



Smithsonian  
*National Zoological Park*



## GREAT CATS

**Top:** Full-blooded Sumatran tiger female, Soy, was born at the National Zoo in June 1993 as part of a Species Survival Plan organized by zoo conservationists through the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. This beautiful tiger is popular with visitors at the National Zoo. Her future offspring will likely play an important part in the efforts of conservationists to save the highly endangered Sumatran tiger from extinction. *Credit: Jessie Cohen, National Zoo*

**Left:** Named for a river in Kenya, Tana, a 10-year-old male African lion maintains his 475 lb. weight by eating 56 lbs. of meat each week. At the National Zoo's Great Cats exhibit that opened on October 1, 1998, carnivores are provided carefully formulated diets that include not only meat, but also a broad variety of other nutritional elements essential to the big cats' health and longevity. *Credit: Jessie Cohen, National Zoo*



## GREAT CATS

**Top left:** The drama of the plight of tigers in the wild comes to life with interactive educational materials at Tiger Tracks, featured at the National Zoo's Great Cats exhibit that opened October 1, 1998. Tiger Tracks was funded by a generous contribution from the "Save the Tiger Fund," an international program established by Exxon and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support conservation projects. *Credit: Jessie Cohen, National Zoo*

**Top right:** At Tiger Tracks, part of the National Zoo's Great Cats exhibit that opened October 1, visitors are encouraged to think about family life and to compare their own to life in a tiger family. Tigers are listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Credit: Jessie Cohen, National Zoo*

**Bottom left:** Visitors to Predator Alcove, at the National Zoo's Great Cats exhibit which opened October 1, can pat a Tyrannosaurus rex on the nose or feel its mighty teeth. They also learn why big, fierce predators - like today's lions and tigers - have always been rare. *Credit: Heidi Summers, National Zoo*



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Sept. 22, 1998

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The press preview/opening of "Great Cats" at the National Zoo takes place 9:30 a.m., Oct. 1 at the Zoo's tiger habitat. The program will include a ribbon cutting by second grade students from Alexandria's Bucknell Elementary School and brief remarks by Smithsonian Institution, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Exxon representatives.  
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"Great Cats" Exhibit Opens at the National Zoo Oct. 1

Have you ever wondered what life is like at the top of the food chain, or about 500-lb. tigers or the *T. rex*--the largest meat-eater ever to walk the planet? Visitors to the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo will have the opportunity to learn about these giant carnivores and much more at the new "Great Cats" exhibit opening Oct. 1.

The transformation of the Zoo's old lion and tiger complex into "Great Cats" has been achieved through the addition of new educational facilities, natural history specimens and hands-on interactives. John Seidensticker, National Zoo curator of mammals, said, "For the first time a visit to the exhibit will convey more than just the excitement of seeing lions and tigers--zoogoers will enjoy a rewarding educational experience at 'Great Cats.' We also let people know what big predators like lions and tigers need if they are going to survive." "Great Cats" received significant funding by way of a grant from the Save the Tiger Fund, a project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Exxon which is also supporting the exhibit, "Tiger!," scheduled to open at the National Museum of Natural History Nov. 12.

Children and their parents visiting "Great Cats" will be able to explore Tiger Tracks; a 250-foot-long educational journey along a walkway nestled into a landscaped hillside. Tiger Tracks loops out and back from the Zoo's Sumatran tiger habitat, and the new wooden-planked walk is lined with colorful, interactive, educational displays comparing tigers and life in a tiger family to the family life enjoyed by humans. In addition to the educational aspects of Tiger Tracks, the new walk's elevation provides a breathtaking view of Rock Creek and the National Zoo grounds.

At “Great Cats” a 500-square foot museum-style display, called Predators Alcove, showcases spectacular fossils and explains the ecology of large carnivores. This space, situated between the National Zoo’s two tiger habitats, includes new animal-viewing areas for small children and visitors using wheelchairs.

Without a doubt, the focal point of the “Great Cats” Predators Alcove is a life-sized *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull cast in bronze from a fossil unearthed in Montana. Visitors are encouraged to touch this skull, especially the dinosaur’s teeth, and to contemplate the scale of this enormous carnivore. Predators Alcove was made possible through a generous gift from the Friends of the National Zoo.

The 900-foot walk around the exhibit’s animal habitats has been enhanced with dozens of attractively illustrated graphics panels. Presentations enrich the visitor’s experience by explaining the biology and behavior of lions and tigers and by introducing the work of biologists in developing a better understanding of the great cats.

The Tiger Kid’s Stop, with its shaded benches, water fountain, lively pictures and glass-fronted balconies for viewing tigers and lions, remains a popular spot at the “Great Cats” exhibit. “Great Cats” is a permanent exhibit and is open daily, on the Zoo’s winter schedule, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Note to Editors:

The opening program begins at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 1. Coffee will be served as guests arrive. Attending the opening will be 22-second grade students from Alexandria’s Bucknell Elementary School. A Bucknell student will be selected to cut a ribbon formally opening the exhibit. Brief remarks will be made by: (listed in order of introduction) Michael Robinson, Director, National Zoological Park; I. Michael Heyman, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; John Seidensticker, National Zoo Curator of Mammals and Curator of “Great Cats”; Whitney C. Tilt, Director of Conservation Programs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and Edward F. Ahnert, President, Exxon Education Foundation. The National Zoo “Great Cats” exhibit staff will be available for comments after the program and the Bucknell Elementary School students will visit “Great Cats.”

“Great Cats” is on the Harvard Street/Rock Creek side of the Zoo. Convenient parking is available in Zoo lot “D.”

*The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
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1998 THE YEAR  
OF THE TIGER

## **NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION SAVE THE TIGER FUND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Sydney J. Butler, Executive Director, American Zoo and Aquarium Association**

Since 1992, Mr. Butler has been the Executive Director of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), where he is responsible for the operation of the organization which represents 168 major zoos and aquariums throughout North America, as well as 6,500 individual members. Prior to the AZA, Mr. Butler had been Vice President for Conservation of the Wilderness Society since 1987.

From 1977 through 1981, he held numerous positions in the government, including Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services, Administrator of the Food Safety and Quality Service, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment. Mr. Butler headed the personnel transition team for presidential appointments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Jimmy Carter in 1976 and, before that, he coordinated President Carter's national rural campaign.

Mr. Butler practiced land use and environmental planning law after receiving his J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School in 1967. He graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1964.

### **Mr. Amos S. Eno, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

Mr. Eno was appointed Executive Director and Secretary to the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in March 1992. He joined the organization in 1986 as Director of Conservation Programs. Prior to joining the NFWF, Mr. Eno served as Director of Wildlife Programs at the National Audubon Society.

While at the Department of Interior from 1974-1981, Mr. Eno worked in the Endangered Species Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and was on the staff of Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife Parks. He holds a B.A. in American History from Princeton University and a Master's Degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University.

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**Mr. Peter Jackson, Chairman, Cat Specialist Group, World Conservation Union**

Peter Jackson is Chairman of the Cat Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), a panel of over 200 of the world's leading experts on wild cats from more than 50 countries. Earlier, while Director of Information of WWF International, he also managed the organization's "Operation Tiger", arranging supply of equipment and expertise for tiger conservation in India, Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia. His interest in the tiger arose during 18 years as Reuters Chief Correspondent in India, and he has traveled widely to visit tiger and other wild cat habitats.

He is co-author of *Wild Cats: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*, compiled and edited by Kristin Nowell and Peter Jackson (IUCN 1996), and of *Les Félines: toutes les espèces du monde*, by Peter Jackson and Adrienne Farrell Jackson (Delachaux et Niestlé 1996). He has also written books on tigers and elephants, as well as numerous magazine articles on wildlife.

**Mr. Marshall P. Jones, Jr., Assistant Director, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.**

Since December 1994, Mr. Jones has served as Assistant Director for International Affairs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a new position created to bring together diverse international activities under a single leadership. His responsibilities include the supervision of activities conducted by a staff of 60 biologists, international affairs specialists and administrative personnel in three Service offices. He represents the United States as a member of the Standing Committee of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), and he administers the U.S. Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act and numerous other U.S. international conservation programs.

From July, 1989 to November, 1994, Mr. Jones served as Chief of the Service's CITES Management Authority, responsible for administering U.S. participation in CITES and a number of U.S. domestic laws regulating the wildlife trade. In previous Service assignments, Mr. Jones served as Acting Chief of the Division of Ecological Services in Washington; as Chief of the Regional Endangered Species Division, and as Regional Planner in the Service's Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta. He began his career as a biologist with the Office of Endangered Species in 1975.

Mr. Jones has a B.A. Degree in Zoology and English from the University of Michigan, an M.S. in Biology from Murray State University, and did additional graduate work in Plant Ecology at Cornell University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971.

**Mr. Mohd Khan bin Momin Khan, Chairman, Species Survival Commission, Asian Rhino Specialist Group, IUCN - World Conservation Union, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

From June, 1971 to December, 1992, Mr. Khan served as Director General of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) in Peninsula, Malaysia. Prior to 1971, he had served since 1958 in various other positions in the DWNP, including Assistant Game Warden, Deputy Game Warden, Game Warden and Senior Game Warden.

Active in the IUCN - World Conservation Union, Mr. Khan has served as an IUCN Councillor for East Asia and as a member of the Steering Committee of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC). For many years, he was Chairman of the IUCN National Committee for Malaysia. Since 1984, he has been Chairman of the IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group. From 1978-1992, Mr. Khan was the CITES Management Authority for Peninsula, Malaysia. He has also served as Vice President of the Southeast Asian Zoo Association and as Vice President of the World Pheasant Association.

Mr. Khan studied at the Technical University of Dresden, Germany in 1978-1979 where he earned an engineer's degree in ecosystem management. His education also includes studies in wildlife management at the University of California, Davis, where he was on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1965-1966. During this time, he worked in the laboratory of the Department of Fish and Game, where he collaborated with game wardens, scientists and park officials.

**Dr. Colin P. Rees, Division Chief, Land, Water and Natural Habitats Division, Environment Department of the World Bank, Washington, D.C.**

As the Division Chief of the Environment Department's Land, Water and Natural Habitats Division, Dr. Rees has been a leader in formulating and implementing the World Bank's policy on natural resource management and natural habitats/biodiversity conservation. Prior to 1993, Dr. Rees was the Senior Ecologist in the Technical Department of the Bank's Asia Environment Division, where he was responsible for establishing a conservation/biodiversity program for the Asia/Pacific region.

An active environmentalist throughout his career, Dr. Rees has authored numerous books and papers in the field of environmental studies. Before joining the World Bank in 1988, Dr. Rees had served as: Environmental Specialist at the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines; Chief Ecologist and Head of Pollution at the Ecology Section at Atkins Research and Development in the United Kingdom; and, Professor of Zoology at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Rees earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology with honors at the University of Wales and his M.S./Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin.

**Dr. Ulysses S. Seal, Chairman, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, IUCN - World Conservation Union, and Professor, University of Minnesota**

Dr. Seal has served as Chairman of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) since 1979. CBSG is a professional volunteer network with more than 700 members in 70 countries. Its mission is the conservation or establishment of viable populations of threatened species. CBSG, under Dr. Seal's leadership, has conducted more than 100 endangered species recovery workshops with wildlife managers in 40 countries, at their invitation. CBSG is one of 102 Specialist Groups of the Species Survival Commission, one of six commissions of the IUCN - World Conservation Union.

A biochemist by training, Dr. Seal spent the majority of his career as a scientist at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Minneapolis. During this time, he became intensively involved with endangered species conservation, founding the International Species Information System (ISIS), a global, central database that provides computerized animal management for more than 450 cooperating zoological institutions worldwide. He initiated the Global Animal Survival Plans (GASP), which are research and conservation plans for endangered species. The Tiger GASP is coordinating regional captive and wild programs for the tiger.

Dr. Seal has published more than 260 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 70 book chapters and reviews. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Emory University in 1949, 1950 and 1957, respectively. He completed his post-doctoral research at the University of Minnesota from 1957-1959.

**Dr. John Seidensticker, Curator of Mammals, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Chairman of the Save The Tiger Fund Council**

As the curator of mammals at the National Zoological Park, Dr. Seidensticker's research focuses on the consequences of habitat insularization and change of populations of large and medium-sized mammals, and the response of mammals to confined environments.

Dr. Seidensticker has been a member of the IUCN - World Conservation Union Cat Specialist Group since 1974, and has been a professional fellow of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association since 1989. He served as founding principal investigator of the Smithsonian-Nepal Tiger Ecology Project, and as an ecologist and park planner for the Indonesia-World Wildlife Program.

Dr. Seidensticker pioneered the use of radio-telemetry in the study of large, solitary living cats. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on Mountain Lion Social Organization in the Idaho Primitive Area at the University of Idaho. Dr. Seidensticker received B.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Montana. He is the chairman of the Save The Tiger Fund Council, on behalf of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save The Tiger Fund.



**Dr. Lee G. Simmons, Director, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, Nebraska**

Under the direction of Dr. Simmons, the Omaha Zoo has become one of the leaders in conservation and preservation of endangered species. Throughout his career, Dr. Simmons has been able to raise funds to build state-of-the-art animal facilities, including America's largest cat complex.

Dr. Simmons was named director of the zoo in 1970, after holding posts as the associate director and, before that, as resident veterinarian. He served as general curator and veterinarian at the Columbus Zoo for three-and-a-half years after graduating from Oklahoma State University in 1963.

Dr. Simmons is an inventor as well as a zoo director. He designs and manufactures variable range dart rifles, blow guns, dart tail pieces and the Simmons Pole Syringe. These devices are used in the wild by field biologists, and in zoos by keepers and veterinarians.

**Mr. Effendy A. Sumardja, Assistant Minister of Environmental Planning,  
State Ministry of the Environment, Indonesia**

Mr. Sumardja, Assistant Minister of Environmental Planning in Indonesia, is a member of numerous environmental organizations and has dedicated his professional life to nature conservation. An advocate of environmental issues within the international community, Mr. Sumardja has published an extensive series of articles on nature conservation, focusing on park and wildlife management in Indonesia. Presently, he is the Regional Vice Chair of the South East Asia division of the World Commission on Protected Areas and Chief of the Wallacea Development's Institute's (WDI) Executive Committee.

Before assuming his current position with the State Ministry, Mr. Sumardja served as Director of Indonesia's Conservation Programme and as the co-manager of FAO-UNDP National Parks Development Project in Indonesia from 1979-1982.

Mr. Sumardja earned his doctorate in Biology at Pajajaran University, in Indonesia, and his Master of Science in Natural Resources at the University of Michigan.

**Dr. Mel Sunquist, Associate Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology and  
Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida**

Dr. Sunquist's research program focuses on the ecology, behavior and conservation of mammalian carnivores. His research is primarily concerned with threatened and endangered species and as such is concerned with how best to manage populations that are isolated, decreasing in size, and set within increasingly humanized landscapes.

Dr. Sunquist was the principal investigator on the Smithsonian-Nepal Tiger Ecology Project in Chitwan National Park, and principal investigator on the study of tigers, leopards, and wild dogs and their prey in Nagarahole National Park, India. He is currently leading a project in Venezuela that seeks to identify the variables for coexistence of jaguars, pumas, and cattle ranching.

Dr. Sunquist is a member of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, Florida's Panther Technical Advisory Council, and he is on the advisory board of Brazil's National Center for Research and Conservation of Natural Predators.

Dr. Sunquist has been involved with the use of radio-telemetry to study mammalian carnivores since 1965. He has studied mammalian carnivores on three continents. His Ph.D. dissertation was on the social organization of tigers in Chitwan National Park, Nepal. Dr. Sunquist received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D degrees from the University of Minnesota.

**Mr. Edward F. Ahnert, President of Exxon Education Foundation and Manager of Contributions for Exxon Corporation**

Mr. Ahnert was named Executive Director of the Exxon Education Foundation in 1990 and became its President in 1994. He was also named Manager of Exxon's corporate contributions activities in 1992. Between 1973 and 1986, he held various positions within the company, including the Treasurer's Department in New York, and in corporate planning in New York, Houston, Sydney, Australia and Hong Kong.

In 1986, Mr. Ahnert briefly left Exxon to help create a small Asian regional telecommunications company based in Hong Kong, where he acted as Chief Financial Officer. In 1988, he founded and became the Chief Executive Officer of an Asian venture capital fund affiliated with a Hong Kong investment bank.

Mr. Ahnert obtained a B.A. in English from Rice University and a Master of Public Affairs in International Relations from Princeton University.

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1998 THE YEAR  
OF THE TIGER

**“SAVE THE TIGER” WEB SITE PROVIDES INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR  
INFORMATION ON PLIGHT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES**

**“5Tigers” Web Site Involves Public, Scientific and Conservation Communities  
in Tiger Conservation**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN -- The Tiger Information Center Web site went on-line in 1995, as a comprehensive resource about the plight of the tiger as an endangered species. With over 300,000 visitors a month, the “5Tigers” web site has evolved into one of the most comprehensive sources of information on a single species, for the public as well as the scientific and conservation communities. In the past year, the site was featured in Scholastic News, Weekly Reader, Parade Magazine, and the nationally syndicated section of the Sunday comics. It was also chosen a “site of the day” in USA Today and the Environmental News Network. Sponsored by the Save The Tiger Fund, a program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the Exxon Corporation, the “5Tigers” web site now offers virtual “one-stop shopping” for information about tigers -- whether the browser is a serious scholar or a second grader.

Lack of awareness about the threat of extinction is one of the greatest challenges in tiger conservation. Through the “5Tigers” internet web site the Save The Tiger Fund can reach a global audience. In addition to serving as a forum for leading international

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tiger authorities to share their latest research, the “5tigers” site provides accurate and up-to-date information on the five sub-species of tigers remaining in the wild. Also included are news updates from around the world, comprehensive information on tiger conservation, natural history, photographs, as well as a host of fun, interactive learning adventures that involve children in the fight to save the tiger.

This multi-media site <http://www.5tigers.org>, receives over 300,000 page views per month. It is coordinated by the International Tiger Information Center at the Minnesota Zoo, overseen by Dr. Ron Tilson, the zoo’s Director of Conservation, and Director of the Sumatran Tiger Project.

“The ‘5Tigers’ web site represents a comprehensive collection of the significant research on tigers,” said Dr. Tilson. “We’ve organized the information so that it is easily accessible to anyone with an interest in learning about tigers -- adults, academics and children.”

By clicking on a signpost, children can enter area of material geared to their level of understanding, from Tiger Talks Back at the primary grades level to interactive Tiger Adventures that even adults enjoy. Individuals and school classes submit artwork and poetry to be posted, or send stories of how they raised money for conservation. They can also “visit” the Minnesota Zoo via pictures and text for a behind-the-scenes look at how it cares for its tiger population and soon there will be “live” pictures from the zoo’s tiger enclosure via WebCam.

“Ask Annie” is an interactive feature for children where they can receive answers

to their questions about tigers via e-mail, or view responses other children have received to their questions.

Young web visitors can also learn “fun facts” about tigers, take a “Kids’ Quiz” to test their knowledge on the subject or browse through newspaper articles about tigers and receive information on the conservation organizations involved in the tiger cause. How You Can Help offers ideas for letter-writing campaigns and contributions to conservation that require minimal amounts of money. They can also play one of three challenging, interactive adventure games.

“The key objectives of the Save The Tiger Fund are conservation and education,” said Edward F. Ahnert, president of the Exxon Education Foundation. “The ‘5Tigers’ web site builds awareness about the tiger’s plight and conservation. Whether you’re a first-grade teacher who wants to find something on tigers for young children, or you’re a graduate student looking for something highly technical or specialized on tigers, you’ll be able to find it at ‘5Tigers.’”

In 1995, Exxon partnered with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to create the Save The Tiger Fund, an international program to assist the long-term survival of the endangered five sub-species of tigers. The Fund, which is administered by the NFWF, uses public and private contributions to help stabilize and improve tiger populations in the wild, support habitat protection, enhance conservation breeding programs worldwide and educate the public about the need for tiger conservation. Exxon has committed \$5 million over five years to tiger conservation.

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NOVEMBER 13, 01:13 EST

## Smithsonian Has New Tiger Exhibit

By JOSEPH SCHUMAN  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The hulking tiger lunges through a patch of tall savannah grass at the white-spotted deer, which does not bat an eye.

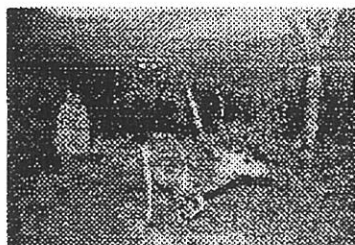
The 6-foot-long stuffed cat, caught forever in midpounce, is the star of a National Museum of Natural History tiger exhibit aimed at boosting the beast's chances of survival in the wild.

Smithsonian officials and tiger conservationists on Thursday unveiled "Tigers!" — and like the title's exclamation point, the exhibit's sometimes cliched features include descriptions of "dagger-sharp claws" and images of cuddly tiger cubs at play.

But the gaping tiger skull with four arching inch-long incisors and a touchable paw the size of two human hands testify to the animal's legendary ferocity.



The exhibit explores the growing threat of the tigers' extinction  
AP/Dennis Cook [26K]



Museum officials hope the exhibit will boost the beast's chances of survival in the wild  
AP/Dennis Cook [25K]

The stuffed deer-attacking tiger, shot in 1967 when tigers were still considered abundant, drives home the exhibit's theme: Tigers are not a threat to humans. The real predators are people, who need to improve how they live with what museum director Robert Fri called "non-human communities."

Graphics and videos describe how Asia's growing human population has driven tigers out of their natural habitat.

The exhibit also depicts positively the conservation efforts of Nepal's Chitwan National Park, where surrounding human populations have been enlisted to care for the tigers' survival, a model conservationists hope to

repeat.

"People realize that despite all our problems, poverty and the (money to be made from) poaching, this is our heritage," said Hemanta Mishra, a Nepalese biologist who works for the World Bank.

Mishra said the exhibit's sponsors believe it will spread awareness of the tigers' plight and help build the international political will needed to keep them in their natural habitat.

Tigers in captivity far outnumber the sparse tiger population in the wild, with estimates ranging from 3,000 to 7,000 still living on their own in India, China, the jungles of Southeast Asia and the Siberian tundra, down from 100,000 a century ago.

In the past 70 years, three species — the Bali, Javan and Caspian tigers — have become extinct. Only

some 350 Siberian tigers exist in the wild, with around five times that number in zoos or otherwise under the control of humans.

"Tigers!" opens today and will remain on view indefinitely. Admission is free.

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**Top News Summary**

**Smithsonian exhibit shows tiger's battle to survive**

07:34 p.m Nov 12, 1998 Eastern

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- Russia Warns Saddam: This Crisis Is Serious

- Slim Hopes Seen In Annan-Security Council Meeting

- U.S. Ready To Send More Patriots To Israel

- IMF Announces \$41 Billion-Plus Brazil Deal

- U.S. Wholesale Prices Rise On Energy Costs

- U.S. Retail Sales Surprisingly Strong In October

- U.S. Envoy Ross Returns To Middle East

- U.S. Details Steps On South Asia Nukes

- U.S. Hits Out At Japan, Irks Malaysia

WASHINGTON, Nov 12 (Reuters) - Conservation groups and officials at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History unveiled Thursday a tiger exhibition aimed at promoting awareness of the animal's battle against extinction. "Tigers!" features a diorama with a stuffed beast springing from a patch of grass and ready to pounce on a deer, and contains graphics and videos explaining the plight of the big cats in the wild.

This exhibit highlights conservation efforts to preserve the tiger habitat," Robert Fri, director of the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum told a news conference.

**Personalize Headline news**

At the turn of the century, the world had about 100,000 tigers. Conservationists estimate there are now 3,000 to 7,000 tigers in the wild, with the greatest concentration in India.

**Choose another news section:**

But public awareness is important in saving the animals whose presence once stretched throughout much of Asia, but now barely dot the continent, the tiger conservationists said.

"If we are going to save the tiger we have to teach the world it is worth saving," said Amos Eno, executive director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

**Personalize news**

**Instructions & examples?**

In the last 70 years the Bali, Javan and Caspian tigers have all become extinct and only about 350 Siberian tigers remain in the wild.

Conservationists attribute the tiger loss due to a shrinking prey base and poaching pressures due to demand for tiger bone as an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine.

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## Morning News

### Howard Quigley Discusses The Fight to Save the Endangered Tiger

Aired November 11, 1998 - 9:49 a.m. ET

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

DARYN KAGAN, CNN ANCHOR: Four Bengal tiger cubs made their public debut in Australia, today. The litter was born two-and-a-half weeks ago. It includes Australia's first white Bengal cub. The baby tigers are being cared for in a nursery, and they'll be returned to their mother in a couple weeks, after they've gotten used to being around humans.

But all is not good news for tigers, which is an endangered species. There are only some 7,000 left in the wild today, down from 100,000 at the beginning of the century.

Joining us now from Washington to talk about international efforts to save the tiger is Howard Quigley.

Go To . . . He is the president of the Hornocker Wildlife Institute.

Good morning to you. Thanks for joining us.

HOWARD QUIGLEY, HORNOCKER WILDLIFE INSTITUTE: Good morning, Daryn.

KAGAN: Do you find those numbers depressing, 7,000 now versus 100,000 at the start of the century?

QUIGLEY: Well, yes, there is a lot of bad news when you look at tigers or any endangered species around the world, but 7,000 is certainly on the precipice. We would like to have those other 95,000 back that we've lost in the last century, but like we're doing here in Washington right

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now, opening a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, we're drawing attention to that, and we're going to keep attention on tigers until they're secure.

KAGAN: Well, you mentioned this meeting at the Smithsonian; you have all these tiger experts from around the world. What's the purpose and what will you be focusing on this week?

QUIGLEY: Well, this week, right now, we're focusing and trying to refocus people on the plight of the tiger. We have in the last four, five years of the activity of the Save the Tiger Fund brought tigers to a place where we can say we've made improvements and can see a future for them, but this week we're rallying politicians, we're rallying tiger experts, to again focus attention, to bring out the awareness around the world that we need to keep conservation efforts active. KAGAN: Right before we brought you on, we saw that darling video of those baby tiger cubs in Australia. Is that the answer, having zoos and breeding programs like that?

QUIGLEY: No, we're really focussing on tigers in the wild. There's still a place for tigers to live in the wild, and it's a matter of funding and supporting those people out there in what you might call the tiger trenches, to make sure that there is a place in the wild.

Certainly zoos and the diorama of this that's going to be opened at the Smithsonian museum this Friday are important. They allow people contact with the animals, they give them a vision of what this animal really is, and very few of us will see tigers in the wild, but we've got a window of opportunity to try to save those places in the wild right now. And Save the Tiger is taking that opportunity and, really, taking the lead in making that happen.

KAGAN: With the few seconds we have left, you want to mention that you have a Web site available for people who want to learn more and see more of the tigers, so why don't you go ahead and tell us about it and give us the address.

QUIGLEY: Yes, for people who do want to find out more about the activity and what they can do to save tigers, the address, there, is 5tigers.org, or www.5tigers.org, or the 800 number, 800-5-TIGERS. There you can find a wealth of information about the

organizations involved in tiger conservation and how you, the viewer, can help.

KAGAN: Howard Quigley, thank you for bringing us that information on tigers in the wild this morning.

QUIGLEY: Thank you.

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