**Tigers counting and chat with poachers**



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**Samia Saif (27) drew on her own in the jungle with a mission: to save tigers.She interviews poachers and trying to prevent the tiger extinct in the mangrove forest. Together with local residents OneWorld spoke these young conservationist, who this year**[***Future for Nature***](http://futurefornature.org/)**receives award.**

The prize is awarded annually to young, talented conservationists, who each receive 50,000 euros. Saif comes from Bangladesh, but wrote her dissertation at the University of Kent in the UK. For this she went to her own country to count include tigers and get with the locals in order to get information. Loose a trust

**Arrest does not make sense**
Little is known about the tiger position and size of the tiger hunt, and spend map this action may be taken against. Has simply picking poachers according Saif no sense: "They have no alternative livelihood, and buy themselves as free again." By working together with villagers and poachers in the jungle she can combat poaching and so prevent tiger extinction.

**"Everyone feels what the tiger '**
Why the tiger? Saif explains that everyone in Bangladesh have a thing for the big cat, the tiger and their national symbol. Despite the strong bond between people of Bangladesh and the tiger, the animal will die within five to 10 years if nothing against here is done primarily by poaching.

Saif spent 13 months in the jungle by, and gathered there with the help of villagers about tiger poaching. Via through-she came in contact with poachers, who told her how they hunted tigers: "They told me how" others "went to work, not that they were poachers themselves. This is not to run to be caught at risk even though it was not my intention to give them. "Through the interviews Saif learned are what poachers do with the dead tigers, along which routes the tiger parts sold, how high the prices are and how much demand there is for tiger products.

**Poachers have power**
by winning the trust of villagers could elicit from Saif valuable information about the underlying causes of tiger poaching. In the local villages, people want tiger skins and bones, because they are important in their culture. They also hunt tigers sometimes their families or livestock are attacked.

Poachers sell dead tigers to supply the high global demand for these products. Tiger products and alternative medicine Villagers are afraid to show them. Saif: "Poachers have money and power. Often they can after a few months in prison ransom, after which one they are indicated beaten up. "These corrupt practices show that poachers also have contacts with the local government, which makes it even harder to punish them.

In the future, Saif set up a system to make it easier to give poachers: "We want to give villagers the opportunity to anonymously report so they do not have to fear for revenge."

**Threatening text message**
The strong influence of poachers has Saif himself encountered: "When I worked in the jungle I was threatened. I got a text message stating that I had to go, because I would be otherwise. Raped road Fortunately, I was never alone and there were always a few big guys around to watch. "On me Her position as a woman made ​​it her sometimes difficult to do her job because nature is in Bangladesh not seen as 'women's work' . Her work is not without danger, and she still has a long way to go. But Saif continues: "I am very pleased with the recognition that I have received this award. With the money I'm going to get out of the jungle tiger attack, do more research and protect the local population with the tiger in Bangladesh. "

**Comments**

Alice Bergstrom 26-02-2013

Samia Saif is a great and brave woman. They are doing something positive and she stands with her feet on the ground. As I mentioned earlier, protection of nature and its inhabitants very important. Nature safaris spend more money for the entire population and without the tiger, elephant, lion, rhino etc dries this branch of the economy. Besides the fact that the world has become a piece. Poorer weather

**Source:** <http://www.oneworld.nl/lezen/interview/tijgers-tellen-en-kletsen-met-stropers>