

SAVING TIGERS

Status: Endangered

Population: Around 3,900

Scientific Name: Panthera Tigris

Size: 100-300kg

Habitat: Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands and savannas.



THREATS:

Sadly, poaching is still occurring even in this day and age as most parts of the tiger are sold and used in folk remedies.

Loss of habitat by human activities has had a massive impact on tigers. This has occurred through clearing of forests and building of roads.

In the wild, tigers face a grim future. There are approximately 4,000 tigers remaining in the wild and their survival is constantly threatened. With three subspecies already extinct, the plight of the tiger is a serious problem largely caused by humans in three major ways: hunting, poaching and destruction of the habitat.

At the current rate of poaching and habitat loss, it is estimated that tigers in the wild could completely disappear within the next ten years.



OUR INTERVIEW WITH DAN SIMOUNDS

Tiger Handler at Tiger Island Dreamworld

What threats do tigers face in the wild?

DS: There are a couple of threats to tigers in the wild but basically it comes down to us, so people. Our population is growing and when our population grows tigers and other animals in the world can have a bit of conflict whether it's us building homes or roads or railways, were fragmenting a lot of their habitat so they can't cross over. A lot of times, particularly in India when tigers are trying to cross from one reserve to the other they either can't or they are trying to cross roads and railways and they are getting struck by trains and that sort of thing. And then on top of that we are taking away their resources & they are also still getting poached to this day. Habitat loss is definitely the big one, as well as poaching.

What's it like to work with tigers?

DS: Yeah I really like working with tigers, it's a fantastic job. For me one of the big things is I really like predators because when people see, whether its tigers or sharks, any predator, it is usually in a documentary where you see all the gore, all the scary side to it. Most people don't see that we can go and lay down with our cats, they are very affectionate & show affection towards us so something that's really important from my perspective is showing that these animals are not big and scary, they are not killing machines, they have a nurturing side, an affectionate side, they are just really more complex creatures than what we see in documentaries and TV.

Can you tell us a fun fact about tigers?

DS: A fun fact is that tigers are the largest species of cat in the world, the biggest being a male Siberian Tiger. To put that in perspective, the tigers you see here in Tiger Island are anywhere from 100 - 160kg, a big male Siberian Tiger is up to 300kg! So that is two to three times the size of these tigers, they are massive creatures.

See more of the Tiger Island cubs and the rest of this interview on our YouTube Channel 'Just Kidding Mag'



Just Kidding Mag

TYPES OF TIGERS

Subspecies	Weight	Home	Status	How Many in the Wild?
Sumatran	75kg - 140kg	Indonesia	Critically Endangered	Less than 400
Amur	180kg - 300kg	Far East Russia, northern China and the Korean peninsula	Endangered	Up to 540
Bengal	Around 250kg	primarily in India with smaller populations in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar	Endangered	More than 2,500
Indochinese	Up to 250kg	Thailand, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam	Endangered	Around 350
South China		South China	Critically Endangered	Believed to be extinct in the wild
Malayan	Around 100kg	Malay Peninsula and in the southern tip of Thailand.	Critically Endangered	



DREAMWORLD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

The Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (DWF) was established in 2012 and is now the largest zoological contributors to tiger conservation worldwide. DWF has provided more than \$2.5 million directly to carefully selected projects in partnership with WildCats Conservation Alliance. Together they prioritise, assess and fund initiatives that protect habitats, provide essential species monitoring and anti-poaching initiatives across Sumatra, Russia, China, India, Nepal and Thailand to provide tigers with a better future.

Dreamworld's 13 tigers (Pi, Kai, Akasha, Adira, Kiko, Kali, Shanti, Jaya, Nika, Raja, Zakari, Javi and Zhan) are ambassadors for their wild counterparts, raising funds for international tiger conservation programs through the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation.

The supported work on the ground internationally has helped see a tangible difference for tigers in the wild. For instance, with the support of DWF, the threat to tigers in the Kerinci Seblat Sumatran Tiger National Park in Indonesia has been significantly reduced with only one active snare (trap) recorded on patrols in the first half of 2018, compared to five recorded in the same time in 2017 and 35 in 2016 - this is a 97 per cent reduction over two years.

MEET THE CUBS



JAVI

Javi made his first paw print on the world alongside his brother, Zakari, on Friday 26 April. As the first litter conceived by Dreamworld's Adira and Pi, the paw-fect pair join their Tiger Island family in sharing the important message of global tiger conservation. True to the cub's stripes Javi, meaning victorious, is from an Indian origin, where tigers roam in the wild.



ZAKARI

35 minutes older than his brother, Zakari greeted the world as the first cub of his litter to first-time parents, Adira and Pi. The name is associated with individuals who have a desire to inspire others in a higher cause, which goes hand-in-hand with Dreamworld's global conservation drive. He will walk in the paws of his tiger family with his brother Javi, being the next generation of incredible ambassadors for their endangered cousins in the wild.



KHAN

Khan put his imprint on the Tiger Island family as he took the limelight on Sunday 26 May, as the only cub of his litter. His name, meaning a leader who focuses on important issues, reflects his stripes and greater purpose at Dreamworld.