

CAUSE AN UPROAR TO SAVE TIGERS
T Murugavel

In the year 1900, more than 100,000 tigers existed on the planet. Approximately were left by 2000. The geographical distribution of tigers spans large parts of Asia, although it has greatly reduced in the last 50 years. Now the majority of the animals are in India, followed by Russia, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Nepal, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Bhutan all play host to smaller numbers, as do China, Myanmar, Lao, and Vietnam.



The tiger population that once inhabited the Korean peninsula was initially considered a unique subspecies *Panthera tigris coreensis*, distinct from the Amur tiger of the Russian Far East (*P. t. altaica*). Its existence in Korea is not confirmed. Only around 80-120 Malayan tiger *Panthera tigris jacksoni* / *Panthera tigris malayensis* are left in the wild. Hence they are Critically Endangered. Malaysia issued separately with Korean and Malayan Tiger.



The tiger usually hunts by night and preys on a variety of animals, but it prefers fairly large prey such as deer (sambar, chital, and swamp deer) and wild pigs.



Beyond the jungles, tigers have long been a part of folklore and literature in every culture. Here, a 1989 Japanese 8¥ stamp and a 1991 Belize 25c stamp display tiger as a folklore character.



Apart from poaching for their parts Tigers were also caught for displays in zoos and circuses.



Monaco 1988 stamp on 14th International Circus Festival, depicting a tiger.



Zoo, Wrocław

Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve is home to the Bengal Tigers. This 10rs Indian stamp shows a tiger in Sundarbans. It has printing errors – heavy colour shifts.



However, conservation efforts have yielded results. The tiger population is slowly on the rise.

