



For more than **1.5 million years**, tigers have roamed the earth.

Now, they are threatened with **extinction** within our lifetime.

Together with Panthera, under the unique Tigers Forever initiative, WCS is working hard in critical tiger habitats and beyond to ensure that tigers exist in more than our memories. Saving tigers is not strictly a job for scientists or law enforcement personnel working in the field. The effort to save tigers begins and ends with people the world over who decide that these magnificent animals enrich our lives and are important to our planet.



SAVING TIGERS NOW

A Prognosis for Tigers in Eight Priority Landscapes



WCS's Tiger Program and activities at WCS tiger sites are made possible by contributions from numerous supporters but particularly: 21st Century Tiger; the Blue Moon Fund; E. Lisk Wyckoff, Jr. and the Homeland Foundation; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation; Panthera; the Patuxent Center of the U.S. Geological Survey; the Rhino Tiger Conservation Fund of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the Robertson Foundation; Save The Tiger Fund, a partnership of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Exxon-Mobil Foundation; U.S. Forest Service International Program-Russian Far East Conservation; and the World Bank GEF Tiger Futures project.

You, too, can join the effort. Here's how:

Let Your Voice Be Heard

WCS staff is at work in Washington, D.C. to promote legislation that benefits tigers in the wild. You can help by writing to your members of Congress to urge their support for a wildlife stamp. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semi-postal Stamp Act (HR 1454) would generate funding for programs to protect tigers and other endangered species around the world. Act now for tigers by visiting www.wcs.org/savetigers.

Run for the Wild

Raise critical funds for tigers by attending WCS's 2nd Annual Run for the Wild being held at the WCS Bronx Zoo in New York City on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Your pledges and donations will provide much needed support for WCS field staff working to ensure a future for these endangered great cats. For more information on how to make tracks for tigers, visit www.wcsrunforthewild.org.

Other Ways to Give

Can't participate in the Run For the Wild? You can still ensure a future for tigers. To learn more, visit www.wcs.org/donation.

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places world-wide. We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth.

www.wcs.org

For additional information on this report, please contact Scott Smith at 718-220-3698, or ssmith@wcs.org.





For more than
1.5 million years,
tigers have roamed the earth.

They could be **extinct**
in our lifetime.

Photos by Dennis DeMello/WCS, Ullas Karanth (2), John Goodrich (2), WCS-Thailand, WCS-Indonesia, WCS-Malaysia, WCS-Myanmar, WCS-Cambodia, WCS-Laos

A century ago, about 100,000 of these icons of the wild roamed across Asia. Today, having lost much of their habitat to human expansion and development, tigers occupy only seven percent of their historical range. Habitat loss and fragmentation continue to threaten the world's remaining tigers, as do conflict with humans and poaching. They are killed for their beautiful pelts and for their body parts which are used in traditional Chinese medicines. Their prey is depleted in much of their range due to over-hunting. As a result of the many pressures they face, there may be as few as 3,000 tigers left in the wild today, with roughly half of those living in India. Even more troubling, perhaps only 1,000 of these wild cats are breeding females.

There is hope for the future, however. WCS has long-standing conservation programs in nine countries where wild tigers still exist (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Russia, and Thailand). In 2006, WCS and Panthera, a wild cat conservation group, together launched the Tigers Forever initiative. Tigers Forever is

a unique collaborative effort with an ambitious goal: to increase tiger numbers by 50 percent over a ten-year period in eight priority landscapes where WCS works across Asia. The selected areas represent a sample of major ecological types across the tiger's range. These landscapes were chosen based on scientific assessment of tiger ecology, levels of threat, opportunity for recovery, and long-term security of tiger populations.

WCS is on the ground working in the diverse habitats where tigers live to improve the prospects of survival for these magnificent animals. This includes working in collaboration with government officials, business leaders, and local communities in land-use planning and the creation and management of protected areas. As a founding partner of the governmental and non-governmental Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, and non-governmental International Tiger Coalition, and working through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, WCS is working to halt all trade in tiger parts, whatever their source, and provide technical and financial support for law enforcement geared toward apprehending poachers and illegal wildlife traders.

WCS President and CEO Dr. Steven Sanderson said, "The Wildlife Conservation Society's commitment to the conservation of tigers spans generations and countries. We focus our efforts on challenging, yet critically important landscapes across the tiger's range throughout Asia. Each landscape presents a unique set of challenges for conservationists, but all are bound by a common vision: to restore tiger numbers wherever possible across their range. Where the outlook for tigers may not have been promising just a few years ago, today the future for tigers is burning brighter in several of these landscapes and we are well on our way to realizing our objective."

In celebration of the Year of the Tiger, which began on February 14, 2010, WCS and Panthera are renewing the Tigers Forever pledge. This report updates the status of tigers in each of the eight Tigers Forever landscapes, and highlights tiger conservation successes and obstacles. Finally, a color code denotes the future prospects for tigers in each of these landscapes:

- GREEN** The prospects for tigers are good; numbers are stable or increasing; conservation efforts are succeeding.
- YELLOW** Prospects for tigers are fair; numbers are stable but are increasingly threatened; significant conservation challenges lie ahead.
- RED** Prospects for tigers are poor; tiger numbers are declining; major threats are growing and, if not addressed, will continue to drive tiger numbers down.

Powerful.

Majestic.

Endangered.

The world's tigers are in a fight for their very existence.



CONDITION:
GREEN

INDIA: WESTERN GHATS LANDSCAPE

WCS has been working in India's mountainous Western Ghats for more than two decades. Tiger habitat in this landscape covers more than 13,000 square miles (34,000 square kilometers) and consists of many small protected areas linked by corridors of private and public lands. Today, the Western Ghats Landscape is home to approximately 400 tigers and has some of the highest tiger densities in the world. WCS conservationists have perfected the use of camera traps to accurately estimate tiger numbers in this region and continue to make scientific breakthroughs there. Most recently, WCS and its partners made headlines after debuting innovative tiger-tracking technologies. New software that converts camera trap photographs into 3-D models based on each tiger's unique stripe pattern is enabling scientists to quickly identify individual tigers. In addition, WCS conservationists keep tabs on tigers by employing a new fecal DNA sampling technique. Tiger scat collected in this method provides researchers with unique DNA signatures that allow them to accurately and non-invasively identify individual tigers and thus, estimate tiger populations.

While habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and prey depletion still threaten tigers in the Western Ghats Landscape, tigers are benefiting from increased support from the Government of India as well as the State Governments, sustained conservation measures, local advocacy, and a continuing WCS commitment to securing their future in the wild. As a result, the outlook for tigers in this landscape is good.

THAILAND: Western Forest Complex

Thailand's Western Forest Complex contains approximately 7,000 square miles (18,000 square kilometers) of excellent tiger habitat in 17 contiguous protected areas. Tucked away from most human populations, this landscape could eventually hold the largest tiger population in the world. The Western Forest Complex's current population of possibly fewer than 200 tigers is stable and breeding, but represents only a fraction of the landscape's carrying capacity. The hunting of tigers and their prey—historically the tiger's main threats in this area—are now increasingly under control. WCS has worked closely with the Government of Thailand to improve law enforcement and tiger and prey population monitoring in this landscape. This includes providing support and training to patrol staff, as well as sophisticated analysis of law enforcement effectiveness and tiger and prey population trends. These actions have resulted in a significant decrease in threats including a reduction in poaching. The Thailand government is highly supportive of conservation, and there is a strong societal commitment for their protection as well. Both factors favor the long-term prospects for tigers in the Western Forest Complex.



CONDITION:
GREEN

RUSSIA AND CHINA: SIKHOTE-ALIN AND CHANGBAISHAN TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPES

WCS has been working in Russia's Sikhote-Alin Landscape since 1993 and the neighboring Changbaishan Landscape in the northeastern reaches of China since 1998. Together, these landscapes cover 164,100 square miles (425,000 square kilometers), represent the most biologically diverse ecosystems in northern Asia, and are home to the last populations of wild Siberian tigers. As of the last complete census of the Russian tiger population in 2005, approximately 450 tigers—the largest single population in the world—were thought to occur within Russian forests. Recent data, however, indicate that numbers are declining, and in some places, potentially sharply.

Tigers regularly cross from Russia into China, where they are heavily impacted by poaching of prey and other threats. In response to a complex array of geopolitical, cultural, and other challenges, WCS's 17-year long Siberian Tiger Project across the Russian landscape has approached tiger conservation from several fronts. The project has enabled conservationists to plan and manage the landscape for tigers inside and outside of protected areas and build local ecosystem understanding. As part of a larger vision, WCS launched efforts to recover viable tiger populations in China and engage in discussions to establish trans-boundary reserves that connect tiger populations in Russia and China. Unfortunately, despite numerous successes, recent signs suggest that the Siberian tiger is once again under increased threat. Policy changes in Russia have decreased enforcement, and poaching of both tigers and their prey appears to be increasing.



CONDITION:
YELLOW



CONDITION:
YELLOW

INDONESIA: Gunung Leuser Landscape

Covering more than 11,500 square miles (30,000 square kilometers), tiger habitat in Indonesia's Gunung Leuser Landscape is primarily dense tropical rainforest that blankets rugged mountains. Most of the landscape lies within a protected area. This landscape is the most important for the continued survival of Sumatran tigers, with the potential to protect more than 300 animals. Until recently, the area was off-limits due to civil war. Although surveys have found tigers across the majority of the landscape, their current population size is unknown. While habitat loss and the hunting of tigers and their prey are threats, the long-term prospects for tigers in this landscape are hopeful, as the area is vast and much of the landscape is too rugged for human agricultural uses. The threat from illegal hunting and human/tiger conflict currently remains high, but collaborative efforts between WCS-Indonesia, local NGOs, the media and the Government of Indonesia are making good progress in tackling the issues of conflict, hunting and trade.



CONDITION:
YELLOW

MYANMAR: Hukaung Valley Landscape

Tiger habitat in Myanmar's Hukaung Valley Landscape consists of 8,400 square miles (21,750 square kilometers) of vast forest covering river plains and mountain ranges that are largely unaltered by humans. Although tigers do persist within the forests, their numbers are thought to be perilously low (perhaps fewer than 20) due primarily to poaching of tigers and their prey. The Hukaung Valley Landscape contains great expanses of excellent habitat that could potentially provide territory to more than 100 tigers. WCS has been working with the Myanmar government since 1999 to make the Hukaung Valley the world's largest single protected area designated solely for tiger conservation. As part of this process, WCS has conducted extensive surveys and worked with local communities to establish boundaries and appropriate land uses within the reserve area which are now pending approval. In addition, WCS created a pioneering program to train forestry staff to prevent poaching in the core area of the existing Hukaung Wildlife Sanctuary. Long-term prospects for tigers here are mixed. The threats are high. Effective protection of tigers and their prey is only very recent and limited to a small part of the landscape.



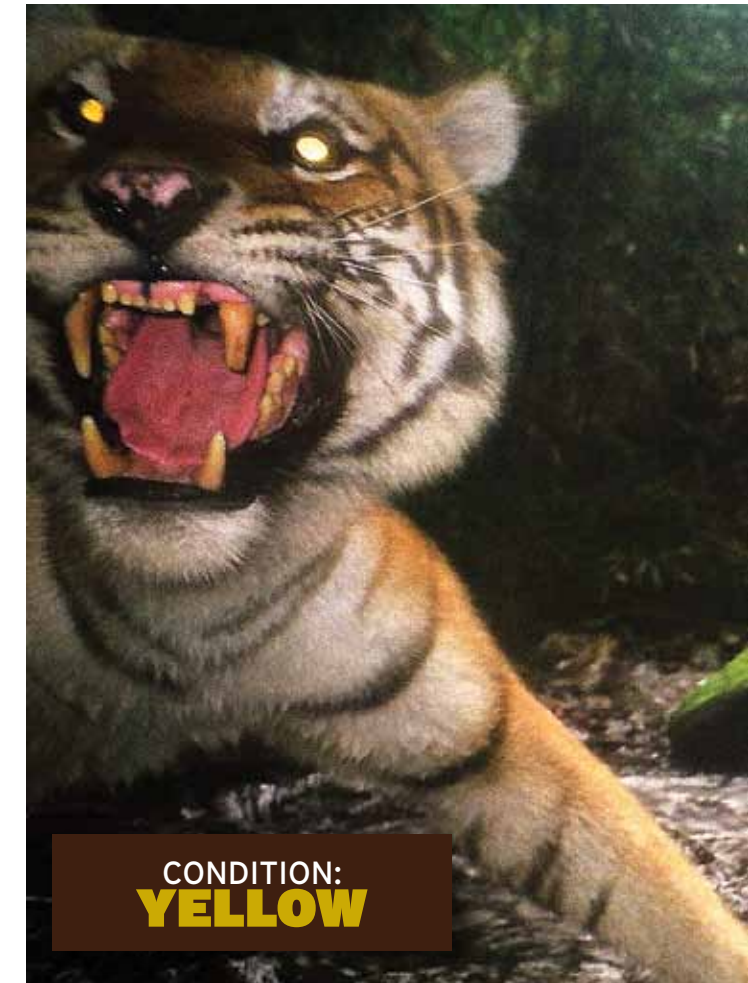
CONDITION:
YELLOW

MALAYSIA: Endau-Rompin Landscape

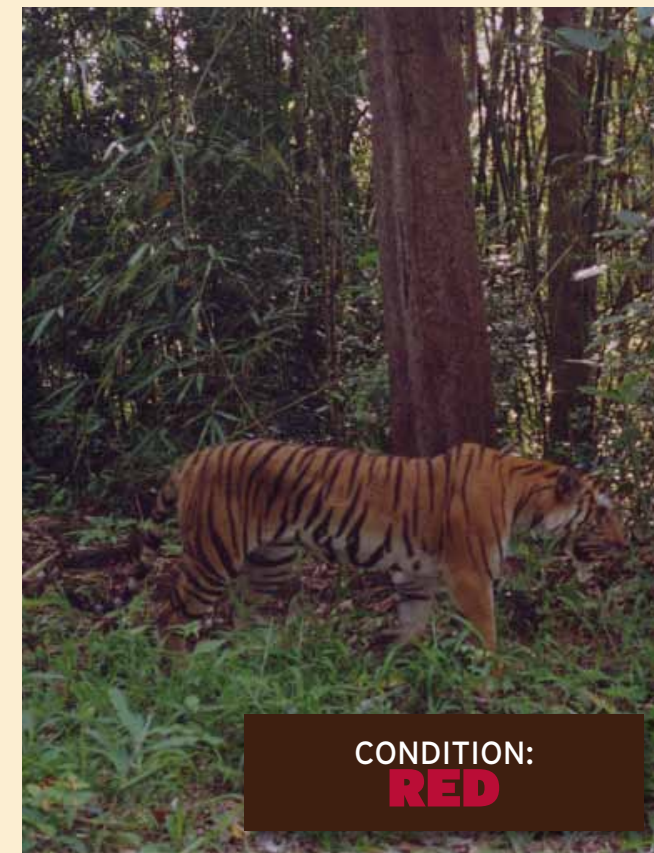
Covering more than 1,350 square miles (3,500 square kilometers), Malaysia's Endau-Rompin Landscape contains dense tropical rainforest with a mix of protected areas, logging concessions, and state-owned lands. Hunting and loss of prey are the tiger's major threats here. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to conversion of forest to palm oil and rubber plantations is also a significant threat, particularly in the critical corridors that join major blocks of tiger habitat. Although the current population size is estimated at below 30 tigers, the long-term prospects for tigers in the Endau-Rompin landscape are hopeful. Since 2006, WCS has been working with the Government of Malaysia to secure this important tiger landscape. This collaboration has made hunting laws considerably stricter, reduced some of the threats to the corridor regions, and aided the significant expansion of wildlife law enforcement efforts in the landscape.

LAO PDR: Nam Et-Phou Louey Landscape

The wildlife of much of Indochina, including Lao PDR, has suffered from decades of extremely high poaching levels, which have simply wiped out tigers over much of the region. One of the last known places in Lao PDR where tigers persist is the Nam Et-Phou Louey Landscape. The sheer ruggedness and remoteness of this landscape has provided some level of protection in the past. Covering more than 11,500 square miles (30,000 square kilometers), tiger habitat in Nam Et-Phou Louey is a mosaic of mixed evergreen and deciduous forest and grassland, the heart of which is in a protected area. WCS has been working closely with the Government of Lao PDR in the Nam Et-Phou Louey Landscape since 2002 to counter the main threats to tigers—poaching, prey depletion, and habitat loss. Today, the core protected area harbors an estimated 15 to 20 tigers within good habitat. The population has tremendous potential for recovery. To reach a goal of 75 tigers (including 25 breeding females), occurring in the landscape's 1,200-square-mile core area, WCS is engaging with local communities to reduce livestock pressures. Preventing illegal grazing has resulted in a reduction of both human/tiger conflict and tiger poaching. On another front, additional efforts have led to the seizure of hundreds of illegal and homemade muskets used illegally to kill tiger prey. Because of the efforts of the Government of Lao PDR and WCS, the long-term prospects for tigers in the Nam Et-Phou Louey landscape remain hopeful.



CONDITION:
YELLOW



CONDITION:
RED

CAMBODIA: Eastern Plains Landscape

Tiger habitat in Cambodia's Eastern Plains Landscape consists of a 5,800-square-mile (15,000-square-kilometer) mix of semi-evergreen and deciduous forest. Years of war and strife in the region have decimated what was once a thriving wildlife population. Tigers have suffered from the loss of their prey and from targeted poaching. They are likely down to fewer than 10 individuals. A 10-year collaborative effort between the Royal Government of Cambodia and WCS recently culminated in the designation of the Seima Protection Forest (SPF), which covers more than 11,000 square miles (28,000 square kilometers) of Cambodia's eastern border shared with Vietnam. Seima, a former logging concession the size of Yosemite National Park, protects not only tigers but also threatened primates and elephants. It also safeguards massive stores of carbon. The long-term prospects for tigers in the Eastern Plains are dire because of their low numbers. Yet large areas of good habitat remain, prey is recovering and if breeding tigers still exist, a long-term recovery for the population may still be possible. Toward this goal, WCS is working with the Cambodian government on enforcement and land-use planning at the community and provincial levels.