



2017
ANNUAL
REPORT

DOUBLING WILD TIGERS



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OUR TIGER LANDSCAPES

- Wild tiger current range
Source: IUCN 2015
- Wild tiger historic range
- Potential reintroduction sites

SOUTH ASIA *Bhutan, India, Nepal*

ILI-BALKHASH

BRAHMAPUTRA

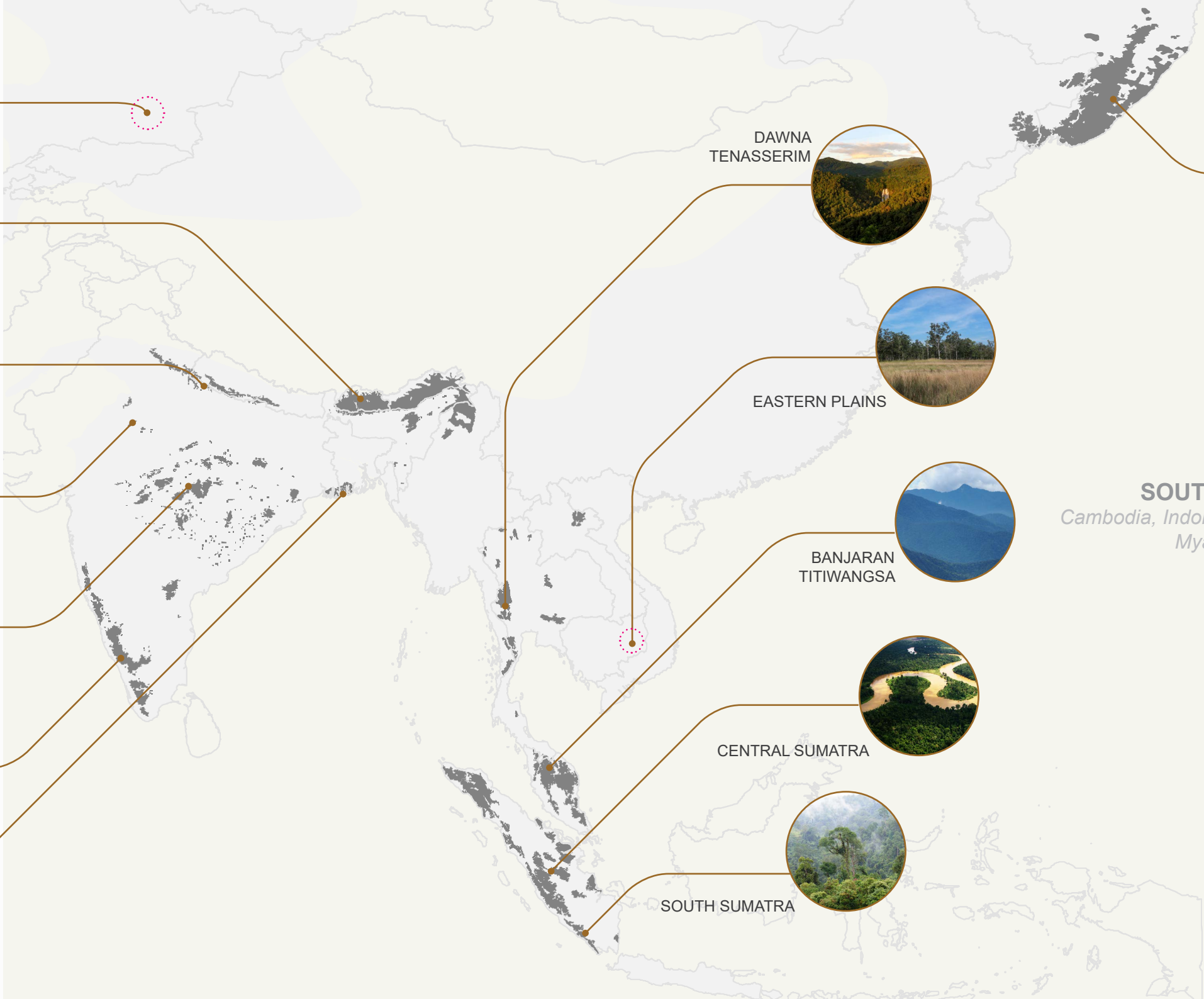
TERAI ARC

WESTERN INDIA

SATPUDA MAIKAL

WESTERN GHATS

SUNDARBANS



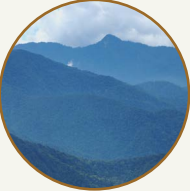
DAWNA TENASSERIM



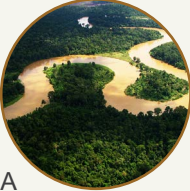
EASTERN PLAINS



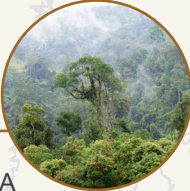
BANJARAN TITIWANGSA



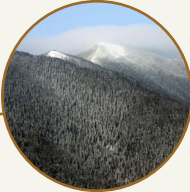
CENTRAL SUMATRA



SOUTH SUMATRA



NORTH ASIA *China, Russia*



AMUR HEILONG

SOUTHEAST ASIA *Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand*

POSITIVITY IS NOT ENOUGH. WE NEED LEADERS TO TAKE ACTION

It’s been nearly half a century since wild tigers were last seen in Kazakhstan. But they could roam the wind-swept steppes of this Central Asian country again. WWF envisions bringing tigers back to countries where they have gone extinct – such as in Kazakhstan and Cambodia, knowing projects like these can only happen with commitment at the highest levels of governments.

Maintaining political momentum is a vital component of our work to double wild tigers. WWF engages tiger range governments - notably through the Global Tiger Initiative and the Global Tiger Forum - to support them with their commitments through engaging partners, policy support, and driving collaborative solutions.



BHUTAN

MARCH

Together, the Prime Minister of Bhutan and former President of WWF International launched three national strategies focused on tigers, wildlife and people: National Zero Poaching Strategy, Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2017-2026) and the Human Wildlife Conflict SAFE strategy.

CAMBODIA

AUGUST

The Prime Minister of Cambodia endorsed national plans to reintroduce tigers to Cambodia and urged the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Tourism to work closely with WWF and other NGOs.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Global experts, including government officials from India, convened with WWF and the Cambodian government to help build plans for tiger recovery in Cambodia. In turn, Cambodian government officials visited Panna Tiger Reserve in India to learn India’s best practices on tiger reintroduction.

CHINA

MARCH

As part of a new national park system, China announced the creation of a Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park – 60 per cent larger than Yellowstone National Park – with the aim to protect critical habitats of the Amur tiger and leopard.

INDIA

JUNE

A success for the Return of the King project, the tiger translocation plan of Rajaji Tiger Reserve was approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, thanks to partners Uttarakhand Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India.

INDONESIA

DECEMBER

The new National Strategy and Action Plan for Tiger Conservation 2018-2027 was developed with WWF’s inputs, based on a ten-year review of past tiger conservation work in Sumatra.

MALAYSIA

JULY

The Sultan of Perak, DYMM Paduka Seri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, HRH Prince of Wales and key officials convened at the Royal Belum Perak - WWF Conservation Summit, declaring their support for Malaysia’s commitment to secure the Belum - Temengor Forest Complex and achieve Zero Poaching by 2020.

MYANMAR

JANUARY

WWF is supporting the Myanmar government and other stakeholders to help develop Myanmar’s National Tiger Action Plan.

RUSSIA

MAY

A new order issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment maintained the ban on commercial logging of the Korean Pine Forests (overturning an earlier lift of the ban), protecting a key habitat for Amur tigers and the livelihoods of local communities that harvest Korean pine nuts.

“Tiger is not only an ecologically important species but also holds a significant place in culture and history. It is just unthinkable to lose these magnificent stripes from our ecosystem. Therefore, I urge and request all tiger range countries to reaffirm our commitment to saving tigers for now and for future so that their existence is guaranteed in perpetuity.

PHENTO TSHERING
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTS AND PARK SERVICES,
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

CHAIR, CA|TS COUNCIL

REINTRODUCTION

TO BRING BACK THE WILD, WHERE TIGERS CAN ROAM AGAIN

Tigers have disappeared from 95 per cent of their historical range over the last century. This trend continues as they disappear from current habitats.

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

Tigers to Return to the Eastern Plains

Cambodia

A great boost for the future of wild tigers arrived in August, when Cambodia's Prime Minister publicly endorsed plans to reintroduce tigers at a national forum. The announcement comes 10 years after the last official record of a wild tiger in Cambodia, adding momentum to the existing reintroduction plans for the Eastern Plains Landscape that is identified as the most suitable restoration site.

As a result, high-level representatives from the ministries of Environment and Tourism convened with WWF and global tiger experts to discuss critical next steps, including a vision for sustainable tiger and wildlife tourism that will support tiger recovery and development of the rural northeastern areas of Cambodia. To learn best practices in tiger reintroduction, Cambodian government officials also visited Panna Tiger Reserve in India.

A Homecoming After 70 Years

Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan signed a memorandum with WWF to jointly implement a programme that will bring wild tigers back to the Ili-Balkhash region. This is a major milestone for tiger conservation, as it will help to recover the tiger's former range in Central Asia, where the species has not been seen for over 70 years.

WWF is already working with the government to help improve protection of 5,000km² of protected and buffer zones, recover other important wildlife species that are prey to the tiger, improve law enforcement, and work with local communities to prevent human wildlife conflict. Together, the goal is to reintroduce 25-30 wild tigers over the next 10 years to Kazakhstan, which has the potential to host up to 100 wild tigers.

Moving to Rajaji

India

As part of the Return of the King Project, tiger translocation plans in Rajaji Tiger Reserve have been approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. WWF and Wildlife Institute of India will work with the Uttarakhand Forest Department in bringing tigers back to the area.

Following the Prime Minister's public endorsement, there is no doubt that all of the Srepok's provincial authorities fully support the tiger reintroduction

SVAY SAM EANG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
OF MONDULKIRI

This is a major contribution to securing a future for tigers in the wild and also a critical step toward protecting the Ili-Balkhash region for its unique biodiversity and important natural systems that people rely on

MARCO LAMBERTINI
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
WWF INTERNATIONAL

THE FUTURE OF TIGERS IS NOT JUST IN THEIR NUMBERS

The landscape approach is the backbone of WWF’s strategy in achieving the Tx2 goal. Landscapes are the places where WWF invests in tiger conservation, with funds, scientific expertise and more. These ecologically important spaces comprise of interconnected and often transboundary habitats. They include both protected and unprotected sites that are identified as Tiger Management Units.

Built upon a baseline of comparable data that is rigorously tracked, mapped and analysed, this approach enables us to have a long-term and strategic view of tiger conservation that is both global and site-specific. It is fundamental in helping WWF drive tiger conservation in a highly-informed and dynamic way.

Tracking our Progress

Landscape data has been collected through a partnership with Infosol, a business analytics company that helped build an interactive dashboard for data collection and visualisation. This tool visualises the Landscape Key Performance Indicators (see pages 9-12) as soon as they are collected, enabling faster adaptive management in the field (if needed) and allowing us to quickly communicate impact across the vast tiger range we work in.

Dynamic Landscapes

Kazakhstan, India

In 2016, a new Tx2 landscape was added – Ili-Balkhash, a wilderness of riverine fields and wetlands in southeastern Kazakhstan – in response to the plans for tigers to be reintroduced there. Here, the baseline for data collection will only start in 2018, which will contribute significantly to the ground-breaking work on tiger reintroduction in Central Asia.

Two existing landscapes (Kaziranga Karbi-Anglong and Greater Manas) were merged into the Brahmaputra Landscape which sits in the northeastern part of India and spreads into Bhutan. The decision to join the landscapes was made as new research showed tigers moving regularly between the two areas that were previously viewed as separate landscapes. Being able to adapt to new scientific findings like this helps WWF maintain relevance and dynamism towards the Tx2 goal.

ABOUT TIGER MANAGEMENT UNITS

These are sites which have been categorised by the ecological role they play towards tiger conservation. Sites are categorised as Priority 1, 2 or ‘Partner’, where governments or other NGOs are working. The designation of each site is frequently reassessed so that any changes to the situation on the ground is quickly accounted for.

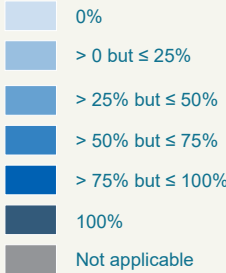
ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A set of 26 indicators covering biological monitoring, protected area management, corridors, enforcement, trade, community engagement and Human Wildlife Conflict, as well as landscape financing and partnerships. Data is collected on a biannual basis.

The graphics in the next two pages depict each tiger landscape’s progress against the range of KPIs since collection began in 2012. The darker the ‘box’ the better that landscape is performing in that indicator.



LANDSCAPE KPIS

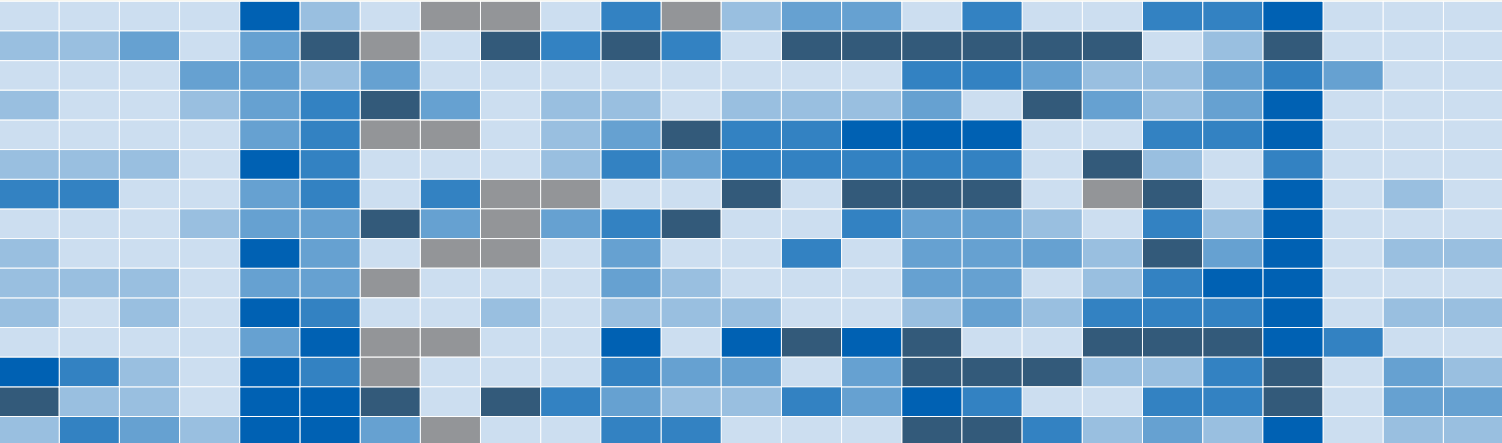
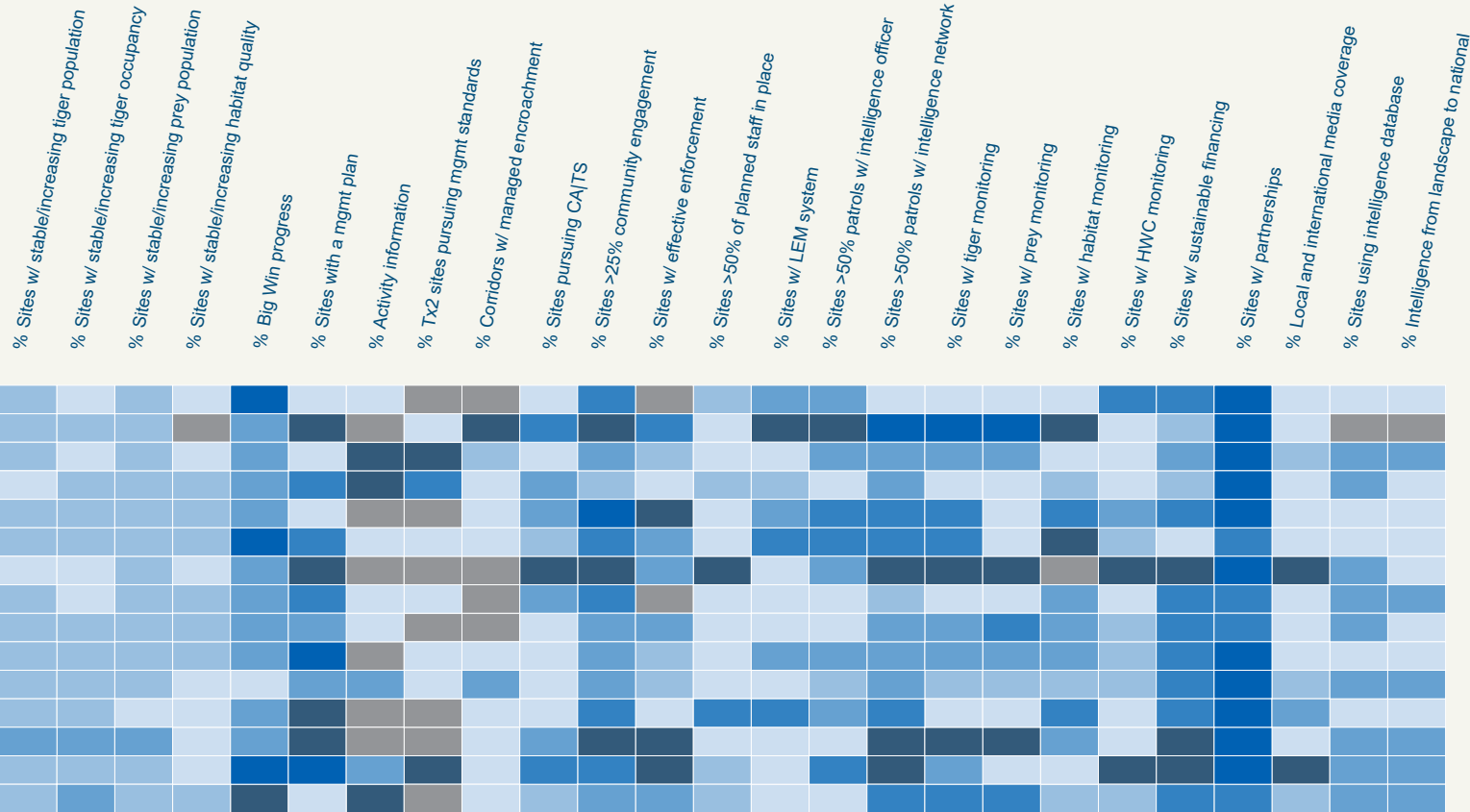


2012

2013

Amur Heilong - China
Amur Heilong - Russia
Banjaran Titiwangsa
Central Sumatra
South Sumatra
Dawna Tenasserim
Eastern Plains
Greater Manas - Bhutan
Greater Manas - India
Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong
Satpuda Maikal
Sundarbans
Terai Arc - India
Terai Arc - Nepal
Western Ghats - Nilgiris

Amur Heilong - China
Amur Heilong - Russia
Banjaran Titiwangsa
Central Sumatra
South Sumatra
Dawna Tenasserim
Eastern Plains
Greater Manas - Bhutan
Greater Manas - India
Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong
Satpuda Maikal
Sundarbans
Terai Arc - India
Terai Arc - Nepal
Western Ghats - Nilgiris

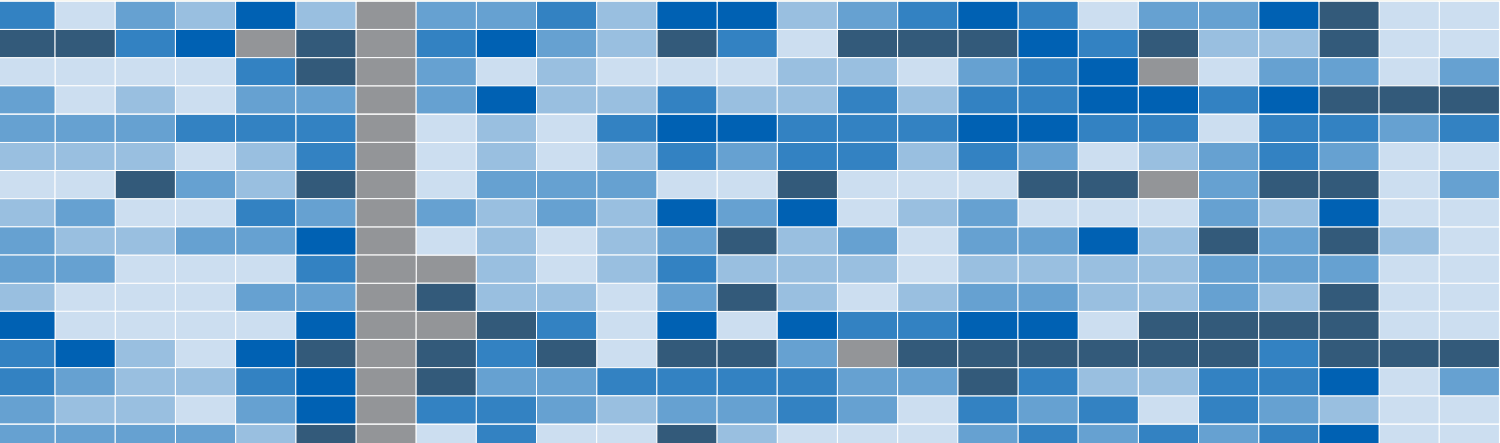
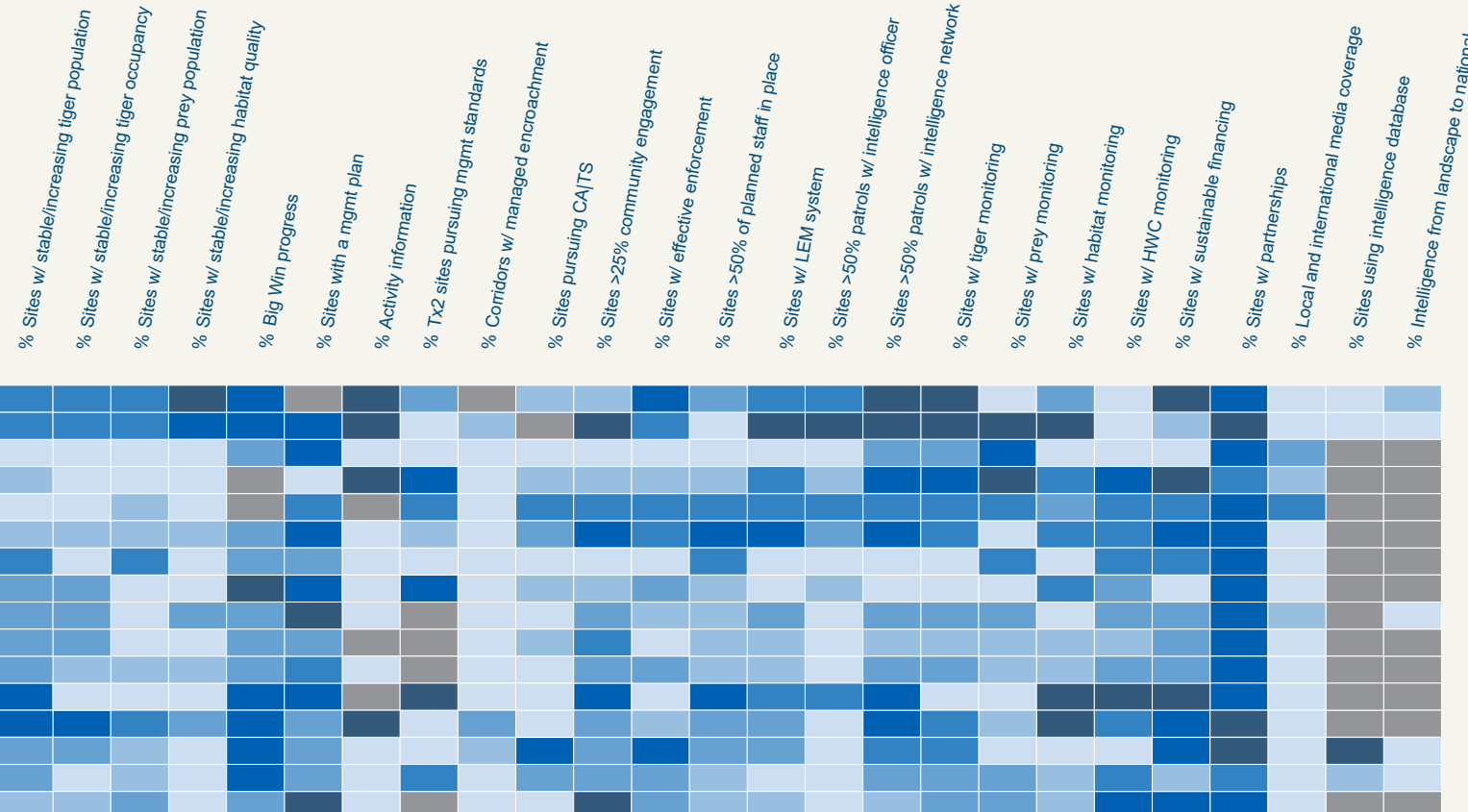


2015

2017

Amur Heilong - China
Amur Heilong - Russia
Banjaran Titiwangsa
Central Sumatra
South Sumatra
Dawna Tenasserim
Eastern Plains
Greater Manas - Bhutan
Greater Manas - India
Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong
Satpuda Maikal
Sundarbans
Terai Arc - India
Terai Arc - Nepal
Western Ghats - Nilgiris
Western India

Amur Heilong - China
Amur Heilong - Russia
Banjaran Titiwangsa
Central Sumatra
South Sumatra
Dawna Tenasserim
Eastern Plains
Greater Manas - Bhutan
Greater Manas - India
Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong
Satpuda Maikal
Sundarbans
Terai Arc - India
Terai Arc - Nepal
Western Ghats - Nilgiris
Western India

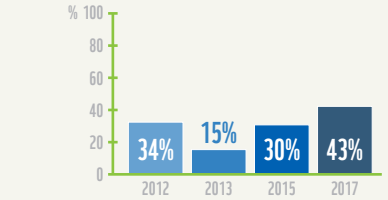


The landscapes Greater Manas and Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong have been merged under the larger Brahmaputra Landscape in 2018. Data will continue to be collected over the next two years and be monitored under Brahmaputra Landscape.

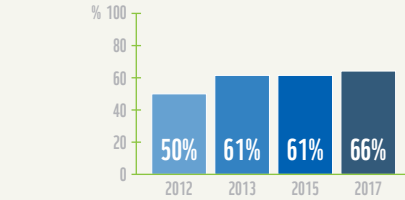
LANDSCAPE KPIs

AREA MANAGEMENT

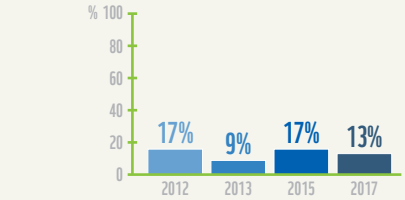
Corridors
Proportion of sites where corridor encroachment is being addressed



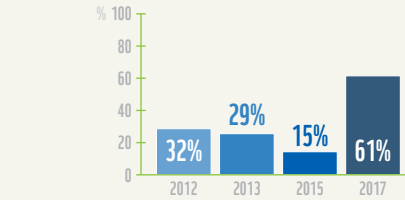
Management Plans
Proportion of sites with a detailed management plan



Community Engagement
Proportion of sites where >25% of the surrounding community is engaged



Tx2 Sites
Proportion of sites pursuing Protected Area Standards, i.e. CAJTS

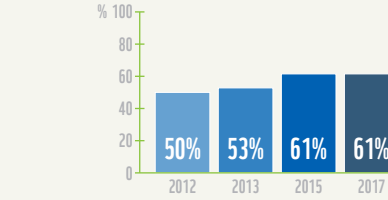


The number of sites with management plans in place is increasing – a critical step to effective management for tiger recovery. Tx2 sites that are actively pursuing CAJTS saw a steep rise over the last two years as the implementation of CAJTS across numerous landscapes has been accelerating.

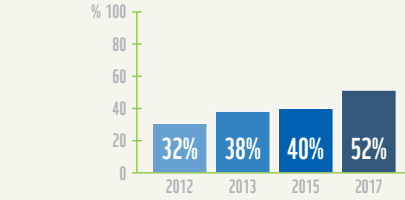
The survey shows that community engagement is not reaching the scale that is needed to create sustainable impact. This is the focus in the current phase of our work. With targeted and strategic investments over the next years, we can see an upward trend.

MONITORING AND HUMAN-TIGER CONFLICT

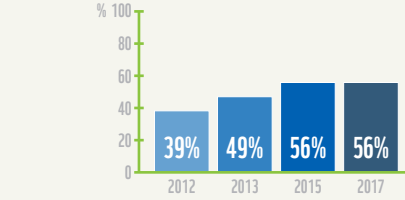
Tiger Monitoring
Proportion of sites where tigers are being monitored



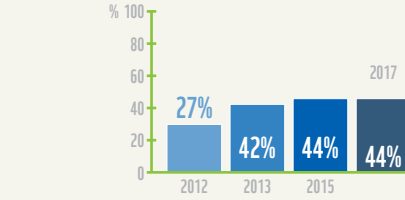
Human Tiger Conflict
Proportion of sites where HTC sources are identified & monitored



Prey Monitoring
Proportion of sites where tiger prey are being monitored



Habitat Monitoring
Proportion of sites where tiger habitat is being monitored

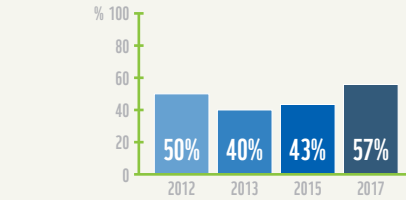


The monitoring indicators show a trend of increasing number of sites using standardised protocol, thereby increasing our knowledge of tigers, prey and habitat in the landscapes and also our ability for comparison (due to standardisation).

In the majority of sites, sources of Human Tiger Conflict are being identified and monitored. The proportion of sites monitored has been steadily increasing, and WWF will be working to accelerate this trend so that tiger recovery across the landscapes is sustainable.

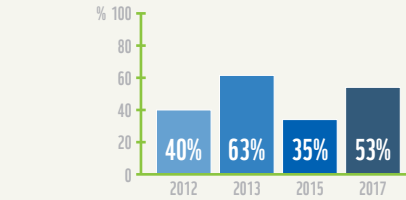
PROTECTION AND STAFFING

Enforcement
Proportion of sites thought to have effective enforcement



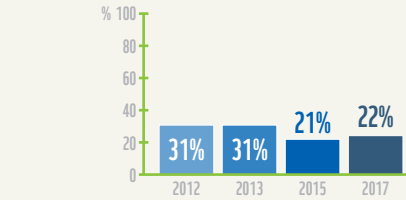
The landscape KPIs indicate that our dedicated efforts towards Zero Poaching have been having an impact on the number of sites with effective enforcement and those using Law Enforcement Monitoring tools are steadily increasing.

Staffing
Proportion of sites that have >50% of planned staff in place

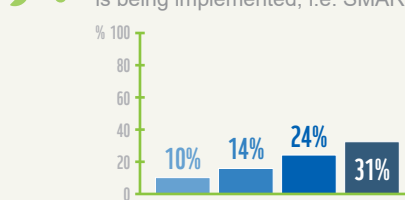


Sites which have met their planned staffing targets have fluctuated over the years. In some cases this may be due to the implementation of more ambitious plans, thereby increasing the number of positions needed to be filled..

Intelligence Network
Proportion of sites where >50% of patrols are supported by an intelligence network

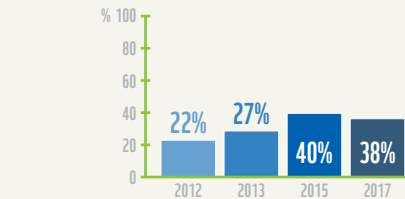


Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) Tool Use
Proportion of sites where an LEM tool is being implemented, i.e. SMART



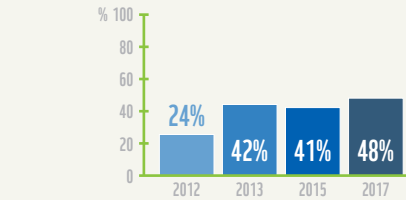
Intelligence Officer

Proportion of sites where >50% of patrols have an intelligence officer



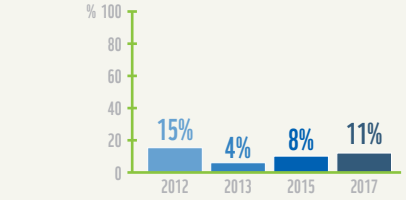
PARTNERSHIPS, SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & TRADE

Sustainable Financing
Proportion of sites supported by sustainable financing mechanism

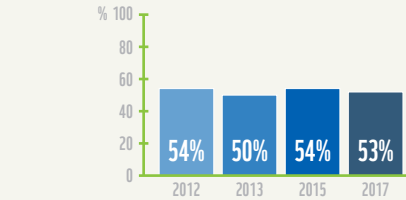


Sustainable financing for sites has been increasing, although the majority of sites currently lack a sustainable financing mechanism. The number of sites where WWF are actively engaged with partners remains steady.

Trade Database
Proportion of sites using and contributing to a trade database



Partnerships
Proportion of sites where ongoing activities have one or more partners



WWF will endeavour to seek and develop partnerships in the sites where we currently lack a partnership approach in order to increase our impact on the ground.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

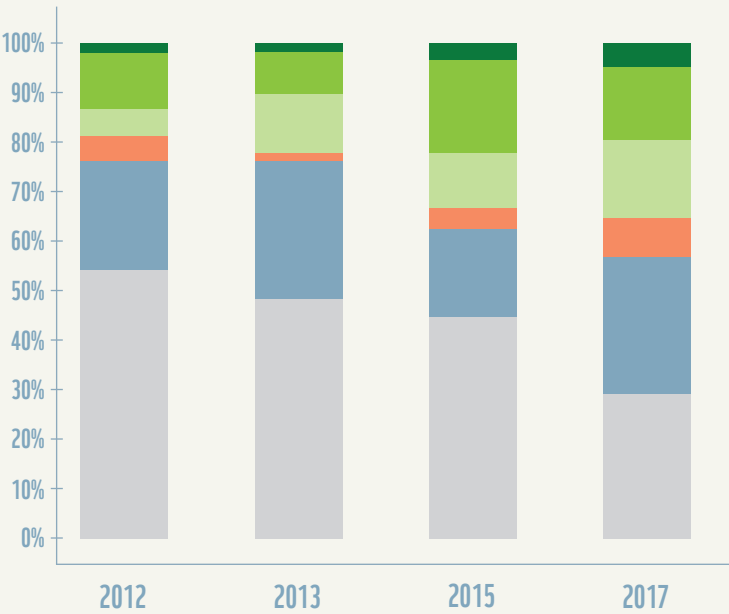
WWF is learning more and more about tigers, prey and habitats in the landscapes. This is critically important to guide effectively our investments and interventions. More sites are also reaching their carrying capacity for

tigers. On the other hand, data from 2017 shows a worrying rise in the areas where tigers are declining, and an increase in information gaps. This gives us more reason to strengthen our work on monitoring and habitats.

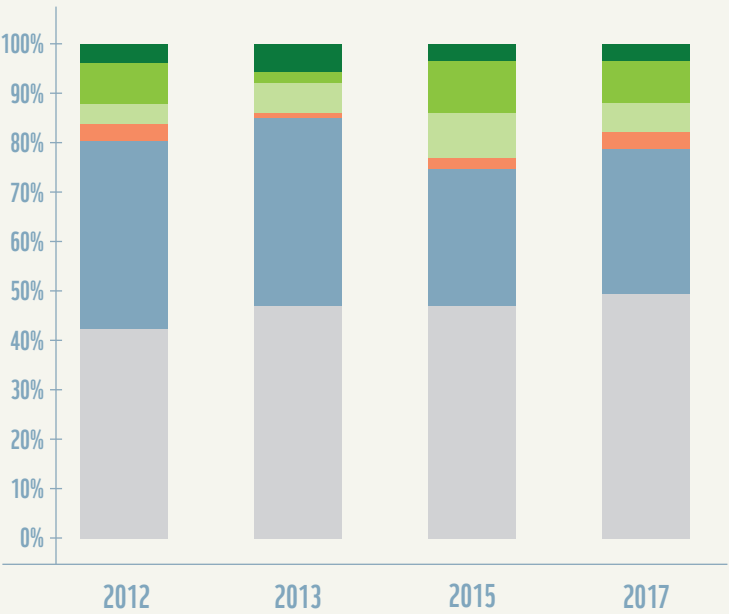
Encouragingly, sites with increasing prey density have risen since the Tx2 goal was set.

Due to strategic investments, the number of sites with declining habitat has dropped over the last two years.

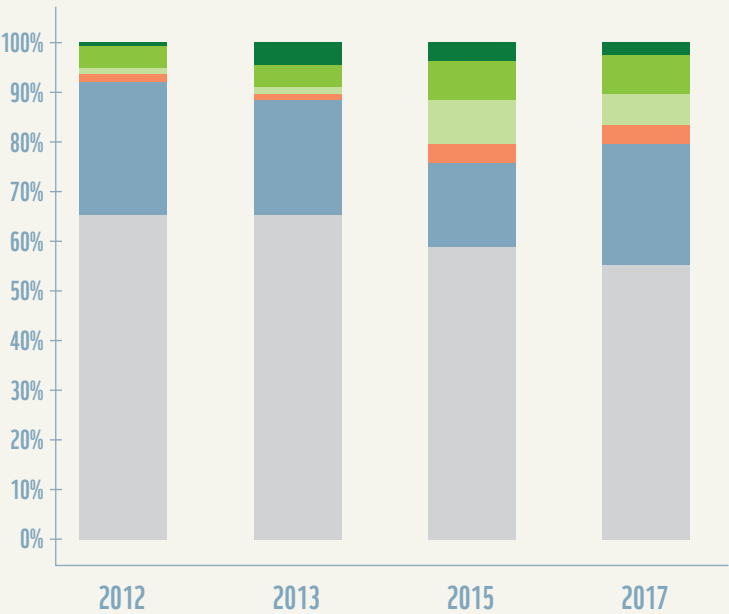
TIGER DENSITY TRENDS



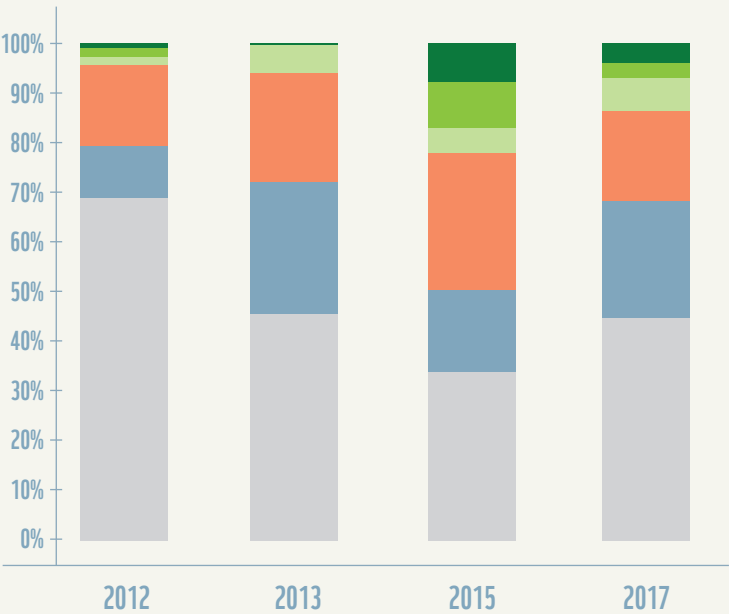
TIGER OCCUPANCY TRENDS



PREY DENSITY TRENDS



HABITAT MONITORING TRENDS





POPULATION TARGET REACHED



INCREASING



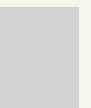
BASELINE MAINTAINED



DECLINING



DATA IN PROCESS



DATA UNAVAILABLE

THE HEARTLANDS OF TIGER CONSERVATION

The heart of the Tx2 innovation stems from the Tx2 sites – carefully selected for their valuable habitat that can support large wildlife populations, in particular tiger prey. These sites have tremendous potential for tiger populations to thrive, breed and recover, but are held back due to a lack of investment.

We are active across more than 200 sites, with a special focus on around 50 of those that have high potential. WWF is working to ensure that each site has a thorough plan for investment that outlines the funding, management, social and political lobbying and engagement needed to succeed.

Better Together

India, Nepal and Bangladesh started joint tiger censuses in 2017. Supported by WWF, and involving collaboration in transboundary areas such as in the Terai Arc Landscape and in the Sundarbans, the data will be shared to improve count accuracy and as a means of propagating best practices in census-taking and tiger conservation.

Love is in the Tropical Rainforest

A pair of wild tigers are seen mating on a camera trap image - a first for the team after 12 years of monitoring! This rare image signals hope for tiger recovery in one of two Tx2 sites within Central Sumatra. This and another Tx2 site, Valmiki-Parsa in India/ Nepal, is supported by the KfW German Development Bank with funds of €4 million (ca. USD 4.9 million) over three years.



New Tiger Cubs Found

A tigress and her cubs were caught on video camera trap in Mae Wong and Khlong Lan National Parks, Thailand. Data from the cameras reveal an increase in the number of female tigers and cubs in this site, as well as more prey such as sambar deer and wild pigs. These indicate a growing success in tiger recovery in this area.



Monitoring and Protection

Over 100 wire snares were removed, and more than 100 camera traps were set up to monitor tigers and other wildlife movement in the Royal Belum State Park, Malaysia. This is part of the larger Belum-Temengor Forest Complex – one of three priority tiger sites for Malaysia. Supported by the Maybank Foundation with RM5 million (ca. USD1.3 million) over four years, the monitoring and protection of tigers in this area will help contribute to Malaysia's national tiger survey and National Tiger Conservation Action Plan.



INFRASTRUCTURE MUST NOT COMPROMISE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

At least 11,000km of roads and railways, along with canals, power lines, and oil and gas pipelines, are planned as part of an estimated US\$8 trillion spending on infrastructure in Asia. If built without provisions for wildlife, this would cut through every existing tiger habitat, exponentially increasing habitat fragmentation, poaching and wildlife conflict with people.

WWF is calling for Asian governments to pursue a sustainable development path that incorporates the protection of tigers and tiger landscapes into the design stage of all infrastructure planning. This will preserve corridors that are essential to tiger movement. Well-planned designs of this type will also better consider critical ecosystems services and other factors that might impact the well-being of the millions living near these landscapes.

Mitigating NH12A Impact on Kanha Tiger Reserve

India

Hunchun-Donning: Corridors for Wild- life Needed

China

Rethinking Mae Wong Dam

Thailand

WWF highlighted the negative impacts of a proposed national highway (NH12A) expansion, which threatens to fragment tiger habitat in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Mitigation measures were identified and proposed to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, National Tiger Conservation Authority, and National Board for Wildlife.

WWF is working closely with the administration of China's newly set-up Amur Tiger and Leopard National Park to assess the impact of planned roads that are expected to affect Amur tigers and leopards. This includes participating in the Hunchun-Donning S206 Road Impact Assessment, which was then submitted to the State Forestry Administration to support mitigation measures. It included a recommendation that four to five wildlife corridors be included as a means to mitigate the impact of the S201 road in this new national park.

WWF released a report ("*How would Mae Wong Dam Affect Forest and Wildlife?*") detailing the catastrophic impact the proposed dam would have on tigers, wildlife and their natural habitat. Following that, WWF published a position statement clearly stating our stand against the construction of the dam, while continuing work with key partners and stakeholders, such as Seub Foundation. By October, the Royal Irrigation Department withdrew its environment and health impact assessment report on the Mae Wong Dam project after it was considered incomplete, giving hope for renewed discussions on alternatives to the dam.

The Dawna Tenasserim Landscape (DTL), which stretches along both sides of the Thailand-Myanmar border, is home to the largest population of tigers in the Greater Mekong. Here, a proposed highway from Bangkok, Thailand to Dawei, Myanmar will cut through the landscape, causing forest loss, fragmented ecosystems, isolation of tiger populations and likely an increase in poaching as the area becomes more accessible. WWF continues to engage the project developers, governments and financial experts to modify the road design to minimise negative impacts on local communities, wildlife and the natural environment.

A tiger was caught on camera trap last year in a key corridor in Tanintharyi (on the Myanmar section of the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape), confirming that tigers use this corridor, but linear infrastructure would irreversibly fragment this important habitat if constructed without sustainable designs.

WHERE THE CORRIDORS THAT CONNECT HABITATS ARE PROTECTED

Tigers face the imminent threat of inbreeding when their habitats become fragmented and populations isolated. Wildlife corridors are therefore crucial for tigers to move from one area to another.

WWF works to keep tiger habitats connected through an integrated approach that tackles the threats of infrastructure and land conversion, engages local communities that share these corridors, and promotes the inclusion of corridors in government spatial planning for protected areas.

To support our work on habitat connectivity, a methodology is being developed by WWF and our partners to identify critical linkages and ensure their protection, with the aim to apply this to any species whose corridors are threatened.



Protected Areas Corridors Royal Manas National Park

Bhutan’s Royal Manas National Park recorded a doubling of its wild tigers since the last count in 2010. As Bhutan’s oldest national park, it is connected to other major protected areas through the country’s biological corridors – crucial for the tiger population to disperse and maintain genetic viability. In one corridor, a young male tiger was recorded for the first time on a high-resolution camera trap, and was featured as part of a short film series “*Mission in Bhutan*” – since viewed one million times around the world.

A Walk on the Wild Side

India

WWF-India’s 5th Annual Corridor Walk brought together wildlife lovers of all ages on a six-day trek across half the length of the Kanha-Achanakmar corridor (approximately 100km). This corridor serves as a critical connection for tigers and other wildlife between the Kanha and Achanakmar tiger reserves, and is shared by local communities. Attended by the Member Secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and other senior officials of the state forest departments, such events help to raise awareness and profile for the protection of corridors.

Connecting Habitats

India, Cambodia

India’s Uttarakhand Forest Department recommended declaring the entire 273km² area of Kilpura-Khatima-Surai corridor as a buffer area of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. Meanwhile, a joint intervention by WWF-India, Wildlife Institute of India and Forest Department helped in accelerating the construction work of overpasses in Chilla-Motichur, Tin-Pani and Kansrao-Barkote corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape.

In Cambodia, an important corridor linking Phnom Prich and Srepok Wildlife Sanctuaries is officially listed for protection. As these areas are potential sites for Cambodia’s tiger reintroduction plans, WWF continues to work with the government and other partners to ensure their connectivity.

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Apart from the protection of tiger source sites, the development of eco-corridors which aim to connect and extend tiger habitats is an important component of many projects.

UWE OHLS
MEMBER OF THE PROGRAMME
COUNCIL OF ITHCP AND FORMER
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPE
AND ASIA OF KFW DEVELOPMENT BANK

CONSERVATION ASSURED TIGER STANDARDS

SECURING SAFE HAVENS FOR WILD TIGERS

Protected areas in Asia are often poorly managed due to insufficient investment, yet most of the world's wild tigers live in these very places that are meant to be protected – rendering most of them unsafe.

To change the game, Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) was created to develop a network of safe havens for wild tigers. Through a set of global standards and criteria that helps managers better target, achieve and maintain effective site-based management for wild tigers. The realization of CA|TS at scale is instrumental in global efforts to make sure tigers are protected over the long-term.

By achieving the CA|TS standards, approved sites become part of a global league of protected tiger areas that benefit biodiversity conservation.

CA|TS Support Group and Council Secretariat formed

Bhutan

The CA|TS Support Group is now formed, with the participation of 11 leading global conservation agencies, and is committed to establishing a wider and more effective participation in CA|TS. Encompassed within the CA|TS partnership, the shared roles of the support group is detailed in a revised governance structure.

Bhutan was elected the 1st Chair of the CA|TS Council by the National and Jurisdictional Committees, and is represented by Mr Phento Tshering, Chair of the National Committee of Bhutan as well as Director of the Department of Forests and Park Services. This formed the CA|TS Council Secretariat.

A First in Southeast Asia

Malaysia

Malaysia's Royal Belum State Park made history by becoming the first site in Southeast Asia to register for CA|TS, a milestone that was celebrated with the attendance of key government officials, and the Maybank Foundation.

Global Survey to Understand Needs and Challenges

The CA|TS 'Lite' survey was rolled out to collate global data on the most urgent needs and challenges in tiger conservation site management. More than 100 sites have responded, providing an important baseline against which governments and site managers can set targets and priorities for investment, build capacity and measure progress. A report based on the survey will be launched in February 2018.

Achieved by end of 2017

 **50 sites**

are CA|TS registered across eight tiger range countries

India's Lansdowne Forest Division became

the third site

in the world to be CA|TS-approved, after Chitwan National Park, Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve, Russia



A business plan was completed and endorsed by the CA|TS Partnership, laying the foundation for plans towards 2022



Through CA|TS, I am optimistic we can further strengthen our conservation efforts for perpetual existence of tigers in the wild.

PHENTO TSHERING
DIRECTOR OF BHUTAN DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & PARKS SERVICES AND 1ST CHAIR OF THE CA|TS COUNCIL

ZERO POACHING

FOR A WORLD WHERE TIGERS ARE FREE FROM POACHING

Following Nepal's example since 2014, the Zero Poaching strategy is now widely adopted by many countries to inform their anti-poaching strategies and approaches. 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.

Malaysia Commits to Zero Poaching 2020

Malaysia

Attended by HRH Prince of Wales, the Sultan of Perak, as well as the Chief Minister of Perak, the Royal Belum Perak - WWF Conservation Summit 2017 addressed illegal wildlife trade as an urgent priority for tiger conservation in Malaysia.

Collectively, the leaders pledged to support the Perak State government efforts in securing the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex as one of the nation's most important tiger priority sites in Peninsular Malaysia, including achieving CA|TS accreditation for the Royal Belum State Park, and enabling a well-equipped rapid response team to support the state's commitment to Zero Poaching by 2020. As a first step, the Economic Planning Unit will be forming a secretariat to manage all efforts related to Zero Poaching.

Bhutan's National Zero Poaching Strategy

Bhutan

Bhutan became the first country after Nepal to develop a National Zero Poaching Strategy, which was launched by the Prime Minister of Bhutan. Going forward, WWF continues to work with other tiger range governments to develop national Zero Poaching strategies.

Ensuring Security in India's Tiger Reserves

India

The Government of India endorsed the Security Audit protocols for all 50 tiger reserves in India. This is the first time tiger reserves will be audited from a security perspective. The exercise will be conducted every year by a mixed group comprised of government officials, wildlife law enforcement specialists and other relevant personnel under the guidance of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Zero Poaching is an aspirational goal towards a world free of poaching. As a framework, it unites diverse initiatives, providing a holistic approach to stamping out poaching, promoting tools, technologies and approaches that have proven to be effective for governments, law enforcement agencies and conservation groups to adopt. It is considered achieved when:

- There are no detectable traces of poaching activity in the landscape over a set time period, and
- There is no discernible impact on a species' ability to recover or sustain an increase in population.



”

The Zero Poaching success was a joint effort and would not have been possible by just a single person or agency. The Government of Nepal, organizations like WWF-Nepal, along with the local communities, played their part in making this a success.

BISHNU PRASAD THAPALIYA
WILDLIFE RANGER OF NEARLY
20 YEARS, NEPAL.

WE NEED HEROES TO BRAVE THE WORLD'S WILDEST PLACES

Working for weeks on end in remote areas and away from their families, rangers risk their lives to face the threat of armed poachers, natural hazards and diseases, among others.

Supporting Asia's rangers is critical for achieving anti-poaching success, and in protecting some of the world's most ecologically valuable places but heavily threatened 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 and effectively.



Better Training for Stronger Ranger

WWF is collaborating with the Royal Government of Bhutan to improve the curriculum and capacity of relevant ranger training institutions in Bhutan. In Myanmar, the scoping study for the country's first ranger training college is now complete. This included a recent study visit by Myanmar's government to the Southern African Wildlife College to understand the training curricula, infrastructure, trainer and training mechanisms.

Over 400 rangers from 45 forest bureaus across China were trained on anti-poaching, tiger monitoring, law enforcement and using SMART tools to strengthen their capacity before they start work in the Amur region, thanks to collaboration between WWF, Feline Research Centre and the Jilin and Heilongjiang Forestry Bureaus.

The World's Largest Ranger Survey

WWF is working with its various national offices, conservation partners and government agencies to deliver the most comprehensive ranger survey ever undertaken. By its conclusion in June 2018, thousands of rangers across the majority of the tiger range countries will have been surveyed on a wide range of issues.

To give further context to the survey results, additional research is being prepared to highlight the policies and laws that most impact rangers and their well-being. Added to this, a number of community members who interact with rangers will also be interviewed, both to understand their perception of rangers and how ranger-community collaboration can be maximized.

The Prime Minister of Bhutan launched the Society of Bhutanese Foresters on World Ranger Day, and is now a member of the Ranger Federation of Asia.

The 2nd Rangers' Competition (March) in Northeast China was joined by two teams from the Russian Far East, contributing to the exchange of experience between senior rangers and helping to lay the foundation for the restoration of Amur tigers and their transboundary habitat.



We are so blessed to be sharing our planet Earth with wildlife that plays a pivotal role in the health and rich diversity of nature. My job as a ranger is to ensure that our future generations enjoy the same privilege of seeing wildlife and living in harmony with nature.

SINGYE WANGMO
CHIEF FOREST OFFICER, ROYAL
MANAS NATIONAL PARK, BHUTAN

EQUIPPED WITH SMART TO ENSURE STRONG AND EXTENSIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Real-time Action

Nepal

Nepal continued to show remarkable results with the innovative real-time SMART, which is being expanded to Bhutan and Cambodia. Two sites in Cambodia and two sites in Bhutan are currently implementing SMART Connect for effective tactical monitoring of law enforcement work.

Connecting in the Wild

WWF and the SIGFOX Foundation signed a MoU to support the SMART Connect implementation by providing better connectivity in the forest.

Snare Detector

In response to the snaring crisis in Asia, WWF is developing a technology-based solution to detect snares effectively. This includes developing a detector for electric snares that have taken the lives of many wild animals in the tiger landscapes, in addition to causing two tragic human casualties reported in the Eastern Plains, Cambodia.



To date, over 100 sites across Asia are using SMART for improved patrolling and law enforcement monitoring.



What?

SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) is an open source tool for effective conservation law enforcement monitoring



Who?

Designed for those directly responsible for wildlife conservation, from rangers in the field to senior government staff



Where?

Deployed in over 600 sites and 46 countries around the world

Why SMART?

People on the frontlines of wildlife protection carry heavy responsibilities, with multiple roles to play and very limited resources. Easy to use, the SMART software makes it possible to collect, store, communicate, and analyse ranger-collected data on illegal activities, wildlife, and patrol routes to understand where efforts should focus, while evaluating ranger performance. This helps increase efficiency and deliver effective conservation efforts for tigers and more.

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF TIGER TRADE

TRAFFIC and WWF are working with 20 of the world's largest e-commerce and social media companies to find company-led solutions to online illegal wildlife trade. For example, eBay responded to the information provided by WWF and TRAFFIC by removing over 25,000 adverts in eight months that violated the policy put in place to prevent illegal sales of wildlife on their platforms.

Asia Says No: Closing Illegal Wildlife Markets

The “*Top 10 Most Wanted*” report was released in November, bringing urgent attention to the open sales of endangered species in the markets of the Golden Triangle, an area that is bordered by Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. WWF has put forth the goal of closing 20 illegal wildlife markets by 2020, calling on all stakeholders to work together, from improving ranger capacity to reducing consumer demand.

Stand Against Illegal Tiger Trade

On Global Tiger Day (29 July), WWF urged tiger-range governments to strengthen anti-poaching efforts and crack down on a worsening wildlife snaring crisis. A digital campaign in partnership with Tiger Beer achieved over a billion media impressions, and more than 30,000 people around the world pledged to take a stand against illegal tiger trade, using a unique artificial intelligence tool to transform selfies into a digital art portrait, that is then shared on their social media profiles.

Matching Penalties to the Crime

Russia

With WWF's support in investigations, the provincial court of the Primorsky region in Russia passed one of the highest penalties in two criminal cases of tiger poaching. One poacher was sentenced to a US\$150,000 fine for possessing an Amur tiger skin while another received a 22-month sentence and a fine for killing a young tigress.



The illegal wildlife trade fuels a snaring crisis that is devastating Asia's wildlife, especially the world's remaining wild tigers. WWF and TRAFFIC are working to analyse trade patterns and help enforcement agencies disrupt persistent illegal trade routes, while reducing demand for tiger parts through behavioural change approaches in major Asian markets.

Together, we are working to break four key trade routes:

India-Nepal-Bhutan-China | Indonesia-Malaysia | Myanmar-Lao PDR-China | Russia-China



Tigers were threatened in many ways in Myanmar. In particular, they were hunted down and sold on the Chinese border. That's why we are trying to raise public awareness about tiger conservation and to protect them through laws.

U NYI NYI KYAW
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

If we are to succeed in disrupting and dismantling organised trafficking of tigers and tiger parts, we need international law enforcement, transboundary cooperation, and last but not least, all tiger range countries must step up their game.

JAMES COMPTON
SENIOR DIRECTOR, ASIA
TRAFFIC

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF TIGER CONSERVATION

Millions of people live and earn their livelihoods within tiger landscapes. These communities and businesses need to be supportive of wild tiger conservation for it to be a success. As we plan for tiger population growth, managing human wildlife conflict is a priority.

WWF is advocating for implementation of the Human Wildlife Conflict Safe Systems. This approach tackles conflict comprehensively through preventive measures, mitigation strategies and quick response whenever conflict arises.



Eliminating “Blood Honey”

India

In the Sundarbans, on average five people are killed annually by tigers when they venture into the mangroves to collect wild honey, earning the prized commodity the name ‘blood honey’. To reduce fatalities, WWF in alliance with the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve directorate, created apiary boxes in fenced-off areas, with exceptional results. The daily yield of honey from each apiary box was nearly double than what was collected from wild bees. For locals who had always feared going into the forests to collect honey, the apiary boxes now provide a source of livelihood without risking their life.

Wild and Free Again

Russia

Two rehabilitated tigers were released back into the wild with the support of WWF and the Amur Tiger Centre. They are Filippa, a tigress who was dying from starvation and approached the village of Filippovka for food, and Vladik who surprised the people of Vladivostok city with his presence. Both tigers were caught to prevent conflict with people and were then kept at the Rehabilitation Center in Alekseevka to prepare for release. Last year, Filippa was released to Dichun Wildlife Refuge while Vladik was freed in Bikin National Park – far away from people.

A Relief for People and Tigers

India

No retaliatory killing of tigers has been reported for the past three years from the Kanha-Pench corridor in India. This is believed to be a result of the Interim Relief Scheme to compensate the villagers’ loss when tigers come into conflict with their livestock.

The HWC Tech Challenge led by WWF Netherlands, and organized in cooperation with WILDLABS was launched in 2017. Together with a panel of WWF specialists including multiple from tiger landscapes, and non-WWF specialists many great ideas were assessed. The innovative early warning system of Alasdair Davies of the Arribada Initiative from the UK was the clear winner. His idea is aimed at the early detection of carnivores like polar bears and tigers. It uses a clever combination of traditional infrared sensors and thermic sensors capable for discriminating between species, allowing it to alert people to the presence of a specific animal, but not when a human or a dog passes.



Conservation needs to focus on people; then only will it be understood. When I pointed out that the forests were for the communities themselves to manage, to also provide for human benefit when managed sustainably and passed on from one generation to another, the community began seeing the worth of our efforts.

MAYA YOGI
COMMUNITY MOBILIZER
IN KHATA CORRIDOR

TOWARDS DOUBLING WILD TIGERS, TOGETHER

From individual acts of giving to the extensive support by foundations, businesses and aid agencies, tiger conservation projects are brought to life – all of which is only possible through working together with our partners.

WWF is deeply grateful for the incredible support for protecting wild tigers and their forest homes, where some of Asia’s last wilderness stands.

Our Strategic Partners

We are thankful to work with a diverse range of partners including those from the public sector, corporations, philanthropic foundations, philanthropists, and members of the public. We would like to thank the following partners especially, for their outstanding contribution and continuous support to multi-year and multi-country projects that have made a considerable difference in the Tx2 goal to double tigers.



The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation creates positive impact with WWF for tigers and communities living in tiger landscapes, particularly in the Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal and in Sumatra, Indonesia.



The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (fpa2.com) is a key partner of WWF. By supporting effective protected area management, our partnership is helping to secure tiger habitats in Sumatra and the Amur-Heilong Landscape.



Discovery Inc.’s Project C.A.T (Conserving Acres for Tigers) partners with WWF to ensure a future for tigers and wildlife, by funding the Sundarbans and the transboundary Manas Conservation Area, and raising mass public awareness.



The US Department of State (Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau) supports the fight against illegal wildlife trade in the Golden Triangle, which also threatens the tiger. Their contribution creates opportunities for regional governments to take action against open wildlife markets.



Whiskas, and its parent company Mars, supports WWF’s global tiger conservation efforts – from funding the daily work needed to protect tigers to raising awareness and funds for tigers among cat lovers.



Tiger Beer cannot imagine a world without wild tigers. Its partnership with WWF supports Tx2 – by supporting global conservation efforts, raising awareness and inspiring people to take action.

Anonymous donor

Thanks to the support from a **private Geneva foundation** we continue to achieve real progress in improved protected area management across the tiger range with the implementation of CA/TS. The support is notably impacting tiger recovery in the Western India Landscape and transboundary Terai Arc Landscape of India and Nepal.

Dr Bevan Jones’ support for tigers and forests in Myanmar helps us to secure a critical tiger habitat for the long-term. He has very kindly allowed us to share an excerpt from a speech he delivered about his gift to WWF:

“Over the years, I have looked on in dismay at how, with expanding population and urbanisation, many of the natural places I knew and loved have been lost or degraded.

We took our time looking into organisations that were working in the Asia region to protect and conserve rainforest and associated wildlife. We shied away from organisations that were focused on short-term goals... and whose initiatives relied heavily on a small group of people, as we considered these may have a higher risk of failure in the longer term.

I have been enormously impressed with WWF’s response and their development of a suitable project plan, which seems a perfect fit for my aspirations, including as it does work towards integrated land-use that protects wild nature and provides sustainable livelihoods for local people.”

Across the 13 tiger range countries, we work with partners to protect tigers in the wild. From communities and NGOs, to businesses and governments, WWF's ongoing collaboration with partners is crucial for securing the long-term survival of wild tigers.



In the rainforests of Malaysia's Royal Belum State Park, pressure from poaching and habitat loss is high, but partners are working hard to turn it around.

Local communities carry out anti-poaching patrols alongside rangers and WWF teams, while Maybank's support enables us to set up camera traps, deactivate wire snares and create awareness on saving the tigers in Malaysia.

The strong commitment by the Perak state to achieve Zero Poaching by 2020 is matched by the sentiments of the Sultan of Perak, DYMM Paduka Seri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The HRH Prince of Wales, at the Royal Belum-WWF Conservation Summit in November. It is now the first site to become registered for CAJTS in Southeast Asia - a partnership-led accreditation scheme that involves 11 leading conservation groups. The use of SMART - developed and strengthened by multiple partners - helps equip anti-poaching teams with stronger tools.

We believe strong partnerships are key to reaching goals that are as ambitious as Tx2, and will continue to nurture and create partnerships in the goal towards doubling tigers, together.



BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, OUR WORK IS POSSIBLE



ROARING FORWARD

Many WWF offices are working together to push tiger conservation forward. Here are a selection of major highlights from 2017.

 Mobilising Support  Political Momentum  Zero Poaching  Breaking Trade Chains  Tiger Recovery

 WWF-India garnered the support of Madhya Pradesh Forest Department to enhance protection of Balaghat as a recovery site by sharing evidence from last year of a stable tiger population and camera trap photos of breeding tigresses and their cubs	 A rifle and 50 metal traps confiscated from Bikin National Park to respect the new hunting ban and protect tigers from poachers	 Thirty-one mammals, including tigers, were uncovered by camera trap surveys in the hill forests of Northern Karen State, Myanmar, supported by WWF and other partners	 Bhutan released three significant national strategies/ plans all lead and developed by WWF-Bhutan: National Zero Poaching Strategy, Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2017-2026) and the Human Wildlife Conflict SAFE systems strategy	 Over 50 rangers trained for a week in the forests of Mondulkiri, Cambodia with trainers from the Southern African Wildlife College.	 Ambassadors from WWF-Hong Kong's One Planet Youth Leadership Training Programme visited tiger reserves in India to bring home key learning points	 Second Tiger Habitat Ranger Competition in China organized to support capacity building between Chinese and Russian rangers	 Camera trap videos showed a healthy male tiger in a zero poaching pilot area in Heilongjiang Laoyeling Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve	 WWF-Indonesia's #doubletigers campaign won the 2017 campaign of the year, as awarded by campaign.com	 WWF supported the Uttarakhand Forest Department on the fourth stage of tiger monitoring in Rajaji and Corbett tiger reserves	 Joint intervention by WWF, Wildlife Institute of India and Forest Department accelerated the construction of an overpass to reduce chances of wildlife killings by vehicles in Chilla-Motichur, Tin- Pani and Kansrao-Barkote corridors of the Terai Arc Landscape	 WWF launched the #iProtectTiger campaign, reaching 40 million views with its film by end of the year	 A WWF initiative to encourage ecotourism to reduce pressures on the forests of Anamalai Tiger Reserve started with the training of 19 community members in hospitality	 Forests departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala invested in their own camera traps and conducted surveys after training from WWF-India to begin institutionalizing tiger monitoring in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary	 The State Council in China announced the opening of Heilongjiang Qixinglazi Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve, supported by WWF-China technically and financially	 WWF-India partnered with the Rajasthan Forest Department to support the protection of tigers and prey species in Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve and facilitate the dispersal of tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve	 A Security Audit Protocol was developed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and WWF to assess enforcement efforts and will be conducted in 25 tiger reserves	 WeTransfer provided pro-bono support to WWF to place digital posters for raising awareness on wild tigers, reaching 65,000 WeTransfer users over a week after Global Tiger Day	 Celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio, Heidi Klum, Adriana Lima, Freida Pinto, Mark Hamill and Ellen DeGeneres voiced their support for Project C.A.T, an initiative to conserve nearly one million acres of protected habitat by WWF and Discovery	 The Prime Minister of Cambodia endorsed a tiger reintroduction plan in the Cambodia National Forum on Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources	 "<i>Spirit Tiger</i>" documentary commissioned by WWF to raise awareness of cultural significance of tigers to the indigenous people of Cambodia was accepted at the Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival 2017	 Erode Forest Division was indicated as a potential tiger recovery site. Conservation efforts in this area have helped to secure the contiguity of habitat as it is connected to the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve	 The Republic of Kazakhstan signed a memorandum with WWF to implement a joint tiger reintroduction plan to the Ili-Balkhash region	 1,761 snares were collected and 323 warning letters issued in the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary and Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary (from April to September) with the SMART tool supported by WWF-Cambodia	 A special Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) visited Primorye to complete a long-term process of incorporating the Bikin River Basin into the existing UNESCO World Natural Heritage site Central Sikhote-Alin	 WWF documentary "<i>Pavel: I Protect Tigers</i>" won a prestigious award at the Jackson Hole Film Festival, appeared as a feature in the Observer, and as a picture story in the Guardian online	 "<i>Spirit Tiger</i>" was screened in New York at the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival	 A panel of CAJTS certified independent reviewers across Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and Russia was established during a meeting in Bogor, Indonesia	 WWF-India recommendations on sustainable land-use pattern were accepted in the working plan of the West Chhindwara Forest Division to minimise the impacts of mining on wildlife like tigers in Satpuda-Pench Corridor	 CAJTS Business Plan was prepared to outline actions required for its successful implementation from 2018 to 2022	 Jilin Wangqing National Nature Reserve was registered for CAJTS to strive for global standards in securing tiger habitats	 WWF facilitated the donation of five motorcycles by Hero Motocorp to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary to support the monitoring of dispersing tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and to strengthen patrolling	 Chinese street artist Hua Tunan, famous for his paint-splattered tigers, was engaged by WWF-Hong Kong to use his work to draw attention to the threats faced by wild tigers. His paintings were shown in the exhibition hall of WWF-Hong Kong's Island House sustainability centre	 Evidence of rehabilitated and released tigress Svetlaya, with three tiger cubs of her own, was found in Evreiskaya province, Russia	 National workshop organized for the orientation of Bhutan and Nepal Reviewers and Field Managers. CAJTS Council Secretariat established in Bhutan. Mr Phento Tshering sent out his message to all the National and Jurisdictional Committees across the TRCs as 1st Chair of the Council	 WWF-India trained frontline staff and forest officials to institutionalise the monitoring of tigers and prey in the Sundarbans	 The Laos government submitted a six-month Action Plan to the CITES Secretariat on phasing out tiger farms	 One million views of the "<i>Mission Tiger</i>" series filmed in Bhutan is achieved
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January

February

March

April

May

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July

August

September

October

November

December

Prepared by WWF Tigers Alive and
designed by Catalyze Communications.

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WE ARE DOUBLING WILD TIGERS TOGETHER

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.

WWF Tx2 in numbers

13

Focusing on 13 tiger landscapes

2009

Working towards Tx2 since 2009

1,500,000+

Covering over 1.5 million km² of tiger habitat

6,000+

6,000+ wild tigers by 2022 - the Tx2 goal



WWF Mission

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Tigers.panda.org

