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## POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM LAUNCHES FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO HELP WILD TIGERS

Tiger \$5K aims to raise at least \$5,000 from the public to support anti-poaching efforts in Southeast Asia; The Zoo Society has pledged an additional \$5,000 in The Race to Save Tigers campaign

Tacoma, Wash. – Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is asking the public for help to save the world's tigers, which are vanishing from the wild at an alarming rate.

The zoo has launched a campaign to raise at least \$5,000 for anti-poaching efforts in Southeast Asia. The Zoo Society has agreed to donate an additional \$5,000.



Zoo visitors and members of the public can donate to the campaign – Tiger \$5K: The Race to Save Tigers – at <a href="https://www.pdza.org">www.pdza.org</a>; by mail at The Zoo Society: Race to Save Tigers, 5400 N. Pearl St., Tacoma, 98407; by phone at 253-404-3657; or in person at the zoo.

There's no running required. The race is in how fast – and how much – visitors and friends of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium can help in the global effort to preserve the species.

Donations are tax deductible.

## **Berani and Dumai**

Money raised in the campaign will go directly to support Wildlife Conservation Society efforts to stop poaching in Southeast Asia, reduce human-tiger conflict and provide veterinary care to tigers caught in snares, said zoo general curator Karen Goodrowe Beck.

"This is crucial, urgent work," said Goodrowe Beck, who is the coordinator for the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' Sumatran tiger Species Survival Plan®. "If we don't act now, these tigers could disappear from the wild within a generation."

Visitors to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium have an amazing opportunity to see six tigers right here in Tacoma, Goodrowe Beck pointed out.

Two 9-week-old cubs, Berani, a Malayan tiger, and Dumai, a Sumatran tiger, wow people daily in the Cub Den.

In addition, the zoo has four adult Sumatran tigers: Bali, 13; Jaya, 9; Malosi, 4; and Bima, 2. They rotate on and off exhibit in the Asian Forest Sanctuary. On any given day, visitors might see all six tigers in the course of a trip to the zoo.

Each of these magnificent animals is a representative of their species, helping people learn the importance of action toward saving their wild counterparts.

Fewer than 300 Sumatran tigers remain in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra; only an estimated 500 Malayan tigers remain in their native habitat of peninsular Malaysia.

There are only 73 Sumatran tigers and 55 Malayan tigers in North American zoos.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium long has worked on behalf of wild tigers through associations with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the AZA Tiger Conservation Campaign. At home, zoo staff offer visitor education about tigers and their plight.

"Saving the tigers is a race we must win," Goodrowe Beck said. "I simply cannot imagine a world in which tigers do not exist – our legacy to our children and grandchildren should be to ensure this never happens."

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).

The Zoo Society fosters the relationship between Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and the community. The Zoo Society both raises funds and generates community support of the zoo.