



WWF

ADOPTION

HK

Tigers



YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

FUTURE FOCUS

NEW CAMERA TRAPS
WILL ENHANCE OUR
MONITORING OF KAMRITA
AND HER FELLOW TIGERS

ALSO INSIDE

HOW YOU'RE HELPING TO CREATE
A BETTER FUTURE FOR TIGERS
WILD WORLD NEWS OF OUR
WORK AROUND THE WORLD



YOUR FIELD REPORT



Compiled by Sabita Malla from WWF's Nepal team, whose work your adoption helps support

Top inset: Ranu's male admirer
Circled: one of the camera traps
From left to right: A magnificent wild tiger; Kamrita and her cub; the cub explores



Elephants and a tiger destroyed some of the camera traps

CAMERA CALAMITY

Not long after these photos were taken we had torrential rain, and some of the lowland areas of the park flooded, washing six camera traps away

Then we found that two further cameras had been knocked down and crushed by passing elephants, and yet another was destroyed by a tiger.



I'm sure you can imagine how frustrating it is to lose so much crucial equipment, but thankfully our kind and generous tiger adopters came to the rescue. Funds raised through your adoptions enabled us to buy 40 new camera traps. As well as replacing the equipment that was lost, we've placed some of the cameras in permanent positions, which is a great step forward.

The limited number of cameras we had previously meant we could only leave them in one area for a few weeks at a time, before moving them elsewhere. With cameras in place permanently, we can monitor Kamrita and her family for much longer periods, giving us a great opportunity to learn more about their movements and behaviour. And we can't wait to share our findings with you.

FALLEN HERO

Poaching continues to be an ever-present threat in Chitwan National Park. We were devastated when one of the park's brave rangers, Shes Chandra Chaudhary, tragically lost his life defending the wildlife he loved. We'd like to pay tribute to Shes, and although his loss has hit us hard, we're determined to stay vigilant and have increased anti-poaching patrols.

We're thrilled to bring you the latest camera trap pictures of the gorgeous tiger and her family – all looking fit and well.

In our last camera trap survey we placed 20 pairs of infrared cameras across 180 square kilometres of Kamrita's known territory in Chitwan National Park. The field team went out regularly to check them over a 20-day period, and we found photos of Kamrita and her new cub in two different areas.

The first photos showed the stripy pair walking along a dry river channel. A week later, they were photographed further east in the park.

11

In total, the camera traps photographed 11 individual tigers. Four were adult males and seven were adult females – including Kamrita and Ranu. Kamrita and one other female had cubs.

CURIOUS CAT

Kamrita's inquisitive young cub is growing fast and starting to explore under mum's watchful eye. Kamrita is a very devoted mother and will remain so until the cub is around two years old and can fend for itself.

Unfortunately the photographs are too blurry to tell us whether the cub is a 'he' or a 'she'. I hope you won't mind staying patient for a little while longer until we can confirm its gender, and of course we'll let you know as soon as we can.

Kamrita's older daughter Ranu shares her mother's territory, and she was photographed too. She's recently increased her range, which could be a sign that she's looking for a mate.

Recent photos show her leaving scent marks on trees, and it seems that at least one male is following her.

Like all wild tigers, Kamrita is extremely shy and secretive. We very rarely see her in the flesh – although we often find giveaway signs that she's around, such as droppings, scratches and pugmarks (paw prints). Camera traps act as our eyes in the forest, helping to reveal the tigers' secret world without disturbing them. The cameras are vital to our work, but they sometimes get damaged. 🐾

YOUR NEXT UPDATE >> IN YOUR NEXT UPDATE WE'LL BRING YOU MORE NEWS ABOUT KAMRITA AND HER FAMILY, SO KEEP WATCHING THE POST.

ADOPTER INSIGHT

We will tell you why protecting wild tigers is so crucial

Wildlife and local people all depend on the ecosystem around them staying healthy. And tigers play a significant role in maintaining their ecosystems. As top predators, they prey on plant eating animals, known as 'herbivores', such as deer. Without tigers, these animals could quickly multiply and damage habitats through overgrazing.

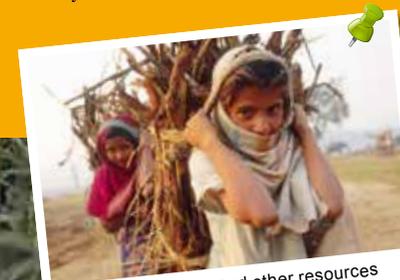
As well as supporting wildlife, the forests and grasslands also provide food and income for thousands of local communities. But there's only so much to go around. People's increasing need for land and resources is reducing space for wildlife, bringing animals and people closer together and increasing the risk of conflict between them.

STRIKING A BALANCE

Thanks to you, we're putting practical measures in place to help local people live more peacefully alongside their wild neighbours. They include compensation schemes to give financial support to families who lose livestock to tigers and other predators; and alternatives to using firewood and other forest resources, such as biogas stoves.

Funds from your adoption are helping to support this crucial work. You're making a real difference to the tiger's future.

Thank you.



Collecting fuelwood and other resources damages forests



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Ramesh Thapa is a tiger ranger in Bardia National Park, Nepal. He's passionate about tigers, and spends his life protecting them. We asked him to tell us more about his work, and how you're helping to give these amazing cats a more hopeful future



Q WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO HELP PROTECT TIGERS?

A I was born in the picturesque hills of western Nepal, and my family earned its living from farming. So I've always been intrigued by nature and wildlife. Listening to the stories my parents and grandparents told about wildlife made me want to see the wilderness and feel the thumping of the ground when a rhino runs. I realised that being a ranger could take me where I longed to be. I love working to protect iconic species such as tigers and rhinos, even though it's risky – and at times, even life-threatening.

Q WHAT'S YOUR AVERAGE DAY LIKE?

A Rangers like me start work very early. By dawn we're already deep in the forests. We patrol for four to five hours at a time, determined to achieve one more day of zero poaching. Evening brings a chill down our spines as we decide which areas to patrol. We head off at about 3:30pm and work until 9pm. Then we sit down to dinner. The only entertainment we have out in the field is a radio, but we tend to stay quiet so we can react to any noises. Before we go to sleep, there might be time to make a phone call to our families, but only if we have phone reception.

Q HOW LONG ARE YOU AWAY FROM HOME?

A Some areas are so remote that we can be away for most of the year! I'm blessed to have a wonderful wife and children who understand the demands

of my job. But I wish I'd seen more of my children growing up – that's the thing I miss most.

Q HOW DANGEROUS IS YOUR JOB AS A RANGER?

A It's very dangerous. Hunters, poachers and trappers are always on the lookout for food, oil, hides, furs, skins, feathers, horns, ivory and lots of other things they get from wildlife. One moment's negligence can result in another wild animal being killed, including one of the few thousand tigers that remain in the world. Poaching just one tiger means narrowing the chances of restoring them to their former glory. We don't have the luxury of second chances.

Q HOW ARE OUR TIGER ADOPTERS HELPING?

A We still have lots of work to do to tackle poaching, which is why we're so very grateful to have the support of WWF's adopters. In the last year alone they've helped provide funds to buy camera traps, binoculars and other essential field equipment. They've also paid for training sessions for rangers like me, and much more besides.

A special message for you, from Ramesh

A huge thank you from everyone out working in the field. It's great to know you care about tigers and we really appreciate your support. Please keep on adopting, because every penny counts.



HOME SWEET HOME

Exciting camera trap photos from north-east China confirm that an Amur tiger is using Suiyang Laoyeling Nature Reserve – an important habitat close to the Russian border

We wanted you to be one of the first to see this incredibly rare photograph of a gorgeous male Amur tiger. In six months he's been photographed twice in the same area of the nature reserve – so it's likely he's decided to stay.

Suiyang Laoyeling is really important as it connects with other protected forests in both China and Russia. The fact that the male is now living there means the tiger population could soon grow.

Around 95% of wild Amur tigers are thought to live in the Russian Far East. And there are thought to be only around 20 individuals living in China. We're hoping that this amazing photograph is a sign of better things to come.



TIGER SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 239 individual tigers have been identified in the first ever joint tiger survey between India and Nepal, which we helped carry out

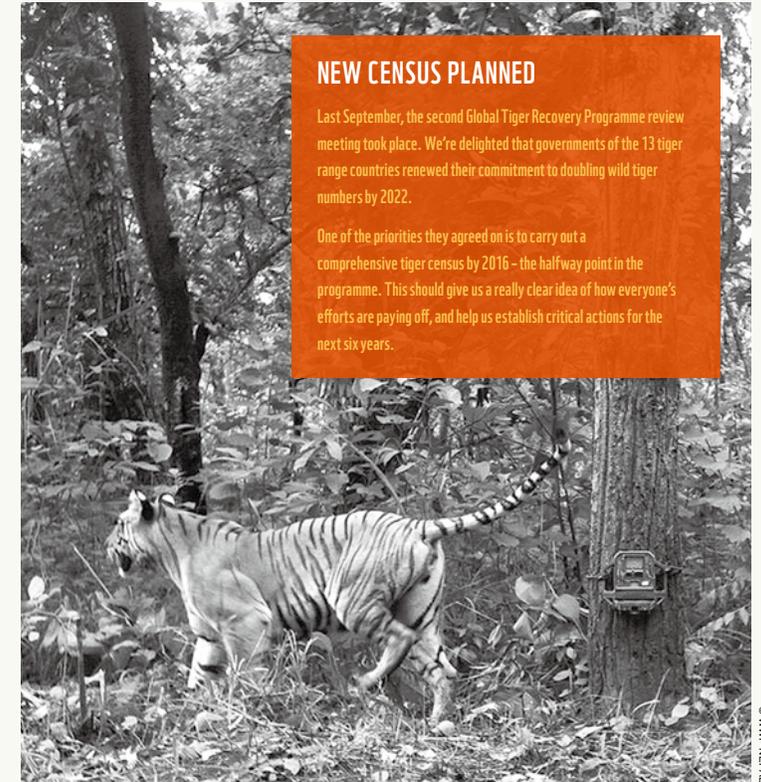
Camera traps were used to monitor 5,300 square kilometres of protected forests between the two countries over a period of seven months – from November 2012 to June 2013. It's taken a while to assess all the photographs, but we think it's been worth the wait. Of the 239 individual adults tigers identified, 89 were adult males and 145 were adult females.

(The gender of five of the tigers could not be determined.) Ten tigers have been identified as living in both India and Nepal over a two-year period. This really highlights the importance of having shared protection across country boundaries, so the big cats can roam freely to hunt and breed.

NEW CENSUS PLANNED

Last September, the second Global Tiger Recovery Programme review meeting took place. We're delighted that governments of the 13 tiger range countries renewed their commitment to doubling wild tiger numbers by 2022.

One of the priorities they agreed on is to carry out a comprehensive tiger census by 2016 – the halfway point in the programme. This should give us a really clear idea of how everyone's efforts are paying off, and help us establish critical actions for the next six years.



“ THE 13 TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES ARE BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, CHINA, CAMBODIA, INDIA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, NEPAL, RUSSIA, THAILAND AND VIETNAM ”

SEND A MESSAGE TO THE TIGER RANGERS

Knowing that you're there for them means a lot to the brave rangers who work night and day to protect wild tigers, so why not send them your personal message of support? We'll forward it on to Sabita and the team in Chitwan National Park, and print a selection in your next adoption update. Email your message of between 50-100 words to adopt@wwf.org.hk with the subject line 'My tigers - message for rangers'.

Thank you



Following the recent earthquake, thankfully all our WWF Nepal team and their families are safe. They are on the ground now assessing the damage to tiger habitats.



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.

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