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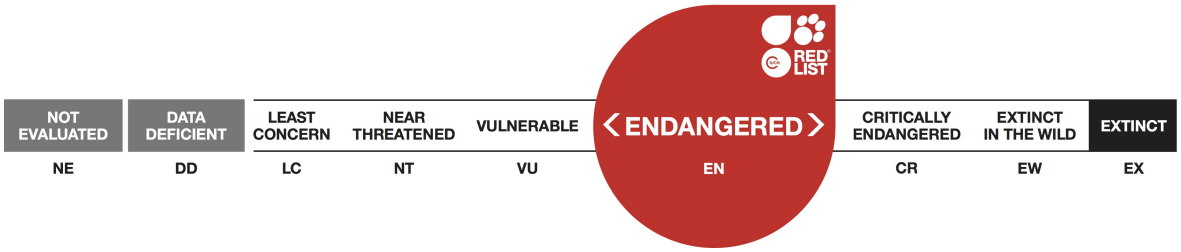
Panthera tigris ssp. altaica, Amur Tiger

Assessment by: Miquelle, D., Darman, Y. & Seryodkin, I



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Felidae

Taxon Name: *Panthera tigris ssp. altaica* Temminck, 1844

Parent Species: See *Panthera tigris*

Common Name(s):

- English: Amur Tiger
- French: Tigre de Sibérie

Taxonomic Notes:

Subspecies recognition of *P. t. altaica* was affirmed on the basis of molecular markers. This subspecies has a low level of genetic variation, probably due to past and recent population declines (Luo *et al.* 2004, Henry *et al*. 2009).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered C2a(i); D ver 3.1

Year Published: 2011

Date Assessed: February 11, 2010

Justification:

The Amur Tiger now occurs primarily in Russia, where it has made a spectacular comeback since the 1930s, when the population fell as low as 20–30 animals (Kaplanov 1948). The population is now estimated at 360 tigers (GTRP 2010), based on a comprehensive 2005 population census (Miquelle *et al*. 2007). This number, based on track surveys in the snow, probably includes around 100 sub-adults 20-et al. 2007) and a revision of the Amur Tiger's Red List category from Critically Endangered to Endangered in 2007. However, although these full range surveys provide fairly reliable information on tiger numbers, the logistical and financial levels of commitment make them infeasible to conduct on a regular basis. Population trends can be deduced from smaller-scale monitoring in smaller representative areas, focusing on parameters including tiger track density, local expert assessments of numbers, presence of females with young, prey abundance and other variables. Analyzing 13 years worth of data, the monitoring program has indicated a significant negative population decline, with a slightly steeper declining trend evident since 2004, despite a bounceback in tiger numbers in 2010 after a very cold and snowy winter in 2009 (Miquelle *et al.* 2010). Poaching of Tigers as well as their wild prey species is considered to be driving the decline (Schwirtz 2009). Moreover, a broad genetic sampling of 95 wild Russian tigers found markedly low genetic diversity, with the effective population size (Ne) extraordinarily low in comparison to the census population size (N), with the population behaving as if it were just 27–35 individuals (Henry *et al.* 2009). This reflects the recent population bottleneck of the 1940s, and concords with the low documented cub survivorship to independence in the Russian Far East (Kerley *et al.* 2003). Further exacerbating the problem is that more than 90% of the population occurs in the Sikhote Alin mountain region, and there is little genetic exchange (movement of Tigers) across the

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development corridor which separates this sub-population from the much smaller subpopulation found in southwest Primorye province (Henry *et al.* 2009). In China, the small population is not independently viable and dependent on movement of animals across the border with Russia (Kang *et al*. 2010). The continued existence of *P.t. altaica* in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is uncertain.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2010 – Endangered (EN)

2008 – Endangered (EN)

1996 – Critically Endangered (CR)

1996 – Critically Endangered (CR)

1965 – Status inadequately known-survey required or data sought

Geographic Range

Country Occurrence:

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2011-2.RLTS.T15956A5333650.en

Population

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology

Systems: Terrestrial

Credits

Assessor(s): Miquelle, D., Darman, Y. & Seryodkin, I

Reviewer(s): Nowell, K., Schipper, J., Breitenmoser, U. & Breitenmoser-Wursten, C.

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Appendix

Additional Data Fields

Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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