



Zoological Society of London (ZSL)



WildCats Conservation Alliance has supported wild tiger conservation in Nepal since 2014 through projects led by ZSL Nepal.

In 2015, ZSL, with funds from WildCats, was instrumental in upgrading Parsa Wildlife Reserve to a full National Park, extending the area by 129 km².

Parsa National Park (PNP) borders Chitwan National Park, home to Nepal's largest tiger population, and now supports its own breeding population of 41 tigers. Since 2019, ZSL and park staff have recorded images of seven tiger cubs, demonstrating that Parsa is a safe breeding site for tigers.

However, habitat quality is under pressure from woodland encroachment, invasive plants, and climate-related extreme weather. If habitat is not maintained and restored, more wildlife will move outside park boundaries, increasing conflict with people and limiting the long-term potential of the Chitwan-Parsa landscape for tigers.

In 2026, Nepal will carry out a new tiger census, providing updated data on tiger numbers and showing whether the population has increased, declined, or remained stable since the 2022 census.



<355

Bengal tigers left in Nepal

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

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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 and that communities living adjacent to the park are equipped to prevent and mitigate potential conflict.

The 2026-2027 main focal areas for the WildCats funded project, which is part of a much wider landscape approach are:

- Improving the quality and availability of grassland to support and improve tiger prey base populations through manual grassland cutting and invasive plant removal to create grazing lawns for tiger prey.
- At a key water source in PNP, the project will implement targeted upstream measures to improve downstream flow and maintain more reliable dry-season water access for wildlife, with seasonal and camera-based monitoring to track results.
- Reducing human-tiger conflict incidents through the mobilisation of 15 citizen scientists 'Bagh Mitras' (friends of tigers) and 90 community awareness sessions reaching around 900 local people.
- Improving understanding of tiger and other wildlife movement in the high-risk fringe between Parsa National Park and the Parsa Collaborative Forest, so vulnerable communities can be identified and prioritised for outreach. This will include deploying 20 camera traps for 63 days.

