

## Bengal (Indian) Tiger Facts

Length: **2.5-3 metres**

Weight: **125-250 kg**

Population: **1165-1657\*** (average 1411)

Lifespan (in wild): **Approx. 10- 16 yrs**

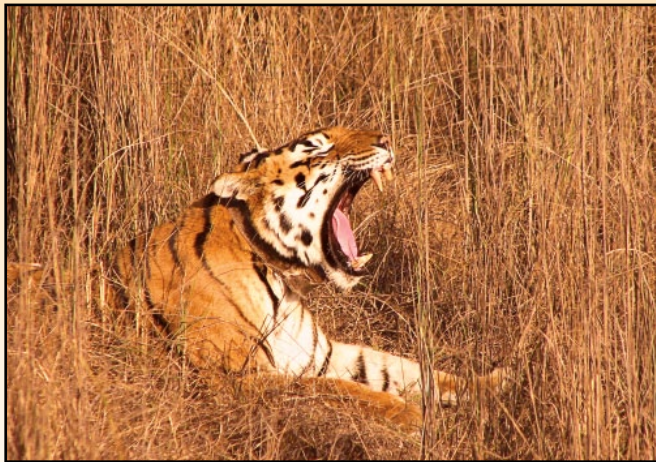
Main prey: **Chital, Sambhar, Wild boar, Gaur**

Reproductive age: **3-4 yrs (f), 4-5 yrs (m)**

Gestation period: **105-112 days**

Status: **Endangered**

Importance: **Almost half the world's wild tiger population is present in India.**



\* As per the monitoring exercise by WII & NTCA, Govt. of India in 2008

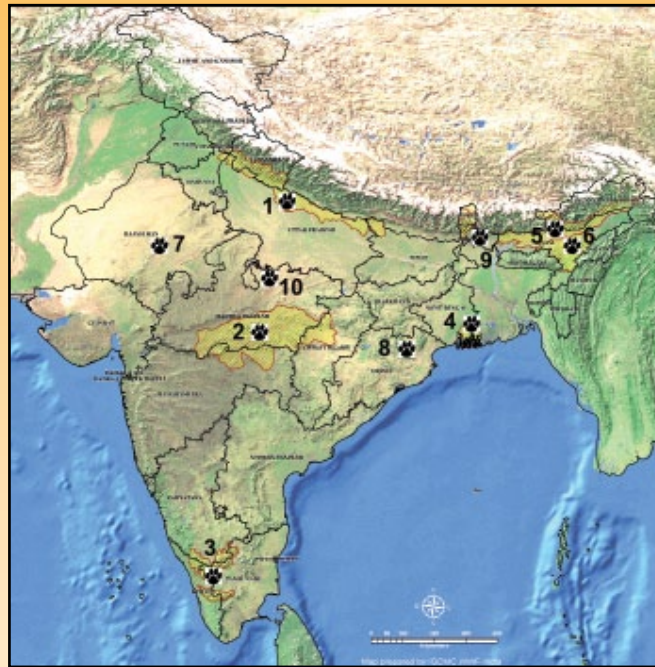
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## Where We Work



WWF-India currently works towards tiger conservation in the following landscapes and tiger reserves in India:

### Landscapes:

1. Terai Arc Landscape (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar)
2. Satpura Maikal Landscape (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra)
3. Western Ghats-Nilgiris Landscape (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka)
4. Sundarbans (West Bengal)
5. North Bank Landscape (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh)
6. Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Landscape (Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland)

### Tiger Reserves:

7. Ranthambore (Rajasthan)
8. Similipal & Satkosia (Orissa)
9. Buxa (West Bengal)
10. Panna (Madhya Pradesh)



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## Tiger Conservation

Challenges, Responses & What You Can Do



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WWF-India stands for World Wide Fund for Nature - India

# Challenges



At the turn of the 20th century, according to sources, India had thousands of tigers in the wild. According to the estimation in 2008 using camera traps, we are left with around 1,411 tigers\*. This number is so small that they will be lost forever if we don't wake up to the crisis. The tiger faces myriad issues that threaten its existence:

**Habitat loss:** Habitat destruction and fragmentation due to activities like building of roads through forests, mining, unsustainable resource use are the major long-term threats to the existence of tiger population in India. Much of this has happened in the past few decades.

**Poaching:** Tigers are now protected throughout their range and international trade in tiger parts and derivatives is illegal. However, poaching continues to feed consumer demand for various tiger body parts, with skins now appearing to be the major form of trade. This poaching, particularly for illegal international trade, is the largest immediate threat to the species worldwide.

**Conflict with humans:** As tigers continue to lose their habitat and prey, they are increasingly coming into conflict with humans. When tigers move out of protected areas they sometimes prey on livestock for food. In retaliation, tigers are sometimes killed by villagers.

\* As per the monitoring exercise by WII & NTCA, Govt. of India in 2008

# Responses

The Government of India launched Project Tiger in 1973, with support from WWF. Since then WWF has been supplementing efforts of the government to save the tiger.

WWF-India's goal is to help restore and maintain tiger habitats as well as help protect the tiger and its prey base. Six priority landscapes (and several Tiger Reserves outside them) have been identified, where WWF-India's conservation efforts are being focused for the long-term survival of India's tigers in the wild. Here, WWF-India and its partners work towards:

- Protecting, restoring, monitoring and managing corridors to ensure connectivity between tiger habitats while ensuring that human-tiger conflicts are reduced.
- Reducing human pressures on tiger habitats by promoting alternative livelihoods for local communities.
- Enhancing capacities of the forest department and other government agencies to control poaching of tigers and prey species.
- Providing policy inputs at state and central levels for effective measures to conserve tigers and their habitats.
- Promoting the political will as well as popular support within all sectors of society for tiger conservation.



# What You Can Do

Some of the ways in which individuals can help save the tiger are:

**Be more aware:** Increase your awareness on tiger conservation issues by reading books, websites, attending talks by experts and participating in monitoring/estimation exercises carried out by forest department & NGOs. This knowledge will guide your attitudes and actions towards saving the tiger.

**Spread the word:** Tell others that the tiger and its habitat are under threat and that they need our help. Schools can become members of WWF-India's NCI (Nature Club of India) and reach out to children.

**Be a responsible tourist:** The wilderness is to be experienced and not to be disturbed and polluted. Approach nature with respect when visiting any wilderness area. Do not light fires inside a forest. Drive carefully when traveling on roads inside forest areas to prevent road kills. Take back with you whatever waste you generate during your stay inside a forest.

**Visit and learn:** You can visit and interact with local communities to understand local perspectives on conservation issues and support the work being done with communities by various organisations.

**Write to legislators:** Write polite letters to the decision makers - the Prime Minister, the Minister for Environment and Forests or even your local MP and MLA to do more for tiger conservation.

**Help prevent wildlife trade:** Contact TRAFFIC-India (a joint programme of WWF and IUCN) - an organisation monitoring wildlife trade, to pass on any information involving illegal wildlife trade. (**Email:** [trafficind@wwfindia.net](mailto:trafficind@wwfindia.net), **Tel:** 011 41504786, **Fax:** 011 43516200, **Web:** [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org))

**Reduce pressure on natural resources:** Follow the 3 R's: Reduce, Recycle and Reuse, particularly for products derived from forests, such as timber and paper.

**Support our work:** Donate to WWF-India or other nature conservation organisations for this cause and encourage others to donate too.

**For more information:** [www.wwfindia.org/tigers](http://www.wwfindia.org/tigers)  
[www.projecttiger.nic.in](http://www.projecttiger.nic.in)