

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) is an initiative funded by the German Cooperation (BMZ) through KfW Development Bank. The ITHCP was created in 2014 to contribute to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme, a landmark agreement adopted by 13 countries in 2010 that aimed to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022. Listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, tiger populations have declined by almost 97% in the last century, from around 100,000 individuals in 1900 to 3,200 in 2010. Updated figures for 2022 report an estimated 4,500 tigers in the wild.

The tiger populations have declined by almost



human-wildlife conflict,

poaching,

habitat loss & degradation.













HABITATS



PEOPLE

The ITHCP supports a wide range of organisations, including governments, national and international NGOs, to implement science-based conservation action with contributions for Species, Habitats and People – all of which are critical to achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework. Key components include:

- Protecting tiger species through anti-poaching and human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures.
- Preserving tiger habitats through the effective management of protected areas, buffer zones and corridors.
- Supporting people living in and around tiger habitats to reduce dependence on natural resources and promote alternative livelihoods and income sources.

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Between 2014 and 2021, the first phase of the programme supported a portfolio of 12 projects operating in priority Tiger Conservation Landscapes across six Tiger Range Countries, namely in

INDIA,
NEPAL,
BANGLADESH,
BHUTAN,
MYANMAR AND
INDONESIA.

Currently, as part of Phases II and III, the programme is scaling up activities from impactful projects implemented under Phase I. In response to changing tiger population dynamics, ITHCP is also supporting projects in high altitude ecosystems, where tigers are expanding their range as a possible consequence of climate change.

All of ITHCP activities are accompanied by a rigorous safeguard process.



These projects contributed to an average increase in tiger populations within project sites of 40% and to the restoration of 6,700 km² of habitat. Tackling key threats to wild tigers, more than 8.000 staff were trained in anti-poaching activities and about 5,000 were provided with equipment to improve patrolling effectiveness. In addition, more than 80,000 community members living in buffer zones or corridor areas benefitted from sustainable livelihood activities. This included supporting eco-tourism, providing improved cooking stoves to reduce fuelwood consumption and introducing sustainable agricultural practices. Communities also benefitted from humanwildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation measures, such as predator proof fencing and the introduction of HWC management systems.



The ITHCP will be implemented until 2027, contributing a total of €47.5 million for tiger conservation since the programme's inception in 2014. From 2023, the fourth phase of the programme will expand its focus to include new countries and other pantherine species, in particular leopards and clouded leopards. Extending habitat conservation and human-wildlife conflict management efforts to these species is expected to help prepare the ground for tiger recovery where these have largely disappeared.

Following the update of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme in 2023, the ITHCP will continue to work with governments and civil society to strengthen tiger conservation and biodiversity in tiger landscapes and beyond.







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