

Thanks to our adopters, we're working with local communities to look after the forest in Khata Corridor so that future generations of tigers and their cubs can thrive. Here, one of Shivapothi's daughters, Gauri, is captured on camera with one of her own cubs



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# Hello!

## Welcome to your latest tiger update



Samundra Subba, senior research officer, WWF-Nepal

Since your last update, we've been celebrating a new generation of tigers roaming Khata Corridor, a vital wildlife passageway linking Nepal and India. The two grown-up daughters of a resident tigress called

Shivapothi had already become mothers, and now her third daughter has welcomed her first cub. This achievement not only reflects Shivapothi's excellent parenting skills, but highlights the success of our ongoing efforts to restore the area. Thanks to your support, this degraded patch of land has been transformed into thriving habitat capable of supporting growing numbers of tigers, ensuring Shivapothi's legacy. Turn over to meet a couple of tigers at the dawn of their own dynasty in China.

**Dhan'yavāda!**

(This means 'Thank you' in Nepali!)

### MEET THE ADOPTION TEAM

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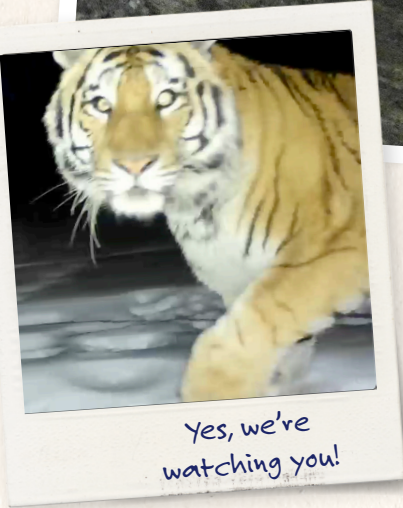


# FIELD NOTES

Could this lead to the patter of tiny paws? We hope so!



The male is close behind the female in this thrilling camera-trap image



Yes, we're watching you!



# VERSATILE CAT

Thick snow or dry heat, high mountain or river valley, it's no problem for the tiger, which has adapted to a huge variety of habitats and conditions across its geographical range.

Your field update usually comes from Nepal's Khata Corridor, where the tigers have sleek physiques and wide-striped, bright orange coats, adapted for life in tropical and sub-tropical forests and grasslands. They regularly lie in watering holes to keep cool in the humid heat.

Further north, their larger, fluffier cousins are built to survive the harsh conditions of the winter. To protect themselves against freezing temperatures their fur is thicker and longer, they have longer fur around their necks and extra fur on their paws. Their coats tend to be lighter in colour, the orange less vivid, and their stripes thinner to enhance their camouflage among the forests.

# A ROARING ROMANCE

## Two amorous tigers have captured the hearts of staff in a national park in China, offering hope for the future

When a camera trap snapped a male and female Amur tiger in the same spot in the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park, I had a sneaky suspicion that 'love' was in the air – I was convinced he'd win her heart.

The pair became the talk of the park, and every sign of their presence sparked excited speculation among my colleagues. This photo was the first time two adult Amur tigers had been spotted in the same location in this part of the national park, Chaoyanggou Forest Farm.

Then, a thrilling new development: camera footage showed the two tigers passing by within seconds of each other. For big cats that prefer to be alone much

of the time, this seemed to confirm mating was on the cards.

How exactly do these lone creatures navigate the world of big-cat courtship? A female tiger is ready to mate by the age of three or four, with males maturing a year or two later. She's receptive roughly once a month, which she announces by scent marking her range with potent urine and roaring loudly – the tiger equivalent of a love letter.

If she attracts a male, the pair will engage in a courtship dance, circling one another while vocalising. If it's a match, they'll mate repeatedly over a few intense days. The relationship ends as quickly as it begins – once their rendezvous is over, the male swiftly leaves the female's home range. About three and a half months later, the tigress will find a den to give birth in – and recent camera-trap footage has hinted at the success of the hotly discussed duo.

The tigress was spotted alone, and we noticed her abdomen was sagging slightly, so we think she'd probably given birth. Fortunately, we'd already made preparations to welcome new arrivals,

including enhanced patrols, extra camera traps and fast-tracked efforts to restore the forest here. With any luck, the tigress has given birth safely, helping to grow the Amur tiger population in this wonderful national park, where we've worked with WWF-China to increase wildlife protection and monitoring.

Once widespread across north-east China, tigers have been driven to the edge of extinction by hunting and habitat destruction. To restore the forest and bolster the dwindling population of these endangered cats, the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park was created, spanning an area two-thirds the size of Wales.

Our restoration efforts seem to be working. Recently, Amur tigers have been crossing the border from Russia, choosing the park as a sanctuary to give birth and raise their cubs. The official estimate is that the park is home to over 50 of these amazing cats. In the meantime, we remain ever-watchful, eagerly anticipating the next chapter in the story of this tigress and, hopefully, her cubs.

**Li Gang**  
Ranger, Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park Administration

Amur tigers have huge home ranges, because prey densities are low



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