Amur Tiger

VERTEBRATA

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: Panthera

Category: 2 – rare subspecies, persisted at the territory of Russia only.

The amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) is a rare subspecies of tiger (*P. tigris*). Also known as the Siberian, Korean, Manchurian, or North China tiger, it is the largest of all animals in the feline family Felidae[1]. It is considered 'Endangered' by IUCN/Special Survival Commission cat specialist group[2].

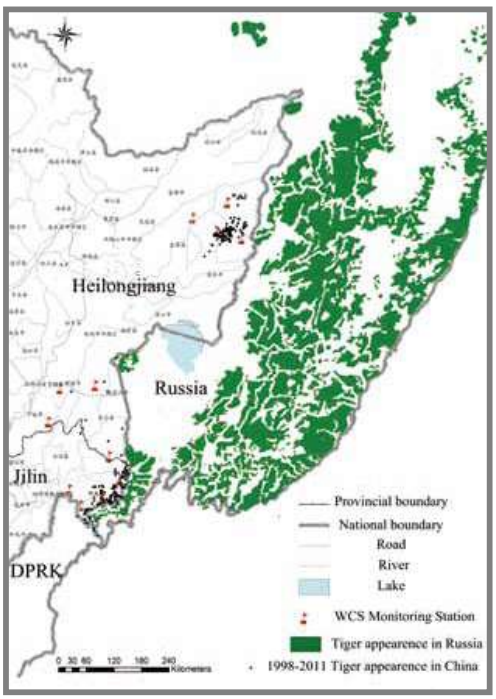
Distribution and Population

There are only about 500 Amur tigers currently remaining in the wild. Nowadays, 95 percent of the tigers are inhabited in the Sikhote-Alin Mountain area in the Russia Federation while the rest of them are distributed in Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces of China adjacent to the Chinese-Russian border. Although some surveys indicate that there are Amur tigers left in the north most regions of DPRK, no concrete evidence and specific population number have been verified.

The northern boundary of the Amur tiger's habitat runs along the south border of the Far-East Russian Federation. Presently, Amur tigers inhabit three isolated areas in the Far-East. Population in the Sikhote-Alin Mountain accounts for 95 percent of the total number of tigers in Russian Federation. The other two areas are the south of Khasansky district in the Primorsky Krai and the large region stretched from Borisovsky plateau towards the Tesnaya River basin. The western border of the two areas covers the upper Komissarovka river basin. The tigers were not found in the latter two areas until the late 1980s. Rarely, individual tigers reach the region below the Ussuri River estuary.

Experts estimate that 10-12 tigers remain in Heilongjiang Province and 8-10 in Jilin Province. Such findings suggest that re-colonization

Amur Tiger Distribution in China and the Russian Federation (as of 2011)



Source: 2011 Wildlife Conservation Society China Program

[1] Tigers, jaguars, lions and leopards are the four large felid species, which are also carnivore and efficient predators. Information retrieved from <http://www.lairweb.org.nz/tiger/amur.html> on 7 September 2006.

[2] IUCN Special Survival Commission (2006) accessed on 6 August 2006 at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/sgs.htm>.

of previously occupied tiger habitat in northeastern China is still possible if appropriate steps are taken to identify and manage these landscapes.

Physical features and habitats

Weighing up to 350 kg, an amur tiger is differentiated from other tiger subspecies by its paler fur and dark brown stripes and diverse diet, 85 per cent of which is composed of ungulates such as red deer and wild boar. Caves and broadleaf forests are the Amur tiger's primary habitats. Having the largest body size in the Felidae family, each adult Amur tiger needs a large area of land as its territory. Amur tigers rely on trails to move in the confines of their territories; their typical routes are relatively fixed. On average, an adult tiger needs around 400 km2 of non-overlapping areas to survive and raise healthy cubs. Males require 600-800 km2 and females need 300-500 km^2. The gender ratio is 1:2 or 1:4, indicating polygamy. The breeding period frequently falls in the second half of the winter season and gestation lasts for 95-107 days. For each birth, litters of 2-3 kittens are born. Kittens reach their sexual maturity 3-4 years after birth and breeds once every two years. The young tigers account for roughly half of the total population.

Priority actions for NEASPEC

1. Encourage and support two range countries to take appropriate actions to ensure healthy population of prey species;
2. Ensure law enforcement in each member country on both international and domestic trade of all tiger specimen, parts and derivatives, and encourage and support range countries to strengthen law enforcement;
3. Encourage and support range countries to involve local public in planning and implementation of conservation work as well as local development to reflect their interest and needs;
4. Encourage and support range countries to work together for conservation of the species;
5. Encourage and support the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to establish a joint working group to work on current status and conservation of the species;
6. Promote awareness raising on conservation needs of the species in each Government as well as general public and international community by providing regularly updated information of conservation status and collaboration activities;
7. Support range countries to work together in capacity-building on habitat management, population management, monitoring and research, law enforcement, environmental education and community development;
8. Support the participation of NGOs in conservation activities.