



*National Tiger Conservation Authority*

# s t r i p e s

*Quarterly Journal*

*Volume 13 Issue 3*

*August-October 2022*



**CHEETAH INTRODUCTION  
GLOBAL TIGER DAY  
VISION PLAN MEETING**

# Commemorative Postage Stamp - Collarwali ~ a Supermom

The 2nd International Tiger Forum meet was held on 5th September, 2022 and was attended by the global leaders representing the Tiger Range Countries across the world. One of the main objectives of this meeting was to discuss the outcomes of adopting the Global Tiger Recovery Programme in 2010. The discussion also took an account of further strategies and actions so as to ensure the successful and even recovery of the global Tiger population in all the Tiger Range Countries.

To commemorate this 2nd International Tiger Forum, a postage stamp dedicated to this event has been designed to pay tribute to the iconic mother, 'Collarwali', the famous Tigress from Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. During her lifetime, she had given birth to 29 cubs, out of which 25 had successfully survived to adulthood and she passed away in January, 2022. The country has released a Commemorative Postage Stamp to celebrate this remarkable global event on 1.9.22 as a tribute to her contribution in Indian ecosystem. The National Tiger Conservation Authority dedicates the Postage Stamp to her, the Collarwali.



**Release of Postage Stamp-Collarwali at the  
National Tiger Conservation Authority, Delhi**



**An Image of Postage Stamp - Collarwali**

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# FROM MEMBER SECRETARY'S DESK



Among the 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs), India has a well-established network comprising of 53 Tiger Reserves in the country. The Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh is the 53rd and the most recent Tiger Reserve of the nation. The expanded network across the country, ensures management towards enhanced corridor connectivity both for Tigers and other wildlife.

Furthermore, the country has taken a historic step in the field of big cat conservation by successfully introducing African Cheetahs from Namibia in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh. The Authority has put forth tremendous efforts since the initiation of the project till its culmination in translocating the same. With its successful release, monitoring has been set up for round the clock supervision. The backdrop of this great step involves continuous scientific discussion, survey and analyzing the scientific aspects, dialogue between both the governments, preparing translocation grounds etc.

As we are progressing towards the 50 years of Project Tiger, the Authority held an Expert Committee Meeting to discuss the Vision Plan (2021-2031) for strengthening the Project Tiger. Inputs from various Scientists, Experts and Officials have been taken into consideration for evolving the Tiger conservation Strategies. Along with this, relying on field based meeting approach, the Authority conducted its 21st meeting at the Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra where, we also celebrated the Global Tiger Day, 2022. Moreover, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has also released a postal stamp honoring the Tigress and a Supermom, 'Collarwali', in view of the 2nd International Tiger Forum.

With this, I appreciate the entire NTCA team for working progressively towards achieving the objectives of this Authority. Also, I am glad to share this issue of Stripes, hopeful that the readers will find this issue an interesting one which will enhance their understanding about the big cat conservation initiatives of India.

*Dr. S. P. Yadav*

*Additional Director General, Project Tiger &*

*Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority*

# Global Tiger Day, 2022

The Global Tiger Day is celebrated annually on 29th July to raise awareness among people regarding the ecological importance of Tigers and also the current challenges faced by the mighty animal globally. It was conceptualized at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia in 2010.

This year, Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra hosted the Global Tiger Day Celebrations. The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey attended the Programme at Chandrapur Forest Academy, Maharashtra.

Along with other delegates, the Ministers visited the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) and appreciated the field conditions and the diversity of the landscape and had interactions with the forest staff to understand the field level protection issues. He was enthralled by observing the dedication of the staff in carrying out enforcement activities specially the mobile application based smart patrolling called MSTRIPES.



**Global Tiger Day, 2022 Celebrations**



**Field Visits by Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav**

The Tadoba Anderi Tiger Reserve has a rich and diverse landscape with a high-density of Tigers. In this landscape the Tigers are known to co-exist with the local people residing in-and-around these Tiger habitats. During the celebrations, the Government of India showcased its dedication and its commitment towards the Tiger conservation goals. India has marked the history by doubling its Tiger Population well ahead of time and has also expanded the Tiger Reserve network as it currently harbor 52 Tiger Reserves, the latest being Ramgarh Vishdhari in Rajasthan. The Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav highlighted that the Government is making constant efforts towards the well-being of the local people who are residing in-and-around the Tiger bearing landscapes.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav also appreciated the community-based ecotourism model which is providing livelihood opportunities to the locals and also helped in effective management of the reserve. He congratulated all the Tiger Range Countries, specifically India, as the country did a commendable job in conserving & protecting more than 70% of global Tiger population. He also highlighted that the Government is constantly working for the locals by creating various livelihood opportunities and interventions in this region. He also appreciated Maharashtra for implementing the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Jan Van Vikas Yojana for the welfare of the people residing in-and-around Tiger Reserves and encouraged other states to adopt the same. He also shared that India has taken up

a high priority conservation project to bring the Cheetah back into the Indian landscape through the Project Cheetah. In this regard, the country has already signed a bilateral agreement with Namibian Government and is soon going to sign another one with South African Government.



**Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav  
addressing during Global Tiger Day, 2022**

On the Occasion of Global Tiger Day, 2022, the Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey addressed the people and emphasized that the Tiger symbolizes power and plays a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, water and climate security. He further stated that India is a global leader in the field of Tiger Conservation and is actively collaborating with other countries such as Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Russia. He also emphasized that we should envision our future of peaceful co-existence with the animal and nature.

On this event, the Front line staff were felicitated and rewarded as recognition for their extraordinary performance in the field of tiger conservation. An annual award of Rs 1 lakh was awarded to each of the two Foresters, two Forest Guards and two Watchers/protection assistants/

**Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Ashwini Choubey addressing during Global Tiger Day, 2022**



Tiger Trackers by the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav. The celebration was also graced by the presence of local public representatives, Field Directors of the Tiger Reserves in the Country and Senior Forest Officials from the State of Maharashtra besides the contingent of Special Tiger Protection Force from Maharashtra and Kerala.



**Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav facilitating the forest frontline staff during Global Tiger Day, 2022**



# Global Tiger Day Celebrations, 2022

## In News

### Yadav praises Forest Deptt for tiger conservation

■ Programme marks Global Tiger Day

■ Chandrapur Bureau CHANDRAPUR, July 29

"THERE are currently 52 tiger conservation projects in the country and 17 among them have international status. The credit of this entirely goes to the Forest Department as well as people living near the forest. We want to protect forest areas through new research and concepts regarding environmental change. The Central Government is doing a lot of work regarding Wildlife Protection Act, Biodiversity Act, Forest Rights Act. India's population is almost 17 percent compared to the world and the carbon emission rate in our country is 4 percent. While the carbon emission rate is close



Bhupender Yadav, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Kishore Jorgewar and others present on the occasion.

to 60 percent in countries with less population than us," said Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav. He was speaking as the chief guest at a function organised at Forest Academy, Chandrapur, on the occasion of Global Tiger Day on Friday.

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MLA Kishore Jorgewar, Secretary and Additional Director General of National Tiger Authority S P Yadav, Additional Director General (Wildlife) Vibash Ranjan, Chief Forest Force of

Maharashtra Dr YLP Rao, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Sunil Limaye, Amit Malik, Collector Ajay Gulhane, Superintendent of Police Arvind Salve, Chief Conservator of Forests of Chandrapur Circle Praveen Lonkar, Field Director of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve Dr Jitendra Ramgaonkar, Deputy Director of Buffer G Guru Prasad, DFO, Brahmपुरi Division, Jitesh Malhotra along with senior officers and employees of Forest Department and others were present on the occasion.

Bhupender Yadav further said that the protection of forests is not possible without native forest dwellers. Hence, the positive work is being done under the Forest Rights Act by the Environment and Forest Department to solve the problems of local people. He stat-

ed, "The tigers, lions and wildlife also have an important place in the cycle of nature. We want to take a step forward in the field of development by maintaining the balance of nature. Total 75 percent of the world's tigers are safe in India," he pointed out.

Ashwini Kumar Choubey underlined that every year July 29 is celebrated as World Tiger Day. Out of 9 tiger species in the world, 3 are extinct and 6 species are in 13 countries. "In all, 70 percent of these species are found in India. It is a good sign that the number of tigers in India is increasing. If the tiger is safe, the forest is safe. There is no life without forests. Forests, wildlife are our natural heritage. We want to achieve development by taking nature and culture together.

(Contd on page 4)

### Development not obverse to environment, says min

Mazhar Ali | TNN

Chandrapur: Central government is keen on using scientific technology to bring synchronization between environment protection and development, said Union minister for environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) Bhupender Yadav.

Yadav along with his deputy minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey was here to take part in the Global Tiger Day programme organized by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on Friday.

"Environment and development are not opposite to each other. Government is focused on including new technology in the process of development, while adopting digital innovations, artificial intelligence and latest discoveries in the veterinary science to protect the flora and fauna," he said.

Yadav said two bills — one to amend Wildlife Protection Act and another on biodiversity law — are to be tabled in the monsoon session of Parliament. He, however, maintained that forest rights and development of forest dwellers are equally important for the government.

### Woman commando faints in front of dais

Extreme humidity and heat took toll on some of the women commandos of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) as one fainted just in front of the dais while another showed signs of delirium during the Global Tiger Day programme, which lasted little over an hour.

This, however, put a question mark on the training and physical endurance of the STPF staff, which has to brave harsh weather and difficult terrains of tiger reserves, for the protection of tigers, wildlife and forests.

"Tribals have played important role in protection and conservation of forests and wildlife since ages. Forest department would have not achieved its goals of conservation without the participation of the communities living in the forests. Hence, our government is committed to safeguard their rights, over the forest," said the minister.

He claimed five big projects for protection and conservation of tiger, elephant, lion, dolphin, and reintroduction of cheetah, which beca-

me extinct from the country in 1952, into the forests of the country are underway. "We have signed a MoU with Namibia to bring cheetah back into our forests. Similar MoU is also going to be signed with South Africa," said Yadav.

He, however, maintained that projects focused on conservation tiger, lion or elephants do not mean that other aspects are overlooked. "These projects mean inclusive conservation of every wild animal, avian, plant species and entire ecological system around the apex predator," he explained.

Choubey lauded the success in conservation and protection of tigers. He claimed there were 1,411 tigers left in the country when Project Tiger was launched in 2006. As per the fourth tiger census held in 2018, tiger population has grown to 2,967. "Fifth tiger estimation is underway and the tiger population is likely to see further increase," he said.

During the programme, various awards given by the NTCA were handed over by the minister duo. Later meetings of field directors of different tiger reserves and National Wildlife Board members were held.

### Yadav praises Forest Dept

(Contd from page 1)

India's stand for the protection of tigers has been persistent. Also, the Central Government has a strict role against poaching of wild animals," said Choubey.

NTCA Member Secretary Dr SP Yadav said that it was decided in a seminar held in Pittsburgh, Russia in 2010 July 29 should be celebrated as World Tiger Day. Tiger is protecting the environment and therefore our forest is safe. The target was set to double the number of tigers in 2010 by 2022. However, India achieved the goal in 2018 itself. The number of tigers in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Russia is consistently increasing, it was informed.

Forest Officer Ganesh M from Periyar (Kerala), Mehrusingh Mehrabe from Kanha (Madhya Pradesh), Jodhasingh Baghel from Kanha, Anil Chavan from Satpuda

(Madhya Pradesh), Dhiru Komal from Kerala, Thiru Madhan and Meena Kalan from Tamil Nadu who did excellent work were honored with cash and certificate. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Sunil Limaye introduced the programme. Shweta Shelgaonkar conducted the programme and Amit Malik proposed a vote of thanks.

### 70 investors...

(Contd from page 1)

So to cover that loss, Edelweiss sold the shares of 79 investors from Anugrah.

Investors rushed to the NSE as soon as they realised that their shares were mutually sold. Then SEBI directed to take action on the Anugrah after verification but NSE ignored. In the meantime, these shares were sold. Even the Central Depository Services Limited ignored the irregularities in the



# 'Jagriti Van Mitan' a model of Community Involvement in the Indravati Tiger Reserve

Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh is spread across in an area of 2799.086 Sq. Km. Its landscape harbors a diverse wildlife including the Wild Buffalo, which is the largest mammal in India after Elephant and Rhinoceros. There are about 137 villages located inside the Tiger Reserve wherein villagers are highly depended on forests for the collection of minor forest produce to secure their livelihood. A total of 56 and 81 villages are located inside the core and buffer area respectively. The local villagers particularly tribal are dependent on forest and have cultural connection with nature, therefore, it was pertinent to make effort to seek their support and involvement for the conservation of wildlife.

In this regard, to encourage the involvement of local communities for the protection and conservation wildlife through the initiative called "Van Mitan Jagriti" program, sanctioned under the CAMPA fund. This was to bring awareness among school going children by apprising them about the importance of wildlife and role of forest department and local communities in forest and wildlife conservation. The objectives of the 'Van Mitan Jagriti' program are:

- 1) To aware the students by familiarizing them about various aspects of wildlife and forestry.
- 2) To familiarize them about the role of citizens in forest and wildlife protection.
- 3) To inculcate among students a sense of awareness and respect for the cultural heritage of our rich biodiversity'.
- 4) To familiarize the students about various welfare schemes and programmes run by forest department for forest dwelling communities'.
- 5) To prepare, 'Van Mitan Harit Yodhha' for environment, forest and wildlife conservation.

Under this initiative various activities are being organized under the different zones involving local schools in and around the Indravati Tiger Reserve area. This covers about 44 government secondary, primary and high school besides ashrams i.e. government residential schools for boys and girls.



**'Jagriti Van Mitan' Program at the Indravati Tiger Reserve**



## **Activities the 'Van Mitran Jagriti' program**

To educate and sensitize the school students about the importance of forest and wildlife, students were involved in various activities such as bird watching, trekking, local flora identification and interactive session with locals for traditional knowledge. Documentaries on rare and endangered wildlife and their conservation were also screened. Moreover, importance of non-destructive and sustainable harvesting practices for minor forest produces were demonstrated to the students.

In this way, the "Van Mitran Jagriti" program, is bringing positive change among the students by making them aware about the forest and wildlife. Such programmes by the Forest Department helps in building trust and confidence among local tribal communities and these awareness programmes in a long run will pave the way for seeking community support and involvement in wildlife conservation.



**Local Flora Identification with School Students**



**Interactive Session with Students and Traditional healers**

*A Report by,  
Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh*

# 21st Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority

The 21st Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was organized at Chandrapur Forest Academy of Administration, Development and Management, Maharashtra on 29th July, 2022.

The meeting was chaired by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman NTCA and in the presence of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Vice Chairman, NTCA. ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) by formally welcoming all the Members and Participants initiated the proceedings with a brief about NTCA activities.



## **Members and Officials at the 21st Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority**

During the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman NTCA directed that a workshop shall be conducted with institutions like Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Forest Research Institute (FRI), Forest Survey of India (FSI) who can support the authority in its work. He further highlighted on exploring new ways to connect with people in the conservation aspect through emphasizing on agroforestry, biodiversity registers and organic farming thereby promoting local, traditional knowledge.

The Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Vice Chairman NTCA praised the NTCA Members for continuous monitoring and supervision by undertaking frequent visits to all Tiger Reserves. He also highlighted the importance of involving local communities in management of Tiger reserves and encouraged the staff for using digital communication mode in management aspects. Providing a platform for marketing of bamboo and other crafts by local communities were also discussed.



Inputs and recommendations from the eco-tourism workshop were discussed. The workshop was successfully conducted on 18th July, 2022 at New Delhi wherein Field Director(s) from various Tiger Reserves participated. Thereafter, visit of NTCA members to different Tiger Reserves namely Valmiki, Satkosia, Dudhwa, Sahaydri and Rajaji Tiger Reserves were discussed. It was emphasized that diverse tourism activities such as biodiversity watch, birding, showcasing local crafts and culture in Tiger Reserves should be scaled up. Use of electric vehicles in tourism and making Tiger Reserves 100% free from single use plastic was encouraged. Furthermore, engaging local youths in ecotourism through Self Help Groups or as trackers in Valmiki Tiger Reserve was appreciated. The Satpura Tiger Reserve was applauded for high foot patrol intensity. Encouraging the existing literature review was suggested so as to boost the systemic and scientific ways of working. Along with this, zonal plans for the Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) to be prepared on priority basis with a special emphasis on solving the issues concerning Eco-Sensitive Zones.

Followed by the discussion, the Hon'ble Minister of State praised the NTCA members for their visits to various Tiger Reserves and highlighted the importance of involving local communities into management and ecotourism practices. He also discussed about the importance of digitized communication and proposed to device a single online resource center for all research works and important documents pertaining to the Tiger Reserves.

In continuation to this, the Hon'ble Minister also highlighted that a standard format for managing database shall be devised for all the Tiger Reserves. The format shall include all the important aspects such as the year of formation, status of water availability, the area buffer and core, information regarding ESZ, biodiversity, tiger population, village relocation, etc. In this context, an application can be developed which will unify the process of data collection across the reserves. Also, he mentioned that the constitution of a Technical Unit which will be handling the research based work of various Tiger Reserves shall be initiated at the earliest. Along with this, conduction of a workshop was proposed with the institutions like Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Forest Research Institute (FRI), Forest Survey of India (FSI) who can give technical support to NTCA. Lastly, he encouraged to explore new ways to connect with locals in the field of conservation especially through practices such as agroforestry, organic farming, AYUSH, biodiversity registers and by promoting local traditional knowledge.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Expert Committee meeting for Vision Plan for strengthening Project Tiger (2021-2031)

On 29th August, 2022, the National Tiger Conservation Authority convened the 2nd Expert Committee meeting regarding the Project Tiger Vision (2021-2031). The main agenda was to discuss the development of vision plan document. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, Global Tiger Forum chaired the meeting and the members of the Expert Committee also gave their valuable inputs during the meeting.

Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF NTCA welcomed all the members and briefed the discussions held during the first meeting and highlighted the objectives of the Vision Plan document.

The main points that emerged during deliberation are that, stream-lining of forestry operation in the buffer area, core-buffer boundaries and corridor delineation so as to enhance the forest productivity, setting up of anti-poaching camps for effective Tiger Reserve management and protection, a systematic review of existing anti-poaching camps through audit shall be taken into account. Capacity building shall be done regularly through collaborating with various institutions. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the reserve should constantly put efforts towards developing alternative livelihood opportunities to generate gainful employment. Along with this, mitigating conflict and its management shall be done at local and international level with a prime focus on enhancing the local level-collaboration and coordination among various bodies.

It was reiterated that active and sustainable development should be the top most priority of the reserves besides addressing the issue of bridging managerial gaps between existing Tiger Reserves and newly established Tiger Reserves. In its conclusion, the Expert Committee agreed that the Vision Plan should clearly define the strategies for an improved Tiger protection and forest management practices with an enhanced coordination both at the local and national level.

\* \* \* \* \*



# NTCA on Social Media

↻ National Tiger Conservation Authority Retweeted



**MoEF&CC** @moefcc · Oct 3

DGF & SS and ADG-NTCA presented a commemorative postal stamp to the Hon'ble Minister for EF&CC, Shri @byadavbjp on the occasion of the 2nd International Tiger Forum held at Vladivostok, Russia where Tiger Range countries reaffirmed their commitment to tiger conservation.



**Hon'ble Minister & Chairman, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Additional Director General, Project Tiger & Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Dr. S.P. Yadav and, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Shri C.P. Goel releasing the Postage Stamp**



**National Tiger Conservation Authority** @ntca\_india · Aug 30

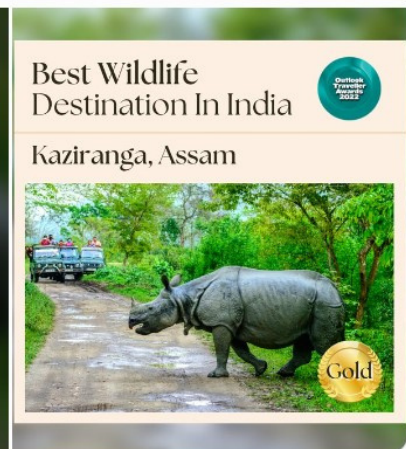
The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam, receives the 'Best Wildlife Destination in India' award.

Congratulations Team Kaziranga! @kaziranga\_

**Outlook Traveller** @oltraveller · Aug 25

#OutlookTravellerAwards2022 | The Gold Award for Best Wildlife Destination in India goes to Kaziranga, Assam. The award was received by Shri Padmapani Bora, Managing Director, Assam Tourism Development Corporation and Shri Maninder Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Assam Tourism

Show this thread



**The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam received the 'Best Wildlife Destination in India' award**

# Cheetah is Back in India

The Historical range of Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) in India was from the west of Bengal, in the east to west of Pakistan, further encompassing Afghanistan and Iran and from Punjab in the north to the north western Tamil Nadu in the southern region.

Cheetah is the only carnivore that has become extinct in 1948 from India mainly due to over-hunting and habitat degradation. Being an apex predator in open forest and grasslands, Cheetahs were primarily responsible for balancing the entire ecosystem. Therefore, its extinction has led to the 'Domino Effect' which is often referred to as trophic cascade. Absence of predator species usually result in outnumbering the herbivores leading to overgrazing, habitat degradation etc. This in turn brings a negative impact on other organisms at various trophic levels.

The state of the Cheetah in India was viewed seriously and Government of India way back in 1952 during the first Wildlife Board meeting, emphasized for "assigning special priority for the protection of the Cheetah in Central India". Subsequently discussions on bringing the Asiatic cheetah from Iran and reintroducing it in India were initiated. A Cheetah Task Force (CTF) was constituted by the Government of India in 2010 to drive the procedures of cheetah reintroduction in India. The 'Project Cheetah' was adopted under the ambit of landscape approach for wildlife conservation which has also been highlighted in the National Wildlife Action Plan.

Bringing back Cheetah to India will have a substantial impact in restoration of original Cheetah habitats and its Biodiversity. It helps in restoration of endangered species of the grasslands/open forest ecosystem. Amongst these are the caracal, the ancient Indian wolf and critically endangered species of the bustard family – the lesser florican and the great Indian Bustard.

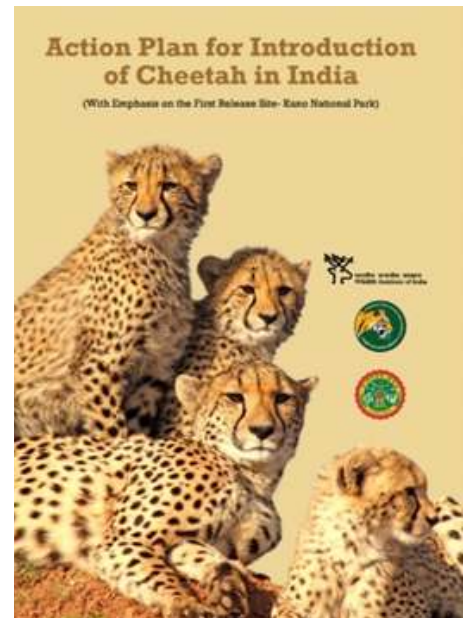


**Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**

Continuous effort led to detailed surveys and analyses which in turn led to determination of the possible release sites. Keeping in view of the historical ecological aspect, former cheetah range states, namely Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, were prioritized.



Amongst the 10 surveyed sites, the Kuno Palpur National Park (KNP) at Madhya Pradesh was highly recommended because of its suitable habitat, inviolate space and adequate prey base. The park is about 748 Sq. Km area, abundant with adequate prey base. It also forms a part of Sheopur-Shivpuri deciduous open forest landscape and was estimated to have a capacity to sustain 21 cheetahs. In order to execute the plan, 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' was released. The plan comprehensively describes the 'Pre, During & Post Release' protocols. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav unveiled the Action Plan for Cheetah and mentioned that "Project Cheetah aims to bring back independent India's only extinct large mammal – the cheetah. Subsequently, a number field visits and meetings were conducted and in culmination to it, the Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of the Republic of Namibia on 20th July 2022 on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization, Wherein it was agreed to translocate eight Cheetah individuals to India.



The Day 17th September, 2022 rewrites the history in wildlife conservation efforts, wherein 8 Cheetahs (5 Females and 3 Males) were successfully released in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh by our Hon'ble Prime Minister. It was a first of kind intercontinental felid translocation project, and it was achieved successfully with the guidance and supervision of the expert team consisting of Scientists, and Veterinarian belonging to various institutions and of both the countries.



**Hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of the Republic of Namibia**





This bold step will be able to establish breeding cheetah populations in safe habitats across its historical range and also to manage them as a meta population. Besides restoration of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance, it will be able to provide opportunity to enhance local community livelihoods.



Picture Courtesy: Shivang Mehta

**Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, releasing the Cheetahs in wild**

**A released Cheetah in the Kuno National Park**



In order to realize the effort taken in bringing in the Cheetah in India, continuous monitoring and protection is the key step necessary at this moment. Cheetah Mitr and cheetah task force were formed to have social fence and also monitoring set up for round the clock protection and to ensure the safety of the cheetahs.

\* \* \* \* \*



# Cheetah Awareness Campaign

To disseminate the significance of reintroduction of Cheetah in India, Awareness campaign was taken up across the country so as to infuse the importance, enthusiasm and responsibility of all the citizen in protection of the charismatic species. In this regard, the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, along with its regional museums at Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur organized a Cheetah Awareness Programme so as to create Environmental Awareness among masses particularly young kids. The campaign was inaugurated on the first day of the Wildlife Week dated, 02/10/2022 and continued for a month till 31/10/2022.



**Cheetah Awareness Campaign Banner**



**Awareness Campaign at the National Museum of Natural History**

Image Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1871631>

During this month, a huge number of people including students from various schools and colleges were sensitised while they visited the National Museum of Natural History, other Natural History Museums, Tiger Reserves and National Parks.



**Awareness Campaign at various Levels**



**Mann Ki Baat with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**



In addition to the awareness campaign, competition like quiz, poster, jingle etc were also floated out to bring in the momentum at the ground level. With the concerted efforts of MoEFCC, NTCA and organization like NMNH, ENVIS and IROs, around 4 lakh people were sensitized in campaign mode.



**Various competitions conducted at many schools during the Cheetah Awareness Campaign**

# A Warm Welcome of Cheetahs on Social Media

National Tiger Conservation Authority Retweeted  
**MoEF&CC** @moefcc · Aug 2

.@IndianOil signed an MoU with @ntca\_india for transcontinental relocation of 'Cheetah' in India, in an event held today in the presence of Shri @HardeepSPuri, Union Minister for @Petroleummin, HMEF&CC Shri @Byadavbjp & Mos, Shri @AshwiniKChoubey at IPB, New Delhi.

National Tiger Conservation Authority @ntca\_india · Sep 15

Cheetah is coming back to India on 17.9.22. Awareness campaign covered in about 1,759 Schools and 1,73,817 Students participated and it's going on....  
 #Cheetah Returns# 2022

National Tiger Conservation Authority Retweeted  
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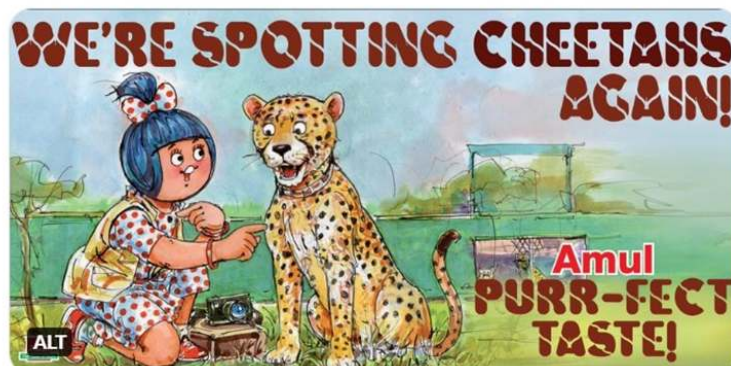
क्या आप जानते हैं?  
 इकोलॉजिकल बैलेंस को बनाए रखने के लिए नामीबिया से 8 चीतों का भारत में पुनर्वास किया गया है।  
 ऐसी ही प्रेरक कहानियां/ विचार सुनने के लिए कल प्रधानमंत्री @narendramodi की #MannKiBaat सुनना न भूलें।  
 विजिट करें: [youtu.be/MXpr4xvjm1M](https://youtu.be/MXpr4xvjm1M)

National Tiger Conservation Authority @ntca\_india · Sep 19

Hon'ble Prime Minister praised the entire team, involving scientists and professionals from Russia, Namibia, WII, Dehradun and NTCA, Delhi in making the Intercontinental Cheetah Translocation Project a great success.

National Tiger Conservation Authority Retweeted  
**Bhupender Yadav** @byadavbjp · Sep 22

Purr-fect indeed!



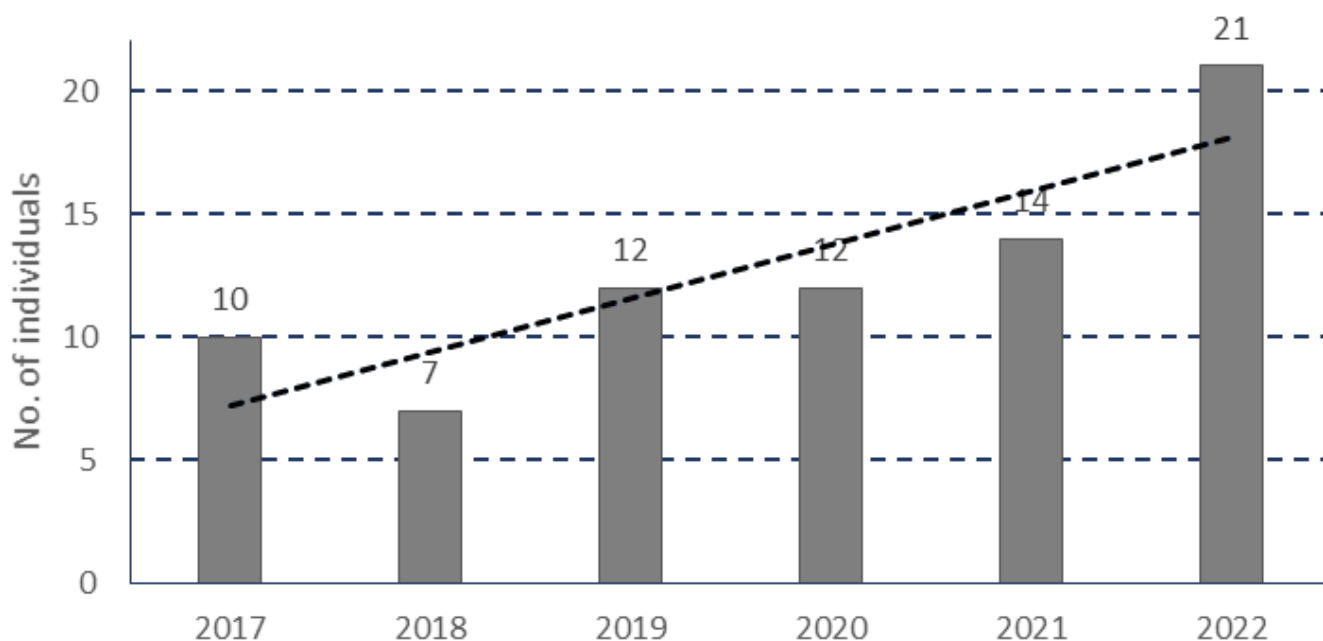


# Rise in Tiger Population at the Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana

Amrabad Tiger Reserve is one of the important protected areas of Telangana State. Situated in the Nallamalas, which is an offshoot of Southern Eastern Ghats, this Tiger Reserve is situated on terrain with plateaus, ridges, gorges, and deep valleys. This landscape supports tropical mixed dry deciduous and moist deciduous forests with dense under growth of Bamboo and grasses.

This Tiger Reserve (ATR) is one of the largest tiger reserves in India that extends over 2611.4 sq.km in Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts of Telangana State. It is a well-known and well-preserved nature reserve in Nallamala Hills, part of the Eastern Ghats chain.

Protection plays vital role in any species conservation and here in ATR, in addition to protection various conservation measures were also undertaken like foot patrolling, forming tiger monitoring teams, regular camera trapping etc., The interventions taken up as part of wildlife management, grassland management, ensuring water thought the year and particularly during summer, construction/repair of check dams, weed removal have positively influenced the enhancement of tiger population.



**Population of Tiger in Amrabad Tiger Reserve**

The sincere efforts of staff have not allowed single poaching of the Tigers during the year 2021-22 and played key role in increasing the Tigers numbers from mere 10 individuals in 2017 to 21 individuals as per the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) conducted in 2022. During AITE, 2022 a total 846 pair of camera traps were deployed in an area of 1692 Sq. Km of the Tiger Reserve, and based on this dataset, about 21 Tiger individuals were recorded. The trend depicted in the bar graph indicates an increasing trend in the Tiger population from initial 10 in 2017 to 7, 12, 12, 14 and 21 in the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively.

A first-time mother with four cubs in a single picturesque image was also documented in camera trap images during the AITE, 2022 in our Tiger Reserve. Currently two Tigresses with their cubs are officially recorded, rise in breeding Tiger individuals is an advantage which will eventually increase the population size at the landscape level.

The increase in Tiger numbers has evoked a sense of belonging and brought up the level of commitment in the staff which will surely ensure further improvement in the protection and management of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

*Smt. N. Kshitija,  
Field Director, Amrabad Tiger Reserve,  
Telangana*

\* \* \* \* \*



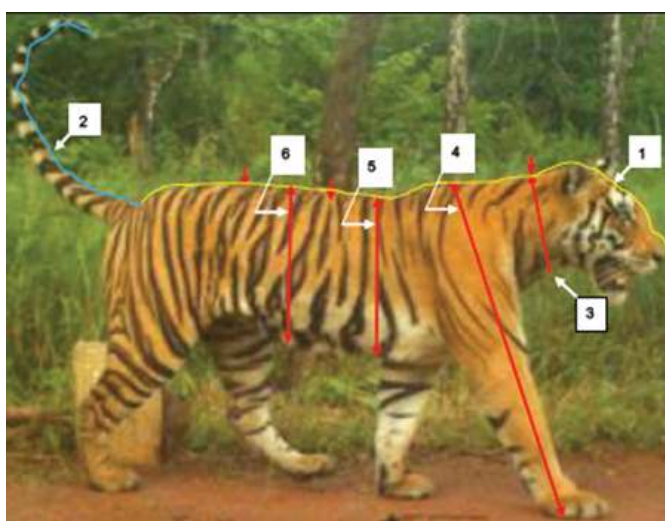
# Analysis of Growth Data of Physical Characteristics of Indian Tiger at the Panna Tiger Reserve

*- a study by Uttam Kumar Sharma, Ishwar Jarande & Sanjeev Kumar Gupta*

India is a leading nation in the field of Tiger conservation and is home to about 70% of the total world population. As per the latest All India Tiger Estimation conducted in 2018, about 1,033 Tiger individuals were reported from the Central Indian and Eastern Ghats landscape. The Central Indian and Eastern Ghats tiger landscape is spread over eight Indian states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana. Among these states, Madhya Pradesh harbors about 526 Tigers in 6 Tiger Reserves of the state.

The restoration of the Tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve was executed by reintroducing the translocated 7 individuals out of which, 6 were from the other three tiger reserves of Madhya Pradesh and 1 was from Bhopal forest division. This reintroduction was held between the year 2009 and 2014, under 'Species Recovery and Reintroduction Project' thereby establishing a viable Tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve within a period of 10 years. Furthermore, the Panna Tiger Reserve has the genetic diversity as it broadly represents the genetic structure of the Central Indian landscape Tigers.

The Tiger reintroduction and recovery program has enhanced the management experience of the forest staff. Moreover, the exercise has generated sufficient data for analyzing the body growth in wild Tigers based on the data documented for the tiger physical characteristics like weight, total length, neck, chest and abdomen girth, shoulder height, and canine size at different ages.



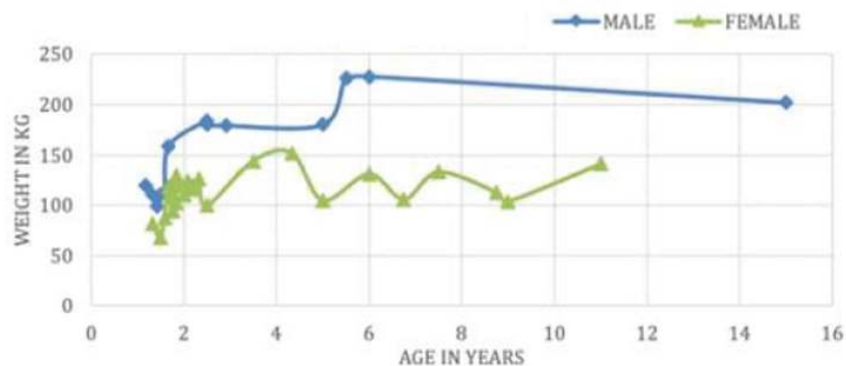
1. **NOSE TO TAIL BASE** :- It is measured from muzzle to posterior extremity of sacrum vertebrae.
2. **TAIL BASE TO TAIL TIP** :- It is measured from first caudal vertebrae to last caudal vertebrae.
3. **NECK GIRTH** :- It is measured around middle of neck.
4. **SHOULDER HEIGHT** :- It is measured from thoracic vertebrae to base of paw.
5. **CHEST GIRTH** :- It is measured around middle of thoracic cavity.
6. **ABDOMEN GIRTH** :- It is measured around middle of abdominal cavity.
7. **UPPER CANINE (RIGHT)** :- It is measured from eruption of gum to tip of upper right canine.
8. **UPPER CANINE (LEFT)** :- It is measured from eruption of gum to tip of upper left canine.
9. **LOWER CANINE (RIGHT)** :- It is measured from eruption of gum to tip of lower right canine.
10. **LOWER CANINE (LEFT)** :- It is measured from eruption of gum to tip of lower left canine.

**Schematic diagram of measurement of Different Physical Characteristics**



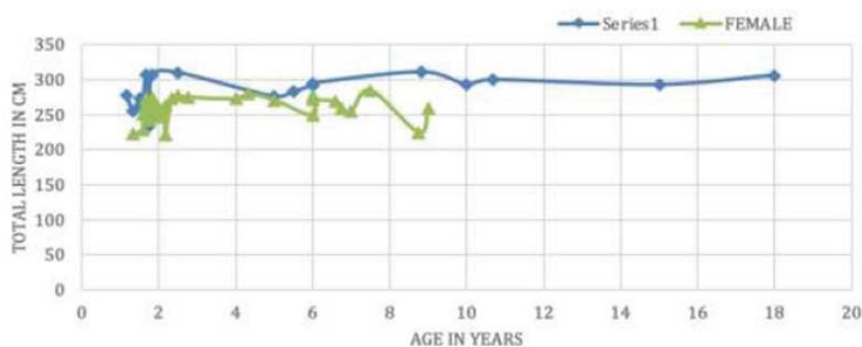
The study comprehensively compiles and analyze the body growth data of both male and female Royal Bengal Tigers in the Panna Tiger Reserves based on the 9 physical characteristics viz. Weight, Nose tip to tail base (Body Length), Tail base to tail tip (Tail Length), Total length (Nose tip to Tail tip), Neck girth, Shoulder Height, Chest girth, Abdomen girth, Canine Length (Upper Right and Left and Lower Right and Left).

The data was collected for 30 Tiger individuals at different age points for all the 9 physical characteristics. However, data of all the physical characteristics could not be collected every time due to exigencies or oversights.



**Weight Versus Age graph for Tigers**

The findings of this study indicates that a male Tiger has more weight as compared to a female Tiger at any stage of its life. Moreover, the body length and the total length of a male Tiger is greater as compared to a female Tiger at any given age during its life time. Beside these, remaining 6 Physical Characteristics namely, Shoulder height, Neck girth, Chest girth, Abdomen girth and the Canine length also followed a similar pattern wherein, a male individual has scored more as compared to a female at any given stage of life.



**Total length Versus Age graph for Tigers**

The current study lays the baseline data for the Physical Characteristics Tiger inhabiting the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. The analyzed Tiger population is adapted to the Dry Deciduous Forest type. Therefore, it would be interesting to conduct such similar study on the Tiger population residing in different landscape representing other forest type to draw a comparable conclusion at the landscape level. This in turn can aid in documenting an All India Booklet on Tiger Body Growth Data representing all regions of the country.



## Participation of Indian delegation in 2nd International Tiger Forum, Vladivostok, Russia (4th to 7th September, 2022)

The Global Tiger Recovery Programme was adopted to improve the wild Tiger Population status which was rapidly declining and was on the brink of extinction. In 2010, during the 1st International Tiger Forum meeting at the St. Petersburg, it was decided to target doubling of wild Tiger population across the tiger's entire range by 2022. The aim was not confined to any specific country, but was intended to be achieved all across the Tiger range countries including India. In continuation to this, India has achieved the goal of doubling the Tiger numbers well ahead of its targeted year as per the results of 4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation, 2018.

Furthermore, during the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference, the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Shri Bhupender Yadav had proposed to host the Pre-Summit meeting of Tiger Range Countries at New Delhi. As directed, the National Tiger Conservation Authority has organised a Pre-Summit meeting during 10th to 12th August 2022 at New Delhi for finalizing the draft Declaration on Tiger Conservation. The draft Declaration was adopted by the Heads of the Tiger Range Countries during the 2nd International Tiger Forum which was held at Vladivostok, Russia on 5th September, 2022. Dr. S.P. Yadav, Additional Director General (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Dr. Amit Mallick, Inspector General of Forest, National Tiger Conservation Authority participated in this 2nd International Tiger Forum at Vladivostok, Russia.

Ministers and Dignitaries from the Russian Federation and officials from other Tiger Range Countries, attended the inaugural function of the 2nd International Tiger Forum. The opening ceremony also included the Tiger postage stamp release which also included the Indian Tiger postage stamp representing the famous Tigress, Collarwali. During the sessions an overview on India's Tiger Conservation Efforts was presented by Dr. S.P. Yadav highlighting the achievements of India in the context of the decided St. Petersburg Tiger Summit target. He also emphasized on the initiatives taken by the country to adopt various modern tools and technologies and Community involvement in Park management and protection including Eco-Development Committees. In the same session, the Vladivostok Tiger Declaration was also adopted and released. Furthermore, sessions on Conservation of Amur Leopard and Best Practices for Tiger Conservation were also conducted during the meet. Dr. S.P. Yadav presented India's work on good management practices being adopted in Tiger Reserves in India and the in-



**Dr. S.P. Yadav, ADG (PT) MS (NTCA) addressing the session during the 2nd International Tiger Forum, Vladivostok, Russia**

-volvement of the indigenous and local communities in the protection of the Tigers and its habitat. The management practices being followed in India was highly appreciated by all the participants.



**Dr. S.P. Yadav, ADG (PT) MS (NTCA) interacting with Media**

Besides, various outreach activities were also conducted at the 2nd International Tiger Forum mobilizing the entire the city of Vladivostok. Many signage, billboards, Tiger replicas, sculpture



**Participants at the 2nd International Tiger Forum, Vladivostok, Russia**

and other artefacts were showcased at the public parks, open spaces, sea fronts. Many educational activities were also organized for children and general public.

The visit was a great experience for the delegations as they got an opportunity to interact and deliberate with representing Tiger Ranging Country officials, dignitaries and experts working in the field of Tiger conservation. Furthermore, India's Tiger conservation initiatives were showcased at the global level and was also highly appreciated. This will help in shaping India's efforts for Big Cat Conservation both at the National as well as International level.

\* \* \* \* \*

# THE VLADIVOSTOK DECLARATION ON TIGER CONSERVATION

(Vladivostok, Russian Federation, September 5, 2022)

We, the representatives of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, collectively referred to as the Tiger Range Countries (TRCs), being custodians of the last remaining tigers in the wild, along with countries with an intent to reintroduce tigers such as the Republic of Kazakhstan, have gathered at the 2nd International Tiger Conservation Forum in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, on 5 September 2022, with the common goal of ensuring viable wild tiger populations through conservation, recovery and reintroduction.

We:

**EXPRESS** strong concern that Asia's most iconic animal faces imminent extinction in the wild, primarily due to loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, climate change impacts, poaching, prey-base depletion and human-tiger conflict.

**RECOGNISE** that the tiger is one of the most important indicators of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems and a symbol of sustainability. Current negative drivers and stressors will result in the extinction of tigers from the wild and loss of biological diversity together with the ecosystem services they provide, while also exacerbating the adverse impacts of climate change.

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the efforts of the TRCs to implement the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), the outcome of the first International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg in 2010. As a result of the measures taken, the number of wild tigers in the world has registered a recovery from as few as 3,200 to over 4,700.

**RECOGNISE**, with concern that there has been uneven progress towards tiger recovery, and some regions are continuing to lose or have lost their tiger populations.

**EXPRESS** concern about the continued paucity of sovereign funds for tiger conservation in several TRCs.

**SUPPORT** efforts of the TRCs to implement their National Tiger Recovery Programmes (NTRPs) while also noting that tiger conservation is a national priority and a collective responsibility, requiring cooperation and coordination between TRCs.

**WELCOME** the intent of countries to reintroduce wild tigers to areas where numbers need to be actively augmented, including in key parts of their historical range.

**EXPRESS** serious concern that there is still no comprehensive strategy to address the issue of phasing out of tiger farms while their impact on driving illegal tiger trade continues unabated.

**RECOGNISE** the importance of enabling intra-sectoral policies and cross-sectoral coordination for the long-term conservation of tigers and their habitats.

**CONFIRM** our commitment to the principles reflected in international treaties that ensure the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of rare and threatened species, including the tiger and its prey species, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the World Heritage Convention, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement and other relevant initiatives.

**RECOGNISE AND APPRECIATE** the contributions of partners including international organisations and civil society in the implementation of the GTRP and NTRPs, and call upon the Global Tiger Forum and Global Tiger Initiative Council to continue to support and coordinate these efforts in future.

**REAFFIRM** our collective commitment to the principles and actions of the Hua Hin Declaration on Tiger Conservation (2010), the St Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation (2010), the Thimphu Affirmative Nine-Point Action Agenda (2012), the Dhaka Recommendations (2014), the New Delhi Resolution on Tiger Conservation (2016), and the Kuala Lumpur Joint Statement on Tiger Conservation (2022).

To fulfil our commitment to conserve wild tigers and to pass the benefits on to future generations, we hereby declare to undertake the following:

1. Adopt and implement the next Global Tiger Recovery Programme (2022-2034) and the revised National Tiger Recovery Programmes (NTRPs) with measurable and timebound indicators;
2. Develop updated National Tiger Reintroduction Programmes for the next 12-year period for countries where required;
3. Strengthen community stewardship for tiger conservation through enabling policy regimes leading to equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms (including Payment for Ecosystem Services), mitigating and managing human-tiger conflict, developing alternative and sustainable livelihoods (including green skills development) for enhancing their economic status and social well-being;
4. Address identified financial gaps through creating incentive mechanisms and leveraging conventional and innovative sources of funding, including government/sovereign funding, bilateral funds, private sector funding, endowments/trust funds, tiger bonds, etc. for long-term conservation of tigers;
5. Support the implementation of the South East Asia Tiger Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) based on agreed priorities, better coordination among countries, and setting up a well-resourced institutional structure;
6. Protect tiger habitats and prevent any further loss and degradation, including by increasing various forms of Protected Areas in prioritised tiger habitats;
7. Ensure adequate prey-base for tigers through better protection, recovery of habitats and populations and reintroduction where necessary;
8. Promote landscape-level conservation of tigers including the integration of ecological corridors in land-use policies, and implementation of climate-smart practices and green infrastructure in tiger habitats and corridors;
9. Strengthen law enforcement through enhancing numbers and professionalization of frontline staff/rangers, involvement of other enforcement agencies, establishing national database systems, harmonizing laws across countries (through bilateral instruments) and coordinated border patrols;
10. Strengthen the collaboration and sharing of information on wildlife crime among existing law enforcement agencies and regional networks (SAWEN, ASEAN-WEN) through adequate capacity and resourcing by the TRCs and donors;
11. Adopt the One Health approach to ensure sustainability of tiger landscapes and safeguard against zoonotic disease transmission;
12. Set up mechanisms and supportive policies to enable the mainstreaming of ecosystem services in development agendas;
13. Carry out regular monitoring of tigers and assessment of prey-base and habitats using best practices and enhance law enforcement monitoring as well as management assessment using tools such as SMART, M-STRIPES, MEE and CAITS;
14. Conduct ongoing, cutting edge and inter-disciplinary research through institutional partnerships to ensure that tiger conservation is informed and driven by robust science;
15. Promote and strengthen Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), including citizen science approaches to garner civil society support for tiger conservation.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the objectives and principles enshrined in this Declaration, TRCs commit to establish a mechanism that would oversee timely and efficient implementation.

By the adoption of this, the Vladivostok Declaration, we, the Tiger Range Countries of the world call upon the international community to join us in turning the tide and setting the tiger on the road to recovery.



Picture Credits: Melghat Tiger Reserve



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Ministry of Environment, Forest  
and Climate Change