EX

**CASPIAN** 

 $\mathsf{EX}$ 

BALI

**EW** 

**SOUTH CHINA** 

**SUMATRAN** 

**AMUR** 

INDIAN

MALAYAN

4 THREATENED

**INDOCHINESE** TIGER

LOSING OUR STRIPES

Decline in every aspect of tiger life

**ESTIMATED NUMBER IN** 

The baseline in 2010 is estimated to be 2,200 tigers in viable, protected breeding populations and 3,200 to 3,500 tigers overall in 13 tiger range countries.

Tigers are not only a symbol of all that is splendid, mystical and powerful about nature.

2015

They are also a beacon of biodiversity, linking together the forests they inhabit and the natural resources and ecosystem services that their habitats produce for people. the next century may be the last one for the wild tiger. The loss of tigers and degradation of their ecosystems would inevitably result in a historic cultural, spiritual and environmental catastrophe for the Tiger Range Countries.

**TIPPING POINT** 3,200 Current state of tiger worldwide

WWF with Global Tiger Recovery Program have the aim of reversing the trend and double the number of tigers by 2022

7,000

2022

century and now

100,000

POPULATION LOST Number of tigers at the beginning of the last

> 3,200 2012

40,000

WWF WITH GLOBAL TIGER RECOVERY PROGRAM

In November 2010, leaders of the tiger range governments met in St. Petersburg, Russia and agreed on the goal to double the number of wild tigers by 2022 (TX2). They presented the Global Tiger Recovery Programme, which represents the plan and commitments by the countries to achieve this laudable goal.

 Effectively manage, preserve, protect and enhance tiger habitats

POPULATION

- Eradicate poaching, smuggling, and illegal trade and demand for tigers, their parts and derivatives
- Restore tigers to their former range

SOURCE: WWF, Global Tiger Iniciative, Tiger Recovery Program

■Cooperate in trans-boundary landscape management and in combating illegal trade

21,500

13,800

2000

Engage with indigenous and local communities

are protected

Increase the effectiveness of tiger and habitat

## NATIONAL TIGER POPULATION ESTIMATES FROM RANGE COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS DECREASED IN RANGE LOST THE LAST DECADE Tiger conservation landscapes (TCLS) and historical range RUSSIAN ■ Tiger Conservation **FEDERATION** .andscapes (TCLs)\* Historical Range of Tiger, circa 1850 45 CHINA 17 **NEPAL VIETNAM** LAO P.D.R. BHUTAN 200 **INDIA** CAMBODIA THAIL AND 440 1,411 MALAYSIA BANGLADESH 23% MYANMAR 325 conservation landscapes

INDONESIA

## THREATS

While extensive habitat remains in some places, in most areas agriculture, clearing of forests for the timber trade and rapid development are forcing tigers into small, scattered

2010 2012

**ESPECIALLY ROAD NETWORKS** 



POACHING AND RETRIBUTIVE



**HABITAT LOSS AND** 



TIGER PARTS FOR MEDICINE



## TIGER AS UMBRELLA SPECIES

The Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) is based on the premise that the tiger crisis represents the larger biodiversity crisis in Asia. As forestdependent, apex predators, tigers are barometers of the health of their ecosystems ecosystems that support an immense wealth of biodiversity that can be protected under the tiger's umbrella.

**CULTURAL SERVICES. Tigers are highly** significant symbols in Asian cultures, in the spiritual beliefs and cultural. It's the national animal of many Tiger Range Countries (TRCs)

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES. Support agriculture by supplying fresh surface and ground water, protecting soil from erosion.

CARBON STORAGE AND SEQUESTRATION: On average, forests in TCLs have nearly 3.5 times the amount of carbon than forest areas outside TCLs. With 17 percent of global CO2 emissions coming from deforestation, protecting 1.2 million km2 of forest—the total area of TCLs—will help mitigate climate

NATURAL HAZARD REGULATION. Tiger habitats, mostly forests, ameliorate th effects of natural hazards such as floods, landslides, droughts, fires and storms.

WATERSHED PROTECTION. TCLs form significant parts of nine globally important watersheds, with a total catchment area of 5.8 million km2. They supply water to as many as 830 million people. They also Provide most of the electricity of some countries

MEDICINAL SERVICES. Tiger landscapes are re-positories of herbal plant richness. Where harvest is permitted, they contribute to a global trade in medicinal and aromatic plants that is estimated at more than US\$60 billion per year.



TOURISM. The charismatic megafauna living in TCLs are highly attractive to tourists, creating economic opportunities for local people in the ecotourism industry; ecotourism is the fastest growing and most profitable seg- ment of the tourism

POVERTY ALLEVIATION. TCLs contain pockets of deep poverty, with poverty levels often exceeding three times national averages. Poor people are highly dependent on forest ecosystem services including provisioning of water, food, medicine, fuel and fiber; it is estimated that  $80\,$ ercent of the income rural of poor in Southeast Asia is derived from the local biodiversity.

GUILLERMO MUNRO / CHINA DAILY