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BIOLOGY

AMUR TIGERS FACTS



Description: Amur tigers are one of the larger tiger subspecies. The average weight for males is 160-190 kg, while females are smaller, at 110-130 kg. Males, females and cubs can be distinguished by their tracks: a male's paw pad measures 10.5 – 14.5 cm across, female's 8.5 – 9.5 cm, and a cub's from 5.5 – 10 cm. (Male cubs, after one year, usually have paw measurements already larger than their mothers'). Amur tiger coat colour is a lighter orange than other tiger subspecies and becomes even more so in winter. Their coat is longer and thicker than other subspecies due to the colder climate with a thick mane around the neck and extra fur on their paws to protect them against the sub-freezing conditions.

Breeding: Sexual maturity is reached around 4 years, but varies with gender and is earlier in zoo tigers. When a female is ready to mate she will signal by leaving scratch marks and urine deposits to attract males.

Longevity: In the wild, a healthy tiger can live between 15 - 20 years, but in captivity, they could easily reach 20 years or older.





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THREATS

AMUR TIGERS FACTS



In Russia and China, key threats are predominantly due to human activities including poaching, development, and conflict situations.

Human-Tiger Conflict: WildCats support NGOs and Government agencies to manage all aspects of conflict including rehabilitation and release of injured or orphaned tigers, and reintroducing animals into carefully identified remote areas where big cats had become locally extinct.

Poaching: Research has demonstrated that human-caused mortality accounts for 75-85% of all Amur tiger deaths, with an estimated 30 tigers being killed each year. Wild tigers are still coveted for their fur and body parts and implementation of rigorous antipoaching methods (such as SMART*) is essential for the growth of this fragile wild population.

*Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool

Logging: When performed selectively across the big cats range, habitat loss due to logging does not form a serious direct threat. However, the creation of logging roads increases access and disturbance and leads to increased poaching and fire frequency.

- @ConserveWildCat
- @Conservewildcats
- @WildCatsConservationAlliance



**Fewer than 500 wild
Amur tigers remain**



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DIET

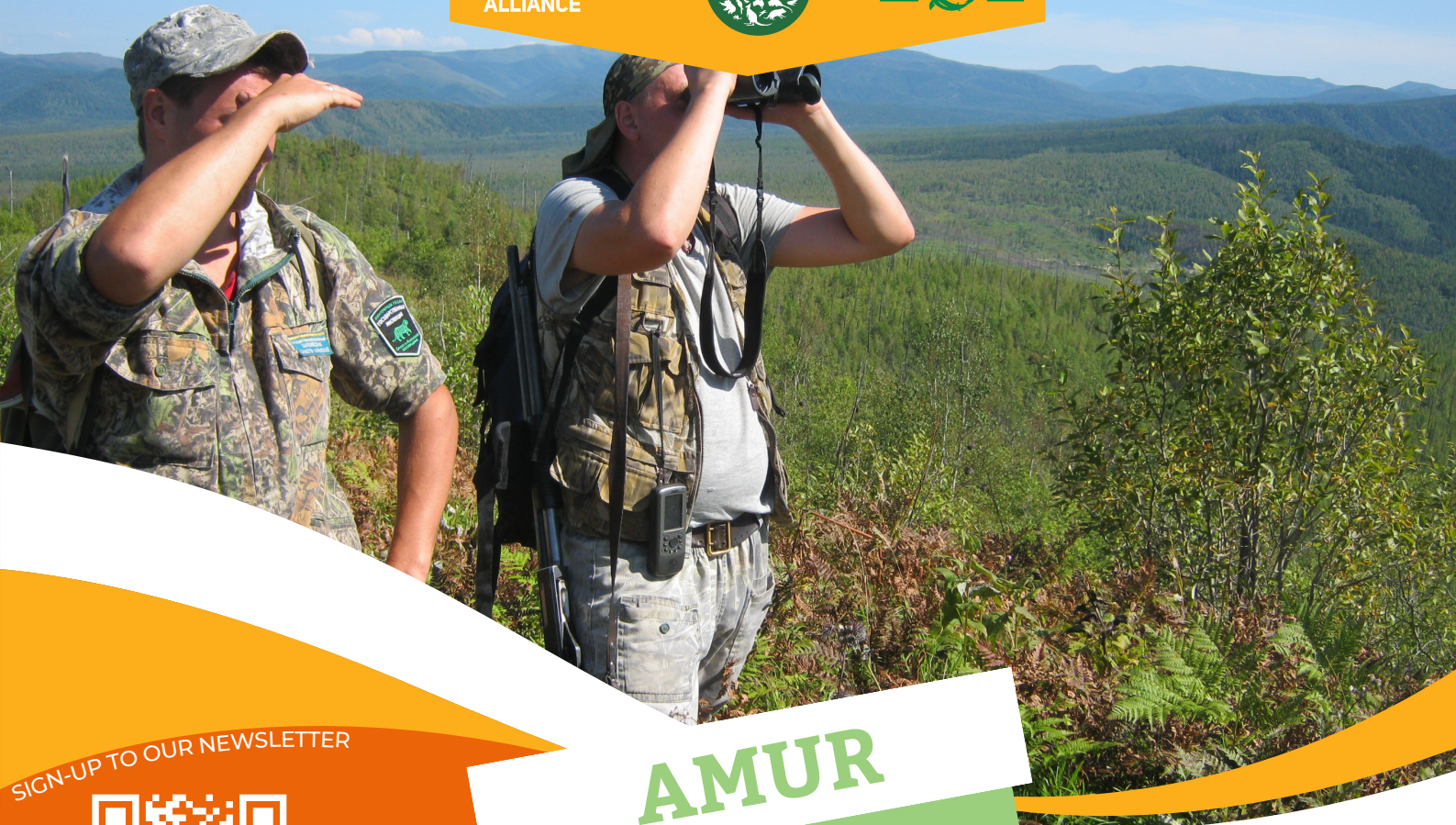
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Prey: The Amur tiger needs large prey to survive, and its main prey species are ungulates – wild boar, sika deer and red deer. In the summer, tigers may prey on smaller animals such as badgers and raccoon dogs. Bears comprise about 3% of the tiger’s diet in the Russian Far East. There are rare cases on record of adult brown bears being killed and eaten by Amur tigers. Brown bear cubs are killed more often (indicating that male tigers can drive away the defending mother bear) and the smaller Himalayan black bear also appears on the Amur tiger’s menu.

Hunting habits: Research by the Wildlife Conservation Society together with Russian scientists has shown that a female Amur tiger has a home range of up to 20 x 20 kilometres, and some males patrol an area as large as 40 x 40 kilometres. These large home ranges are due to naturally low prey densities in the temperate climate found in the Russian Far East. The home range of a male in his prime can include that of several females. As a result of these extensive territories, it is clear that a very large area, about the size of Italy, is needed to support a viable population consisting of several hundred animals.





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HABITAT

AMUR TIGERS FACTS



Habitat: Key habitats for the Amur tiger are forests which have a complex composition and structure, resulting in a mosaic of forest types that vary with elevation, topography and history. The Amur tiger is the only subspecies that has adapted to live in the harsh, cold northern climate.

History: The Amur tiger's range once included former Manchuria in China and the Korean peninsula. The Amur tiger has since become extinct in South Korea, and while its status in North Korea is unknown, it is unlikely that more than a few, if any, animals remain.

In China, the Amur tiger is dependent on the small source population in the Amur leopard's range across the border in SW Primorye in Russia. With support from WCS and WWF, in 2001 China established the Hunchun Tiger and Leopard Reserve along the border. Since then more land has been protected, with the large Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park established in 2016. Large tracts of suitable forest habitat remain in NE China, and with improved forest management and antipoaching, the Amur tiger and leopard populations in NE China have started a fragile recover.



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