

The Caspian, Javan, and the Bali tigers became extinct in the XX century.

Today's wilderness is home to only **1200** Bengal,

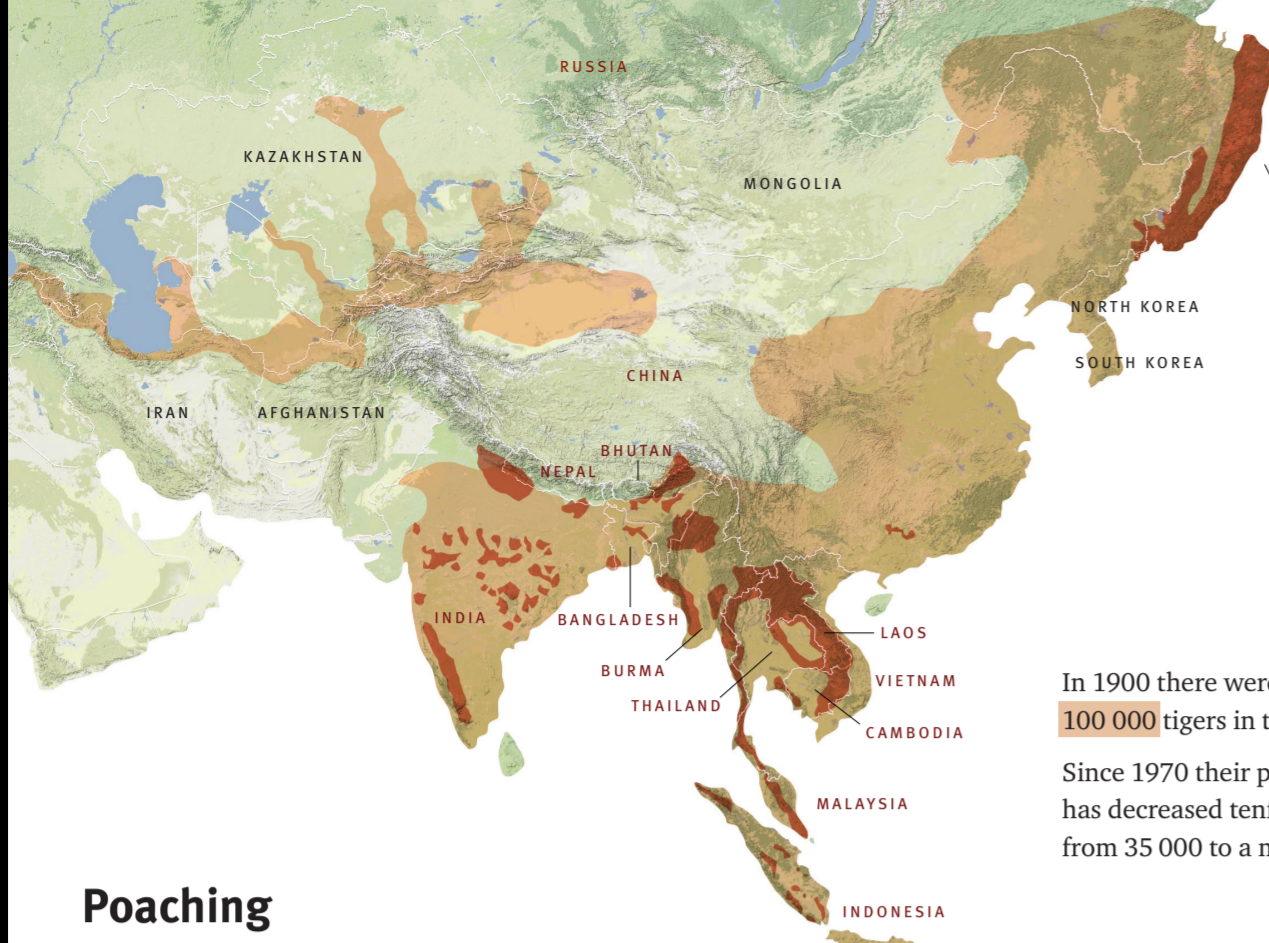
900 Indochinese,

500 Malayan,

400 Siberian,

400 Sumatran

and not more than **20** South Chinese tigers.



Only 20 – 30 species of the Siberian tiger inhabited the Far East in the 1930-s. Thanks to the efforts of ecologists and game managers, the population got restored to 400 – 500 species by early 2000-s, but now it is declining again.

In 1900 there were as many as **100 000** tigers in the wild.

Since 1970 their population has decreased tenfold: from 35 000 to a mere **3 400**.

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is the ultimate predator, a symbol of greatness, mysticism and beauty of the wilderness. It is an intrinsic part of Asian folklore, religions and cultures, a perfect indicator of our planet's biological diversity. Extensive poaching and destruction of tiger's natural habitats has brought this animal to the brink of extinction.

Governments of the 13 "tiger" countries, including Russia, supported the idea of World Bank to launch the Global Tiger Initiative in a bid to preserve and multiply the worldwide tiger population. The heads of the governments in the "tiger" countries adopted a common program for preservation and recovery of this species. Their aim is to double the global population of tigers before the next Chinese Year of the Tiger – 2022.

The summit for the preservation of tigers starts in September 2010 in Vladivostok, Russia.

Cedar is the foundation of the Far East Taiga food chain. The wild boar is directly dependent on it, and consecutively so is the tiger.

Destruction of habitats and exhaustion of the food supply

The population of tigers is closely connected to the abundance of wild boars, Manchurian wapitis, roe deers and spotted deers, on which tigers prey. Tigers also need dense bushes and log jams as shelters.

This is why poaching and deforestation pose threat to tigers.



Siberian tiger



Meat and organs serve as dainties in illegal Asian restaurants. The penis is sold as a cure for impotency.

Skin is used as home decoration or in religious rituals. Poaching for skin and its transportation is now prohibited by international laws.

Bones get ground into powder and added to solutions, liquors, and ligaments that allegedly cure rheumatism. Rice wine with tiger bone infusions is sold as invigorant and healing drink.

Claws and fangs are used for charms and jewellery sold in Asian and Russian markets.

Arrrrrrrgh

Siberian tiger is the only tiger to live in snowy areas and fit to survive during the cold Siberian winters.

As early as November the average snow cover in the Russian Far East can reach 10 cm.

Year of a tiger

In winter the tiger's fur on the back, sides and paws is about 2 – 4 cm long and has thick underhair

In summer the fur gets less thick and about two times shorter (1 – 2 cm). It is has a lighter and a brighter colour and no underhair

In autumn the fur grows longer and the underhair grows back



A gorged and content tiger

During summertime the tiger's diet gets significantly richer with badgers, raccoon dogs and other small animals

The Siberian tiger needs to kill 50 – 70 hooved mammals a year to survive

A hungry and very dangerous tiger in a man-wrecked forest

During crop failure, and as a result of excessive poaching on hooved mammals, the tiger is starving and can attack livestock and even people

Up to 95 % of the young hooved population die of starvation and illnesses in the worst years

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
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Find out how you can help the tigers: www.worldwildlife.org/tigers and www.globaltigerinitiative.org