

Bangla witnesses record high in big cat casualties

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Bangladesh, which is a home of the Royal Bengal Tiger, recorded the maximum number of instances of tigers killing men last year, a phenomenon being attributed to increasing human intrusion in the Sundarbans resulting in a shrinking of habitat for the big cat.

"We are witnessing a growing trend of deaths caused by tigers. Fifty people died



Royal Bengal Tiger

last year, the highest number of deaths we recorded in the past 100 years, while the figure was 24 in 2007," forest conservator Tapan Dey said.

He said the loss of big cat

habitats and food sources in southwestern Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest which is home to the last 440 Bengal Tigers is a reason for this number.

Dey's comments came two days after Bangladesh joined the World Tiger Day celebrations promising effective steps to save the endangered big cats and planned an effective participation in the 13-nation Tiger Conservation Summit in St Petersburg in September. *en*