

FOR TIGERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2024







A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to the support we have received from donors and volunteers, 2024 has been a year of meaningful progress for For Tigers. We strengthened partnerships with the Department of National Parks (DNP) and Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT), providing direct aid to three facilities and a large number of tigers. We're especially excited to see the old Tiger Temple tigers playing with their new zoo balls - a great enrichment addition!

A major milestone this year was our collaboration with Tiger World, and their commitment to better welfare practices. This led to our first tiger enrichment workshop and a comprehensive manual in Thai and English, benefiting 20 tigers at the Tiger World facility. Additionally, we completed our seventh year of welfare assessments, building a vital database to guide future efforts.

Your belief in our mission continues to drive this work. Thank you for helping us create a brighter future for captive tigers in Thailand.

Annie Vera Hunnestad

ANNIE VERA HUNNESTAD
CHAIRWOMAN



FOR TIGERS OVERVIEW

VISION

Where all captive tigers in Thailand have a good quality of life

MISSION

To secure a high standard of welfare for all Thailand's captive tigers through inspirational collaboration and education.

For Tigers is at the forefront of the fight to end captive tiger suffering in Thailand. Through innovative initiatives and collaborative efforts, we bring about positive change and improve the lives of captive tigers across the country. Recognising the urgent need for intervention, we employ a multifaceted approach to address the various welfare challenges facing these majestic animals. One of our key activities is comprehensive assessments of tiger facilities throughout the country. By conducting on-site evaluations, we gain valuable insights into the living conditions, behaviour, and interactions of captive tigers. These assessments serve as a crucial foundation for identifying areas for improvement and implementing targeted interventions to enhance tiger welfare standards.

For Tigers is dedicated to empowering tiger keepers with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide optimal care for the animals under their charge. Through workshops and training programs, our organization educates keepers on welfare best practices, enrichment techniques, and sustainable management strategies. By equipping keepers with the tools they need to enhance tiger well-being, we can foster a culture of compassionate stewardship.

We also play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in the Thai captive tiger sector. By bringing together tiger facilities, government agencies, NGOs, and other key actors, our organization facilitates dialogue, shares best practices, and promotes collective action to address systemic issues affecting tiger welfare. Through these collaborative efforts, we strive to create a more sustainable and ethical framework for tigers in captivity in Thailand.

BACKGROUND



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, For Tigers continued its commitment to improving the welfare of captive tigers through sustained partnerships with the Department of National Parks (DNP) (two facilities) and Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT). All three facilities benefitted from direct aid from For Tigers. Additionally, For Tigers expanded its research and resource development efforts, achieving significant milestones in tiger welfare advocacy and education through the creation, translation and production of a tiger enrichment manual. For Tigers solidified its partnership with Tiger World, a tourist tiger venue that agreed, in 2023, to improve its welfare and management practices. This resulted in the first detailed tiger enrichment workshop being provided, alongside a comprehensive manual. This first step has benefitted 20 tigers. Fundraising continued, with efforts made to further engage the public and students. And finally, the annual welfare assessments were completed, building on our database of information over the last seven years.



Tigers
benefitted

57



Conferences
attended

2



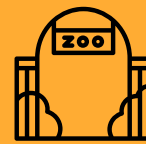
Keepers
trained

6



Papers
published

2



Facilities
assessed

36



Intern
mentored

1

DIRECT AID



DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS (DNP)

- * At the two DNP facilities in Ratchaburi, For Tigers provided large boomer balls as enrichment items to enhance the tigers' environments. These durable, interactive toys encourage physical activity and mental stimulation, adding an important layer of enrichment to the enclosures completed in 2023.

Across both DNP facilities there are 37 tigers. This means that the balls will need to be shared, so we aim to purchase more balls in the future. However, this ball sharing does provide extra scent-based enrichment.

10

Boomer balls

2

Government facilities

WILDLIFE FRIENDS FOUNDATION THAILAND (WFFT)

- * Our collaboration with WFFT in Petchaburi made significant strides in the rescue and care of tigers from the closed Mukdahan Tiger Zoo. For Tigers provided additional funding to cover food supplies for the 12 tigers rescued in 2023 and contributed to the rescue and care of them in 2024. Looking ahead, For Tigers remains dedicated to supporting the rescue of the remaining tigers from Mukdahan and expanding welfare initiatives across DNP facilities. These efforts underline our ongoing mission to improve the lives of captive tigers in Thailand.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



* Our director and one trustee presented at the Southeast Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) Annual Conference, sharing insights and findings on captive tiger welfare. Additionally, our director attended the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Animal Welfare Conference, fostering collaboration and networking with global experts and organizations dedicated to improving animal welfare standards.

CONFERENCES

Research and networking

Presentations

2

Conferences attended

2



* In June 2024, For Tigers assessed 36 public facilities housing captive tigers in Thailand, continuing to use and refine the basic animal welfare assessment form developed in 2019. Updates to the scoring system and rating criteria ensured alignment with the latest animal welfare research. This fieldwork was supported by our third intern, who joined the team from June to September 2024.

WELFARE ASSESSMENTS

Research

Facilities assessed

36

Tigers observed

684

RESEARCH AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Zoo Biology / Early View
 RESEARCH ARTICLE | [Open Access](#) |

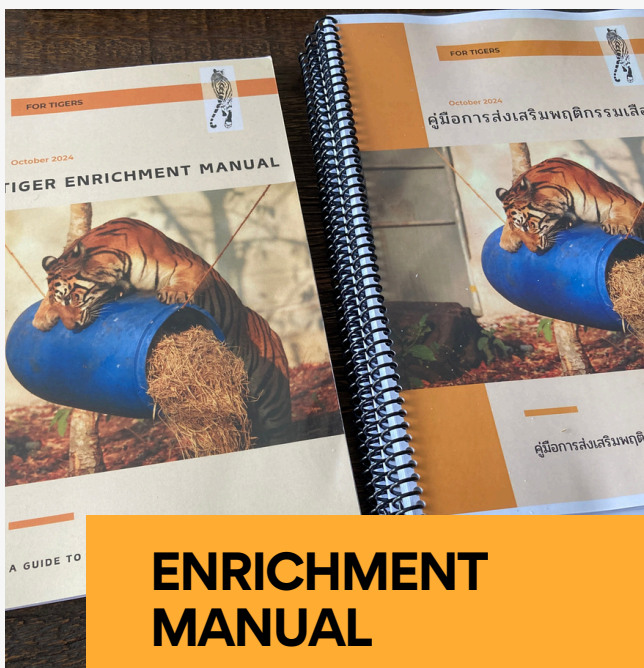
An Analysis of Welfare Standards Within Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) Facilities in Thailand

Tanya S. Erzinçlioğlu, Georgina Groves, Samantha Ward

First published: 16 September 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21866>

* Two research papers authored by For Tigers trustees were published this year: Zoo Biology featured “An analysis of welfare standards within tiger facilities in Thailand”, while Animals published “High Prevalence of Dysfunctional Animal-Visitor Interactions in 225 Southeast Asian Zoos and Aquariums”.

	Scientific Journals	Open Access
PUBLICATIONS	2	2
Educational materials		



* For Tigers also developed a tiger enrichment workshop and accompanying manual, both of which were fully translated into Thai to support local facilities and caretakers in implementing effective enrichment practices. These resources mark a significant step in promoting tiger welfare at the grassroots level across Thailand.

	Printed	Translated
ENRICHMENT MANUAL	6	100%
Training materials		

PARTNERSHIP NETWORK



6

Keepers trained



20

tigers benefit



5

Tiger balls provided

FOR TIGERS CONTINUES TO FOSTER MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS THAT DRIVE IMPACTFUL CHANGES IN TIGER WELFARE ACROSS THAILAND.

This year, For Tigers delivered a comprehensive tiger welfare workshop funded by the Joanna Toole Foundation. It was delivered to the six keepers at Tiger World in Ratchaburi, providing in-depth training materials and practical guidance on enhancing tiger care. This marks a significant step forward in our collaboration, laying the groundwork for sustained improvements in tiger welfare at that facility. Following the success of this partnership, For Tigers is now actively engaging with other facilities to establish similar collaborations, with plans to expand these efforts in 2025.

For Tigers also continued its vital partnerships with other NGOs, including Wild Welfare and Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT). The collaboration with WFFT further supported the rehabilitation of confiscated tigers in Thailand, emphasizing shared goals and concerted efforts to safeguard these animals' well-being.



PUBLIC AWARENESS (EDUCATION)

For Tigers remains committed to providing clear, objective, and accessible information about tiger welfare. This year, our efforts to raise public awareness continued through regular newsletters, website blogs, and responsible use of social media channels. These platforms allow us to effectively communicate welfare issues, share updates, and inspire positive change. Building on the progress of 2023, the translation of our website into Thai advanced slowly in 2024, with more sections now accessible in Thai. This effort aims to engage a broader audience and foster a deeper understanding of tiger welfare and tourism among Thai-speaking communities.

* We hosted our seventh Walk for Tigers fundraising event. The event featured the popular tiger walk, welcoming participants of all ages, and served as a key opportunity to highlight prevalent welfare issues in Thailand's tiger facilities. This event not only raised awareness but also contributed vital funds to support our ongoing work.

* Additionally, our director collaborated with Anglia Ruskin University as part of their Live Briefs programme. This innovative project tasked students with analyzing For Tigers' communication and social media strategies to identify potential improvements. The insights and recommendations provided by the students will help us enhance our outreach and audience engagement.

£1325

in fundraising



5%

of the website
translated into Thai



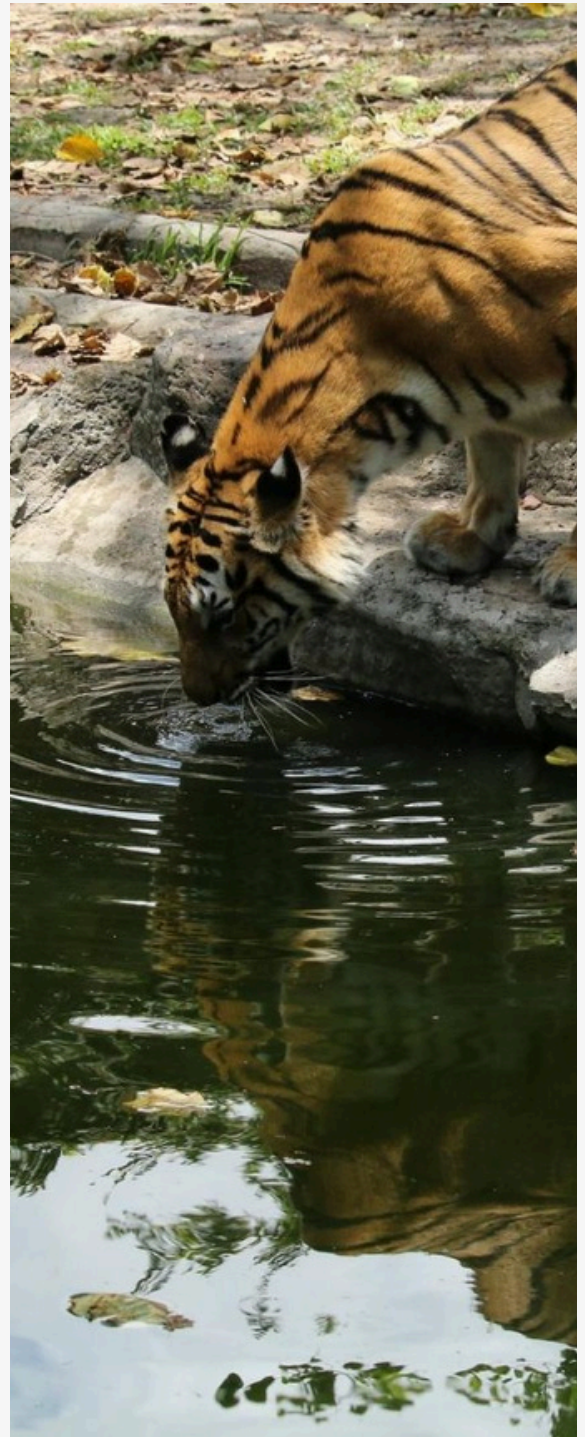
FUTURE OUTLOOK

FUTURE PLANS

For Tigers remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing captive tiger welfare across Thailand. In 2025, we will continue supporting two key Department of National Parks (DNP) facilities by funding critical improvements, including upgrades to infrastructure and providing enrichment items. To empower ethical tourism, we will refine and update educational materials helping visitors identify welfare-friendly venues. Building on this year's success, we plan to deliver tiger welfare workshops at four additional facilities, focusing on enrichment practices and improving staff expertise. To ensure inclusivity, all materials and our website will be translated into Thai. We will also expand research collaborations with zoos and NGOs to innovate solutions for ongoing welfare challenges. By identifying more facilities open to advice and training, fostering partnerships, and working closely with Tiger World to transition toward a welfare-first model, For Tigers continues to drive sustainable change for captive tigers.

INNOVATION

For Tigers is innovating in the captive tiger welfare industry by collecting and analyzing detailed, long-term data on tiger welfare across multiple facilities, providing grassroots-level enrichment workshops to build capacity among caretakers, and fostering collaboration with NGOs, zoos, sanctuaries, and government facilities.



These efforts aim to drive behaviour change and lay the groundwork for policy improvements that will enhance tiger welfare on a national scale.

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