



# TIGER



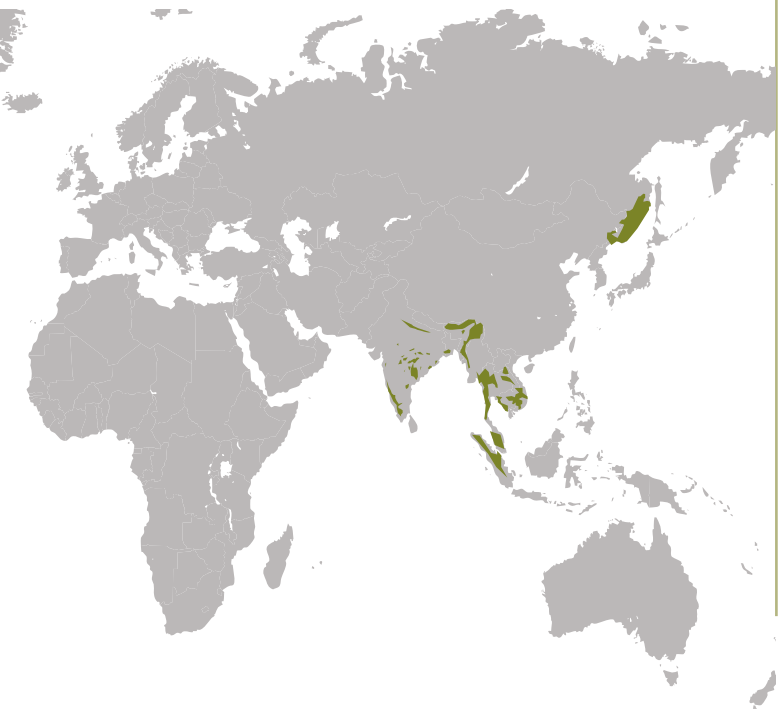
The tiger is one of the largest of the 'big cats' and the only striped cat which makes them instantly recognisable. They are at the top of the food chain in the wild.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

## Where they live

Tigers live in 13 countries, from India to south-east Asia, and in China and the Russian Far East. They can survive in a wide range of habitats, from tropical forests to tall grasslands, including coniferous forests, mangrove swamps and dry thorn forests.

[wwf.org.uk/wildlife/tigers/](http://wwf.org.uk/wildlife/tigers/)



## CHARACTERISTICS

- Powerful jaws enable them to deliver crushing bites to their prey.
- Distinctive reddish-orange to yellow coat with a white belly and black stripes. Their individual stripes are unique, as you will not find another tiger that has the same stripe pattern.
- Hunts on its own and stalks and ambushes its prey.
- Needs to be within 20m of its prey before making the final dash. They rely on explosive acceleration to catch it, and rarely chase it beyond a distance of 150 metres.

## DID YOU KNOW

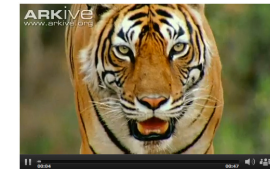
Depending on geographic location and other factors, their coat colour and markings may vary, as can their adult body size - from 75-300kg!

## FAMILY

Female tigers give birth to between two and four cubs each weighing about 1kg.

At birth, a tiger is tiny, blind and totally dependent on its mother. They can open their eyes from 6-14 days old.

Tigers learn to hunt and kill from around six months of age, but rely on their mother to kill prey until they are around 12-18 months old, and at around 2 years old they leave their family to find their own territory.



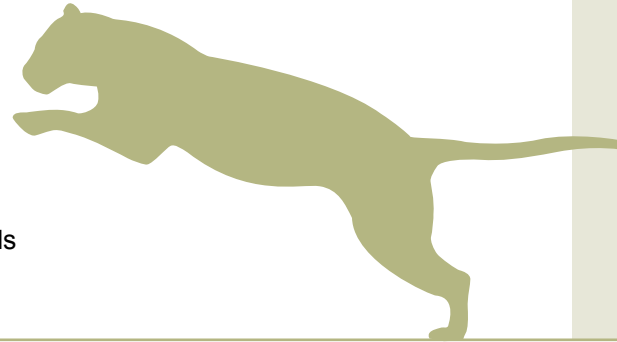
## VIDEO

Watch footage:

- [youtube.com/watch?v=IbLVRzfUddE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=IbLVRzfUddE)
- [tigers.panda.org](http://tigers.panda.org)
- [arkive.org/tiger/panthera-tigris/video-ti00.html](http://arkive.org/tiger/panthera-tigris/video-ti00.html)
- [arkive.org/tiger/panthera-tigris/video-ti11.html](http://arkive.org/tiger/panthera-tigris/video-ti11.html)
- [arkive.org/tiger/panthera-tigris/video-ti08b.html](http://arkive.org/tiger/panthera-tigris/video-ti08b.html)

## FEEDING

- They are at the top of the food chain in the wild.
- They are meat eaters (carnivores) and eat small and medium sized mammals like deer and wild boar, but they'll also eat smaller animals such as rodents and reptiles.

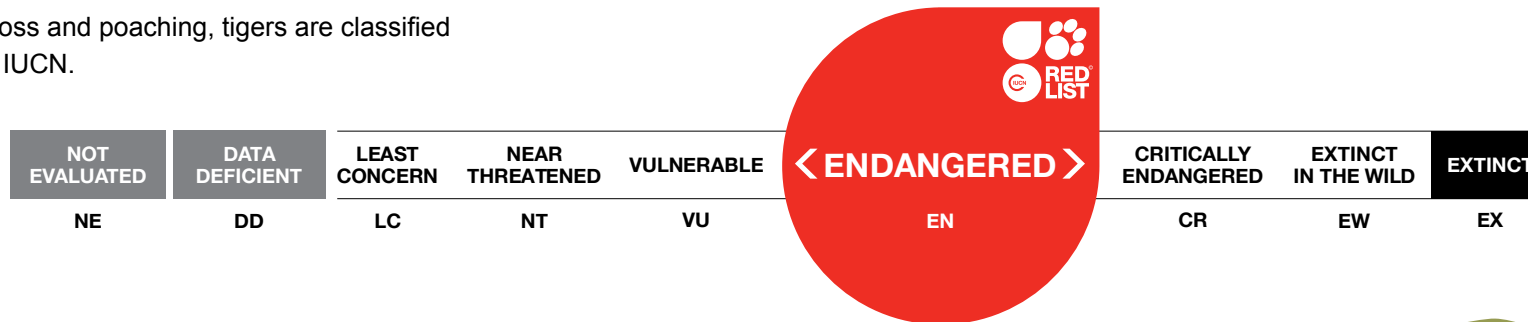


## DID YOU KNOW

Unlike other cats, tigers are great swimmers - in hot climates they often lay in streams or watering holes to cool off!

## CLASSIFICATION

Threatened by habitat loss and poaching, tigers are classified as **Endangered** by the IUCN.

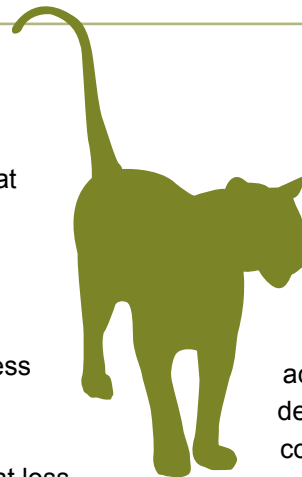


## STATUS

Tigers are killed for their body parts for use as rugs, luxury items, meat and in traditional Asian medicine.

Habitat loss has severely threatened their survival; as land becomes rapidly developed to meet the increasing demands of the human population, tigers become isolated in remaining fragments of wilderness and could ultimately die out.

Due to their natural prey declining because of over hunting and habitat loss, or if they become injured and struggle to catch their usual prey, tigers may take domestic livestock for food causing conflict with local farmers.



Globally it's estimated that there are around 3,900 wild tigers – an increase from 3,200 in 2010. We're working to double the number of wild tigers, to over 6,000, by 2022, the next Chinese year of the tiger.

Their habitat has been destroyed, degraded and fragmented by human activities, including the clearing of forests for agriculture and timber trade and development activities such as the building of road networks, therefore tigers compete increasingly with humans for space.

