

# Tiger Watch

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## Getting results: a decade of investments to save the world's last wild tigers

In the early 90's, Time Magazine and others declared that tigers were "doomed" and predicted near extinction by the year 2000. Those reports inspired the leadership of what was then the Exxon Corporation to create Save The Tiger Fund (STF) and ensure that the animal that inspired their logo wouldn't go extinct. STF became one of only a handful of organizations worldwide to focus solely on tigers and their recovery and we have since served as a catalyst to organizations and governments to act both practically and financially.



By the end of 2006, this partnership had resulted in an investment of \$15 million in nearly 300 on-the-ground tiger conservation projects world-wide. There are literally hundreds of conservation success stories; each one is the result of what has now become the largest-ever corporate commitment to saving a species. And thankfully, there are still wild tigers to save.

In order to assess our progress over the last decade, STF commissioned an evaluation of the program. One of the key findings of the evaluation is that over the last decade STF has learned how to do tiger conservation through trial, error and the subsequent identification of best practices. This learning has been accompanied by a shift in the tiger conservation community from an approach that initially focused only in protected areas, to a broader, landscape-level commitment extending the frontiers of tiger conservation beyond reserve boundaries to maintain healthy, connected, tiger populations.

Save The Tiger Fund is positioned better than ever with the tools and partners throughout the world to be a world leader in tiger conservation. Its two-pronged approach to tiger conservation develops strong landscape-level conservation approaches accompanied by its Campaign Against Tiger Trafficking to eliminate global demand for tiger products. "In my decade long association with STF, both as grantee and as a reviewer of its projects, I have found it to be keenly tuned into the changing nuances and needs of international tiger conservation," said Ullas Karanth, one of the world's leading tiger conservationists. "After having recently completed a rigorous review of its past performance, I believe STF is now poised to be one of the foremost players in tiger conservation in the make-or-break years that loom ahead of us in the battle to recover wild tiger populations. I am confident that STF will fulfill that role admirably."

See the full evaluation Report:  
[www.savethetigerfund.org/stfevaluation](http://www.savethetigerfund.org/stfevaluation)

### Conservation Outcomes 1995-2004

#### Tigers

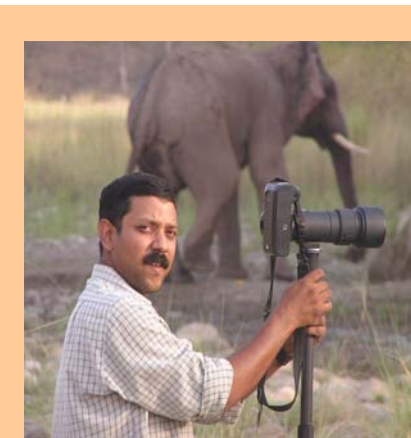
- Acquired** 2.2 million hectares of prime habitat for tiger conservation.
- Stabilized** tiger populations in Russia.
- Restored** 5,700 hectares of degraded land.
- Confiscated** parts from 200 tigers in law-enforcement busts.
- Rescued** 6 live tigers from poachers.

#### Science

- Published** 100 books or scientific papers on tiger conservation.
- Disseminated** results through 760 newspapers and magazine articles.
- Sponsored** conferences attended by 1,000 conservationists and tiger experts.

#### People

- Educated** 230,000 school children and 4,300 teachers about tiger conservation.
- Educated** 500 Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctors about alternatives to tiger bone medicines.
- Trained** 2,000 anti-poaching personnel.
- Constructed** 500 biogas plants to reduce demand for firewood in tiger habitats.
- Resolved** 150 episodes of human-tiger conflict.



### Congratulations!

Bivash Pandav is a former Save The Tiger Fund grantee and an emerging tiger conservation leader who has recently been appointed as the new WWF International tiger coordinator based in Kathmandu. His interest in conservation began in 1992 with a research project on Olive Ridley sea turtles on the beaches of Orissa. Fortunately, he was 'poached' by tiger conservationists four years ago when he was roped into a successful camera-trapping project to estimate tiger populations on the Indian side of the Terai Arc Landscape.

# Global coalition unites to seek end to tiger trade



The coalition STF coordinates as part of our Campaign Against Tiger Trafficking (CATT) has grown to 24 organizations. These groups, which represent a total of more than 100 organizations around the world, are speaking for the first time with one voice, asking for an end to all tiger trade.

The coalition is focusing most of its collective energy on encouraging China to reiterate its 1993 ban on trade in tiger products. That ban completely stopped a drug industry that annually sold tens of millions of units of medicines containing tiger bone.

Certain Chinese officials have long hoped to see tigers farmed “like cows and pigs,” and the Chinese government continued to license tiger farms despite the complete ban on tiger trade internationally and within China. Now that China’s tiger farms hold as many as 5,000 captive-bred

tigers, farm owners are lobbying hard to have the trade ban lifted to allow them to sell parts and products from their tigers.

STF and its partners believe that opening limited legal trade in farmed tiger products would reopen a floodgate of demand for wild tiger products and mark a giant step backward for wild tiger conservation. This risk is illustrated by China’s bear farms, which now produce an excess of bear bile. Despite more than meeting the nation’s need for bear bile for use in medicines, shampoo and even toothpaste, wild bears are still being poached for their gall bladders inside and outside of China to satisfy China’s consumers.

The reason farmed products will never stop demand for wild products is found in the tenants of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), which have for centuries reiterated that wild ingredients are far better for human health. As a consequence, those who

can afford gall bladders from wild bears remain willing to break the law and pay premium prices for “better” medicine. This would undoubtedly hold true for tiger bones as well.

If China were to allow trade in products from farmed tigers, the impossibility of distinguishing the bones of wild tigers from those of farmed tigers would render enforcement of laws against trade in wild tigers impossible. At the same time, life would become much easier for the organized criminals who traffic in tiger parts.

Ironically, the TCM industry no longer wants or needs tiger products. Alternatives are effective and plentiful, but also better for the global image of TCM. In fact, China’s World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies hopes to launch a public awareness campaign to discourage the public from using tiger products for the sake of healthy people and a healthy planet.

The coalition is now scaling up its joint activities in preparation for June’s meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), where tiger trade will be a high-profile agenda item and where CITES Parties may make decisions with far-reaching implications for wild tigers.

## Art: Tigers Facing Extinction



*Tiger Farming* is just one of the many topics that Owens explores

*Tigers Facing Extinction* is a traveling exhibition of nine mixed medium works of art—charcoal, graphite and print relief—that portrays the key threats faced by tigers in the wild. The series was designed by wildlife artist Francesca Owens to raise public awareness around the key messages from the Save The Tiger Fund’s Campaign Against Tiger Trafficking.

“This series was an emotional and difficult one for me to create,” explains Owens. “Most of my art has focused on the beauty and brilliant colors of animals like these. It was devastating to think about the brutal treatment of these beautiful creatures and each piece left me drained—but happy to know that I could do some good in raising awareness of the brutality.”

The exhibition opens March 16th at the Reed Photo-Art Gallery and its combined space with the John Fielder Gallery in Denver, Colorado and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information or to book this traveling exhibit visit [www.savethetigerfund.org/owens](http://www.savethetigerfund.org/owens)



# Malaysian tiger action plan



A Malaysian tiger frolics in the leaves of Taman Negara National Park (Photo: Kae Kawanishi)

Malaysia is a beacon of hope for tiger conservation. Save The Tiger Fund grantee Dr. Kae Kawanishi, whose work in Taman Negara since 1998 revealed a population of 50 to 80 big cats in the National Park, is convinced that Malaysia is one country where tigers will survive into the next century. The results of a decade of survey work carried out by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia showed that the tiger habitat makes up 50% of Malaysia's land area (66,211 sq km) and supports an estimated 500 to 1,100 adult Malayan tigers, but with improved management and protection, the available forest habitat could support up to 1,500 tigers.

Speaking on behalf of the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) at a workshop to establish a National Tiger Action Plan, Kawanishi noted that "The proposed action plan should promote the continued existence of wild landscapes with abundant prey and core protected zones, connected by areas of tiger-friendly rural development and forestry practice." Malaysian rainforests lack the abundant prey and Malaysian tiger densities tend to be low, at 1-3 tigers for every 100 sq km, whereas in India and Nepal the grassy plains habitats support large herds of deer that are the essential prey base for high tiger densities of around 15 tigers per 100 sq km. The take-home lesson here is that in order to

support viable tiger populations, Malaysian protected areas need to be large and that tigers need to be protected beyond reserve boundaries. In order to achieve this, wildlife managers rely on the National Physical Plan (NPP), chaired by Malaysia's Prime Minister. The plan will maintain and restore the Central Forest Spine, a tract of forest traversing the length of the peninsula. Its function is to link isolated forests with sheltered reserves to form a larger landscape that will ultimately safeguard water catchments and biodiversity.

The plan identifies poaching as one of the persistent threats to Malayan tigers, as the department's Director of Law Enforcement Misliah Mohd Bashir said, "Since 2002, we have apprehended more than 75 people, mostly foreigners, for illegal poaching. They have been charged in court under the Wildlife Protection Act and Immigration Act." The Malaysian Tiger Action Plan also notes the importance of reducing the number of revenge killings sparked by human-tiger conflict. People working in the human-tiger conflict hotspots of Hulu Perak-Sungai Siput, Jeli-Kuala Krai-Gua Musang and Dungun-Kelantan must be educated about how to avoid potentially dangerous situations and how to safeguard their livestock from tiger predation.

Tiger Country Action Plans are valuable documents that place tiger conservation on national agendas, coordinate actions of conservation workers and donors, and provide a guiding vision for the future of wild tigers. Save The Tiger Fund has supported and assisted with the development of tiger action plans in Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, Russia and Thailand.

## Riding the Tiger: now available online



Originally published in 1999, *Riding The Tiger: tiger conservation in human-dominated landscapes* is the seminal work on tiger conservation, tackling the issues in tiger conservation across their range. It deals with tiger conservation issues in all 14 tiger range countries and has been translated into Russian and Bahasa Indonesian. The topics covered include genetics, ecology, estimating tiger populations using camera-traps, policy recommendations and how to tackle the illegal international problem of trafficking in tiger parts.

Given the significance and importance of this publication in the field of tiger conservation, Save The Tiger Fund and the Zoological Society of London decided to scan the book electronically and make it available for download through its website. Hopefully increasing the accessibility of the information contained in this book will ensure that it reaches an even wider audience and helps people to understand the complexities of tiger ecology and conservation.

Get your electronic copy today!

[www.savethetigerfund.org/ridingthetiger](http://www.savethetigerfund.org/ridingthetiger)

## Noor's save the tiger campaign

In September 2006, my six-year-old daughter and I launched "Noor's Save the Tigers Campaign." The goal of this campaign was to raise money to help save the tigers and to teach my daughter that just one person can make a difference in this world, even if that one person is a six-year-old girl.

This campaign came to life a few months ago when Noor told me about a TV show she saw about tigers and how there were so few left in the world. She asked me why people kill them. Believing children should hear the truth, I told her tigers are hunted for their skins, other body parts and for sport. There was a moment of silence as the words sank in. She started crying and asked me why people would do such a horrible thing. In between sobs, she asked, "Why can't we stop them?"

We decided to launch a fundraising campaign by reaching out to family and friends and anyone else who would listen via email. Noor and I explained the campaign and asked everyone who received our email to make a donation to the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save the Tiger Fund and to pass the mes-

sage on to their family and friends in hopes that they too might make a donation.

Noor started off the campaign by taking money out of her piggy bank and making the first donation. After sending out the email in September, we began receiving wonderful messages from family and friends who wanted to support Noor's campaign by making a donation. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, Noor's Save the Tigers Campaign has generated a total of 22 donations and \$1,935 in donations to the Save the Tiger Fund.

The purity of my daughter's love for tigers and sadness at their plight reminded me that the goodness of humanity is borne of love and this love is found in its purest form in children. With her passion for



helping the tigers, we embarked upon this adventure to reach out and help these beautiful animals. Along the way we both realized that sometimes all it takes is passion and a little determination. By each of us doing our part to help save such a beautiful animal from extinction, we can all learn that each of us has the ability and power to make a difference and change the world to make it a better place.

*Alidad Vakili*

### Help save the world's wild tigers

Send tax-deductible donations to:

**Save The Tiger Fund**  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Department 4037  
Washington, D.C. 20042-4037

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Established in 1995, Save The Tiger Fund is a special initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with ExxonMobil Foundation to support diverse tiger conservation projects. For more information about Save The Tiger Fund, please visit

[www.savethetigerfund.org](http://www.savethetigerfund.org) or write to us at:

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