The **tiger** (*Panthera tigris*) is the largest [cat species](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felidae), reaching a total body length of up to 3.3 metres (11 ft) and weighing up to 306 kg (670 lb). They are the third largest land [carnivore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivore)(behind only the [Polar bear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_bear) and the [Brown bear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_bear)). Their most recognizable feature is a pattern of dark vertical stripes on reddish-orange fur with lighter underparts. They have exceptionally stout teeth, and their [canines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canine_tooth) are the longest among living felids with a [crown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_(tooth)) height of as much as 74.5 mm (2.93 in) or even 90 mm (3.5 in).[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger#cite_note-Mazak1981-3) In zoos, tigers have lived for 20 to 26 years, which also seems to be their longevity in the wild.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger#cite_note-der-tiger-4) They are territorial and generally[solitary but social](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solitary_but_social) animals, often requiring large contiguous areas of habitat that support their prey requirements. This, coupled with the fact that they are indigenous to some of the more densely populated places on Earth, has caused significant conflicts with humans.

Tigers once ranged widely across [Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia), from [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey) in the west to the eastern coast of[Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia). Over the past 100 years, they have lost 93% of their historic range, and have been extirpated from southwest and central Asia, from the islands of [Java](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(island)) and [Bali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bali), and from large areas of [Southeast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia) and [Eastern Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Asia). Today, they range from the Siberian [taiga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiga) to open[grasslands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grassland) and tropical [mangrove](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangrove) swamps. The remaining six tiger subspecies have been classified as [endangered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endangered_species) by [IUCN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN). The global population in the wild is estimated to number between 3,062 to 3,948 individuals, with most remaining populations occurring in small pockets that are isolated from each other. Major reasons for population decline include[habitat destruction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat_destruction), [habitat fragmentation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat_fragmentation) and [poaching](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poaching).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger#cite_note-IUCN-0) The extent of area occupied by tigers is estimated at less than 1,184,911 km2 (457,497 sq mi), a 41% decline from the area estimated in the mid-1990s.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger#cite_note-5)

Tigers are among the most recognisable and popular of the world's [charismatic megafauna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_megafauna). They have featured prominently in ancient [mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythology) and [folklore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore), and continue to be depicted in modern films and literature. Tigers appear on many [flags](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag), [coats of arms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms), and as[mascots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mascot) for sporting teams.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger#cite_note-6) The [Bengal tiger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengal_tiger) is the [national animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_animal) of Bangladesh and India.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger#cite_note-Gupta.2C_O._2006_313-7)