

Protecting tigers, Thailand



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Initial surveys indicate an important remnant tiger population in Thailand. Given the extremely low numbers of tigers remaining in the wild, this makes the region a critical landscape for tiger conservation.

Thailand is thought to be home to nearly 200 wild tigers. However this species along with numerous other wild animals which inhabit the lush forest, are threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation. Roads, forest clearance for agriculture and house-building are encroaching on national parks leading to the opening up of forest areas and facilitating poaching and illegal logging which further depletes the forest and the habitat it represents.

Publicity about the number of tigers in the region is itself putting the animals further at risk as demand for and prices of tiger parts continue to rise.

With just 3,500 tigers left worldwide, the population in Thailand represents a significant population and it is vital that funds are invested in their protection.



Background

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) has been supporting FREELAND and the critical work it undertakes in wildlife protection and wildlife trade investigation since 2010.

Working across the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, which encompasses five national parks over 6,200km², the primary aim of DSWF's funding is to support the professional development and training of anti-poaching techniques for park rangers enabling them to build their capacity to protect wildlife populations, especially tigers.

To maximise efficiency, rangers are also being involved as stakeholders (image; right, identifying tiger tracks). Trained to collect and record presence and distribution data for mammal species during the course of routine patrols, this allows park managers to identify core areas where anti-poaching initiatives are most needed.



Along with ranger training, DSWF is also supporting awareness in the community about why the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex is important as a World Heritage Site. This includes visits to schools immediately adjacent to the park as well as along the highway corridor which transects the region leaving the area vulnerable to encroachment and poaching. (image; right)

It is hoped that by reaching the children of poachers and influencing children's attitudes before they become involved in poaching themselves, that the poaching cycle can be broken; a significant component to the long-term survival of the important wildlife populations in the Forest Complex.



About the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) supports a range of innovative and far-reaching conservation projects throughout Africa and Asia that have anti-poaching, education and undercover investigation at their heart, all working to save endangered wildlife and their habitat.

Impact

The comprehensive tiger conservation which is being undertaken in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex has led to a greater pride and commitment among park staff towards protecting the tigers. Additionally, reaching over 5,500 students and numerous teachers and local communities, the outreach project has received strong, positive feedback.

As a result of this intensive and consistent work, there have been no reports of tigers being poached in the region for over three years.

However, significant threats remain to the tigers and other wildlife within Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex. Encroachment, logging and poaching persist and it is therefore important that comprehensive solution such as this continue to be supported.



Left to right: Tiger in Thailand; Ranger pointing out a tree marked by a poacher; Tiger education workshop; Ranger training

How you can help

The important population of tigers in Thailand symbolises the remarkable biodiversity of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex region. Help DSWF to fund this fundamental project which is successfully working to secure the future of the tiger by providing the protection it needs as well as helping local communities to understand and respect the significance of the region they live in and the species within.

Your funding will:

- monitor this important population of tiger
- protect the tiger population in the region
- ensure anti-poaching resources are implemented in key areas
- educate local children about the value of their native wildlife
- work with local communities to ensure they do not need to rely on illegal wildlife trade



DSWF runs a successful social media campaign to help end the illegal trade in tiger products worldwide.

Join the TigerTime campaign at www.tigertime.info

Project needs

Your help could:

- £3 – Protect a tiger ranger from leeches with leech proof socks
- £14 – Fund a ranger's sleeping bag
- £16 – Provide a field first aid kit
- £25 – Provide binoculars to a ranger
- £25 – Fund a spotlight to enable night patrols
- £40 – Provide a ranger with a camera
- £71 – Provide a ranger with a walkie talkie
- £206 – Fund a camera trap to monitor tigers
- £500 – Fund a computer to store vital tiger data