

# Introducing the Indo-Chinese Tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*)...



## Conservation status: Globally Threatened: Endangered

The tiger (*Panthera tigris*), largest of all the cats, is one of the most charismatic and evocative species on the Earth. The Indo-Chinese tiger is arguably the most widely known inhabitant of the Greater Annamites and Lower Mekong Dry Forests ecoregions and is one of the most endangered large mammals in the world. Indo-Chinese tigers range from eastern Myanmar through Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia to Vietnam. In 1993 an estimated 500 were found in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, and 500-1,000 in Thailand, Myanmar and Peninsular Malaysia.



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## Fast facts

Length – 170-229cm (not including tail which may add another metre); weight – 180-245kg

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## Solitary or social?

Tigers are typically solitary animals. Young stay with their mother for several years until they reach maturity. Ranges of females and males overlap so that an intricate social structure usually exists.

## Diet and territory

Tigers are meat-eaters and prey mainly on deer and wild pig. Where this prey is in abundance, territories range from 10 to 20km<sup>2</sup> for females and 30 to 70km<sup>2</sup> for males. In areas where the density of prey is much lower, territories vary in size from 200 to 400km<sup>2</sup> for females and 800 to 1,000km<sup>2</sup> for males.



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## The tiger's home

The regional tiger distribution through Indochina today is restricted to Thanh Hoa down to Binh Phuoc province in Vietnam, in North-eastern Cambodia and throughout Lao PDR with gaps around urban centers. Large areas of both disturbed and undisturbed forest, such as the 3,500km<sup>2</sup> of Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area in Lao PDR, and the northeastern dry forest in Cambodia are needed to support tigers. As each individual commands and patrols a large territory, it is essential to protect forests and tiger prey across a wide landscape. Many protected areas tend to be too small for very large mammals such as tigers.

## Are you a tiger?

If you were born in 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986 or 1998 you were born under the Chinese sign of the tiger. Your personality is probably persistent and you are always able to rekindle the fire of life. Never before have tigers of the Greater Annamites and the Lower Mekong Dry Forests needed this quality to such extent as now, when their survival is threatened more and more. If action is not taken very soon, by the next year of the tiger (2010) the Indo-Chinese tiger could be extinct throughout much of its range.

## Threats

The situation is serious - tigers are disappearing fast. Until the 1930s, hunting for sport was probably the main cause of the decline in tiger populations. Between 1940 and the late 1980s, the greatest threat was loss of habitat due to human population expansion and activities such as logging. In recent years, the illegal hunting of tigers for body parts used in traditional Chinese medicines has become a major problem. While poaching for trade continues to menace the tiger's survival, perhaps the greatest long-term threats are the fragmentation of large habitat blocks and the depletion of the tiger's natural prey.

## What we are doing

WWF and WCS rank central, southwestern, and northeastern areas of the Cambodian dry forest as one of the highest

priority tiger conservation areas in the region. WWF has developed a tiger conservation strategy over Asia. In Indochina activities are concentrated in the Central Annamites in Vietnam and the Dry Forest of Cambodia.

In Vietnam WWF is working with governmental partners in the central Annamites to establish a landscape-wide tiger, prey and threat monitoring system to allow adaptive management in key locations for tigers. This is in tandem with strengthening enforcement efforts to remove threats to tigers and their prey. Discussions are ongoing with authorities in all countries of the tigers range outside protected areas as we seek active support for conservation to safeguard the survival of connected habitat for very large mammals such as tigers. The Species Conservation Programme of WWF Cambodia has spent significant efforts over the last four years to safeguard tiger populations in the tri-border of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Recently the initiative expanded to include Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary and Srepok Wilderness Area, in northeastern Cambodia. In Lao PDR, where the largest tiger population remains, studies are planned to identify priority areas for direct future conservation.



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Find out more about the tiger and the Greater Annamites and Lower Mekong Dry Forest ecoregions at: <http://www.wfindochina.org> and [http://www.wfindochina.org/dry\\_forest](http://www.wfindochina.org/dry_forest) and [www.panda.org/asiapacific/annamites](http://www.panda.org/asiapacific/annamites)