

FOR TIGERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2021







FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

As we put another year of Covid-19 behind us, For Tigers looks back at another year of ups and downs. While 2021 allowed for periodically more freedom of travel and movement than 2020 did, we still struggled to do our charity work the way we would like to. Thailand was still under strict entry rules for tourists, meaning the on-the-ground work of For Tigers was continuing mainly due to our hardworking and dedicated volunteers and trustees already situated in Thailand. Without them our work would have been near impossible, and we are extremely grateful to have the team that we do.

Because of Covid-19, we also haven't been able to continue our previous yearly welfare assessment of facilities housing tigers, and we had to focus instead on other areas. This included weekly food donations to the DNP from October onwards, and an increased focus on the production of educational materials through posts on social media as well as our own blog. Just like in 2020 we also organized a virtual Tiger Walk, where participants from all over the world joined us in fundraising for Thailand's captive tigers.

Also worth mentioning is the closure of the infamous Sriracha Tiger Zoo, which happened towards the end of 2021. This is a facility with notoriously bad welfare scores in our concurrent welfare assessments, and also one of the largest with around 400 tigers housed in abysmal conditions. While the closure of Sriracha is unlikely to have any positive impact on the tigers previously housed there, as there is simply no high standard facility that could take on such a number of animals, we hope that its closure may be a deterrent for other facilities. Growing a facility to such a size with such a lack of concern for animal welfare should not be profitable, and we hope that it won't be in the future.

Looking forward into 2022 we are sadly expecting the effects of Covid-19 to linger – both in the way we do our work, and in the impact the pandemic has had on tourism in Thailand and by extension on the facilities housing tigers. We hope that as the pandemic receded, we will again be able to do some of our research across Thailand, and that we can get started with new projects on the ground in the facilities housing the seized Tiger Temple tigers.

Annie Vera Hunnestad, Chairwoman

FOR TIGERS' VISION AND MISSION

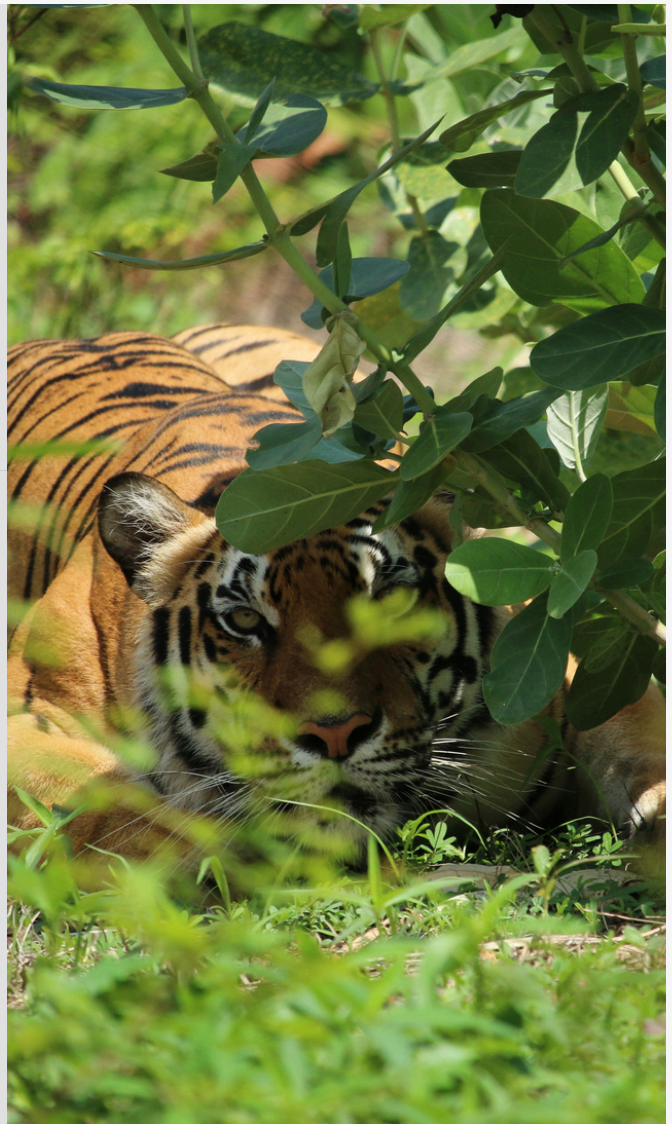
Our vision is to see all captive tigers in Thailand to have a good quality of life. As such, our mission is to secure a high standard of welfare for all Thailand's captive tigers through inspirational collaboration and education.

We have a long journey ahead to realize our vision, but we are collaborating with a growing number of like-minded organizations that share our goals. Additionally, we are forming partnerships with facilities and organizations in Southeast Asia to engage with venues that have lower welfare standards. Our aim is to help these facilities enhance the welfare of their tigers, and we advocate for positive change rather than the closure of substandard facilities.

We also challenge ourselves to continually update and improve our tiger welfare resources by incorporating the latest research on tiger husbandry and welfare.

OUR AIMS

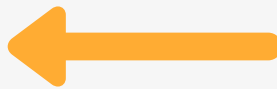
- Provide educational services and support related to animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty and suffering for captive tigers in Thailand.
- Collaborate with local communities to promote better ethical treatment and approaches for both wild and captive animals.
- Raise public awareness about animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty towards captive tigers.
- Evaluate and assess the welfare, care, treatment, and living conditions of publicly accessible captive tigers in facilities throughout Thailand.
- Encourage public engagement to support positive changes that enhance the conditions for animals in captivity.
- Develop and share resources on responsible wildlife tourism.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

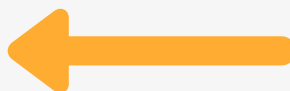
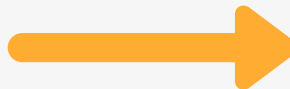
This year For Tigers has continued to build on the work started in 2020 moving forward with creating educational material, researching facilities and encouraging new partnerships and providing direct aid.

- 5** Facilities visited and assessed
- 2** Collaborations
- 3** Virtual conferences attended



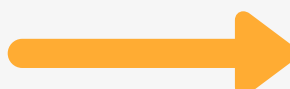
We continued to liaise with the DNP. However, this year we focused on providing food due to massive budget cuts during the pandemic.

We added a small special project to our work funding an enclosure in Nepal for a wild-caught, man-eating tiger from Chitwan National Park.



Our fourth Walk for Tigers event was a virtual event for the second year running. The event was a success again, with people all over the world joining in.

The 29th SEAZA conference, EAZA Annual conference and the 29th International Society for Anthrozoology Annual Conference were attended by For Tigers representatives in virtual form.





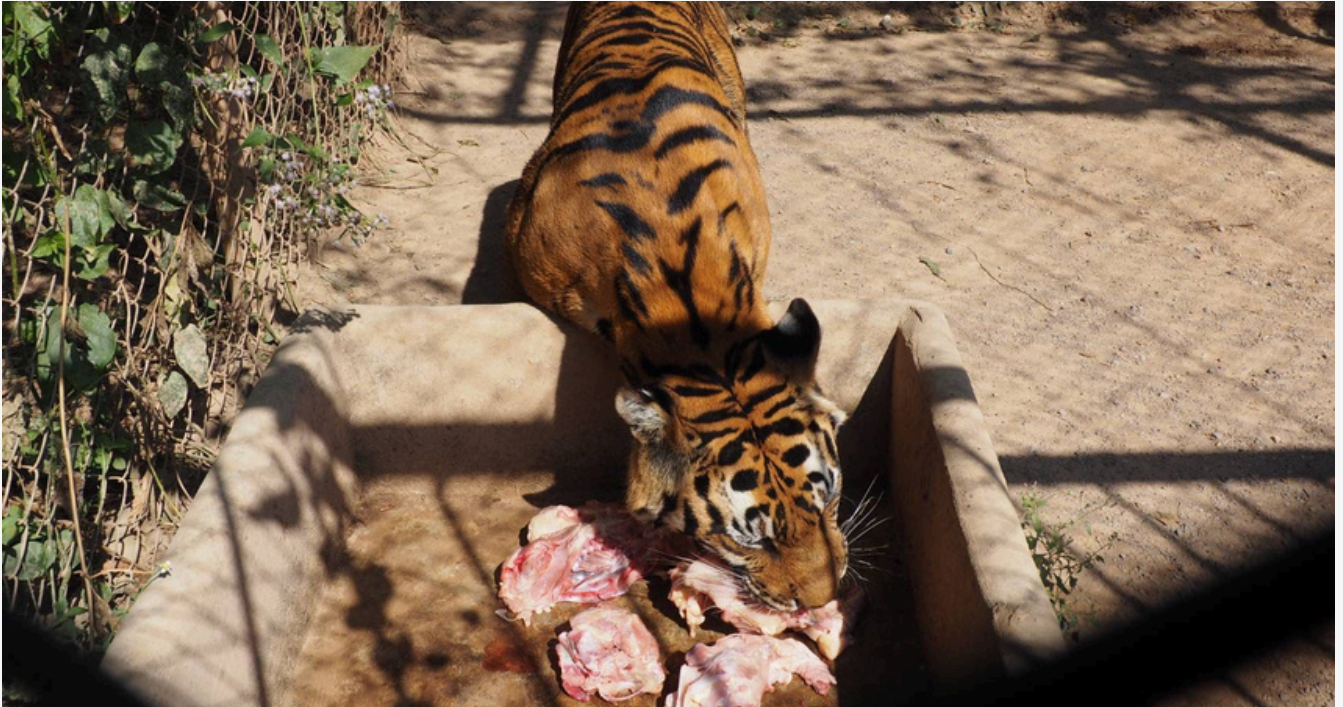
THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Good welfare for captive tigers should encompass both their physical and mental needs. However, achieving this balance in a captive environment can be challenging, as improvements in some areas may inadvertently compromise others. For instance, while a fully natural outdoor enclosure allows tigers to engage in natural behaviours, it may also increase the risk of injury—creating a welfare dilemma of balancing risks and benefits. Recent welfare concepts emphasise considering what animals want alongside what they need.

Determining adequate living conditions for animals can also be difficult. Inadequate care for captive tigers can lead to negative behaviours, such as stereotypical or repetitive actions like pacing, which often stem from a lack of stimulation in their environment. These behaviours serve as coping mechanisms. To mitigate such behaviours, a well-designed environment should incorporate enrichment, varied levels and substrates, hiding spots, diverse feeding methods, appropriate social interactions with other tigers, and positive human-animal relationships. This approach helps create an environment that closely mimics their natural habitat, better addressing the tigers' physical and mental needs.

- **A complex environment enhances both the mental and physical stimulation of tigers.**
- **Offering the appropriate environment and stimuli encourages natural behaviours in captive tigers.**
- **Meeting a tiger's needs can help decrease the likelihood of abnormal behaviours.**

DIRECT AID IN 2021



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government facilities were closed for most of this year and 2020. However, toward the end of the year, the country began opening up once more. This meant we were able to visit the Department of National Parks (DNP) facilities and check in on the tigers and the enclosures and upgrades from previous years.

During the pandemic, the DNP has undergone severe budget cuts which means the tigers in their care were reduced to eating chicken carcasses. From the end of October, we donated 3kg per tiger each week of full chicken. This is still not an ideal diet, but the inclusion of flesh rather than just a bone diet, greatly improves the nutrition provided to the tigers resulting in healthier animals.

With this rekindling of relationships with the DNP, and the current enclosures looking excellent and enjoyed by the tigers, we plan to move forward next year with more enclosures and improvements for these tigers.



DIRECT AID IN 2021



In August of this year, we took on a special side project. A wild tiger was caught in Nepal's Chitwan National Park after attacking and killing a woman. As the tiger was a man-eater, he could no longer be released into the wild. The tiger was kept in a small cage as there was no enclosure to put him in.

Staff reached out to us for help in funding the enclosure. This area, a 70x70m area was transformed into a basic living space for this tiger. This included the provision of a pond, cave, trees and more. Unfortunately, the original tiger died just before the enclosure was completed. However, a tigress was caught not long after when she too attacked a local villager.

For us, it is devastating to have these wild tigers reduced to living in small, inappropriate enclosures for the rest of their lives.


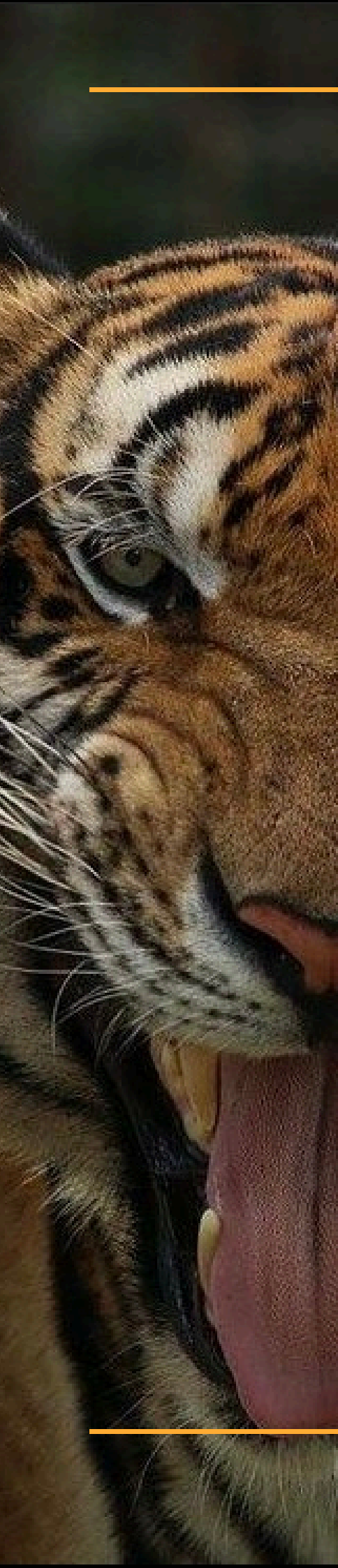


RESEARCH & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN 2021

During this financial year, our staff attended the 29th South East Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA) in virtual form, the 29th International Society for Anthrozoology Annual Conference and the European Association for Zoos and Aquarium (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.

Our director, Tanya Erzinclioglu, presented important research on the use of Qualitative Behaviour Assessment as a welfare assessment in tigers at the Anthrozoology conference. In addition to this, various trustees are writing up and publishing our research on tiger welfare within Thailand.

With continued shutdowns and Covid-19 restrictions, visiting the tiger facilities for our usual annual assessment was put on hold. We aim to follow on from our 2020 work in 2022.



Qualitative behaviour assessment (QBA) as an effective tool for assessing welfare in captive tigers

Tanya Erzinclioglu^{a,b} and Kenny Rutherford^c

Email: tanya@fortigers.org
Q&A Session: Wednesday, June 23, 10am to 11am EDT

^a Royal Dick Vet School, University of Edinburgh, UK
^b For Tigers, UK and Thailand
^c Welfare Biology Group, Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), UK

PARTNERSHIP NETWORK IN 2021

As mentioned above, we continued to maintain our positive working relationship with the Department of National Parks (DNP) despite only providing minimal aid in the form of chicken and pork for four months at the end of the year.

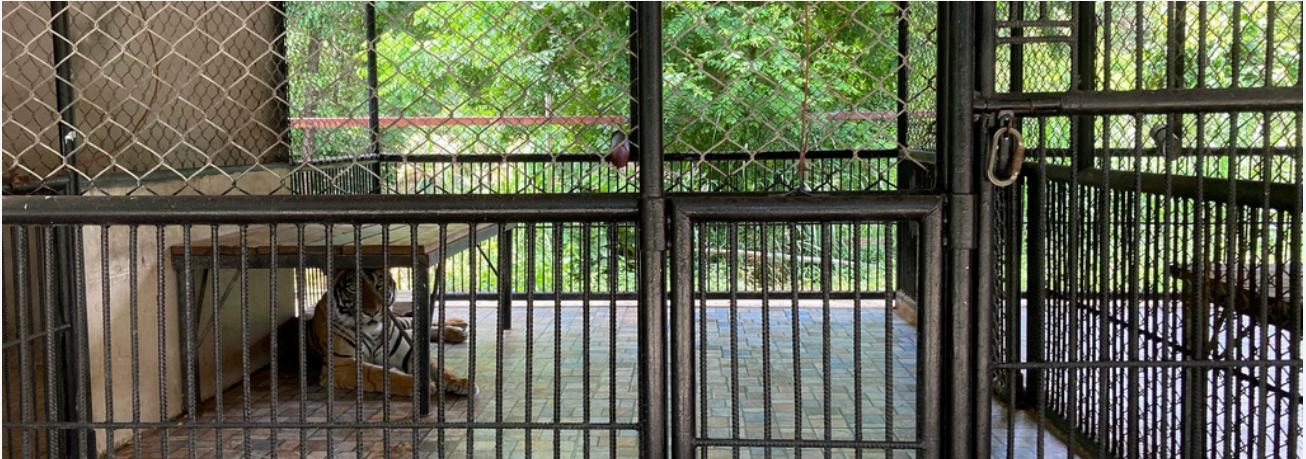


We had a short working relationship with Chitwan National Park regarding some of their wild caught tigers and the development of a new enclosure which will be used to hold subsequent wild tigers for rehabilitation before they are returned to the wild.

Finally, we continue to pursue the next step in working with other tiger venues within Thailand. This continues on from our research compiled throughout 2019 when visiting all the tiger venues in the country and determining which venues might be interested in a working partnership and to improve welfare.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (EDUCATION) IN 2021

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.



In addition, we held our fourth fundraising event, which continues to be key in communicating many of the welfare issues prevalent across Thailand's tiger facilities. Similar to 2020, this event took place virtually with participants joining from around the world. The virtual event encouraged everyone to walk outside safely, as their respective countries permitted, to reach a collective total of 1000km covered. Through our online social media channels, we were able to provide education and insight into captive tiger welfare.



Our director also presented her novel work on Qualitative Behaviour Assessment with regards to tiger welfare at the ISAZ conference. This work has developed a new framework for keepers to assess the welfare of their captive tigers. It also sought to determine whether human-tiger interactions was a potential welfare issue though the results were not conclusive either way.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2022?

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As we move into the Year of the Tiger, 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 hoping to be able to add 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 2022:

- 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 2020 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 SEAZA 2022 to continue networking and liaising with other organisations, both NGO and tiger venues
- Development of additional research opportunities with zoos and NGO partners
- 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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