



Crocodile



Black-footed ferret

A New Chance for Life

For Siberian tigers, crocodiles in Florida, and black-footed ferrets, the future looked dark. Their populations, or total numbers, had fallen dangerously low. But with some help from humans, all three species now have a chance to be saved.

Population Problem

Tiger and crocodile numbers dropped because of too much poaching, or illegal hunting, by humans. A big problem for all three species was that people moved into their habitats, or natural homes. The animals were left with few places to



Siberian tiger

live. Also, it became difficult for them to find food. The black-footed ferret's favorite meal, prairie dogs, became too hard to find. By 1986, this ferret species was nearly extinct, or totally wiped out.

Animal Aid

Many people wanted to save these animals. In the United States, laws were passed that made it a crime to bother, harm, or kill the

crocodiles and ferrets.

To help the tigers, which live in China, North Korea, and Russia, people formed special groups. These groups work to stop poachers and to build protected areas where the tigers can live safely. The good news is that these efforts seem to be working!

— By Glenn Greenberg

Creature Comebacks

Animal	Smallest Population	Population Today
Crocodile	300	about 1,500
Black-footed ferret	18	about 700
Siberian tiger	40	about 500

SOURCES: National Fish and Wildlife Service; World Wildlife Fund