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“If the forests of the Greater Mekong are reconnected, restored and conserved Indochinese tigers can claw their way back from the brink of extinction.”



WORLD'S LARGEST TIGER TERRITORY

CAMBODIA LAOS MYANMAR THAILAND VIETNAM

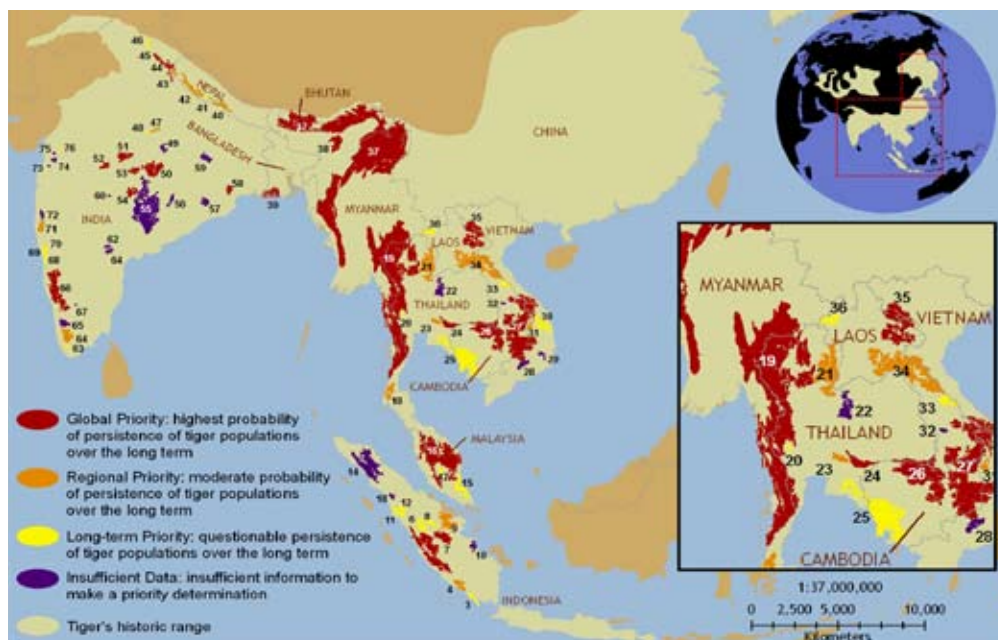
TIGERS ON THE BRINK

The forests of the Greater Mekong region represent the largest combined tiger habitat on our planet. Covering 540,000km², or roughly the size of France, these forest habitats are priority areas for tiger conservation efforts. Yet it is estimated that as few as 350 Indochinese tigers prowl the forests of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, down from around 1,200 during the last Year of the Tiger in 1998.

Increasing demand for tiger body parts used in traditional Chinese medicine, and habitat fragmentation from unsustainable regional infrastructure development, have driven the decline of the region's tiger population. This decline is reflected in the global wild tiger population, which is at an all time low of 3,200 - down from an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 during the last Year of the Tiger.

Over the last century, over 95% of the world's tiger population has vanished. Today, tiger conservation is a race against time. Action must be taken to conserve the forests of the Greater Mekong and protect the region's remaining tiger populations if these charismatic cats are to mount a comeback.

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES



KAYAH KAREN TENASSERIM - THAILAND

Located on the Thai-Myanmar border this mountainous landscape spans more than 213,000km², and is one of the highest priority conservation areas for tigers globally, on a par with sites in India and Siberia and one of the most significant biodiversity areas in Southeast Asia.

Within this vast wilderness lies Thailand's world-class Western Forest Complex, comprising an integrated group of more than 18 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, several of which form a World Heritage Site. The Western Forest Complex has the largest population of Indochinese tigers in Thailand, and probably in all Southeast Asia. It is believed to be one of the Greater Mekong's best chances to recover tiger numbers, if its remaining habitats are maintained, and anti-poaching efforts are increased.

WWF efforts within this region focus on the direct involvement of local people and institutions in conservation related activities, and include participatory approaches to tiger and elephant conservation, biological monitoring, habitat restoration, law enforcement, awareness-raising, and maintaining landscape connectivity.



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“WWF is working to restore Indochinese tiger populations to the forests of the Greater Mekong, where they were once so abundant.”



DRY FORESTS - CAMBODIA

As recently as 50 years ago, the Dry Forests in Cambodia supported some of the most diverse and abundant mega-faunal communities in Asia, which led to it being described as “one of the great game lands of the world.” Tiger numbers in these forests have decreased as habitats have been converted and fragmented, and, most importantly, as prey numbers have been poached almost to ecological extinction.

Environmental conditions in the Cambodian Eastern Plains Dry Forests Landscape are somewhat similar to parts of India where tiger densities are the highest recorded anywhere. Years of war and hunting in the Eastern Plains have left much of this landscape nearly empty of wild ungulates. However, while tiger numbers here are low, in places where protection efforts have been stepped up there has been a recent and continuing increase in other carnivore species such as leopard, wild dog and jackal, as well as tiger prey species. This rapid wildlife recovery makes the Eastern Plains a high potential site for restoring tiger.

In this region WWF is employing a new approach using highly trained scat detection dogs to sniff out tigers. Research and monitoring is a key component of tiger conservation as it tells teams which areas should be protected and what wildlife is present, and how quickly certain species are recovering, particularly in two top priority protected areas: Monduliri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary.

GREATER ANNAMITES – LAOS AND VIETNAM

The Greater Annamites are dominated by a mountain range lying to the east of the Mekong River, stretching along the border of Vietnam and Laos, with its most south-western outliers extending into the northeast of Cambodia.

WWF is currently undertaking protection activities in some of the priority sites for tiger in the Greater Annamites. This mainly focuses on the removal of snares, recognizing that it is over-hunting of tiger prey that has decimated tiger numbers, and that current habitat could support many more tigers were wild ungulate populations to recover. At three sites in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam Provinces, WWF is training and funding National Park and Forest Protection Department rangers to conduct more targeted enforcement and tens of thousands of snares have since been removed.

RESTORE tiger populations to forests where they were once abundant

RECOVER tiger numbers where populations still exist

RECONNECT forest habitat to ensure tiger populations and their prey species increase



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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:

www.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/greatermekong

WWF is working to conserve 600,000km² of the world's most:

- biologically diverse,
- economically viable and
- seriously threatened

forests and rivers within the Greater Mekong, home and life source to over 300 million people in Cambodia, China, Lao

PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam



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