



## What is the current state of Project Tiger?

The Indian strategy of Project Tiger since 1972 to focus on tiger source areas in the form of 'core areas' thus stands vindicated. This vision and ongoing initiatives led India to have the maximum tiger source sites in the world today. Efforts are underway to mainstream the concerns of tiger in the landscape surrounding such source sites through restorative actions, while providing livelihood options to local people to reduce their dependency on forests.

Objectives of NTCA is to provide statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives becomes legal. In the face of pressing challenges of surging human population and pressure on forest land, the Project's biggest success has been to secure several source populations of tigers. In its new avatar as NTCA, the Project strives to streamline scientific modules of conservation and co-opt communities as responsible stakeholders.



## RECENT INITIATIVES

- Strengthening of anti-poaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to tiger reserve states, as proposed by them, for deployment of anti-poaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/ wireless facilities.

- Declaration of nine new tiger reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new reserves - Biligiri in Karnataka, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in Madhya Pradesh and Sunabeda in Orissa.

- The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to states for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, include funding support to states for enhanced village rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh per family), rehabilitation of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

- Financial and technical help is provided to States under various centrally sponsored schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the states for providing effective protection to wild animals.

- A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

- As part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna tiger reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers have been done.

- Special advisories issued for in-situ build-up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.



## TIGER RESERVES IN INDIA (State wise)

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Manas (Assam)                    | 21 Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)      |
| 2 Kaziranga (Assam)                | 22 Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)            |
| 3 Nameri (Assam)                   | 23 Satpura (Madhya Pradesh)          |
| 4 Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)  | 24 Panna (Madhya Pradesh)            |
| 5 Namdapha (Arunachal Pradesh)     | 25 Sanjay-Dubri (Madhya Pradesh)     |
| 6 Pakke (Arunachal Pradesh)        | 26 Pench (Madhya Pradesh)            |
| 7 Valmiki (Bihar)                  | 27 Dampa (Mizoram)                   |
| 8 Indravati (Chhattisgarh)         | 28 Satkosia (Orissa)                 |
| 9 Undanti-Sitandadi (Chhattisgarh) | 29 Simlipal (Orissa)                 |
| 10 Achanakmar (Chhattisgarh)       | 30 Ranthambhore (Rajasthan)          |
| 11 Palamau (Jharkhand)             | 31 Sariska (Rajasthan)               |
| 12 Periyar (Kerala)                | 32 Kalakad-Mundanthurai (Tamil Nadu) |
| 13 Parambikulam (Kerala)           | 33 Mudumalai (Tamil Nadu)            |
| 14 Bandipur (Karnataka)            | 34 Anamalai (Tamil Nadu)             |
| 15 Bhadra (Karnataka)              | 35 Corbett (Uttarakhand)             |
| 16 Dandeli-Anshi (Karnataka)       | 36 Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)            |
| 17 Nagarhole (Karnataka)           | 37 Buxa (West Bengal)                |
| 18 Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra)    | 38 Sunderbans (West Bengal)          |
| 19 Pench (Maharashtra)             | 39 Sahyadri (Maharashtra)            |
| 20 Melghat (Maharashtra)           |                                      |

### National Tiger Conservation Authority

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NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



# The Tiger in India





## INTRODUCTION

The tiger, India's national animal, is a symbol that is an intrinsic part of our culture. One of the earliest portrayals of the tiger in India is found in the Harappan seals from the Indus valley culture, dating back to 2500 BC, which depict an intricate association between people and tigers.

Human welfare and economic development in Asia depends on the same clean water, clean air, natural flood controls and other forest resources that tigers need. Tigers are an umbrella species, if we can maintain healthy tiger populations in India, we can ensure that there are healthy habitats and prey populations present to support them.

India is one of the thirteen tiger range countries and has the largest number of source sites with wild tigers. The Indian government has always made Tiger protection a priority and Project Tiger, launched in the early seventies, has put the endangered tiger on a definite path to recovery. As far as the scale of implementation and the diverse habitats under its coverage are concerned, the project has no parallel in the contemporary world.

**"The tiger cannot be preserved in isolation. It is at the apex of a large and complex biotope. Its habitat, threatened by human intrusion, commercial forestry and cattle grazing, must first be made inviolate."** — Mrs Indira Gandhi

(Project Tiger, launched in 1973-74 by the Government of India under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi)

## Project Tiger: A success story

1970: Mrs. Indira Gandhi appointed The Tiger Task Force under the chairmanship of Dr Karan Singh and this task force submitted its report in 1972. So emerged the blueprint for India's tiger conservation programme: Project Tiger in 1973. The report revealed the existence of only 1827 tigers in India.

Given the biotic pressure, many had predicted the tiger would be extinct by the turn of the 20th century. Since its inception, Project Tiger has proved doomsayers wrong.

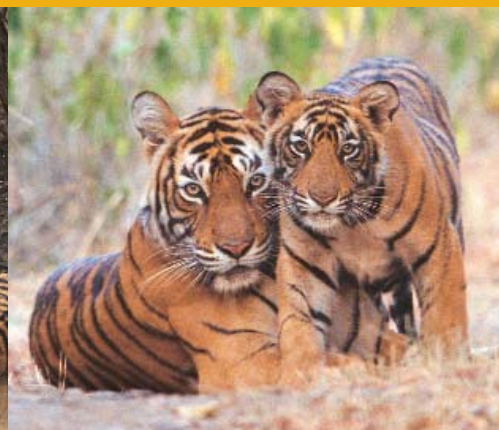
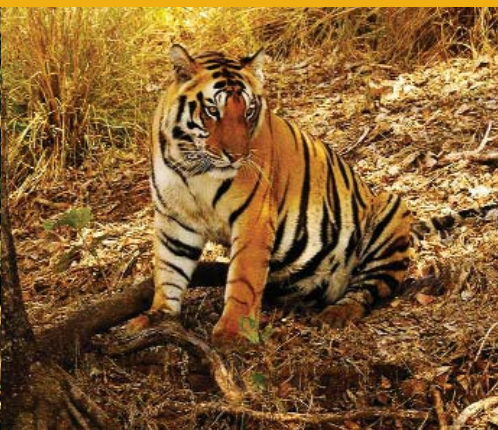
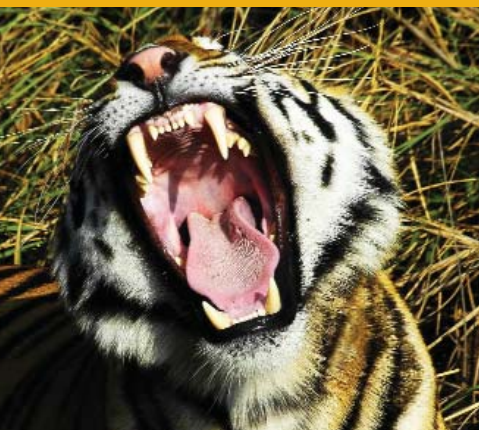
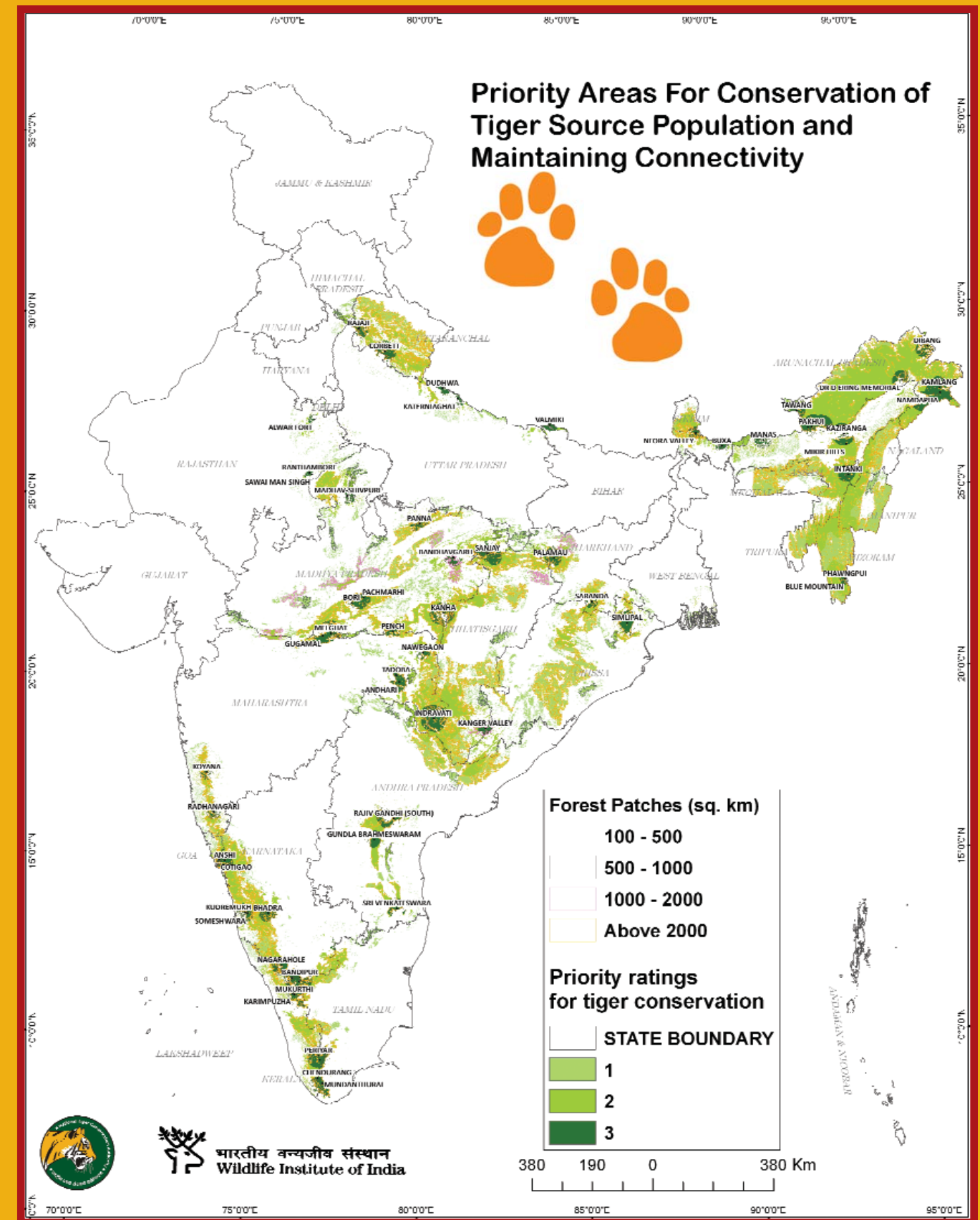
While wild tiger numbers dwindled across its natural habitats in the neighbouring countries, the Project ensured that most of the source populations in India were intact.

## KEY MILESTONES OF PROJECT TIGER

- From nine tiger reserves in 1973, it expanded to 39 tiger reserves in 2010
- In the early eighties, it undertook path breaking radio-telemetry study.
- The recent All India Tiger Estimation, using a peer reviewed internationally recognized scientific methodology, highlights the achievement of Project Tiger by showing that viable tiger population exists only in Project Tiger areas, while outside populations are highly depleted
- Over the years, the Project envisioned a core-buffer-corridor strategy. While the core area of a tiger reserve is managed for wildlife conservation, the buffer is treated as a multiple use zone.

## What have been the Major achievements?

- Project Tiger has saved the endangered tiger from extinction, and has put the species on an assured path to recovery by improving the protection and status of its habitat.
- The core buffer strategy of Project Tiger has provided scope for eliciting local public support through site specific ecodevelopment in the buffer/fringe areas.
- The Project has contributed towards several intangible environmental benefits to society, such as absorption of carbon dioxide, improvement of micro climate, rainfall and river flow.
- The Project has generated considerable wages for the benefit of fringe dwelling communities, who are deployed as local work force for protection.
- While conserving the flagship species, the Project has saved several other species of plants and animals from extinction.
- The local communities are benefiting from eco-tourism apart from eco developmental inputs in fringe areas.
- The Project has served as a role model for wildlife management planning, habitat restoration, protection and ecodevelopment. States have been provided funding support for enhancing protection through deployment of local work force, ex-army personnel. The field staff have been provided allowance as an incentive for working in difficult conditions.
- Independent monitoring of tiger reserves has been undertaken by a panel of experts, based on the framework of the World Commission of Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
- The All India Estimation of tiger, co-predators and prey animals has been refined by Project Tiger in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, with a peer review mechanism comprising independent experts, both national and international (IUCN).



## International Cooperation

- India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
- The process is on for bilateral protocol with Bangladesh, Bhutan & Myanmar.
- A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation