

Photo courtesy Michael Vickers www.tigerintheforest.co.uk



CONSERVATION STATUS

- EX Extinct
- EW Extinct in the wild
- CR Critically endangered
- EN **ENDANGERED**
- VU Vulnerable
- NT Not threatened
- LC Least concern

IUCN Red List of Endangered Species

Fur
 Thick, striped fur provides significant camouflage; breaking up their shape in the undergrowth, confusing the eye and disguising the contours of their outline. Each tiger has a unique stripe pattern.

Ears
 Tigers can swivel their ears to point towards a noise. On the rear of their ear is a white circular spot. This may play a role in communication with other tigers or even act as an obvious mark to help cubs follow an adult.

Tail
 Tigers have tails of around one metre in length which helps them to balance as they run, walk and jump. They also use their tail to communicate.

Mouth
 Tigers have a powerful jaw and canine teeth which grow to three inches long. Hunting alone they prey on a variety of species from large buffalo to birds. Just one in ten attacks result in a kill.

Eyes
 Hunting mainly during the morning and twilight, a practice called crepuscular, tiger eyes have large lenses and pupils that increase the amount of light let into the eye when light is low.

Cubs
 An average of 3-4 cubs are born in a litter, usually in a den, cave or thick undergrowth. Learning from their mother, cubs will become more independent around 18 months and will make their first solo kill. They often stay with their mother until they are about two and a half.

Paws
 Tiger paws contain scent glands which demarcate their home range as they walk through the forest. Tiger claws grow up to four inches in length and help them defend themselves and grasp prey as well as providing balance.

Legs
 Powerful and muscular legs and shoulders help tigers to grip and control prey. Tigers have hind legs that are longer than their front legs giving them the ability to jump high and far.



TIGER

Today, it is estimated that fewer than 3,000 tigers survive in the wild. With increasing threats from man, they desperately need help to survive.

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) funds key tiger projects in India, Thailand and Russia supporting vital anti-poaching patrols, undercover investigations, educational programmes and monitoring activities central to the survival of the tiger in the wild. www.davidshepherd.org

