



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2005

CONTINUED ZOO SUPPORT

21st Century Tiger is delighted to report that many zoos continue to support tiger conservation projects after the closure of the EAZA Tiger Campaign last year. Our support service for participating zoos also continues, with pictures, reports and other useful information from the field projects available on the website for use in displays, talks and promotional activities.

During the campaign a total of 22 Platinum Awards (for raising over €15,000) were awarded to 18 zoos. Top of the league was Colchester Zoo with over €60,000 raised in total! Kolmarden Zoo in Sweden and Stuttgart Zoo in Germany were also among the most successful fundraisers, and a short report about each is below.

Kolmarden Zoo

Kolmarden Zoo has been involved in conservation for some years now, raising funds from organisations, companies, private individuals and zoo visitors and distributing them to different conservation projects. They have Amur tigers and have for the last couple of years chosen to support tiger

projects in the Russian Far East through 21st Century Tiger. Currently they are supporting Verkhnebikinsky Wildlife Refuge with the Russian NGO Phoenix.

Kolmarden are organising a three-week tiger period this summer, filled with fun activities for young and old. Face painting and a photo tiger safari for children are both very popular, and the zoo keeps their visitors interested with keeper talks every day about tigers in the wild and the conservation projects they support.

The zoo's tiger exhibit also features a wooden cottage where visitors can examine a tiger skin, skeleton and claws, and find information on tiger

biology and conservation. There is even a model tiger that shows how the tiger marks its territory by producing a fake urine spray when the visitor presses a button! www.kolmarden.se



© Kolmarden Zoo

Stuttgart Zoo

The Wilhelma Zoological and Botanical Gardens in Stuttgart keeps a pair of Sumatran tigers - Tuan and Dumai. In 2003/2004 they participated in the EAZA tiger campaign and several big new educational signboards and tiger photos were displayed in the public area in the tiger house. Daily keeper talks, special tiger days for children, and volunteers presenting different materials in the tiger house contributed to the promotion of the tiger campaign. Another big success was the sale of beautiful picture postcards and photos of Tuan and Dumai, which had kindly been made available by amateur photographer Harald Löffler. Harald is a member of the Wilhelma friends-of-the-zoo society and a tiger enthusiast. His photos, the products of hundreds of hours in front of the tiger exhibit, can be found at www.eye-of-the-tiger.com.

Over €15,000 was collected in 2003/2004 at Stuttgart, whose chosen project is the conservation and protection units in Sumatra's Kerinci-Seblat National Park via 21st Century Tiger. Since all those who contributed to this agreed that the tiger campaign was a big success and a good example of zoos supporting in-situ- conservation, the zoo signed up to continue their effort through 21st Century

Tiger. And it seems that Dumai and Tuan wanted to demonstrate their special support as well; Dumai gave birth to two cubs on 15th May 2005 and turns out to be a perfect mother. The cubs are welcome not only at Stuttgart Zoo but also in Europe, as they are good stock for the future maintenance of the zoo tiger population and the conservation benefits it generates. www.wilhelma.de



© Harald Löffler

Fundraising Activities



© Jason McIntosh

A sponsored bike ride to visit 280 underground stations in London was undertaken by Jason McIntosh. It took him one month, 400 miles, three punctures, a lost pedal, smashed lamps and numerous breakdowns! Jason reports that it was both fun and dirty, and highly recommends viewing the river or the parks at dawn on a sunny morning. All £1,026 he raised was kindly given to 21st Century Tiger.

21ST CENTURY TIGER WEBSITE

Web designer Nigel Hodgetts kindly maintains and updates 21st Century Tiger's website free of charge. There you will find information about the projects funded, news, fundraising activities and much more.

Don't forget that you can now make a donation through a simple click on the PayPal icon on the website. It is quick and easy and 100% of the money goes to the conservation projects! Have a look at: www.21stCenturyTiger.org

Administrator We are sad to report that Naomi McClure has moved on from her post at 21st Century Tiger to pastures new. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and dedication during her time with us and wish her well in her future venture. In her place we are delighted to welcome Hanna Beach, who took over 21st Century Tiger's administration at the end of February. Hanna, who is Swedish, has close-up knowledge of big cats as she used to be a keeper at London Zoo.

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News from the field

RUSSIA

Mediating conflicts between tigers and people (Wildlife Conservation Society)

The Amur tiger ranges across a variety of human-influenced landscapes in the Russian Far East, and because of the low productivity of the land it competes with the local people for resources. WCS Russia works closely with the State Inspection Tiger Response Team, trying to address two different types of conflicts; direct conflicts between tigers and people and also competition for prey species.



© John Goodrich

Their overall goal is to better understand the needs of Amur tigers in the Russian Far East in order to better protect them. Through radio-collaring and monitoring tigers they are defining tiger predation rates and are working together with the Response Team to avoid tiger-human conflicts. It is a very slow and difficult process to study tigers, but with the help of a database the project is increasing our understanding of the tiger's ecology, including population dynamics, predator-prey relationships, social structure, reproduction and survivorship.

In August 2004 scientists from WCS and their Russian colleagues from the Sikhote-Alin Reserve fitted three wild Amur tiger cubs under six weeks old with tiny radio-collars – the first time it has ever been possible to track tigers at this age. The collars are designed to expand and eventually break and fall off as the cubs grow. Almost half of all tiger cubs die in their first year, and this study will give researchers crucial insights into how they live their lives in the Russian Far East. These cubs represent the third generation of radio-collared tigers for WCS Russia and their in country partners – the first tiger was collared in 1991.

News from the field

INDONESIA

Kerinci Seblat tiger protection project (Fauna & Flora International)

Kerinci Seblat National Park is one of the most important conservation areas in Southeast Asia. The primary purpose of this project is to reduce poaching

and trafficking of Sumatran tigers and their prey species and protection of critical habitat. Their Tiger Protection and Conservation Units, who investigate instances of poaching and carry out patrols, tackle these problems.

In 2004 a pilot programme to develop community awareness regarding the Sumatran tiger status, threats to Sumatran tiger and to develop active community support for species conservation, was also launched.

Finally jailed in Indonesia – Nursamsi

In August 2002 Nursamsi, a civil servant was arrested in Kerinci for trafficking tiger parts. It is believed that he traded at least eight tigers between 1999 -2002. Following his arrest, Nursamsi tried everything to avoid prison, appealing first to authorities in Jambi and then also to Jakarta. But we are delighted to report that he has in April 2005 finally been sentenced to 12 months in prison!

Joint operation between tiger team and the police

A 35 year old hunter has been arrested followed an under-cover intelligence operation by Kerinci-Seblat Tiger Protection Team (PHS) rangers Eko Supriyatno and Sukarno after reports of serious tiger poaching in forests east of Kerinci Seblat National Park. The arrested man is expected to be sentenced in mid August 2005 while a second man connected to the case is still on the run.

The arrest was one of two successful anti-tiger poaching law enforcement operations in which the PHS team took part this year. In May two men were both sentenced to six-months gaol terms in Bengkulu province after attempting to sell a stuffed tiger. In June the PHS team provided support and advice to police in West Sumatra province following the arrest of a man for possession of a tiger skin.



© Debbie Martyr

News from the field

INDIA *Crisis in India*

Tigers are disappearing from the famous Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, and have completely vanished from nearby Sariska Tiger Reserve. This scandal has led to fears that the situation might not be much better in other Indian parks. No one knows exactly how many tigers there are in India's 27 Project Tiger reserves. Official figures state that there are 3,600 wild tigers in the country, about 50% of the total world population, but Indian tiger experts believe that there are many fewer, perhaps only about 2,000.

This crisis requires top level action to stop the rapidly increasing poaching and illegal trade. A key player in the trade is Sansar Chand and we are delighted to report that he and members of his family are presently in jail, having been charged with trading more than 100 tigers and several hundred leopard skins and other endangered wildlife. Mr Chand was first charged with wildlife trading in 1974, but has had remarkable success in avoiding a significant custodial sentence to date. Let us hope this is about to change.

It is not only poaching that threatens tigers, leopards and other wildlife in India. The human population has risen to over a billion, creating significant pressure on India's resources, protected areas and other wild habitats for living space and development. As India's economic development gathers pace, it is important that conservation of the country's natural heritage and biodiversity resources is not swept aside.

21st Century Tiger is currently funding two projects in India – Community Leadership for Tiger Conservation at two locations, Anshi Dandeli and Tadoba Andhari. Both are run by the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS).

Anshi Dandeli

Increased human population and cultivation of most of the hilly region of Anshi National Park and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary has resulted in fragmentation of the forest. There are both legal and illegal human settlements inside the reserve and a large number of villages surrounding it, which are highly dependent on the forest for such things as fuel, wood etc. In addition, the project faces problems of commercial extractions of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), logging and hunting of the tiger's prey.

The project continues to improve public awareness and gain support through educational programmes, including information about the negative impacts of commercial harvesting of NTFP and poaching.

Tadoba Andhari

This park is facing similar problems of poaching, poisoning of tiger kills, hunting of ungulates, forest fires, grazing and the collection of non-timber forest products. There are six villages inside the protected area and 53 villages surrounding the park. Some of these are to be resettled outside the park through a government implemented resettlement project.

CWS holds meetings with the villagers, arranges workshops and field monitoring of tigers and their prey, mobilises community support and works to improve the protection systems.

Two new projects have been approved



© Phoenix

Amur/Siberian Tiger Conservation in Verkhnebikinski Wildlife Refuge (Phoenix)

Primorye in the south of the Russian Far East represents the only area in the world where both Amur tigers and leopards still exist in the wild. The demand for tiger parts and skins is a

major driving force behind the poaching and trafficking with habitat loss and predator conflicts also increasing. The project has a strong law enforcement component, with two patrol teams working within the reserve.

Saving the Amur tiger depends ultimately on the Russian people, especially those living within the tiger habitat. With only about 400 Amur tigers left in the wild, environmental education and outreach can play a major role in tiger conservation, and this project also stresses the involvement of local people, particularly the younger generations.

Handling Human-Tiger conflict to support Sumatran tiger conservation effort in Indonesia (FFI)

The purpose of this short term study of human-tiger conflict in selected sites around Kerinci Seblat National Park in Indonesia is to minimise Sumatran tiger mortality, support tiger conservation efforts and develop communication and collaboration with the local people.

Nine new project proposals from the Russian Far East, Indonesia and India are currently being rigorously reviewed by 21st Century Tiger's group of experts.

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21st Century Tiger

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Tel: +44 (0) 20 7449 6444 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7483 4436 www.21stcenturytiger.org E-mail: 21stCenturyTiger@zsl.org

21st Century Tiger is a wild tiger conservation partnership between Global Tiger Patrol (charity number 328126) and the Zoological Society of London (charity number 208728).