TIGERS IN DANGER!


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Worldwide, there are less than 3000 wild tigers left.

In the 1950s, Malaysia had about 3000 tigers, but today, numbers have dropped to about 500. In the last century, three tiger sub-species, Balinese, Javan and Caspian tigers have been exterminated, and the South China tiger dangles dangerously on the precipice of extinction.

The Malayan tiger is one of the remaining six sub-species. The tiger is primarily threatened by poaching, loss of habitat, over hunting of prey, and retaliatory killing due to conflict with people. The tiger worldwide has lost 93% of its original habitat, and suffered a 97% drop in its population.


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Threatened tigers

Some people believe eating the flesh of the tiger, or taking medicines made from its body parts, will make them stronger and healthier. Some believe tiger parts have magic powers and are worn for protection or displayed for decoration.

People also compete with the tiger to hunt prey species such as deer and wild pig. Illegal and uncontrolled hunting of these species limit food available to tigers.

When tigers don't have enough to eat, they may be driven to attack domestic livestock. This leads to human-tiger conflict, as the villagers suffer financial loss and difficulty, and often live in fear.

Sometimes, people are attacked by tigers, causing death or injury. As a result, the tiger may be killed by angry villagers, or captured by the authorities and sent to a zoo for the rest of its life.

The disappearance of forests is also of great concern for the survival of the tiger, which needs large, contiguous blocks of forest. Forests, however, are cleared for agriculture, highways, human settlements and other development. Less than 4% of Peninsular Malaysia's virgin rainforests remain untouched.

TAKE ACTION!

- Learn about tigers from reliable sources and share with your friends and family.
- Sign up for tiger news at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat/
- Join and support conservation organisations such as Malaysian Nature Society or WWF-Malaysia.
- Write to the media and the authorities on relevant issues such as indiscriminate development, illegal logging, and poaching to voice your concerns.
- Do not eat tiger meat, or wild deer and wild pig meat (the tiger's main diet). Stay away from all wildmeat restaurants.
- Ask for herbal alternatives instead of traditional medicines claiming to contain tiger or other endangered species.
- SMS reports any suspected crimes against tigers and tigers' prey to the Tiger Crime Hotline at 019 3564 194.

Extinction is forever. There is no turning back.

TRAFFIC the wildlife trade monitoring network

THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION SAVE THE TIGER FUND

MYCAT Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers