

More than 2,300 tigers killed and trafficked this century: report

August 21 2019



With an average of more than 120 illegally trafficked tigers seized each year since the year 2000, conservation group Traffic warns there was little sign of respite for the species

More than 2,300 endangered tigers have been killed and illegally

trafficked since the turn of the century, according to a report published Tuesday, urging more action to protect the giant cats.

With an average of more than 120 illegally trafficked tigers seized each year—which amounts to over two each week—since year 2000, conservation group Traffic warned there was little sign of respite for the species.

Report author Kanitha Krishnasamy, who heads Traffic's Southeast Asia operations, said the numbers were deeply concerning.

"It looks like we are losing this fight," she told AFP.

In 1900, more than 100,000 tigers were estimated to roam the planet. But that fell to a record low of 3,200 globally in 2010.

Since then, [population numbers](#) have inched upwards, but there are still estimated to be fewer than 3,900 tigers left in the wild.

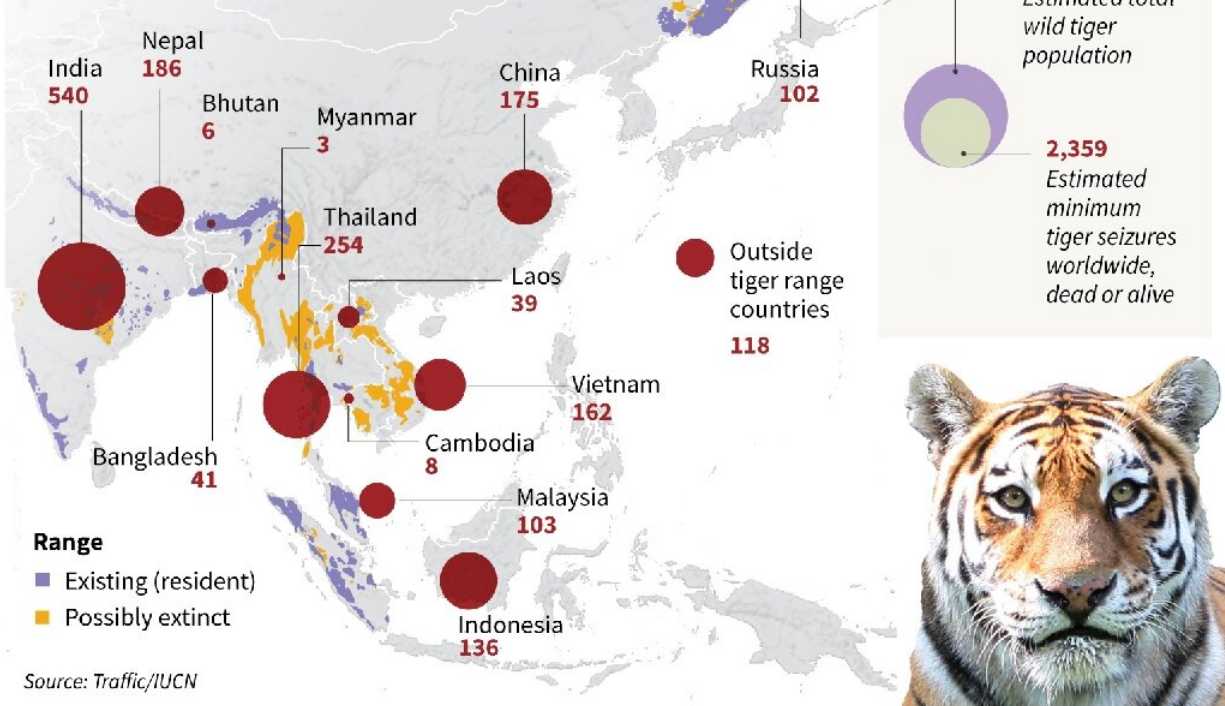
"This pernicious trafficking, evidenced by the continuously high number of whole skins, whole [animals](#)—both dead and alive—and bones is testament to the ongoing demand for Tiger parts," Krishnasamy said.

"The time for talking is over: words must be turned into action to prevent further Tiger loss," she said in a statement.

Traffic, which campaigns to protect [endangered animals](#) and help governments catch those who trade in their parts, published a new analysis looking at 19-years of tiger seizure data from across the globe.

Tiger trade

Estimated minimum numbers illegally trafficked 2000 - 2018



Graphic on tigers seized from illegal trafficking 2000 - 2018

It found that an estimated total equivalent to 2,359 individual tigers were seized from 2000 to 2018 across 32 countries and territories.

Skins are the single most frequently seized tiger part, with on average 58 whole tiger skins seized each year, the report found, also noting a clear increase in seizures of whole animals, both dead and alive.

'Undermine conservation efforts'

The study also highlighted the growing role breeding centres play in fuelling the illegal tiger trade, especially in Southeast Asia.

The tiger farm industry often argues the trade in [captive animals](#) helps to relieve the pressure on wild felines, but wildlife groups argue it reduces the stigma around buying the animals or their body parts and could create new markets for them.



Conservation group Traffic called for action to prevent further tiger losses with fewer than 3,900 of the big cats estimated to be left in the wild

More than half of [tiger](#) seizures in Thailand and a third of those in Vietnam over the past two decades were identified as coming from captive breeding facilities, Traffic said.

"Seizures of tigers from captive facilities continue and serve as a stark reminder that such facilities seriously undermine [conservation efforts](#) to safeguard this species and provide opportunities for laundering and other [illegal activities](#)," said senior Traffic crime analyst Ramacandra Wong in the statement.

Tuesday's report was released as parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meet in Geneva to

evaluate and fine-tune the treaty that manages trade in more than 35,000 species of plants and animals.

Tiger farms are on the agenda, with the report authors calling for CITES to monitor facilities to ensure they are not helping feed the illegal [trade](#) chain.



Skins are the single most frequently seized tiger part, with on average 58 whole tiger skins are seized each year, a Traffic report shows

Citation: More than 2,300 tigers killed and trafficked this century: report (2019, August 21)
retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-08-tigers-trafficked-century.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.