



HERDING BIG CATS

A Global Storytelling Project



Submit Your Story

to the Global Storytelling Project “Herding Big Cats: Fifty Inspirational Stories about Saving the Future of Wild Tigers and Other Big Cats”

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) invites interested individuals to participate in a global storytelling project aimed at harnessing the power of personal stories and adventures to inspire youth from diverse backgrounds in the conservation of big cats.

The project aims to develop and maintain a global storytelling platform targeting teenagers and young professionals in the countries where big cats reside and beyond. The initial phase of the project will culminate in October 2026 at the proposed IBCA Summit in India, where a book featuring approximately 50 personal stories will be presented. These stories will be selected from a diverse group of contributors who share their experiences with big cats. A representative group of authors will be invited to the event, while a wider selection of stories will be showcased on the digital platform.

You do not need to be a conservation scientist to submit a story. This project aims to gather a wide range of passionate and knowledgeable storytellers, including frontline conservation practitioners, members of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and individuals from outside the conservation field—such as farmers, technology and business professionals, creative artists (including novelists, visual artists, and filmmakers), as well as high school and college students and teachers. It goes without saying that experienced conservation experts will also be invited to share their personal stories.

To be considered, a story submission must meet all of the following **requirements**:

- Fully address a specific story assignment of one (not several) of the book’s eight sections (see their description on the next page, or in the online form at the link below).
- Focus on one or more of the big cat species (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, Cheetah, and Snow Leopard).
- Be written in the first person and without any AI assistance, blending factual elements with emotional depth to effectively engage a teenage audience. (*Reflect on a “wow!” moment you’ve had with big cats and craft your story around that experience.*)
- Avoid promoting any specific brands, organizations, or movements.
- Be submitted in English (preferred), French, Russian, or Spanish.
- Be between 5,000 and 9,000 characters in length, including spaces (up to 3 pages).
- Authors must agree to release their copyright to the International Big Cat Alliance.
- Be submitted via the online form at the link below, including the author’s photo and a short biography of fewer than 600 characters, including spaces.

Submission Deadline: February 15, 2026 (extended)

**The online story submission form can be accessed using the QR code above
or by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/HerdingBigCats-Story>**

To learn more about the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), visit <https://ibca.world>.

Herding Big Cats

Fifty Inspirational Stories about Saving the Future of Wild Tigers and Other Big Cats

Draft Outline

Foreword

Acknowledgements

Introduction

Each of the eight sections below will include several stories that address the specific tasks outlined.

Part 1: Beauty and the Beast. (Share a personal story about your first encounter with a big cat in its natural habitat. Where and how did this experience occur? What emotions did it evoke? Why does this memory remain vivid for you?)

Part 2: Circle of Life. (Share a personal story of how you witnessed the interdependence between a big cat and its natural landscape. Discuss the significance of its prey species, the breeding and social behaviors of big cats, and how their actions adapt to environmental changes.)

Part 3: We Be of One Blood, Thou and I. (Share a personal story of how you witnessed humans living peacefully and in harmony with a big cat. Discuss the significance of social behaviors of big cats and people when they live in the same landscape.)

Part 4: Worshipping the Icon. (Share a personal story about participating in and/or observing a cultural or spiritual tradition that celebrates big cats within a specific local context. Include perspectives from direct participants or followers of this tradition.)

Part 5: Under Siege. (Share a personal story of how you witnessed a specific threat to big cats, such as poaching, illegal trade and trafficking, status consumption, retribution killings, overhunting of prey, habitat destruction and fragmentation, road accidents, or climate change.)

Part 6: Winning a Battle... Losing the War? (Share a personal story about your participation in or observation of a locally specific action aimed at conserving big cats. Include perspectives from other direct participants in this initiative. How did you determine whether it was successful? How shall we learn from successes and setbacks?)

Part 7: United We Stand. (Share a personal story of how you participated in or observed a specific effort to unite and reconcile various stakeholders (local, national, international) in support of big cat conservation. Include voices from other direct participants in this effort. How did you assess its success?)

Part 8: Turning the Tide. (Share a personal story about how you proposed or promoted an innovative, unconventional idea – whether in technology, AI, behavioral sciences, social media, fintech, green performance bonds, etc. – to advance big cat conservation. Include perspectives from other direct participants in this initiative. What key factors may determine the success of this idea?)

Conclusion

Our Authors

Appendices