



**by Guru Scott McQuaid**

At present, there is roughly as low 3,000 tigers left in the wild on this planet, however there are an estimated 5,000 tigers in cages just in the U.S.A. and there are no legitimate reintroduction programs. The reality is that if we do not protect this animal from poaching, the only tigers alive will be the ones behind bars.

There were 53 tigers killed last year which is approximately 1 per week. With each year that passes the number of tiger deaths increase. Already tiger sub-species such as the Java tiger and the Bali tiger from Indonesia have become extinct through poaching. Only the Sumatran tiger remains with about 400 left in the world. In Bangladesh there are roughly 200 tigers left, the Siberian tigers in Russia are estimated at around 331. In Thailand there is estimated to be 250 tigers in the country. Myanmar and Nepal have about a 100 tigers each and in Vietnam and China there are as low as 30 in each country.

In Malaysia there are said to be 300 and I recently visited the Malay island of Langkawi which opened their first tiger reserve in 2010. This sanctuary houses only one orphan tiger named Zannah. She made her first appearance at this reserve on February 14th commemorating the Year of the Tiger. Despite the Malay government recording tigers found in the Malaysian Peninsular as a new subspecies calling it the Malay tiger, further DNA studies show that the so call Malay tiger like their neighboring cousins in Thailand are in fact Indo-china tigers. Creating another species does not increase the tiger's on this planet it merely magnifies the rapid decline of the panthera tigris showing that there are only 1,226 Indochina tigers spread across South East Asia, China and Russia.



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