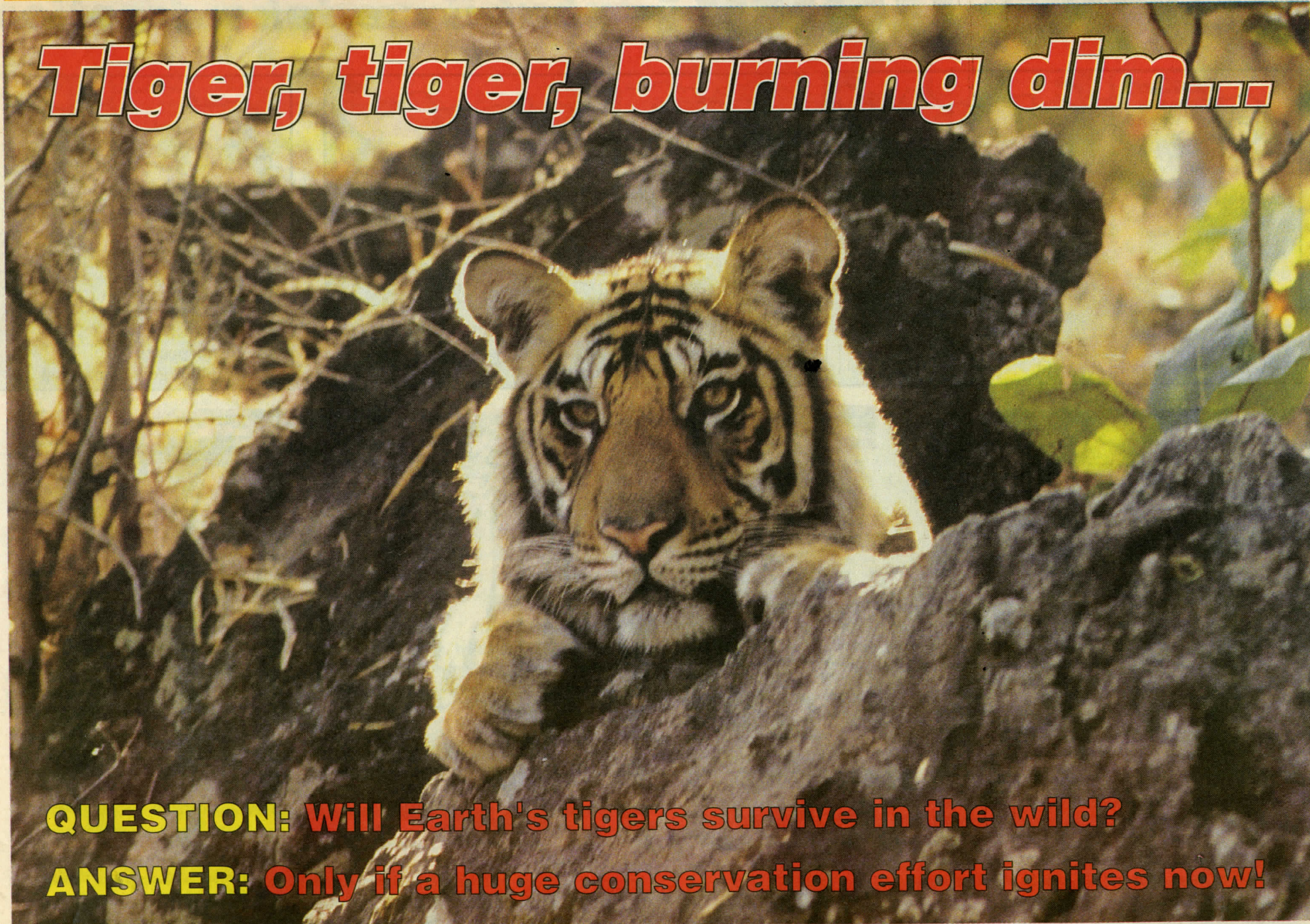


Tiger, tiger, burning dim....



QUESTION: Will Earth's tigers survive in the wild?

ANSWER: Only if a huge conservation effort ignites now!

CANADIANS MUST HELP SAVE THE TIGER

CIDA sponsors WCWC-Tiger Trust project to help endangered tiger survive in India

Less than a century ago, nearly all of India was a tigerland. It was one of Earth's richest ecological units, with one of the widest varieties of flora and fauna found anywhere in the world. There were no physical barriers to the free flow of Bengal tiger genes. Then there were more than 50,000 tigers. Now there are less than 3,000 tigers left in India, of which only about one-third live in "protected" areas.

Kanha National Park, established in 1934, is one of the largest tiger reserves in India. Yet even here, tigers are not completely safe.

Kanha has a 900 square kilometre core reserve area with no human habitation except for about 150 unarmed forest guards who live in isolated huts. This core area is surrounded by a 1,000 square kilometre buffer zone, including 185 villages. Twenty-two of these villages were established recently as people were relocated from the park's core area. About 100 tigers currently live in Kanha. Their prey base includes 10,000 chital deer, wild boar and other ungulate species. The vegetation in the park comprises mixed deciduous forest interspersed with grassland. The wildlife in the park are totally protected—at least on paper. In fact, Kanha is one of India's best protected tiger reserves. No hunting of any species, nor cutting of trees, nor grazing of cattle are allowed. But these activities do occasionally happen. Most of the pressures come from villagers living near Kanha who currently do not see the park benefitting them.

About 90,000 people live in the buffer zone surrounding Kanha—an overall population density of about 90 people per square kilometre. The average size of each village is about 500. Public facilities within the buffer zone are rudimentary. There is generally one elementary school per village. There are only three medical clinics in the entire buffer area, all of which are minimally staffed, under-equipped and inaccessible to many villagers. The predominant fuel is wood. Villagers walk great distances daily to gather fuelwood from the dwindling forests that still exist within the buffer zone. Some gather wood illegally from the park's core area. The only significant dry-season agricultural activity is the raising of goats and cattle, whose populations rival or exceed the number of people in the region. Because of the intensive grazing and fuelwood gathering activities, the buffer zone resembles a semi-desert which stops abruptly at the park boundary. The area inside the park is in stark contrast, a lush forest oasis.

The current socio-economic situation exerts tremendous counter-conservation pressures on the Kanha tiger reserve. Most villagers living in the buffer zone are hostile to the park. This is partly due to the fact that the national government has not kept all of its promises regarding compensation and mitigation to the transplanted villagers. But also, it's the simple fact that the park is like a feast laid out on a table surrounded by hungry people who are forbidden to touch.

Continued on page three



Tiger bone medicines purchased in Vancouver's Chinatown.

Wilderness Committee demands removal of all outlawed tiger bone medicines from North American stores

A personal plea from Anthony Marr, WCWC's BET'R campaigner

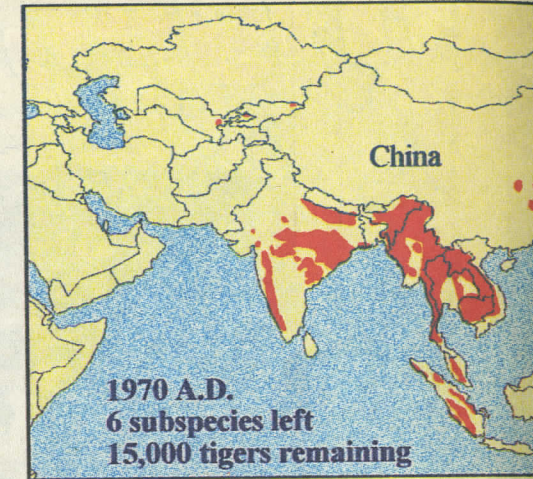
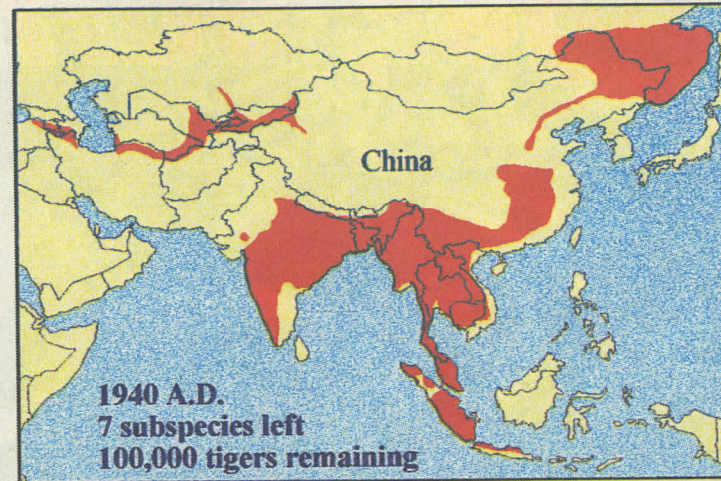
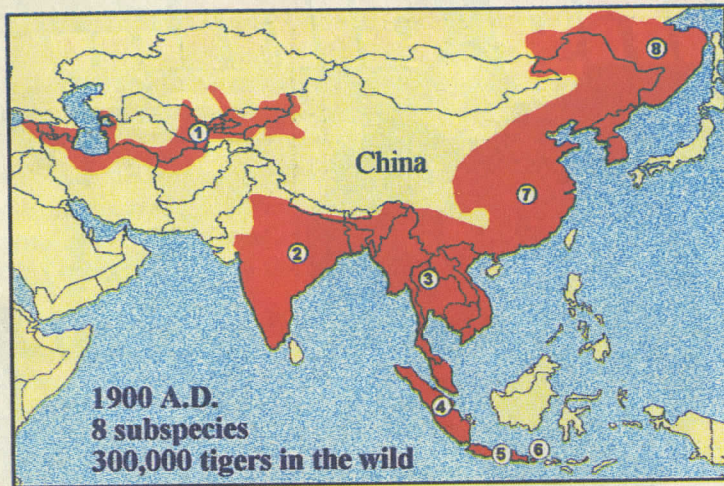
The Chinese have a saying: *If you go up the mountain often enough, you will encounter the tiger.* Since 1995, when I founded the BET'R (Bear, Elephant, Tiger and Rhino) Campaign to end the use of endangered animal parts and joined the staff of Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), I have made many trips to Chinatown to seek out tiger bone medicines and try to have these illegal products removed from store shelves. My trip in the summer of 1997 was once too often.

Just four blocks away from WCWC's storefront office in Vancouver's Gastown, a two-person Omni Film crew and I were being pursued down a Chinatown alley by men who wanted to take from us the evidence of their crime.

Their crime was selling Chinese medicines containing the ground up body parts of endangered species. The evidence was five boxes of different brands of pills that I had just purchased from the Ngai Hoi apothecary in Vancouver's Chinatown. Each box listed tiger bone as an ingredient. My purchase of these illegal medicines was filmed by an Omni Film cameraman parked outside the front entrance of the store.

Continued on page two

GOING, GOING-- but if we take drastic co



TIGERS ARE MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS--

some amazing facts

The biggest cats (mammalian family Felidea) are tigers. Their original natural habitat ranged from steamy hot jungles to icy cold forests in Asia. There are five races (subspecies) of tiger alive in the world today.

The tiger's scientific name is *Panthera tigris*. Tigers are designated an endangered species. Only about 5,000 individual tigers are left in the wild. In the past 70 years three subspecies have been driven into extinction: the Bali, Javan, and Caspian tigers.

Here are some interesting fact about tigers:

- Siberian tigers are the heaviest subspecies, weighing in at 500 or more pounds (225 kg). In all subspecies the males are heavier than the females.
- Sumatran tigers are the lightest subspecies at 250 lbs. (110 kg) for males and 200 lbs. (90 kg) for females.



Tiger in Kanha National Park. Photo taken by Anthony Marr on a March 1997 ecotour.

Continued from page one

year old, Toronto's Chinatown was still like "an endangered species parts supermarket." A month later I



as its body. Tigers use their tails for balance when they run and make fast turns. They also use their tails to communicate with other tigers.

- Tigers have round pupils in contrast to domestic cats which have slit pupils. Tigers have yellow irises. They see in colour. Due to a retinal adaption that reflects light back into the retina, the night vision of tigers is six times better than that of humans.
- Tigers have the largest teeth of all living felines. The canine teeth of the largest tigers measure as much as 3 inches (7.5 cm) long.
- A tiger's claws are 3 to 4 inches (8 to 10 cm) long. Like domestic cats, tigers can retract their claws. Tigers scratch trees to mark their territory.
- No one knows for sure why tigers are striped, but scientists think tiger stripes act as camouflage, helping them hide from their prey. The Sumatran tiger has the most stripes of all the subspecies; the Siberian tiger the fewest. Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints; no two tigers have the same pattern of stripes.
- Tigers are good swimmers and can easily cross rivers and streams as wide as 4 to 5 miles (6 to 8 km).
- The average tiger leap is 16 to 20 ft. (5 to 6 m) and some can jump as far as 26 to 33 ft. (8 to 10 m).
- The life span of tigers in the wild is about 10 years.
- Tiger cubs are born blind and weigh only 2 to 3 lbs. (1 kg), depending on the subspecies. Tiger cubs are dependent on their mother for milk for 6 to 8 weeks before tagging along on their first hunts. Tigers have fully developed canines by 16 months, but they don't begin hunting themselves until about 18 months old.
- In contrast to lions, a tiger mother always gives her cubs priority when it comes to feeding, letting them eat their fill before she eats.
- Tigers can eat up to 60 lbs. of meat at one time. After such a meal, they do not eat for several days.
- Unlike lions, adult tigers like to live alone (except for mothers with cubs). In the forest a single tiger can sneak up and surprise its prey better than a group of tigers could.

return to the store to make a second purchase. It was then that I was recognized. I was told, "We don't want your business. Leave at once." Angered when I didn't immediagely respond, he added, "If you don't leave right now, I'll call the police." I said, "Go ahead. I'll show them the illegal stuff you have on your shelves."

He did not call the police. I left. As I reached our van parked in the back alley, two men came up and demanded that I give them the pills I purchased. When I refused, one of them pushed me aside and reached into the van, trying to grab the bag with the store's name and logo containing the boxes of tiger bone medicine. When the video producer said to his cameraman, "Film this!" the two men withdrew, but not before one of them said to me in Chinese, "Watch your step, buddy!"

Early in 1996, as director of WCWC's BETR Campaign, I launched a media blitz of Vancouver's Chinatown apothecaries, resulting in national media coverage by CBC, CTV and the *Toronto Globe and Mail*. In March I received a letter from then federal Minister of the Environment, Sergio Marchi: "...The federal government's capacity to deter trade will increase with the proclamation of the Wildlife Trade Act this spring. Under the Act, poachers and smugglers will be liable to penalties of up to \$150,000 and 5 years' imprisonment. Corporations are liable to fines of up to \$300,000. The maximum fine can be doubled for a second offence."

In May of 1996, four years after the bill was passed in Parliament, the Wildlife Trade Act (WAPPRIITA—the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act) was officially proclaimed. A booklet published in at least English, Chinese and Korean explained: "If you operate a pharmacy, it is up to you to be sure that there are no endangered species parts or ingredients in any of the medicines in your store. If any part or derivative of an endangered species is found in your store, it will be confiscated and you could be charged...." Ignorance of the new law is not a valid excuse for breaking it.

In June of 1997, I was informed by a friend that despite the fact that the Wildlife Trade Act was more than a

round my friend's report to be true. The *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Sun*, *Ottawa Citizen* and the Global Television Network all covered my story. Their message: 14 months after the enactment of WAPPRIITA, the law that was supposed to protect endangered species was not doing the job. Apparently campaigning for the enactment of a law is not enough. We have to campaign for its enforcement, too.

Today, Vancouver's Chinatown is a little cleaner than Toronto's, perhaps due to more diligent enforcement. In a cover article of the *Georgia Straight* magazine (April 24, 1997) entitled *Bloody Superstition* (about WCWC's BETR Campaign to stop the use of tiger parts in Chinese medicine), a Canadian Wildlife Service enforcement officer for WAPPRIITA said that "about 39,000 individual tiger-containing products were seized in B.C. in 1996". This is commendable.

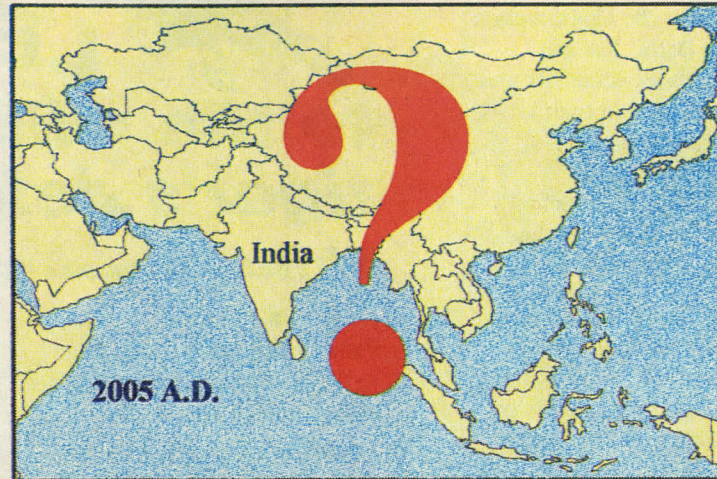
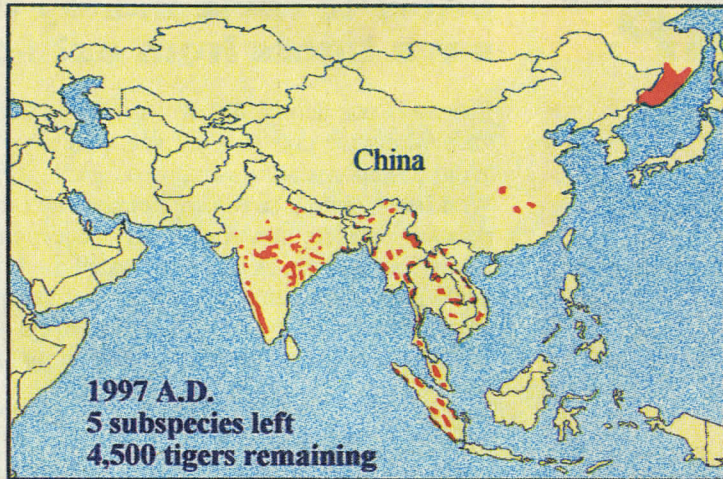
But he was also quoted as saying that enforcement officers are concentrating on wholesalers and large importers since "...We started off going to retail stores and we took a lot of heat and criticism from the community for doing that...We don't want to be too heavy. We have got too many new Canadians here, and it takes a while to assimilate. We're dealing with something that is thousands of years old. You don't change that overnight."

I appreciate his sensitivity, but Canada's soft enforcement approach can only engender a disrespect for the law and continue to place poaching pressures on the world's dwindling number of tigers.


We should learn a lesson from England. British police, assisted by TRAFFIC, cracked down in February of 1995 on the illegal sale of traditional oriental medicines containing or purported to contain tiger bone, rhinoceros horn and bear bile. The police carried out simultaneous raids on 12 oriental pharmacies. Canadian officials claim that prosecutions under the Wildlife Trade Act are difficult because it is very expensive to verify that medicines claiming to contain tiger parts actually do. However under United Kingdom law, the sale of such products is illegal, "even if the product does not



Conservation measures now -- NOT GONE



1. Caspian Tiger (extinct 1970s)
2. Bengal Tiger (approx. 3,000 remain today)
3. Indo-Chinese Tiger (approx. 800 remain today)
4. Sumatran Tiger (approx. 400 remain today)
5. Javan Tiger (extinct 1980s)
6. Bali Tiger (extinct 1940s)
7. South Chinese Tiger (approx. 20 remain today)
8. Siberian Tiger (approx. 250 remain today)

 Range of the tiger

genuinely contain derivatives from these species but claims to do so...." I say, if our law doesn't work, change it to match the British one that does.

The world trade in tiger parts and tiger bone derivatives is vast. TRAFFIC research indicates more than 27 million items claiming to contain tiger derivatives were recorded in international trade between 1990 and 1992. To produce these, China has hunted the South China tiger from an estimated population of 4,000 in the 1960s down to a pitiful 20 today. It is estimated that China is importing 300-400 poached Bengal tigers a year from India, when the total tiger population there is less than 3,000. South Korea is also believed to import another 200-300 from India & elsewhere.

A letter to the editor published in the *Georgia Strait* states: "...would we allow other cultural practices, such as incest, female genital mutilation, bestiality or polygamy to be imported into Canada? The trade in endangered species-based products needs to be stopped now, instead of at some fuzzy later date when, to save some feelings, we're allowing a magnificent species to be destroyed."

I am a Chinese Canadian myself, and I say to the Canadian enforcement officers: "Go for it! Uphold the law and protect endangered species. If you don't act, you're helping condemn the tiger to extinction!"

Continued from page one

When villagers attempt to enter the park to cut wood, graze cattle or kill animals, it is the forest guard's job to tell them to cease and desist. Over the last few years, several forest guards have been killed by villagers, at least one by stoning, another by the wood cutters' saws, and others by poachers' bullets. Most of the forest guards have no communication equipment (no telephone, radio or even walkie-talkie), no weapons to



WCWC's BET'R campaigner poses with live tiger for the cover story "Bloody Superstition" published in the April 24th, 1997 *Georgia Strait*.

As part of this collaborative project, WCWC, well known for its mass public education campaigns within Canada, is publishing this educational newspaper as well as a tiger poster aimed at increasing public awareness outside of India of the need for more active support for tiger conservation. WCWC campaigner Anthony Marr, who travelled

back up anti-poaching enforcement of for self-defence and no vehicles, except perhaps for rickety bicycles. Some guards don't even have shoes.

It is well known that outside agents have offered villagers about \$50 and perhaps a bottle of whisky to kill a tiger. Given the villagers' average \$30 per month income, it is a major temptation. Most villagers do not know that one dead tiger's parts transformed into traditional Chinese medicines may be worth \$80,000 or more in the consuming country. The contracted poacher in India is supplied with firearms, wire snares, poisoned baits, and sometimes jugs of powerful insecticides to dump into waterholes to kill animals indiscriminately in hopes of bagging a tiger.

Currently, villagers who live in the buffer zone around Kanha National Park do not benefit significantly from the ecotourism trade that has slowly developed over the last few years. Some villagers are hired as safari lodge attendants and forest guards. But by and large, villagers regard the park as a rich foreigners' playground and see themselves as being left in the dust of safari jeeps.

This makes the task faced by tiger conservationists complex. One thing is for certain. Whether or not anti-poaching efforts succeed, unless the villagers living in the buffer zone surrounding the tiger reserves begin to realize benefits from the parks and become staunch tiger defenders themselves, there is little hope for the tiger.

Over the past year, with the generous support of a \$75,000 Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant from the Canadian government, Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), Canada's largest membership-based wilderness conservation group, partnered with Tiger Trust India (TTI) on a project to help save India's endangered tigers. Tiger Trust is a non-profit society dedicated to preserving India's wildlife by enhancing public environmental awareness, conducting research, encouraging eco-tourism and promoting rural development that conserves nature. Tiger Trust has a tiger safari lodge at the southern entrance to Kanha National Park.

to India and visited Kanha National Park and some of the buffer zone villages, has created a tiger preservation slide show. In the spring of 1997, he presented his show to thousands of school children in the Greater Vancouver region.

Most of the effort and funds in the WCWC-TTI project are earmarked for Tiger Trust's on-the-ground activities to establish core support amongst the local people for protection of Kanha Park and preservation of the tiger. Tiger Trust is donating an out-building on the grounds of their lodge to be developed into a free medical clinic for use by the ten closest villages. The clinic will be staffed by one volunteer doctor (knowledgeable about the traditional medicinal plants that grow in Kanha) and several volunteer nurses. The clinic's waiting room will also serve as an education centre, stocked with books, magazines and posters, and equipped with a video machine and a continuous-running slide show explaining the importance of Kanha Park to local water supplies, soil conservation and community health. Next to the clinic, Tiger Trust is building out of local resources a demonstration bio-gas plant (sufficient for six families) to show a practical alternative to firewood.

Tiger Trust is also developing a training/educational program for park guides, village teachers and park visitors and is donating approximately 200 free Kanha tour packages to teachers and students in the surrounding villages to help them become more knowledgeable and appreciative of the Park and its wildlife. In the effort to build support for the Park, Tiger Trust is also producing and publishing 5,000 copies of a tiger preservation comic book for free distribution to villagers.

This WCWC-TTI project in Kanha is only a beginning. The ultimate success of the campaign—to save India's endangered tigers—will require a sustained effort supported by major funding in order to involve other villages as well as other tiger reserves in India. The result will be more than just a change in local peoples' attitudes towards tigers and parks. It will include a changed, more sustainable way of life.

I will not stand idly by and watch the wild tiger go extinct!

- Yes! I will contribute** to WCWC's BET'R campaign to help save Earth's wild tigers for our children.

Here is my tax-deductible gift of _____\$25 _____\$50 _____\$100 _____\$500 _____\$1,000 _____other.

I understand that my donation will be used to continue your research and education campaign and your partnership efforts with groups working to protect tigers in their range countries, especially India, where tigers still roam wild and free.

- Sign me up!** I want to [] renew my membership [] become a Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my [] \$30 general [] \$52 sustaining-family annual membership fee. I understand that the more members, the more political influence you have to protect the tigers' wilderness habitats.

Name (please print) _____ Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Tel _____

Please clip and return to: The Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 1A4

Thank you for your support!



Visit Kanha National Park and see Bengal tigers in the wild—a tribute to India's tiger conservationists

In 1969, at an International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) meeting held in Delhi, Kailash Sankhala alerted this prestigious body of scientists and conservationists to the dire plight of India's tigers. His warnings prompted an extensive scientific study, resulting in the Bengal tiger being declared an endangered species. In 1973 Mr. Sankhala launched *Project Tiger*—an initiative to educate the public and protect habitats critical to the tiger's survival in India.

Project Tiger was backed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi and this translated into widespread public acceptance and support. *Project Tiger* became one of the world's most successful conservation projects. Tiger populations in India increased from a low of 1,800 in 1972 to 4,500.

In the 1990s *Project Tiger* lost its political patronage. Trading gateways opened and the demand for tiger bone for traditional Chinese medicines skyrocketed. Tiger populations again began to plummet.

Despite pressures on the tigers and their habitat, Kanha National Park has been able to protect most of its tigers. Pradeep Sankhala, in the tradition of his late father, has continued *Tiger Trust India*, a non-profit society focused on developing ecotourism in Kanha and other Indian tiger reserves as a means of increasing peoples' love of tigers and re-igniting a national commitment to save them. *Tiger Trust India* is now working in partnership with WCWC to strengthen its efforts to protect India's endangered tigers.

For information on how to join an ecotour of Kanha National Park in India and see tigers in the wild contact: Indian Nature Expeditions, Suite 206, Rakesh Deep, 11 Commercial Complex Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi, India 110049. Tel (011-91-11)-685-3760 Fax 686-5212.



to the wild tiger's defense

Write to: (and send WCWC a photocopy)

Shri I. K. Gujra
Prime Minister of India
Office of the Prime Minister
South Block
New Delhi, India 110001

Explain how important tiger conservation is to you and thank him for the existing tiger reserve parks in India.

Write to: (and send WCWC a photocopy)

The Honourable Ms. Anne McLellan
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Explain how you feel about the lack of enforcement of Canada's new law forbidding the sale of products containing endangered species parts.

Credits

Published by Western Canada
Wilderness Committee (WCWC),
20 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C.,
Canada V6B 1A4. Tel: (604) 683-8220
Fax: (604) 683-8229
E-Mail: mail.wildernesscommittee.org

SAVE-THE-TIGER WALK '97 WCWC launches a massive effort to raise money to save tigers from extinction

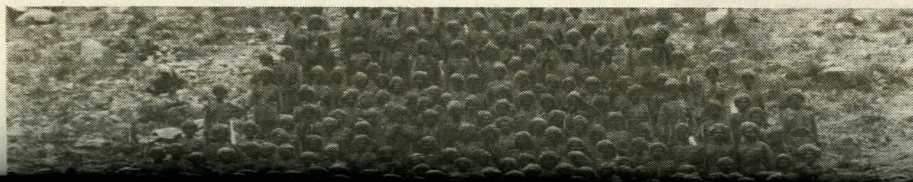
If there is one animal that will galvanize the world into undertaking the drastic conservation measures needed to avoid an ecological catastrophe on Earth, it's the tiger. Wild tigers epitomize the wild earth. Their declining numbers measure how fragile our connection to mother nature has become. With an estimated total of only 5,000 individuals remaining of all tiger subspecies, and an estimated loss of two tigers a day world-wide to poaching and habitat loss...time truly is running out.

Save-the-Tiger Walk '97 will be held in Vancouver, B.C. on Saturday, October 18, 1997, the first day of World Rainforest Week. The goal of the walk is to raise a significant amount of money to save the tiger, because lack of funds is a major reason why efforts to protect the tiger have not yet succeeded.

The walk is sufficiently short—only 5 kilometres—to allow the youngest of tiger-lovers to participate. There will be fun events at the end of the walk for children and adults alike to celebrate the tiger. Hundreds of volunteer organizers are helping out. With the participation of dozens of students from each of the several hundred schools in Vancouver's Lower Mainland, and pledges averaging \$30 each, the *Save-the-Tiger Walk '97* has the potential to raise a major pool of funds. It will also help raise the public and media awareness needed to deliver wild tigers from the dire straits they're in.

Please participate. There is only one decade left to save the tiger. Please, for the tiger, act now!

What excuse will we give our children if we stand by, do nothing, and watch the wild tigers go extinct?





Maharaja, guests and beaters after a successful early 20th century tiger hunt. From the book *Return of the Tiger* by Kailash Sankhala.

Tiger Trophy Hunter Record Holders

As with most other endangered and threatened large mammals around the world, habitat loss and trophy hunting are the two sides of the destruction coin. Today, protected habitats constitute only 3 percent of India's land base. Although trophy hunting has been banned since 1973, poaching has now replaced it as a major threat. In the past, trophy hunting took its toll as illustrated by this very partial list:

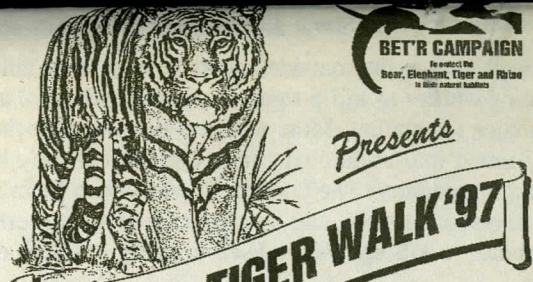
- 1707 tigers killed by Maharajah of Surguja (lifetime total, ending 1964)
- 500 tigers killed by Raja of Gauripur (1884-1940)
- 400 tigers killed in 25 years by George Udney Yule (19th Century)
- 104 tigers killed by Maharaj Ganga Singh incl. 17 tigers in 10 days in 1920
- 700 tigers killed by Maharaj of Gwalior plus over 200 killed by guests
- 17 tigers killed in one week by the Prince of Wales (1921)
- 1 tiger killed by Prince Philip (1961)

WCWC is a non-profit charitable society dedicated to promoting, through research and education, wilderness ecosystem preservation.
 Writing: Anthony Marr
 Editing: Paul George and Adriane Carr
 Design/Layout: Sue Fox
 Map: Chris Player based on Five Tigers' maps (www.5tigers.org)

Front cover tiger photo by Pradeep Sankhala, Tiger Trust. Inside tiger photo by Anthony Marr. Photo of medicines by Kerry Dawson. Photo of tiger and Anthony by Alex Waterhouse-Hayward.

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WCWC gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for its partnership project with Tiger Trust of India: *Local and Global Action to Save India's Endangered Tigers.*



Saturday
OCTOBER, 18
 10 am. RAIN OR SHINE at Lumberman's Arch
STANLEY PARK
 Vancouver, BC



Not if we all do something about it!

200 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
10,000 PARTICIPANTS NEEDED
 to walk and raise money to **HELP SAVE THE TIGER!**

CALL 683-8220

For information, registration and pledge forms
 All proceeds go towards WCWC's BET'R Campaign to save the tiger in the wild.

Yes! I want to be a participant in your *Save-the-Tiger Walk '97* to be held in Vancouver's Stanley Park on October 18, 1997

- I want to help raise money to save the tiger. Here is my \$10 registration fee (children and students walk for free).
- Please send me a sponsorship form so I can get my friends and relatives to support my walk.
- I want a copy of your large full-colour poster: *Mother Earth With No Wild Tigers?* Enclosed is \$10 to cover all costs including taxes and shipping.



Name (please print) _____ Address _____
 City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Tel _____



Please clip and return to: The Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 1A4