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Conservation Groups Work To Protect Bengal Tiger Habitat

by Britany Ugalde Gonzalez, age 11

The Bengal tiger is the most common tiger living in the wild today. Nevertheless, it is still in danger of becoming extinct. There are only 1,850 Bengal tigers living in the world today, and their habitats are under constant threat from human expansion and urbanization.

Bengal tigers can weigh as much as 575 pounds. They can grow up to 10 feet long. About 1,400 tigers of the remaining 1,850 Bengal tigers live in India.

Because Bengal tigers mainly live in India, they are also known as Indian tigers. Small groups of these tigers, however, can be found in many different environments across south Asia. They inhabit both the dry and wet deciduous forests of south central India, the Sal forests of the Himalayan foothills, and the Terai-Duar grasslands between India and Nepal. Small populations have been found in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and China.

These tigers face many threats to their survival aside from loss of habitat. Poachers try to kill, capture, or hunt wild tigers illegally. Poachers even enter wildlife preserves to find these tigers.

The World Wildlife Fund and other conservation groups began a program in 2002 to help protect Bengal tigers and their habitats. They are working hard to decrease the threats to the tigers in the wild and are also trying to restore their natural habitat.

Although it is a challenging task, conservation groups are trying hard to save this unique animal.

[Source: Simpson Street Free Press Archives]

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