



IDN

2013



© Moet Hasyim 2013

FACTSHEET

SUMATRAN TIGER

Panthera tigris sumatrae

Before seeing its fangs and claws or hearing its roar, tiger is very adorable, cute and sometimes sweet as well as gallant and gracefull at the same time. We might think differently when we heard the stories or seeing the animals with our own eyes and watching them act like a predator especially when they are face to face with their prey. No matter how big a person's gut is, it usually shrinks when they are encountered with such situation. However the encounter between human and tiger has started long time a go. It is not surprising when tigers become important symbol in many cultures. In Sumatera's community culture, Sumateran tiger is a symbol of charismatics and highly dignified. There are even tribes in center part of Sumatera that even assign a nickname for tiger as "Datuk". Unfortunately the great charisma of this particular animal does not guarantee its safety from extinction.

Sumatran Tiger is the only remaining tiger sub-species in Indonesia and is critically endangered. Currently the population of Sumatran tiger in the wild is around 400-500 animals. Two threathening activities for the existence of Sumatran tiger are high level of deforestation hence they continue to lose their habitat and tiger trafficking. Tigers and their body parts are illegally sold and used in traditional medicines, accessories, mullet, and decorations in very high price. Therefore tigers and their body parts are often sold in black market. In the wild, Sumatran Tiger can only be found in Sumatera Island in Indonesia.

Physical Characteristics

Sumatran tigers have relatively smaller figure in compared to other sub-species of tigers. Adult male Sumatran Tiger could reach 60cm of height and head-to-toe lengthe approximately 250 cms, and weighed maximum 140 kgs. The adult female tigress in average has 198 cm of length and weigh approximately 91 kgs. In general, the fur of Sumatran tiger is darker compared to other tigers from other region, starting from redish yellow to dark orange.

Threat

Sumatran Tiger is in the brink of extinction. TRAFFIC Report—WWF and IUCN Cooperation program for monitoring of wild animals trafficking—in 2008 presented about the emerging black market for tiger trafficking and its body parts. The black market in Sumater is more open. According to TRAFFIC, during the course of 1998-2002 every year there were at least 50 Sumatran Tigers killed from poaching.

Currently there are around 400-500 Sumatran tigers. They live in the low land, peatland, and mountaneous rain forest. As the main predator in the food chain, the tiger keeps the availability of their wild prey population within their habitat. Providing the forest as natural habitat of tiger means also maintaining the balance

between predator, prey and vegetation in the surrounding. The tiger habitat is now threatened by clearing of forest for agricultural purpose, commercial agriculture and road development as well as illegal logging.

The Province of Riau holds a very important status as a habitat for one third of Sumatran tiger population. Unfortunately for the last 25 years the population of tiger in Riau decreased to 70%, and currently there are around 190 tigers left. Meanwhile in Aceh, there are 200 Sumatran tigers left in Sumatera in Leuser and Ulu Masen. Most of them live outside the conservation area and they might be captured and trapped.

WWF Endeavours

In cooperation with the government of Indonesia, other conservation organization and local community WWF jointly work together to rescue the Sumatran tigers from extinction. WWF also tries to work closely and cooperate with enterprises in which their concession threatens the habitat of tigers hence they would be willing to implement better and sustainable management practice.

Government of Indonesia has declared an important area, Tesso Nilo as national park. This declaration has given more certainty for the protection of Sumatran elephant and tiger in the wild. WWF also participate actively in drafting of Strategy and Action Plan for Sumatran Tiger Conservation 2007-2017 chaired by the Ministry of Forestry.

Currently WWF is conducting scientific study on Sumatran Tiger in Riau, Jambi, West Sumatra and in Bukit Barisan National Park by by using camera trapping to know about the estimated area of habitat, size of population, distribution of the striped animals and identification of wild-animal corridors that need protection. In Riau and Lampung (TNBBS), WWF with the relevant counterparts established Community Patrol Ranger Unit, in which their primary task is to support security and protection measures in conservation area. The patrol team does not only monitor area to prevent land clearing, illegal logging or to destroy traps and utilitias used by poachers. The team will involve in educational activities for local community to mitigate conflict between human-tiger in areas that are prone to tiger-human conflict.



© Moet Hasyim 2013

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <hr/> <p>www.wwf.or.id</p>
--	---

WWF Indonesia

Graha Simatupang Tower 2 Unit C, Lantai 7
 Jl. TB Simatupang Kav. 38 Jakarta 12540
 Telepon: 021-782 9461 Fax: 021-782-9462