



Freeland

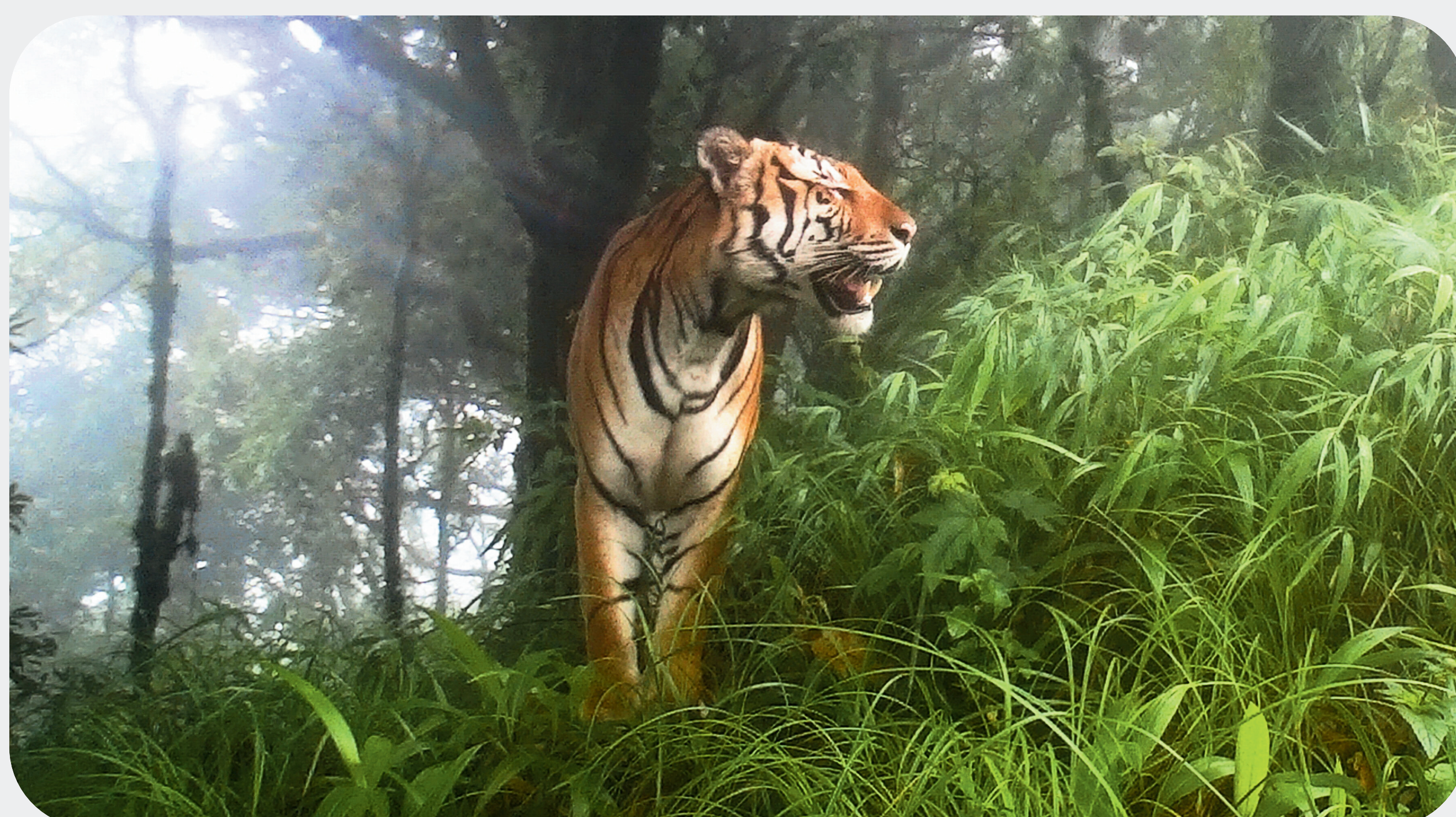


Khao Laem National Park (KLNP) is part of Thailand's Western Forest Complex. People thought tigers had disappeared there after a dam flooded much of the lowland forest in 2001. But in 2016, camera traps set by Freeland showed that tigers were still present and had adapted to living in the highlands.

These tigers are still under pressure. They face a shortage of prey, disease, conflict with people, poaching, forest fires, logging, infrastructure development, and illegal mining.

Now in its tenth year, funding from WildCats is helping to protect these remaining Indochinese tigers by:

- Building a clearer picture of tiger numbers, prey, and threats through regular surveys and ranger patrols, while also improving disease monitoring and emergency response
- Upgrading park management by training rangers to use modern monitoring tools and real-time systems, expanding surveillance, and improving crime scene investigation and reporting skills
- Tackling threats directly through outreach in high-risk communities, school education, and partnerships with border police and civil society groups to address illegal grazing and poaching



<223

Indochinese tigers left in the wild



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 19 protected areas covering 19,000km². This vast wilderness is home to the largest remaining population of wild Indochinese tigers.

KEY FACTS

Population: <223

Breeding program: No

Remaining distribution: Thailand / Myanmar

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Zoological Society of London (ZSL)



Thailand is a major hub in the illegal tiger trade, acting as both a source and transit country for trafficked tigers and their parts. Despite strict laws prohibiting the trade, poaching and trafficking persist, driven by demand for traditional medicine and luxury goods.

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is dominated by organised crime networks that exploit Thailand's strategic location and transport links. Increasingly, IWT has moved online, making detection and enforcement more challenging. Law enforcement agencies face gaps in intelligence, coordination, and expertise which hinder efforts to combat trafficking.

In 2025, WildCats provided ZSL with a grant to tackle illegal tiger trade by linking online wildlife-trade monitoring with Thailand's law enforcement systems.

In year two, with a WildCats grant, the project will help the Department of National Parks (DNP) become a stronger hub for tiger-trade intelligence and joint action by producing:

- one tiger-crime dataset
- at least four intelligence reports
- practical inter-agency coordination guidelines
- knowledge-sharing workshops for more than 20 law enforcement officers

