



SUMMARY OF TIGER FARMING TIMELINE

Year	Milestones
1949	China has an estimated 4,000 wild tigers at founding of the People's Republic of China.
1950s	Government offers bounty for killing tigers.
1977	Government cancels bounty after dramatic decrease in tiger numbers noticed.
1981	China accedes to CITES.
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government establishes conservation-breeding program for rare South China tiger in Chongqing Zoo. • US zoos ship Siberian tigers to zoos in China.
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China Crude Drugs Company announces national scarcity of wild animals and plants used in traditional medicine, including tigers. • US zoos ship more Siberian tigers to China.
1986	China's first commercial tiger farm is established in Heilongjiang Province with support from Ministry of Forestry.
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES adds Siberian tiger to Appendix I, banning all international commercial trade in tigers and their parts and products. • Chinese National Pharmaceutical Bureau gives Beijing Pharmaceutical Company remit to utilize tiger farming to solve shortage of tiger bones. • Indian authorities apprehend poachers with tiger skeletons.
1989	<i>Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protections of Wildlife</i> comes into effect, encouraging breeding, "domestication" and use of endangered species.
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India and Nepal report poachers killing tigers for bones to smuggle into China. • Manager of Heilongjiang farm says he will seek CITES' permission to sell tiger bones and skins internationally to finance expansion of tiger breeding.
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing amounts of tiger bone seized in India and Nepal en route to China. • Manager of Heilongjiang farm shows off ledger with growing number of buyers ordering tiger bones and skins.
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation breeding of South China tiger at Chongqing Zoo stopped due to cut in government funding. • China seeks CITES registration for Heilongjiang farm to allow trade in tiger parts and products internationally but withdraws proposal before Parties vote. • NGO lawyers petition US government to bring trade sanctions against China for its domestic trade in tiger bone because it undermines CITES' trade ban.

1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiger specialists sound alarm at poaching crisis in India, Nepal and Russia driven by demand for bones to make traditional Chinese medicines. • CITES Standing Committee notes “deep concern” over poaching of wild tigers for their bones. • US government and CITES threaten trade sanctions against China for legal domestic tiger trade that is fueling poaching, smuggling and illegal international trade. • China’s State Council issues notification banning domestic trade in tiger bones and removes tiger bone from traditional medicine pharmacopeia. • CITES Standing Committee orders China to secure all stocks of tiger bones and derivatives, and then sends missions to inspect compliance. • New York Zoological Society issues statement against tiger farming, dismissing it as no more than a “business venture”. • Captive-breeding facility that will become China’s largest tiger farm is established in Guangxi Province.
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIME Magazine cover pronounces wild tigers “Doomed!” due to high demand for tiger bone used in traditional Chinese medicine. • United States and CITES drop threats of trade sanctions against China, citing improved control of domestic tiger-bone trade. • CITES adopts first tiger resolution, calling on Parties to voluntarily prohibit domestic trade in tiger parts and derivatives to stem international poaching and illegal trade. • Government agencies in China give Heilongjiang tiger farm funding to sustain its tiger-breeding operations.
1996	Provincial government permits Heilongjiang tiger farm to open Siberian Tiger Park to support expansion of tiger breeding.
1997	Government officials deny visas to Chinese nationals registered for TRAFFIC’s Hong Kong symposium on substitutes for tiger bone in medicine.
1998	New tiger farm is established in China’s Liaoning Province.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guangxi Province tiger farm’s population reaches 171. • Evidence of a massive resurgence in illegal trade in tiger and leopard skins from India and Nepal into China.
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second tiger farm in Liaoning Province is established. • Indian authorities seize 4 tiger, 74 leopard and 221 otter skins, along with tiger and leopard bones and thousands of claws in Khaga, Uttar Pradesh.
2001	Former fashion executive founds project to send South China tigers from the Shanghai Zoo to South Africa for “rewilding” and eventual release into wild in China.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of China’s tiger farms reaches at least 600. • Sino-Thai business venture establishes farm in China’s Hainan Province with stated goal of breeding more than 200,000 tigers.
2003	State Forestry Administration issues notification announcing a marking scheme for legal trade in “labeled “wildlife parts and products.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Forestry Administration issues notification extending marking scheme to allow Guangxi Province tiger farm’s distillery to sell “bone-strengthening” wine. • Traders in China describe increasing demand among Chinese buyers for tiger skins to decorate sofas.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiger population in China’s farms reaches 2,000. • State Forestry Administration official tells Smithsonian tiger specialist that China will lift its tiger-bone trade ban, while Chinese media report tiger-bone wine to be legalized. • Hailin Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Liquor Industry Co., Ltd opens distillery, claiming to use “resources” of nearby Heilongjiang tiger-breeding center. • Shenyang Zoo begins tiger-bone wine production, and Hunan Sanhong Biotechnology Company assesses feasibility of launching tiger-bone wine production. • State Forestry Administration denies the lifting of tiger-bone trade ban imminent, however, its notification extends marking scheme to captive-bred tigers. • Spike in tiger poaching and disclosure that India’s Sariska Tiger Reserve has no tigers prompt tiger specialists to ask whether there is a future for wild tigers. • EIA and Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) document the dangerous scale of trade in Asian big cat skins used to adorn traditional Tibetan costumes.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of China’s tiger farms tops 4,000. • China Youth Daily reports tiger skeletons soaking in vats of alcohol and sale of tiger-bone wine at Guangxi Province farm’s distillery.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies in Beijing says tiger-bone wine is not a medicine and manufacturing and sales should be stopped. • Tibetans burn tiger and leopard skins after religious leaders appeal for an end to their use. • EIA and WPSI document dramatic drop in Tibetan use of Asian big cat skins.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of tigers on China's farms reaches 5,000, surpassing number in wild. • Chinese officials remind CITES Secretariat that 1993 tiger-trade ban applies to tiger bones but not to tiger skins. • State Forestry Administration issues notification extending marking scheme to allow tiger skins and products from registered breeding facilities to enter trade. • Staff at Guangxi tiger farm tell CITES Secretariat, US diplomat and media the "bone-strengthening" wine they sell in tiger-shaped bottles is made from tiger bones. • State Forestry Administration issues notification extending marking scheme to allow Siberian Tiger Park distillery to sell "bone-strengthening wine" beginning in 2008. • State Forestry Administration tells CITES its tiger farms can supply the legal trade in tiger-bone trade and "fur" it is actively considering. • CITES CoP approves Decision stating tiger farming should be phased out and tigers should not be bred for trade, including domestic trade, in their parts and products. • EIA and WPSI document further reduction in Tibetan use of tiger skins.
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India learns its Panna Tiger Reserve has lost all of its tigers to poachers. • State Forestry Administration officials say they are unable to implement the CITES Decision to phase out tiger farms. • EIA and WPSI find Tibetan demand for Asian big cat skins is further reduced.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese CITES official publishes article outlining strategy to gain international support for registering China's tiger farms to allow international trade. • State Forestry Administration issues notification calling for crack down on illegal tiger trade and tighter control of living tigers, dead tigers and tiger parts held on farms. • EIA and WPSI document continuing trade in skins of wild tigers, leopards and snow leopards to feed into Chinese market for luxury home décor.
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Forestry Administration tells CITES Parties China has 6,000 tigers on farms and China's laws encourage the captive breeding and use of tigers products. • CITES Parties reiterate Decision that tiger farming should be phased out and tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and products.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat of tiger farming is absent from agenda of tiger summit hosted by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Russia, but China's Premier Wen Jiabao calls for end to tiger trade. • EIA and WPSI document continuing trade in skins of leopards and smaller wild cats and also leopard bone in China.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Standing Committee asks relevant Parties to report progress in phasing out tiger farming, but China does not do so. • China's state news agency announces 91 births at Siberian Tiger Park, bringing park's tiger population to 1,097. • EIA and WPSI document continuing trade in Asian big cat skins, bones and other parts in China.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's State Forestry Administration submits report to CITES CoP that discusses illegal tiger trade but does not address China's legal trade in tiger products nor phasing out of tiger farms. • The body parts of 16 tigers and 9 leopards seized in India and Nepal in the first six weeks of 2013.

TIGER FARMING TIMELINE

Year	# Wild Tigers in Asia	# Wild Tigers in China	# Tigers in China's Farms	Event	Description
1949		4,000 (1)	0	China is home to an estimated 4,000 wild tigers when the People's Republic of China is founded. (1)	There is still "substantial evidence" of wild tigers into the 20th century. "By then pushed into remote (mountainous) regions... tigers were hunted for their skins, their bones, and other body parts believed to have medicinal purposes." (2)
1950s				Government offers bounty for killing tigers. (3)	The tiger "became the target of large-scale government 'anti-pest' campaigns promulgated by Chairman Mao Zedong's 'Great Leap Forward'." (4)
1981	8,000 (94)			China accedes to CITES. (6)	
1983		150-200 (1)	0	US zoos ship eight live tigers to zoos in China. (8)	
1984		200 (10)	0	Tiger bones for the manufacturing of traditional Chinese medicines become hard to obtain in China. (10) China establishes conservation-breeding program for South China tigers in Chongqing Zoo, overseen by National Environmental Protection Agency. (1)	Heavy poaching of wild Siberian tigers in Northeast China may mean population estimate of 150 is too high. (10) "To save this precious subspecies from doom, the only hope lies in working out a well-planned captive-breeding program," says Beijing Zoo advisor. (1)
1986		50-80 (1)	8-13 (13 & 14)	Ministry of Forestry "concentrates" all Siberian tigers from United States, intended for conservation breeding, on fur farm in Heilongjiang Province to establish Hengdaohezi Breeding Centre of Felidae Animals, China's first tiger farm, a Government-funded operation to breed tigers for profit, primarily to supply bones for medical use. (15, 16 & 13) South China tiger declared near extinction. (1)	The tigers from the USA intended for conservation breeding are diverted for other purposes as Government provides funding and guidance for scheme to breed tigers for profit, primarily to supply bones for medical use. (15, 17 & 18) "During this period evidence of wild tigers... was scattered and seldom confirmed." (4)
1987		32-42 (19)	21-33 (14 & 16)	Chinese National Pharmaceutical Bureau gives Beijing Pharmaceutical Company remit to plan tiger farm to solve shortage of tiger bones. (15)	
1989			50-56 (14 & 16)	China's law on the protection of wildlife comes into effect (24) Fifteen tiger cubs born at Hengdaohezi Breeding Centre of Felidae Animals, bringing total to around 50. (16) Indian authorities arrest poacher in Rajasthan who claims	Gives wild tigers "Category 1" protection and encourages wildlife farming and utilization. From 1985-1989, the Ministry of Forestry and other government agencies spend US\$1,333,350 to finance and manage this progenitor of China's tiger farming industry. (16)

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				to have sent skeletons of 18 tigers to China. (23)	
1991			74 (14)	Sacks of tiger bones are seized in India and Nepal en route over the Himalayas into Tibet for the Chinese market. (16)	"The quest for bones for China medicine is the root of... poaching of tigers in Nepal and Northern India." Nepal has never before had "serious tiger poaching before" in its flagship Chitwan National Park. (16)
1992			62-82 (13 & 14)	China asks CITES CoP8 for registration of the Hengdaohezi Breeding Centre of Felidae Animals in order to trade bones and skins internationally to pay for the facility's running costs. (26) Lawyers for WWF and the National Wildlife Federation submit petition asking US Government to impose trade sanctions against China for its domestic trade in tiger (and rhino) parts and products. (27)	China argues farm's trade would not hurt wild tigers because their numbers are so low they are hard for poachers to find, but withdraws proposal amid concerns from CITES Parties and NGOs that sale of farmed parts and derivatives will stimulate and provide cover for trafficking in wild tigers. (26) US law (Pelly Amendment) allows imposition of trade restrictions against foreign countries whose nationals engage in trade that undermines international programs to protect endangered species, in this case CITES. (28)
1993			96-413 (14,18 & 29)	India's flagship Ranthambore Tiger Reserve loses more than half of its tigers to poaching for bones. (30) China's State Council issues Notification stopping all trade in/use of tiger bone and removes it from official pharmacopeia. (33) What will become Xionsen Bear and Tiger Mountain Village, China's largest tiger farm, is established in Guangxi Province. (34)	Tiger expert Fateh Rathore Singh deems the situation in Ranthambore a "massacre". (32) Forbids all trade of tiger bone and rhino horn, including selling, buying, and transport. Products produced before the ban went into effect are also required to be sealed and banned from trade. Researchers from Northeast Forestry University and the People's Liberation Army University of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry help businessman Zhou Weisen become China's most prolific tiger breeder. (35)
1994	4,600-7,700 (40)	20-100 (41)	85+ (14)	China notes its continued tiger-breeding operation at CITES CoP9, where Parties adopt first tiger resolution, asking Parties to prohibit domestic trade in tiger parts and derivatives. (45 & 95)	Noting that, despite inclusion of the species in Appendix I, illegal trade in tiger specimens has escalated, and could lead to extinction in the wild...." the Conference of the Parties "urges" all Parties to consider "voluntarily prohibiting internal trade in tigers and tiger parts and derivatives." (45)
1997				Government officials deny visas to Chinese nationals registered for TRAFFIC's Hong Kong symposium on substitutes for tiger bone in medicine. (49)	
1998	5,000-7,000 (50)		171 (14 & 35)	New tiger farm established in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. (47)	
1999				CITES technical delegation visits China, which claims to have at least 944 kg of tiger bone and 48 whole tiger skeletons secured, while farms are producing about 200	The mission's report cautioned, "farming would provide an opportunity for laundering wild-caught specimens that would simply accelerate and/or assist current poaching and illicit trade." (52)

Year	# Wild Tigers in Asia	# Wild Tigers in China	# Tigers in China's Farms	Event	Description
				tiger cubs annually. (52) Massive resurgence in illegal trade in tiger and leopard skins from India and Nepal into China. (110)	
2002			600+ (3)	CITES CoP12 approves Resolution 12.5. (96) Thailand's Sri Racha Tiger Zoo ships 100 tigers to Hainan in Sino-Thai venture to create world's largest tiger farm. (56 & 57)	Resolution urges Parties and non-Parties with captive-breeding operations to prevent parts and products from those facilities entering illegal trade and also recommends awareness programmes to eliminate illegal trade in and use of Asian big cat skins, bones and derivatives. (96) Thai government finds Natural Resource and Environment Ministry official wrong in approving the export for commercial tiger farming. (57)
2003				State Forestry Administration issues Forestry Protection Notification 2003 No. 3 for a "pilot marking scheme" for legal trade in wildlife products. (97) Thirty-one tiger skins and 581 leopard skins seized at Sangsang in Tibet.	Such "markings" are given to approved enterprises and/or their wildlife products, which will then be allowed for transportation and trade. Additional notices will expand this scheme to include trade in skins from captive-bred tigers and "bone-strengthening wine" sold at tiger farms and purported by sellers to be made with tiger bone.
2004				State Forestry Administration issues Forestry Protection Notification 2004 No. 6, extending marking scheme to allow Xionsen Bear and Tiger Mountain Village distillery to sell "bone-strengthening wine. (98) Sariska Tiger Reserve has no more tigers due to poaching for skins and bones. (99) Tiger skins are used to decorate sofas.	Xionsen sales personnel will tell CITES Secretariat, journalists and US Embassy employee their "bone-strengthening" wine is made with tiger bones. (See below.) Trader tells EIA investigators of market in luxury home décor among wealthy Chinese. (110)
2005			3,000 (100)	Forestry Protection Notification 2005 No. 139 announces terms of pilot project for use of bones from captive-bred tigers in medicine. (101) Hailin Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Liquor Industry Co., Ltd, is founded near Siberian Tiger Park. (67) EIA and WPSI document the dangerous scale of demand for skins used to decorate traditional Tibetan costumes.	While EIA has not been able to access this notification, its title indicates that it concerns "a pilot project to enable the use of captive-bred tiger bone in medicine". The company's "bone-strengthening tonic wine" depends on "resource advantages [sic] the largest Siberian tiger breeding base in the world". (67) Investigators offered the skins of three tigers, 170 leopard skins and 60 snow leopard skins, and document hundreds of people wearing costumes decorated with leopard and

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					tiger skins. (111)
2006			4,000+ (3)	<p><i>China Youth Daily</i> reports tiger skeletons seen soaking in alcohol and tiger-bone wine for sale at Xiongsen farm's distillery, to which China's State Forestry Administration contributed nearly US\$1 million for its development. (71)</p> <p>World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS), associated with China's State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, says tiger-bone wine is not a medicine and manufacturing and sales should be stopped. (102)</p> <p>EIA and WPSI document further reduction in Tibetan use of tiger skins.</p>	<p>"Tiger bone wine has re-emerged on the market in China, despite a ban on the trade....". Amazingly, the company's sale of these products has been approved by the State Forestry Administration.... (71). Xiongsen's "Cellar Number One has a storage capacity of... 3 million liters of wine.... Of the 1,000 containers there in 2006, 400 contained tiger parts." (47)</p> <p>WFCMS propose to Save The Tiger Fund a "road show" of Chinese medicine specialists traversing China to dissuade public interest in tiger-bone wine.</p> <p>T Tibetans burn tiger and leopard skins after religious leaders appeal for an end to their use. (111)</p>
2007	3,000-5,000 (73)		5,000+ (17)	<p>State Forestry Administration issues notification extending marking scheme to allow tiger skins and products from registered breeding facilities to enter trade. (103)</p> <p>China tells CITES CoP14 its tiger farms can provide a "steady foundation" for resumption of legal trade in tiger bones and "fur". (75)</p> <p>CITES CoP14 approves Decision 14.69 against tiger farming and breeding tigers for trade in their parts and products. (76)</p>	<p>Notice No. 206 requests "investigation, verification and registration" of the origin of tiger and leopard pelts and the products thereof. It defines "legal origin" as "owned prior to the implementation of Wildlife Protection Law of China, legally bred, or sourced via other legal means". From January 1 2008, those registered to be from legal origin are allowed to apply for a "marking" to enter trade.</p> <p>"By the end of 2006, the captive population of tigers in China exceeded 5,000 animals with a capacity to reproduce 800-1,000 cubs annually." The SFA asserts that CITES Decision 14.69 against tiger farming for commercial purposes interferes with "Parties' sovereignty" and goes against China's wildlife protection law, which encourages "active domestication and breeding of and rational exploitation and utilization of wildlife." (17 & 75)</p>
2008				<p>The "Gallup" of China's survey organization polls six major Chinese cities and finds a majority of people believes parts and products from wild tigers are more effective and more desirable than those from farmed tigers. (104)</p> <p>Three Gorges Animal World in Hubei Province was reported to secretly kill its Siberian tigers and selling its body parts. The zoo was also alleged to produce and sell tiger bone wine. Questions were raised about the dubious involvement of Liu Xianxin, Chief of Yichang City Forestry</p>	

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				Bureau, who was also the zoo's vice-chairman, and one of the zoo's investors, Zhou Weisen, the owner of Xionsen Bear and Tiger Village. (112)	
2009	3,200 (50)			<p>Wan Ziming of China's CITES Management Authority publishes article outlining a strategy to build support for international trade in parts and products from farmed tigers. (79)</p> <p>EIA documents continuing trade in skins of wild tigers, leopards and snow leopards to feed into Chinese market for luxury home décor</p> <p>The Yichang Intermediate People's Court in Hubei Province sentenced the former boss of Three Gorges Animal World, Wang Zhuyi, to 18 years in prison for crimes related to selling protected animals. (113)</p>	
2010		40-50 (86)	6,000 (80 & 81)	<p>The CITES Secretariat reports evidence of "leakage" of tiger products from tiger farms in South East Asia. (105)</p> <p>State Forestry Administration distributes brochures at CITES CoP15 saying, "China's legislation encourages the captive breeding of endangered animals including tigers" and that the number of tigers on China's farms has increased by 1,000 since CITES' 2007 decision calling for the phasing out tiger farms. (80 & 82)</p> <p>State Forestry Administration participates in World Bank's Global Tiger Initiative, promising to fight "illegal" trade and "illegal" demand, noting it has "a permit system for activities concerning" farmed tigers (84, 85 & 86)</p> <p>Tiger farming is not discussed at Vladimir Putin's "tiger summit" in Russia, but Premier Wen Jiabao calls for end to tiger trade in his speech to heads of state. (87)</p> <p>Shenyang Zoo closed down March 2010. (114) Siberian Tiger Park in Harbin was reported to have over</p>	<p>"Captive-breeding of tigers is occurring in several range States but many of these facilities appear to be owned and operated in a manner that would conflict with the goals expressed in Decision 14.69. Intelligence suggesting that tigers, or their parts and derivatives, from some of these facilities entering illegal commercial trade is growing." (106)</p> <p>"All activities of the existing tiger farms are in line with Chinese laws...More than 200 (work) units are engaged in tiger domestication and reproduction, up to 6,000 tigers are held in captivity, and the annual breeding capacity is over 1,000." Document reveals Xionsen tiger farm subsidiary Xionsen Wine Industries Co. Ltd. (82 & 80)</p> <p>State Forestry Administration is inspecting tiger breeding facilities and markets, and employing a "special label system and standardized packages with official seal to enhance monitoring of tiger skins and storages of tiger bone from breeding facilities." (86).</p> <p>At Russian "tiger summit," Premier Wen Jiabao specifically mentions ending "tiger trade" rather than specifying only "illegal trade." (88)</p>

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				RMB100 million worth of tiger carcasses in storage. Its owner Wang Ligang, is 'gambling' on the day the government lifts the ban on tiger bone use and actively lobbies the government to adopt his 'utilise tiger to save the tiger' strategy. (115)	
2011	3200-4,000 (50)			Beijing auction house Googut makes public offering of more than 400 bottles of tiger-bone wine. (107)	"On the day of the auction, the security bureau of the State Forestry Administration ordered Googut to halt the auction of tiger bone wine."
2012		40-50 (108)		CITES Standing Committee asks Secretariat to issue a Notification to "stress" the need for relevant Parties to report on phasing out intensive tiger breeding operations. (90 & 109)	The Secretariat submits a report for CITES CoP16 stating that, "Owing to the serious threat of extinction of some populations of tigers, the Secretariat believes this subject should continue to be an agenda item at each regular meeting of the Standing Committee." (91)
2013				China's report on Asian big cats to CITES CoP16 addresses "illegal" tiger trade and says parts of captive-bred tigers are "strictly regulated." (93)	"... parts coming from captive bred tigers are strictly regulated," "labeled" and "monitored" to "prevent the captive bred tiger parts from entering the illegal trade from or through such facilities." (93)

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