

# Sumatran tigers

There were once many more subspecies of tigers than exist today. As the human population has expanded, the number of tiger subspecies has drastically declined. In Indonesia, the Balinese and Javan tiger subspecies are now extinct and the last of Indonesia's tigers, the Sumatran tiger, \_\_\_\_\_ (53) \_\_\_\_\_ to be less than 400, is on the brink.

Two factors are driving the process of extinction for the Sumatran tiger: direct competition for land between humans, the tiger and its prey, \_\_\_\_\_ (54) \_\_\_\_\_ deforestation for farms, palm oil plantations and settlements; and poaching for tiger parts to supply the black market in Asia. Poaching is believed to be responsible for almost 80 percent of Sumatran tiger deaths annually.

Sumatran tigers are legally protected in Indonesia, \_\_\_\_\_ (55) \_\_\_\_\_ the efforts to protect them, their numbers are dwindling. It would be a sad day for Indonesia and indeed the world if the roar of a wild Sumatran tiger can no longer be heard.

53. (A) who has numbers today estimated  
(B) which numbers today are estimated  
(C) whom has numbers today estimated  
(D) whose numbers today are estimated
54. (A) after all resulting from  
(B) especially the result of  
(C) particularly as a result of  
(D) considering the results of
55. (A) but despite  
(B) in addition to  
(C) in whatever way  
(D) nonetheless after

