



**TIGERS
UNITED**
UNIVERSITY
CONSORTIUM
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



CLEMSON  N

The tiger runs deep through Clemson's psyche. It's a symbol of our pride and our passion. Just as wild tigers dominate their territory, so too do Clemson Tigers dominate in the classroom, on the playing field and as leaders on the global stage.

The tiger is at the heart of our pursuit for excellence. It is inspiration for the kind of university we want to be.

Yet, tragically, the tiger is in danger. Professionals estimate that fewer than 5,000 tigers still exist in the wild – a number that is roughly equal to Clemson's incoming class of first-year students. Those that remain face an uncertain future.

In response, Clemson has chartered the Tigers United University Consortium, an organization composed of Clemson, Auburn University, Louisiana State University and the University of Missouri.

The universities are combining their expertise in education, research, technology and communications for a common goal: saving tigers.





WILD TIGER RANGE

Tigers are native to 13 nations, known as tiger range countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. In these countries, however, tigers face constant pressure from poaching and habitat loss.

CLEMSON'S TIGER RANGE

Research is primarily focused in India, where 70% of the world's wild tigers roam.

Our goal is to on-board new student-faculty teams that may focus their research in other tiger ranges.



SUPPORT STUDENTS SAVE TIGERS

Tigers United at Clemson University has committed to ***raising \$1M to initiate five more student-faculty teams*** at Clemson focused on tiger conservation.

These teams combine the passion and dedication of the students working to save tigers and the seasoned expertise of their faculty counterparts. Together, these teams tackle real-world projects across the globe.

Donations support student tuition, international travel, research equipment, housing stipends and faculty supervisory time.

Learn about the graduate students Tigers United has supported at Clemson and the amazing research they have conducted across the globe. A gift to Tigers United at Clemson University directly impacts the success of these, and future, projects.



SUPPORT THE CLEMSON STUDENTS SAVING TIGERS BY DONATING
AT CLEMSON.EDU/TIGERS-UNITED.

TRAILGUARD AI CAMERA SYSTEM

GET TO KNOW: JEREMY DERTIEN, PH.D.

Jeremy Dertien, Ph.D., is a 2021 Clemson wildlife biology graduate and postdoctoral researcher whose work with Professor Rob Baldwin, Ph.D., RESOLVE NGO, the Indian Forest Service and others has resulted in the novel deployment of an artificially intelligent trail camera system known as TrailGuard AI.

The technology, since its installment in the Kanha-Pench region of central India in 2022, has allowed the Indian Forest Service to **track wild tigers in real time** to prevent poachers from harming tigers and tigers from harming villagers. Not only does the system deploy real-time images of **ONLY tigers** to the guards, but the cameras are also **highly efficient** in terms of battery life and size, making them virtually invisible to poachers and self-sufficient in the forests for long periods of time.

There is no other technology quite like TrailGuard AI. The project has been so successful that it is being expanded to other regions of the world and wildlife projects. Tigers United at Clemson University is proud to have provided start-up funding and on-the-ground support to the team throughout the duration of this project, which continues to evolve and make **tangible impacts**.



DERTIEN HOLDS A WORKSHOP WITH INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (IFS) STAFF AFTER THE DEPLOYMENT OF TRAILGUARD AI. THE CAMERAS SEND PHOTOS OF ONLY TIGERS TO IFS STAFF IN NEAR REAL TIME.

HUMAN-TIGER CONFLICT MITIGATION

GET TO KNOW: HRISHITA NEGI

Hrishita Negi, a Ph.D. candidate at Clemson University, is undertaking research in Central India's globally famous tiger landscape between the Kanha and Pench tiger parks.

Both reserves are important tiger source sites in Central India. Therefore, it is critical to maintain the viability of the link between the two to ensure the permeability of dispersing animals like tigers. With approximately **400 communities and many ethnic tribes** inhabiting the forest interiors, the landscape is multi-use with human habitations.

Hrishita is gathering ecological and social insights to help formulate **strategies for human-wildlife conflict mitigation** in the region. **She conducted 644 interviews** with residents in the region to acquire an in-depth grasp of the subjective reality of living near tigers and their conflict experience. Her continued research in the area and the trust she established with the community allowed for the successful deployment of TrailGuard AI; she collaborated with Dertien and the RESOLVE team to implement the system in the Kanha-Pench corridor in 2022.

As Tigers United continues to support student work abroad, **Negi's research and operational success in India will be used as a case study for future students to navigate the landscape.**



NEGI TEACHES CHILDREN ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF WILD TIGERS AT THE MOWGLI SCHOOL IN CENTRAL INDIA

INDIA'S TIGER CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

GET TO KNOW: PRAMOD YADAV, PH.D.

Pramod Yadav, Ph.D., investigated and addressed tiger conservation in the Himalayas, highlighting the interactions between tigers and people.

Tiger numbers have rapidly increased in recent years causing them to venture into **higher-altitude landscapes**. Anecdotal evidence and records indicate the presence of tigers above 2,000 meters in the Himalayas. Yadav's research **identifies and addresses tiger conservation issues** in the region by understanding the nature, extent and trends of tiger conservation between 2000 and 2020. He found that around **216 studies** have been conducted primarily focused on tiger habitat, ecology and regional conflicts.

In the state of Sikkim in northern India, he conducted **42 interviews** to understand local communities' perceptions of tigers and tiger conservation. His study summarizes the **strengths and challenges in India's tiger conservation environment** and identifies the **research, policy and community mechanisms** that can continue to promote tiger conservation in the Himalayan region. His dissertation which he defended and passed in December 2022, provides lessons for other tiger range countries that have experienced less conservation success with **recommendations that can be transferred to other species and conservation landscapes**.

Pramod Yadav defended his research to a committee at Clemson University and graduated in December 2022.



**YADAV CONDUCTS INTERVIEWS WITH RESIDENTS IN THE HIMALAYAS
IN 2022 FOR HIS TIGER CONSERVATION RESEARCH**

YOUR IMPACT

As Clemson Tigers, we can't sit back as the few tigers left dwindle down to the point of extinction. We must take a stand alongside our fellow tiger schools to protect our beloved mascot.

You can help save the Clemson mascot by supporting our students as they work on the ground across the globe to find practical ways to save wild tigers and help them live in harmony with people.

Your donation will directly support student tuition, international travel, research equipment, housing stipends and faculty supervisory time.



WAYS TO GIVE

Use the online GIVE form at Clemson.edu/tigers-united or contact Dr. Brett Wright, Tigers United Director, at wright@clemson.edu to make a pledge.



THE CLEMSON TEAM



Brett Wright, Ph.D.

Director
Tigers United

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Wright is Professor and Dean Emeritus of Clemson University's College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences. He is former Chairman, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. Currently, he serves as Special Assistant to the Provost as Director, Tigers United University Consortium. Over 3+ decades, Dr. Wright's research has focused on applying behavioral science research to problems associated with the management of park and environmental resources.



Rob Baldwin, Ph.D.

Professor and
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Wildlife Conservation

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Baldwin helped establish Tigers United and is university coordinator for Clemson. He is Professor and Endowed Chair of Conservation in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation at Clemson University, where he teaches in the conservation biology undergraduate program and advises graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in wildlife and fisheries biology.

Baldwin's career has focused on systematic approaches to understanding and planning for landscape-level changes that will influence the ability of vulnerable species to withstand and recover from human-caused disturbance, especially urbanization.



Kayla Rogers, M.A.

Assistant Director
Tigers United

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Rogers joined Tigers United in 2022 as assistant director. She handles the day-to-day operations for the Consortium, advancing its mission and communicating its vision with stakeholders around the world through brand management, marketing and public relations.

Rogers is "all in" on saving the tiger mascot after experiencing the majesty of tigers through the AZA-accredited SSP tiger program at ZooTampa, where she served as Brand Manager before moving to Clemson.

THE CLEMSON TEAM



Tim Boosinger, Ph.D.

Provosts Liaison,
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Boosinger is a 1976 Purdue DVM graduate who earned his doctorate in pathology at Purdue in 1983, the same year he joined the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine faculty as an assistant professor of pathobiology. In 1993, he was named associate dean for academic affairs and two years later became dean of the college. He served in that role until 2011. In 2012, he was appointed provost of Auburn University after serving as interim for a year. He retired from his 35-year career at Auburn in 2018 as provost and professor emeritus, and now serves as an integral part of the Tigers United team as he works with the provosts of each university to move forward the mission and vision of the consortium.



Matt Brownlee, Ph.D.

Associate Department Chair and
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Brownlee is an Associate Professor of Parks, Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation in PRTM with a joint appointment in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation. Brownlee's interdisciplinary research links outdoor recreation, park planning and resource management. His applied research supplies information to help park and protected area professionals and natural resource managers measure, characterize, and evaluate human-nature connections. Brownlee specializes in research design and analytical methods, specifically related to applied social science research in parks and protected areas.



Lori Dickes, Ph.D.

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Dickes is an Associate Professor and the Graduate Program Director for the Policy Studies Ph.D. program and the Master's in Public Administration Program at Clemson University in the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences and College of Education. With a background in applied economics and policy, she is an interdisciplinary scholar that has worked across disciplines on a wide range of subject areas. Her research interests include regional and rural economic development policy and the economic and social impacts of natural resource policy and management. She has expertise in economic and/or cost-benefit analysis and policy evaluation and has strong background in collaborative governance/stakeholder engagement, survey research and quantitative secondary data analysis.

