



12-14 April 2016
Vigyan Bhawan
New Delhi



PROCEEDINGS OF THE
3RD ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON
TIGER CONSERVATION

Executive Summary

The 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) was a critical 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 Mr. Narendra Modi. The conference jointly hosted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) of 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 the tiger range countries toward the Tx2 goal and their commitment for future steps.

Conference Agenda

Day-I:	12th April 2016 (Tuesday)
09.00-09.30 HRS:	Registration; Tea/Coffee (VENUE: Outside Hall No.6, 2 nd Floor)
09.30-09.45 HRS:	Welcome Session (Venue: Hall No.6, 2 nd 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 and 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 (Participation by Invitation only)
19.30-21.30 HRS:	Photo Exhibition, Cultural Programme and Welcome DINNER: Hosted by Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
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 (Wednesday)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Inaugural Session - Welcome speech

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 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. I welcome you, Respected Prime Minister.

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 also pleased to share with you that that we will have zero tolerance against poaching. What happened near Corbett, in Valmik 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 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 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.

**His Excellency Prakash Javadekar,
Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
Chairman, National Tiger Conservation Authority**

Inaugural Session – Speech by Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, and Chairman - Global Tiger Forum



Your Excellency Shri Narendra Modiji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests & 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 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 plaque 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 a 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.

Thank you.

**His Excellency Yeshey Dorji,
Chairperson, Global Tiger Forum &
Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests,
Royal Government of Bhutan**

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 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. वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् and लोकः समस्ताः सुखिनो भवन्तु is our philosophy. We pray for peace and prosperity of everyone - including the ecosystem: ॐ द्यौः शांति, रंतरिक्ष शांति, पृथ्वी शांति, रापः शांति, रोषधयः शांति, वनस्पतयः शांति ।

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!

Thank You!

His Excellency Narendra Modi
Honorable Prime Minister of India



Inaugural Session – List of dignitaries

- Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
- Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India
- Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Minister of Environment and Forest, Government of Bhutan
- Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Bangladesh
- Dr. Ty Sokhun, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Cambodia
- Mr. Peng Youdong, Vice Minister, State Forestry Administration, China
- Dr. Tachrir Fathoni, Director General, Ministry of Environment & Forestry, Indonesia
- Mr. Chansone Senebottalath, Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR
- Mr. Hamim Samuri, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Malaysia
- Mr. Win Naing Thaw, Director, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Myanmar
- Mr. Agni Prasad Sapkota, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation, Nepal
- Mr. Artem Sidorov, Head, The Federal Service for Sustainability of Natural Resources, Russia
- Mr. Somkiat Soontornpitakkool, Director, Wild Fauna & Flora Protection Division, Thailand
- Mr. Nguyen Na Ngai, Deputy Director, Vietnam Forestry Administration.



Inaugural Session – Vote of Thanks

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Forest, the Royal Government of Bhutan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Excellencies, delegates and participants. It is indeed a historic and happy occasion that such distinguished leaders and luminaries have gathered for the cause of tiger conservation.



Tiger is a crowning glory of the jungle and the national animal of India. First of all, let me on behalf of each and every person present here and on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change express our heartfelt gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister for finding time to inaugurate this conference and providing this movement its dynamic leadership and sage vision. He has led from the front in this as he has in all spheres of development, nation building and international collaboration. His commitment for the conservation of tiger is evident from the fact that about 56 million US dollars has been allocated to project tiger in India for the current financial year, which is unprecedented. I'm thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his support and his kind presence. It is also my privilege to thank the chairman of the Global Tiger Forum, Honorable Minister Mr. Yeshey Dorji; it was his initiative that led to organizing this Ministerial Conference in New Delhi which will chart a new path in mission conservation. I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to our minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar for his constant guidance, encouragement and driving us for conservation of our national heritage while ensuring balance with nature. He is as passionate about conservation of nature as he is about doing responsible business. I thank him for announcing new initiatives for conservation. I thank Hon'ble Ministers, ambassadors, delegates and all participants for their presence today which shows their commitment to the cause of conservation, their zeal and spirit to work together. Hon'ble Prime Minister and ministers, we are hopeful that your guidance would strengthen the collective resolve to review the global tiger recovery program, catalyze additional resources, incorporate principles of smart green infrastructure and national planning processes, enhance collaboration with business and industry, significantly improve landscape conservation efforts through an intrusive community-based approach and step up our joint efforts to prevent poaching and curb illicit trade. Once again I thank one and all who have worked tirelessly for the success of this Conference. On your behalf, I want to assure the tigers in the wild that we are determined to preserve their majesty in the critical chain of sustainable ecosystem. Thank you.

Mr. Ashok Lavasa, IAS
Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India

DAY I – 12 APRIL 2016

*Welcome Speech: His Excellency Prakash Javadekar, Minister of
State, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India*

Hon'ble Minister cordially welcomed all Ministers and Head of Delegation of the Tiger Range Countries for the 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference. This was followed by technical sessions.

9:45-10:30 hrs TECHNICAL SESSION 1: Landscape Conservation and Habitat Management

CHAIR: Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India



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. The technical session was divided into two sections. Below is a brief outline of the presentations given during the first session -

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

- 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. These Protected Areas comprise of 49 Tiger Reserves, 28 Elephant Reserves, 18 Biosphere Reserves and 7 World Heritage Sites.

- India's history is rooted in ethos of nature and wildlife conservation. However, unlike the African countries, the size of the protected areas in India is very small whereas the biotic pressure is very large. He also mentioned about the steady increase in human- wildlife conflict, especially because of the elephant, leopard, blue bull, wild boar, the monkey and of course tigers. He also highlighted illegal trade of wildlife parts and products as a major challenge in wildlife conservation.
- The increasing pressures on the not-so-large tiger reserves in India are proving to be a cause of concern. To effectively manage these reserves, we have zonations- the core area, the buffer and recently the Eco Sensitive Zone so that all the activities are controlled. 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, which as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972, are supposed to be inviolate, free from disturbance.
- In the South Asian region, countries such as India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, where the tiger estimation has been done, the numbers show an increasing trend.
- As far as tiger conservation history goes in India, it was way back in 1973 when the Project Tiger was launched with 9 Tiger Reserves. At that point of time, the population of the tigers had gone down from millions to only thousands and it was considered that the tigers may soon be extinct. The Project Tiger is one of the most successful projects in the history of wildlife conservation. The extermination of tiger from Sariska was a turning point, that really attracted the attention up to the highest level, that of the Prime Minister of India and a task force was constituted. On the basis of the recommendations of these task force, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) came into being. Subsequently, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was also established.
- India is trying to consolidate and strengthen the source population, not only in the reserves but also outside the Tiger Reserves by strengthening anti-poaching activities and sharing of information, and linking the Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas through corridors by people's participation.



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



- 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 re-productivity and targeted poaching.

- The tiger is a species of metapopulation, i.e. it has a source area and this source area because of the investment and care which is given, generates a reproductive surplus. It also has an inherent nature to move out and disperse the genes. Therefore, landscape becomes very much relevant in the context of wild tiger conservation. However, as the entire landscapes may not be available to the tigers, various other linkages such as forest linkages, non-forest linkages, are crucial and relevant for development of gene porosity in the landscape.
- Tigers cannot be saved by forest department alone or the government alone. It is a collective responsibility. The civil society, various ecological principles, enabling policies of the government, of the Tiger Range Countries, economic principles are involved in this.
- The landscape approach for tiger conservation gives the opportunity to conserve these small areas which can complement the bigger area. It is also important to undertake a differentiated approach and bring back the ecological processes. To restore and conserve a Tiger Reserve – the ecological processes, their intrinsic values which have evolved over time, needs to be restored. Even within India, not all Tiger Reserves are at the prime of their carrying capacity for holding tigers, while others may have reached the threshold carrying capacity. Therefore, a differentiated approach is relevant.

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

- 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. Dr. Mathur mentioned that the said event, 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. This directive went to two different agencies- to the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

- In addition, he also emphasized that India is a signatory to United Nations CBD, where there is a protected area programme of work which directs all protected areas need to be independently evaluated. Performance audit is something which needs to be looked at. Countries like Australia are already far ahead in trying to do performance audit of all the government operations. The second thing was accountability.
- Based on this background, the Ministry of Environment and Forest requested the Wildlife Institute of India to conduct a performance audit of Tiger Reserves. This evaluation is basically an activity to find out if the management of these Tiger Reserves have been conducted in the manner in which the objectives are being met. This is the global framework of evaluation and 122 countries in the world are using this framework given by IUCN. This is the most used framework for protected area management. 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.
- This evaluation process is now completely institutionalized. India is among the very few countries in the world which now has an institutionalized Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) and a process of 4-year cycle is there.
- Dr. Mathur emphasized the need to continue methodological and process refinements in MEE. The participation of a range of relevant stakeholders has to be enhanced and the findings need to be disseminated for bringing in appropriate changes in policy, governance and management to enhance effectiveness of management of Tiger Reserves. He encouraged the Tiger Range Countries to adopt and adapt the Indian MEE to secure the conservation of tiger across its entire range.



11:00 -12:00 hrs

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

CO-CHAIRS: Representation from Delegation of Indonesia and Cambodia

The second section of the Technical Session 1 focused on 'Establishment of a drafting committee for the Declaration'.



Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) - Ms. Sue Stolton, WWF Tigers Alive Initiative

- 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 + also METT for Ramsar. Commenting on the differences between CA|TS and METT, she presented that management effectiveness really assesses management against a site's individual goals and objectives. Management standards however are a peer reviewed set of practices against which a site's management is evaluated. CA|TS was developed by experts in assessment, tiger and conservation management. These things are complementary; MEE is one part of the standards within CA|TS. But it is really a new step in the conservation management.



- 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 assess 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.
- CA|TS is a hierarchical system organized around 7 pillars and 17 elements. There are 65 standards and associated criteria. The basic ones revolve around the importance and status of management, things like biological significance, protected area design, legal status, looking at management- from planning through to the implementation, management processes staffing, infrastructure, active management, the feedback loop which included looking at management effectiveness, obviously issues revolving around community, human-wildlife conflict, community relation, stakeholder relations. Tourism-important is some sites is optional because in some sites category 1(A) may not be important. Protection is the biggest part of the standards. Protection is vital to ensure that the tigers survive, and then the specific tiger standards – looking at habitat management and tiger populations.
- The governance of CA|TS is basically a national level initiative with an international executive committee which ensures equivalence of the tiger range and the management team which helps and supports the sites that are implementing CA|TS. It is 2 step process- CA|TS registered and CA|TS approved. After this, sites are then registered to become a CA/TS site develop dossier with the help from the national committee, support and partnership of the management team. The dossier records the compliance against the standards. There is this element of expert assessment with the dossier being reviewed at the 5 levels - through the national committee, as an independent national review process, the management team and then its equivalence across the Tiger Range through the international executive Committee.
- CA|TS has come a long way since its initialization in 2011, and in 2015 and the first global consultation meeting was held in Thailand. Among many commitments from different stakeholders, the GTF committed to encourage all Tiger Range Countries to join the CA|TS process using this meeting as a forum to promote CA|TS.

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

- As a larger goal, CA|TS envisions to meet the Tx2 targets of the 2022. 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 the agencies and organisations. The tool is available for each TRC for tiger conservation.
- He mentioned that Nepal already has a national committee and that a pilot in Bangladesh will be implemented, since Bangladesh was one of the few countries which came forward in the early stages of CA|TS development. 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 soon.



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

- 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.
- In the Amur Heilong Landscape between China and Russia, on the Russian side there are about over 500 tigers. On the Chinese side, there is just about less than 30 odd tigers. However, tigers are actually dispersing from the resource areas in Russia through trans-boundary corridors and in spite of the border fences that have been put up by the two countries, tigers are able to cross and China has been making several recent efforts towards improving their habitat and trying to increase their prey base. They have been trying to augment the population of the main prey species.
- In fact, some of the best examples of rewilding and rehabilitation of tigers come from Russia. The only other country is India. But there has been over 5-6 cases of rehabilitation of orphaned cubs that have gone on to breed in the wild.

- Some of the best examples of tiger re-introduction and augmentation of prey come from 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. The last gaur was seen in Bandhavgarh in Central India in the 1990s but thanks to efforts of Kanha, over 50 gaurs were trans located to Bandhavgarh. These gaurs are actually doing quite well and there has actually been an increase of 30 % with several calves been born in spite of predation by tigers.



- Central India also has perhaps the best example of tiger re-introduction from the what is now the well-known sites of Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves. Particularly in Panna, the numbers have gone up from 0 to 30 in just about 5 years.
- 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.
- Another site where the re-introduction is being planned is Cambodia. WWF is working with the authorities in Cambodia for the complex around the Mondulkiri protected forest. The last tiger that was camera trapped in Cambodia was in 2007 so there is certainly no breeding population of tigers here. But there is vast amount of habitat around the Mondulkiri area. In the past it was known as the Serengiti of Asia because of vast amount of game that was found there. Today the prey species are extremely depressed and however, the recent past, we have seen the numbers increase.

Ms. Suwana Gauntlett, Wildlife Alliance, Cambodia:

- Currently there are two reintroduction opportunities in Cambodia, one in the Eastern plane on the north-east; and the Cambodian mountain range landscape on the south-west.
- The Eastern planes Core Zone is a 12,575 sq. kms with Mondulkiri, Seima, Phnom Prich and Lumphat. The tiger habitat there is an open deciduous forest and is very much like the Serangati 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. The prey in the cardamoms is very much the same as in the eastern plains but we don't know the densities yet.

- Importance of anti-poaching is to be recognized. We will also help the forest administration enforce the 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. Both will function 24x7 with a well-established informant system in the communities. We also have a wildlife hotline throughout the country that receives about 1,000 calls a year. This is a plan for the future for Cambodia. 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. There is also strong involvement of judiciary.



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

- 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. This task was very successfully tackled by the rehabilitation practice. 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 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 November 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, animals and human activities. In May 28, 2015 Uporny was released in the tiger's home territory of Nanaysky district in the Khabarovsk Krai province. Uporny had a collar equipped with GPS and remote release function. The distance covered by Uporny during this time was 700 km. So Uporny covered 141,7 km per month or between 2.8-6.0 km per day.

- The second center in Russia is the center for rehabilitation and reintroduction of Amur tigers and other rare animals in isolated forests in Nadezhdinsky district. Its area is 2.7 hectares. And in 2014 we prepared 6 young tigers that had been rehabilitated in this center.

Tiger Landscape Conservation and Habitat management: Indonesian Experience

- This is a collective effort of Indonesian government and partners across the Island. Tiger conservation work was started in 1994, when we assessed seven landscapes across the island and came up with our baseline. The assessment showed that Sumatra can hold up to 400 tiger individuals. But that assessment was not based on the whole landscape. Nearly 15 years later, in 2007, we had various meetings with best knowledge and as a result we got better tools, better knowledge, and a science based approach.
- We have two global priority landscapes, two regional landscapes and two data deficient landscape in the Northern Sumatra and the 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 Indonesian national tiger recovery plan. There is a sign based approach we have conducted between 2006 and 2009. We came up with a survey, where each landscape has an occupancy values.
- Our ultimate goal is to increase, to double our tiger population from 125 to 650 individual tigers. The question is that is it achievable? I can say yes, it is achievable. Now, to reach that target, we set our tiger landscape priorities on 6 major landscapes in Sumatra, with different approach of course. In Indonesia, we have a very low tiger density as compared to some tiger reserves in India. We have got 0.9 individuals for 100 sq. km in Aceh, and the highest is in southern Sumatra in Barisan Selatan where very effective intensive monitoring and protection regimes has been conducted by our partners with 3.7 individuals for 100 sq. km.
- Our actions between 2015 up to 2020 are discussed in our national strategy. The first is to meet METT standards which are set by our partners in WWF-Indonesia and NGO collaborations. We will also include a central ecosystem area which falls outside protected area systems.
- So, what I would like to highlight from this presentation is we are implementing different approach for different landscape. First is for the protected areas, wildlife reserves and natural reserves. Secondly, we improve and develop these species protection units and work with the local villagers and local community to set our community based forest protection. And for the forest concession and co-management, we also adopt different



approach such as improvement on the HCV management, develop best management practice and implement SMART patrol as well.

13:00-14:45
hrs

TECHNICAL SESSION 2: Anti-poaching, protection, illegal trade and trafficking

CO-CHAIRS: Minister of Myanmar and Mr. Azzedine Thomas Downes, President & CEO, IFAW



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

- M-stripes is 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 consul how the guards are actually patrolling in the field and the information on real technology guided patrol. So the patrol module consists of what is there in all other software as well. It has track logs, where the patrol goes up and information collected as a way point, mostly of illegal activities, like poaching, snares, traps, burning, campfires etc. Then you have animal sign encounters that tell you about species distribution across this but this is not the primary purpose of patrol. We have a separate ecological module for doing that but

this is incidental observations that might be of interest. Then we have human impact like grazing, livestock presence, woodcutting, signs of lopping and lastly we have animal mortalities.

- The output from this module is very simple. You have species trends shown on a map where you can see that yellow means that the status has remained as status quo, green means an increase in a special scale, red means a decline. So a manager can readily see where populations are in trouble and where they are actually improving. This eventually can be correlated with the patrol effort.



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

- 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 a100 per year. India, as you would expect, accounts for the greatest number of seizures because of the size of the wild tiger population. Most significantly, in the past 4 years, it is Indonesia where the greatest number of tigers have been seized.
- 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 and the links to crime remembering that an important principle of crime prevention coming back to the chair's remark just now, about trying to prevent this from happening in the first place is the understanding that crime is highly concentrated on particular people, particular locations and particular commodities. 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 which spans a number of imp.



- If we look at what has happened since 2009, the proportion of skins and bones seized in trade have decreased overall. Again looking at groups of incidents and what it tells us in terms of the Mekong countries, the prevalence of whole tiger specimens that have been seized- live and dead accounting for almost 1/3rd of seized tigers.

- To conclude - the usefulness, utility of this data is really about how it helps Tiger Range Countries and mandated law

enforcement agencies target their Efforts most effectively. This is based on what we do with the data. We would like to think that it could be developed further into best practice data management looking at intelligence led efforts to identify crime enablers to direct resources based on the identification of need, concentrated, the profiling of those involved in illegal tiger trade helping to prevent this from happening. Intelligence and law enforcement can be catalyzed by better information base and such of this baseline information can be used in prosecutions and penalties to increase the deterrent for this trafficking syndicates and individuals involved.

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

- This is 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, on tigers. 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 idea is that it is either we implement zero poaching or there will be no wildlife.

The vision is a world free of poaching. 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 the Tigers 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 let us know.



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

- In 2011, Interpol 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 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. We consider in policing, in law enforcement as an enforcement chain, as we move towards addressing the various vulnerabilities associated with ensuring the security of tigers.
- The enforcement chain can be summarized in to 5 main steps- enforcement, analysis, investigation, arrest and prosecution.
- Tactical analysis is where we are working with other member countries and as I said different countries are at different levels along the entire chain of capability. We have principally been working in south Asia on the first instance and we will be soon transitioning around this domain into South East Asia. We in Interpol and our member countries, the 13 Tiger Range Countries have been working towards convening 2-3 member countries to talk about investigations.



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

- SAWEN Secretariat is located in Kathmandu, and in our 8 member countries. SAWEN Secretariat in Kathmandu is a small organization working in our department and it has broad objectives to co-ordinate and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies together with international partners.
- SAWEN is focusing on three parts. Firstly, to institutionalize the SAWEN Secretariat. Secondly, partner with international donors and other stakeholders and enforcement response and enhancements. And thirdly, SAWEN would like to be a very independent and an inter-governmental organization.
- Second part of the presentation is 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

- Technology is being used both in prevention of wildlife crime in intelligence collection, detection and investigation of wildlife crime. I will run you through them as far as technology is concerned to prevention. We have this E-Eye which is used in some of our Tiger Reserves. It helps us in locating, capturing movement of the wild animal, movement of staff and also movement of poachers. We also have the camera traps which helps us in capturing the images of the poacher if he is lurking there, 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.
- Acoustic traps- this is another very interesting concept. It is a technology based application, any sound that may come from gunshot, iron clang or it from chainsaws- is immediately transported across. And sometimes as it so often happens also, this acoustic traps are also connected to drones and immediately in hearing of the sound, the drones are flown across this area and it captures the image and whatever the image conveyed, you can accordingly take action.
- Metal detectors which help us in finding or locating the wild snares, the metal traps.
- We have the VHF and the GPS telemetry system that are being often used across many nations. We also have the UAV, drones and the micro-copters again. These micro-copters and drones can be positioned for along point of time at one place so they can capture images and transport them.
- Across nations, we also have SMART, which is being used today even in Nepal and some other nations. We have PAWS – Protection Assistance through Wildlife Security which works on the same principle.
- We have electronic surveillance, which basically helps in digital stamping that takes place in the use of mobiles, E-Mails, in ATM, internet, railway, airline booking and with the help of this, probably you can have or ensure that ok, you have a data bank before you. We need to look today into Facebook, twitter, into the open sources intelligence, the websites, the Darknets, the Deepweb.



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



- With 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 the tigers. The tools that can be used to track changes in critical tiger habitat 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

- 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.
- TRAFFIC convened a meeting of experts in Hong Kong in 2011 to discuss the type of approaches, principles and process that might be involved in order to deliver against this and change behavior. One of the processes that came out of this discussion was 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, cross referencing that against behavior change models, the recent frameworks. There are many in social sciences disciplines. Also communications, luxury goods marketing- these apply to such sorts of models quite regularly. So it is a great opportunity for us to use the insights through that process for the benefit of tigers and other endangered species. By developing a marketing framework which then underpins your initiative implementation. So overall, a very logical approach to changing behavior through these five steps.
- A second presentation from TRAFFIC International was on adopting a holistic approach for reducing wildlife trade particularly focusing on reducing market availability through effective law



enforcement, understanding the enforcement chain and demand reduction through behavioral change efforts to dissuade consumption of illegal wildlife products.

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 elephants 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, whatever 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.

DAY II : 13th April 2016

9:00-10:00 hrs MINISTERIAL PRESENTATIONS: Report on status/progress of GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plans/commitments	
CO-CHAIRS <i>Russian Federation and Nepal</i>	
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	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, NTCA
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.

Below is a brief outline of the discussion and focal issues highlighted by each of the state representatives –

- Bangladesh: Highlighted the strong legislations the country has adopted specially Section 18(A) to protect and improve environment to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests and wildlife for present and future citizens. They have also successfully formed Village Tiger Response Team (VTRT) to mitigate Human Tiger Conflict. Additionally, as an important initiative towards securing trans-boundary collaborations, Bangladesh signed a MoU with India and one Protocol for protection and monitoring of tigers in Sundarbans.



- Bhutan: The presentation focused on the strong significance of tiger conservation in the Trans-boundary Manas Conservation Area. It also focused on the importance of framing of conservation plans with 50% of the country's landscape under Protected Areas and tigers roaming freely from 100m to 4500m above sea level. Strongly believing in the 'bottom-up' approach, the country outlined the various scientific and SMART patrolling and surveillance tools and techniques adopted by them towards tiger conservation.

- Cambodia: The ministerial presentation showed willingness to repopulate tiger populations in the country. They focused on the selection of two sites i.e. the eastern landscape followed by western landscape in Cambodia. Taking forward these efforts, they also highlighted the introduction of SMART in 2014 into all of the Protected Areas and delineation of minimum 15 days of patrol per month.



- China: Although a much lower figure was quoted in the recent release of global tiger numbers, representatives from China highlighted the considerable increase in the tiger number from 17 to 27 in 2016. They also spoke about the possible signing of agreements between China and India towards saving the tigers and acknowledged the need of stronger political will to conserve tigers in the region.



- Indonesia: With a considerable area of the country under forest cover (approx. 7,000 sq. km), the presentation focused on their long term strategic goals to double the number of wild tigers by securing source of populations within the large and viable Sumatran tiger conservation landscapes; and maintaining connectivity between the Protected Areas and populations. One of the major achievements focused was of creating a legal basis to protect tiger habitats outside of Protected Areas and implementing this within and between the priority tiger landscapes.

- India: The presentation highlighted the importance of framing legislations to ensure protection of tiger habitat and enhancement of penalties, strengthening the sectoral coordination and setting practices for industries, community participation to address human-tiger interface. It also highlighted the need to lead by example of successful reintroduction of tiger and its prey species; and undertaking a series of capacity building programs for veterinarians,



managers, frontline staff and researchers for successful reintroduction of prey and tigers. It also drew attention to the remarkable increase in the budget of NTCA.

- Lao PDR: Representative from Lao PDR focused primarily on the importance of corridor linking and intensive patrolling for the successful implementation of tiger conservation plans in the country.

11: 00 -12:15 hrs MINISTERIAL PRESENTATIONS (contd.): Report on status/progress of GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plans/commitments	
CO-CHAIRS: <i>China and Bhutan</i>	
Report on GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plan/commitments	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
RUSSIA: Progress of GTRP/NTRP implementation	Artem Sidorov, Head of Federal Supervisory, Natural Resources Management Service
Thailand: GTRP Implementation	Thailand



- Malaysia:** The presentation highlighted the collaborations developed between the Department of Wildlife and National Parks with the armed forces in tiger protection. Some of the key priority actions flagged by the country were implementation of 1st National Tiger Survey, strengthen capacity to patrol priority tiger habitats, providing alternative economic opportunities for locals to mitigate human-tiger conflict, and manage wildlife corridors for the safe movement of tigers and prey.





- Myanmar: The country representative briefly described the current status of tiger conservation and status of GTRP implementation in the country. It also discussed the formation of tiger protection units and an urgent need to adopt trans-boundary conservation approach with neighboring countries such as China and India to conserve tiger populations.

- Nepal: Increase in the number of tigers as per their recent surveys, and willingness to maintain and restore corridors, both within the country and trans-boundary, were some of the highlights of the ministerial presentation from Nepal. It also highlighted concern towards growing wildlife trade and seizure of 13 tiger skins and body parts as efforts to strongly curb poaching and illegal trade at the international level.



- Russian Federation: One of the major highlights of the presentation was the increase in number of Amur tiger population in the country from 360 in 2010 to 465 in 2016. It also gave a detailed description on establishment of scientific monitoring and surveillance system adopted by the country and development of protocol for selective logging.



- Thailand: In addition to the current status of tigers in the country, the presentation discussed the key implementation activities undertaken by the country which included adoption of SMART patrolling system, tiger protection and habitat restoration, encourage community participation and cooperation, strengthening legislation, scientific monitoring systems and corridors. It also highlighted the collaborations with Collaboration with agencies such as CITES, Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network, AEAN-WEN etc. to curb poaching and illegal trade of tiger derivatives.



12:15-13:00 hrs MINISTERIAL PRESENTATIONS (contd.): Report on status/progress of GTRP/NTRP implementation and future plans/commitments

CO-CHAIRS: *Malaysia and Bangladesh*

Tiger Conservation Program in Vietnam

Presentation by Minister from Kyrgyz Republic/ GSLEP Secretariat on Snow Leopard Conservation



- Vietnam: The ministerial presentation briefly described the current activities undertaken by the country for tiger conservation which included establishment of priority tiger conservation areas, developing monitoring programs, strengthening the management and supervision of tiger conservation programs and improving effectiveness of the prevention and combating poaching of tiger and their prey. It laid special focus on strengthening border cooperation with neighboring countries, and willingness to decrease demand for tiger parts and its derivatives and increasing the protection level.



- The presentations concluded with insightful inputs from the minister of Kyrgyz Republic and the GSLEP Secretariat on Snow Leopard Conservation who drew parallels with tiger and snow leopard conservation. They also highlighted the possibility for an overlap between conservation of these two flagship species in India, Russia, Nepal, Bhutan and China where both species occur.

14:00-15:30 hrs	TECHNICAL SESSION 3: Business and Industries: Panel Discussion
MODERATOR	Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India
PRESENTERS	
Dr. Lawrence Allen, Clemson University	Economic value of Parks, Reserves and Wildlife
Dr. Madhu Verma, IFM	Economic valuation of Tiger Reserves in India: A value+ approach
PANELISTS	
Mr. Raghav Chandra, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India; Dr. Alwyn Didar Singh, FICCI; Mr. Keshav Verma, CEO, GTI Council; Mr. Hemendra Kothari, Member (NTCA) and Dr. Anupam Joshi, The World Bank	



The 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.



benefit sharing mechanisms.

Following this, Dr. Madhu Verma, 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

After the lead presentations stressed on assessing the ecosystem services derived from the 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 that needs to be sustained.

15:45 – 17:30 hrs	TECHNICAL SESSION 4: Resource Mobilization: Panel Discussion
MODERATOR	Mr. Keshav Verma, CEO, GTI Council
PRESENTER	
Ms. Midori Paxton, UNDP	Financing Tiger Conservation
PANELISTS	
Ms. Yoko Watanabe, GEF Ms. Mary Melnyk, USAID Ms. Kseniya Lvovsky, World Bank Dr. Anish Andheria, WCT Dr. Sugoto Roy, IUCN (KfW) Dr. Chris Hails, WWF –International	



The 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 –

- 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 million in 2012.
 - 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.
 - 20 projects in 12 landscapes have been financed by GEF since 2010.
 - Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest single source of climate finance with a 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.
 - Other potentials highlighted were the 7 pragmatic approach of GEF and the possibility of aligning national projects with National Tiger Action Plan.
 - EU BD investment priorities - in tiger and IWT and develop linkages between species and biodiversity conservation in broader area.
 - Work towards the sustainability of the global tiger recovery program with three major components of the project being (a) Global and national monitoring framework for GTRP, (b) Financial sustainability of tiger conservation and (c) Knowledge generation and sharing for enhance cooperation between TRCs.
 - Strategies under financing component also underlined possibility for multi donor trust fund supported by private sector dialogue platform and new sustainable domestic funding.
 - Putting light on private sector engagement, the presentation focused on the presence of 357 Forbes listed companies are in TRCs, need to establish new sustainable domestic funding mechanism and articulate link between tiger conservation and people welfare.
- 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 and more are in the pipeline in coming year. He also emphasized that tiger conservation initiatives shall be linked with community based work, minimise Human Wildlife Conflict, ensuring sustainable livelihood and protected area management.



- 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.
 - Need to mobilize and utilize funds and develop a committed action plan and themes on increase agriculture practice, aquaculture, natural resource protection, livelihood progress, green smart infrastructure, landscape approach.
- Dr. Chris Hails, WWF International, spoke on the necessity of fund raising campaigns, individual donors, monitoring framework for GTRP, retaining major donors, building linkages tiger conservation and livelihood.
 - He also emphasized that donor wants to see the larger tangible benefits
 - Address fundamental/underline problems such as being cautious in accepting funds and particularly not taking funds from corporate which does not follow sustainable business.
- Ms. Yoko Watanabe talked about GEF's initiatives towards tiger conservation in the tiger range countries. She said that GEF is investing USD120million in 22 projects pledged USD 200million 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 corporate world.

DAY III: 14th April 2016

8:30- 9:10 hrs TECHNICAL SESSION 5: Capacity Building and Leadership	
CO-CHAIR: Lao PDR and Thailand	
PRESENTATIONS	
Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange for Tiger Conservation	Bruno A. Laporte, CEO - LEADERSHIP, KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING, LLC
Knowledge management, exchange of best practices platform, communication and networking	Dr. Brett Wright, Clemson University, USA/ Mahendra Shrestha, Smithsonian Institution
Status on Rangers across Tiger Range Countries	Mr. Rohit Singh, Tigers Alive Initiative, Cambodia



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 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 into the lessen demand for tiger parts.

- All TRCs should have excellence centre for tiger research and professional training institutes.



9:10- 10: 00 hrs TECHNICAL SESSION 6: Sustainable development and Smart Green Infrastructure: Panel Discussion

MODERATOR	Dr. VB Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India
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PRESENTATION

Sustainable development and Smart Green Infrastructure	Ms. Neha Vyas, World Bank
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Sustainable development and Smart Green Infrastructure	Dr. Bilal Habib, WII
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PANELISTS

Mr. Deshratan Gupta, Director, Ministry of Railways, India

Mr. Ravi Singh, CEO, WWF-India

Dr. S. P. Sharma, GM (Env) National Highway Authority of India

Mr. Keshav Varma, CEO, GTI Council

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 Verma mentioned that

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 and NHAI 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.



10:00-10:10 hrs

Networking future Tiger conservation leaders

PRESENTATION

Experience sharing by Mr. 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 organisations over 60 countries. They allocate grants through their multi-national species conservation fund and in particular, the rhino and tiger conservation fund. The United States government thereby allocates funds to support critical tiger conservation projects within

countries.

10:30 – 11:45 hrs	Finalisation and adoption of the Declaration on tiger conservation by the TRC Ministers
CO-CHAIRS	Ministers of India and Bhutan



The three-day 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation concluded with the finalisation and adoption of the Delhi Resolution on Tiger Conservation, led by India's Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

New Delhi Resolution on Tiger Conservation
3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation
April 14, 2016, New Delhi, India

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.

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.



PLEDGE FOR TIGER CONSERVATION

I recognize and value,

- That tiger is an umbrella species with charisma, and is the flagship indicator of a balanced ecosystem;
- That a balanced ecosystem is crucial for life support, while providing numerous ecological services to the society;
- Being aware that the status of wild tiger is highly endangered in its natural habitat across Tiger Range Counties with a declining global population;

I hereby solemnly pledge:

- to protect the tiger and its wild habitat to ensure crucial ecological services for posterity;
- to contribute for fostering awareness for tiger conservation by factoring in its concern in areas where tiger is not the goal;
- to work for a balance between tiger conservation and ecologically sustainable development towards harmonious co-occurrence of human beings and the tiger;
- commit to conserve our natural heritage while making all efforts for the future sustenance of wild tiger.



Valedictory Session - Vote of thanks

Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Secretary, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, Director General of Forest and Special Secretary, Govt. of India, Your Excellencies, Ministers from Tiger Range Countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia Nepal, Russia and Minister from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, senior officials from all Tiger Range Countries and from states in India, Distinguished Delegates, thank you so much for your active participation, your interventions and deliberations, with those the focus on the wild tiger has sharpened. At the outset, I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for sparing his valuable time to inaugurate this very important conference. Ladies and gentlemen, this has been a historic moment in the annals of tiger conservation. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister's inspirational speech has invigorated all of us and has been rightfully acclaimed. The Prime Minister has highlighted almost all issues that need to be addressed on the tiger front. I am glad that this has shaped the deliberations which have resulted in the outcome of this resolution which all of us have adopted. I wish to place on record my deep appreciation and gratitude to our Honorable Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India Shri Prakash Javadekar. He has always been a source of inspiration and encouragement. Ever since he assumed office, many milestone initiatives have been taken on the tiger front. The most notables are the 3 new Tiger Reserves which have been added to Project Tiger and the important standard operating procedures which have been firmed up apart from smart patrolling protocols. I am confident under his leadership, India will continue to take more proactive milestone initiatives and set an example as always. I am grateful in particular to Mr. Ashok Lavasa, the Secretary for MoEF&CC. He has been constantly reviewing the arrangements, encouraging us and has been overseeing. We are grateful to him. We are grateful to the Director-General of Forest and Special Secretary, Dr. S. S. Negi for his encouragement and support. I thank Mr. Yeshey Dorji, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Forest, Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman, Global Tiger Forum for his kind words and guidance to the GTF. Under his stewardship, the GTF has revamped itself for a larger mandate as an implementing arm of the GTI council. We are grateful to your Excellencies, the ministers from all tiger range countries, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan for your active participation. We thank the various forest ministers from tiger states in India for their valuable interventions and inputs. I thank all the delegates for their invaluable contributions in shaping this important tiger resolution. I thank the govt. of India once again for hosting this conference and the collaborators, in particular, the WWF India, WCT, global tiger initiative council Mr. Keshav Varma, Andrey Kushlin, Andrew Zakharenka, and others of esteemed for the support and encouragement. I thank all the supporting staff for their invaluable and unstinting support. I wish you a very safe journey and those who are on their way to the field trips, I wish them a very rewarding experience. Thank you so much.

Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, GTF

Valedictory Session - Vote of thanks *contd...*

Thank you very much Sir. Taking on from the vote of thanks that Dr. Rajesh Gopal has proposed without wasting much time, I would like to mention the role of our Hon'ble Minister without whose guidance perhaps the way the Conference has gone would not have been possible along with our Secretary and DG on an advisory committee. I would like to place on record, the appreciation to the core committee of the NTCA for organizing this 3rd Asia ministerial conference. I would like to mention by name, Dr. H.S. Negi, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, and Dr. Vaibhav Mathur. Mr. S.P Yadav who had been anchoring all throughout the Conference, deserves a really big hand. Along with that I would like to mention and extend my vote of thanks to press and media who had captured the whole conference. And special thanks to all the Ministers and Delegates from the tiger range countries and all the participants who delivered and we arrived to such common resolution for long way to go for conservation of tigers. With this, thank you very much and have a safe journey to your countries.

Mr. B. S. Bonal, IFS
Member Secretary, NTCA and ADG, Project Tiger