

Tiger Poaching in the Sundarbans

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Background

There are fewer than 4000 tigers (*Panthera tigris*) left in the wild, found in 14 countries across the world.

The **Sundarbans is the largest mangrove forest** in the world and is **home to 300-500 tigers**.

Tiger poaching is one of the most urgent threats and research on poaching in the Bangladesh Sundarbans is urgently needed.

Objectives

- Understand the nature, key driving factors and scale of tiger poaching, trade and national consumption of the Sundarbans tigers.
- Make recommendations for the development of an anti-poaching strategy for the Sundarbans tigers.



Fig. 1. Consumption of tiger parts.



The Daily Star, 18 February, 2011

Fig. 2. Tiger parts seized from the Sundarbans.

Findings so far

Pirates and opportunistic poachers kill tigers inside the Sundarbans.

Demands for tiger products exist in and around the villages of the Sundarbans and also in different places of the country.

People in and around the Sundarbans consume tiger parts for medicinal, cultural, and spiritual reasons.

Conclusions

Understanding the poaching pattern is needed to develop anti-poaching strategies and for effective law enforcement.

This research will gather information on the nature, scale, and key driving factors of tiger poaching, trade, and consumption of the Bangladesh Sundarbans tigers.

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