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## Breeding of Tigers in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary: Source Site for Tiger Population in Myanmar



During the last sanctuary, tiger habitat and source site for tiger population is significantly fragmented and destroyed. Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the source sites for tiger population which of the area are fragmented. Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (2,151km<sup>2</sup>) is roughly 80% closed forest. The sanctuary was administered by dividing into four management zones: Nam Yam Yin, Nam Pagon, Nam E Zu and Nam Phi Lin. Biological Monitoring projects and other conservation project including tiger conservation have being boosted during recent years. Like many other tiger sanctuaries, it faces major threats to tiger habitat, prey, and the tigers themselves. However, recent studies show that there is hope for tigers in this sanctuary.

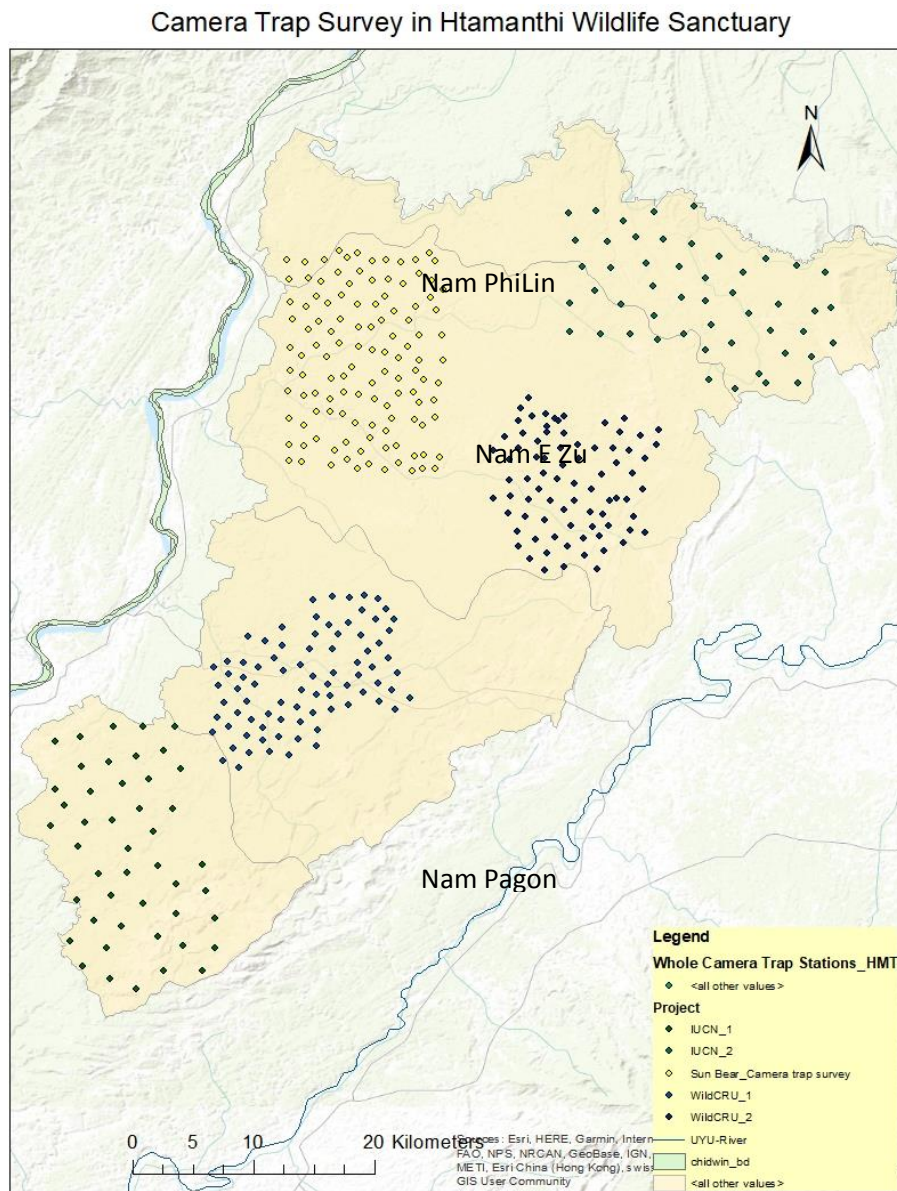
The research projects for conservation of endanger tigers *Panthera tigris* in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary have being conducted by the cooperation of Myanmar Forest Department (especially Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division) and Wildlife Conservation Society Myanmar Program (WCS Myanmar) since 2014. During the first year period of (2014 December to 2015 February), (1) male tiger and (4) female tigers, totally (5) individuals were recorded by using camera trap.

In this year project period (2017 December – 2018 February), we have also set up the camera traps in NamPagon Management Zone in order to monitor the population trend of tigers either increasing or decreasing. According to initial results, (3) individual tiger cubs (TG06, TB07, TG08) were recorded together with their mother tiger (TG02). Hope for tigers in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is now alive.

According to the Myanmar Nationwide Tiger Survey during (1999-2002), three sites had confirmed tiger's presences- Hukaung Valley, Htamanthi and Taninthary. Among them, it was estimated that population of tigers to be about 15 individuals. In addition to the above description results, conservation projects in Htamanthi are proving the presence of the seven Asian wild cats – Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Golden Cat, Marbled Cat, Jungle cat, and Leopard cat. This diversity is the indicator of a solid prey population such as Gaur, Sambar Deer, Barking Deer, and Eurasian Wild Pig.

Therefore, the truth is that the new three tiger cubs are indicators of the hall of fame of the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. It can be said that the conservation implementation with the collaborative actions of regional political leaders, warden and staffs of park, partner organizations, forest department and WCS Myanmar is successful to some extent.

According to these records, Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary has born Myanmar first baby tigers (new generation of tigers). Since there is the breeding population of tigers along with rich biodiversity in the sanctuary, related organizations, teams, and individuals have to boost and/or enhance the conservation implementations such as law enforcement and monitoring in this sanctuary, and most importantly in urgency.



**Figure 1 Camera Trap Position inside the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary**





Tiger One (Female, Right)



Tiger One (Female, Left)



Tiger Two (Female, Right)



Tiger Two (Female, Left)



Tiger Three (Female, Right)



Tiger Three (Female, Left)



Tiger Four (Male, Right)



Tiger Four (Male, Left)





Tiger Five (Female, Right)



Tiger Five (Female, Left)

The Photos of New Tiger Cubs (TG06, TG07, TG 08) with mother (TG 02)



Tiger Two (Mother)



Tiger Six (New Born)



Tiger Seven (New Born)



Tiger Eight (New Born)