Nepal
Bengal Tigers

ZSL CAMERA TRAP IMAGE OF A BENGAL TIGER

OVERVIEW

In 2010, 13 tiger range countries pledged to double the global tiger population by 2022. Nepal not only met this goal but exceeded it, tripling its Bengal tiger population. However, this success brings challenges. With the increase in tiger numbers comes an increase in human-wildlife conflict (HWC). More tigers put a strain on prey species, pushing the tigers into human areas to hunt if there isn't enough food in the forest. On average 11 people a year were killed by tigers between 2018 - 2024 in Nepal.

KEY FACTS

Population: <355 (Nepal)

Breeding program*: Yes

Remaining distribution: India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh

IUCN Red List Status:

*A zoo breeding programme creates a pool of genetically healthy animals, ensuring a safe backup population that could be used to help restock the wild in case of an extinction event.

PROJECTS

Zoological Society of London WildCats Conservation Alliance has been funding wild tiger conservation projects in Nepal since 2014 implemented by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL Nepal).

In 2015, ZSL, helped by funds from WildCats, was instrumental in upgrading Parsa Wildlife Reserve to a full National Park, extending the area by 129km sq.

Now a dedicated National Park, Parsa is one of the vital landscapes supporting the increasing number of Bengal tigers in Nepal. The 2022 National Tiger Survey estimated 41 tigers in PNP, a 127% increase from 2018.

In and around this area, WildCats has granted £204,697 for a range of activities. These include the monitoring of tiger populations, landscape restoration, strengthening law enforcement and conflict mitigation.

The current project aims to secure Parsa's tiger population as a source for neighbouring forests while reducing their chance of conflict with surrounding villages. This is achieved by ensuring the tigers have everything they need in Parsa. Grassland improvements sustain prey species and new water sources are life sustaining. The team also use GSM cameras to share tiger activity warnings with communities along the southern fringes.