



Will tiger survive?

Chwalibog, André; Knoka, A M

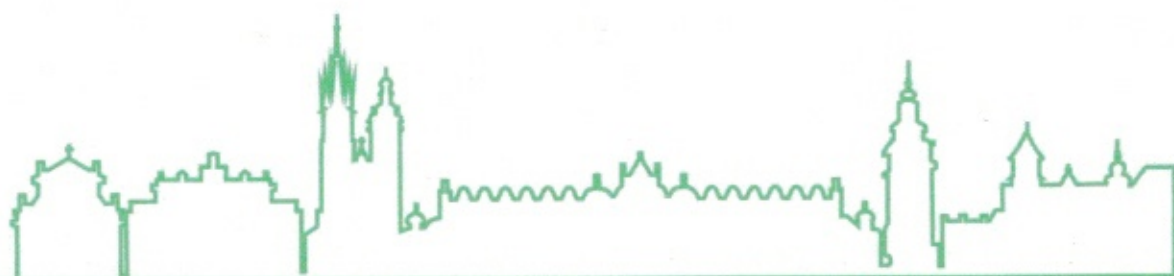
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WILL TIGER SURVIVE?

Chwalibog A.*¹, Knoka A.M.²

¹Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark,
*ach@sund.ku.dk

²Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology, University of Latvia, Latvia

Introduction The tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is one of the largest cat species. Tigers are carnivorous primal predators, needing large habitats that support their food requirements. At present, there are only approximately 3,890 tigers in the wild, while most tigers (about 10,000) are in captivity in zoos, circuses or privately owned. The tiger is a highly endangered species, and it is crucial to find new ways to protect and conserve this amazing animal [1].

Subspecies There used to be eleven subspecies of tigers, but due to habitat loss and poaching, there are now only six tiger subspecies. The Trinil and Japanese tigers became extinct in prehistoric times. In the mid-20th century, the Bali, Caspian and Javan tiger subspecies went extinct. The six remaining subspecies are: Bengal (*Panthera tigris tigris*), Indochinese (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) also called Corbett's tiger, Malayan (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*), Siberian (*Panthera tigris altaica*) known as Amur tiger, South China (*Panthera tigris amoyensis*) known as Amoy or Xiamen tiger and Sumatran (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*).

Conservation There are a few strategies proposed and/or used in tiger conservation:

- _Monitoring tigers and their prey availability; camera traps, and collecting excrement samples to estimate animal movements and nutritional habits
- _Protecting and developing tiger habitat; World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) started to study how to connect tiger fragmented landscapes by developing “biological corridors” between separated habitats
- _Eliminating tiger trade and preventing human–tiger conflicts; governmental legislation

Conclusion We have outlined the current status of the population and conservation efforts to preserve the species, to inspire the scientific community to protect tigers from the total extinction. The most important thing is not to lose the hope that in the future these magnificent beings will regain their numbers. Of course, extinct subspecies cannot return, but we must try to save what is still left.

References [1] Knoka AM, Sawosz E, Chwalibog A. (2018). Reminder about tigers: current status and conservation. *Int J Avian & Wildlife Biol.* 3 (2): 98-99.