1950 - 1980

WWF FOUNDED

Chitwan National Park Established
By early 1970s, large population migrated to Terai and subsequent settlement and agricultural practices led to habitat loss and drastic reduction in tiger population. Chitwan National Park (NP), then Royal Chitwan NP, established as the first national park of Nepal, legally protecting tigers and their habitat. The government prioritized wildlife protection and deployed Nepal Army for parks protection. Bardia National Park, the largest national park in Terai, established. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), formerly an office under the Department of Forests, formed as a separate entity with the objectives of strengthening the management and institutional structure of national parks and wildlife reserves. King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, now National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), established. Based on the recommendation from the Terai Ecology Project, Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR) established as an extended tiger habitat of Chitwan NP.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

1950 - 1980

1957
Private Forest Nationalization Act enacted to nationalize all privately owned forests (1957).

1961
Large human settlement in Terai following the malaria eradication program and a resettlement program severely degraded forest cover.

1967
WWF initiated preliminary work in Nepal and helped to support and advocate conservation of species.

1970
Tigers declared as endangered species.

1973
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), listed Tiger in Appendix I, placing particularly strict regulation on specimens trade.

1975
The Smithsonian-Nepal Tiger Ecology Project, later named Terai Ecology Project, studied the tiger population of the then Royal Chitwan NP, allowing scientists to successfully use radio tracking devices for the first time.

1980
The Third World Congress on national parks held in Bali, Indonesia focused on the role of protected areas in sustaining society.
ADOPT A TIGER CAMPAIGN STARTED
FIRST TIGER CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN ENDORSED
Based on camera trapping survey from 1995 to 1996, first baseline of tiger population was estimated: (16-23) Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, (50-60) Chitwan NP and (32-40) Bardia NP.

The initiation of transboundary meetings between Government of Nepal and India marked the beginning of highlighting transboundary conservation issues.

Following the recommendation of the International Symposium on Tiger held in New Delhi, India Global Tiger Forum (GTF) was established to embark on a worldwide campaign to save wild tigers.

The Convention on Biological Diversity called for parties to establish national systems of protected areas to conserve biological diversity.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn introduced a partnership with WWF to bring 500 million acres of forest under independent certification as sustainably managed by 2005, and to establish an additional 50 million acres of new forest protected areas.

Anti-Poaching Units in park areas established to strengthen efforts for the protection of endangered species.

The First Tiger Conservation Action Plan (1999-2004) was endorsed.

Government of Nepal, ICIMOD, and WWF jointly organized workshop on biodiversity vision for the Eastern Himalayas, with focus on wildlife corridor and connectivity.

“An Ecology-Based Method for Defining Priorities for Large Mammal Conservation: The Tiger as Case Study” suggested that to improve the long-term prospects for tiger conservation, poaching must be stopped and protected areas increased in number.

“Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human dominated Landscapes,” became the primary reference guiding conservation efforts to secure a future for tigers.
TERAI ARC LANDSCAPE
ENDORSED BY NEPAL GOVERNMENT

40% DECLINE IN TIGER POPULATION
A study on the feasibility of Terai Arc Landscape conducted.

In the Terai Arc Landscape of the Eastern Himalayan lowlands, WWF spurred progress toward the ambitious goal of creating wildlife corridors linking 11 protected areas between Nepal’s Chitwan NP and India’s Corbett NP. TAL was designed based on the Tiger Dispersal Model.

Government of Nepal endorsed TAL Vision.

Community-based anti-poaching operation concept and mechanism prepared and implemented.


Tiger conservation explicitly mentioned as a priority in the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy 2002.

WWF-Tiger Conservation Strategy Workshop, in September, using a number of prioritization criteria chose 7 focal landscapes including TAL (Nepal and India).

Wikramanakye et al. “Design[ed] a Conservation Landscape for Tigers in Human-Dominated Environments” based on data from 30 years of field research on tigers. This marked a shift from site-specific to landscape level conservation.

A WWF Framework and Strategy Action for Conserving Tigers in the Wild 2002-2010 was developed leading to a new and far-reaching strategy for tiger conservation based on landscape approach. WWF and TRAFFIC launch the Global Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign.

Durban World Parks Congress recognized the role of communities in conservation and need for their livelihood improvement.

Sanderson et al., “Setting Priorities for the Conservation and Recovery of Wild Tigers 2005-2015” reported the decline of tiger population by 40 percent compared to a decade earlier, and identified 76 landscapes with core breeding populations.
GLOBAL TIGER INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

ESTIMATED 121 TIGERS IN NEPAL 2008-2009
The Government of Nepal declared September 23 as National Conservation Day in memory of conservation leaders who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter crash.


WWF-UK initiated “Adopt a Tiger” campaign to raise funds for tiger conservation in 13 tiger range countries.

WWF-Network started the Tigers Alive Initiative, as one of its 13 Global Initiatives.

The first National Baseline for Tigers established based on the study (2008-2009) jointly conducted by DNPWC, DoF, NTNC and WWF Nepal: This estimated 121 tigers in Nepal.

The World Bank launched the “Global Tiger Initiative” in partnership with tiger range countries, with WWF as one of the major partners in the consortium.

Nepal hosted Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop, Pre-Summit Meeting.
YEAR OF THE TIGER

SAVE TIGERS NOW CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED
INTERNATIONAL EVENT

The Global Tiger Forum (GTF) Consultative meeting held at WWF-India. The meeting was attended by members from all tiger range countries.

Tiger range countries met at the 1st Asian Ministerial Meeting on Tiger Conservation, Thailand, to mandate the creation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) to double the number of tigers by 2022.

NATIONAL EVENT

With the National Tiger Recovery Plan (2010-2015), the Government of Nepal pledged to implement several conservation actions to help increase the country’s tiger population from an estimated 121 to over 250 adult tigers by the Year 2022.

Based on the baseline survey, the Government of Nepal allocated NRs. 6 mil special budget for tiger conservation for 5 years.

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation supported tiger conservation in Nepal.

For high level policy guidance and coordination on tiger conservation, the National Tiger Conservation Committee (NTCC) formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

Realizing the importance of other enforcement agencies in addressing wildlife crime, Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee (WCCCC) formed. It is chaired by Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), and coordinated by Director General of DNPWC.

First Meeting of the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade held in Kathmandu, laid the foundation for South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) as a coordinated regional response to combat illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking.

First Global Tiger Day celebrated in Nepal.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Nepal and People’s Republic of China addressing illegal wildlife trade.

A joint resolution signed between the Government of India and Government of Nepal on biodiversity conservation.

Banke NP declared as the 10th National Park of Nepal as an extended habitat for tigers after St. Petersburg declaration.

2010 Global Tiger Summit adopted the GTRP and endorsed the St. Petersburg Declaration to double tiger population by 2022.

“Save Tigers Now” a global campaign by WWF and Leonardo DiCaprio established with the goal to build political, financial and public support to double the number of wild tigers by 2022, the next Year of the Tiger.

International Development Assistance (IDA) for tiger conservation by World Bank, supported Government of Nepal in tiger conservation.

Transboundary cooperation on biodiversity between Nepal and India, and Nepal and China formalized.
INCREASE IN TIGER POPULATION
63%
365 DAYS OF ZERO POACHING CELEBRATED
2011-2015
INCREASE IN TIGER POPULATION
The 2nd National Tiger Survey initiated in Nepal, which confirmed the increase in tiger population by 63 percent to 198 (163-235) against the 2008-2009 baseline. The report “Status of Tigers and it’s Prey” in Nepal published in 2014.


WWF-Nepal introduced Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART), to monitor and improve the effectiveness of conservation management.

365 days of Zero Poaching of tigers celebrated in Nepal.

The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal hosted along with GTF, SAWEN, WWF, and NTNC, the Towards Zero Poaching Symposium in Asia bringing together experts from 13 tiger range countries.

Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CAITS) recognized Chitwan NP for being the best conservation zone for tiger protection.

First transboundary movement of tigers documented between Bardia NP and India’s Katerniyaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) piloted in Chitwan NP and Bardia NP, boosting Nepal’s antipoaching efforts.

Declaration of corridors as a Protection Forest (Khata, Basanta, Laljhadi, and Barandbhar corridor) secured the important connectivity of habitat for tiger movement.
Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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198 Tigers estimated in Nepal.

1993
WWF-Nepal office established.

198

Year of the tiger:
Commitment to doubling tiger population by 2022.

2010

+3,200

There are estimated to be as few as 3,200 tigers left in the wild.

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