

Who is killing the tiger *Panthera tigris* and why?

SAMIA SAIF, H. M. TUIHEDUR RAHMAN and DOUGLAS CRAIG MACMILLAN

TABLE S1 Semi-structured interview guide for Village Tiger Response Team members.

Participant details	
Interview number	
Date	
Time	
Location	
Geographical coordinates	
Village	
Upazila	
Range	
Age	
Sex	
Religion	
Occupation	
Section 1: About you	
How many years have you been living in this village?	
How many times have you been to the forest in the last 30 days?	
Have you seen a tiger in the forest in last 30 days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
How many times you have seen a tiger in the forest in your lifetime?	
Do you see tigers in the forest more frequently, about the same, or less frequently compared to 5 years ago?	
Five years ago how many times would you see tigers in the forest in a single year, on average?	

Now, how many times do you see tigers in the forest in a single year, on average?

Do you think tiger numbers are decreasing in the forest? Yes No Don't know

If yes, why do you think tiger numbers are decreasing? Death from natural causes

Poaching Habitat destruction Food scarcity Other

Tell me how you joined the Village Tiger Response Team.

Why did you decide to join the Village Tiger Response Team?

Why do you think this village needs a Village Tiger Response Team?

Are you proud to be a member of the Village Tiger Response Team?

Are you respected by others because you are in the Village Tiger Response Team?

Would others want to be selected to join the Village Tiger Response Team?

If yes, why?

Section 2: Stray tigers in the village

Have tigers come into this village in last 5 years?

If yes, how many times?

Has the number of tigers coming into the village increased or decreased in the last 5 years?

How many times were tigers killed in last 5 years?

Tell me about the situation when a tiger comes to the village.

What is the role of a Village Tiger Response Team member when a tiger is in the village?
If a tiger is killed, how many people are involved in the killing?

How do people kill a tiger in the village?

Why do people want to kill the tiger?

Who plays the lead role in the killing?

What do the people do with the dead tiger?

Do people collect parts from tigers killed in the village?

Which tiger parts do they want to collect?

How do they take the parts from a dead tiger?

What do the Village Tiger Response Team members do when a tiger is killed in the village?

Are some dead tigers taken to the Forest Department?

How many of all the tigers killed in the village are taken to the Forest Department?

What does the Forest Department do with the dead tiger?

Do people go to the Forest Department to collect tiger parts after a post-mortem has been carried out on the tiger?

If yes, who goes there to collect tiger parts?

How many people go to the Forest Department to collect tiger parts?

Does everyone get tiger parts from the Forest Department?

Which tiger parts do people want to collect?

For what reasons?

Does the Forest Department give tiger parts to people or must people pay money to collect tiger parts from the Forest Department?

Section 3: Uses of tiger parts in your village

Which tiger parts are used by local people?

Which tiger parts are more likely to be sold to outsiders?

Approximately how many people in this village have you seen using tiger parts in your lifetime?

Is it possible to borrow tiger parts from other local people for medicinal purposes at any time of the year? Yes No Don't know

Do people have to pay money to borrow tiger parts for medicinal purposes?
Yes No Don't know

If yes, how much for which part?

Do any local doctors in this village use animal parts as medicine?
Yes No Don't know

Please tell me about the local doctor.

Have you ever used tiger parts for medicinal/spiritual/religious purposes?

If yes, how many times?

Section 4: Tiger Poaching

Is it possible to collect/buy parts of poached tigers in the Sundarbans area?

Yes No Don't know

Is it possible to collect/buy parts of poached tigers in this area/village/range?

Yes No Don't know

From which area/village/range would it be possible to get parts of poached tigers?

Sarankhola Chandpai Khulna Satkhira(Other specific area mentioned by the interviewee)

Is it easier to buy/obtain parts of poached tigers now than 5 years ago?

Yes No Don't know

Are the prices of parts from poached tigers higher now than 5 years ago?

Yes No Don't know

On average, how many tigers were poached in this village/range in last 5 years?

Pirates

Do pirates kill tigers in the Sundarbans? Yes No Don't know

What is the main reason pirates kill tigers in the forest? Poaching Safety Others

How many pirates are living in the forest?

How many pirate groups are involved in tiger killing in the Sundarbans?

How many people are needed to kill a tiger?

On average, how many tigers do pirates kill in 1 year?

How many days are needed to kill a tiger?

How do the pirates kill tigers in the forest? (equipment, planning)

How do they collect the equipment?

What do they do after killing the tiger?

Do they involve local people/fishers in skinning the tiger?

Do they know who has the skill in the village to take the skin off properly?

How many people in this village have the skill to take the skin off properly?

How do they learn to take the skin off properly?

What is their occupation?

How do they transport the tiger parts?

Do they involve local people/fishers in transporting the tiger parts?

Yes No Don't know

How do they involve the local people/fishers in transporting?

Where do they send the tiger parts?

Which tiger parts do they send?

Poachers

Do deer poachers kill tigers opportunistically? Yes No Don't know

How often do deer poachers kill tigers?/How many tigers do deer poachers kill in the forest in 1 year?

How do deer poachers kill tigers in the forest?

Do you think local people kill tigers in the Sundarbans secretly?

Yes No Don't know

Is there any other group killing tigers in the forest? Yes No Don't know

Section 5: Anti-poaching strategy

Are the local people aware of the Wildlife Preservation Act? Yes No Don't know

What changes need to be made to the existing laws?

How is the law enforcement situation for poaching?

How is the law enforcement situation for consumption?

What are the social impacts of being arrested?

What are the social impacts of being sentenced for poaching?

What should be done to improve arrest and prosecution rates?

TABLE S2 Semi-structured interview guide for general members of the village community.

Participant details	
Interview number	
Date	
Time	
Location	
Geographical coordinates	
Village	
Upazila	
Range	
Age	
Sex	
Religion	
Occupation	
Section 1: About you	
<p>How long have you lived in this village?</p> <p>Tell me about your family.</p> <p>What do you do for a living?</p> <p>How many rooms do you have in your house?</p> <p>How many times do you go to the forest in 1 month?</p> <p>What do you do in the forest?</p> <p>How do you feel about the tigers in the Sundarbans?</p> <p>Have you seen a tiger in the Sundarbans?</p> <p>If yes, have you seen tigers in the Sundarbans in last 5 years?</p>	

How many times have you seen tigers in the Sundarbans in last 5 years?

What time of the day have you seen tigers in the forest?

Morning Afternoon Evening Night Other

Please describe the incident(s).

Do you think tiger numbers are increasing or decreasing in the forest?

Increasing Decreasing Don't know

If increasing, why? Seeing tigers more frequently Tigers coming from outside

More tigers giving birth People not killing tigers Other

If decreasing, why? Tigers are dying naturally Poaching Habitat destruction Food scarcity Other

Section 2: Stray tigers in the village

Why do you think tigers stray into the village?

How many tigers have you seen in the village in your lifetime?

Can you remember the last time a tiger came to your village? *Check this in relation to incidents that could suggest the year or month, such as which party was in power, whether it was before or after a particular cyclone, how old your daughter was then, etc.*

Has the number of incidents involving stray tigers in the village decreased/increased in last 5 years?

Why has the number of incidents decreased/increased?

What were you doing when the tiger was in the village?

What were your family members doing when the tiger was in the village?

What was the attitude of your family towards the tiger?

Men, women, children, leaders—do all act in the same way towards the tiger?

Are all tigers that come to your village killed? If not, how many are killed?

How do the local people kill a tiger?

What happens to the dead tiger?

Do people collect parts from the dead tiger?

If yes, how many people collect or try to collect parts from the dead tiger?

How do they take the parts from the dead tiger?

What do the Village Tiger Response Team members do when a tiger is killed in the village?

Do Village Tiger Response Team members try to save the tiger?

If yes, do they succeed?

What do you think of the Village Tiger Response Team?

Are some dead tigers taken to the Forest Department?

How many of all the tigers killed in the village are taken to the Forest Department?

What does the Forest Department do with dead tigers?

Do people go to the Forest Department to collect parts after a post-mortem has been carried out on a tiger?

If yes, who goes there?

How many people go to the Forest Department to collect tiger parts?

Does everyone get tiger parts from the Forest Department?

Which parts do people want to collect?

For what reasons?

Does the Forest Department give tiger parts to people or must people pay money to collect tiger parts from the Forest Department?

Section 3: Uses of tiger parts

Which tiger parts are used by local people?

Is it possible to borrow tiger parts from local people for medicinal purposes at any time of the year? Yes No Don't know

Do people have to pay money to borrow tiger parts for medicinal purposes?
 Yes No Don't know

If yes, how much for which part?

Why do or don't people give tiger parts for free?

Are there any local doctors in this village who use animal parts as medicine?
 Yes No Don't know

Please tell me about the local doctor.

Would you like to take parts from a dead tiger for medicinal/spiritual/religious purposes?

Which tiger parts would you take if you could?

How do you know about these medicinal/spiritual/religious values of the tiger parts?

Have you ever used tiger parts for medicinal/spiritual/cultural purposes?

If yes, please explain (what, why, when and how the parts were collected).

How many times have you used tiger parts for medicinal/spiritual/cultural purposes?

Have you seen anyone using tiger parts for medicinal/spiritual/cultural purposes during your lifetime?

If yes, please explain (who, what, why, when and how the parts were collected).

Do you keep tiger parts in the home?

If yes, why?

Do people admit to others that they have tiger parts?

What do you feel about consuming tiger parts?

How are tiger parts collected for consumption?

Is the national authority/law against the consumption of tiger parts?

Do people come from elsewhere to buy tiger parts?

If yes, where do they come from?

Are they successful in buying tiger parts?

Do they buy the parts for themselves or to sell to someone else?

Are the prices higher for them?

Which tiger parts are more likely to be sold to outsiders?

What tiger parts are available or can be bought?

Are these parts available at all times of the year?

Is it possible to order tiger parts?

How long does one have to wait to get tiger parts?

Are there any specific persons from whom they may be bought?

Are there any specific places/markets where tiger parts are available?

How does one know that they are real?

Is it possible to sell other animal parts as tiger parts?

Claws								
Whiskers								
Meat								

Section 4: Tiger poaching

Do people kill tigers in the forest?

Do you know if tigers have been killed in the Sundarbans recently? *Check this in relation to incidents that could suggest the year or month, such as which party was in power, whether it was before or after a particular cyclone, how old your daughter was then, etc.*

Who are the tiger killers? Pirates Poachers Others Don't know

Do the killers involve the local people in tiger killing/transferring tiger parts?

Do you know how tigers are killed in the Sundarbans?

How many people go together to kill a tiger?

Whom do they include in the team to kill a tiger?

How many times in a year do they go to kill a tiger?

Are they always successful?

Is there any specific season/month for killing a tiger?

How long does it take to kill a tiger?

What equipment do they carry to kill a tiger?

What methods/traps do they use for killing a tiger?

How do they make the traps?

What are the common materials to make traps?

How do they select sites for killing a tiger?

How deep inside the forest do they have to go to kill a tiger?

What are the difficulties and risks involved in killing a tiger?

What do they do with the tiger after killing it?

How and where do they transfer the tiger/body parts?

What precautions do they take while killing a tiger?

What precautions do they take while going to the forest to kill a tiger?

What are the risks of killing and transferring a tiger?

What precautions do they take while transferring a dead tiger/tiger parts?

Approximately how many tiger killing or hunting groups exist in the Sundarbans?

What is the daily routine of a poacher?

Section 5: Knowledge, attitude & practice in relation to poaching

Are tiger poaching activities discouraged by local people or family members?

Is the killing of a tiger a symbol of strength or masculinity?

Does it improve the reputation of the hunter within a village?

According to local people, what are the incentives for people to kill tigers?

How much is the monthly income of the people who kill tigers?

What other activities do they do for their livelihood?

Is it enough for them?

What else could increase their income/standard of living? Do they hunt tigers because they are poor?

Which job opportunities/income sources are available for him/her?

Do they do this willingly or is someone forcing them to do it?

If yes, who and how?

What are their feelings about killing tigers, during the killing and afterwards? (Proud/guilty)

Do the police try to stop tiger killing?

Do their family members know what they are doing?

Do their family members support them in killing tigers?

Do they kill tigers mainly for their own (family included) purposes, to sell parts in the village, or to sell parts to outsiders?

TABLE S3 Social data of interview respondents, with their code, sex, group, main livelihood activity, religion, and other notes.

Code	Sex	Sampling group	Main livelihood	Religion*	Other
6	Male	Tiger killer	Forest going	Muslim	Showed tiger parts
7	Male	Village Tiger Response Team	Forest going		
10	Male	Tiger killer	Forest going	Muslim	Showed tiger parts
10.10	Male	General member of community	Forest going	Muslim	
14	Male	Village Tiger Response Team	Forest going	Muslim	
15	Male	Village Tiger Response Team	Forest going	Muslim	
19	Male	Tiger killer	Other	Muslim	Stopped going to the forest because of age Showed tiger parts
26	Male	Tiger killer	Forest going	Muslim	
34	Male	Village Tiger Response Team	Other	Muslim	
37	Female	General member of community	Forest going	Muslim	
52	Male	Tiger killer	Other	Muslim	
54	Male	General member of community	Forest going	Muslim	
55	Male	General member of community	Forest going		
79	Male	Village Tiger Response Team	Non-forest going	Muslim	
85	Male	General member of community	Other	Muslim	Forest staff
88	Male	Tiger killer	Forest going	Muslim	Showed tiger parts
96	Male	General member of community	Non-forest going	Muslim	
105	Male	Tiger killer	Not-forest going	Muslim	
110	Male	Tiger killer	Non-forest going	Muslim	
119	Male	General member of community	Forest going		
123	Male	Tiger killer	Forest going	Muslim	
128	Male	Tiger killer	Non-forest going	Muslim	
131	Male	Tiger killer	Forest going	Muslim	
136	Male	General member of community	Forest going	Muslim	

*The religion of some respondents was recognizable from their narratives.