

Ecological and global significance

Tiger is a keystone species occupying the apex position in numerous food chains. Recent scientific publications underscore tremendous ecological role of apex predators in provisioning vital ecosystem services, ranging from water supply to climate regulations making Tiger Conservation a Global Priority.

However, tigers all over the world face several threats from poaching, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and depletion of prey population.

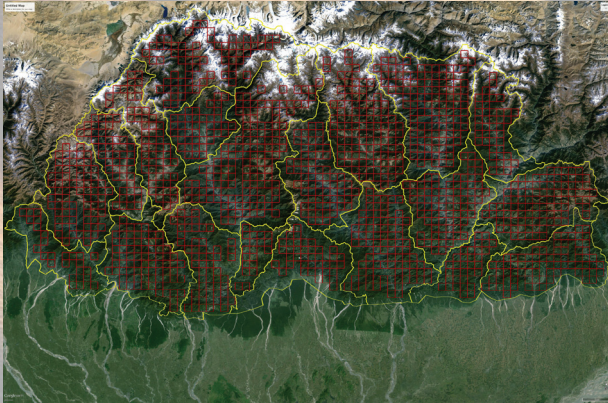
Today, Tiger population reduced to a mere 3,200 from that of about 100,000 across many parts of Asia in the early 20th Century.



Information on national tiger survey

**“Healthy Tigers, Healthy Bhutan: First-ever
Nationwide Tiger Survey By Bhutanese
Professionals.”**





Survey area

Bhutan is the only country among 13 tiger range countries where tigers (panther tigris) live in mountainous terrains, occasionally above 4,000m.

Tiger is a nationally protected species for its cultural and ecological significance with its conservation ensured by the country's Forest and Nature Conservation Act.

This globally endangered species occupy a special place in Bhutanese culture and spiritual ethos. Legend has it that Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Buddhism in Bhutan, visited Bhutan in the 8th Century riding on a tigress.

Many communities in Bhutan revere tigers as protective deities and associate them with a symbol of energy and fierceness.

Tiger is the only living member of the four protective animals of Buddhism, popularly known as Tag (local name for tiger), Sing (mythical snow lion), Chung (mythical garuda), and Druk (mythical dragon).



Survey objectives

The Royal Government of Bhutan has proposed to conduct a nation-wide survey of tigers in the country this year.

The Survey aims at estimating the population size and density of tigers using the state-of-the-art methods to understand the distribution and the habitat status of tigers in the country. It will also document the perception of communities and cultural values associated with tigers.

This nation-wide survey is the first of its kind as it is fully operated by a team of Bhutanese professionals signifying a national capacity to undertake such a mammoth scientific exploration.