



Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat species

Report submitted by CITES Management Authority of Thailand for
the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee

To comply with Resolution Conf. 12.5, Thailand has taken various steps on implementing conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat including research, population sustainable conservation and management, public awareness, and related law enforcement.

1. The status of Tigers in Thailand

In Thailand, tigers occur in 25 of 188 terrestrial protected areas from the southern border with Malaysia to the far north near the borders with Laos and Myanmar. Nine of twenty five protected areas have moderate to high tiger density, and only two of these nine protected areas have a high density of tigers. Currently tigers occur in 10 of 17 recognized terrestrial forest complexes. Six of ten forest complexes support low density of tigers, and one (Western Forest Complex) has a core area with a high tiger density (Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary) while the other three forest complexes (Khaeng Krachan Forest Complex, Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (DP-KY), and Hala-Bala Forest Complex) support moderate tiger density.

During the year 2008 and 2009, Thailand's tiger biologists from Khao Nang Rum Wildlife Research Station conducted camera trap surveys in Huai Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai Wildlife Sanctuary documenting photo-captures of 39 and 14 individual tigers, respectively. Based on the results and the sign surveys summarized above, biologists have reached a consensus conclusion that there are likely 190-250 tigers remaining in Thailand.

Along the Thai-Myanmar border, the Western Forest Complex and the Khaeng Krachan Forest Complex both support significant tiger subpopulations that are connected by extensive intact forests in Myanmar. Together, these areas can support one of the largest tiger populations in the world. (Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, 2010)

2. Conservation

2.1 Political Will

On November 16, 2010, the Cabinet approved Thailand Tiger Action Plan 2010-2022. This Action Plan guides a long-term direction in tiger conservation and management for Thailand. The goals and associated actions for achieving them are arranged under the following five themes:

- 1) Strengthening direct conservation action and enforcement.
- 2) Building capacity based on successful models.
- 3) Strengthening monitoring research, and information management.
- 4) Promoting education, awareness, and public participation.
- 5) Strengthening financing for tiger conservation.

In addition, to accomplish this action plan, related agencies should implement following actions:

- Development of policies on promotion, salaries and social security systems for protected area staff and forest rangers.
- Encouraging policy makers to develop policies on career paths for superintendents of protected areas (national parks and wildlife sanctuaries) for effectiveness and continuity of the work quality.
- Up listing tigers to the reserved species under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B. E. 2535 (1992)

- Strengthening enforcement of wildlife crime under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B. E. 2535 (1992) to make sure that convicted offenders receive the highest penalty of wildlife Laws and related legislations.

Furthermore, to be successful in recovering wild tiger populations in accordance with the vision, goals, priority actions, objectives, and activities mentioned in this plan, a National Tiger Conservation Committee was set up by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This Committee will have to review progress of the National Tiger Action Plan, as well as to produce and circulate an annual tiger conservation report.

2.2 Research Program

- Research on tiger's ecology and distribution in Western Forest Complex.
- Ecological research on tiger in Tung Yai- Huay Ka Khang world heritage site.
- Research on Fishing Cat's ecology, population and distribution in Kuiburi District, Prachuapkhirikhan Province, Thailand.
- Research on tiger's habitat in Tung Yai- Huay Ka Khang world heritage site.

In addition, Southeast Asia Regional Tiger Conservation and Research Center will be established in Huay Kha Khang Wildlife Sanctuary, Utaithani Province, Thailand, to serve as center for research and education on tigers management and conservation techniques, as wells as for tigers population monitoring in the targeted areas of Thailand and the region.

2.3 Strengthening Organization

- Capacity buildings: To increase awareness of illegal tiger trade, Thailand participated and organized the following meetings:
 - Workshop on recovering wild tiger populations plan and Thailand tiger action plan at the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plan Conservation, Thailand from 5-6 July 2010.
 - Pre-Summit Partner Dialogue, Bali, Indonesia from 12-14 July 2010.
 - The St. Petersburg Tiger Summit, St. Petersburg, Russia from 21-24 November 2010.
 - Training of Trainers Course: Smart Patrolling for Tiger Conservation at the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plan Conservation and Huay Ka Khang Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand, from 5-27 January 2011.
 - International Conference on Tiger Conservation And Global Workshop on Implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP), New Delhi, India from 28-30 March 2011.

2.4 Management and Monitoring

- 1) Management and monitoring at site level
 - Smart Patrol System
 - Intensive long-term monitoring of tigers using camera trapping-based models
- 2) Management and monitoring at the landscape level
 - Wildlife crime units and wild meat restaurant database
 - Public campaign with the focus on communities around Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Occupancy survey

2.5 Captive Breeding Program

There are 27 Public Zoos which have been granted possessing and breeding permit the three Asian big cats species (*Panthera tigris*, *P. pardus*, *P. nebulosa*) with altogether 1,008 heads. (See attached table)

3. Trade controls

3.1 Laws

As already known, Thailand has enacted the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act (WARPA) since 1992 to implement wildlife conservation in Thailand in comply with international agreement such as CITES and CBD. Since Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Leopard (*P. pardus*) and Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) found in Thailand are protected species under WARPA, hunting, possessing, or trading in these species are prohibited, except for scientific purposes. Law covering tiger issues has not been reviewed.

3.2 Enforcement

Thailand has put great efforts to curb illegal trade in CITES species, especially tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat species. According to statistics from January 2010 until December 2010, DNP in close cooperation with other enforcement agencies (Police and Customs) intercepted 8 cases of Asian big cat trafficking as shown in the following table.

Table: Details of significant seizure of tigers and other big cats.

Seizure date	Group of species	Description	Number	Weight (kg.)	Seizure location
11/2/2010	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	6	-	Nakhonratchasima Province
	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	carcasses	3	-	
10/3/2010	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	3	-	Utaithani Province
3/4/2010	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	1	-	Chaiyaphum Province
3/4/2010	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	1	-	Chaiyaphum Province
1/5/2010	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	carcasses	2	-	Tak Province
8/7/2010	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	carcasses	1	-	Narathiwat Province
15/7/2010	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	2	162.5	Pattalung Province
	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	carcasses	1	22	
23/8/2010	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	1	-	Suvarnabhumi Airport

- With all cases mentioned above, DNP collected pieces of tiger meat for DNA analysis and genetic database management.

List of Asian big cat species in farms/zoos

	Breeding Farms/Zoos	Location	Species	Number (heads)	Remark
1	Safari World	Bangkok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	124	updated 2010
2	Pata Zoo	Bangkok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	2	updated 2011
3	Lopburi Zoo	Lopburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	3	updated 2011
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	2	
			<i>Felis bangalensis</i>	1	
4	Chokchai Museum	Pathumthani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	2	updated 2011
5	Mali-Sarika Zoo	Nakhonnayok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	109	updated 2011
6	Sriracha Tiger Zoo	Chonburi	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	424	updated 2009
7	Nong Nooch Village	Chonburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	6	updated 2010
8	Samutprakarn Crocodile Farm	Smutprakarn	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	58	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	15	

	Breeding Farms/Zoos	Location	Species	Number (heads)	Remark
9	Utairat Crocodile Farm and Zoo	Chonburi	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	1	updated 2009
10	The Million Years Stone Park & Pattaya Crocodile Farm	Chonburi	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	47	updated 2011
11	Safari Park and Resort	Kanchanaburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	11	updated 2011
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	14	
12	Sampran Crocodile Farm	Nakhonpathom	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	3	updated 2011
13	Dumnoen Saduak Tiger Zoo	Ratchaburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	7	updated 2010
14	Mr. Chaiyaporn Wijitsophon Farm	Nakhonpathom	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	24	updated 2011
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	7	
16	Samui Tiger Zoo	Suratthani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	22	updated 2011
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	10	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	3	

	Breeding Farms/Zoos	Location	Species	Number (heads)	Remark
17	Namuang Safari Park	Suratthani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	8	updated 2011
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	3	
18	Phuket Zoo	Phuket	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	12	updated 2011
19	Phuket Fantasy	Phuket	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	17	updated 2011
20	City of Nakhonsithammarat Zoo	Nakhonsithammarat	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	1	updated 2011
21	Diswilai Tiger Zoo	Pattani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	24	updated 2011
22	Chokchai Farm Zoo	Nakhonratchasima	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	4	updated 2011
23	Trakarn Tiger Zoo	Ubonratchathani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	17	updated 2011
24	Nakhonsawan Crocodile Farm and Zoo	Nakhonsawan	<i>Felis bengalensis</i>	5	updated 2011
			<i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>	8	
25	Utairat Crocodile Farm and Zoo	Utaithani	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	1	updated 2011
26	Trakarn-Mae-rim Tiger Zoo	Chaingmai	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	17	updated 2011
27	Chiang Mai Night Safari	Chiangmai	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	10	updated 2011