

BI MONTHLY JOURNAL

# stripes

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Asia  
Ministerial  
Conference  
on tiger  
conservation**



**NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

# stripes

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



*The 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) was a crucial meeting for tiger conservation and the Tx2 goal to double wild tigers by 2022. The three-day ministerial conference, held from April 12-14, 2016, was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. The conference, jointly hosted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India; Global Tiger Forum (GTF); Wildlife Institute of India; Global Tiger Initiative Council; WWF-India and WCT, discussed the progress made by tiger range countries towards the Tx2 goal and their commitment for future steps. As a mega tiger country, with more than 70% of the global wild tigers, India is known for its pioneering tiger initiatives and related successful track record of its in-situ conservation. It is an important augury that India took the lead in organizing the 3rd ministerial. The inaugural speech of the Honourable Prime Minister of India has covered the entire gamut of issues relating to tiger conservation, which has undoubtedly set the stage for the future roadmap.*

*It was equally heartening and re-assuring to hear commitment made by other ministers of TRCs. Wild tiger conservation across TRCs has been a learning process throughout. There are quite a few dampening factors which require to be addressed in an ongoing manner. Such overarching risks are: Poaching, to satiate the demand for body parts and derivatives of tigers, loss of habitat and corridor connectivity owing to urbanization and developmental agenda, need for frontline staff with the desired level of skill and motivation, paucity of national funding, and need for active bilaterals. The TRCs have identified their long term priorities for achieving the Tx2 goal and process is underway for a time bound plan of action. Tiger being a sovereign issue of the TRCs, would always warrant priority action from such countries. Their commitment towards GTRP and the willingness elicited shown by like-minded organizations for collaborating in its implementation are re-assuring. Nevertheless, there is a need for strong national funding, complemented by donor support for some TRCs. Last but not the least I express my sincere heartfelt thanks to my team at the NTCA besides Wildlife Institute of India, the Global Tiger Forum, and conservation partners WWF and WCT.*



Photo Credit: NTCA

## MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES ON TIGER CONSERVATION

In a letter No. MoAF/DoFPS/2015/113 dated 25.06.2015 from Hon'ble Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and Chairman, Global Tiger Forum requested India for support and leadership to organize the 3rd Asia Ministerial conference at New Delhi as a collaborative initiative between the Government of India and the Global Tiger Forum.

Lauding the efforts of India vis-à-vis tiger conservation, it was proposed to get the said conference inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India which was accepted by Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

In this regard, it is appropriate to describe past developments.

The 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation was held from January 27 to 30th, 2010 at Hua Hin, Thailand. At the 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation, senior officials from range countries presented & discussed the Status & Strategy Note (SSN) of each country. The 1st AMC came out with a Ministerial Declaration, with a supporting set of actions to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022 at the global level.

The 2nd Asia Ministerial conference (AMC) on Tiger Conservation was held at Thimpu, Bhutan from 22nd to 24th October, 2012. The 2nd AMC discussed and reviewed priority activities of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP) for next implementation period of 2012-14, which were prepared & presented

by Tiger Range Countries (TRC) in the Stock Taking Conference at New Delhi during May, 2012.

There are 13 Tiger Range Countries in the world namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Russia and Vietnam. As per the latest report the total tiger population at the global level is between 3200 to 3700 only.





## PRELUDIAL MEETING FOR THE 3RD ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION

A prelude meeting on 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference (3 AMC) on Tiger Conservation which was held during 12-14 April, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi was convened under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble MEF&CC in Mahanadi Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, on 22.02.2016 at 5.30 PM. This meeting was attended by the representatives of four Tiger Range Countries, viz. Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Russia; besides senior officers of the Ministry which includes the Secretary (E,F&CC). The Joint Secretary, East, Ministry of External Affairs also attended the meeting. While welcoming the delegates, Mr. Ashok Lavasa, Secretary (E,F&CC) highlighted the importance of the forthcoming 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation and the value attached to it. India's commitment for saving its tigers

and wildlife and concern for forests was also narrated. Chairman of the meeting and Hon'ble MEF&CC welcomed all delegates and made a point that there are only 13 countries having pride to have tigers in wild and tiger bearing areas in the world. Organising 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference is a proud moment for India where all TRCs can share their good practices and success stories, thereby contributing towards cause of conservation of the magnificent species and National animal of India - The Tiger. A presentation on background of earlier Asia Ministerial Conference and presentation of 3 AMC was made by ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA), Shri B.S. Bonal, besides bringing out the contribution made by Project Tiger / National Tiger Conservation Authority and achievements of India in the field of tiger conservation. It

was highlighted that the biggest threat to tiger conservation is poaching due to the existing market and demand for tiger body parts, and derivatives in other countries. Therefore, there is need for sustained effort from all tiger range countries and other partners outside the Government system. This conference would bring in the desired will and momentum for tiger conservation at global level and have long term ramifications in the future. While thanking the delegates and representatives of countries present, and the Chairman, NTCA (Hon'ble MEF&CC) emphasized the need to attend this important conference by all TRCs, the significance of which lies in the same being inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.





B.S. Bonal, Ashok Lavasa, His Excellency Prakash Javadekar and His Excellency Narendra Modi

Photo Credit: NTCA

**ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI AT THE 3RD ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION**

Minister for Agriculture & Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman, Global Tiger Forum; Distinguished Ministers from Tiger Range Countries; Shri Prakash Javadekar, our Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change; other dignitaries on the dais, delegates from Tiger Range Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen! I am pleased to welcome you all! The tiger has brought all of us together here. This is an important meeting to discuss the conservation of one of the important endangered species. Your very presence is a testimony to the importance your country attaches to this “umbrella” species.

As we all know, the tiger is an apex consumer in the ecological pyramid and food chain. It requires a large amount of prey, supported by good forests. Therefore, by protecting the

tiger, we protect the entire ecosystem and the ecological services, which are equally crucial for the well-being of human beings.

In fact, the benefits from tiger conservation are enormous but intangible. We cannot quantify this in economic terms. Putting a price tag on nature is difficult. Since Mother Nature has bestowed them for its own conservation, it becomes our bounden duty to conserve them. In India, the tiger is much more than just a wild animal. In our mythology, the mother Goddess, who is the embodiment of Mother Nature, is depicted sitting on a tiger. In fact, most of our Gods and Goddesses are associated with some animal, tree or river. In fact sometimes these animals are put on the same pedestal as Gods and Goddesses. No wonder the tiger is also our National

Animal. I am sure, other Tiger Range Countries would have some cultural legacy associated with tigers.

Friends! Species belonging to the animal kingdom, usually do not act to their disadvantage. However, human beings are an exception. Our compulsions and cravings, our needs and greed, have led to shrinkage of natural habitat and destruction of ecosystems. Here, I recall the famous



His Excellency Narendra Modi

Photo Credit: NTCA

words of Gautam Buddha who said: “the forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness. It affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axe-man who destroys it.”

I appreciate the good efforts made by the Tiger Range Countries in conserving tigers. I compliment you all for this great ongoing effort. I also appreciate the efforts through “Global Tiger Initiative” and the Council.

I must mention the great effort made by Mr. Vladimir Putin in convening the tiger summit in 2010. The Global Tiger Recovery Programme was an important outcome of these efforts.

I also appreciate the initiatives of Mr. Dorji, the Chairman of the Global Tiger Forum.

However, from what I have been told it appears that tiger habitats have reduced drastically across Tiger Range Countries. The situation has been aggravated further by the ongoing trafficking in body parts and derivatives of this magnificent animal. In India too, we have been facing the challenge of poaching and disruption in their ecosystems.

The positive side for us in India is that majority of the population respects trees, animals, forests, rivers and other elements of nature like the sun and the moon. We consider the earth as our mother. Our scriptures encourage us to treat the entire universe as one. वसुधैवकुटुम्बकम् and लोकः समस्ताः सुखिनौ भवन्तु is our philosophy for peace and prosperity of everyone -- including the ecosystem

: ॐ द्यौः शान्तिं रन्तरिक्षं शान्तिः पृथिवी शान्तिं रापः शान्तिरोषधयः शान्तिः । वनस्पतयः शान्तिः ।



Hon'ble PM releasing the joint Indo-Bangladesh report on Tiger estimation in the Sunderbans

Friends! Forests are inseparable from wild animals. Both are mutually complementary. Destruction of one leads to destruction of the other. This is an important cause of climate change which is now affecting us adversely in many ways. This is a global phenomenon which all of us are grappling with. As a solution, we have committed to work towards country specific mitigation strategies.

In my view, for the Tiger Range Countries, a viable tiger population undoubtedly symbolises a mitigation strategy for climate change. This will create a huge carbon sink in the form of tiger bearing forests. Thus, conservation of tiger will go a long way in ensuring a good future for ourselves and our coming generations. India has a long standing and successful track record of protecting its tigers. We launched “Project Tiger” in 1973. Its coverage has increased considerably from the initial 9 Tiger Reserves to 49 at present. Tiger conservation is a collective responsibility of the Government of India and the States.

I also complement our State governments for their efforts. But the efforts of Government cannot succeed unless they are supported by the people. Our cultural legacy which encourages compassion and co-existence has played an important role in the success of Project Tiger. Due to such collective efforts, there has been a 30% rise in the number of tigers. It has gone up from 1706 in 2010 to 2226 in 2014. Our National Tiger Conservation Authority has taken many landmark initiatives. Use of modern technology, including e-eye, infrared and thermal imaging cameras on a 24x7 basis is being promoted for surveillance against poaching in sensitive Tiger Reserves. Several protocols for smart patrolling and tiger monitoring have been evolved. Radio telemetry is also being promoted to monitor tigers. A national repository of tiger camera trap photo database is also being created. To do all this, we have, this year, doubled our allocation for tiger conservation. We have increased it from INR185 crore to INR380 crore; which is INR3.8 billion.

I strongly believe that tiger conservation, or conservation of nature, is not a drag on development. Both can happen in a mutually complementary manner. All we need is to re-orient our strategy by factoring in the concerns of the tiger in sectors where tiger conservation is not the goal. This is a difficult task but can be achieved. Our genius lies in “smartly” integrating the tiger and wildlife safeguards in various infrastructures at the landscape level. This essentially takes us to the much needed “Smart Green Infrastructure”, while adopting a landscape approach. The landscape approach would also help us to involve business groups through corporate social responsibility for various initiatives towards tiger conservation. In the Indian context, we intend to achieve this through the Tiger Conservation Plans.

Considering the ecosystem value of tiger conservation areas, we need to consider them as “Natural Capital.” Our institutions have done an economic valuation of a few Tiger Reserves. This study has highlighted the fact that besides conserving the tiger, these reserves also provide a range of economic, social, cultural and spiritual benefits. These are

known as ecosystem services. Thus, we need to define conservation as a means to achieve development, rather than considering it to be anti-growth. This calls for factoring in the value of the ecosystem in the economic arithmetic of development and growth.

Friends! I am confident that we can achieve a framework to foster proactive engagement of industry for conservation. The natural capital denoting the stock of natural ecosystems should be treated at par with capital goods. Our economy needs to be viewed as a subset of a larger economy of natural resources and ecosystem services which sustain us.

As a country having more than 70% of the global tiger population, India is committed to complement the initiatives of other Tiger Range Countries. We have bilateral arrangements with China, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. We hope to continue our efforts to address issues of mutual concern for the tiger.

A major threat to the tiger is the demand for its body parts and derivatives. The forest and its wild denizens are an open treasury which

cannot be locked up. It is painful to learn about trafficking of body parts and derivatives of tigers and other big cats. We need to collaborate at the highest levels of Government to address this serious issue. India along with several Tiger Range Countries is a founder member of the Global Tiger Forum, which is headquartered in New Delhi. This is the only inter-governmental organisation of its kind. It is now working closely with the Global Tiger Initiative Council.

As a host country, I assure you of our fullest support. We will also be happy to support capacity building of wildlife personnel at the Wildlife Institute of India. The Tiger Range Countries are signatories to other international conventions to address international trade on endangered species. In this regard, I want to give you another good news. We are moving towards formally adopting the statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).

**At the end, I would like to emphasize that conservation of tigers is not a choice. It is an imperative.** I would also like to emphasize that regional co-operation is essential for combating wildlife crime. In this conference, let us resolve to work together to protect the tiger and its space. India is committed to engage with all Tiger Range Countries for this purpose.

I appreciate your presence and wish this conference all success!



Photo Credit: NTCA

B.S.Bonal, Ashok Lavasa, His Excellency Prakash Javadekar, His Excellency Narendra Modi, Mr Yeshey Dorji



**ADDRESS BY SHRI PRAKASH JVADEKAR, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome our Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji, Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman - Global Tiger Forum, Shri Yeshey Dorji; and, Lavasa ji, Negi ji, Bonal ji, to the Third Asia Ministerial Conference of Tiger Conservation. Being an avid nature lover and committed environmentalist, it is a privilege to welcome our dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to this Conference. As the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he adopted best conservation practices of nature and wildlife and the increase in lion population in Gujarat is one of the many testimonies of his efforts. His commitment for tiger conservation is reflected in the outlays which he has provided in this budget. Our budget which was just INR185 crore for tiger project last year has been



*His Excellency Prakash Javadekar*

Photo Credit: NTCA

nearly doubled to INR380 crore. We need to welcome such a huge increase in the financial allocation. With 60:40 participation of the state's contribution, this will translate into INR500 crore for Project Tiger, thereby fulfilling the target put forth by the Twelfth Five Year Plan. On the eve of this tiger meet, I would also like to share a good news. As per WWF estimates, the tiger population world over has grown from 3,200 to

3,890, with 6 out of 13 tiger range countries, having an increased number. It was a proud moment for me when I declared the result of the tiger count conducted in 2014. India's current tiger count of 2,226 tiger, is a significant growth over the last count. India is proud to have 70% of the world tiger population. For the last two years, there has been a steady increase in the numbers and our rough estimate as of today is that India has nearly 2,500 tigers. This is a good news for India. And I am also pleased to share with you that that we will have zero tolerance against poaching. What happened near Corbett, in Valmiki Tiger Reserve and what happened in Pench, the poisoning of tigers is unacceptable, all culprits have been nabbed and we will ensure that they are given severe punishment which will work as deterrent because India has zero tolerance for such wildlife crimes. We are leading by example and we are committed to co-operate with other tiger countries. Therefore, from today morning when the technical session started, we have seen a mutual eagerness amongst all countries to help each other and even the new countries showing eagerness to become tiger countries. Tiger is an epitome of the ecosystem. It is on the top of the food chain pyramid. If the conservation of the tigers is successful, entire health of the ecosystem will improve. This is despite the challenging situation in which India finds itself. We have only 2.5% of the world's landmass but



*His Excellency Prakash Javadekar and His Excellency Narendra Modi*

Photo Credit: NTCA



we have 17% of the world's human population and as well as 17 % of the cattle population. Both on 2.5 % of the world's landmass. In spite of the space crunch, we have been successful to preserve 8 % of the world's biodiversity species. That is a great success India has achieved in biodiversity.

Under Hon'ble Prime Minister's leadership, in the last two years, we have opened 3 new tiger reserves, one in Bor in Maharashtra, one Rajaji in Uttarakhand and one Orang in Assam. We have also started a unique experiment in new SOPs for orphaned tigers. Because in childhood when I was staying in a village where there was a good forest, and there used to be many tigers, we had a forester living nearby. So during every monsoon period, he used to bring some cubs. I used to ask him what it is? So they were orphaned, either they have separated from their mother or their mother died. So they used to bring them and we used to play with them for 7-8 days and then he used to take them as per that time's procedure to Mumbai. But now when I became Minister

I said how we will deal with these orphaned tigers? and then we prepared these SOPs and I am very happy to say the beginning has been made effectively and we nourished 4 such orphaned tiger's cubs *in-situ* enclosures but immediately released them in the wild successfully.

We are taking a historic decision and let me announce today that we need to preserve tiger corridors. How to preserve them? We have taken the decision that we will incentivize project proponents to give land for compensatory afforestation in tiger corridors. By such measures we can free the tiger corridors over the years from private encumbers and will become a forest land. We can protect tiger corridors because that is very important for protecting the tiger population which is growing. We are also doing conservation with the help of latest technologies by using E-Surveillance, camera traps, drones; and smart patrolling through M-STRIPES programme. We are therefore, using all the latest technology to curb poaching or any wildlife crime and therefore, we have also started the world's first white

tiger safari. Last week with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, I inaugurated the world's first white tiger safari in Mukundpur and this will serve to renew interest in the conservation efforts for tigers and other magnificent animals. It is our constant efforts for which we are working and we will continue to work under the guidance of the Prime Minister. I welcome you once again and I hope that these 3 days' deliberations will provide tremendous and useful materials for all countries and all can march together for more effective tiger conservation.

And if today there are only 13 countries, sooner many more countries will also evince interest in having tigers and we are ready to cooperate with all such countries. Together we will achieve the target of good tiger conservation. Thank you and all the best for the Conference.



Group photograph TRC Ministers/Head of delegations with Prime Minister of India

Photo credit: NTCA



Photo credit: NTCA

## ADDRESS BY SHRI YESHEY DORJI, MINISTER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS, ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN, AND CHAIRMAN - GLOBAL TIGER FORUM

Your Excellency Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, my Asian Colleagues, Ministers from Tiger Range countries, distinguished representatives from the partner conservation organisations, Excellences', Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good afternoon to you all. It is my great honour to convey to this august gathering, the warm greetings and the wishes of His Majesty the King and the people of Bhutan.

I thank the Government of India for organising this 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation. Almost a year ago, when I took over as Chairperson of the Global Tiger Forum, I requested Shri Prakash Javadekar to consider hosting this important conference. I appreciate

that this has been favourably considered. I am also very pleased to note the presence of our Minister colleagues from Snow Leopard Range Countries and it is indeed reassuring to witness the presence of senior officials from various countries who are keen on reintroducing the tiger.

I am grateful, in particular, to Shri Narendra Modi ji for inaugurating this Conference. We have gathered here today to continue in our quest to ensure one of the most majestic animals on planet, the tiger, into the future. The Tiger is one among a few animals which has won its way into the very fabric of human values and culture. It is therefore, fitting that this conference is taking place in Delhi, the capital of the world's largest democracy, and economic stronghold, a nation of 1.2 billion people, which holds the tiger close

to its heart as its National Animal. More than 70% of the world's tiger population is found here in India. Hon'ble Prime Minister's presence is a testimony to the importance which the great nation of India places on the tiger. Hon'ble Prime Minister, we are deeply inspired by your presence here amongst us today. Your Excellency, as we move forward as a global community, there are many challenges we faced, disaster, terrorism, poverty, inequality and injustice continue to impede us in our path to progress and happiness. In this context, I, on behalf of the people and Government of Bhutan, offer you the heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of India on the recent fire tragedy in Kerala. Common aspirations based on the vision of shared humanity, must be harnessed in our effort to build and shape a happy world. I



Photo credit: NTCA

His Excellency Yeshey Dorji

believe that the tiger is an animal which can bring humanity together to make us realize the true value of life. Further, the tiger will and help confront the many ills which plague the global community.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, Bhutan has recently completed the national tiger survey. This survey was useful and much needed, and it was a costly and time consuming initiative. Given the rugged mountain terrain, we took almost a year to place camera traps and retrieve images from across Bhutan and engaged more than 500 field staff. We are grateful to the European Union, the World Bank and WWF-Bhutan for supporting this initiative. Our results show that we have 103 adult tigers in Bhutan. We now have a firm basis to monitor and track the success and efficacies of our conservation programmes. Our scientists are also discovering that the tigers roamed all the way

from the southern foothills to the great high mountains of Bhutan's Himalayas. To validate our findings, we have initiated a tiger collaring programme to understand tiger movements and ecology. On the behalf of my colleagues, I thank our friends at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Kingdom of Thailand, for training Bhutanese staff in tiger collaring.

The great journey which the tiger undertakes is made possible by the large connected forests which cover more than 70% of Bhutan's area. Such connectivity is further secured by Bhutan's Protected Areas and biological corridors system, which today covers more than 50% of the country's area. Camera trapping initiatives continue to indicate a healthy and robust tiger population in Bhutan. Therefore, it is my belief and confidence that the tiger can persist and thrive if we provide right protection including proper habitat

conservation. Today we have the opportunity; in this very hall we have many distinguished leaders, scientists, practitioners from all tiger range countries. We have the opportunity to carry forward the legacy and the dreams of our predecessors. Since the initiation of the landmark Project Tiger in 1973 in India, to the continuing global movement to save tigers culminating in the St. Petersburg Summit in Russia, we have come a long way as an international community in our commitment to protect tiger. In Bhutan, the guidance and the far-sightedness of our visionary monarchs continue to ensure that environment conservation receives the highest priority as we move forward as a country. In our humble effort to conserve tiger, we have increased the penalty to 20 fold in additions to imprisonment up to 10 years for those killing and trading in tiger parts. We are hopeful that such interventions will deter those

intent on poaching and trading in tiger parts. However, we must all acknowledge the challenges throughout tiger range countries. Poaching is real, conversion of land is real, desperation for better livelihood of more than a billion inhabitants across tiger range countries is real. As such, we must seek the support of concerned agencies. It is, therefore, with great appreciation, we acknowledge the support rendered by partner conservation organisations and international communities. Such support should not only be aimed at trying to curtail poaching and prevent land use conversion, but should help secure rural livelihood and build capacity of local conservation actors. In Bhutan, we have launched a project for permanence called 'Bhutan for Life' with the WWF aimed at ensuring adequate financing of our protected areas into perpetuity.

I believe, that the fight to save tiger is of global importance. National actions must be supported by global aspirations and international commitment. I am pleased to note that the conference will cover all the pertinent issues ranging from threats to the tiger, to the management

effectiveness of Protected Areas, to livelihood and capacity building. Well, actions might be local, our collective efforts must transcend boundaries and politics. We must strive to bring innovations at the field level. We must keep community, vitality and prosperity of local people at the heart of our conservation and must look at the protected landscape as an engine of growth and opportunity for both tiger and the people.

The role of Global Tiger Forum at this juncture is very important. As a Chairman, I have requested non-members to join and I am pleased that this has been accepted. The Global Tiger Forum happens to be the only inter-governmental organisation of its kind, created and owned by tiger range countries. The Forum provides us a platform for collective collaboration to address areas of mutual concerns. With the phasing out of the Global Tiger Initiative, the Global Tiger Forum has been mandated to carry forward the agenda of tiger conservation. I take this opportunity to request India to support this Forum by signing a Host Country Agreement. With over 70% of the world's tiger population

and being a national symbol, it is only fitting that India continues to support and provide leadership on this front. Bhutan is establishing a National Tiger Research Centre in the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan to conduct research and advocate policies to ensure the persistence of tiger. We are hopeful that the Centre will be of benefit for both Bhutan and India and in due course, to the wider tiger range countries. We solicit your support to ensure the success of this timely initiative.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Excellences', Ladies and Gentlemen, we carry the immense responsibility today, of ensuring that one of the most magnificent animals on our planet continue to survive and thrive. Anything less would be a failure on our part to hand over a thriving planet to our children.

I am sure our deliberations will be meaningful and our conference will significantly contribute to the well-being of the tiger and all other living beings. As responsible leaders, conservationists and citizens committed to protect and save one of the most charismatic animal to walk this planet, our task remains unfinished.

We have much more to do. I assure you, Bhutan's commitment in our collective efforts to ensure that the future of tiger is secure. I remain confident of receiving the support and guidance of Your Excellency and esteemed Ministers and colleagues of all tiger range countries. I wish the conference a great success and happiness.



Photo credit: NTCA



**LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT  
CHAIR: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**



Photo credit: NTCA

Mr. B.S. Bonal, His Excellency Prakash Javadekar, Mr. Ashok Lavasa

The technical session on ‘Landscape Conservation and Habitat Management’ broadly discussed issues related to tiger reintroduction and utmost importance of political will and good science to help increase and stabilize tiger numbers across the tiger range countries.

**Tiger Conservation: Indian Perspective by Mr. B. S. Bonal, ADG (Project Tiger) and Member Secretary (NTCA), India**



Mr. B. S. Bonal

Giving a detailed overview of the Indian perspective, Mr. Bonal spoke about how India, in spite of having a large human population, which is about 16% of the global population, and an equal number of cattle population, on only 2 percent of the world’s landmass, has been successful in notifying more than 730 Protected Areas in the country. He also mentioned about the steady increase in human- wildlife conflict, especially because of the elephant, leopard, blue bull, wild boar, monkey and of course tigers. He also highlighted illegal trade of wildlife parts and products as a major challenge in wildlife conservation. Mr. Bonal also emphasized on the number of activities that have been taken up by the Government of India through the state governments, especially in the core areas.

**Landscape level differentiated approach in tiger conservation by Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General (GTF)**



Dr. Rajesh Gopal

Dr. Gopal talked about *in-situ* conservation of tiger meta populations. There are different contours, different dynamics which operate in landscape which affect *in-situ* conservation. Commenting on the latest available update on global status of the wild tiger which

is around 3,900, he said that there are several overarching issues, relevant to most of the Tiger Range Countries like shrinkage of habitat, loss of reproductivity and targeted poaching. Landscape becomes very much relevant in the context of wild tiger conservation. However, as the entire landscapes may not be available to tigers, various other linkages such as forest linkages, non-forest linkages, are crucial and relevant for development of gene porosity in the landscape. It is also important to undertake a differentiated approach and bring back ecological processes. To restore and conserve a Tiger Reserve – the ecological processes, their intrinsic values which have evolved over time, needs to be restored.

**Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves by Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India**



*Dr. V. B. Mathur*

Dr Mathur said that the trigger for evaluating the management effectiveness goes back to an event, a decade ago, which talked about the Indian Tiger Reserve, Sariska, in Rajasthan, having lost its tigers. It set into motion a series of activities with the Government of India, such as setting up a Tiger Task Force, and the Government of Rajasthan setting up a Tiger Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of the then Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr. V.P Singh. There was also a specific directive

from the office of the Prime Minister of India to conduct an independent audit of the Tiger Reserves and place the report in the parliament. The Ministry of Environment and Forest requested the Wildlife Institute of India to conduct a performance audit of Tiger Reserves. We have used this framework but what we did was we adapted this framework for India. In 2006, 26 Tiger Reserves were evaluated, 39 in 2010 and in 2014 another 43 reserves have been evaluated. The results indicated that 14 Tiger Reserves in the country are ranked in very good category and 11 in good, then there are some in satisfactory and poor categories. Dr. Mathur stressed on the need to continue methodological and process refinements in MEE

**TECHNICAL SESSION 1 (contd.): Landscape Conservation and Habitat Management**

**CO-CHAIRS: Indonesia and Cambodia**



*Ms Stolton*

**Ms Stolton introduced the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).**

There are about 20,000 Protected Areas that have undertaken some kind of effectiveness evaluation in about 180 countries. There are various tools based on WWF's management effectiveness tracking tool, the METT, including the Indian MEETR and some work that we have recently been doing

in Bhutan to develop a Bhutan METT + and also METT for Ramsar. CA|TS sets a benchmark agreed standards for effective management and protection of tigers. It is an objective way to identify and assess management practices which support tiger conservation and it also creates incentives for sites to achieve these expected practices of management. So, CA|TS assesses the compliance to these standards through expert review process. It also celebrates well managed sites. But most importantly, WWF is trying to build up those sites that don't reach the CA|TS standards at the moment, developing action plans to capture needs and to streamline investments and capacity.

**Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) by Dr. Khalid Pasha, WWF Tigers Alive initiative**

Dr Pasha talked about the larger goal of CA|TS to meet the Tx2 targets of 2022.



*Dr. Khalid Pasha,*

Towards this, the aim is to involve around 150 world's most important sites for effective tiger management by 2022. These sites should be fully approved or well on the path of approval. Dr. Pasha mentioned that the process now involves two additional layers and support groups. One of them is the CA|TS support group involving agencies and organisations. India has a national committee chaired by the NTCA, with

Uttarakhand being the first state in which 8 sites are under assessment. Russia is another country where they have approved sites in Sikhote- Alin and they plan to register few more sites

**Prey Re-introduction efforts & opportunities from priority Tiger Landscapes by Mr. Joseph Vattakaven, WWF Tiger Alive Initiative and Ms. Suwana Gauntlett, Wildlife Alliance, Cambodia**



Mr. Joseph Vattakaven,

WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative has 13 different landscapes spread across all the tiger range countries. Seven of these landscapes are in the Indian subcontinent, five in South East Asia and one in China-Russia. Some of the best examples of tiger re-introduction and augmentation of prey come from the Central Indian landscape. One of the best example is of gaur reintroduction in Central India. The largest of wild cattle, gaur is also a key prey species of tigers. Tiger relocation is also planned most likely in Kazakhstan. A look at all the species combined together, shows that the target could get over 100,000 prey animals. Depending upon different scenarios, they can vary from 50 to close to a 100 tigers. Currently, there is preparation of the area that is going on-land use planning, ensuring the communities are favorable to this. Bringing of tigers will only happen post-2020.

This might go up to 2025 depending on when the government and the site is ready.

**Ms. Suwana Gauntlett, Wildlife Alliance, Cambodia:**



Ms. Suwana Gauntlett

Ms Gauntlett talked about the Cambodia project where there are two reintroduction opportunities one in the Eastern plane on the north-east; and the Cambodian mountain range landscape on the southwest. The Eastern planes Core Zone is an open deciduous forest and is very much the Serengeti of South East Asia. We just started in December with 100 camera traps over a 200 sq. kms and it is a systematic camera trapping prey base survey. It will continue until 2017. We will also help the forest administration enforce forestry law with strong penalties, address anti-poaching issues through forest units inside the tiger range and anti-trafficking issues with urban patrol units outside the tiger

range. It's a national wildlife crime control programme which includes all departments that are involved in law enforcement. So it comes from the policy all the way down to the frontline staff and it includes urban units and forest units across the country.

**Tiger Re-introduction experience from the Russian Far East by Mr. Sergei Aramilev, Amur Tiger Centre**



Mr Sergei Aramilev

Mr Aramilev talked about the practice of rehabilitation of tiger and orphaned cubs started in the 1990s. The main objectives of this practice were the restoration and maximization of tiger's physical condition. The rehabilitated tiger cubs were usually adopted by zoos which had played the main role in *in-situ* conservation of tigers. The possibility of returning the tiger cubs to the wild required



Photo credit: NTCA



Photo credit: NTCA

Co-Chairs: Mr. T.Y. Sokhun, Cambodia and Indonesia

the establishment of a special rehabilitation center in order to ensure proper training of hunting skills among young tigers, required to catch ungulates in the wild. Russia has two rehabilitation centers. The first center in Russia was founded in the year 1991. Its name is Utyos. In this center in 2008 young female Amur tiger was captured and then rehabilitated and then left in the wild. From Nov 11, 2015 until May 27, 2015 the Utyos center rehabilitated a male tiger of approximately 3-4 years of age. Its name is Uporny. This work was supported by WWF Russia and Russian Academy of Science. Uporny, the tiger successfully passed all tests for being able to travel to hunt in the wild.

**Tiger Landscape Conservation and Habitat management: Indonesian Experience**

Mr. Iding Haidir talked about the collective effort of Indonesian government and partners across the Island. Tiger conservation work was started in 1994 with two global priority landscapes, two regional landscapes and two data deficient landscape in Northern Sumatra and eastern Sumatra. Then, between 2006-2010, we have been working

with our partners developing a robust monitoring standard on tiger population and we feed it into the Indonesian national tiger recovery plan. Our ultimate goal is to increase, to double our tiger population from 125 to 650 individual tigers. Our actions between 2015 up to 2020 are discussed in our national strategy.



Mr Iding Haider



Photo credit: NTCA

Technical Session 1: Ms. Suwana Gauntlett, Co-Chairs - Mr. T.Y. Sokhun, Cambodia and Indonesia



**ANTI-POACHING, PROTECTION, ILLEGAL TRADE AND TRAFFICKING  
CO-CHAIRS: MINISTER OF MYANMAR AND  
MR. AZZEDINE THOMAS DOWNES, PRESIDENT & CEO, IFAW**



Co-Chairs: President & CEO, IFAW and Myanmar

Photo credit: NTCA

**Smart Patrolling: Indian Experience of “M-STriPES” by Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Wildlife Institute of India**



Dr Jhala appraised the panel about M-STriPES a monitoring system for ecological status, patrolling and human wildlife conflict. We started working on the M-STriPES way back in 2010. From 2013 onwards, it has been implemented in 7 tiger reserves for pilot phase and we have a bag of

mixed results- some very good and some extremely poor.

Based on this experience we have redone the programme and this is what it is now. There are 3 basic modules - one dealing with patrols, the other dealing with ecological status and the third dealing with wildlife conflict. And all this not only cater to the unique situation of the Indian scenario but can be easily exportable for places elsewhere on the planet. The new things which we have introduced is a live monitoring two way communication system where you can see on your console how the guards are actually patrolling in the field.

**Analysis of poaching, seizure and trade by Mr. James Compton, TRAFFIC International**



Mr. James Compton

Mr. Compton presented a draft analysis of what TRAFFIC had done, looking at available information about tigers across the 13 Tiger Range Countries. It shows a minimum of 740 tigers seized averaging over a 100 per year. Seizure numbers have decreased during the recent quarter by 40 % compared to the period of 2008-2011. However, the number of tigers that those seizures equated to did not decline by the

same rate, decreasing only by 25 % in the comparative time frame. The numbers and the data allows us also to look at hotspots of seizures. So in India, you have two hotspots appearing persistently- a route that runs through next to the Corbett national park leading to the Nepal border and the second one, in the southern part of the country . To conclude one can say the usefulness, utility of this data is really about how it helps Tiger Range Countries and mandated law enforcement agencies.

**Zero-Poaching by Dr. Dipankar Ghose, WWF-India**



Dr. Dipankar Ghose

Dr Ghose talked about zero poaching. Why are we talking about zero poaching? An alarming trend that we are experiencing over the last few years all over the world is that more than 1000 rhinos were killed in South Africa in one year and handful of tiger, rhinos and elephants were poached in India. What is zero poaching? A site achieves zero poaching when these two things happen- one is that there is no detectable trace and secondly, when is no discernable impact on the species. It is actually rallying, it is not just even a campaign, and it is a concept. It is a concept that we believe in, a concept that we have to believe in, if we want the tigers to thrive in the wild, if we want 3890 to go further. Now, realistically, countries can achieve zero poaching by defining either a species or the

particular species in a given area. So tigers in a particular area can be decided by a country and zero-poaching can be achieved by certain efforts. Zero poaching has got six pillars and they are available on the zero poaching website. The six pillars are assessment, technology, capacity building, community, protection and co-operation. The team from Tigers Alive Initiative is here and my earnest request to all Tiger Range Countries members is that if you need more information on zero poaching, if you would like to prepare an action plan, if you would like to develop some action strategies for zero poaching, please coordinate with the team.



Mr. David Higgins

**Effort of International Organization in Combating, Poaching and Illegal Trade & Trafficking by Mr. David Higgins, INTERPOL**

Mr Higgins talked about how INTERPOL in 2011 launched Project Predator before the Interpol general assembly, with police chiefs from 190 member countries. We set about in the 1st instance, to just raise their awareness, and then inform them about the particular threat associated around the tiger. Following this, the next phase is to stimulate and support a co-ordinated action.

The challenge we have is that not every country has the same problem, not every individual has

the same capacity or capability. The enforcement chain can be summarized in to 5 main steps- enforcement, analysis, investigation, arrest and prosecution.

**Efforts of International Organization in Combating, Poaching and Illegal Trade & Trafficking by Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, SAWEN**

Dr Dhakal introduced the working of SAWEN which is located in Kathmandu, and has 8 member countries. It has broad objectives to co-ordinate and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies together with international partners. SAWEN is focusing on three parts.



Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal

Firstly, to institutionalize the SAWEN Secretariat. Secondly, partner with international donors, stakeholders and enforcement enhancements. And thirdly, SAWEN would like to be a very independent and an intergovernmental organization. Second part of the presentation dealt about best practices of zero poaching in Nepal, which attained zero poaching for rhinos in 2015.

**Use of Modern Technology in fighting wildlife crimes and patrolling by Ms. Tilotama Varma, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, India**



Ms. Tilotama Varma

Ms Verma spoke about how technology is being used both in prevention of wildlife crime in intelligence collection, detection and investigation of wildlife crime. E-Eye which is used in some of our Tiger Reserves helps us in locating, capturing movement of the wild animal, movement of staff and also movement of poachers. We also have camera traps which helps us in capturing the images of poacher if he is lurking, and of our field staff. Here we also talk of high quality sensors. These sensors help us in detecting forest fires, animal crossing, human movements, so these are also immensely useful as far as capturing information goes.



Mr. Anup Joshi

**Global Forest Watch: A tool to monitor tiger habitat by Mr. Anup Joshi, World Resources Institute, Washington DC**

Mr Anup Joshi talked about how

monitoring and preventing habitat loss being critical, we are trying to find out if there are any free internet tools that will help monitor the habitat for tigers. The tools that can be used to track changes in critical tiger habitats are the Global Forest Watch and Google Art Engine. Among other things, the Google Art engine also has Landsat satellite data from 1975 onwards. It works through an alert system and sends out messages either through Email or messages on subscribing.

**Strategy on demand reduction of tiger body parts: Presentation by Ms. Gayle Burgess, TRAFFIC International**

Ms. Gayle Burgess talked about how the increased enforcement effort to reduce the supply of goods going into the market is complementing the work to change the consumer behavior and reduce demand for those goods. The five step approach which recognized the behavior one needs to change followed by a very clear segmentation of audience. Consumers have very different motivations of purchasing, use of tiger products etc. Recognizing the different segments that are involved

in consumption is step two i.e. using the insights that you have into behaviors in target audiences. So overall, a very logical approach to changing behavior through these five steps.

The Co-chairs in their closing remarks placed special focus on the need to identify the level of corruption in wildlife trade and poaching, and the new trends in seizure of animal body parts. One of the new trends identified in poaching was in terms of elephant poaching that are now not only killed for ivory but also for meat consumption. They also advised on the need to work against the entire poaching network since their action is not only limited to tigers but also against other important species. They stressed that all concerned should work towards adopting Zero Poaching concept, however difficult it may sound. More action oriented plans need to be taken up on tactical analysis, enforcement and information management laying special emphasis on human cooperation.



Mr. Anup Joshi, Co-Chairs: President & CEO, IFAW and Myanmar

Photo credit: NTCA

## MINISTERIAL PRESENTATIONS REPORT ON STATUS/PROGRESS OF GTRP/NTRP IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE PLANS/COMMITMENTS

### CO-CHAIRS: Russian Federation and Nepal

- Doubling Tiger Numbers: Our Efforts: Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh Forest Department, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh
- Status of Tiger Conservation in Bhutan: Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan
- Status of GTRP/NTRP implementation and Future Plan for 2026: Mr. Kry Masphal, Dy. Director of Dept. of Wildlife & Biodiversity, Forestry Administration of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries, Cambodia
- Status of GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plan: China
- National Tiger Recovery Program: Indonesia
- Current Status of Tigers in India as measured by Revised GTRP Key Performers and Indicators: Dr. Himmat Singh Negi, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Government of India
- Briefing on the wild tiger conservation process in Lao PDR: Mr. Saysamone Phothisat, on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment(MONRE), Lao People's Democratic Republic

The ministerial presentations focused on the reporting of each tiger range country's progress towards the Global Tiger Recovery Plan (GTRP) and future plans and commitments to tiger conservation and the Tx2 goal. Representatives from each of the 13 tiger countries presented the current status, successes and challenges they faced. Some of the important issues raised by most countries were the need to adopt a landscape approach as well as strengthened trans-boundary collaboration and enforcing stricter penalties against poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Several of the countries also underscored the importance of protecting and managing prey species, long-term financial mechanisms and effective national and international collaboration.

### CO-CHAIRS: India and Bhutan

- Report on GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plan/commitments: Mr. Salman Bin Saaban, Director of Ex-Situ Conservation Division, Dept. of Wildlife & National Parks, Malaysia
- Progress on GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plan/commitments: Myanmar
- Tiger Conservation in Nepal - From St. Petersburg to New Delhi: Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal
- Progress of GTRP/NTRP implementation: Artem Sidorov, Head of Federal Supervisory, Natural Resources Management Service, Russia
- Thailand - GTRP Implementation: Thailand

### CO-CHAIRS: Malaysia and Bangladesh

- Tiger Conservation Program in Vietnam
- Presentation by Minister from Kyrgyz Republic/ GSLEP Secretariat on Snow Leopard Conservation



**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES: PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**MODERATOR MR. RAVI SINGH, SECRETARY GENERAL AND CEO,**  
**WWF-INDIA**



Dr. Lawrence Allen

Technical Session 3 on ‘Business and Industries’ emphasized the need to make the wider benefits of tiger conservation more tangible to different sectors. Speaking on the issue, Dr. Lawrence Allen emphasized that the ecosystem value is generally underpriced or not given a market value at all. Payments for ecosystem services (PES) are becoming much more prevalent but need considerable organizational enhancements. He presented a study on Yosemite National Park, California’, as an example for parks as economic generators.



Dr. Madhu Verma,

Following this, Dr. Madhu Verma,



Photo credit: NTCA

gave a detailed presentation on the methodology and results of the study of economic valuation of six tiger reserves in India. As a part of the study, qualitative and quantitative assessment was undertaken for 25 ecosystem services. The study estimated the Total Stock Value at USD 25 billion with a total annual Flow Value of USD 1.2 billion. She emphasized the need to institutionalize data collection and upscale the study to India and other tiger range countries through various benefit sharing mechanisms. After the lead presentations stressed on assessing the ecosystem services derived from Tiger Reserves and habitats and the economic valuation thereof, the panelists discussed on pros and cons of this. Dr. Alwyn Didar Singh was of the opinion that conservationists should bring in corporate and businesses in framing strategies, which was contradicted

by Mr. Kothari who said that it is the prerogative of the businesses to ensure conservation of biodiversity for safeguarding businesses in the long run. Mr. Raghav Chandra spoke about NHAI’s efforts to reduce adverse impacts of highways in wildlife habitats. In summing up, Mr. Ravi Singh mentioned that only 4.88% land of India that is covered by the PAs should be conserved at any cost, and threats therein need to be mitigated. He also said that businesses need to step in through CSR initiatives and through changing practices for wildlife conservation. He took the example of Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) and mentioned that it could make a difference and help in meeting the INDCs. He appreciated the fact that the outlook of NHAI and railways is changing that needs to be sustained.



## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATOR MR. KESHAV VARMA, CEO, GTI COUNCIL



Technical session 4 on 'Resource Mobilization' discussed and explored various avenues for current and potential funding for tiger conservation. It also highlighted how imperative sustainable, long-term financing is – both domestically and internationally. Following are some of the important issues highlighted and discussed by each of the panelists

million in 2012. The aim to increase funding flow and for the need to look for both domestic and international support for tiger conservation; and establish/enhance national system for tracking. Currently 20 projects in 12 landscapes have been financed by GEF since 2010. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest single source of climate finance with currently 10.2 billion pledged per year. It targets to mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020. GCF is an opportunity to link tiger conservation and climate change impact on tigers landscapes, anthropogenic pressure etc. GCF also has 33 accreted entities and national designated authorities. TRCs, need to establish new sustainable domestic funding mechanism and articulate link between tiger conservation and people welfare.

and more are in the pipeline in the coming year.

Ms. Kseniya Lvovsky, World Bank, discussed on World Bank funding through natural resource global practice and that all TRCs fully or substantially support conservation aligned to portfolio of natural resource management project.

Dr. Chris Hails, WWF International, spoke on the necessity of fund raising campaigns, individual donors, monitoring framework for GTRP, retaining major donors, building linkages between tiger conservation and livelihood.

Ms. Yoko Watanabe talked about GEF's initiatives towards tiger conservation in the tiger range countries. She said that GEF is investing USD 120 million in 22 projects and pledged USD 200 million for combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in the near future.

Some of the other deliberations during the panel discussion were the need to identify the resources, leverage, and collaborate with industries and cope up with the corporate world.



Ms. Midori Paxton

Ms. Midori Paxton outlined the current funding, future potential and action towards sustainable financing during her presentation. The current finance (2011-15) amounts to USD 350 million with a gap of USD 150

Dr. Sugoto Roy, IUCN (KfW) gave a brief highlight of the projects funded till date. Starting since 2014, 7 projects have been funded in 2015



**CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP  
CO-CHAIR: LAO PDR AND THAILAND**



Co-Chairs: Lao PDR and Thailand

Photo credit: NTCA

The final day opened with the theme of capacity building and leadership. Following are some of the important issues which were underlined during the aforementioned presentations followed by the panel discussion –

- All TRCs help deliver the comprehensive ranger employment and perception surveys; this can be done by providing permissions and identifying appropriate sites for survey delivery.
- There is an urgent need to establish professional institutions to build the capacity of selected knowledge and learning in TRCs and accelerate the sharing of the most innovative and effective front line conservation practices.
- Leadership development for tiger conservation in TRCs should bring together all stakeholders



Mr. Bruno A. Laporte

such as public, private, NGO and local communities, and emphasize not only technical issues but also the political economy of Protected Area management and conservation.

- To establish an electronic knowledge sharing platform to facilitate regular discussions among practitioners, policy makers, and international communities on various conservation issues and latest

tools and technologies for not only learning but also policy recommendations.

- Develop a Knowledge Platform/ Repository at GTF based on active program to link trainings, reports, videos, maps, images, research and other intelligence important to tiger and snow leopard conservation in one single location. Brand the Global Tiger Recovery Program and initiate an active social media campaign through the SMLC to increase worldwide public awareness of issues related to tiger and snow leopard conservation which will lead to the lesser demand for tiger parts.
- All TRCs should have excellence centre for tiger research and professional training institutes.



Dr. Brett Wright



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SMART GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE:  
PANEL DISCUSSION**  
MODERATOR - DR. VB MATHUR, DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA



Photo credit: NTCA

*Dr. S. P. Sharma, Mr. Keshav Varma, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Mr. Ravi Singh, Mr. Deshratan Gupta*

Ms. Neha Vyas and Dr. Bilal Habib through their comprehensive presentations emphasized on the adverse impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife populations and habitats which was followed by a discussion on the topic. Mr. Keshav Varma mentioned that

and NHA spoke about their initiatives to meet the goal of Green Infrastructure. In summing up, Dr. V. B. Mathur mentioned that the conservation fraternity wants avoidance whereas developers want to optimize resource utilization and there has to be a middle path. He appreciated the fact that the two sides, conservationists and developers are engaging in dialogues, and hoped that some solutions will come forward.

**Networking future Tiger conservation leaders Sean Carnell, Tigers for Tiger Coalition, USA**

Mr. Sean Carnell spoke about the ‘Tigers for Tiger’ coalition, which is about providing an avenue for students to channel their passion to advocate for meaningful tiger conservation programs. Towards this, they have partnered with the official United States Fish and Wildlife Service which is under the Department of Interior. They also have an international programme that has been existing for about 20 years. They have established partnerships and relationships with countries and organizations over 60 countries. They allocate grants through their multi-national species conservation fund and in particular, the rhino and tiger conservation fund.



*Ms. Neha Vyas*



*Mr Bilal Habib*

the infrastructure developers need to be more sensitive towards this as any loss to natural populations and habitats is irrecoverable and should be avoided at any cost. Representatives of Indian Railways





## AWARDEES AT THE 3RD ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION



**Category: Anti-poaching, Awardee: Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala  
Award received by: Dr. Amit Mallick, Field Director, Periyar**

A serious issue of massive, organized, elephant poaching was detected in the forests of Kerala, including the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape. A detailed investigation was carried out which resulted in the arrest of 73 accused within the state of Kerala and outside. 28 guns and 7 vehicles were also seized in the operation. The ramifications and linkages unearthed after this successful operation revealed that the poaching network was pan India with the kingpin in Delhi. Based on confessions given by traders in Kerala, the kingpin from Delhi was also arrested and a huge cache of ivory was recovered, weighing 488 kilograms. 50 kilograms of ivory was also recovered from Thiruvananthapuram. The operation was code named “Shikar” and was led by a special covert team led by the Field Director Periyar Tiger Reserve. The professionalism displayed by the team resulted in busting of an international level poaching syndicate.



**Category: Village relocation and resettlement, Awardee: Satpuda Tiger Reserve, MP**

**Award received by: Shri. A.K. Nagar, Field Director, Satpuda**

The Satpuda Tiger Reserve was notified in the year 1999-2000. An important recommendation of the Tiger Task Force in 2005 was the creation of inviolate space for tigers to thrive. With an aim to achieve this objective, Satpuda authorities have been able to successfully rehabilitate 37 villages which included 3161 families as per provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and guidelines of the NTCA. The entire core/critical tiger habitat is now inviolate and free from human habitation



**Category: Active Management, Awardee: Kanha Tiger Reserve, MP**

**Award received by: Jasbir Singh Chauhan, Field Director, Kanha**

The Kanha Tiger Reserve management after intensive habitat interventions in village vacated sites have successfully captured, trans-located and released ungulates in these areas, without any mortality. Further, the Kanha management has trans-located Indian Bison/Gaur to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, where they were locally extinct. Also, black bucks have been reintroduced at the Kanha Tiger Reserve after being locally extinct in 2004. Importantly Kanha tiger reserve has shown the country and the world, the art and science of re-wilding tigers. One such re-wilded tiger from Kanha was successfully trans-located to the Panna Tiger Reserve gave and raised three litters also. Being successful at active management of both prey and predator populations, Kanha is a deemed centre of excellence for trans-location of wildlife



**Category: Community Participation in eco-tourism, Awardee: Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala**  
**Award received by: Shri. Pramod Krishnan, Field Director, Parambikulam**  
 Community based eco tourism initiatives at Parambikulam include novel packages like tree top huts, Island nest, elephant song trekking trail, nature camps, honey comb accommodation, bear hut, pugmark trekking trail, bear path trekking trail. Souvenirs from recycled plastic waste and adherence to the NTCA guidelines of carrying out tourism only in the buffer zone of the tiger reserve is being practised at Parambikulam which is only through local workforce organized into eco development committees



**Category: Conservation of species other than tigers in tiger reserves, Awardee: Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam**  
**Award received by: Shri. Rajendra Garawad, Conservator of Forests, Kaziranga**  
 Kaziranga was declared as a tiger reserve in 2007 when the population of the Eastern Swamp deer was 681 and the rhino numbers stood at 1855. As on date, after 9 years of notification as a tiger reserve, the swamp deer numbers are at 1129 and rhino population stands at 2401. Through strong protection mechanisms and inputs under “Project Tiger”, Kaziranga has been successful in conservation of the Eastern Swamp Deer and one horned rhinoceros besides Asiatic Wild buffalo and elephants.



Photo credit: NTCA

Jasbir Singh Chauhan, A.K. Nagar, Dr. Amit Mallick, Shri Rajendra Garawad, Shri Pramod Krishnan

**NEW DELHI RESOLUTION ON TIGER CONSERVATION LED BY INDIA'S MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR.**

Wild tigers remain endangered across Tiger Range Countries (TRCs). While some TRCs have made progress in increasing their populations of tigers in the last few years, the global scenario is still a cause for major concern. Tigers have become critically endangered or locally extinct in some TRCs. The extent and quality of habitat has also been diminished in many. This is a serious impediment to achieving the goal of doubling the number of wild tigers range wide (Tx2) by 2022, the timeline envisaged in the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation of 2010. A renewed impetus is required to achieve the goal.



Photo credit: NTCA

Therefore, drawing inspiration from and reiterating and reconfirming 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) and the Dhaka Recommendations (2014) – such as working collaboratively to eradicate poaching, smuggling and illegal trade, strengthening frontline staff capacity, building partnerships, accelerating the flow of national and external funds – and building upon the first five years of implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) and National Tiger Recovery Programs (NTRPs), we renew our collective pledge to ensure the conservation of tigers in the wild and their habitats.

Inspired by the statement of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, during the conference that “conservation of tigers is not a choice, it is an imperative” and to achieve these concrete results by 2022.

We, the representatives of the Governments of the Tiger Range Countries, RESOLVE to:

1. Accelerate implementation of the GTRP/NTRPs and agreed actions from the above-mentioned declarations, review and update priority and differentiated action plans, and track progress through mutual and systematic reporting and evaluation.
2. Align development and tiger conservation in a mutually complementary manner by re-orienting development strategies to mainstream the concerns of tiger conservation, such as by integrating tiger and wildlife safeguards in infrastructure at the landscape level, developing partnerships with business groups, and strong engagement with local stakeholders.
3. Leverage funding and technical support from international organisations, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, foundations, civil society organisations, private sector, and climate funds, in addition to TRC governments.
4. Recognise and enhance the importance of tiger habitats by promoting them as providing ecosystem services, as engines of economic growth and helping to address climate change.
5. Emphasize recovery of tiger populations in areas with low tiger densities and restoration in areas from which they have been extirpated by using successful programs of tiger reintroduction and rehabilitation of their habitats and prey.
6. Strengthen co-operation at the highest levels of government to combat wildlife crime, address the demand for tiger products, and increase formal and informal transboundary coordination.
7. Enhance knowledge sharing and capacity development for all stakeholders and increase the use of technology, including smart tools, monitoring protocols, and information systems, to improve management effectiveness.

Acknowledging and appreciating the contribution of different partners during the implementation of the GTRP and NTRPs, we urge the Global Tiger Forum and the Global Tiger Initiative Council to continue their role in coordination, technical assistance, and incremental resource mobilisation toward achievement of this Resolution.



**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan

**Day-I - 12th April 2016 (Tuesday)**

09.00-09.30 HRS: Registration; Tea/Coffee (VENUE: Outside Hall No.6, 2nd Floor)  
 09.30-09.45 HRS: Welcome Session (Venue: Hall No.6, 2nd Floor)  
 09.45-10.30 HRS: Technical Session-1: Landscape Conservation and Habitat Management  
 11.00-12.00 HRS: Technical Session-1 (Continued): Landscape Conservation and Habitat Management

**Establishment of a drafting committee for the Declaration**

13.00-14.45 HRS: Technical Session-2: Anti-Poaching, Protection, Illegal Trade & Trafficking;  
 14.45-15.30 HRS: Move to the Plenary Hall (Ground Floor) for the Inaugural Session

Side Events: 17.15-18.15 HRS: GTF Standing Committee Meeting; Venue: Hall No.1, Ground Floor  
 (Participation by Invitation only)

**Meeting of State Forest Ministers of India; Venue: Hall No.6**

19.30-21.30 HRS: Photo Exhibition, Cultural Programme and Welcome DINNER: Hosted by  
 Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India  
 Venue: Margosa / Silk Cotton Lawn, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

**DAY-II:13th April 2016 (Wednesday)****09.00-13:00 MINISTERIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Report on status/progress of GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plans/commitments

11.00-13.00 HRS and 14.00-16.00 HRS PARALLEL SESSION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON  
 DECLARATION (Venue: Hall No.1, Ground Floor)

14:00-15:30 Technical Session 3: Business and Industries: Panel Discussion  
 15:45-17:30 Technical Session 4: Resource Mobilisation  
 17.30-18.30 HRS: Side Event: High Level Panel on Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection  
 Programme, (Venue: Hall No.1, Ground Floor)

**DAY-III:14th April 2016 (Thursday)**

8:30-9:10 Technical Session 5: Capacity Building and Leadership  
 9:10 - 10:00 Technical Session 6: Sustainable Development and Smart Green Infrastructure  
 10:00-10:10 Networking Future Tiger Conservation Leaders:  
 11:45 -12:00 Pledge on Tiger Conservation  
 Presentation of Mementos to Head of Delegations  
 12:00-12:10 Vote of Thanks  
 12:10-12:30 Media Briefing by TRC Ministers

3RD AMC GLIMPSES



Photo credit: NTCA



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THE TEAM BEHIND THE 3RD ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON  
TIGER CONSERVATION



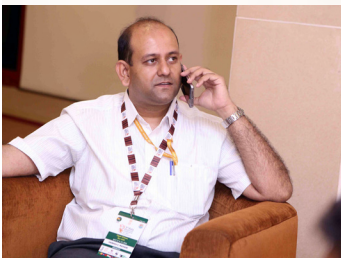
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