

Thailand Indochinese Tigers



FREELAND CAMERA TRAP IMAGE OF AN INDOCHINESE TIGER

OVERVIEW

Once widespread across Southeast Asia, today fewer than 223 Indochinese tigers are left in the wild and Thailand remains the last stronghold for this endangered subspecies. Thailand's Western Forest Complex (WEFCOM), one of Southeast Asia's most vital conservation landscapes, spans 18 protected areas. This vast wilderness is home to the largest remaining population of wild Indochinese tigers.

PROJECTS

Freeland Foundation

Khao Laem National Park (KLNP), part of the Western Forest Complex (WEFCOM), was believed to have lost its tigers after dam construction in 1984 submerged its lowland forests. In 2016, a Freeland camera trap survey revealed tigers had adapted to the park's highlands.

These tigers face multiple threats, including limited prey, predator competition, human conflict, poaching, logging, road development, and illegal mining. Since 2019, WildCats Conservation Alliance has supported Freeland's work in KLNP, focusing on camera trap surveys and ranger training in data collection, enforcement, ecological surveys, and safety protocols.

Community workshops also foster collaboration and reduce conflicts. Today, KLNP sustains a small but stable breeding tiger population and transient individuals, with ongoing prey recovery offering hope for tiger conservation in WEFCOM.

Zoological Society of London

From 2025, WildCats will support ZSL to combat illegal tiger trade by integrating its cyber wildlife trade monitoring with national law enforcement systems. Trade patterns will be analysed and networks identified to produce intelligence to support law enforcement.

KEY FACTS

Population: <223

Breeding program*: No

Remaining distribution: Thailand / Myanmar

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.

