



# FACTSHEET

## TIGER RECOVERY PROGRAMME



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## 1 EXPAND COLLABORATION TO BOOST THE CAPTIVE SAMBAR POPULATION

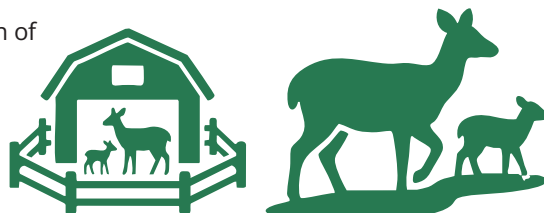
Since 2021, WWF Thailand's Tiger Recovery Programme and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) have worked together to strengthen sambar populations through a dedicated augmentation programme. As one of the primary prey species for wild tigers, sambar play a vital role in supporting tiger recovery and maintaining healthy forest ecosystems.

In 2025, the programme expanded through the addition of two key partners:

- The Zoological Park Organization of Thailand (ZPO)
- The Department of Livestock Development (DLD)

With these new partnerships, the programme now operates across nine breeding centres managed by DNP, ZPO, and DLD. Together, these centres are increasing captive sambar populations for future releases into the wild while maintaining healthy breeding stocks to ensure long-term population sustainability.

This expanded collaboration represents an important milestone in restoring prey populations, strengthening Thailand's tiger recovery efforts, and enhancing ecosystem resilience.





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## 2 SAMBAR ON THE MOVE: FIRST SAMBAR RELEASE AT SALAKPRA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The first release of sambar deer at Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary marked an important milestone as the tiger prey recovery programme expanded to a new landscape. Over the past five years, a total of 149 sambar have been released across Thailand's Western Forest Complex.



All reintroductions were carried out in full compliance with Thai legal requirements and WWF's Animal Handling and Translocation Standards, following the proven protocols developed through earlier releases in Mae Wong and Khlong Lan National Parks.

Building on these successful experiences, the programme aims to restore healthy sambar populations in the wild, strengthening the natural prey base for tigers and other large carnivores while contributing to healthier and more balanced forest ecosystems.



## 3 MOBILE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION



The SMART Patrol System has become a cornerstone of protected area management in Thailand, enabling rangers to collect accurate field data that supports evidence-based patrol planning and adaptive management.

Following a successful pilot in 2024, the initiative has now been fully scaled up across the Upper Western Forest Complex. Today, all **31 ranger patrol teams** are equipped with SMART mobile devices, including:

- Through the Tiger Recovery Programme, WWF Thailand introduced SMART mobile technology and training for ranger patrols in two priority landscapes:
- **Upper Western Forest Complex** — Mae Wong, Khlong Lan, Khlong Wang Chao, and Umphang
  - **Mae Ping–Omkoï Forest Complex** — Mae Ping, Omkoï, and Mae Tuen

- Mae Wong National Park — 8 patrol teams
- Khlong Lan National Park — 4 patrol teams
- Khlong Wang Chao National Park — 7 patrol teams
- Umphang Wildlife Sanctuary — 12 patrol teams

This achievement significantly strengthens wildlife protection by improving patrol efficiency, data quality, and management decisions. The programme will continue expanding device distribution and ranger training across the Mae Ping–Omkoï Forest Complex to further strengthen conservation efforts nationwide.





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## 4 MOU SIGNING CEREMONY: PHAYAK PRAI

**Partners:** Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, WCS Thailand, and WWF Thailand.

The signing of the renewed Phayak Prai Memorandum of Understanding marks the continuation of a successful partnership following the completion of its first five-year phase.

The renewed collaboration focuses on preparing the next generation of conservation professionals by providing fourth-year forestry students with practical training and hands-on experience in SMART patrol systems before graduation. By combining academic learning with field experience, the programme helps develop future leaders equipped to protect Thailand's forests and wildlife.

## 5 PHOTOBOOK: THAI PARK RANGERS

The Thai Park Rangers photobook is the result of a close collaboration between the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the Faculty of Forestry at Kasetsart University, and WWF Thailand.

The publication celebrates the dedication and sacrifice of Thailand's park rangers, whose work is fundamental to protecting the country's forests, wildlife, and natural heritage. While their contributions often take place behind the scenes, they are essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems for future generations.

More than a collection of photographs, the book and accompanying exhibition aim to increase public understanding of the realities of ranger life, honour these

often-unsung conservation heroes, and inspire greater appreciation for those safeguarding Thailand's biodiversity.

The project also highlights the importance of collaboration among government agencies, academic institutions, and civil society in achieving lasting conservation outcomes. WWF Thailand remains committed to supporting this mission through technical expertise, financial support, and partnership development.

**The Thai Park Rangers photobook** is available in Thai and English, including a digital e-book edition.



SCAN AND  
SCROLL DOWN



**9 BREEDING CENTRES**

collaborating across three agencies



**149 SAMBAR**

released in the Western Forest Complex over five years



**31 SMART-EQUIPPED**

patrol teams in the Upper Western Forest Complex



**4 PARTNERS**

renewing the Phayak Prai MOU



**1 BILINGUAL**

Thai Park Rangers photobook published



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