



# FACTSHEET

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## Tiger Conservation Landscape Report: Indonesia

The only refuge for the critically endangered Sumatran tiger is the Indonesian island of Sumatra, where fewer than 400 of the big cats are estimated to survive.

Sumatran tigers are the smallest subspecies of tiger and are still found scattered across the forests of the island. But key tiger habitat is being replaced by vast oil palm and acacia plantations, and illegal logging, encroachment and tiger poaching are rampant.

**Findings:** In an effort to better understand and protect the world's remaining tigers, WWF, WCS, STF dan Smithsonian National Zoological Park in 2006 analysed and prioritised tiger habitat in Sumatra. Sumatra's tiger habitat was categorised into 12 "tiger conservation landscapes" (TCLs), with two of them identified as global priorities for tiger conservation.



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**Kerinci Seblat** is a global priority TCL, with 19,653 km<sup>2</sup> of tiger habitat including tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests and tropical and subtropical coniferous forests. The other global priority on Sumatra is **Bukit Tigapuluh**, which covers both tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forest and has 5,417 km<sup>2</sup> of tiger habitat. Both are classified as global priorities as they were found to offer the best hope for long-term tiger conservation and have known breeding tiger populations supported by a sufficient prey base. They both have adequate habitat area that is under little or no threat and conservation measures are in place both locally and nationally to ensure long-term conservation.

### **Sumatra's 12 Tiger Conservation Landscapes:**

The 12 TCLs on Sumatra that still offer substantial habitat to conserve Sumatran tiger populations are: Tesso Nilo, Bukit Barisan Selatan, Bukit Tigapuluh, Kerinci Seblat, Kuala Kerumutan, Bukit Balai Rejang-Selatan, Bukit Rimbang Baling, Rimbo Panti-Batang East, Rimbo Panti-Batang West, Leuser, Berbak and Sibolga.

In Sumatra, WWF, WCS, and other partners will focus time and resources on: protecting tigers from poachers, protecting existing tiger habitat from conversion and illegal logging, expanding current protected area networks to encompass more of the tiger range and restoring connectivity between patches of actual habitat within landscapes, and engaging companies in the vicinity of tiger ranges to include tiger conservation policy in their operations.

Most of the remaining tiger's habitat is concentrated in the mountainous region of Sumatra where the majority of protected areas currently lie. However, even protected areas are not impervious to habitat destruction as is seen in Bukit Barisan Selatan (the southernmost TCL), which, despite being protected, is threatened by habitat destruction and is in need of support.

Of all the countries with TCLs, Sumatra is the only place where tigers, elephants, rhinos and orangutans occur in the same landscape. All of these species are threatened by habitat loss and poaching, so resources that support each TCL on Sumatra will benefit not only the tiger but three other critically endangered species as well.

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WWF and its partners have made progress in central Sumatra. In 2005, WWF helped successfully lobby corporate partners and government officials to create a national park in one of the TCLs, Tesso Nilo – one of the last remaining blocks of lowland tropical rainforest that serves as tiger habitat in Sumatra.

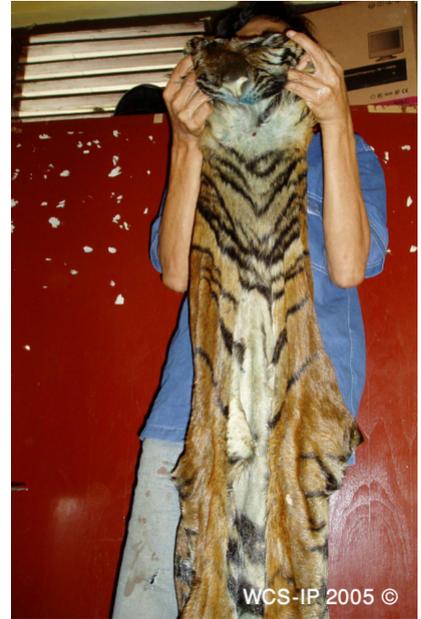
Building on this success, WWF is working to get the Indonesian government and corporations to commit to protecting the areas surrounding Tesso Nilo so tigers can safely roam in and out of the park. The TCL analysis indicates that TCLs tend to be clustered, offering the potential to form larger landscapes if connectivity can be re-established.

The Wildlife Conservation Society - Indonesia Program is one of the lead organizations seeking to conserve Sumatran tiger in Indonesia. WCS-IP began working on Sumatran tiger in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) in 1998 and has continued to strengthen and expand its efforts since. WCS-IP now conducts a range of activities across Sumatra, including Tiger Protection Units, which operate locally, and Wildlife Crime Unit, which operates regionally.

WCS-IP's vision is for landscape level protection of key species such as tigers. To achieve this requires working together with the many stakeholders to identify and monitor key species and their habitats, improve land use planning, develop training and awareness program for communities and publicizing conservation issues related to tiger conservation, both nationally and internationally.

To save the Sumatran tiger, the Indonesia government must take leadership to:

- prevent all conversion of the remaining habitat,
- assist in effective arrest and conviction of poachers and traders, and
- support the promotion of effective human-tiger conflict mitigation solutions.



NGOs working on Sumatran Tiger conservation in Indonesia include WARSI, Jikalahari, Kanopi, Yayasan Leuser Indonesia, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Save the Tiger Fund, Sumatera Tiger Conservation Project, & Flora Fauna International

**For further information on Sumatran Tigers and the TCL report, please contact:**

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