and India-Nepal. As a result of comprehensive monitoring, new tiger populations have also been discovered in Myanmar and Thailand, and new initiatives have been launched to focus on tigers recorded at high altitude.

WWF congratulates tiger range country governments for remarkable improvements and investments into knowledge and monitoring of tigers in the last decade. We will continue to call for and support countries to carry out national tiger surveys as the cornerstone of their tiger conservation work and to enable the release of scientifically robust global population estimates. We will also expand support for tiger prey surveys. Our involvement as a core member in the ground-breaking Wildlife Insights partnership — the world’s largest camera trap database and management platform — will enable us to better monitor, analyse and collaborate on tiger prey data to inform effective tiger recovery interventions.

OUR VISION FOR TIGER CONSERVATION...

...would see the second Tiger Summit as a transformative moment, in which global efforts for the species are greatly accelerated. To achieve this we will put our support behind a number of new approaches, including;



- 1

NEW GOALS
the adoption of a smaller set of measurable 'priority' goals for tiger range countries



- 2

MAPPING SOUTHEAST ASIA'S RECOVERY
the adoption of a focused and financed Southeast Asia Tiger Recovery Plan



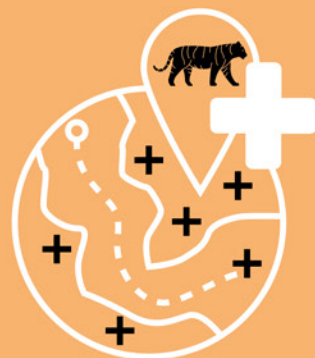
- 3

WORKING TOGETHER
increased collaboration between governments, local communities, NGOs, and public and private sectors on tiger conservation



- 4

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES
a mechanism for tiger range countries to better address issues of human-tiger coexistence in those countries that have greatly grown their tiger populations since 2010



- 5

RANGE EXPANSION
an ambitious plan to put tigers back in landscapes from which they have been recently lost, while also expanding the total number of countries involved in the Global Tiger Initiative beyond the current number of 13

THE PATH AHEAD

The 2022 Second Global Tiger Summit is a critical milestone which will define the direction and priorities of global tiger conservation for the following decade and beyond — as well as the degree of political attention afforded to the species during that time frame. Since the adoption of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme in 2010, evidence indicates the centuries-long trend of wild tiger decline has finally been reversed. However, these gains are fragile and have not been uniform across all tiger range countries.

WWF helped to convene a coalition of six international NGOs (Fauna and Flora International, IUCN, Panthera, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF) all closely involved with tiger conservation. This coalition has already outlined a vision for how to improve the coordinated tiger recovery from 2022 onward. Together, we are

working to help replicate this 'tiger coalition' model at the country level, so that civil society can speak with one voice on tiger conservation priorities during this critical period. The coalition has also agreed to develop major joint activities around mutual priorities — greatly increasing our potential to achieve impact and policy outcomes in those areas.

WWF is further supporting the development of the agenda for the 2022 Summit and preparing evidence-based case studies in support of specific policy changes we believe are needed. Such changes would include the introduction of national anti-snaring strategies, an increase in tiger protected area budgets and staff numbers in those countries which currently spend the least, as well as improved intra-governmental collaboration mechanisms such as the formation of National Tiger Committees.



© Rahul K Talegaonkar



**SOCIAL
MOMENTUM**

PEOPLE-CENTRED TIGER CONSERVATION

Tigers live in some of the world’s most densely populated places. Planning for tiger recovery means ensuring tigers have space to roam and their prey have the resources to flourish, in ways that benefit rather than hinder the people who share the landscapes with them.

WWF’s People-Centred Tiger Conservation approach recognises that communities must be partners in tiger conservation, rather than simply actors or beneficiaries. This requires a shift in the way we approach community based or inclusive conservation. It entails significantly more time and a diversity of skills to better understand the attitudes, perceptions, and aspirations of communities; to identify how power dynamics and external factors influence conservation; to be able to develop a shared vision and common ground; and, to identify and implement a range of conservation incentives that go beyond just economic benefits.

Communities are heterogeneous and it is critical in our conservation work that we understand the diverse perspectives within communities and how they change over time. It is vital that we also identify the roles of different stakeholders in the tiger landscapes and how they influence tiger conservation.

Across the tiger’s range, people-centred approaches are already underway, from citizen science initiatives in Nepal, to partnerships with hunting estates in Russia, employment of indigenous patrol teams in Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia, to the creation of local multi-stakeholder management bodies in Thailand, engagement with plantation managers for staff safety in Indonesia, to linking farmers in Central India with buyers of sustainably produced cotton. What all these approaches have in common is the greater engagement and ownership of communities in the planning, implementation, and shared outcomes.

WWF establishes the Social Development for Conservation (SD4C) — from which a team of experts work to mainstream indigenous and community rights into WWF’s tiger conservation work. Each WWF office developed new social policies and commitments to integrate into their projects and programs.

2011-2015 A FOCUS ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION

WWF prioritises community conservation with a focus on good governance, livelihood-based approaches, poverty reduction and gender equity.

2015-2018 PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTER

WWF integrates a human rights-based approach and increases our accountability towards communities in tiger landscapes. We increasingly work in partnership with rights-based organisations and adopt holistic approaches to enable co-existence with tigers.

WWF is changing the way we work with communities in tiger landscapes towards a people centered approach. We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the rights of our community partners.

**Timeline represents general trends across WWF. Some tiger landscapes have been leaders in this space and moved more rapidly than dates depicted.*



© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-UK



13 TIGER RANGE
COUNTRY
GOVERNMENTS



OVER 57 MILLION
PEOPLE LIVING IN
TIGER LANDSCAPES

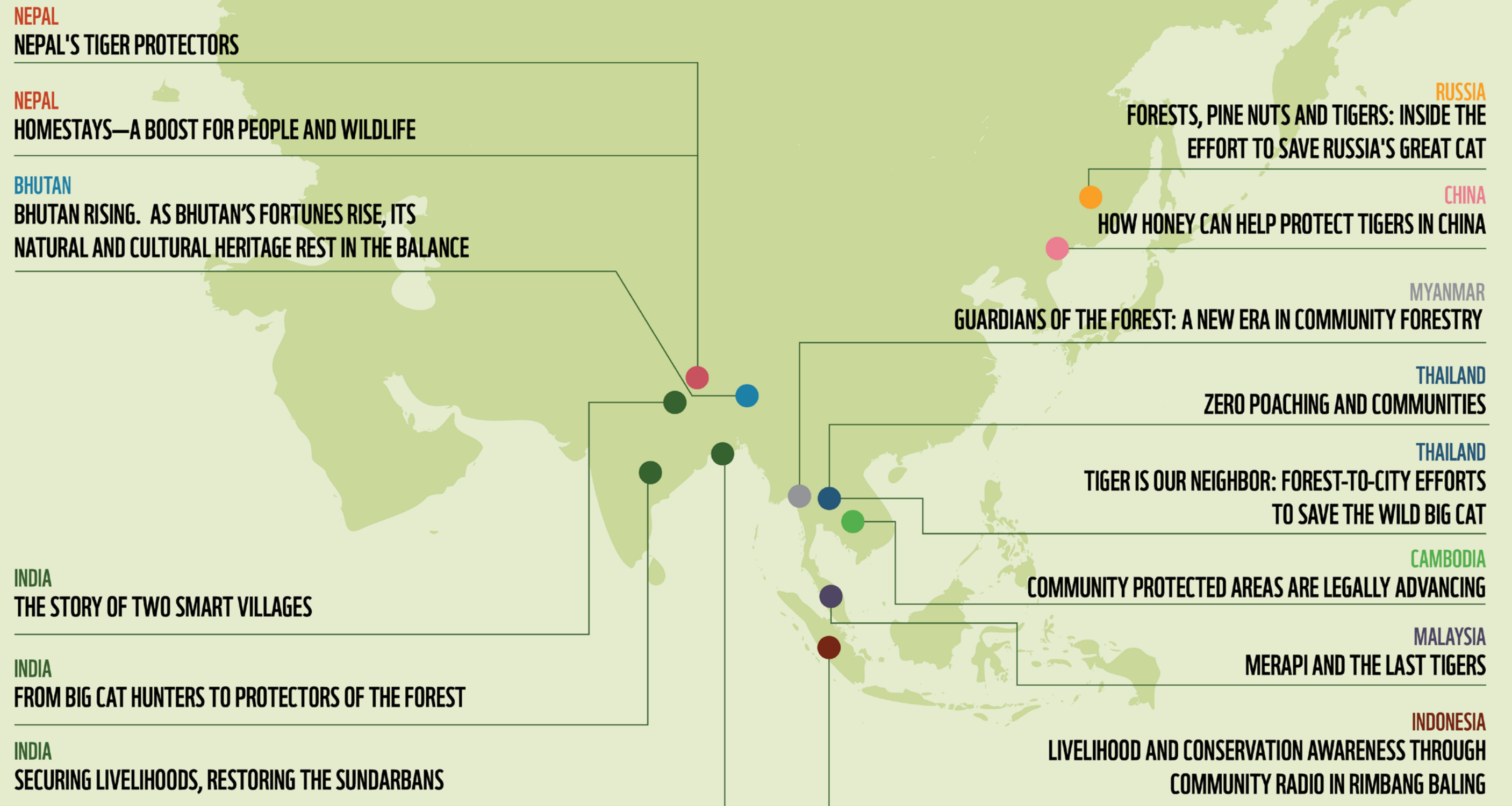
INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION

People-centred approaches to tiger conservation are already underway. Use the QR code to read these stories and learn how WWF is partnering with communities across tiger landscapes.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PEOPLE-CENTRED TIGER CONSERVATION APPROACHES

Hold your device over this QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the web page.



ENHANCING BENEFITS FOR THOSE LIVING ALONGSIDE TIGERS

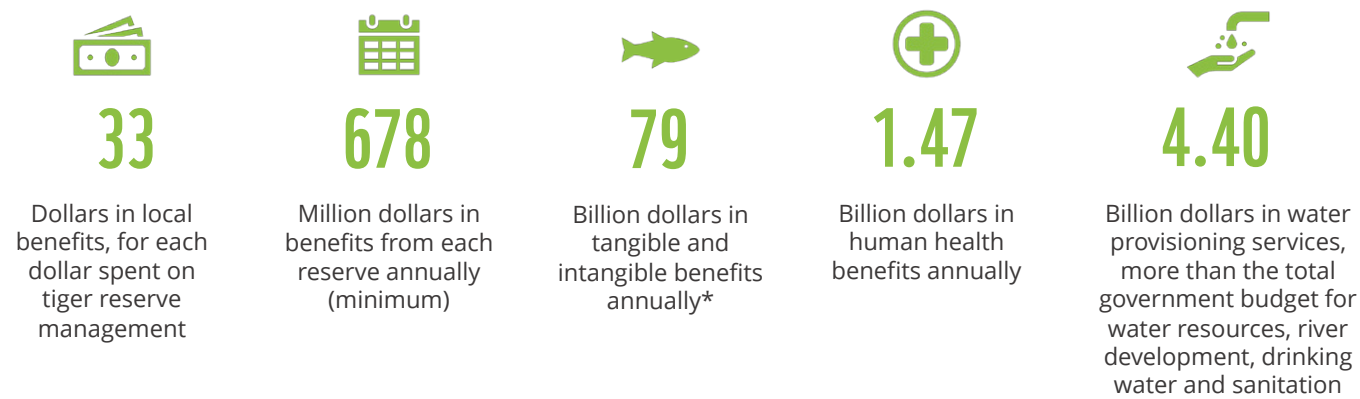
Tiger landscapes are major contributors to socio-economic development. These areas inject important income directly into remote rural areas and have significant secondary impacts, such as job creation in various service industries.

In India, for example, tiger tourism has been directly linked to jobs in 20 independent sectors, including mechanics, hotel staff, drivers, hairdressers, bakers, and

primary producers. They also provide countries with essential ecosystem services.

WWF is working with partners to increase the resilience of community-led conservation, including diversifying income opportunities, developing more resilient tourism, strengthening legal frameworks, and working with communities to co-create sustainable livelihood development solutions.

CO-BENEFITS: Economic Valuation Of 10 Tiger Reserves In India



* Tangible benefits may include employment generation, fishing, fodder, fuelwood, bamboo, and non-timber forest products. Intangible benefits may include carbon sequestration, water provisioning, water purification, climate regulation, gene pool protection, cultural heritage, and spiritual tourism.

** Source: Verma, M., Tiwari C., Anand S., Edgaonkar, A., David, A., Kadekodi, G., Ninan K.N., Sharma P., Panda P., Thatey .Z. Economic Valuation of Tiger Reserves in India: Phase II. Indian Institute of Forest Management. Bhopal, India. July 2013. Conversion Rate: INR/USD 0.13



CASE STUDY

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN NEPAL

In Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape, rural communities are heavily dependent on forests. 61 per cent of households rely on wood as their main fuel for cooking. This includes eight different indigenous groups who have inhabited, managed, and protected tiger landscapes for generations. Not only has the conservation of these forests benefitted tigers and other wildlife, but it also helps to ensure that rural and indigenous communities have access to a sustainable source of fuel, fodder, wild foods, building materials, and medicine.

WWF approaches conservation in Nepal by enabling local people to become resource managers, beneficiaries, and stewards of the forests in which they live. This 'Community Forestry' framework gives forest users legal rights to the forests they manage and the economic gains.

Our species conservation programme has demonstrably helped build the human capital of the Terai Arc Landscape through capacity building aimed at diversifying economic activity. We have helped to strengthen entrepreneurial skills and local ability to sustainably manage natural resources, and provided support structures such as small credit and marketing schemes.

This type of social ecological landscape planning integrates societal goals and values with conservation goals, to build a longer-term version where tigers are a vital part of social and economic development.



Conservation needs to focus on people; only then will it be understood. If I had told my community that the forests were needed for tigers and elephants, my idea would not have been accepted at all. But when I pointed out that the forests were for the communities themselves to manage, to also provide for human benefit when managed sustainably and passed on from one generation to another, the community began seeing the worth of our efforts.



MAYA YOGI
Terai Arc Landscape,
Community Mobiliser



© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-US

MAKING MARKETS WORK FOR COMMUNITIES IN INDIA

WWF-India has been working with communities in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh since 2014 to sustainably strengthen income opportunities. For many communities living in the Central India Tiger Landscape the forest is an integral part of their life with important and irreplaceable economic, social and cultural values. Many people have sustained traditional skills in the collection and harvesting of non timber forest products, including honey. WWF has been working in partnership with these communities and government authorities to empower them to monitor the collection of resources, develop sustainable use models and monitoring protocols and establish market linkages for their produce.

TOGETHER WE HAVE ACHIEVED:

SUSTAINABILITY: 85 traditional honey collectors were involved and trained in sustainable honey collection and harvesting.

GOVERNANCE: Four honey societies were formed and

have jointly acquired formal registration in the state as a Samiti (society).

ADDITIONAL INCOME: With support from WWF and the Chhattisgarh Forest Department, the Samiti has received organic certification for the collection and storage process. Match funding and identification of buyers enabled a doubling of the market rate for their honey as compared with earlier years. 33 traditional honey collectors have also been trained to become a trainer themselves (an additional income opportunity when offering training).

WWF will expand this work to partner with more communities and help form cluster organisations to increase product value and develop established governance structures. We will continue to support exploration of better market linkages and promote sustainable collection of honey and other non timber forest products to the benefit of local people, the forest, tigers and other wildlife that use these corridors and buffer areas.



CONTINUING TO DO BETTER

WWF's People Centred Tiger Conservation approach expands on existing community-based conservation to further promote sustainable partnerships with and gain active support from communities and other stakeholders in tiger landscapes. WWF's ambition is to both scale and refine this approach to ensure the needs, priorities and capabilities of communities living in tiger landscapes are properly considered.

A part of this ambition is a shift in how our conservation programs are designed and implemented to ensure the impact of conservation approaches on communities is effectively monitored. The People-Centered Tiger Conservation approach uses 'Social Carrying Capacity' (the tolerance level of communities towards living with tigers in the landscape) as a tool to measure both the impact of our interventions and the support and stewardship of communities and other stakeholders towards long term tiger conservation.

Overall our approach enables a deeper understanding of tiger landscapes, from a social lens, through the use of 'Social Landscape Mapping' — a tool that maps the relevant stakeholders and how they interact (needs, priorities, conflicting interests, and values). Scaling the use of this tool will provide a clear understanding of who influences tiger conservation in our priority tiger landscapes.



FORESTS FIT FOR TIGERS

CONSERVATION ASSURED TIGER STANDARDS

Given good quality habitat, sufficient prey and adequate protection, tigers can increase their numbers quickly. Protected areas are a good strategy for retaining forest cover, however their role in protecting wildlife depends on the quality of management. Many studies show that tiger numbers can continue to decline in poorly managed protected areas, particularly due to hunting of tiger prey or tigers themselves for traditional medicines and other illegal activities.

Over the last 12 years, WWF has been employing increasingly targeted interventions in site-based tiger conservation, driven in a large part through our involvement and leadership of the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) partnership. CA|TS — which launched in 2013 — is an accreditation system designed by an international group of experts and protected area managers to measure and improve the management of tiger conservation areas. The mission of the CA|TS is to secure safe havens for tigers by demonstrating and promoting best practices in protected area management. The CA|TS accreditation scheme works by encouraging tiger conservation areas to meet a set of standards and criteria necessary to assure effective, long term tiger conservation. Tiger conservation areas taking part in CA|TS are registered and, following an assessment, management gaps are identified, or the site is submitted for accreditation (achieving the standards as verified through an independent review process). What started as a small project in WWF is now a global partnership comprising seven tiger range governments, three inter-governmental agencies, and nine institutions and NGOs.

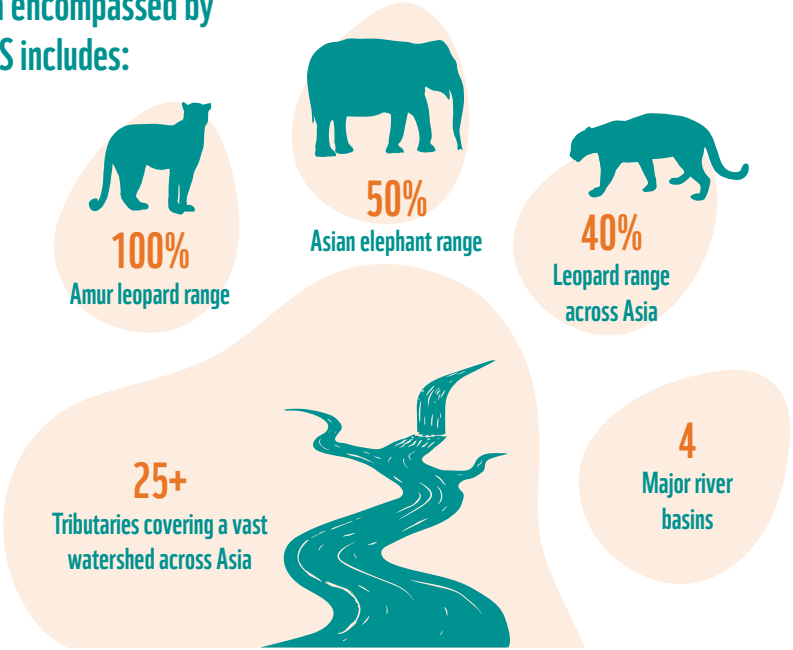
“

CA|TS is an excellent diagnostic tool designed to help site-based tiger management and conservation be effective and assist in identifying gaps, challenges and resources needed to catalyse the recovery of tigers.



DR SUGOTO ROY
Chair of CA|TS International Executive Committee and Coordinator of the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme, Global Species and Key Biodiversity Areas Programme, IUCN

The area encompassed by the CA|TS includes:



Adapted for other species:

Based on the success of the CA|TS partnership, WWF is working to adapt the program for other umbrella species, like jaguar, lion and river dolphins.



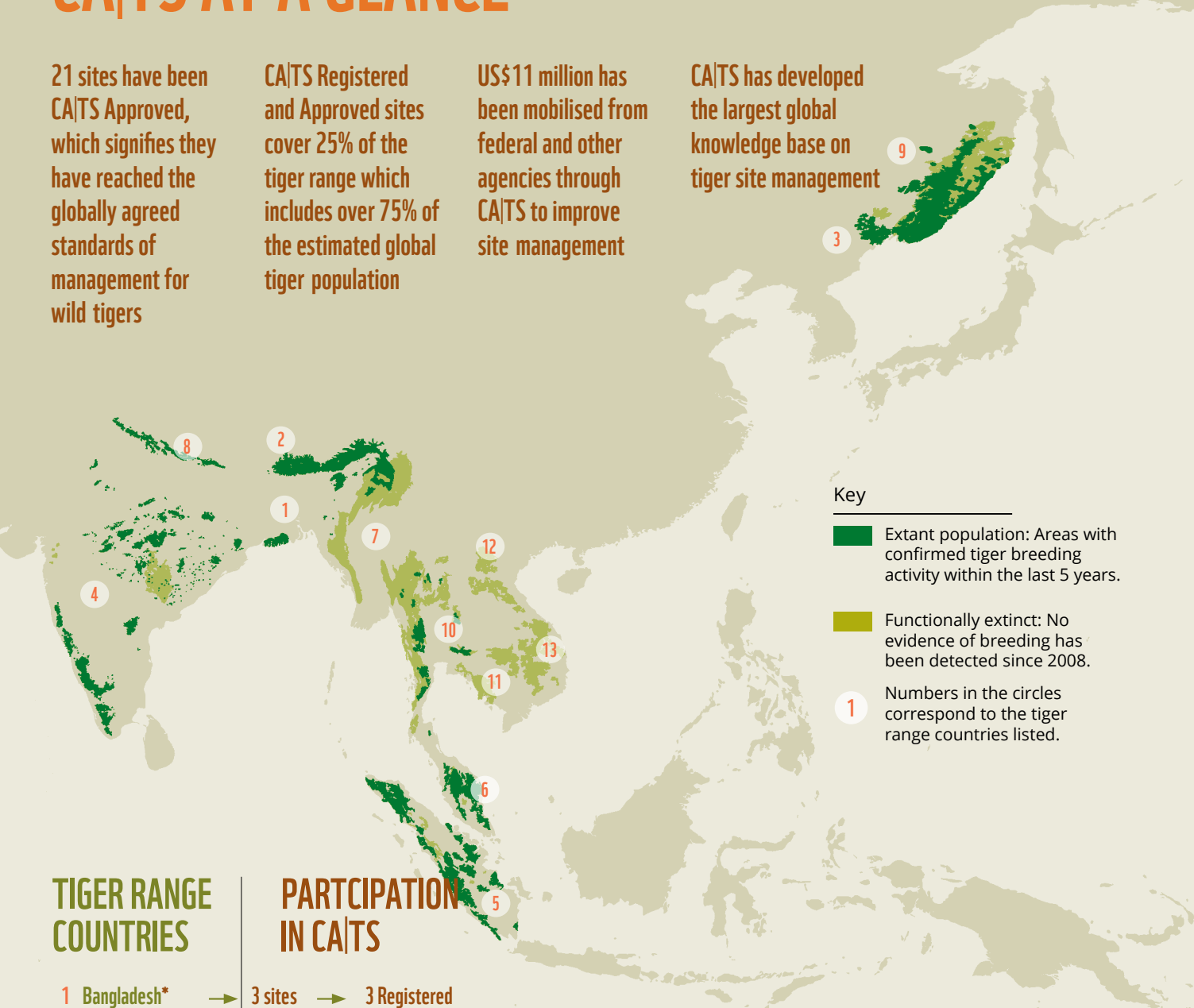
CA|TS AT A GLANCE

21 sites have been CA|TS Approved, which signifies they have reached the globally agreed standards of management for wild tigers

CA|TS Registered and Approved sites cover 25% of the tiger range which includes over 75% of the estimated global tiger population

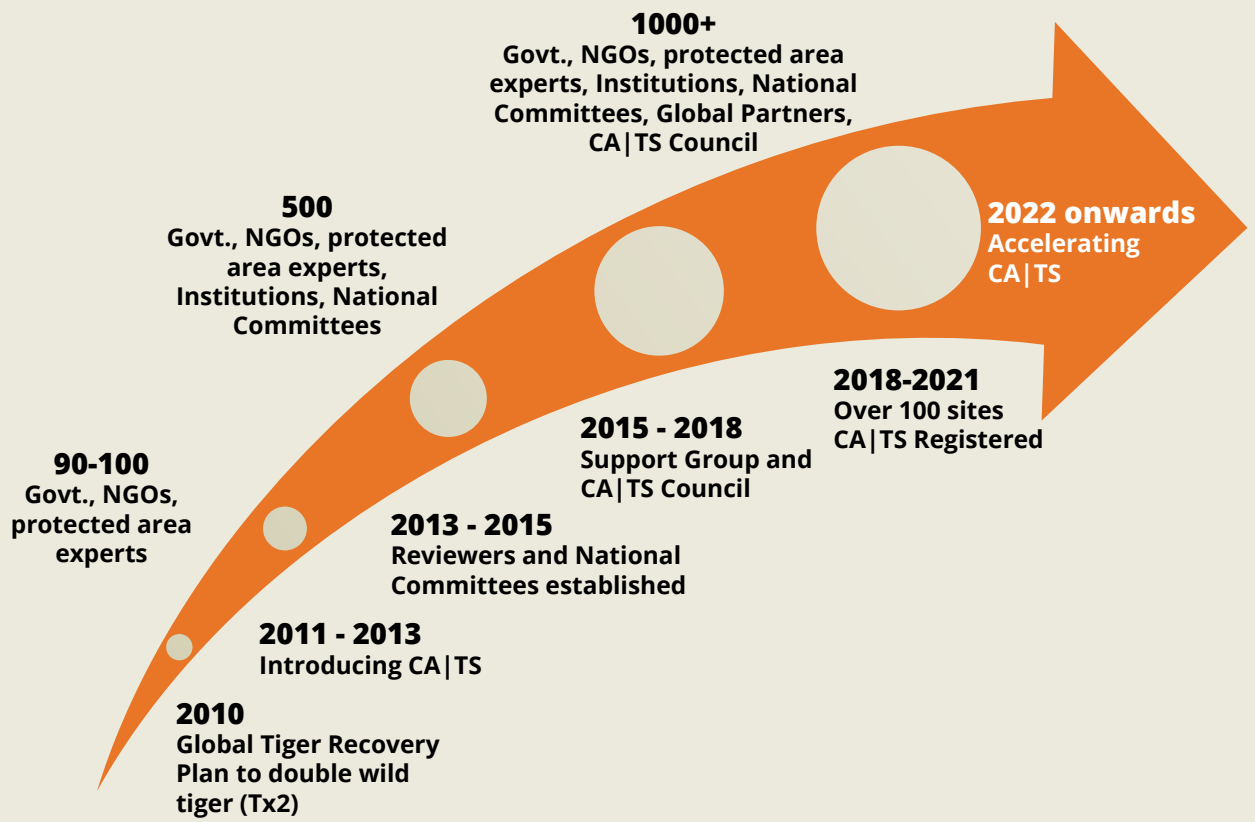
US\$11 million has been mobilised from federal and other agencies through CA|TS to improve site management

CA|TS has developed the largest global knowledge base on tiger site management

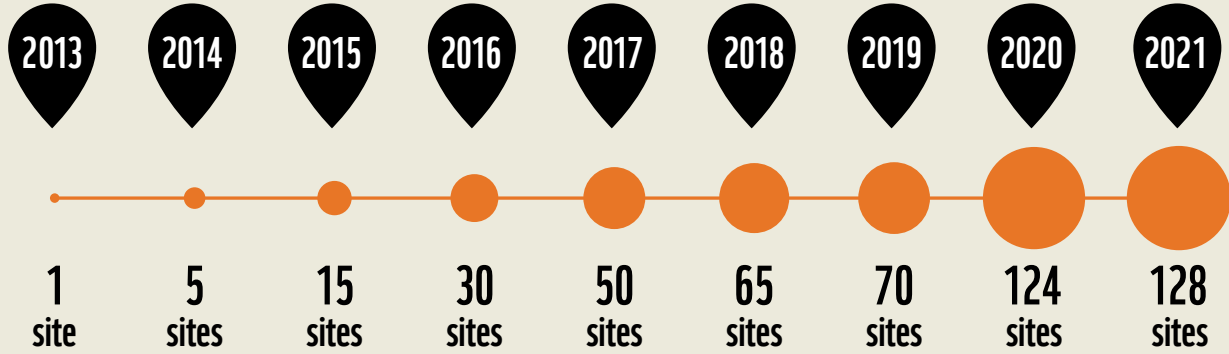


TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES		PARTICIPATION IN CA TS	
1 Bangladesh*	→ 3 sites	→ 3 Registered	
2 Bhutan*	→ 10 sites	→ 8 Registered	→ 2 Approved
3 China*	→ 6 sites	→ 6 Registered	
4 India*	→ 96 sites	→ 79 Registered	→ 17 Approved
5 Indonesia			
6 Malaysia*	→ 1 sites	→ 1 Registered	
7 Myanmar			
8 Nepal*	→ 5 sites	→ 4 Registered	→ 1 Approved
9 Russia*	→ 7 sites	→ 6 Registered	→ 1 Approved
10 Thailand			
COUNTRIES IN THE TIGER RANGE WHERE TIGERS ARE FUNCTIONALLY EXTINCT			
11 Cambodia			
12 Lao PDR			
13 Vietnam			

THE CA|TS JOURNEY



128 sites registered across 7 countries



WHAT CA|TS HAS ACHIEVED



ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

through an evidence-based framework of standards



MONITORING & TRACKING

where active management interventions are required to catalyse recovery via an offline software program, CA|TS-LOG



LOCAL OWNERSHIP

by countries via national committees and the CA|TS Council advisory body, which is being established to ensure sustainability



PARTNERSHIP

approach



COST-EFFECTIVE

use of finite public and private conservation funding



© Nitish Madan / WWF-International

CASE STUDY

COLLABORATION THROUGH CA|TS: ROYAL BELUM STATE PARK, MALAYSIA

Royal Belum State Park is one of the oldest protected areas in Peninsular Malaysia — the forest could be more than 130 million years old. It is one of three national priority areas for tigers and once had the highest density of the big cats in the country. Tragically, 50 per cent of Belum-Temengor’s tigers were wiped out over a seven-year period, as a result of rampant poaching. At WWF’s last count in 2018, less than 20 tigers remained.

Since registering for CA|TS in 2017, Royal Belum State Park has been using the assessment to inform action and strategic conservation investments. In just two years, the park’s CA|TS score increased from 48% to 61% (the target for protected area accreditation is over 70%). This dramatic improvement is indicative of the collaborative efforts by local leaders, indigenous community patrol teams — who have reduced the snare encounter rates by 90%* — and scientists monitoring additional areas to further inform conservation actions.



CA|TS has the power to affect positive change in Malaysia by helping park managers to systematically track progress and implement conservation best practices. The program also catalysed transboundary cooperation between the governments of Malaysia and Thailand to combat poaching on both sides of the border.



ROA'A HAGIR

Senior Programme Officer for WWF’s implementation of CA|TS in Malaysia



© WWF/ Malaysia

CASE STUDY

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: INDIA’S TIGER RESERVES

In July 2020, India’s National Tiger Conservation Authority of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the adoption of CA|TS across all of the country’s 50 Tiger Reserves. These reserves are spread over 72,000 sq. km and contain over 60 per cent of the world’s tiger population. This announcement was seen as further strengthening India’s contribution to the global goal of doubling wild tiger numbers. India reported a total of 2,967 wild tigers during the last population estimation in 2018, up from an estimated 1,411 tigers in 2006.



As we respond to the severe global health, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19, now is the moment for us to more clearly understand the risks associated with nature loss and degradation of natural ecosystems. Healthy populations of wild tigers are an important indicator of healthy ecosystems and sustainable development.



MIDORI PAXTON

Head of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNDP and CA|TS Executive Committee member

CONNECTIVITY



© Dr Sanjay K Shukla / WWF-International



TIGER LANDSCAPES

Remaining tiger populations inhabit increasingly fragmented and isolated patches of land in human dominated landscapes. Instead of focusing only on specific tiger sites, WWF is working in 14 vast and connected landscapes — eight of which straddle international boundaries — a strategy which takes into account the larger ecological, social, and political context in which tigers exist.

These landscapes support some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people, as well as critical ecosystem functions. At the same time, pressures on these areas are immense, including hydro-power development, road and rail expansion, logging and extractive industries, and expanding agricultural estates.

Tiger corridors are recognised as vital to a long-term landscape strategy but are also the most fragile components, exposed to acute and chronic threats. If movement corridors are lost, tigers become isolated in smaller populations, increasing exposure to hunters, conflict with people, reducing their genetic diversity, and preventing dispersal into new territory. The resulting fragments are often too small to sustain minimum tiger populations. Given this, maintaining local support for tiger conservation and restoring and protecting landscape connectivity has been a vital component of WWF's work to recover tiger populations.

© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-US

FREEDOM TO MOVE

More than half of WWF supported tiger landscapes are transboundary, in that they span across more than one country and tigers do or could move between them. Therefore, it is important that the same levels of protection and management are afforded to them on both sides of the political border.

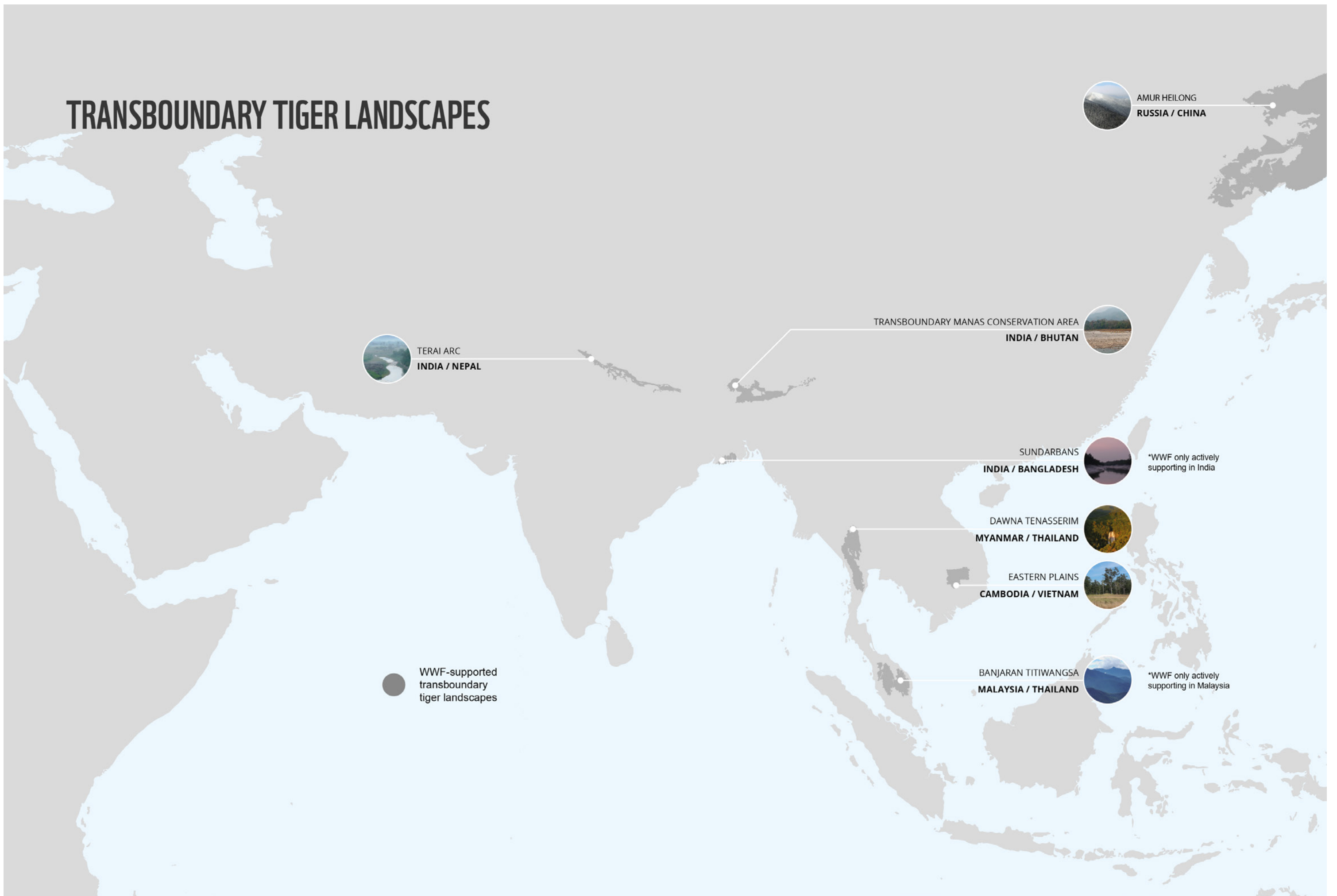
Facilitating cooperation between tiger range countries is a crucial component of WWF's goal to double wild tigers. These efforts typically begin with a relatively simple catalyst, like the need to share information across borders or between individuals. The goal over time is a formal recognition of the transboundary landscape by both countries, such as the Transboundary Manas Conservation Area connecting India and Bhutan, which requires collaboration and political will from the highest national offices.

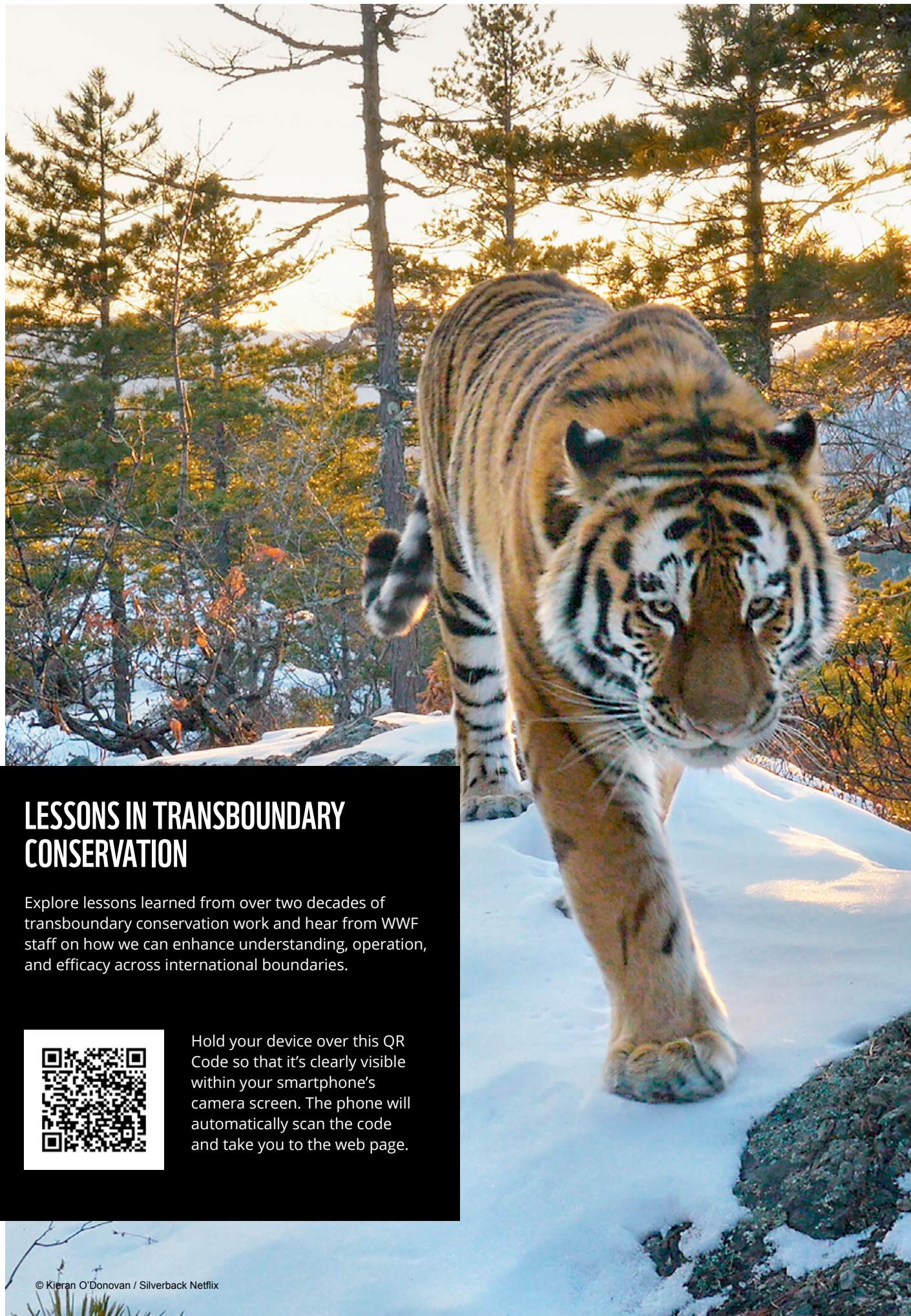
WWF has been supporting international cooperation across each one of these landscapes, all of which vary in terms of their transboundary work. Some (Terai Arc and Transboundary Manas) have extensive formal management arrangements for joint monitoring, data sharing, communication, and resources devoted to transboundary activities. Others (Dawna Tenasserim, Sundarbans and Amur Heilong) have some of these systems in place and are on a trajectory towards more collaborative work and planning. Some landscapes simply recognize their transboundary linkages and have proposals to coordinate effort (Eastern Plains), while others (Banjaran Titiwangsa) have no formal plans nor joint actions across the border despite the critical need for tiger recovery.



© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-UK

TRANSBOUNDARY TIGER LANDSCAPES





LESSONS IN TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

Explore lessons learned from over two decades of transboundary conservation work and hear from WWF staff on how we can enhance understanding, operation, and efficacy across international boundaries.



Hold your device over this QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the web page.

© Kieran O'Donovan / Silverback Netflix

CASE STUDY

CONNECTIVITY THROUGH COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN NEPAL

Kamdi, the largest corridor in the Terai Arc Landscape, stretches across an area of 667.36 sq. km from Dang district to Banke National Park in mid-western Nepal. While the corridor faces diverse social, ecological, and infrastructural challenges, it holds considerable conservation significance as a dispersal pathway for tigers and elephants. However, major flooding of the Rapti river in 2006, 2014, 2015 and 2017 has caused deforestation and new settlements in the area. Forests in the corridor were hit hard with increased pressure on resources, overgrazing, and illicit harvesting and poaching.

WWF Nepal has been focused on reducing demand for forest resources among nearby communities and fostering regeneration in the degraded area of Banke National Park through the Government's community forestry program. Restoration, protection, and management activities have brought tremendous changes to the region with approximately 4.48 sq. km of forest plains restored between 2015-2020. And as a result, tiger populations are flourishing. The 2018 National Tiger Survey documented 21 tigers in Banke National Park compared to just four in 2013, a strong case for corridor functionality and wildlife dispersal between Bardia, Banke, Kamdi, and Suhelwa in the long run.



© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-US

CASE STUDY

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO CONNECTIVITY IN INDIA

In India, WWF has helped to establish the Coalition for Wildlife Corridors — a collaboration of people and organisations using science and advocacy to identify, design and support effective management of wildlife corridors across India. The coalition uses a data-driven approach to conservation planning in corridors and influences economic development to minimise impacts on connectivity in major terrestrial and freshwater habitats, while recognising existing social rights and cultural practices. The partnership enables a unified and amplified voice for corridor conservation and drives joint action in the field to secure corridors and influence land use planning. Currently the organisations involved include WWF-India, Wildlife Trust of India, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Conservation Initiatives, Network for Conservation of Central India, Wildlife Research and Conservation Society and Centre for Wildlife Studies.



© Gary Van Wyk / The Ginkgo Agency / Whiskas / WWF-UK

CONNECTIVITY SCIENCE
AND STRATEGY

WWF's work to protect and connect tiger habitat is based on current scientific thinking. New approaches to corridor identification, monitoring and protection are continuously

emerging as technology advances and the science is refined. For many years we had conceptualised corridors as linear, mostly forested patches that connect two larger spaces.

Since then, we've learned that tiger corridors are likely to be a mosaic, which includes dry riverbeds, plantations, agricultural fields, and even peri-urban spaces that we

didn't think wildlife would use. Therefore, the corridor management and engagement strategies WWF employs cover a whole suite of approaches, and proactive partnerships with communities and other stakeholders in those areas.

For example, in India's Terai Arc Landscape, where tigers may cross through settlements en route to other areas,

WWF installed 295 solar street lights across 22 villages to reduce tiger-human conflict, since there are less chance of human-tiger encounters in well lit areas. WWF has been working across tiger range countries to develop strategies for connectivity that reflect compromise with local community aspirations and that factor-in change from development scenarios and future climate shifts.

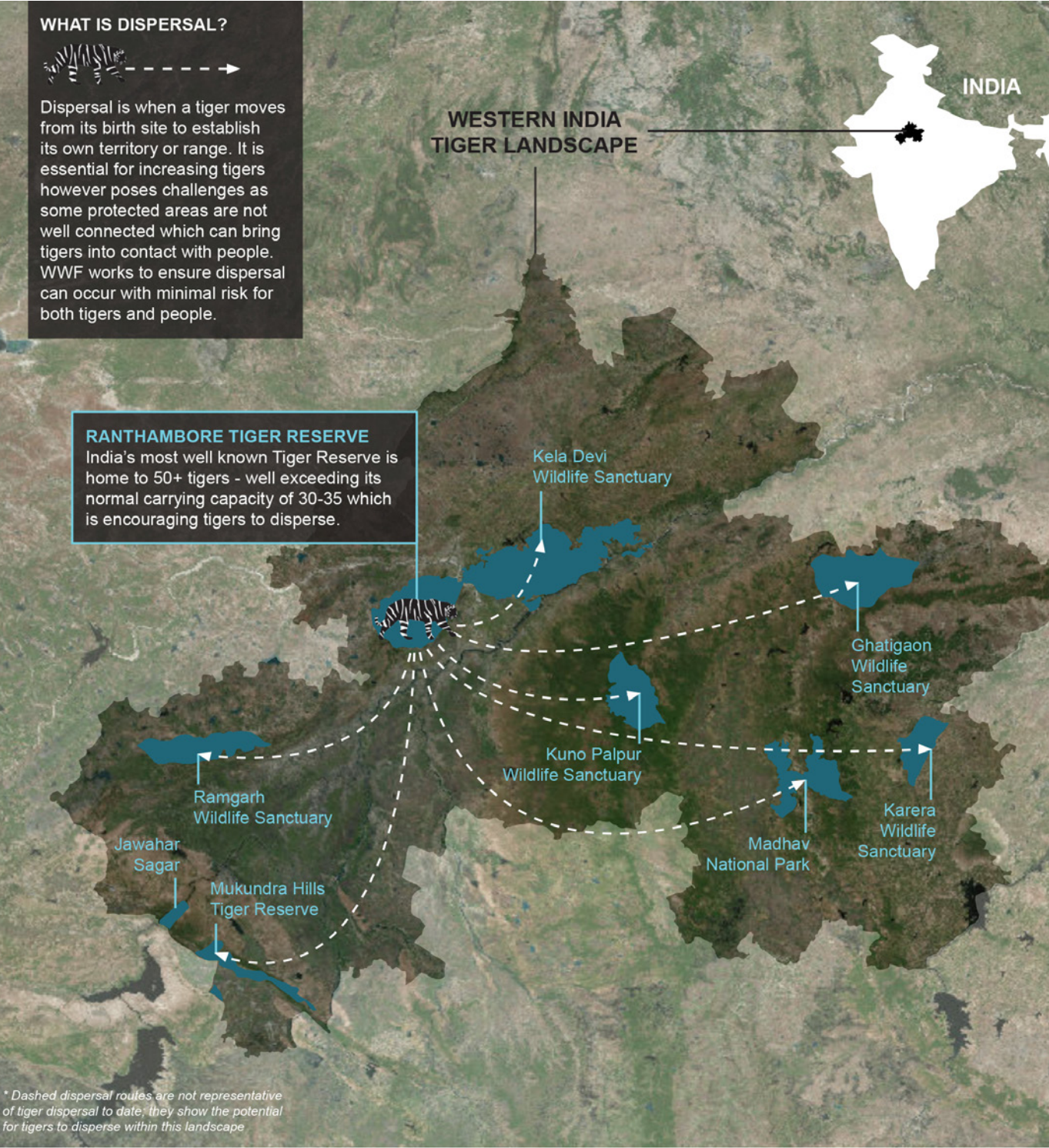


TIGER DISPERSAL IN WESTERN INDIA

The Western India Tiger landscape holds one of the western-most distributions of tigers in the world. The iconic Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is the stronghold for the big cats in this landscape from which tigers disperse into other protected areas with significant potential for tiger recovery.

WWF has been working in the landscape to enable and

maintain corridor functionality between protected areas to ensure tigers can successfully and safely disperse. We are also working with local communities in four villages surrounding Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to ensure people are kept safe in tiger corridors and buffer areas. WWF's work here also supports the conservation of other mammals like the caracal, rusty spotted cat, and striped hyena.



CASE STUDY

TRANSBOUNDARY FORESTS, PINE NUTS AND TIGERS

In 2012, Russia established the “Sredneussuriisky” Wildlife Refuge — covering nearly 180,000 acres of forest — which allows Amur tigers to move between Russia's Sikhote-Alin mountains and the Wandashan mountains in China. The refuge is one of the only corridors that connects tiger populations in Russia and China and is particularly critical for recovering tiger numbers in China.

The forests of the Russian Far East and Eastern China are dominated by Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*). The mixed deciduous forests shelter tigers and countless other species and the Korean pine trees yield pine nuts — a key food source for deer and wild pig, the Amur tiger's primary prey. But much of the Korean pine forest has been lost to illegal logging, and fewer trees mean less food for tigers, and less income for local people who harvest pine nuts as an essential cash crop.

In response, WWF supported sustainable nut harvesting in special zones which are leased by the government to private entities. The nut harvesting offers local communities an economic alternative to illegal logging and the poaching of tigers and tiger prey.



CASE STUDY

AGROECOLOGY TO COMBAT FOREST CONVERSION IN THAILAND

In Thailand the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape is abundant in forests and a stronghold for tigers, elephants, and other endangered wildlife, however over the past decades large agri-businesses have pushed for the expansion of chemical-intensive monocropping systems. With the shift to monocropping, soils have degraded, and farmers have become more vulnerable, forced to make high investments while being dependent on the market price of a single crop.

To reduce forest conversion and help empower smallholder farmers and local communities, WWF worked with farmers, community-based organizations and local social enterprises to promote agroecological approaches. Farmers began to grow perennials, fruit, vegetables and herbs, using diverse local varieties and mixing crops and trees in agroforestry systems.

Agroecological practices improved farmers' wellbeing and agency as they now have a sustainable source of income and subsistence food crops all year round. These practices also enhanced soil fertility and supported the return of wildlife, and the restoration of habitats and ecological corridors for tigers and other endemic species.



© Thomas Cristoforetti / WWF-US

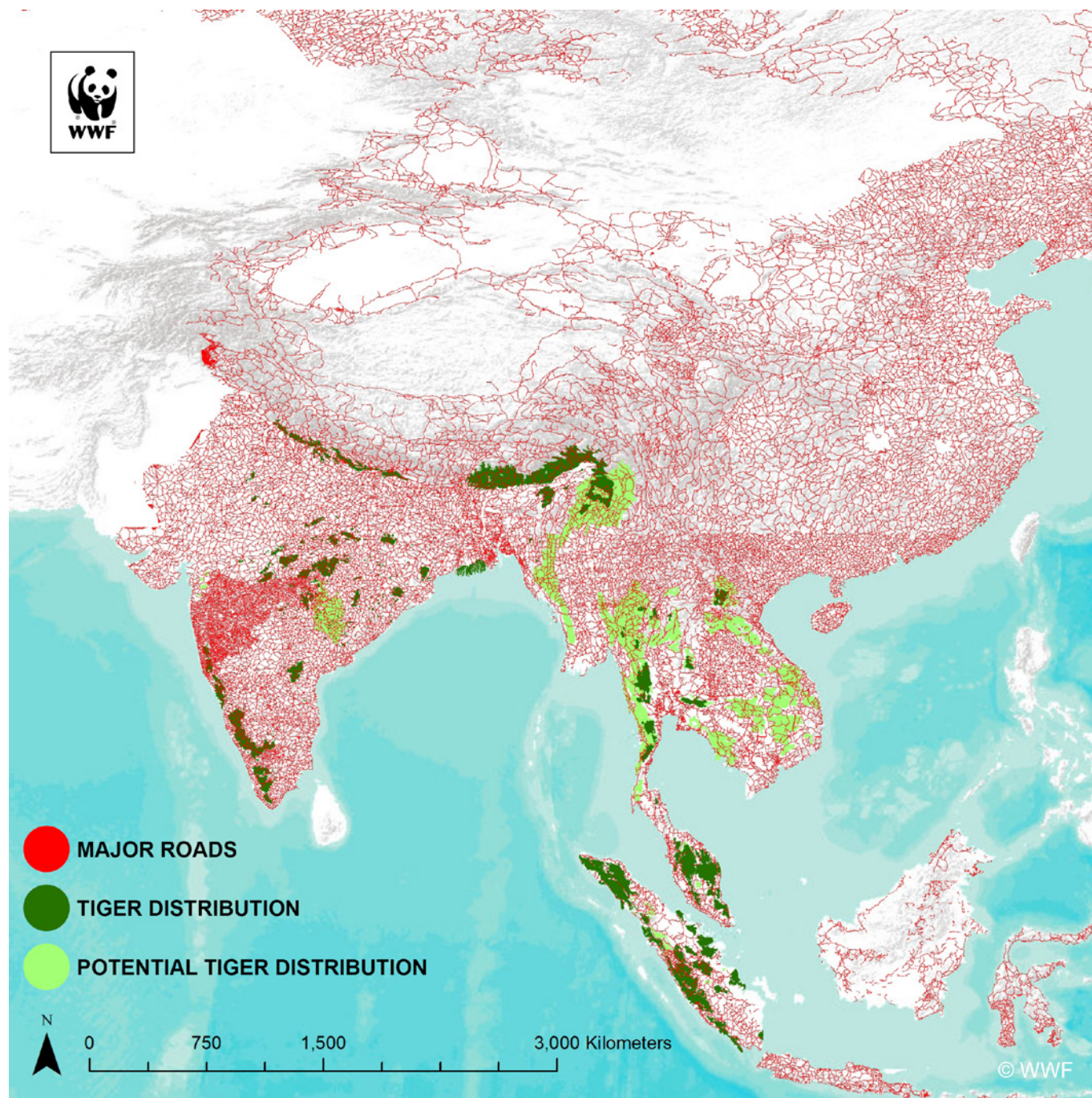
INFRASTRUCTURE

Tigers face unprecedented challenges from a vast network of new linear infrastructure planned across their landscapes. Linear infrastructure — roads, railways, gas pipelines, power lines, and canals — fragment tiger habitat, leading to increased human-tiger conflict, mortality from vehicle collisions, and poaching.

The size and scope of linear infrastructure developments across tiger range countries will only continue to grow with at least 11,000 kilometres of roads and railways already planned for construction through tiger landscapes.



© Emmanuel Rondeau _ WWF-US



MINIMISING IMPACTS

WWF has called on tiger range governments to minimise the adverse impacts of linear infrastructure on tiger habitats by developing and adopting long-term spatial plans that integrate ecological systems with development priorities. In India for example, three large vehicle overpasses were recently included on a highway that runs through Rajaji Tiger Reserve, allowing wildlife to cross underneath – a big win for conservation. WWF is also advocating that connectivity spaces be formally or legally designated with controlled regulations and clear protocols for monitoring. Based on a growing body of

knowledge and experience on mitigating the impacts of infrastructure, WWF is designing a programme that will study infrastructure development in and around tiger landscapes, identify critical habitat and corridors that could be impacted, predict future infrastructure locations and design collaborative solutions with global partners and funding mechanisms to achieve no net loss of connectivity. This approach, ‘no net loss’, shifts the onus of ensuring connectivity to the governments, companies or developers undertaking the land use change.

CASE STUDY

ROAD TO BE DESIGNED WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND

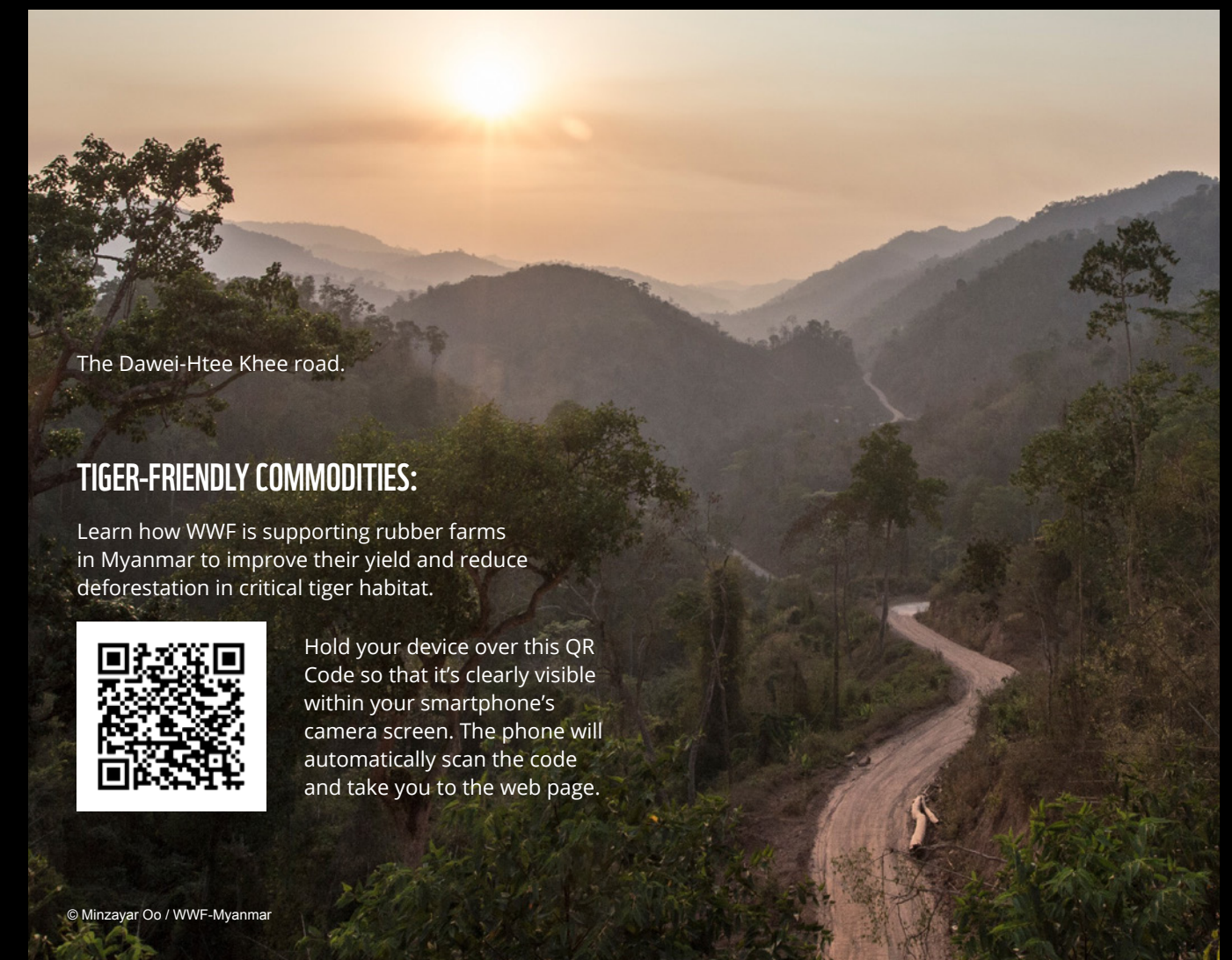
The Dawna Tenasserim is a transboundary landscape that straddles the border between Thailand and Myanmar. One of WWF’s priority landscapes, Dawna Tenasserim is one of the most biologically diverse habitats on Earth, home to around 150 tigers (majority of which are in Thailand) as well as species like Asian elephants, clouded leopards, tapirs, bears and numerous birds.

However in 2019, the Dawei-Htee Khee road was approved. This 138-kilometre, two-lane road, linking Myanmar’s Dawei Special Economic Zone to Thailand, threatens the ecological connectivity of the Dawna-Tenasserim Landscape, one of the largest stretches of connected forest in Asia.

Although the opportunity to engage in the decision-making process about the route of the road has passed,

construction has not yet begun. Therefore, developers and authorities still have an opportunity to modify the road design to minimize negative impacts on local communities, wildlife, and the natural environment. Following years of advocacy, recommendations provided by WWF have been incorporated into the road design including 12 wildlife crossing measures, the establishment of a critical conservation zone, an environmental management fund and direct benefits to local communities from monitoring and maintenance of wildlife crossing measures.

The Dawei road illustrates the importance of collaboration between all stakeholders, including government, developers, and civil society organizations, in the early stages of linear infrastructure design and investment to ensure continued connectivity between landscapes.



CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE



© Shutterstock / Sourabh Bharti / WWF

MORE PEOPLE, MORE TIGERS

As the human population grows and wild places are transformed to feed, house, and transport people, contact with wildlife increases. As species recovery programs succeed, and wildlife populations grow, they are more likely to come into contact – and conflict – with people. With both these trends playing out in parallel, increasing conflict occurrence can lead to a loss of local tolerance, and even the active removal of wildlife.

Human-wildlife conflict has particular implications for wild tigers, whose populations are concentrated in the world's

fastest growing region, Asia. Over the past 150 years, the population of Asia has grown from 790 million to over 4 billion, with devastating consequences for tigers and other wildlife. In 2010, an estimated 57 million people lived and worked in the conservation landscapes containing all the world's remaining wild tigers.

WWF has been designing and implementing innovative approaches in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders to address this age-old issue across all our priority tiger landscapes.



PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

If tigers are to survive this century and beyond, they require sustained support from governments, businesses, donors, NGOs and, above all, local communities. Communities are the cornerstone of tiger conservation in the long term. History demonstrates when community support is lost, tigers rapidly decline. WWF embraces a people-centred approach to tiger conservation that simultaneously benefits wildlife and communities. Our ground-breaking Safe Systems approach is a template for partnering with local communities on conservation initiatives and building trust and social capital over time.

THE SAFE SYSTEMS APPROACH

The Safe Systems approach to managing human-wildlife conflict, designed by WWF, offers a balanced way forward by gradually reducing risks to both people and their assets, as well as wildlife and their habitat. In 2016, building upon decades of human-wildlife conflict work, WWF began assessing the level of risk and safety across

tiger landscapes through human-wildlife conflict rapid assessment workshops. Since then, assessments have been completed for sites in Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, and Nepal. The results provided valuable lessons and identified common gaps in managing human-wildlife conflict. However, many of the gaps identified across tiger landscapes had not been well researched or were characterised by a lack of available information.

In response, WWF instigated a series of research reports in 2019, the Safe Series, to enhance the science and practice of human-wildlife conflict management. The report series will be expanded over the coming years to enhance human wildlife conflict interventions both within tiger landscapes and beyond to impact other conflict prone species and areas. The Safe Systems approach is currently being implemented in 35 sites where human-wildlife conflict occurs and found reducing interactions not only assists conservation, but leads to better economic outcomes for communities.

CASE STUDY

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY IN BHUTAN

The Safe Systems approach was piloted in Bhutan, in 2016. Located in the Eastern Himalayas, Bhutan lies within one of the 10 most biodiverse regions in the world. But in a country where 60 per cent of people rely on livestock and crop production for their livelihoods, human-wildlife conflict threatens Bhutan's economic ambitions, food security, and conservation success.

While Bhutan's policy response to human-wildlife conflict had been relatively limited in scope, WWF was able to show through the Safe Systems approach that broader action was needed. This included the long-term development of eco-tourism, response teams to respond to and verify conflict events, compensation and insurance schemes, a national monitoring program, and research into wildlife behavior and habitat enrichment.

The Safe Systems approach enabled the royal government to develop a strategy to improve conflict management, safeguard Bhutan's rich biodiversity and diversify the incomes and livelihoods of local communities.



“

In Bhutan, an agrarian country, where the majority of rural communities practice subsistence farming, human-wildlife conflict is a growing threat to sustaining household-level food security and conservation at large.



VIJAY MOKTAN

Conservation Director,
WWF Bhutan



© James Morgan / WWF-US

CASE STUDY

REHABILITATION TO REDUCE CONFLICT IN RUSSIA

In Russia, WWF is working to manage human-tiger-conflict by supporting the rehabilitation of young, sick, or injured tigers, those most likely to stray into human-dominated areas and come into conflict with people.

The Alekseevka and Utyos Rehabilitation Centres, supported by WWF, are the only centres for tiger rehabilitation in Russia and play a pivotal part in human-tiger conflict management. One such tiger, a young male named Vladik, was found roaming the busy roads of Vladivostok city, Russia – lost among concrete buildings,

honking cars, and far away from the Siberian forests where he belonged. WWF, together with the regional Hunting Department, the police, and veterinarians, were able to quickly work together to capture Vladik and prevent potential human-wildlife conflict events. Vladik underwent rehabilitation and was successfully released into his new home in Bikin National Park in 2017.

28 tigers, three Amur leopards, 48 black bears, and more than 200 other mammals and birds have been assisted by the Alekseevka Rehabilitation Centre since 2012.



Yuri Kolpak, head of the Conflict Minimization group, the Khabarovsk Province Wildlife Management Committee.

© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden



Women planting rice on the outskirts of Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal.

© Michel Gunther / WWF

CASE STUDY

A COMMUNITY CENTRED APPROACH IN NEPAL

Nepal's Khata Corridor connects Nepal's Bardia National Park to India's Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. During the country's last tiger survey in 2018, it was estimated that at least 34 tigers use the Khata Corridor. With increasing tiger movements, human tiger conflict in the area had also increased. In 2020, between August – September, four people were killed by a tiger around the corridor. Although these tragic incidents created terror and panic among the local government and the communities living in and around the area, there are surprisingly no records of retaliatory killings of tigers.

Instead, after the incidents, the Khata Community Forest Coordination Committee, a community-based organisation formed two decades ago through the Terai Arc Landscape Program (a joint undertaking by the Government of Nepal and WWF), and the Divisional Forest Office brought all the stakeholders (community representatives, forest officials, national park staff, district administrative authorities, and WWF) together to address

the issue and proposed immediate compensation to families through the Community Forest Coordination Committee's endowment fund. The community based Rapid Response Team was immediately present at the site to support concerned authorities in managing the conflict. The team worked with the Community Forest Coordination Committee, the Community based Anti-Poaching Unit, and the Bhalmansas (leaders in the indigenous Tharu communities) to organise various tiger-awareness programs in and around the corridor. Khata exemplifies community ownership to conservation and is an example of how people-centred approaches operate in practice.

In recognition of the progress achieved by local communities and government partners the Khata Forest Conservation Area was presented the 2021 Tiger Conservation Excellence Award by WWF in partnership with Fauna and Flora International, Global Tiger Forum, IUCN, UNDP and the Wildlife Conservation Society.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KHATA CORRIDOR AND HOW WWF IS CREATING THE CONDITIONS TO ENABLE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS.

Hold your device over this QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the web page.



Female members from the local CBAPU (Community-based anti-poaching unit), within the Terai Arc region of Nepal.

© Gary Van Wyk / The Ginkgo Agency / Whiskas / WWF-UK



STOP THE POACHING

© Ranjan Ramchandani / WWF

PROFESSIONAL RANGERS

Poaching is one of the most immediate threats to tigers and their prey, particularly those tigers who move out of protected areas. Therefore, effective protection is critical if tiger numbers are to be sustained or recovered. In our efforts to halt poaching, we are developing innovative tools, employing the latest technology, and engaging experts and institutions to strengthen ranger capacity on the ground.

WWF is committed to professionalising the ranger role across the tiger range with the goal of an accountable and responsible ranger workforce that can not only protect biodiversity but also protect the interests of those who depend on these resources. This includes training of human rights obligations, advocating for their welfare as frontline wildlife protectors, and institutionalising sustainable, nationally led capacity building programs.



© Simon Rawles / WWF-UK

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES

WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative has been conducting groundbreaking research on the working conditions of rangers and developing policy interventions backed by strong empirical data to improve ranger welfare and reduce hardships in the field. This includes spearheading the largest ever survey of rangers to understand the challenges rangers face on the ground.

Our 2019 survey of 7,110 rangers across 28 countries, including 12 of 13 tiger range countries (Life on the Frontline), revealed that many rangers are working with inadequate training, lack of basic equipment, and regularly experiencing health and safety risks that could be significantly reduced with appropriate interventions. The survey also brought in new partners, like the International Labour Organisation, that can support policy reforms.



ROUGHLY 40%

of rangers* did not receive sufficient training to prepare for their job responsibilities



MORE THAN 50%

of rangers 'rarely' or 'never' have access to communications devices on patrol



ONLY 40%

of rangers have insurance coverage for serious on-the-job injuries



47% OF RANGERS

have insufficient clothing or boots, while 37% lack basic necessities such as clean water and toilets

**all statistics represent rangers working in tiger landscapes*

INSTITUTIONALISING CAPACITY BUILDING

Ranger capacity building is crucial, but training programs are not sustainable without the ownership of local authorities. WWF has been accelerating support for institutionalized ranger training to ensure sustainable capacity building for rangers. Today WWF's Tigers Alive

Initiative is supporting 30 ranger training institutions across India and Bhutan. This includes amending curriculums, improving the ranger training infrastructure and building local trainers to ensure the program's longevity.



CASE STUDY

RANGER COLLEGES IN INDIA AND BHUTAN

WWF is working with ranger training institutions under India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Bhutan's Department of Forest and Park Services to improve national ranger training curricula. WWF is also facilitating an experience exchange with the

Southern African Wildlife College — a state of art ranger training institution globally. The collaboration aims to establish a sustainable and modern training system in India and Bhutan that addresses the ranger capacity needs in a holistic manner.

UNITED: A GLOBAL RANGER AGENDA

Now more than ever, the world must recognize the vital role of rangers. WWF is a founding member of a landmark global alliance for rangers called the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) which launched in 2020. The Tigers Alive Initiative played a vital role in WWF's involvement in the formation of this alliance. URSA has developed a global Action Plan (2021-2025) to implement the Chitwan Declaration that came out of the 9th World Ranger Congress in Nepal, attended by 550+ rangers from 70 countries. WWF provided financial and technical support to the congress. URSA aims to provide an enabling environment to establish a professional, accountable, competent and representative ranger workforce.

In addition, WWF established the Ranger Federation of Asia as a platform to bring rangers, forest guards and other frontline staff together to share their knowledge and experience protecting tigers and other Asian species.

BREAKING GENDER BARRIERS: A WOMAN OF HOPE IN THAILAND

One attendee WWF supported to go to the World Ranger

Congress was Soypetch (Soy) Musitachart. Soy has worked in Mae Wong National Park, Thailand, for 12 years and is the only female ranger in the park. Growing up close to conservation areas, Soy's parents inspired her to become interested in protecting and conserving natural resources. When asked about the difficulties of being a female ranger, Soy says "I know how to survive in the forest. Being female is not an obstacle for me. During the hikes, the job of a ranger includes, but is not limited to, identifying footprints, taking photos, setting camera traps, knowing when danger is approaching, and knowing how to protect one self — all these while carrying heavy bags." Soy says she hopes more women will become rangers.

Soy and fellow rangers attend training organised by WWF in self defense, first aid, the usage of GPS and data forms, map-reading, and research techniques. Wicha Palarak, the ranger leader of a patrol unit, recounts that since starting his career at the Department of National Parks in 1995, he didn't collect data before WWF's support. Wicha says "In the past, each unit also didn't patrol the whole area of Mae Wong. We hiked wherever we liked. Now we collect data and walk in a systematic format...to cover all 562,500 rai [90,000 ha] of Mae Wong".



SOYPETCH (SOY) MUSITACHART,
Ranger in Mae Wong
National Park, Thailand

GETTING SMART IN ADDRESSING THE POACHING CRISIS

The SMART approach to support conservation areas includes: cutting-edge technology, building conservation capacity, and empowering a global network of SMART conservation practitioners. The SMART conservation technology platform includes desktop, mobile, and cloud-based components. This platform allows conservationists to easily collect, analyze and act on a wide range of data relevant for protecting wildlife and wild places.

Since its launch in 2011, the Tigers Alive Initiative led WWF's involvement in the SMART partnership. In fact, the first six WWF sites to utilize SMART were tiger sites. In the last decade, SMART has evolved from a basic law enforcement monitoring tool, to a state-of-the-art platform, designed to enable adaptive management of protected and non-protected areas. The SMART platform is free, easy to use and deploy, and has made substantial contributions to nature conservation efforts in over 70 countries and 1000 sites worldwide.



© Simon Rawles _ WWF-UK

THE SMART APPROACH



PROTECTS

wildlife through better conservation management



IMPROVES

patrolling through evidence based and strategic deployment of resources



EMPOWERS

park managers and rangers with data to inform decision making



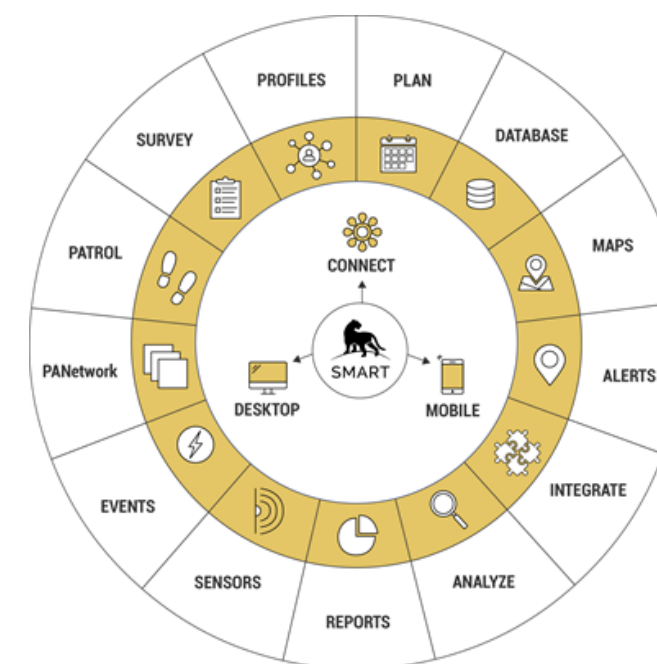
SCALABLE

from launch; 250+ WWF sites using SMART globally



SUSTAINABLE

partnership approach adopted by nine conservation agencies



2011

TODAY

SMART	6	WWF sites	78	WWF sites across tiger range countries
SMART Connect	0	sites	18	sites across tiger range countries
Tiger Range	0	countries using SMART	11	countries using SMART

THE ZERO POACHING TOOLKIT

A decade ago, many different tactics were implemented to combat poaching, with various degrees of success, but there was no standard approach that could be applied across all tiger landscapes. The Zero Poaching Toolkit is a suite of tools which, when used together, can stop poaching from occurring. The Tigers Alive Initiative developed the Zero Poaching approach with WWF Nepal based on the success achieved in Nepal and other tiger range countries.

The toolkit, which is freely available, helps national and state agencies, protected area managers, rangers and other frontline staff close the gaps in anti-poaching efforts. WWF and partners also developed the wildlife crime prevention framework to monitor progress towards zero poaching at both the site and national level. The approach is currently being used across the tiger range countries and beyond.



© Richard Barrett / WWF-UK

CASE STUDY

SETTING THE STANDARD: ZERO POACHING IN NEPAL

Nepal has been a global leader in the fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trade with the achievement of 365 days of zero poaching not once, not twice... but four times! Between 2011-2020, Nepal achieved zero poaching of rhinos on seven different occasions — a species which shares its habitat with tigers, and benefits from tiger landscape protection.

To achieve this inspiring zero poaching feat, WWF worked with Nepal's federal ministries to facilitate policies on protected areas management and anti poaching enforcement, increase the capacity and motivation of anti-poaching staff, and ensure enforcement personnel possess the most up-to-date technology, such as Real Time SMART Patrolling, CCTVs within protected areas, and vehicular tracking systems.

Nepal's National Park staff also partnered with local communities, a primary ally and stakeholder in conservation interventions, to develop outreach programs and Community-Based Antipoaching Units. Today, there are more than 400 units working throughout the country which serve as a vital information source on illegal activity — the largest ever network of Community-Based Antipoaching Units.



FOLLOW NEPAL'S JOURNEY ON THE "ROAD TO TX2".

Hold your device over this QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the web page.

“

Nepal, a small Himalayan nation, has shown that eliminating poaching is actually possible. Nepal hopes to be an example to the world while forging sustainable partnerships in working together towards Zero Poaching.

MR. TIKA RAM ADHIKAR

Former Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation of Nepal



© Emmanuel Rondeau / WWF-US

THE PATH AHEAD

Beyond 2022, WWF will continue to partner with governments, leaders, public and private donors, NGOs, local communities, and other stakeholders to create, expand and ensure effective management of conservation areas. Through sustainable financing mechanisms and institutional support, WWF will strive to guarantee tiger conservation areas are funded in perpetuity for durable and scalable impact.

Specifically, WWF will continue to work with governments in Southeast and South Asia to strengthen enforcement and legislation to act as an effective deterrent against snaring and engage indigenous peoples and local communities as partners to stop this threat.

After establishing the baseline on global ranger working conditions, WWF will also be working with partners to address gaps at the site level and in national and international policy. We are preparing national reports for tiger range countries that will be used as advocacy tools to improve the situation for rangers risking their lives to protect wildlife. WWF will continue to support the professionalisation of rangers including strengthening newly established ranger institutions and identifying local trainers that will raise the bar on sustainable capacity building as per anti-poaching training guidelines set by the International Ranger Federation.



**STOP THE
TRAFFICKING**

A SERIOUS THREAT

The illegal trade of tigers, their parts and products is a serious threat to the survival of the species. Between 2000-2018, an average of 124 dead tigers were seized annually, their parts and products most often trafficked across borders by international criminal networks. These seizures only represent a proportion of the actual number of tigers killed for the illegal trade, as many traffickers operate undetected. Driven by a demand for ornamentation, traditional medicines, health tonics, talismans and increasingly as a status symbol, tiger skin, teeth, bones, claws and other body parts are big business. The largest consumer markets are in China and Viet Nam.

WWF and TRAFFIC, the global wildlife trade monitoring network, are collaborating with governments, enforcement agencies, the private sector, and others to ensure strong policies and regulations are in place, systematically disrupt illegal trade routes and reduce demand for tiger parts through behaviour change approaches in major markets in Asia. We are also working towards a commitment, and implementation of that commitment, from the governments of China, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Lao PDR to phase out tiger farms that feed tiger parts and products into trade and can perpetuate and stimulate demand, threatening those in the wild. This holistic approach targets key points throughout the trade chain across source, transit, and consumer countries, and uses data to drive targeted interventions and mobilise partners at national and international levels.



Tiger trade is part of a global wildlife trade crisis and whilst there are specific issues and interventions which apply only to tigers, many of the problems and interventions are common to other species. Therefore success in tackling the illegal wildlife trade more generally, greatly benefits tigers as well.

HEATHER SOHL

Tiger Trade Leader, WWF Tigers Alive



DRIVING POLITICAL MOMENTUM

WWF HAS PLAYED KEY ROLE IN ELEVATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA

In 2012, in response to skyrocketing demand for illegal wildlife products, WWF and TRAFFIC launched a global campaign to mobilise action. The goal was to secure recognition from the highest level of governments, including the justice, natural resources, finance and defence sectors, that illegal wildlife trade is a serious organised crime and should be treated as such. Specifically, the campaign aimed to ensure that heads of state in priority source and demand countries make public declarations of action to improve enforcement, increase prosecution rates, reduce demand, and institute legislative reforms for wildlife crimes. Direct and sustained advocacy was undertaken throughout the campaign with key governments and global institutions, to support those making positive changes, and highlight problems where ongoing efforts were needed.

WWF's global campaign helped change the perception of illegal wildlife trade among both key policy makers and ordinary people worldwide. As a result of efforts like these, the illegal wildlife trade and poaching mitigation agenda are now a bigger focus than ever on the global stage and are embedded into high level political dialogues across several international forums and organisations, including the United Nations and the World Economic Forum. In addition, nationally driven efforts such as the series of illegal wildlife trade conferences starting (2014) and concluding (2018) in London, UK, with meetings in between held in Botswana and Viet Nam, all contributed to national commitments to improve legislation, law enforcement, demand reduction and community engagement.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

launched at the Global Tiger Summit, introducing a new era for wildlife law enforcement.

2010

SKIN AND BONES

TRAFFIC published the first in a series of "Skin and Bones" reports, a vital analysis of tiger seizures published prior to every CITES CoP to influence government decision making on tiger trade.

2010

CHINA

WWF AND TRAFFIC

helped persuade 15 large Chinese e-commerce companies to adopt a zero tolerance policy for illegal wildlife products.

2012

WORLD LEADERS

called wildlife crime "a threat to rule of law" during United Nations General Assembly.

2012

INTERFAITH

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

partnered with WWF to call for an end to illegal wildlife trade.

2012

EXECUTIVE ORDER

US President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Crime, which recognises the seriousness of wildlife crime and directs a whole of government approach to combat it.

2013

UK

LONDON CONFERENCE

27 Governments convened at the first illegal wildlife trade conference in London, with technical support from WWF, and agreed on a declaration of needed action, including recognising the role of corruption in illegal wildlife trade for the first time in an intergovernmental document.

2014

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA

2016

DEMAND REDUCTION

TRAFFIC helped launch the Wildlife Behaviour Change community and toolkit, in an effort to achieve more effective approaches to demand reduction strategies for wildlife products.

2016

LAO PDR

ENDING TIGER FARMS

Lao PDR announced they will phase out tiger farms, but have not implemented this to date.



2016

UK

GRANT FUNDS

The UK government established the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, a competitive grants scheme which has so far allocated £26 million to 85 global projects working to eradicate the illegal wildlife trade.

2015

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

adopted its first resolution on Tackling the Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife, advocated by WWF, which commits all 193 member countries to scale up efforts to end the poaching and illegal trade.

2015

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) launched the "Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development" program also known as the Global Wildlife Program.

2018

CHINA

KEEP THE BAN

China announced a reversal of the 1993 ban on trade in tiger bone and rhino horn by allowing legal trade from captive sources for medicinal use in hospitals. Decision was then halted after international concern driven by WWF and others and three strict bans on tiger and rhino horn trade were announced instead.

2019

THAILAND

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Ministers responsible for CITES implementation in Southeast Asia issued the Chiang Mai statement on increasing efforts and regional cooperation to combat illegal wildlife trade. WWF and TRAFFIC were invited to the Chiang Mai Ministerial where they participated in the partners' dialogue session.

2020

VIET NAM

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

TRAFFIC launched a consumer behaviour change campaign in Viet Nam to reduce demand for tiger bone glue.

2020

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

An increasing portion of foreign assistance for biodiversity conservation was allocated to projects that have the specific objective of combating wildlife trafficking.

2020

EU

WWF/TRFFIC REPORT

The CITES EU Expert Group meeting agreed to develop EU Guidance on tiger trade, in response to a WWF/TRAFFIC report highlighting the EU role in trade from captive tigers.

SKIN AND BONES

Since 2010, TRAFFIC has regularly published an analysis of tiger seizures in a seminal series of reports entitled “Skin and Bones”. These provide valuable information on the status of tiger trade and trends, and whose evidence and recommendations have been influential in government decision making. The publication is targeted to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoPs) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (2013, 2016 and 2019). While the reports initially focused on tiger seizures within tiger range countries, the analyses are now global in scale and feature commodity types, country prevalence, trade hotspots and routes, the role of captive sources, convergence with trade in other species, as well as arrests, prosecutions and penalties.

The most recent report, Skin and Bones Unresolved (2019), found a conservative estimate of 2,359 tigers were seized from 2000 to 2018. These occurred from a total of 1,142 seizure incidents, with the highest number of seizures coming from India, China and Indonesia. This analysis also found that the reported number of tigers seized by tiger range countries from 2016–2018 equates to a conservative estimate of 5.5% of the entire wild tiger population in 2016.

Given that seizure data represent only a fraction of illegal trade, and that the true origin in most incidents was not known or reported, the true loss and likely ensuing decline in wild tiger populations is expected to be much higher. The next report is coming 2022.

CHINA

WWF ADVOCACY HELPS KEEP THE BAN

In 2018, in response to international concern and advocacy by WWF and partners, the Chinese government postponed a new regulation that would have reversed a 25-year old ban and allowed domestic trade of tiger bone and rhino horn from captive sources. WWF had issued a statement and was quoted in over 1670 media outlets globally, warning that legitimizing trade in tiger and rhino parts could stimulate demand and devastate wild tiger populations globally. As a result of this international pressure, China not only halted the proposed reversal, but also announced three new strict bans on tiger and rhino horn trade. In driving towards TX2, WWF will continue working with governments to ensure that they adopt sound evidence-based policies to protect wild tigers and uphold commitments to end tiger trade globally.

EUROPEAN UNION

FALLING THROUGH THE SYSTEM: EU’S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL TIGER TRADE

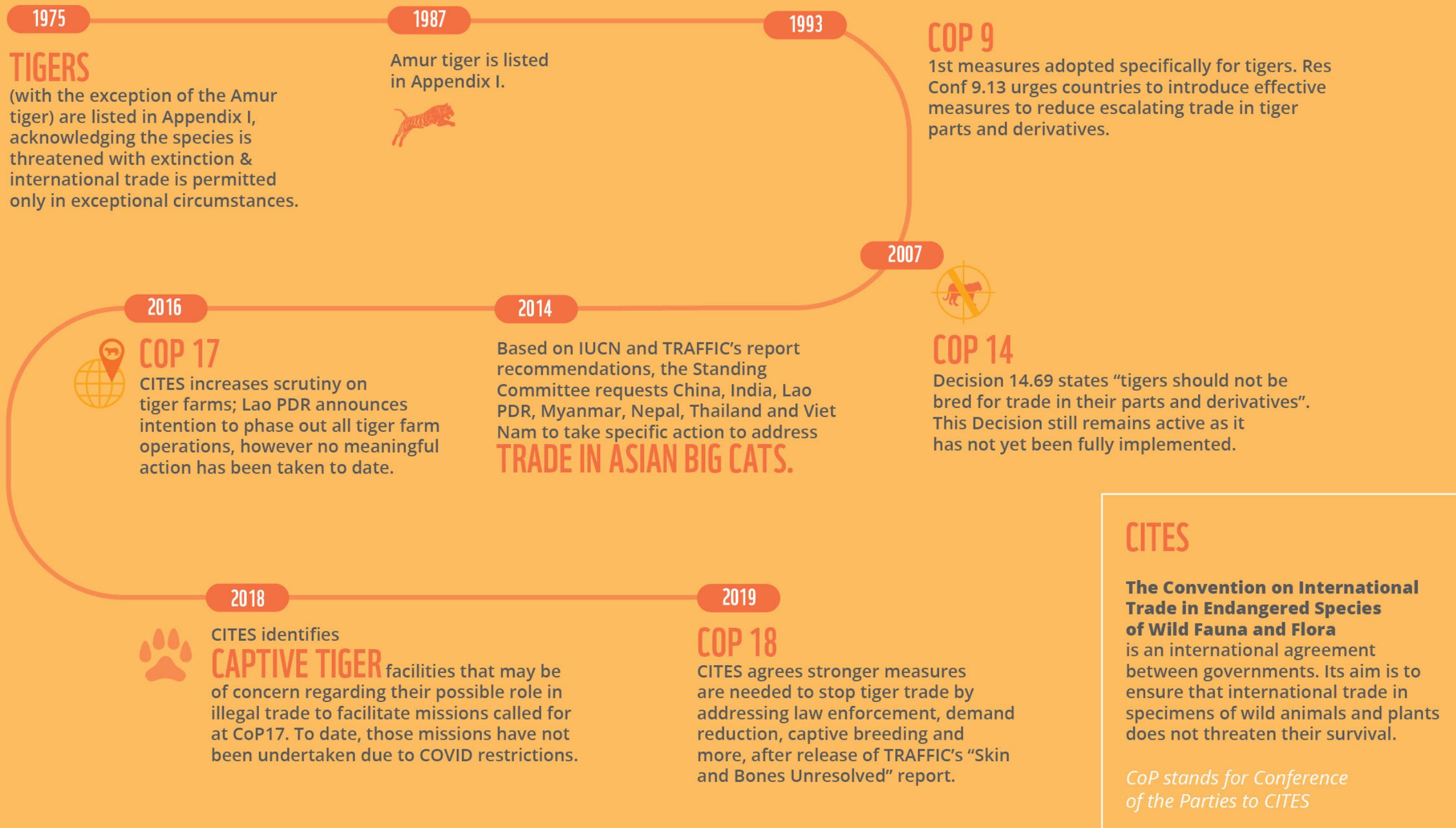
A joint 2020 report from WWF and TRAFFIC highlighted the weak legislation and limited checks on private captive tiger facilities across the EU and the UK that provide significant opportunity for tiger parts, such as skins and bones, to enter the illegal trade.

Since publication, the report has been discussed in political webinars and raised at the EU CITES Management Authority meetings, resulting in the drafting of EU Guidance on tiger trade.



Traditional medicine made with tiger parts for sale at a morning market.

PROGRESS: CITES & TIGERS



AN END TO TIGER FARMS

WWF has urgently called for tiger farms to be audited, controlled, and phased out. These breeding facilities feed the illegal trade of tigers and tiger products, perpetuating demand, complicating enforcement activities, and undermining efforts to protect wild tigers. The number of tigers in tiger farms has escalated rapidly in recent years. Tiger farms in China, Thailand, Laos, and Viet Nam are estimated to hold over 8,000 tigers, in over 300 facilities, far more than the number of tigers left in the wild.

Given the illegal activities and conservation problems attributed to Asia's tiger farms, WWF is working to ensure government commitment and action to phasing out these farms and banning commercial trade in all tiger parts and products, from both wild and captive sources.



LEARN MORE: "WHAT I SAW AT A CHINESE TIGER FARM AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR WILD TIGERS." - LEIGH HENRY, WWF DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE POLICY

Hold your device over this QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's camera screen. The phone will automatically scan the code and take you to the web page.

LAO PDR

The Golden Triangle, where Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar, and China meet, is a hot spot of illicit wildlife trade, including tigers, their parts and products, and markets openly sell illegal wildlife products with relative impunity. In Lao PDR, many illegal tiger products likely originate from the country's tiger farms.

In 2016, facing increased scrutiny, Lao PDR announced intentions to phase out its tiger farms, however meaningful action has yet to be taken. WWF and partners are continuing to apply pressure to Lao PDR to follow through with their commitment, through sustained advocacy work at the international level.

DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, TIGER FARMS IN ASIA HAVE ONLY INCREASED SINCE 2010. IN 2005, CHINA POSSESSED 2,000 TIGERS IN CAPTIVE FARMS.

TODAY THAT NUMBER IS OVER 6,000.

THAILAND

Thanks to advocacy by WWF and partners, the Thai Department of National Parks has begun compiling a database of all captive tigers in Thailand and recording their DNA profiles. This work is part of a concerted push by WWF and others for an evidence base to inform illegal tiger sourcing and trade destinations and increase prosecution of illegal traders.

In 2019, WWF also helped to establish the Chiang Rai Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Network. The Network, which is led by the Chiang Rai Provincial Governor, and includes members of the Provincial Office, customs, police, Wildlife Inspection Office, and other relevant authorities, aims to build the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial authorities to prevent, investigate and try wildlife trafficking cases at the provincial level, and improve inter-agency and cross-border collaboration.

	ESTIMATED WILD TIGERS*	ESTIMATED TIGERS IN FARMS
TOTAL IN ASIA	3900	>8,000
CHINA	<50	>6,000
THAILAND	145-177	2000
LAO PDR	0	400
VIETNAM	0	300

*Wild tiger data as of 2016.

Tiger farm data: Environmental Investigation Agency (2020). Wildlife. On the Butcher's Block: The Mekong Tiger Trade Trail

STOPPING THE TRAFFICKING AND DEMAND

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH: THE COALITION TO END WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ONLINE

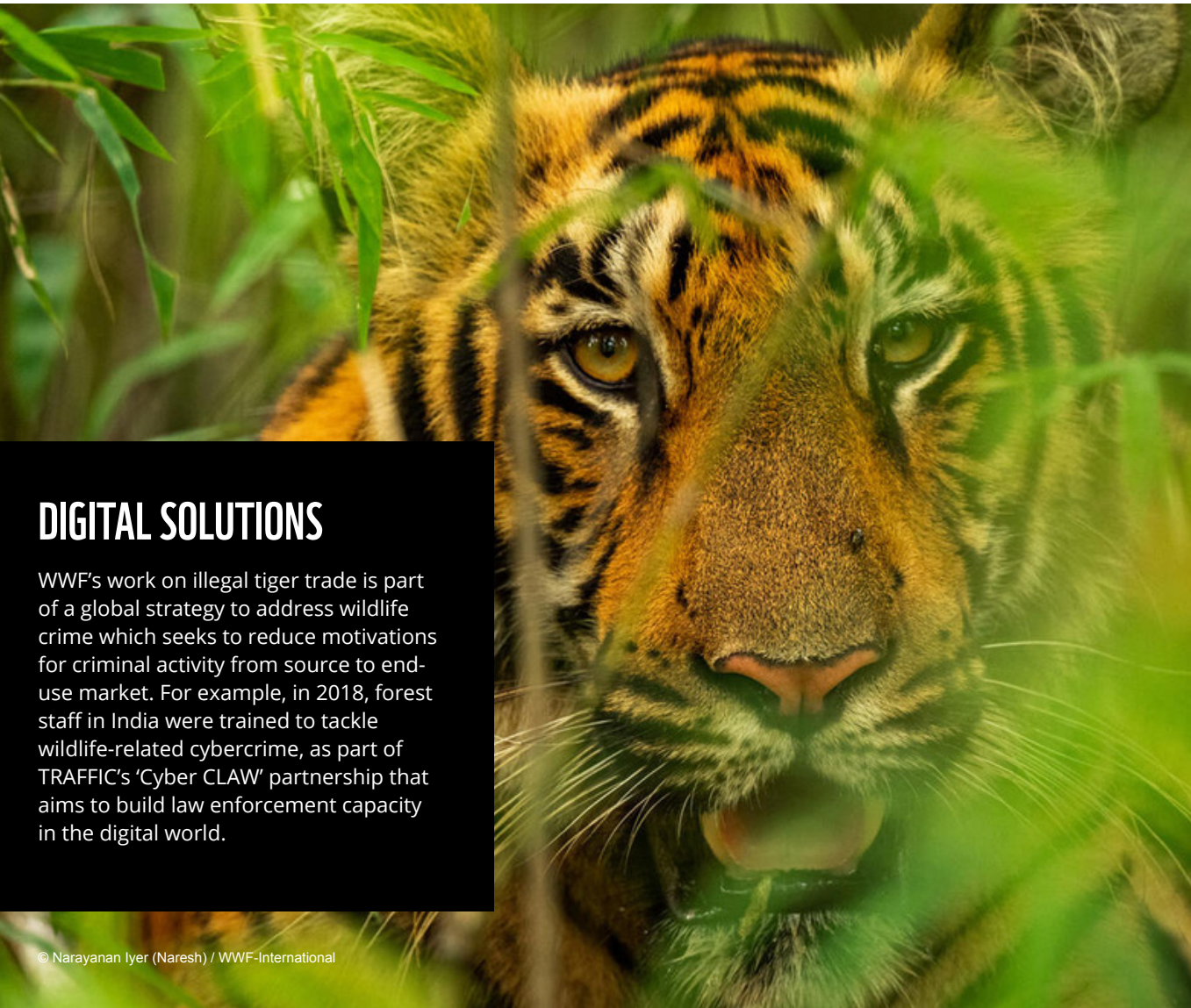
Due to advances in technology and connectivity across the world, wildlife trafficking has increasingly shifted online. In a groundbreaking initiative, the world's biggest e-commerce, technology, and social media companies joined forces to shut down online marketplaces for wildlife traffickers. The Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online which launched in 2018, convened by WWF, in partnership with TRAFFIC and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), brings together companies from across the world for an industry-wide approach to combat wildlife trafficking online.

Shutting down illegal wildlife trade online requires an integrated, international approach. WWF and partners are collaborating with companies that span across continents, such as Facebook, eBay, Google, Microsoft, Tencent, Alibaba and Baidu to create a united front, making it more difficult for traffickers to post listings across platforms.

Through the Coalition, WWF is providing companies with updated global and regional trade trends and keywords, interactive training materials, wildlife policy guidance, support on automated detection efforts, access to WWF's Wildlife Cyber Spotter volunteers to help spot and report suspicious wildlife products, and awareness raising materials to remind their online communities of the impacts wildlife trafficking online has on endangered species in the wild. 47 companies have joined the coalition to date.

IMPACT:

Coalition companies reported removing or blocking over 11.6 million listings for endangered species and associated products from their online platforms to date, including thousands of tiger parts, products, and live tiger cubs.



DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

WWF's work on illegal tiger trade is part of a global strategy to address wildlife crime which seeks to reduce motivations for criminal activity from source to end-use market. For example, in 2018, forest staff in India were trained to tackle wildlife-related cybercrime, as part of TRAFFIC's 'Cyber CLAW' partnership that aims to build law enforcement capacity in the digital world.

© Narayanan Iyer (Naresh) / WWF-International

UNDERSTANDING TIGER CONSUMERS IN VIETNAM

TRAFFIC has analysed tiger consumers in Viet Nam to understand the profiles and motivations of buyers and users. Six per cent of respondents said they had bought or used tiger products, primarily tiger bone glue, and seventy one per cent of users reported using tiger products for so-called medicinal purposes.

These data provide invaluable information which is now being used to inform behaviour change approaches to reduce demand for tiger parts and products, a demand which is likely fed mostly by tiger farms.



6%

of respondents said they had bought or used tiger products



83%

of tiger product buyers had bought tiger bone glue



10%

bought tiger claws



7%

bought tiger teeth



71%

of users consumed their last-used tiger product for so-called medicinal purposes

REDUCING DEMAND FOR TIGER PARTS AND PRODUCTS IN CHINA

WWF is working in China to reduce tiger consumer demand through ongoing social marketing campaigns. The campaigns target potential tiger product consumers on frequently visited websites, such as Sina and Tiktok/Douyin, by using hash-tags, browsing history, posts visited, etc to target potential users. Messaging explains how illegal trade is driving wild tiger decline, and highlights laws and regulations to alert viewers of potential personal risks. Potential consumers were also prompted to sign a pledge after reviewing the above messages, to commit to stop purchasing tiger products and tell their peers the same. The initial campaign was viewed by over 1 million members of the target audience in 2020. Pledges made by potential tiger consumers not to purchase tiger products and circulate the pledge to their friends reached 15,000 online.



© Keith Arnold/ WWF-US

NEPAL: BREAKING THE CHAIN

Combating illegal tiger trade requires close cooperation between all countries along the trade chain, from the source, through transit, to the ultimate consumer. In Nepal, WWF and TRAFFIC have worked to facilitate government-led cooperation to break the India–China–Nepal tiger trade chain, securing political will to dramatically improve transboundary wildlife law enforcement and coordination.

In 2010, Nepal signed agreements with both China (MoU) and India (resolution, MoU in process), to increase transboundary cooperation in tiger conservation and strengthen ecological security in the region. As part of these agreements, Nepal, China, and India agreed to jointly address illegal border trade and strengthen international coordination and information exchange on poaching incidents, seizure cases and investigation techniques.

Nepal also established the National Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee, of which WWF is a member, and which is represented by enforcement agencies such as the Nepal Police, Nepal Customs, and the National Intelligence Department, to facilitate national inter-agency cooperation.

In 2017, Nepalese officials burned 4,000+ illegal wildlife parts in a statement of bold ambition and promise that the country will not tolerate any act of wildlife crime.

This strategic approach has resulted in enhanced regional capacity of protected area personnel and police to counter poaching and trade in tiger parts and products, as well as conducive policies and political support for tiger conservation.



“It is vital to have two key elements in place for effective illegal wildlife trade and crime control — transborder cooperation to limit trade, and community participation and integrated coordination and collaboration between stakeholders to control poaching.”



MADHAV KHADKA

Head of Wildlife Trade Monitoring,
WWF Nepal



THE PATH AHEAD

WWF and TRAFFIC will continue to work together to stamp out the tiger trade by reducing motivations for criminal activity from source to end-use market. We will support the expansion of enforcement tools such as DNA analysis and stripe pattern recognition from seized tiger skins to better understand the trade and sources and to support prosecutions.

The latest social science data and approaches will be used to improve our demand reduction efforts. Behaviour change campaigns in China and Vietnam will target

messages and approaches based on the findings of tiger consumer surveys and expertise on social behaviour change and marketing.

We will also continue to work to phase out tiger farms, and reduce their impact on wild tiger populations in the meantime. We will capitalise on advocacy opportunities to assess government progress on tackling tiger trade and work to maintain pressure on the international community and civil society groups to ensure commitments are translated into action.

BRINGING BACK THE ROAR

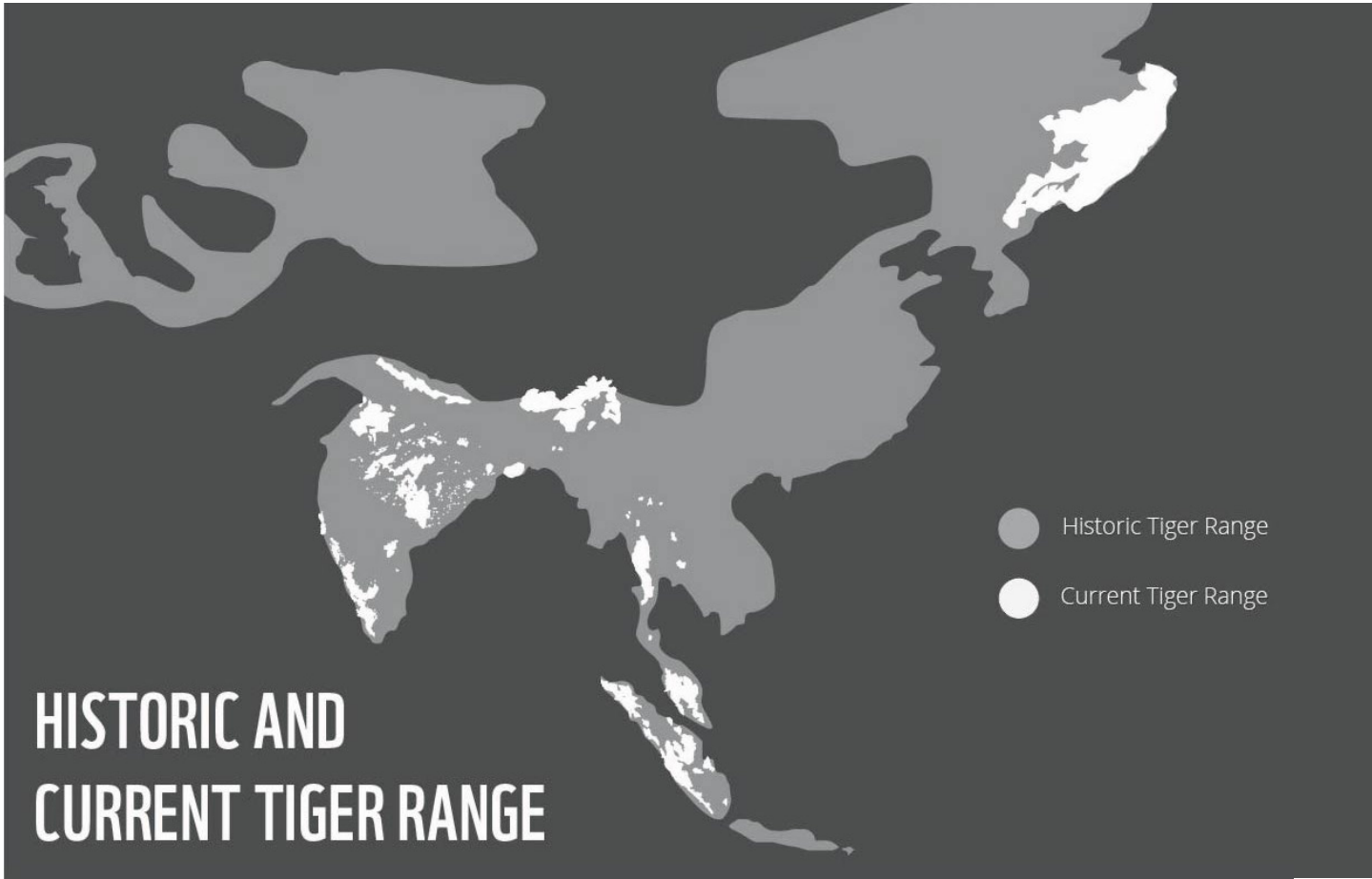


© Souvik Kundu / WWF

TIGERS INHABIT LESS THAN 5% OF THEIR HISTORIC RANGE

Since the 1700s, tigers have been lost from two-thirds their former range countries including most recently Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia. In many other places, remaining tigers have been reduced to a few small pockets of habitat. Expanding the global range of tigers is crucial to doubling the wild tiger population. Together with local communities and partners, WWF is supporting

tiger range recovery. Since 2010, WWF has been working across our priority landscapes to create conditions on the ground for natural tiger dispersal and colonisation of new areas as well as supporting active tiger translocations and reintroductions. Reintroducing tigers to a new area takes years of planning and preparation. We are currently planning the first international reintroduction ever for the species



CASE STUDY

SUPPORTING TIGER PREY POPULATIONS IN THAILAND

Thailand's Western Forest Complex is one of the most important habitats for tigers in Southeast Asia, however in many areas, tiger prey is depleted due to high historic poaching levels. Recent research has shown that within this forest, Mae Wong National Park and Khlong Lan National Park still contain good habitat for tigers and are prime targets for tiger recovery given conservation interventions.

WWF has partnered with the Thai Department of National

Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation on a project to support the long-term recovery of both tiger and prey populations. Together, we are increasing suitable habitat and prey by replanting important grazing areas, reintroducing prey, and deploying artificial salt licks to provide wildlife with vital minerals. Three different tiger prey species have already benefited from these interventions — red muntjac, sambar deer, and gaur — an important step towards tiger recovery.



CASE STUDY

HABITAT RESTORATION IN CHINA

In 2010, WWF and partners conducted a study on tiger habitat in the Changbai Mountains in Northeast China which identified priority areas and potential corridors for tigers. The study provided a vital scientific basis for habitat restoration and recovery of the Amur tiger population in China. Since then, WWF has been researching tiger habitat and corridors in Lesser Khingan Mountains, Wanda Mountains, Zhangguangcailing and Laojialing regions to ensure China's tiger conservation action is grounded in science.

As a result of our work, we, with partners, recorded at

least 55 different tigers by camera trapping from 2013 to 2018, and found that the four habitat areas could support around 310 tigers with effective conservation interventions. We also determined restoration is critically needed for eight corridors (four within China and four transboundary corridors between Russia and China) and revealed tiger prey urgently need to be recovered across the habitat areas.

In response to these findings, WWF is focused on improving monitoring of Amur tigers and leopards, and restoring the habitat and corridors they need to thrive.

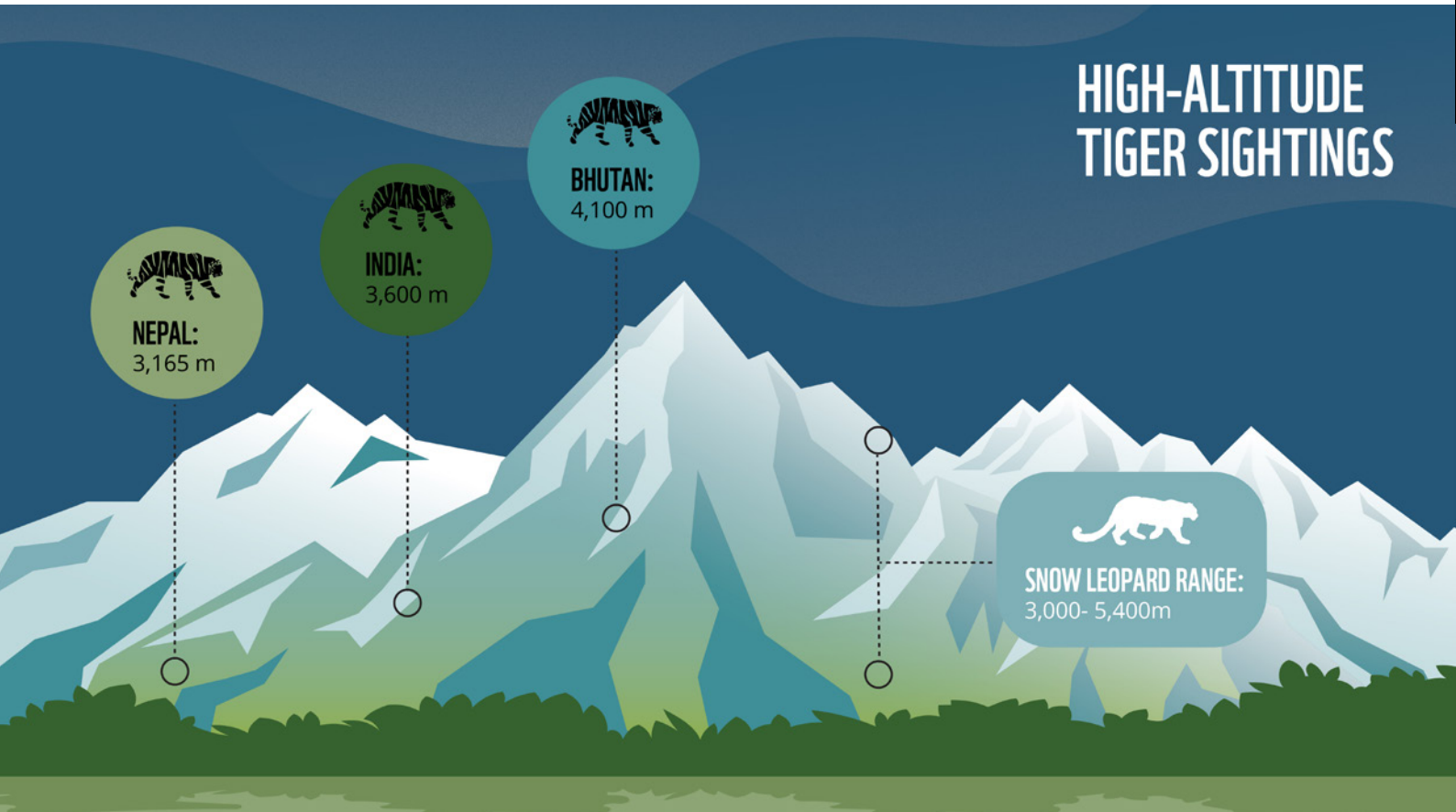


RANGE EXPANSION IN ACTION

HIMALAYAN TIGERS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Tigers are able to weather the hot, tropical jungles of Southeast Asia, the cold, frozen forests of the Russian far east, and the high, rocky altitudes of the Himalayas. Now there is evidence of tigers reaching incredible new heights based on camera trap footage captured in Nepal, India, and Bhutan. In 2020, cameras set by the Red Panda Network captured a tiger at 3165m — the highest altitudinal presence for tigers in Nepal. The sighting was significant for another reason: it was also the farthest east a tiger had been spotted in the country, 250 kms beyond Nepal’s known tiger range. Across the border in India, WWF recently captured a young male tiger walking through the frosty alpine meadows, just shy of the tree line, at 3600m. In neighbouring Bhutan, tigers have been photographed as high as 4100m above sea Level.

These sightings suggest the high-altitude Himalayas may have the potential to become a stable tiger habitat and an important refuge for tigers in a changing climate. It also provides rationale for strengthened transboundary tiger conservation efforts and securing critical transboundary corridor linkages to support the persistence of these high-altitude populations.



CASE STUDY

REINTRODUCING TIGERS TO KAZAKHSTAN

Tigers became extinct in Kazakhstan over 70 years ago, but a landmark effort is underway to return this iconic big cat to the country’s Balkhash region by 2025. The Ile-Balkhash Reserve and adjacent sanctuaries span over 10,000 sq. km of ecologically significant reed thickets and riparian forest that has the capacity to support 120 tigers if there is enough prey (mainly wild pig and Bukhara deer) to sustain them.

As a key partner to the government of Kazakhstan in the reintroduction programme, WWF is working to recover these critical prey species. In 2018, WWF released the first group of Bukhara deer into the reserve to begin building up the prey population. Additional deer are being released annually to boost population growth to 200 deer by 2025. Other activities include the construction of a new ranger center, ranger training (including in human rights), creating water wells for gazelles, and establishing 37 winter feeding areas for wild pig.

Throughout the reintroduction process, WWF is partnering with local communities to lay the groundwork for the eventual return of wild tigers. Together we are developing ways to prevent potential human-wildlife conflict, prepare compensation schemes in the event livestock are lost to tigers, and improve local law enforcement and protection.

If successful, this will mark the first international tiger reintroduction in history and an invaluable opportunity to secure the future of this big cat. With political will and community support, we can bring back the roar to Kazakhstan once more.



Locals are proud to know that deer are returning after more than 100 years of extinction. During the translocation, people greeted the trucks containing the Bukhara deer as they were arriving. In the second winter of the programme, when one group of deer preferred to graze in a hunting area near the village, the locals were aware but there was no attempt to kill them.



GRIGORY MAZMANYANTS
Director of the Central Asia Programme for WWF-Russia



THE PATH AHEAD



© naturepl.com / Andy Rouse / WWF

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

2016 marked a pivotal moment in the struggle to restore wild tiger populations. For the first time in the history of tiger conservation, the precipitous fall of global wild tiger populations had stopped, and global numbers had started increasing. The regional approach, with high level political commitments backed up by improved research and monitoring, increased enforcement at sites and

along trade chains, intelligence sharing and strong public support, had achieved the first key step in the Global Tiger Recovery Program: stop the overall loss.

A number of tiger range countries have delivered a remarkable recovery of their wild tiger populations since the 1st Summit. However, progress has not been consistent across the tiger's range. While some countries achieved significant increases, others have lost their tiger populations. Overall, the first phase of the Global

Tiger Recovery Program has shown tiger numbers can be restored, but also that progress is hard won and fragile, such that tiger conservation needs to be urgently strengthened to achieve long-term success.

As we begin 2022, we must now prepare for the second Global Tiger Summit in Vladivostok, September 2022, and collectively plan for the next 12-year strategy for tiger conservation. The meeting will be again hosted by President Vladimir Putin of Russia and will be an

incredibly high-profile moment that is almost certain to eclipse the previous Tiger Summit in 2010. It will play a critical role in bringing the global tiger community together, and reshaping the future of tiger conservation with a framework that is tiger friendly, people centred, and embedded within the global and national economic agenda. There are new challenges across the tiger range but there are also many renewed opportunities.



BEYOND TRADITIONAL APPROACHES

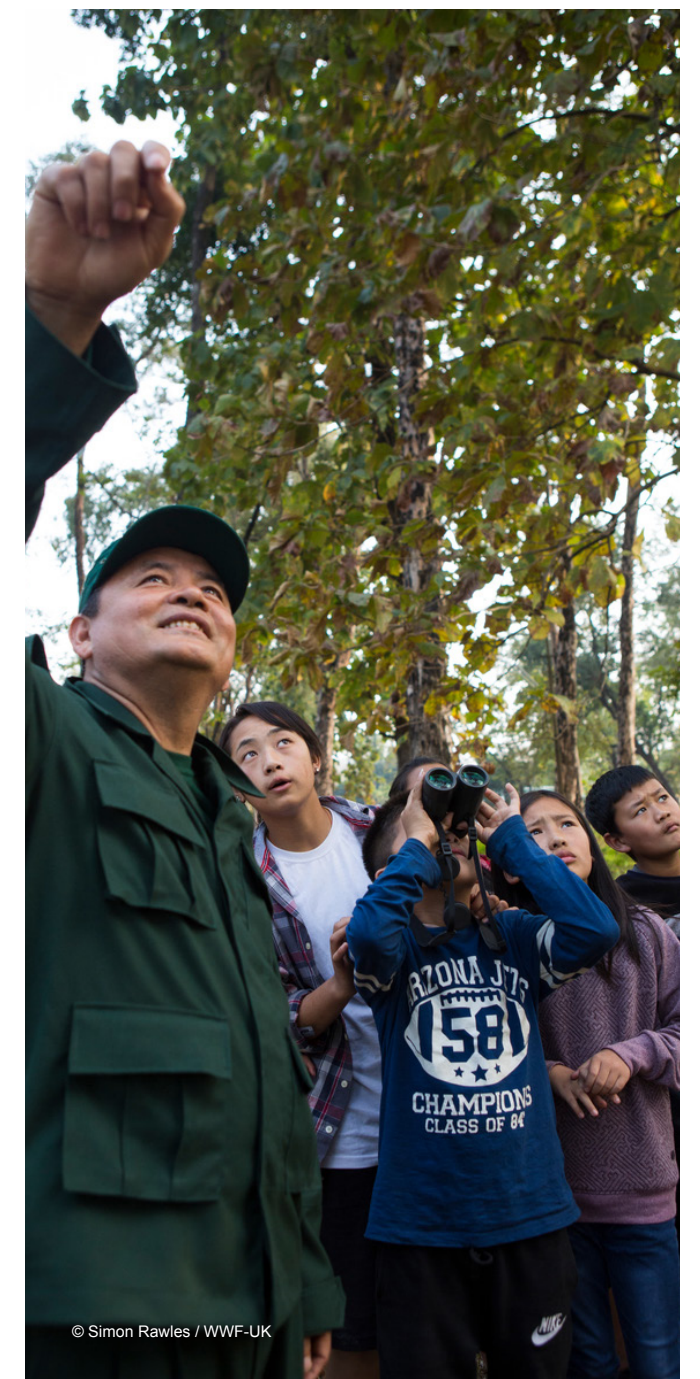
WWF will continue to support core tiger conservation activities including the effective management and protection of the most important tiger areas, the relentless pursuit to break the chains of the illegal wildlife trade, and driving a reduction in the demand for tigers and their parts and products. However, while approaches to protecting tigers, such as anti-poaching measures, monitoring of tiger populations and protected area management will continue to be important, they will no longer be enough. Without new approaches and political commitments centred on long-term sustainability and the integration of ecological systems into development planning, tiger populations will likely plateau, and we risk the return of a downward trend.

Our forward-looking strategy must and will work in partnership with the rapidly changing communities of people living in tiger landscapes, build connectivity and further strengthen transboundary conservation efforts, and ensure alignment with broader priorities of the environmental agenda, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, land degradation and ecosystem restoration and rewilding.

© Wang Yue

LIVING WITH TIGERS

Over the past twelve years, WWF's approach to communities has evolved from a position of "do no harm" to a strategy driven by positive social impact. From new social policies to environmental and social safeguards, we are working tirelessly to mainstream indigenous and community rights into the foundation of our work. Successful tiger conservation is only possible when communities are equal partners and benefit from conservation policies and interventions. WWF is committed to ensuring that tiger landscapes are major contributors to socio-economic development, community well being, and gender equity. Through programs such as the SAFE approach, we will continue to address and mitigate human-tiger conflict and reduce risks to both people and their assets, using data-driven strategies.



© Simon Rawles / WWF-UK

ADDRESSING THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TIGER CRISIS

Tigers in Southeast Asia are facing severe threats from illegal hunting and snaring, the single biggest cause of decline. As a result, there is no recent evidence of tiger populations in Cambodia, Lao PDR, or Viet Nam. Steep declines have occurred in Malaysia (though there have been recent signs of increased political support for the big cat and national animal's recovery), and tigers are confined to small numbers in Myanmar. But Southeast Asia also holds one of the greatest opportunities for the future of tiger recovery as evidenced by tiger conservation efforts in Thailand. Effective management and investment across the current and potential tiger range provides hope for the future of tigers in this region.

WWF is continuing to strengthen management of key tiger areas and ensure effective transboundary conservation across countries. We are also encouraging the global conservation community to pool resources and engage more aggressively than ever across Southeast Asia to stem the illegal wildlife trade and protect and connect the remaining tiger population.

Snares, rudimentary traps made from wire cable, nylon, or rope, are now the greatest threat to the long-term presence of tigers in Southeast Asia. WWF estimates there are over 12 million snares in the protected areas of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam – a group of countries at the centre of the snaring crisis. WWF is urging governments to strengthen legislation, engage local communities and indigenous peoples in solving the snaring crisis and put also more resources on the ground to prevent and deter snaring.

© Ranjan Ramchandani / WWF

LOOKING BEYOND THE RANGE: A REWILDING OPPORTUNITY

Tiger range shifts and expansions are beginning to occur in regions where political and community support has enabled increasing tiger numbers.

In South Asia, tigers are being reported at higher altitudes than ever before. In the Amur Heilong region, tigers are venturing back into China from Russia and expanding further north to reclaim historic territories. This region has vast spaces for tigers, excellent opportunities for prey augmentation, and rewilding opportunities. WWF is supporting both countries as they continue to cooperate and strengthen their transboundary conservation efforts.

The extent to which climatic factors are responsible for shifting tiger range and distribution, and whether tigers can successfully coexist with other large carnivores,

such as snow leopards, in high montane areas remains unknown. WWF is continuing to support vital research into high-altitude tiger populations and the expansion of tigers in the Amur region in partnership with the communities who live in these areas.

Not only are there opportunities for natural range recovery in this next phase of tiger conservation, the big cats will also be reintroduced to Kazakhstan — the first ever tiger reintroduction to a country where they had gone extinct. There is also the possibility of future strategies exploring the potential for tigers in other historic range countries and restoring tiger populations in all former major ecological settings. In many of these places, the tiger remains a symbol in culture and traditions.



DRIVING INCREASED POLITICAL MOMENTUM AND COLLABORATION

WWF will be applying learning from the past 12-year phase of tiger conservation commitments as we advocate for increased investment and political support for the recovery of this big cat. WWF is in support of a smaller set of priority goals in the next recovery plan that also include short term targets against which those priority goals can be measured. Overall we endeavor to help build more certainty into the global political process.

WWF has united with a coalition of NGOs (Fauna and Flora International, IUCN, Panthera, TRAFFIC, and Wildlife Conservation Society) to speak with one voice on tiger conservation priorities during this critical period and jointly developed a “vision” for the 2022-2034 period. The coalition will also develop major joint activities around mutual priorities — greatly increasing our potential to achieve conservation impact and policy outcomes in those areas.





© Suyash Keshari / WWF

WE COULD NOT DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF EVERY ONE OF OUR DONORS.

Through your unwavering support over the past decade, wild tiger numbers have increased for the first time in over a century.

WWF would like to offer special recognition to the following partners that have provided key strategic support and investment in WWF's tiger programme.

Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation	From Conflict to Collaboration - Biodiveristy as a bridge - Phase II	Humanscale Corporation	Restoration of the Eastern Plains Landscape, Cambodia.
Asian Tigers Group	Working Together to Help Double the Number of Tigers in the Wild	Kusmi Tea	Supporting Efforts to Double the Number of Tigers in the Wild
B.Grimm	Significant Support for Tiger Recovery in Upper Western Forest Complex, Thailand	Linda Mars	Supporting Wild Tiger Conservation
Barbara Holden	Advancing Tiger Monitoring and Protection through the Establishment of a Tiger Research Center in Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan	Mars Petcare	Supporting WWF's Work to Help Tigers Thrive
Contribute Foundation	Bringing back tigers to Kazakhstan	Maybank Foundation	Strengthening Tiger Conservation in the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex
Danida	Inclusive Green Economies in Developing Countries	Michael and Stacey Grealish	Supporting Wild Tiger Conservation in Myanmar
Dhanin Tawee Chearavanont Foundation	Bhutan for Life	Nordens Ark	Long term Persistence of the Amur Tiger at its' Northern Edge
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, UK	IWT Challenge Fund: Social marketing to end Tiger Markets in Vietnam	Pharus Foundation	Bringing back tigers to Kazakhstan
Diane and Michael Moxness	Bhutan for Life	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	Welcoming Tigers back Home to Amur Heilong in Russia and China and Saving Thirty Hills in Sumatra, Indonesia
Discovery, Inc.	Project C.A.T. (Conserving Acres for Tigers)	Procter & Gamble International Operations SA (P&G)	Using Tigers as an umbrella species for Biodiversity Conservation in Peninsular Malaysia
Dr Bevan Jones	Supporting Collaborative Conservation in the Ler Mu Lar landscape, Myanmar	Richmond Football Club	Working Together to Double Wild Tiger Numbers
Dr Rimington Legacy	Improving Management and Protection of Tiger Heartlands and Tackling Critical Threats	Robert and Mayari Pritzker Family Foundation	Tiger Conservation in Bhutan and the Eastern Himalayas
European Union	Advancing CSO's Capacity to Ensure Sustainability Solutions (ACCESS), Cambodia	Segré Foundation	Professionalising Ranger Training in India and Bhutan
Francois and Sheila Brutsch	Supporting Wild Tiger Conservation in Thailand and Myanmar	The Katherine J. Bishop Fund	Myanmar Wildlife Ranger College
German Cooperation via German Development Bank KfW and IUCN Global Environment Facility	Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme	The Praxis Companies/American Bath Group	Supporting Wild Tiger Conservation
Green Climate Fund	Strengthening National Biodiversity and Forest Carbon Stock Conservation through Landscape-based Collaborative Management of Cambodia's Protected Area System (CAMPAS)	The Silent Foundation	Tackling the Malaysian Tiger Crisis
Hull City Tigers	Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors	Tiger Beer	Investing in Efforts to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade and Secure Vital Tiger Habitats
	Bhutan for Life	U.S. Agency for International Development	Wildlife Sanctuary Support Program, Cambodia
	Working in Partnership to Double Wild Tiger Numbers	U.S. Department of State	Biodiversity Conservation Activity, Viet Nam
		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Saving Threatened Wildlife, Viet Nam
		VTB Bank	Fighting Wildlife Trafficking in the Golden Triangle
		World for Tigers Foundation	Supporting Wild Tiger Conservation
			Conservation of Endangered Big Cat Species in Russia
			Supporting Tiger Recovery in the Upper Western Forest Complex in Thailand

In addition, we would like to thank our generous donors and partners that give at this highest level of strategic support but wish to remain anonymous.

HERE ARE SOME WORDS FROM A FEW OF OUR PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION IMPACT:



The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation has been pleased to support, since 2011, WWF's actions to conserve the Amur tiger, whose populations have been weakened by the destruction and degradation of the forests and by poaching. The solutions implemented have had a positive impact on the species, which we can only be encouraged by.



OLIVIER WENDEN
Vice-President and CEO
of the Prince Albert II of
Monaco Foundation



I couldn't ignore the plight of the Malayan tiger. I wanted to do my part to save tigers, which happens to be my family's favourite animal, from extinction. When we make the world a better place for tigers, we also make the world a better place for us.



SASHA ALYSSA PHILIP
(13 years old), fundraised
for WWF-Malaysia



Bringing tigers back into their historical range where they have disappeared feels to us like restoring the balance of the world. It is a project that requires a long breath and involves many risks. Many people may therefore say "why would you take that risk?" In 2025, the first 3-5 tigers will be released in Kazakhstan, after which the population can be built up to about 120 animals in 2075. Chances are that we will not experience that ourselves at all. But how cool would it be if it actually succeeded!! And that we as WWF, Pharus Foundation and Contribute foundation have been able to contribute to this... then we have been able to be of significance to the world which is our goal.



PHARUS FOUNDATION AND CONTRIBUTE FOUNDATION
are supporting the reintroduction of tigers into Kazakhstan



My passion for tigers started as a child when my mother would read the poem "The Tyger" by William Blake. Later in life, I learned that to keep the planet's fauna and flora alive you have to focus on the megafauna, and so my commitment to protecting tigers began. A WWF trip to Bhutan solidified my interest and support for tiger conservation in Bhutan and beyond.



BARBARA HOLDEN



We are at a critical moment where we could lose our tigers in the next few years. Hence, Maybank has partnered with WWF-Malaysia since 2016 as part of the collective efforts to protect this majestic animal.



SHAHRLIL AZUAR JIMIN
Maybank Chief
Sustainability Officer



My hope for tigers is that we are able to coexist with them in harmony, learn to love these beautiful animals as they are and save their habitats in our own little ways by being sustainable, going green wherever possible, and most importantly not engaging in any illegal wildlife trade activities.



FAITH NG
WWF-Singapore Guardian of Nature

2009

Working towards TX2
since 2009

14

Focusing on 14
landscapes



1,500,000+

Over 1.5 million km² covered in
WWF tiger landscapes

80%

Around 80% of the world
remaining tigers live in
our priority landscapes



Working to sustain the natural
world for the benefit of people
and wildlife.

together possible™

panda.org