



● The Threats Tigers Face

Tigers require prey, protection, and room to roam in order to flourish, but certain human activities threaten their forest habitat and their ability to survive in the wild. Here are some of the human-generated threats they face:

Habitat loss

Tigers are territorial and require large areas in which to roam. As human populations grow, the forest areas where tigers roam are at greater risk of being wiped out or fragmented due to agriculture, timber, and development activities (e.g., the building of roads and infrastructure). This can make it increasingly hard for the animals to move around and breed, which leads to decreased population growth. Tigers have lost 95% of their historic range due to deforestation, forest degradation, and forest fragmentation.

Poaching and illegal trade

Poaching is the biggest immediate threat to wild tiger populations. Every part of the tiger—from whisker to tail—is traded in illegal wildlife markets, mostly for use in traditional medicine.

Human-tiger conflict

People and tigers increasingly compete for space. As forests shrink due to human activity, prey gets scarce and tigers are forced to hunt domestic livestock, which many local communities depend on for their livelihood. As a result, tigers are often killed or captured in retaliation for livestock loss. This conflict threatens the world's remaining wild tigers and poses a major problem for communities living in or near forests with tigers.

Climate change

Climate change could speed up tiger habitat loss even further. For instance, rising sea levels caused by climate change can lead to flooding and threaten to wipe out areas in the Sundarbans region of India and Bangladesh, along with the last remaining habitat of the tiger population there. Also, intense droughts in Southeast Asia could affect vulnerable and fragmented pockets of rain forest, leaving jungle-living tigers with nowhere to live. These severe and unpredictable climate change-related weather impacts can make it difficult for tigers to adapt and survive.