

DATELINE: February 2004. Wildlife workers are tracking royal Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans World Heritage region of India and Bangladesh to count their dwindling numbers. The Sundarbans (meaning 'beautiful forest') region spreads across the Ganges delta on the eastern part of India and the southern tip of Bangladesh. The entire region is estimated to contain approximately 600 tigers. In 1972, the numbers of tigers in the Indian part of the region were as few as 50. By 2001, the number had increased to 271 in the same area after laws to protect them came into force. At the beginning of last century, there were 40 000 tigers in India, but overall numbers are now around 4000, or about 60% of the world's tigers. Poaching, shrinking habitat and hunting are the cause of the tigers' decline.

1. Using the map on page 148 of the *Jacaranda Atlas Fifth Edition* mark the following on the outline map below: **India, Bangladesh, Sundarbans, Mouths of the Ganges, Ganges River, Bay of Bengal, Tropic of Cancer.**

2. The Sundarbans is a forest region. Using the information on page 41 of the *Jacaranda Atlas Fifth Edition*, draw up a table to show the details of endangered species in other forest regions of the world. The tiger is done as an example.

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number surviving</u>	<u>Reasons for endangerment</u>
Tiger	Asia (India and South East Asia)	4000	Hunting, forest clearance

3. Using the information in the Dateline above, complete the line graph below showing the trends in tiger numbers in India over the last century.

