

DOUBLING WILD TIGERS

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OUR GOAL WILD TIGER POPULATIONS THRIVE IN PRIORITY LANDSCAPES CHARACTERIZED BY EXPANSIVE AND INTERCONNECTED HABITAT, SECURE FROM THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL, WITH THEIR LONG-TERM PRESENCE SUPPORTED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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FOREWORD

It was in the dense rainforests of Sumatra, that I captured a wild tiger on camera trap for the very first time. He gazed straight into the lens and snapped his own portrait, just five minutes after I had mounted the camera and walked off. Two decades on, Sumatran tigers remain critically endangered while the future of the world's wild tigers continues to hang in the balance.

But something has changed. Across the world, governments, businesses, conservation and community groups, and countless individuals are fighting together to achieve one of the most ambitious goals ever set for the conservation of a species, known as TX2 - the goal to double wild tigers across their range by 2022.

This game-changing approach to tiger conservation was forged at the St Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010, where 13 tiger-range governments committed to a Global Tiger Recovery Plan, each pledging to strengthen measures to protect wild tigers and their habitats.

And the hard work is paying off – our collective efforts are slowing the decline in tiger numbers for the first time since the beginning of the 20th century, and may even be on the rise based on latest estimates. In 2018, we celebrated with Nepal when they announced a near doubling of their wild tiger numbers, less than a decade since committing to TX2.

However, with only around 3,900 tigers left in the wild, this is no time for complacency. As we move into 2019, we continue to work with governments and partners towards ending the exploitation of tigers in the illegal wildlife trade, to ensure protected areas are effectively managed, and that rangers are provided adequate and quality training, equipment and welfare standards in order to do their jobs well and safely. We will also re-double our efforts to ensure that local communities, the natural custodians of wild places, wildlife and natural resources, are fully engaged in tiger conservation.

Margaret Kinnaird Leader of Wildlife Practice WWF



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As a powerful cultural and spiritual icon, the tiger has been revered for centuries in India and beyond, regardless of the rise and fall of human empires. Yet, despite our best collective efforts, until recently the population curve of wild tigers was stubbornly sliding downwards.

The long-term survival and continued co-existence of tigers with people has been a top priority for WWF since tigers were first declared endangered. But if tigers are to roam free for generations to come, we needed a significant shift in how we approach tiger conservation.

The TX2 goal provided a strong impetus in 2010, bringing together tiger-range governments in a way that had never been done before, to commit to a singular global mission – to double wild tiger numbers by 2022.

Within WWF, this changed the way we approached tiger conservation. While keeping our focus on the need to effectively manage tiger habitats at various sites, we began to invest expertise and resources in a landscape approach, which takes into account the need to have a connected, holistic modus operandi. This includes building sustainability into economic development, production systems and infrastructure. It means developing systemic and forward looking solutions to human wildlife conflict. It involves building relationships with local communities as partners in conservation.

In 2018 the All India Tiger Estimation was kicked-off together with neighbouring countries Nepal and Bangladesh, with all three governments agreeing to share survey data for better understanding of tigers' transboundary movement. This will provide all-important information and understanding on tiger behaviour and movement that can help conservation efforts in all three countries. This is in line with the renewed emphasis on conservation beyond borders through transboundary collaboration between countries.

Working alongside diverse partners, from local communities to sectoral experts, from the judiciary to businesses and from civil society groups to conservation managers, WWF will continue to innovate boldly in 2019. Together, we will work towards a future where tigers persist not just as cultural icons, but also guardians of our ecosystem health on which millions of people depend for fresh air, clean water, food and medicine.

Sejal Worah Chair of WWF Tigers Advisory Group and Programme Director, WWF-India

WITH HIGHEST POTENTIAL FOR TIGER **RECOVERY ARE IDENTIFIED AND**

PRIORITIZED FROM OVER 1,000 SITES

RUSSIA WORLD HERITAGE **BIKIN NATIONAL PARK IS LISTED** AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE; NOW BOASTING AROUND **40 AMUR TIGERS**

KAZAKHSTAN **OVER 4,000 KM²**

THE SIZE OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED ILI-BALKHASH NATURE RESERVE FOR TIGER REINTRODUCTION

JANUARY

CREATING SAFE HAVENS TIGERS FIRST EVER GLOBAL SURVEY OF OVER 100 TIGER SITES REVEALS CRITICAL GAPS. WWF CALLS

ON GOVERNMENTS TO INVEST IN AND SECURE GLOBAL TIGER SITES

MALAYSIA PROJECT **STAMPEDE 10 PATROL TEAMS OF** INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES **WERE FORMED TO BOOST**

ANTI-POACHING IN BELUM-TEMENGGOR

NEPAL **235 AND** COUNTING

NEPAL SET TO BE FIRST TO **DOUBLE TIGER NUMBERS, INCREASING FROM 121 IN** 2009 TO 235 IN 2018

NOT FOR SALE CHINA POSTPONES THE LEGALIZATION OF DOMESTIC TRADE IN TIGER AND RHINO PARTS AND PRODUCTS, **MAINTAINING THE 25-YEAR** BAN ON TIGER BONE AND **RHINO HORN TRADE**

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COMPANIES UNITE AS FIRST-EVER GLOBAL COALITION WORKING TO REDUCE ONLINE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING BY 80% BY 2020

URGENT NEED FOR RANGERS

WORLD'S LARGEST RANGER SURVEY REVEALS MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY RANGERS, CALLS FOR BASIC HEALTHCARE, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

 (\mathbf{F}) **50% NO INSURANCE** FOR MAJOR INJURY **OR DEATH**

NEARLY 60% RARELY OR NEVER HAVE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER ON PATROL

DECEMBER

POLITICAL MOMENTUM

DRIVING POLITICAL MOMENTUM

The unceasing commitment of tiger range governments is key to ensuring that wild tigers have a secure future. Driving political momentum thus underlines all of WWF's efforts towards doubling wild tigers. Through the Global Tiger Initiative, Global Tiger Forum and other critical platforms, WWF supports governments in fulfilling their commitments with partnerships, policy advice, and by forging collaborative solutions together.

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BHUTAN PRIME MINISTER OPENED THE BHUTAN FOR LIFE OFFICE & LAUNCHED THE NATIONAL TIGER ACTION PLAN

The office will manage a USD \$43 million fund to secure Bhutan's network of protected areas. Bhutan's Prime Minister called for more tiger sites to achieve improved management as per CA|TS standards in the country.

OCTOBER CHINA-RUSSIA TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION

deepened as Chinese and Russian forestry officials convened with global tiger experts at the International Forum of Conservation of Amur Tiger and Leopard.

ALL YEAR

WORLD'S LARGEST TIGER CENSUS, LED BY INDIA'S NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND STATE FOREST DEPARTMENTS,

will provide critical knowledge on tiger recovery in India's landscapes. WWF supported this exercise with personnel and camera equipment. This is the most intensive census by far across India with over 6000 camera trap locations.

MAY LAOS New order by Laos prime minister

The Prime Minister issued strict order (PM05) instructing all officials, including Ministers and other high-level officials, to fully enforce wildlife laws and combat wildlife crime, including tiger trade and tiger farms. The proclamation of a New Penal Code increases and broadens penalties for offenders.

NOVEMBER MYANMAR ENACTS CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS LAW

and pledged to shut down illegal wildlife markets, after announcing a ban on wildlife trade across Yangon in a bid to tackle illegal trade that fuels the poaching of wild tigers, elephants and more.

OCTOBER UNITED KINGDOM London conference on illegal Wildlife trade

secured commitments from 10 tiger range governments to address illegal markets and strengthen legal frameworks, and improve law enforcement and sustainable livelihood outcomes.

PEOPLE-CENTRED TIGER CONSERVATION

Engaging local communities is a key component of WWF's global tiger conservation strategy. From those communities living in and around tiger landscapes, to urban dwellers whose consumer decisions affect whether businesses choose sustainable commodities, our work in this area plays an important role in habitat conservation through sustainable use of natural resources.

Globally, tiger conservation can achieve longterm success if communities and businesses are supportive of protecting wild tigers and their habitats. As we strive for tiger population recovery and growth, engaging with diverse communities becomes an indispensable and strategic part of the goal towards TX2.

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COMING SOON: WILDSTUFF - BETTER MARKETS FOR PEOPLE AND TIGERS

WildStuff is an online marketplace that will provide sustainable local products and services from tiger landscapes to consumers willing to pay a premium to help protect wild tigers. WildStuff will enable consumers to support local producers who contribute to the protection of wild tigers and their habitats, through certified sustainable processes that ensure safe working conditions and the maintenance of shared spaces for tigers, wildlife and people.

WildStuff's products will come from land uses that are conducive to the TX2 goal and permeability across the landscape. In 2018, WWF began scoping for Wildstuff products in three initial tiger landscapes; in India's Brahmaputra, Indonesia's Central Sumatra and the transboundary Dawna Tenasserim in Thailand and Myanmar. In 2019, WWF will continue working with partners to develop a business strategy for this tiger-friendly marketplace.



A SWEET SOLUTION SATPUDA MAIKAL LANDSCAPE

Sustainable honey harvesting and collection in Aurapani, India, is an initiative by WWF in the the buffer zone of Achanakmar Tiger Reserve. where traditional honey collection practices involved the lopping of trees and increased the risk of forest fires. We mobilized traditional honey collectors through Samiti - a local community institution - to adopt sustainable harvesting techniques, eliminating destructive practices and thus managing fire risks for both tigers and people. This year, Samiti sold 300 kg of organic "forest honey", generating a revenue of RS 120,000 (around USD\$1,735), a three-fold increase compared to previous harvest figures.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

WWF helped build capacity of Eco-Development Committee members through initiatives to set up an ethnic food center, a weaving center and food processing unit on the fringe of Kaziranga National Park in the key tiger Brahmaputra Landscape. These initiatives provide support to local community-based enterprises and reduce villagers' dependency on forest resources.

SAFE FOR PEOPLE AND TIGERS

WWF works with global partners to provide leadership on enhancing the knowledge and practice of managing human wildlife conflict (HWC). Through the pioneering use of lessons from global transport safety sector, WWF is rolling out the Human Wildlife Conflict SAFE Systems Approach to manage conflict and in the long term, to reduce the likelihood of conflict incidents. The SAFE Approach represents a dramatic shift away from only dealing with symptoms, and is a move toward integrated management of HWC through enhanced preventative measures, and actions to respond to, mitigate, monitor and understand HWC.



ABOUT SAFE SYSTEMS

The SAFE Approach to HWC is delivered through five strategic outcomes:

- safe person safe assets
- safe wildlife
- safe habitat effective monitoring

By providing a holistic view of conflict, the SAFE Approach is inclusive in that it encompasses all the interactions between the people, their land, their livelihoods, decision-makers, commercial and government interests, and wildlife; and is forgiving as it accommodates human error and the "wildness" of the species involved and that conflict events will never be zero.



The Conflict Minimization Groups in Khabarovsky and Primorsky of Russian Far East play a critical role as this rapid response team to help resolve conflict with large predators in the quickest, most effective way.



EXPANDING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES

WWF is studying global challenges and best practices on human wildlife conflict (HWC), including the use of rapid response teams as well as insurance and compensation schemes. These studies will form a series of WWF reports that aims to strengthen global knowledge on managing HWC.

MINIMIZING CONFLICT IN THE SUNDARBANS

WWF supports communities living in the Sundarbans with sustainable livelihood solutions and HWC mitigation, and is working with government authorities, research institutions and local businesses to focus on resilience-building and developing local self-governance among community members. This includes converting wild honey collectors - who are at risk of conflict with wild tigers - to beekeeping and sustainable honey production. This alternative is not only more ecologically sustainable, it also fetches more income for local communities while safeguarding lives.

SAFE ASSESSMENTS AND TRAININGS

WWF conducted SAFE Systems assessments and trainings in Northeast China, Sumatra, and West Bengal in India to support governments and partners in managing HWC. In parallel, WWF Bhutan and Nepal staff continued to conduct SAFE Systems Rapid Assessments in various locations. The experience of piloting SAFE Systems in tiger landscapes is now benefiting other landscapes globally, with WWF working to create a SAFE Systems strategy for landscapes in Kenya and Burkina Faso.

INTERIM RELIEF SCHEME

To prevent retaliatory killings of large carnivores, WWF provides an interim relief to livestock owners who lost their cattle to tigers and leopards in and around several tiger landscapes. In India, this includes the Kanha Tiger Reserve, the Kanha-Pench corridor, and sensitive sections of Pench Tiger Reserve. This work is being undertaken in association with The Corbett Foundation in Kanha Tiger Reserve, which helps us understand the movement of transient tigers traversing the corridors, as well as the patterns of individual tiger movements based on the history of depredation incidents. This year, WWF addressed 181 depredation cases in the corridor area, about 45% of which were caused by tigers.

OUR TIGER LANDSCAPES

WWF'S 14 TIGER LANDSCAPES ACROSS 12 COUNTRIES ARE Home to around 80% of the World's wild tigers and Cover 60% of the current wild tiger range.



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ANDSCAPE APPROACH

SCALING ACROSS BOUNDARIES

The heart and soul of WWF's global tiger programme is found in the 14 tiger landscapes across 12 countries. By adopting a landscape approach, WWF works across large areas of important habitat, where tiger sites - both protected and unprotected - are connected through common boundaries or by natural corridors. While the scale and complexity of the work required to protect these interconnected landscapes is daunting, WWF is bolstered by strong partnerships across the globe and on the ground and is investing sustained funds and extensive scientific expertise.

Over the last 8 years, WWF has rigorously tracked, mapped and analysed comparable data from the landscapes, which allows us to have a long-term, strategic approach to tiger conservation. In 2019, we will be sharing the next analysis of the landscape KPIs. While still active across more than 200 tiger sites, in 2018 WWF turned special focus to 50 strategically important areas with the highest potential for recovery. These are the 'tiger heartlands', where conservation is guided by the landscape approach, and where the impact of our work is most needed.

NEW STUDY: WILD TIGER POPULATIONS IN KEY SITES COULD TRIPLE IN A GENERATION

Conducted by 49 conservation experts, a new study found that if given strong site management, wild tiger populations in key sites could triple within a human generation at the soonest, with certain extended timelines of up to 50 years more probable at other recovery sites. With strong contribution from WWF, the study developed site-specific and ecologically realistic targets and timelines for tiger population recovery in 18 tiger heartlands identified by WWF Tigers Alive. These 18 heartlands currently support around 165 (118 – 277) wild tigers and could harbour up to 585 (454–739) in the best case scenario, which would contribute 15% increase in the global tiger population and provide much hope to the long-term survival of wild tigers.

NEW SUMATRA TIGER ACTION PLAN

Building on the success of conservation efforts in the tiger heartlands Rimbang Baling and Bukit Tigapuluh, a new Sumatra Tiger Action Plan has been developed, which focuses on the need to stabilize and then recover tiger populations across Central, North and South Sumatra.

Read more: Recovery planning towards doubling wild tiger Panthera tigris numbers: Detailing 18 recovery sites from across the range. PLoS ONE 13(11): e0207114.

CONNECTING THE DOTS TO A NEW HOME

Thanks to camera trap analysis by WWF field teams in Thailand, we have now learnt that MKM8 - a male tiger who has been repeatedly spotted in Mae Wong National Park - was originally born in Huai Kha Kheng Wildlife Sanctuary. MKM8 was identified through its unique tiger stripes in different camera trap photos and had travelled over 100km to arrive at Mae Wong NP. This new knowledge is made possible through a shared tiger population database among WWF and conservation partners in the Western Forest Complex that comprises 17 contiguous protected areas, allowing conservationists to study the dynamics of the tiger population at the landscape level.



Captured on camera trap in July 2016, Mae Wong National Park.

COUNTING TIGERS



Latest sighting on camera trap captured in March 2018, Mae Wong National Park.

Doubling Tigers in Nepal: Over 4,000 camera trap images, captured through a survey that covered more than 12,000 km² across protected areas and wildlife corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape shared with India, revealed that Nepal has nearly doubled its wild tiger population in less than a decade. The current population is now estimated at 235 individuals, up from the baseline of 121 tigers in 2009.

Monitoring 70% of the World's Wild Tigers: WWF partnered with the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Wildlife Institute of India, and nine State Forest Departments to support India's 4th national tiger estimate - the most intensive by far - in over 6000 camera trap locations across India with personnel and camera equipment. Results, which are expected in the middle of 2019, will contribute to the global tiger population.

Tigresses in Thailand: WWF found positive population trends in the Mae Wong – Khlong Lan complex, where resident female tiger numbers increased from just two in 2012 to five in 2018, while tiger cub numbers have increased from two to six. A healthy ratio of female-to-male tigers is necessary for population recovery, and early results from 2018's camera trap data suggests that this ratio remains stable. This is an important step in the process of population recovery for this small population.

SECURING SAFE HAVENS FOR WILD TIGERS

Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is an accreditation system designed to measure and improve the management of tiger conservation areas. It is driven by the CA|TS Partnership, which comprises tiger range governments, intergovernmental agencies, conservation organizations and other institutions.

The CA|TS Partnership aims to have 150 tiger sites registered covering around 250,000 km² of tiger range, overlapping with 50% of Asian elephant range and 90% of Asian rhino range. WWF is a key part of this partnership.

LARGEST RAPID ASSESSMENT OF TIGER CONSERVATION AREAS

15% OF TIGERS SITES ADEQUATELY PROTECTED

The largest survey of site-based tiger management to date, covering 112 tiger conservation areas that are estimated to hold 70% of the world's wild tigers, revealed that less than 15% of tiger sites are adequately protected. More than a third of them are at severe risk of losing wild tigers.

Jointly released by the CA|TS Partnership, the report *Safe Havens for Wild Tigers: A Rapid Assessment of Management Effectiveness against Conservation Assured Tiger Standards* sought to bring attention to tiger-range governments, especially in Southeast Asia, of the need for sustained financial investments and effective anti-poaching protection.

Data from this survey forms a baseline that will help governments and site managers understand how they are faring against CA|TS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standards), and the gaps in protected area management that need to be addressed to effectively secure and recover wild tigers in the area.

MALAYSIA'S ROYAL BELUM STATE PARK – SOUTHEAST ASIA'S FIRST CA|TS-REGISTERED TIGER SITE

Malaysia organized its first National Mini Lab on Strengthening Tiger Conservation & Protected Area Management, bringing together key stakeholders to identify solutions through the CA|TS framework, including ways to tackle the poaching crisis in Malaysia's forests.



ACHIEVED BY END OF 2018



65

RFGISTFRF

countries

across 7 tiger-range





Together with tiger-range governments, the CA|TS Support Group and the wider partnership are working towards securing the necessary investments for the most important tiger areas to become CA|TS-Approved.

CA|TS FRAMEWORK ENDORSED BY SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

The CA|TS Partnership submitted its implementation framework, which was peer-reviewed and published in the Land journal.

Read more: Setting and Implementing Standards for Management of Wild Tigers. Land 2018; 7(3): 93

MAINTAINING THE CONNECTION

Biological corridors are the lifelines for isolated populations of tigers and other wildlife to move from one area to another. WWF works to keep tiger habitats connected through an integrated approach that tackles the threats of infrastructure, mining and land conversion, by engaging local communities that share these corridors, and promoting the inclusion of corridors in governments' plans for protected areas.

To maintain these critically important corridors, WWF with our partners are developing connectivity engagement strategies in order to identify critical linkages and ensure their protection through engagement with key stakeholders.

A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF CORRIDORS

Governments and conservation organisations came to a new consensus at the Landscape Corridors and Connectivity Workshop in New Delhi, recognizing that tiger movement across landscapes is more complex than previously understood. New information shows that a 'biological corridor' for tigers is not limited to just forested areas. Rather, it also includes spaces for humans and other wildlife, such as agricultural land and seasonally dry river beds. This warrants a shift towards ensuring connectivity that would include community engagement as a fundamental approach, in addition to habitat protection and management.





TIGER-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT ALONG CHINA'S NEW ROADS

WWF identified five corridor areas critical to the dispersal of Amur tigers along the roads of S201, S206, and Hegang-Dalian Highway in key Amur tiger habitat areas. WWF will be developing proposals for tigerfriendly management of these corridors to help minimize the negative impact of linear infrastructure on the free movement of Amur tigers and the ecological health of their habitats.

TIGER PUGMARK FOUND NEAR CRITICAL CORRIDORS IN SUMATRA

A Sumatran tiger pugmark was discovered in an area just 500 m away from a human settlement, through regular peatland monitoring of a fire hotspot area in Sumatra. Located in a buffer zone of one of 23 known tiger habitat areas in Sumatra, the area is close to important corridors that wild tigers may likely use to traverse between sites. Based on the shape and size of the paws, the field team judged that this could be a sub-adult or young female tiger, but the verdict remains unclear as the print was on soft mud. In order to be sure, WWF will be deploying camera traps to monitor tiger and wildlife movement in this area, and has alerted local authorities of potential tiger presence as part of efforts to prevent human-wildlife conflict. The monitoring of tiger and wildlife movement is important and we continue such work in many other countries as well



PURSUING A SUSTAINABLE PATH TO DEVELOPMENT

An impending wave of infrastructure development is threatening to cut through every existing tiger habitat. This would isolate wildlife populations and increase chances of conflict between tigers and people, while making it easier for poachers to enter protected habitats.

The scale and speed of this challenge will only accelerate as tiger range countries continue to pursue rapid economic development. WWF is calling for Asia's governments to pursue a sustainable development path where longterm spatial plans fully integrate ecological systems with development priorities.

NO NET LOSS OF CONNECTIVITY

Based on a growing body of knowledge and experience on mitigating the impacts of infrastructure, WWF is currently designing a programme that will study infrastructure development in and around tiger landscapes, identify critical locations and corridors that could be impacted, predict future infrastructure locations and design collaborative solutions with global partners and funding mechanisms to achieve no net loss of connectivity.

TAKING THE ROAD TO PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Camera trap surveys by WWF and local conservation groups along a developing section of the Dawei-Kanchanaburi Road, linking Thailand and Myanmar, found a total of 23 mammal species including the clouded leopard, Asian golden cat and many tiger prey including sambar deer. Within 10km of the road, a total of 12 globally-threatened mammal species were also recorded. WWF is working with key stakeholders, including the Myanmar and Thai governments, to increase understanding of the area's rich biodiversity, and develop plans to reduce the impact of the road on wildlife and their habitats.



Camera trap surveys in this area captured images of wild tigers, Asian tapirs, leopards and many other mammals. Image credit © WWF-Myanmar

ANALYSIS REVEALS DAMAGING IMPACTS

WWF has been working with the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Hong Kong to study forest loss along the Dawei road in Myanmar, with results showing an increase in deforestation since construction of access roads began a few years ago, and is made worse by agricultural expansion an increasing number of off-roads linking to the main road. A report based on these analyses will be published in 2019, and will aim to inform policy and decision makers and aid in the design of sustainable solutions.



BRINGING THE WILD BACK

Tigers have disappeared from 95 per cent of their historical range over the last century, due to rampant poaching and habitat loss. With the shrinking of the tiger range, tiger populations have become extinct in several countries across Asia.

WWF is working to bring wild tigers back to two ecologically significant landscapes that hold great promise for long-term tiger recovery – the tropical dry forests of Cambodia's Eastern Plains and the riparian forests of Kazakhstan's Ili-Balkhash. These will be the first international reintroductions ever attempted for wild tigers.

KAZAKHSTAN CREATES PROTECTED AREA FOR TIGER REINTRODUCTION

Ili-Balkhash Reserve, the reintroduction site for tigers in Kazakhstan at a size of 415,164 hectares, was officially established on 27 June 2018, heralding a flurry of conservation activities to lay the groundwork for the eventual return of the wild tiger. As a key partner to the government of Kazakhstan in the reintroduction programme, WWF is working to help improve law enforcement and protection, recover critical prey species unique to the area, and engage local communities as part of the process.

WWF Small Grants Programme provided local families in the Balkhash region with financial support to start eco-friendly businesses in support of tiger reintroduction.

NOV

The first ranger centre was established in Ili-Balkhash Reserve, which locals nicknamed "Tiger Reserve". The centre can house up to 9 rangers, and is fitted with a radio tower, solar power and motorboat and snowmobiles for patrolling the area. The first arrest of poachers was made in the same month.

NOV

Over 2.100 seedlings of the native tree oleaster (*Elaeaqnus*), or dzhida as it is known locally, were planted along the reserve's channels to help restore degraded habitat.

The first group of Bukhara deer (3 female and 2 male), a Central Asian species of the endangered red deer, was released into a special enclosure in Ili-Balkhash. The deer will be collared and monitored and are expected to be released into the wild in June 2019, and complimented by additional annual releases that should boost population growth to 200 deer by 2025.

KAZÁKHSTAN

"The first group of five deer, which arrived to the Ili-Balkhash reserve in December 2018 from the Syrdarya-Turkestan State Regional Natural Park, was a real gift for us for the New Year 2019. This important event took place thanks to the help of our partners and friends."

Grigory Mazmanyants, Director of the Central Asian Programme, WWF Russia



DOUBLE RANGERS IN CAMBODIA

WWF continues to work closely with the Cambodian government to prepare for tiger reintroduction in the Eastern Plains landscape (EPL). From 2017 to 2018, WWF supported the government to double the number of rangers in the EPL to around 70. This is an encouraging start, with the eventual goal of around 500 well-trained and properly equipped rangers in EPL to be achieved, as one of many steps needed to properly secure the tiger reintroduction site.

WWF also proposed zoning plans within Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary in the EPL, which allows demarcation between different types of land-use: core protected areas, sustainable use, and community zones. Once approved, this commitment will promote strong participation from local communities as it evokes support from the people to conserve the country's rich biological diversity.

A WORLD FREE OF POACHING

Zero Poaching is achieved when poaching is reduced to a point where it does not threaten the survival of a species over a set period of time. As a framework, Zero Poaching provides a holistic approach based on upholding the six pillars of capacity, assessment, technology, prosecution, cooperation and community simultaneously. It includes actions to combat wildlife crime, strengthen governance, tackle corruption and enhance respect for human rights.

From the grasslands of Tanzania to the steppes of Mongolia, this holistic approach to combating wildlife crime has now grown far beyond its original home in tiger landscapes. Visit zeropoaching.org for more information.

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A MANUAL FOR ZERO POACHING SUCCESS NEPAL FIRST ACHIEVED ZERO POACHING SUCCESS IN 2011, WHEN IT Recorded 365 days of no poaching of Rhinos. By 2018, NEPAL CELEBRATED ZERO POACHING OF RHINOS ON FIVE OCCASIONS.

Nepal's experience and lessons, along with similarly important case studies in Africa, are being detailed into a Zero Poaching Manual together with experts from WWF, the University of Central Florida and the University of Griffith. The manual will provide an assessment of the factors that enabled real-life Zero Poaching success, detail guidelines on implementing the six key pillars necessary to achieve a meaningful reduction in poaching, including at site, cluster or country-level.

TOWARDS STAMPING OUT POACHING IN MALAYSIA

A year after the Perak State Government pledged to achieve Zero Poaching in the state by 2020, WWF launched Project Stampede, a collaborative initiative that employs and trains local indigenous communities to conduct anti-poaching patrols. Armed with generations of knowledge about the forest and its wildlife, 10 community-led patrol teams consisting of 50 local people helped remove hundreds of snares set by poachers, and report poaching camps and other suspicious activities to authorities. In a race to achieve Zero Poaching by 2020, WWF will also continue to support the government's efforts to deploy more enforcement personnel to patrol tiger habitats.



NEPAL: FROM ZERO TO DOUBLE



On 23rd September 2018, Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.

If these trends continue, Nepal could become the first country to double its national tiger population since the ambitious TX2 goal – to double the world's wild tiger population by 2022 – was set at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010.



WITH MUCH PRIDE AND GRATITUDE

I am blessed to come from a place with some of the world's most elusive and beautiful species, and arguably, the best views in the world. Nepal's diverse ecosystems provide essential resources not just for wildlife, but also for its people. At the helm sits the majestic tiger – an apex predator whose presence is a key indicator of a balanced ecosystem - and whose steady recovery in Nepal has brought much pride and gratitude.

In 2018 Nepal celebrated a nearly doubling of wild tiger numbers in under just one decade, owing to deep political commitment, keenly engaged local communities and the unwavering support of our conservation partners. Yet, in 2010, when Nepal committed to TX2, the global goal to double wild tiger numbers seemed insurmountable. There were around 121 wild tigers in Nepal then. Given the resource constraints, and rising challenges with poaching and habitat loss, the road to 2022 seemed grim.

That same year, the Government of Nepal launched the National Tiger Recovery Plan (2010-2015), which pledged to implement several key conservation actions to help the country's tiger population recover. A year later, Nepal became the first country to achieve 365-days of Zero Poaching for rhinos – and continued to hit the Zero Poaching target for rhinos four more times from 2011 – 2018.

Riding on the political momentum and strong support of stakeholders, Nepal's Chitwan National Park became the first tiger site to become accredited with Conservation Assured Tiger Standards – the first global standards for ensuring effective management of protected areas for tigers.

Transboundary collaboration with neighbouring governments continues to be key. Shared information draws a fuller picture, helping us to understand their transboundary movement, and further emphasizes the critical need to work together in ensuring well-protected and contiguous habitats for tigers.

Every tiger counts, for Nepal and for the world. As we strive towards a collective progress, I look forward to our next milestone in ensuring that tigers continue to roam in the wild, for generations to come.



Dr. Ghana S. Gurung **Country Representative, WWF-Nepal**

SUPPORTING RANGER CAPACITY

WWF has been supporting ranger capacity across the globe for decades. To better protect wildlife and rangers in Asia, WWF continuously works with governments to professionalize rangers, who urgently need improvements in training and equipment, basic healthcare and safety. Supporting Asia's rangers is critical for achieving anti-poaching success in tiger landscapes, and in protecting some of the world's most threatened and ecologically valuable places.

WWF continues to strive for systemic change by advocating that rangers be fully professionalized, and appropriately valued for the vital work they carry out. This means ensuring rangers have the requisite resources, training, technology and welfare (decent wages and insurance) to do their job safely, effectively and responsibly.

WORLD'S LARGEST-EVER RANGER SURVEY

Based on a 197 question survey of over 4,600 responses by rangers in 17 countries across Asia and Africa¹ - by far the largest to date - WWF developed the landmark report *Life on the Frontline: A Global Survey on the Working Conditions of Rangers*, with significant contributions from the University of Central Florida.

The report highlights the numerous serious challenges that rangers face, from poachers and deadly disease, to lack of communications devices and limited training. WWF is calling on Asian and African governments to address these major gaps in health & safety, training & equipment, and community trust, and will continue to strive to implement changes that would see rangers fully professionalized, and supported to a level commensurate to the role they play in safeguarding countries' most important natural resources, and ecological systems.

To further understand ranger insurance needs and develop customised solutions, WWF is also studying ranger insurance scenarios in India and Thailand with KMD Dastur, a commercial insurance company.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTORS



~ 50% LACK ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER OR OVERNIGHT SHELTER





1 OF 4 RANGERS HAD MALARIA IN THE LAST 12 Months, while the vast majority lack access to Mosouito nets



NEARLY 60% LACK ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHEN ON PATROL

1. Rangers from 10 tiger- range countries were surveyed, while remaining tiger- range rangers will be surveyed in an upcoming study in 2019.

2. According to the Thin Green Line Foundation, 107 rangers died on the job from July 2017 - July 2018, of which nearly half were killed on duty.

O ZEROMASS water™

CLEAN DRINKING WATER, FROM SUNLIGHT AND AIR

WWF is collaborating with Zero Mass Water to create clean drinking water from sunlight and air alone. If successful, this will provide clean drinking water to rangers in some of the most remote areas, enabling them to do their job without the risk of falling ill due to waterborne diseases. In 2019, WWF will be testing the technology in India, Cambodia and Kenya, with plans to scale this innovative solution to other key landscapes.

SUPPORT AND MEDICAL CARE FOR FRONTLINE STAFF

To support rangers and frontline staff of India, WWF has been working with ICICI Prudential and Apollo Foundation to provide ex-gratia support and specialized medical care to frontline staff across 15 states in India, covering nine priority landscapes that harbour important areas of biodiversity that are home to tigers, diverse wildlife and local communities.



PROFESSIONALIZING RANGER TRAINING

WWF has been supporting ranger capacity across the globe for decades. To better protect wildlife and rangers in Asia, WWF is working with the governments Myanmar, Bhutan and India to improve ranger training quality through strengthened training curriculums, boosting trainer capacity and reforming the policy framework to improve training delivery.





GETTING SMARTER ABOUT CONSERVATION

SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) is an open-source tool designed for those directly responsible for wildlife conservation, from rangers in the field to senior government staff, to enable effective conservation law enforcement monitoring. Easy to use, the SMART software makes it possible to collect, store, communicate, and analyze ranger-collected data on illegal activities, wildlife, and patrol routes to understand where enforcement and conservation efforts should focus, while evaluating ranger performance. This increases efficiency and delivers effective conservation efforts for tigers, wildlife and nature.

Since 2017, SMART Connect – a powerful cloudbased extension to SMART - has enabled nearly real-time communication between frontline rangers and park headquarters, making it possible for rangers to quickly manage and respond to dangerous wildlife threats.

Find out more at smartconservationtools.org

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GIVING RANGERS A BETTER CHANCE IN THE DARK

FLIR Systems, a leading global enterprise in thermal imaging infrared cameras, has joined WWF in the fight against poaching in Asia. By providing compact night vision to law enforcement teams in Thailand, Malaysia, Bhutan and Cambodia, rangers are now able to identify suspicious human activities and even the size of groups illegally entering protected areas. Tested on foot and vehicle patrols, the equipment has also proven effective in spotting wildlife at distances of over 100 metres. In particular in Malaysia, the use of FLIR device enabled an early detection of an elephant herd, helping to mitigate potential danger and conflict with people.

SMARTER SUPPORT IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Amur tigers in the Russian Far East are now receiving stronger protection, thanks to the adoption of SMART by the region's protected areas, which make up a part of the critically important Amur-Heilong ecoregion. To support Russia's adoption of SMART, WWF provided 90 smartphones, 90 power banks and four laptops to the protected areas, as well as training workshops to the staff of Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Area Management of Amurskava Province, Bikin National Park, and the Ussuriisky and Far East Marine Nature Reserves.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PREDICTS WILDLIFE CRIME

Through the SMART Partnership, WWF is working with the University of Southern California to implement Artificial Intelligence (A.I) in predicting poaching incidents. A pilot test in Cambodia's Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary proved successful, with 521 snares removed based on patrols in regions suggested by the software - over twice the number usually collected by patrol teams over the same time period. Named Protection Assistance for Wildlife Security (PAWS), ongoing tests in 2019 will help to refine the software's prediction capabilities, with plans to scale the programme across suitable areas in tiger landscapes, and to integrate it with SMART



STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED PROTECTION EFFORTS

To enable data signal from rangers in the most remote areas, WWF is partnering with Sigfox, a French global network operator specialized in building wireless networks to connect low-power objects such as smartwatches and electricity meters. Based on a needs assessment, WWF and Sigfox will begin testing the technology in Bhutan's Royal Manas National Park, a SMART Connect site where the tiger population has recently doubled. In 2019, Royal Manas National Park aims to expand connectivity to all ranger stations and to equip rangers with small. mobile devices which can send location and alert data to the park's headquarters.



TIGER TRADE

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF TIGER TRADE

Estimated to be worth over US\$20 billion each year, illegal wildlife trade is the world's fourth largest illegal trade after drugs, human trafficking and counterfeiting. The illegal trade fuels a poaching crisis across Asia, forming one of the largest direct threats to the world's wild tigers, as well as some of the most threatened species in this region.

WWF and TRAFFIC are working together with governments, enforcement agencies, the private sector and others to disrupt persistent illegal trade routes, while reducing demand for tiger parts through behavioural change approaches in major Asian markets. WWF is calling for tiger farms to be audited, controlled and phased out. These are large and small facilities breeding tigers that feed the illegal tiger trade with their parts and products, thus perpetuating demand and confusing law enforcement. Tiger farms in China, Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam are estimated to hold over 6,500 tigers.

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CITES: GOVERNMENTS NEED TO PHASE OUT TIGER FARMS RUSSIA, OCT 2018

Urgent concerns over the trade in tigers and increased poaching of other Asian big cats were highlighted at the 70th Standing Committee (SC70) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The meeting discussed the need for greater action towards stronger legislation, enforcement and demand reduction. Decisions are proposed to be made at the Conference of the Parties (CoP18) in May 2019 for better addressing tiger trade including the involvement of tiger farms and the need to phase them out.

KEEP THE BAN: CHINA REVERSES MOVE TO OPEN TIGER TRADE CHINA, NOV 2018

In response to international concern, the Chinese government postponed a new regulation that would have reversed a 25-year old ban and allowed domestic trade of tiger bone and rhino horn. WWF had issued a statement and was quoted in over 1670 media outlets globally, warning that legitimizing trade in tiger and rhino parts could stimulate demand and devastate wild tiger populations globally. In driving towards TX2, WWF will continue working with governments to ensure that they adopt sound evidence-based policies to protect wild tigers and uphold commitments to end tiger trade globally.

PRIME MINISTER ORDERS TO TACKLE WILDLIFE TRADE

Following the Prime Minister's new orders to strictly enforce wildlife laws, enforcement officers raided eight shops in Luang Prabang and nine shops at Don Sao Market which were found trading wildlife illegally. Located inside the Special Economic Zone in the notorious Golden Triangle, where Laos, Myanmar and Thailand intersect, the area is known for peddling endangered species and their body parts, including tigers, elephants, pangolins and bears.



TRAFFIC: ADVANCING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO TIGER TRADE

TRAFFIC's work on illegal tiger trade is part of a global strategy to address wildlife crime which seeks to reduce motivations for criminal activity from source to end-use market. In 2018, forest staff in India were trained to tackle wildlife-related cyber crime, as part of TRAFFIC's 'Cyber CLAW' partnership that aims to build law enforcement capacity in the digital world. Currently implemented in 2 tiger reserves in India, the programme aims to engage forest officials from 4 more tiger reserves in the next year.

Over Global Tiger Day, a TRAFFIC-led digital campaign reached over of 33 million viewers in China, where the tagline #TigerSavior became a trending topic on Chinese social networking site Sina Weibo, garnering public support against the illicit purchase and use of tiger products.

VOICES FOR WILDLIFE: COALITION TO END WILDLIFE TRADE MYANMAR, APR - NOV 2018

A WWF-led campaign to end wildlife crime in Myanmar grew to become a coalition of partners including local civil society groups, businesses, youths, and individuals, known as Voices for Wildlife. Supported by the British Embassy, the Voices for Wildlife Festival helped to raise awareness in a celebration of the regional ban on wildlife sales in Yangon and of strengthened legislation (Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas) that now includes mandatory prison sentence for poaching or trade of CITES-protected wildlife. In October, nine poachers were sentenced to jail for the first time since the new law was enacted.





THANK YOU

The TX2 goal of doubling the number of wild tigers by 2022 is one of the most ambitious goals ever set for a single species. We are heartened by the tremendous support shown each year by people from all walks of life who contribute to protecting wild tigers; from the boardrooms and busy streets of urban jungles, to the protected areas and remote villages in and around tiger landscapes.

To our donors, corporate partners, conservation and government partners, research partners, and every individual supporting our work, we thank you deeply for each and every effort towards recovering tigers in the wild.

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TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO INSPIRE

We are grateful to be able to recognize individuals for their outstanding contribution to wild tiger conservation thanks to the legacy left by Dr. John Rimington. The *Dr. Rimington Award* was created to honour such work by an individual each year from 2018-2022. Their efforts are a testament to what can be achieved by one person and we hope it will inspire many others to help protect tigers in the wild.

This year, Debbie Banks, Tiger and Wildlife Crime Campaign Leader of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) was the recipient of the adult award category. She has spent more than 20 years with the EIA, campaigning to improve regulations, policies and governance systems to combat the illegal tiger trade.

The two winners of the children's category are Akash Negi from India and Gabriella Alberoth from Sweden. Akash and Gabriella are outstanding young campaigners who helped to raise awareness in schools of the threats that wild tigers are facing.



Growing up in a village near Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Akash is attuned to the issues arising out of human wildlife conflict and loss of biodiversity around him. Through school, village and national events, 17-year-old Akash speaks out strongly on the need to protect tiger habitats, for wildlife and for the local communities who live around these places.





"What a wonderful and humbling surprise to be recognised by friends and colleagues at WWF in this way. I have had the honour of working with and learning from a vast array of amazing and inspiring people in the world of tiger conservation and all that I do is a product of that experience and engagement. Our battle to save the tiger and end the tiger trade is not a lonely one. Thank you WWF."

> Debbie Banks, Wildlife Crime Campaign Leader Environmental Investigation Agency



TO THE COMMUNITIES, WEAVING THE THREADS THAT BIND US

Living in and around tiger landscapes, local communities are the natural custodians of wild tiger habitats, as they depend directly on the forests for their livelihoods. Communities play a critically important role in protecting tigers and the natural resources their habitats provide. Thanks to the support and partnership of local communities we work with, we are better able to protect forest resources in tiger habitats, and increase opportunities for better income through alternative livelihood programmes. In India, WWF worked with the Tharu women weavers to set up a sustainable social enterprise together with the Department of Science and Technology.

"Since 2008, through WWF we have been making dhurries* and it has been good. We would spend the entire day staying at home before, but today, through WWF, women have their own training centre and workshop, which has been of great help. When we started, our workshop was made of mud, so our products would get dirty. But today, we have a concrete floor so whatever we are making now is not getting spoilt."

Arti Rana

President of Tharu Handloom Household Enterprise Group

TO OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS, TACKLING SOLUTIONS AT SCALE

It is important to expand interest and understanding in the issues that have a strong impact on long-term tiger survival. As part of our conservation efforts, we are working with organizations and individuals who can bring in expertise from their own fields to tackle varied challenges.

In 2018, we engaged a wide range of international organizations on various issues, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Tiger Forum (GTF), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Labour Organization (ILO), IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Smithsonian Institution.

We also recognize the value of growing academic contributions to tiger conservation, and have engaged the following such institutions over the course of 2018: Boise State University, Griffith University, University of Central Florida, University of Hong Kong, University of Manchester, University of Montpellier, University of Queensland and the University of Southern California.



*Dhurries are age-old Indian flat-weave rugs, which are reversible and tightly woven. Women from the Tharu Handloom Household Enterprise Group are weaving dhurries on the newly tiled concrete floor.



TO THE TAPESTRY OF SUPPORTERS ACROSS THE WORLD

Thanks to a dazzling diversity of supporters who champion the urgent need to protect wild tigers, WWF is able to reach out to millions more on this important message.

This Global Tiger Day, WWF's digital campaign #Connect2Tigers shared stories of wild tigers and the ongoing threat of a snaring crisis in Asia. Social media supporters rallied behind this effort, reaching over 2.5 million online impressions over the weekend.

In Indonesia, numerous grassroot events sprung up across Indonesia for Global Tiger Day, thanks to partners including HarimauKita, The Sumatran Tiger Project, Project UNDP, Global Environment Facility, Wildlife Conservation Society and Yayasan Badak Indonesia. In November, WWF and key partners launched a public campaign called "Say NO! to Illegal Wildlife Trade". Bolstered by powerful voices of famous celebrities, national athletes, social media influencers and key government officials, including the Attorney General, National Police Chief and the Commander of National Armed Forces, the campaign targeted netizens, youths and law enforcers across the country to report illegal wildlife trade - both online and in physical markets - through a mobile app.

"We shall save the Sumatran tiger, only if we can stop the illegal wildlife trade that is fuelling a poaching crisis in our forests. With the strong voices of our supporters and partners, we are able to amplify this simple message clearly - say no to illegal wildlife trade. Mobilising people on the ground to show they support tiger conservation is extremely important to continue protecting them from poachers."

Suhandri Sumatra and Wildlife Director, WWF-Indonesia

SAVE THE FOREST SAVE THE TIGER

> Satwa Liar Dilindu INDONESIA SAYS N TO ILLEGA WILDLIFE TRAD

#Connect2Tigers

ifan Lokal untuk Konservasi Harimau Sumatera SCIENCE | NATURE | CULTURE

SERI KEGIATAN

YOU ARE BRAVED

WEARE DOUBLING WORD DOUBLE WILD TIGER NUMBERS BY 202

THE WWF TIGERS ALIVE AIMS TO DOUBLE WILD TIGER NUMBERS BY 2022. WE ARE A COLLECTIVE OF DEDICATED CONSERVATIONISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. FROM OFFICE DESKS TO FIELD STATIONS, AND CORPORATE BOARDROOMS TO REMOTE VILLAGES, WE ARE UNITED IN THE GOAL TO ACHIEVE TX2.

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TOGETHER POSSIBLE

We could not do what we do without the generosity of our donors and partners. Through your support, we edge closer to the goal of TX2. WWF would like to recognise the efforts of the following donors and partners that have provided the highest levels of strategic support and investment in WWF's tiger programme.

Green Climate Fund	Bhutan for Life
German Cooperation via KfW Development Bank	Communities for tiger recovery in Rimbang Baling, Indoneisa and Transcending Boundaries for Tiger Recovery in Nepal and India
Mars Petcare	Helping to protect wild tigers, their habitat and future
Dr Bevan Jones	Supporting collaborative conservation in the Dawna Tenasserim landscape in Myanmar
European Union	Advancing CSO's Capacity to Ensure Sustainability Solutions (ACCESS) in Cambodia
Discovery, Inc.	Project C.A.T (Conseving Acres for Tigers)
Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation	Saving 30 Hills: Wildlife, Communities, Forest Carbon and Sustaining Indigenous Communities and Tigers in Nepal
U.S. Department of State	Fighting Wildlife Trafficking in the Golden Triangle
USAID	Wildlife Sanctuary Support Program, Cambodia
VTB Bank	Conservation of Endangered Big Cat Species in Russia
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	Welcoming tigers back home to Amur Heilong in Russia and China and Saving Thirty Hills in Sumatra, Indonesia

Dr Rimington	Improving management and protection of tiger heartlands and Tackling critical threats such as the illegal wildlife trade
Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation	From Conflict to Collaboration – Biodiversity as a bridge – Phase II
Global Environment Facility	Strengthening National Biodiversity and Forest Carbon Stock Conservation through Landscape-based Collaborative Management of Cambodia's Protected Area System as Demonstrated in the Eastern Plains Landscape (CAMPAS)
Tiger Beer	Investing in efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and secure vital tiger habitats across Asia
Danida	Inclusive Green Economies in Developing Countries
Cisco	Connected Conservation

In addition we would like to thank our generous donors and partners that give at this highest level of strategic support but wish to remain anonymous.

WWF TX2 in numbers







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.

panda.org/tigers

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