

FOR TIGERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2022







FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

2022, the Year of the Tiger, draws to an end. Just as we did during the more acute phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, we provided food to the tigers housed within DNP facilities at a time where this was critically needed. We were also able to fund the construction of three new enclosures at the Khao Son DNP facility.

In 2022 we also started a collaboration with the NGO Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT). WFFT rehomed 11 tigers from the recently closed Phuket Zoo, and For Tigers covered transportation costs as well as transport crates for these tigers to be moved to WFFT's own facility. This was one of the first, non-governmental tiger rescues in Thailand, and For Tigers played a crucial role in facilitating it through our monetary donations. Seeing tigers moved from conditions far below acceptable welfare standards to large, open enclosures is hugely rewarding and is a good reminder for why we do the work that we do.

Staff from For Tigers attended the Southeast Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) annual conference. In addition, We also continue conversations with public venues holding captive tigers, on how we can assist in improving management and husbandry practices.

The loosening of Covid measures also meant that we could again visit and assess more facilities housing captive tigers. Between January and May of 2022, we used and updated the basic animal welfare assessment form created and implemented in 2019 to assess 30 public facilities from a tourist's point of view. During this time, we also hosted an intern, who performed their own tiger behaviour research at Tiger Kingdom. The internship was a great success both for us and the intern, and we look forward to more of these collaborations.

When it comes to public outreach, we have worked hard to make our content available also to Thai readers. A small portion of the website has been translated to Thai, and we are working on getting the rest of the website translated. With quite some scientific jargon and topic specific wording, this is a challenge that requires qualified translators, and we are very grateful to have found people who are competent and confident in the work they do. A part of our public outreach was also the yearly Tiger Walk, which could finally return to its in-person format. This event is a great way for us at For Tigers to connect with the public in a very direct way, and always a highlight of our year!

As we move into 2023, we are hoping to continue our networking and to see the completion of the enclosures at Khao Son. We look forward to more work on the ground in Thailand, and more fruitful collaborations in the next couple of years.

Annie Vera Hunnestad, Chairwoman

FOR TIGERS' VISION AND MISSION

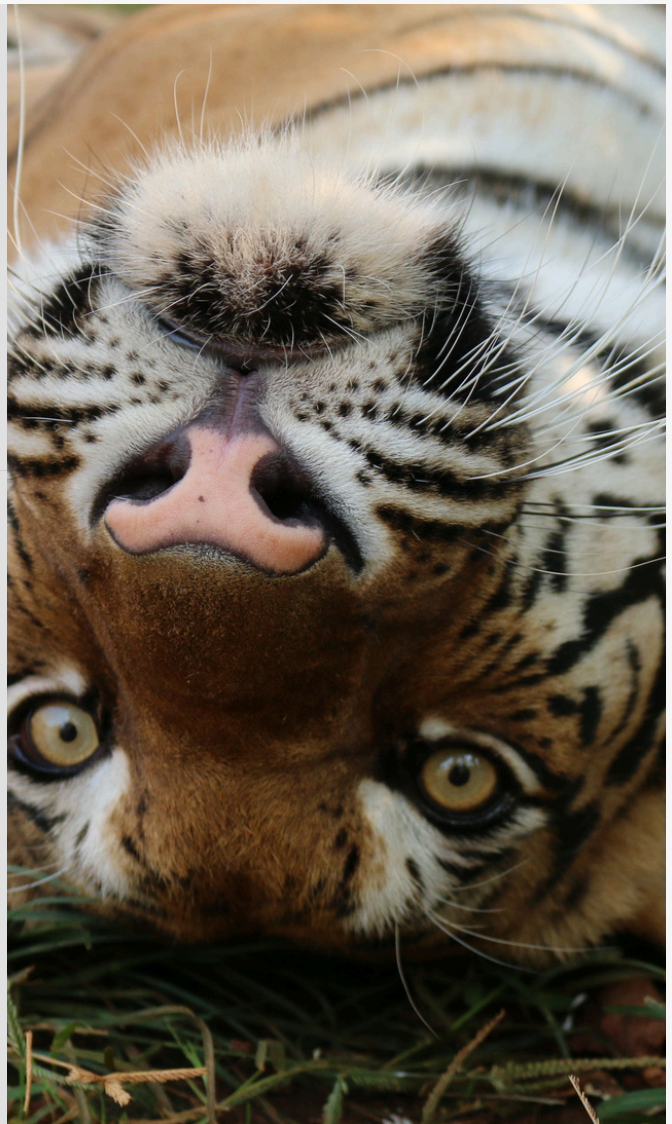
We envision a Thailand where every captive tiger enjoys a life of quality and dignity. To bring this vision to life, we focus on collaboration, education, and inspiration to ensure high welfare standards for all captive tigers in the country.

The path ahead is long, but we are joining forces with a growing number of like-minded organizations that share our commitment. We are also establishing partnerships with facilities and organizations throughout Southeast Asia to engage with venues that have lower welfare standards. By building relationships with these facilities, we aim to support them in enhancing the welfare of their tigers. Rather than advocating for the closure of substandard facilities, we promote positive change and improvement.

Additionally, we continuously challenge ourselves to update and refine our tiger welfare resources based on the latest research in tiger husbandry and welfare.

OUR AIMS

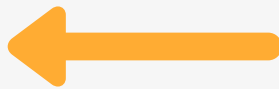
- Offering educational services and support focused on animal welfare, particularly aimed at preventing cruelty and suffering among captive tigers in Thailand;
- Collaborating with local communities to promote more ethical treatment and approaches to both wild and captive animals;
- Raising public awareness about animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty towards captive tigers;
- Evaluating the welfare, care, treatment, and living conditions of captive tigers in publicly accessible facilities across Thailand;
- Encouraging public engagement to foster positive changes for improving the conditions of animals in captivity; and
- Developing and disseminating information on responsible wildlife tourism practices.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

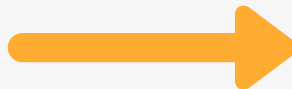
This year For Tigers has continued to build on the work started in 2021 moving forward with creating educational material, researching facilities and encouraging new partnerships and providing direct aid.

- 30** Facilities visited and assessed
- 2** Collaborations
- 5** Conferences/workshops attended
- 1** Internships

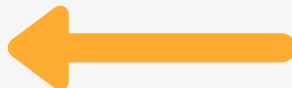


Our work continued with the DNP with us providing emergency food when requested. Work started on three more enclosures and is due to finish next year. We also teamed up with WFFT, providing aid in the rescue of the Phuket Zoo tigers.

This year we hosted our first intern. She performed her Bachelor's thesis at Tiger Kingdom, doing so with our help and support.



Shepreth Wildlife Park, then fear not. The nine-mile For Tigers Sponsored Walk took place last Friday (July 29) with walkers asked to raise £50 in sponsorship.



Our fifth Walk for Tigers event was our first in-person event since Covid-19. While small, it was still very successful in it's fundraising, this year focusing on the WFFT rescue.

The 30th SEAZA conference was attended by For Tigers representatives in-person once again. Online webinars by both EAZA and Wild Welfare were attended as well.





THE IMPORTANCE OF TIGER WELFARE

Effective welfare for captive tigers must meet both their physical and mental needs. However, achieving this balance in captivity can be challenging, as improvements in one area may lead to issues in another. For instance, while a natural outdoor enclosure allows tigers to engage in instinctual behaviours, it may also increase the risk of injury. The welfare dilemma lies in finding the right balance between these risks and benefits. Recent welfare approaches emphasise considering the animal's desires alongside its needs.

Determining what constitutes adequate living conditions for captive tigers can also be difficult. Inadequate environments often lead to negative behaviours, such as stereotypical pacing, which arise from a lack of stimulation. These behaviours serve as coping mechanisms for the tigers. To minimise these abnormal behaviours, a rich and complex environment should include enrichment activities, varied terrains, hiding spots, diverse feeding methods, opportunities for social interactions with conspecifics, and positive human-animal relationships. This approach aims to create as natural an environment as possible, effectively meeting the tigers' physical and mental needs.

In addition to addressing the tigers' needs, good welfare is crucial for:

- **Conservation: Healthy populations are vital for both reintroduction efforts and breeding programs. Poor welfare can lead to stress, weakened immune systems, and reduced reproductive success.**
- **Education: Observing tigers performing natural behaviours helps educate the public about their lives in the wild.**

DIRECT AID IN 2022



This year, For Tigers continued its collaboration with the Department of National Parks (DNP). This year, For Tigers provided chicken and pork when requested, to both facilities. Food was provided as part of an emergency request.

Additionally, we were able to fund the building of three more enclosures in Khao Son DNP facility. The enclosure project funded the building of external fencing. For this year, this project is still in progress with the enclosures only partially built. When these three enclosures are completed, all tigers within this one facility will have access to an enclosure. Project completion date is due to be 2023.



DIRECT AID IN 2022



Finally, we also began a collaboration with Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT). This organisation is a rescue and rehabilitation facility within Thailand. During this year, we paid for transport costs and transport cages to aid in the rescue of 11 tigers from the closed-down Phuket Zoo. By providing direct aid in this rescue, For Tigers was able to contribute to one of the first, non-governmental tiger rescues in Thailand.





RESEARCH & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN 2022

During this financial year, our staff attended the South East Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) Annual conference, various webinars from Wild Welfare and EAZA in order to gain a better understanding of welfare issues, discuss potential steps that could be taken and to network with like-minded organisations and NGOs.

During January to May 2022, we visited and assessed 30 public facilities holding captive tigers in Thailand, doing so from a tourist's point of view. For this assessment we continued to use the basic animal welfare assessment form created and implemented in 2019. This welfare assessment has seen some small updates in scoring system since this initial iteration.

We also hosted our first intern from March to June 2022. The role of the intern was to participate in the welfare assessments and to perform their own tiger behaviour research on enrichment and personality. This took place at Tiger Kingdom and was organised and aided by For Tigers.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PERSONALITY COMPONENTS PRESENT IN TWENTY-ONE FORMER TOURIST TIGERS (*PANTHERA TIGRIS*)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tunya Chinpilas

HYC 50065072

MARCH 2023



Presented as part of the requirement for an award within the Undergraduate Modular Scheme at Hartpury University

PARTNERSHIP NETWORK IN 2022

As with other years, we continued to maintain our positive working relationship with the Department of National Parks (DNP) funding the next three enclosures in Khao Son.



Talks are continuing with the tiger venue in Thailand, and new venues have been added to the list of potential venues to have further talks regarding a change in management practices for the tigers.

For Tigers has pushed forward with talks and collaboration opportunities with other NGO's namely, Wild Welfare for research and dissemination of materials and workshops, and Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, the latter to further aid in the rescue of confiscated tigers in Thailand.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (EDUCATION) IN 2022

For Tigers always strives to provide clear and objective information regarding tiger welfare at the facilities across Thailand. This is disseminated via regular newsletters, a website blog and the responsible use of various social media channels.



The process to translate the website into Thai began. A small portion of the website is now available in Thai in an effort to reach out and engage a wider audience.



In addition, we held our fifth fundraising event, which was key to communicating many of the welfare issues prevalent across Thailand's tiger facilities. This year we were able to return to our original in-person format and even do a second walk in Bangkok. All of our communication with the public is designed to raise effective awareness of welfare issues, elicit positive change and also to secure on going income for our work. Social media is particularly pertinent in these areas so we are continuing to grow our audience and interaction in these areas.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2023?

In the upcoming year, For Tigers will continue to pursue each of the outlined activities: Direct Aid, Research and Resource Development, Partnership Network and Public Awareness (education). We are working on adding staff training to our future activities as we continue to pursue potential partnerships in the coming year.

Below are some of the objectives we hope to achieve in 2023:

- Continue to improve and upgrade the Department of National Parks through additional enrichment, enclosures and cage upgrades
- Identify facilities willing to accept support and aid
- Revisit all the facilities visited and assessed in 2022 updating our report on their welfare score
- Create educational and/or training material such as enrichment and body condition guides that can be delivered to staff working with tigers in Thai venues.
- Attend and present at SEAZA 2023 to continue networking and liaising with other organisations, both NGO and tiger venues
- Development of additional research opportunities with zoos and NGO partners as well as extend and promote intern opportunities
- Create further educational material to aid tourists in choosing welfare-friendly venues
- Translate all educational and training material into Thai (for venue staff), and various other languages including Mandarin, Russian, Hindi and French in order to reach, and educate, a wider range of tourist groups

THANK YOU!

For Tigers is very grateful to all its donors, for without your support, none of this work would be possible!



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