



# We Save Tigers. Ask Us How!

1. We write letters to the PM and CMs explaining why tigers need to be saved.
2. We involve people through signature campaigns and public rallies.
3. We share our planet and learn about tigers and other animals.
4. We go on nature trails to see wild creatures in their natural homes.
- 5. We never visit zoos and circuses**
6. We never waste electricity. Power projects destroy the tiger's home.
7. We save water. We never leave taps running. Forests that sponge our rain are being drowned under large dams.
8. We try not to disrupt nature's web because everything is connected.
9. We share our knowledge and concern about saving the tiger.
10. Saving tigers is a way of life. It's a part of who we are.

We belong to Kids for Tigers.



## How Britannia Biscuits and Sanctuary/Cub save tigers

Sanctuary / Cub magazine and Britannia Biscuits have joined forces and created an attractive and innovative programme for saving tigers called the "Kids for Tigers" programme. The Sanctuary-Britannia Tiger Programme includes workshops for kids and schools, a socko CD, and some A3 colour posters about tigers and their plight. There are contests and some lucky kids get trips to tiger areas and even other countries where they visit a wildlife reserve.

One of the posters is of particular interest to zoo personnel because all zoo managers like tigers and those which are fortunate enough to hold tigers in their institution believe that they might be doing something, however small or distant, to save tigers. Even giving people an opportunity to see a beautiful tiger in a natural open enclosure, although a poor second to the wild, might affect many people sufficiently to make them think twice about wildlife in general. Why, I saw a tiger in a cage in Mysore in 1991 and got to hold her cub and it affected me so much that I changed my country and my life and have done nothing since except work for the conservation and welfare of wildlife, both in the wild and to improve captive management.

But the poster which is being distributed to teachers in Indian schools by Sanctuary/Britannia tells teachers that Kids for Tigers saves tigers by NOT visiting zoos and circuses. This is interesting. I would love to know how many tigers (or other animals also) have been saved by kids not visiting zoos! This is a facetious question. Of course I know that Sanctuary believes that if enough kids boycott zoos

then maybe zoos will close down, just like if enough people stop taking tiger bone medicine, that the trade in tigers will stop.

In fact, zoos are not going to close down because they now have a much greater purpose than entertaining kids and other visitors. Zoos now attempt to hold a few specimen animals in sufficient numbers to keep the species going in case small populations are wiped out. This is very difficult and the number of species saved by zoos is not large. However, the number is growing -- this is because zoos in different parts of the world are improving their management and cooperation with field agencies so that they can actually help when populations grow sparse. Unfortunately, it is also because more and more populations ARE shrinking today and need help. This is not because of zoos; it is because of people and their lack of education.

Zoos are excellent places to teach people about wild animals and their problems. Zoos, perhaps particularly in tropical countries, are not as good as they should be, either in management or in education. However, instead of teaching kids they can save tigers by NOT visiting zoos, we like to teach kids they can make a difference by trying to improve their zoos. Two different versions of responsibility: Zoo Outreach Organisation's way and Sanctuary / Britannia's way. Isn't it wonderful that so much diversity to thought and action, as well as in biological organisms?

- Sally Walker