

Bengal tiger



The **Bengal** tiger is a feline, and the most well-known subspecies of tiger. Also called the Royal Bengal Tiger, it is lighter and less imposing than the Siberian tiger. Its population, thanks in particular to the protection actions of the Indian government, has been increasing for several years, in 2019, it probably exceeds 3000 individuals in India.

Distribution and habitats

The strongest population of Bengal tigers is found in the nature parks of Bengal and Bangladesh. They can also be found in central and northern India as well as Burma and Nepal. Tigers need an extensive living space on which they can hunt. They mark and defend territories of varying size that can exceed 100 km² for a male. Because they are solitary animals, even a small population needs a large area in which to live and hunt. A tiger has several dens on its home range and uses the one that suits it best at the moment. It is a tiger more versatile than the others at the level of the biotope, it likes to frequent the forest (dense or clear), the savannah (shrub or discovery) as well as the marshes. It usually sleeps in the forest and moves in the morning and late in the day in open savannah and at the edge of marshes in search of water and prey.

Protection

In 1900, the Indian tiger population was estimated at between 40,000 and 50,000 individuals. By 1972, that figure had dropped to 1,850 and the Indian government established national parks to safeguard its tiger population. A protection program has put it back to about 4,000 in 1984.

The latest census of 2013 released by the Nepalese Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, puts their population at 198 in Nepal and Bhutan, 150 in Bangladesh, 200 in western Burma. The 2007 census gives 1,411 tigers in India. This figure is lower than that of the 1973 census when Project **Tiger** was launched. In contrast, in the 2014 census, there were 2226 tigers across India, which predicted that the tiger population in India would continue to skyrocket.