Did You Know?

1. “Tigers now occupy 7 percent of their historical range, and in the past decade, the area occupied by tigers has decreased by as much as 41 percent, according to some estimates” (Dinerstein 508).
2. “One explanation for the recent rapid decline is that Asian countries' growing affluence has allowed more consumers to purchase products made with tiger parts” (Dinerstein 508).
3. In total, there were eight subspecies of the tiger: Bengal, South China, Indochinese, Siberian, Sumatran, Bali, Javan, and Caspian; however, the Bali, Javan, and Caspian subspecies are now extinct (National Geographic).
4. “Poaching and habitat loss and fragmentation have reduced the global population of the tiger to fewer than 3,500 and the pressures continue to mount” (Global Tiger Initiative).
5. “Under the current scenario, it is predicted that the tiger may well be extinct within the coming decade” (Global Tiger Initiative).
6. “Habitats where wild tigers live are high-value ecosystems that provide vital services to humans, such as carbon sequestration, recreational services, maintenance of hydrological balance, crop pollination, protection from natural disasters and soil erosion and preservation of genetic diversity of plants” (Global Tiger Initiative).
7. The extinction of tiger will throw off the balance of the current ecosystem since the tiger is on the top of the food chain and is one of the biggest predators.
8. “Poaching of tigers continues unabated due to the weak institutional capacity for wildlife-law enforcement in most tiger range countries and the burgeoning global demand for tiger parts” (Global Tiger Initiative).
9. “For more than 1,000 years the use of tiger parts has been included in the traditional Chinese medicine regimen. Because of the tiger's strength and mythical power, the Chinese culture believes that the tiger has medicinal qualities, which helps treat chronic ailments, cure disease and replenish the body's essential energy” (Single Vision Inc.).
10. “CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival” (CITES).
11. Although CITES is put in place, international trade of tiger parts is possible because it is hard to distinguish tiger parts (Single Vision Inc.).
12. “The 3,200 tigers left in the wild are scattered in dozens of tiny, isolated populations, and the threats that brought them to this state – habitat destruction, poaching, and revenge killing – are still present” (National Tigers for Tigers Coalition).
13. The “Global Tiger Forum (GTF) is the only intergovernmental and international body established with members from willing countries to embark on a global campaign to protect the Tiger” (Global Tiger Forum).
14. “Tigers are visible in only 7% areas of their natural home range” (Global Tiger Forum News, Volume 4 No 10 December 2011).
15. “Although higher in number, the Bengal tiger is more prone to extinction because they have the highest interaction with human beings” (Global Tiger Forum News, Volume 4 No 10 December 2011).
16. “Illegal trade in wildlife in Myanmar (formerly Burma) is a serious threat to many species. Among the numerous species of wildlife openly traded in markets throughout the
country are wild cats” (The Wild Cat Trade in Myanmar, A Traffic Southeast Asia Report).

17. “Wild cat species are threatened by habitat loss and many are threatened by conflict with humans and by loss of prey (Sunquist and Sunquist, 2002). However, of all the threats facing cats, hunting for the illegal trade has the greatest potential to do maximum harm in minimal time (Nowell and Jackson, 1996)” (The Wild Cat Trade in Myanmar, A Traffic Southeast Asia Report).

18. “Once threatened by poor villagers looking to get enough money to feed their families, tigers are now being pursued by professional killers, armed with the latest technology, working for highly organized and sophisticated crime networks around the world generating an estimated $20 billion annually” (National Tigers for Tigers Coalition).

19. “The demand [for poaching] comes primarily from China where traditional medicine claims that ingesting body parts of animals can transfer the qualities of that animal to the person who consumes them” (National Tigers for Tigers Coalition).

20. “On June 12-13th, 2013 members of the National T4T Coalition went to Washington DC to work with the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) on Capitol Hill” (National Tigers for Tigers Coalition).


22. “With just one tiger, we protect around 25,000 acres of forest. To save tigers, we need to protect the forest habitats across Asia where they live. By saving biologically diverse places, we allow tigers to roam and protect the many other endangered species that live there” (World Wildlife Fund).

23. “As a large predator, the tiger plays a key role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. These ecosystems supply both nature and people with fresh water, food, and health– which means by saving the tiger, we are helping people too” (World Wildlife Fund).

24. “We can save wild tigers. In 2010 the 13 tiger range countries committed to TX2 – to double wild tiger numbers by 2022, the next year of the tiger. WWF is driving TX2 forward” (World Wildlife Fund).

25. “Due to an increasing human population, humans and tigers are living in close proximity in many places across their range, which far too often results in human-tiger conflict situations. Wild tigers are frequently persecuted when villagers take retaliatory measures to protect their livestock” (Panthera).

26. “Tigers need intact habitat in order to survive but their habitat is increasingly under threat and either being destroyed or fragmented from agricultural developments, especially large monocultures like palm oil plantations” (Panthera).

27. “The Tigers in the wild signifies, healthy livelihood, protects the genetic diversity, and is the guardian and an indicator of a healthy forests” (Global Tiger Forum).

28. “India, widely considered the stronghold for wild tigers, suffered a shock in 2005 when it was found that intense poaching had eliminated all tigers from what had been considered well-protected sanctuaries, such as the Sariska Tiger Reserve” (BioScience Oxford Journals).

“Most range states have legislation in place to protect tigers from poachers. Unfortunately, the lack of resources for enforcement and the dearth of functioning antipoaching information networks result in inadequate patrolling” (BioScience Oxford Journals).

List of International Organizations and NGO’s:

1. INTERPOL: http://www.interpol.int/en
3. Traffic-International: http://www.traffic.org/
8. Wildlife Trust of India (WTI): http://www.wti.org.in/

Photography:

Bengal Tigers
Source: National Geographic
Photographer: Michael Nichols
Direct link: http://www.globaltigerforum.com/image.php
Source: World Wildlife Fund

Direct link: http://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/leonardo-dicaprio-foundation-awards-3-million-for-tigers

Video:

http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/bengal-tiger/