## CHINA TIGER RECOVERY PLAN 2010 - 2022

### National Plan for Recovery of Wild Tiger Population

A number of factors that have arisen as a result of historical developments have placed the wild tiger population in China in an extremely endangered state. In response?a series of measures have been taken in the form of laws and regulations, in development of nature reserves, in restoration of habitat, in cracking down poaching and illegal trade to save the wild tiger populations in China . Such efforts have led to a gradual but constant trend of increase in the population of wild tigers, and of the extension and improvement of their habitats in China. Furthermore, China will determinedly continue its efforts to extend and ameliorate various habitats for the wild tiger population, whilst also exploring the reintroduction of captive bred tigers into their original range areas. The state will strengthen management and law enforcement in the field of conservation, and facilitate the spread of information for public education in order to create an optimum environment that will allow for a successful recovery of wild tiger population. This should result in a significant growth of wild tiger populations and large-scale extension of the ameliorated habitats across China by 2022, while biodiversity found in the range areas of wild tigers would receive stricter protection and become much richer as a result of recovery.

#### 1. Basic Information

## 1.1 Basic Information of the Population of Wild Tigers in China

Four subspecies of tiger are found in China: The Siberian (Amur) tiger (Panthera Tigris altaica), South China tiger (Panthera Tigris amoyensis), Indo-Chinese tiger (Panthera Tigris corbetti) and Bengal tiger (Panthera Tigris Tigris). The total sum of the wild individuals of all four subspecies existing in China is estimated to be about 40-50.

For the Amur tiger (P.T. altaica), the number of wild individuals has grown from 12-16 by end of the last century to the current population of 18-22. Their range of distribution is currently limited to the mountain areas connecting Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces with Russia and the eastern mountains nearby. For the South China tiger, despite occasional reports of sporadic traces suggesting its presence, there has not been a confirmed expert sighting for more than 20 years in the wild. For the Indo-Chinese tiger, there are

about 11-16 wild individuals living in Xishuangbanna and Huanglianshan Nature Reserve, an area of Yunnan province bordering with Laos and Vietnam. For the Bengal tiger, there are about 8-10 wild individuals living in the forests of southeastern Tibet, bordering India. Given the limited technology and reduced capacity of surveys and monitoring available in the past, more scientific and

reliable methods using more sophisticated technology need to be adopted today in order to create a more accurate picture of both the current population dynamics and the current habitat of wild tigers in China.

## 1.2 Great Efforts the Chinese Government Has Undertaken to Save Wild Tigers

China is not only a tiger range State, but the tiger has a long history in Chinese culture. Due to its great ecological and cultural significance, the Chinese government has been continuously contributing its great efforts in improvement of laws and regulations, huge investment of substantial?financial and personnel resources, enhancement of law enforcement etc. to save the wild tigers from its endangered state, and by now, a series of outcomes have been achieved from the efforts as following:

- 1.2.1 In 1988, the State Council of China approved listing of tiger as the species under national key protection at the first class so as to save and protect them legally.
- 1.2.2 China has established 33 nature reserves and more than 70 conservation management stations in the range area of wild tigers to form a basic network of tiger conservation to undertake patrolling of the habitat and antipoaching of wild tigers and their prey animals to secure the populations of wild tigers and their habitats.
- 1.2.3. Since 2000, in combination with the national programs for Natural Forest Protection, Recovery of Farmland for Forest, and Wildlife Conservation & Nature Reserve Development, China has been actively facilitating the recovery and amelioration of habitats for wild tiger populations.
- 1.2.4. China has started a pilot trial of governmental compensation for injury of local residents and

their domestic, and property losses caused by wild tigers and their prey animals since 2007.It has greatly facilitated the public understanding and support for the protection of wild tigers from local communities in wild tiger distribution areas, with their legitimate rights being safeguarded.

- 1.2.5. China has been continuously enhancing law enforcement to fight against illegal activities of poaching of wild tigers and smuggling and illegal trading of tiger products including tiger bone and skins, and a number of illegal cases have been arrested with criminals being punished severely. The efforts have effectively resulted in decline of the concerned illegal activities. In December of 2009, the State Forestry Administration of China issued yet another special notification to require further law enforcement efforts in combating smuggling and illegal trade of tiger products, and strengthening regulation and supervision of captive bred tigers as well sealed storage of their carcasses and body parts.
- 1.2.6. China has been vigorously carrying out a series of public awareness and education campaigns on tiger conservation, which has greatly improving public understanding of tiger protection. Now, public support has become important social force for tiger conservation.
- 1.2.7. Since 1993, China has not approved the sale or use of any tiger bone even for medical purposes, enduring huge economic losses to fulfill its international obligations. It is a tremendous contribution for global tiger conservation. Meanwhile, China has implemented a permit system for activities concerning captive breeding of bred tigers while stringent requirements in technology, condition, provenance and other categories has been applied. Also, for the activities concerning captive breeding of tiger, a series of technical tools including written documents, microchipping and storage of DNA samples for every individuals are adopted to ensure strict supervision.
- 1.2.8. China has been paying its highlight to international cooperation on tiger conservation and has signed bilateral governmental protocols with India and Russia. It has also conducted a series of collaborative activities in field survey of wild tiger, information exchange, personnel training, law enforcement seminars etc. with other countries and organizations. Now, the collaborative activities have resulted in remarkable achievements.

### 1.3 Problems Facing China and its Strategy

Careful analysis of the major limiting factors facing the restoration and expansion of the extant wild tiger populations and their habitats in China has revealed the following: 1) Wild tigers live in limited and fragmented areas where they are isolated from each other and have difficulty in accessing other suitable habitat; 2) Poor habitat quality and a severe insufficiency in prey resources; 3) Human activities seriously interfere with the activities of wild tigers and their prey, illegal hunting and snaring still exists, directly threatening wild tigers in particular; 4) Severe genetic problems are faced by extremely small populations as a result of limited effective breeding opportunities leading to inbreeding or no breeding options whatsoever. Furthermore, the fact that wild tigers can harm humans and their domestic livestock, as well as requirements restricting certain activities therefore affecting the livelihood of local communities for the sake of wild tigers protection, will all affect the effectiveness and sustainability of conservation measures.

Given the above problems, a comprehensive study needs to be conducted over the tigers' distribution area to ascertain the current status of the habitat in the surrounding areas as well as the local current livelihood. Systematic engineering measures need to be taken and policy guarantees need to be provided to promote the expansion and improvement in quality of habitat and to reduce interference from human beings. Field patrolling and law enforcement and supervision need to be strengthened to fight against illegal hunting of tigers and other wild animals and to curb smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products. Continuous and systematic scientific research and monitoring need to be developed to ensure timely understanding of the population dynamics and evaluation of habitat quality, so as to provide a basis for an intensification of efforts to aid conservation and habitat improvement. Methods need to be enhanced for the prevention of damages to humans and domestic stock by wild tigers and a compensation system relating to direct losses needs improving. Further, a pilot area must be established for the re-introduction of South China Tiger in the initial stage. Based on experience gained thereof and relevant study results, the natural release area will be gradually extended to meet the requirements for stable and sustainable living of at least 2-3 wild populations of the subspecies.

Another crucial item requiring attention is that it is only with the understanding and support of local people for wild tiger populations and habitat conservation that the objectives of conservation can be assured. But successful conservation requires necessary constraints over the methods of production and the way of life of local people to be put in place. It is easy to trigger conflicts between conservation activity and local communities that will directly hinder sustainable conservation. Therefore, while the conservation of wild tigers and their habitat is being strengthened, public education needs to be vigorously developed, and the needs of economic development and livelihood improvement for local residents must be taken into account at the same time. Proactive guidance shall be given to change the methods of production and ways of living that are incompatible with sustainable conservation, support shall be given for exploration into new means of local economic development that are favorable to sustainable conservation. Efforts shall also be made to promote the integration of policies concerning the protection of wild tigers and their habitat with those concerning local economic development and improvements in quality of life, to achieve coordinated and sustainable development.

### 2. Strategic Goals?2010-2022?

In order to save and facilitate the growth of wild tiger populations of each subspecies in the country, China will take a series of measures including vegetation rehabilitation, establishment of adequate ecological corridors between habitats, intensification of field patrols and monitoring of these conservation areas, exploration of tiger re-introduction, and the introduction of adequate methods of economic development in combination with a national program for protection of natural forest, recovery of farmlands for forests, nature reserve development, etc. It is expected to achieve a significant growth of wild tiger populations together with large-scale extension, and quality optimization of wild tigers habitats being achieved by 2022. Under the umbrella, biodiversity of the areas shall be also conserved much better and the livelihoods for local people shall be improved with the manners for their economic development becoming more tiger-friendly under appropriate guidance and assistance.

#### 3. Priorities and Actions

China will focus on the following areas to promote population growth of wild tigers in the country based on population and habitat information, relevant conservation management, scientific research, law enforcement and supervision currently available.

## 3.1 Conservation, extension and amelioration of wild tiger habitats, and trial reintroduction.

Based on systematic research and scientific evaluation, measures will be adopted for vegetation rehabilitation, introduction of prey resources and an overall ban on hunting in current wild tiger distribution areas as well as their surrounding areas or in other adequate areas suitable for future connection through ecological corridors. The objectives are to achieve maximum expansion of tiger activity range and a notable improvement in habitat quality, and to achieve genetic exchanges among key isolated population groups through restoration and optimization of the habitat in ecological corridors to ensure the continuous growth of the wild tiger population by 2022. In addition, pilot areas will be established at adequate sites for the re-introduction of captive-bred South China Tiger into the wild so that monitoring and study of the released individuals can be conducted, and preparation can be undertaken for gradual expansion of the natural release area as well as establishment of wild populations of the subspecies.

### Action 1: Survey and identify priority areas.

To identify priority areas for wild tiger conservation and restoration in this stage based on survey and subsequent evaluation of the current distribution area and areas planned for extension and natural release.

Main activities in this action consist of:

- To collect information on topography, vegetation, roads and residents in tiger distribution areas and the surrounding areas, develop field surveys and evaluate its biotope if necessary, come up with the extent of habitat and ecological corridors for future extension, and identify action zones for this stage.
- To survey, select and identify re-introduction zones for amoyensis in its historical distribution range.
- To conduct planning for the above zones following legal procedures in order to prevent irreversible damages to the biotope caused by inappropriate construction. The plan will be used to guide and guarantee the implementation of actions through a sequence of steps and stages.
- To establish GIS for action zones of wild tiger conservation and restoration.

Projected outcome: The conservation and restoration range will be identified with legal guarantees through effective planning, and the relevant GIS will provide effective data and information to support conservation actions.

# Action 2: Habitat conservation, extension and optimization for wild Siberian (Amur) tigers.

In Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces, a series of measures including vegetation restoration and rehabilitation, overall ban on hunting, necessary and scientific introduction of prey resources, etc will be undertaken in the areas with Siberian tigers living in currently and their future potential range areas and in the corridor areas. It shall result in habitat extension and quality optimization and increase in prey density to satisfy the needs of population growth of Siberian tigers.

#### Main activities:

- To study and draft technical guidance of habitat restoration for wild population of Siberian tigers.
- To implement an overall ban on hunting in currently existing range areas of wild Siberian tigers and their surrounding areas and ecological corridors; study and draft habitat restoration plans by region and by category.
- To select, in different vegetation areas, one to two locations, for a pilot demonstration of habitat restoration through recovery farmland to forest, change of inappropriate forests and vegetation, maintaining necessary grasslands and introduction of prey resources according to scientific guidelines.
- To extend habitat progressively in project areas based on the successful pilot studies and demonstrations in habitat restoration.
- To explore the necessity and feasibility of reintroducing captive-bred Siberian tigers into the wild.

#### Projected outcome:

Adequate zones for Siberian tigers will be extended, the density of prey resources will be increased, and fragmented habitat will be improved, therefore better satisfying the needs of a growing population of Siberian tigers, and promoting effective genetic exchanges among isolated species and populations.

### Action 3: Trial reintroduction of South China tigers.

Establish initial small-scale experimental areas selected through scientific assessment for the reintroduction of South China Tiger and ensure that such areas are conducive to the natural survival and reproduction of the re-introduced South China Tiger through vegetation revamp, implementation of an overall ban on hunting, and scientific introduction of prey resources. Extend such areas gradually to meet the needs of population growth based on the natural growth of their populations as well as study results.

#### Activities:

- To study and draft technical and management guideline for the re-establishment and management of trial habitats for reintroduction of South China tiger, and work out the detailed implementation plans to designate the trial areas.
- To undertake recovery of farmland for forests, change inappropriate forests and vegetations, maintain necessary grasslands, and reintroduce prey resources etc. in accordance with the guideline and implementation plan so as to prepare suitable habitats for the natural survival and reproduction of reintroduced South China tigers.
- To develop continuous monitoring and scientific assessment of the reintroduced South China tiger population and its habitat, identify and analyze problems and establish a working direction for next steps.
- To gradually extend the range of the trial areas to meet the natural growth needs of the reintroduced South China tiger populations based on scientific assessment.

Projected outcome: the natural survival, reproduction and sustainable development of reintroduced South China tiger population shall be achieved, and the biodiversity in this zone will be effectively protected and managed, further optimizing biodiversity of this habitat.

# Action 4: Habitat conservation, extension and optimization for Wild Indo-Chinese tigers.

In Yunnan province, to achieve large scale extension and quality optimization of the habitats for wild Into-Chinese tigers in priority areas including current distribution areas, their surrounding areas and ecological corridors through changing inappropriate forests and vegetation, overall ban on hunting and necessary and scientific introduction of prey resources which will increase prey density etc.. It is expected to improve the capacity of the areas for the growth of the wild population of the subspecies.

#### Activities:

- To study and draft technical guidance of habitat restoration and management for wild Indo-Chinese tigers.
- To implement an overall ban on hunting in identified project areas including current distribution zones, the surrounding areas and ecological corridors of the tigers, study and draft habitat restoration plans by region and by category.
- To select, in different vegetation areas, one to two locations, for pilot demonstrations of habitat restoration through farmland returning to forestry, monoculture forestry rehabilitation, adequate grass cover maintenance in forested land and scientific introduction of prey resources.
- To extend habitat recovery progressively in project areas based on successful pilot studies and demonstrations.
- To explore the necessity and feasibility of releasing captive-bred Indo-Chinese tigers into the wild.

Projected outcome: the areas suitable for wild Indo-Chinese tigers will be extended, the density of prey resources increased, and fragmented habitat improved, to better satisfy the needs of a growing population of the wild individuals.

## Action 5: Habitat conservation, extension and optimization for Bengal tigers.

In Xizang, the future efforts will focus on quality improvement of the habitats and enhancement of patrolling and monitoring in the areas. When necessary, ecological corridors should be established and necessary vegetation restoration and introduction of prey resources should be undertaken scientifically to increase prey density to meet needs of a growing population of the tigers.

#### Activities:

- To study and draft technical guidance for habitats restoration and management of wild Bengal tigers.
- To implement an overall ban on hunting in

- identified project areas including current distribution range, the surrounding areas and ecological corridors of the tigers; study and draft habitat restoration plans by region and by category.
- To select, in different vegetation areas, one to two locations, for pilot demonstrations of habitat restoration through farmland recovery to forests, inappropriate forests and vegetation revamping, necessary grass cover maintenance and scientific introduction of prey resources.
- To extend habitat amelioration progressively in project areas based on the successful pilot demonstrations.

Projected outcome: suitable habitat areas for wild Bengal tigers will be extended and in good linkage, density of prey resources increased to better satisfy the needs of a growing population of wild Bengal tigers.

# 3.2 Capacity building of conservation and monitoring units of wild tiger population and their habitats.

Efforts to strengthen the conservation and monitoring of tigers' population and habitat in wild tiger activity areas shall be made in the following aspects: intensify capacity building in management agencies in nature reserves and relevant conservation and monitoring agencies; improve infrastructure and replenish equipment; develop staff training with advanced technology; enhance quality of conservation and management staff; set up and perfect rules and regulations; and further promote standardized field patrol and monitoring. All these efforts are in line with the objective of ensuring the implementation of an overall ban on hunting to effectively prevent poaching and other human behaviors damaging tiger habitat, and to understand the population dynamics and habitat variation on timely basis in order to provide a scientific basis for an evaluation of conservation effectiveness and decision making for relevant conservation policies. The scope of Natural Reserves will be adjusted and a series of newly established conservation monitoring stations will be added in conservation 'blind zones' to achieve effective overall conservation measures and monitoring in wild tiger activity areas.

### Action 6: Increase conservation and monitoring stations in range areas of wild tiger populations.

Study the distribution of existing conservation and

monitoring stations in priority areas for wild tiger conservation and restoration, add conservation and monitoring stations in blank areas, identify the area of responsibility, establish a coordination system, and achieve overall conservation and monitoring in the priority areas.

#### Activities:

- To study and analyze the institutional arrangement in existing monitoring agencies involved in wild tiger conservation and action zones, and identify blind zones in conservation monitoring.
- To add new conservation monitoring agencies in blind zones.
- To adjust the scope of the existing natural reserves based on actual situation and scientific assessment & according to legal procedures when necessary.
- To divide areas of responsibility in wild tiger conservation and action zones, to identify areas of responsibility for each conservation monitoring agency to ensure that all action areas are covered.
   Projected outcome: achieve overall improvements in conservation policy outcomes through monitoring in all wild tiger conservation and restoration action areas, with clearly defined responsibilities for each area.

# Action 7: Capacity improvement for conservation and monitoring of wild tiger populations and their habitats.

Enhance the capacity of conservation monitoring agencies in the dynamic monitoring of wild tiger populations and habitat, in anti-poaching and coordination with local residents through perfecting regulations and systems, in improving facilities and equipment, and in increasing staff numbers and intensifying staff training.

#### Main activities:

- To allocate working staff and expand conservation monitoring management teams based on scope of responsibilities and degrees of difficulties of assignment.
- To improve working facilities in monitoring agencies, providing necessary equipment or renewing existing equipment available to working staff and make every attempt to introduce high-tech equipment for conservation monitoring.

- To study and draft conservation monitoring guidelines for wild tiger populations and its habitat to aid monitoring agencies in monitoring process according to a uniform plan.
- To organize professional training for monitoring staff.
- To set up coordination mechanisms among monitoring agencies through the establishment of regulations and systems, such as meeting systems, information notification systems, and joint action systems so as to ensure an overall and coordinated development on monitoring wild tiger populations and their habitat, anti-poaching, and joint community management.
- To assess conservation management results regularly to improve target-oriented monitoring measures and enhance efficiency.

Projected outcome: a more standardized and a more effective development of conservation monitoring of wild tiger populations and their habitat, a more timely and accurate understanding of the tigers' population and habitat dynamics, and more effective measures to stop anti-poaching and habitat destruction behavior.

# 3.3 Coordination of wild tiger conservation with local society and economic development.

In order to obtain their understanding and support, close attention must be paid to the needs of local communities concerning social and economic development and to guide them in a way compatible with wild tiger protection. In this regard, the key activities to be developed are: First, set up special funds for compensation of damages to humans, animals and crops caused by wild tigers so as to recognize the legal rights and interests of the local residents. Second, strengthen awareness campaigns to enhance awareness of tiger protection among local residents and disseminate risk-prevention knowledge by guiding them to develop ways of production and living conducive to tiger conservation. This can be achieved by means of establishing poster boards, signboards, information booklets and community education dissemination campaigns. Third, to effectively prevent and reduce damages to humans, animals and crops caused by tigers and their prey by placing scattered households in a more concentrated development, and by building fences and isolation ditches in areas frequently experiencing conflict with tigers and their prey. Fourth, study and explore the ways of livelihood and methods of production favorable to wild tiger and its habitat conservation, and extend such approaches through a system of pilots and demonstrations, micro-subsidies, technical guidance, and establishment of special funds so as to promote harmony of coordinated and sustainable development of local societies and economies with tiger conservation.

# Action 8: Compensation for the injury to human and property losses caused by wild tigers and their prey.

Through the establishment of earmarked funds, clear standards and procedures of compensation, strengthened supervision and inspections to ensure that the damages to humans, livestock and crops of local residents caused by tigers and their prey are rationally compensated, their legal rights and interests are suitably safeguarded, and human-tiger conflicts are alleviated.

#### Main activities:

- for compensation of losses to humans, livestock and crops caused by tigers and their prey, study and draft criteria and procedures for receiving compensation to ensure that local residents can successfully claim for any relevant losses they suffer.
- To establish special funds, study and draft utilization management and supervision methods of the funds, thus ensuring that relevant compensations are cashed on time.
- To regular and irregular checking over the use of funds, survey local residents over their attitudes towardscompensation.

Projected outcome: strive to obtain the public's basic satisfaction over compensation schemes, maintain their understanding of and support for tiger conservation, prevent any mood shift of local residents unfavorable to tiger conservation.

# Action 9: Active prevention of injury to humans and property losses from tigers and their prey.

Popularize personal safety knowledge among local residents; guide them in changing inappropriate behaviors and habitats through relocation of scattered households and establishment of prevention facilities so as to reduce frequency of loss to humans, livestock and crops caused by tigers and their prey.

- To popularize personal safety and conflictprevention knowledge through desploying warning signs, distributing education booklets and developing awareness and educational activities.
- To reduce the interference of human activities with those of wild tigers, their prey and habitat through the gradual concentration of settlements, replacing scattered households situated in areas with frequent tiger activity or in key ecological corridors.
- To take active prevention measures to avoid tiger attacks on people and livestock in more populated areas through establishing fences and isolation belts etc.
- To guide local residents to change their habit activities of raising free-range poultry and domestic animals in theforests to avoid tigers attack at most level.

Projected outcome: incidents of damage caused to humans and livestock by tigers and their prey will gradually decrease, losses reduced, interference of human activities with wild tigers, their prey and habitat alleviated progressively.

# Action 10: Demonstrate economic development models favorable to wild tiger conservation based successful pilot trials.

Survey, study and evaluate the methods of production and livelihood favorable to tiger conservation; extend such models step by step; provide guidance for coordinated and sustainable development of local community economies in harmony with the tiger and its habitat conservation through pilot schemes and demonstration; and obtain wider understanding, support and participation of local communities in conservation.

#### Activities:

- To conduct systematic surveys on methods of production and livelihood in local communities; assess impacts of various methods of production and livelihood on tigers, their preys and habitat; identify those economic behaviors in compatible with conservation that need to be altered.
- To study, with the cooperation of local communities, alternatives to current methods of economic development unfavorable to tiger conservation; to encourage sections of the local population to adopt pilot schemes and initiatives through micro-subsidies and technical guidance based on scientific assessment.

- To conduct timely evaluations of economic benefits and conservation effectiveness of the pilot schemes and gradually extend economic development alternatives that are effective, marketable and favorable to tigerconservation through a combination of demonstrations and subsidies.
- To integrate a supporting reward and punishment system with methods conducive to the elimination of behaviors unfavorable to tiger conservation; and achieve the coordinated and sustainable development of tiger conservation and livelihood improvement of local residents.

Projected outcome: the original methods of economic development practiced by local residents unfavorable to wild tigers conservation will be progressively altered; the economic activities favorable to conservation will gradually be extended; both improvements in conservation and in the livelihood of local residents are achieved; the willingness of the local residents to aid conservation will be further strengthened and local residents will become a major social force in the conservation of wild tigers.

# 3.4 Enhancement of law enforcement against poaching, smuggling and illegal trade of tiger products

In order to effectively curb poaching of tiger preys, smuggling and illegal trade of tiger products, law enforcement investigation, hotlines for public reporting illegal activities and international information exchanges must be adopted. This will provide a better understanding of the situation in key areas, key ports, border areas, markets and collection and distribution sites which are prone to smuggling and illegal sales of tiger products. For regional law enforcement agencies, efforts will be made to strengthen staff training and replenish equipment and detection devices so as to improve mechanisms that ensure more effective field patrols, creation of responsibility systems and vigorous law enforcement. All these will aid the effectiveness with which these law agencies can operate. Based on local circumstances, ad hoc joint inspections by law enforcement agencies and special crack-down operations will be conducted to implement a powerful policy of shock and awe. Besides this, a wide-ranging awareness and educational campaign will be developed to guide the public on voluntary resistance to illegal operations involving tiger products. A public reporting hotline will be established to encourage the public in the timely reporting of information on

criminal activities such as smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products. The public can, in this manner, play a pro-active role in law enforcement on wildlife protection, thereby increasing the strength and effectiveness with which law enforcement can function.

## Action 11: Strengthen capacity building in enforcement agencies.

Collect information on poaching, smuggling and illegal trade of tiger products through various channels; identify key areas, key ports, border areas, marketing and distribution centers; strengthen the training of law enforcement agency staff of the above mentioned authorities; replenish enforcement equipment and detection devices; improve the enforcement system so as to enhance enforcement effectiveness and curb illegal activities.

#### Activities:

- To determine through in-depth analysis the key areas, key ports, border areas, markets, collection and distributionsites for smuggling and illegal trade of tiger products through collecting information reported by public; and conduct active surveys and analysis of the market to assess trend and directions in smuggled products.
- To increase the collection of anti-smuggling intelligence, and deploy control mechanisms to avert risks, to improve the capacity to investigate and to solve smuggling cases involving tiger products. Crack down severely on criminal gangs smuggling tiger products through investigation methods such as detailed surveillance of the delivery chains of illegal tiger products, from the source of the poaching to the end buyer.
- To coordinate law enforcement agencies to replenish and improve target-oriented equipment and detection devices in their agencies in the areas mentioned above.
  - •To strengthen staff training and conduct law enforcement seminars in the above mentioned enforcement agencies to promote their awareness of responsibility on law enforcement as well as improve professional capacity.
- To establish an effective coordination mechanism to form joint forces of enforcement through the formulation of a patrol system, information notification system, joint conference system and accountability system etc.
- In areas where the situation is critical, multiagency joint enforcement inspections and special

crack-downs will be conducted; results of the investigation and treatment of illegal cases will be published in timely manner to form a strong campaign of shock and awe which will effectively curb criminal activities such as smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products.

Projected outcome: enforcement capacity against smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products will be strengthened; enforcement effectiveness will be increased with efficient curbing of the momentum on smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products.

### Action 12: Wide-spread media and education campaigns on tiger conservation.

Further raise public awareness of tiger conservation through newspapers and magazines, radio and TV broadcasting as well as special topic media campaigns; popularize laws and regulations on conservation; advocate public on voluntary resistance towards smuggling and operations involving illegal tiger products; and advocate active reporting by members of the public on illegal activities to provide strong support for conservation law enforcement.

#### Activities:

- To explain to the public the damage inflicted upon wild tiger populations as a result of smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products; to publicize related rules and regulations to strengthen the public's awareness of conservation through newspapers, magazines, radio and TV broadcasting.
- To conduct target-oriented awareness and educational campaigns through deploying information boards, warning signs and the organization of special topic awareness campaigns in key ports, border areas, markets, collection and distribution sites thus encouraging the public to take the initiative in giving up illegal activities such as the purchase of tiger products.
- To establish reporting phone lines; set up a reward and punishment system; and encourage the public to report on illegal activities.
- To widely disseminate information from important cases to facilitate the public understanding of the legal consequences of illegal activities, so as to achieve a more complete public education.

Projected outcome: public awareness will be significantly raised, encouraging volunteered

resistance to illegal operations involving tiger products and the use of such tiger products. The public will be more cooperative in reporting any illegal activities.

## 3.5 Extension of international cooperation and exchange on tiger conservation

A common understanding amongst tiger countries and international societies relating to tiger protection has been formed, and exchanges in knowledge and resources have strengthened the global campaign to save all wild tigers. The key for next step is to transform this common understanding formed amongst all sides into direct and joint action, especially in certain crucial areas, which are needed among the relevant international parties. China will proactively promote the mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among conservation management agencies and law enforcement units on both sides of its border, allowing rapid and effective information exchange, striving for joint monitoring activities in tiger range border areas and improving law enforcement effectiveness in border trading zones and ports through rapid exchange of law enforcement information; Communication and information exchange with concerned organizations including WCO, CITES, and Interpol should be strengthened. Various ways including international seminars, training courses and friend nature reserves etc. will be also adopted to increase exchange of wild tiger conservation expertise and technology accumulated from respective experiences in order to improve conservation and management on all sides.

## Action 13: Improve mechanisms for more effective international cooperation on tiger conservation

Promote the implementation of more effective international cooperation mechanisms based on current international cooperation framework for wild tiger conservation, so as to achieve more effective exchanges of technical experience, information sharing and coordinated action.

#### Activities:

 To strengthen communications between tiger countries through international seminars and mutual visits; to understand the concerns from different parties, exchange and share technology and experiences in tiger conservation, in antismuggling and anti-illegal trade operations involving tiger projects; and analyze issues facing global wild tiger conservation and explore the directions in which joint efforts must move.

- To promote the establishment of information exchanges between and cooperation amongst grass-roots conservation agencies in tiger distribution areas in border zones.
- To promote the exchange of information and cooperation among grass-roots law enforcement agencies in border areas and ports.
- To strengthen communication and information exchange with concerned international organizations including WCO, CITES, and Interpol etc. to help and guide actual law enforcement actions, and to improve capacity of local law enforcement units by introduction of advanced technologies and experience through the channels.

Projected outcome: achieve a multi-level, multiformat system for international information exchange and cooperation on wild tiger conservation, deepen mutual understanding and support amongst tiger range countries so as to enhance conservation effectiveness together.

### 4. Policy Framework

### **4.1 Existing Policies**

4.1.1 Years of efforts have led to the establishment of relevant laws and regulatory frameworks for tiger conservation management in China. All tigers are under national key protection at first class - which not only clearly specifies the conservation of their habitat and natural reserves, but also clearly states that all activities relating to the hunting, domestication and reproduction of tigers without permit, the sale, procurement, transportation, and smuggling of tigers and tiger products, are criminal. Those engaged in poaching, the illegal killing or illegal purchase, sale or transportation of tigers and tiger products, will be sentenced to no less than 10 years imprisonment in addition to fines and the confiscation of personal property. Those serious activities engaged in smuggling tiger products can receive a sentence of imprisonment for life, and their personal property will be confiscated. Further, given the status of global population of both wild tigers and captive-bred bred tigers, the State Council of China issued general orders in 1993 to fully ban the use of tiger bones in medicine or trade. This is a huge contribution to global wild tiger conservation.

- 4.1.2 A conservation network has been established consisting of natural reserves and grass-roots conservation management stations in wild tiger distribution areas. Programs such as natural forestry conservation and farmland returning to forestry are implemented; nature reserves have been established and wildlife conservation measures such as the restoration of prey populations, compensation for injuries and damages to humans, domestic animals and crops, strengthened patrol in tiger habitat and capacity building etc. have been taken. All these efforts have led to obvious achievements in wild tiger habitat optimization and population growth.
- 4.1.3 Multiple-department, multiple-level and multiple-link wildlife law enforcement system and coordination mechanisms are already established in China consisting of departments such as forestry, public security, industry & commerce administrations and customs etc. Capacity building is continuously strengthened through the replenishment of equipment, information exchanges, staff training and improvement of established systems. Tiger related cases are listed as priority enforcement areas, and regular & irregular inspections as well as special actions are developed playing an active role in investigations into and the treatment of smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products.
- 4.1.4 Chinese law explicitly requires: "when construction projects impact adversely on the environment of animals under state or local key protection regulations, the construction operator must submit environmental impact studies. The environmental protection agencies shall obtain comments from wildlife management departments of comparable administration levels during approval process." This provides a regulatory guarantee against unsuitable construction projects in the distribution areas of wild tigers.
- 4.1.5 Captive breeding of tigers is under strict supervision in China. A Permit system is in operation for the domestication and reproduction of tigers. A permit holder is required to establish and maintain strict management archives and a family tree system for each individual tiger. Particularly since 2007, microchip, gene samples and management information systems that can be searched via the internet have been adopted in

China, and the supervision of captive breeding agencies and individual tigers can be achieved through MIS.

## **4.2 Improvement Needed for Wild Tiger Protection Policy**

To enhance conservation of wild tigers and their habitat, China needs to improve its current policy of wild tiger conservation in the following aspects: 1) any conservation plan for wild tigers and their habitat needs to be examined and approved according to legal procedures before becoming legally binding; 2) the systems relating to conservation management of wild tigers need to be further improved at the grass root level in the following aspects: field patrols, monitoring and evaluation, accountability and interdepartmental coordination; 3) the following need to be further elaborated and clarified to better combat smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products: a market patrol system, an accountability system, a public reporting reward system, an interdepartmental coordination and joint action system

### 5. Capacity constraints

China is a developing country, thus a lot of constraints in tiger conservation and the capacity to fight smuggling and illegal operations involving tiger products exist due to a previous long-term insufficiency in investment. The constraints mainly include:

- Limited application of advanced technology: the primary methods hereto used for field patrol and monitoring in most of the areas, as well as equipment and facilities are still, at best, primitive.
- Poor conservation management: technical guidance or working manuals for standardized patrol and monitoring are not even supplied in many places.
- Understaffing and poor quality of staff is relatively common.
- Severe shortages in support capacity to guide local communities to change their means of production and livelihood unfavorable to conservation.

#### 6. Stakeholders

The stakeholders mainly include: central to local management authorities in charge of wildlife & plant

conservation and natural reserves, public security authorities, industry and commerce agencies, customs bureaus, financial departments, local communities, traditional industries such as traditional Chinese medicine, research institutes, nongovernmental conservation organizations, financial aid organizations, judicial organs, and media, etc.

### 7. Program Indicators

The following indicators will be employed to evaluate the outcomes:

The change in wild tiger population numbers, the expansion of tiger activity areas, variance of biotope found in the habitat, change in prey density, an increased occurrence of prosecution in cases involving law breaking relating to tigers or their habitat, improvements in the livelihood of local residents, establishment of monitoring stations and staffing for conservation management, and a change in threatening factors.

For the different priorities, different indicators will be employed to evaluate their results from the actions.

## 7.1 Conservation, extension and amelioration of wild tiger habitats

Evaluation indicators include: the number of GIS in wild tiger habitats, a change in wild tiger numbers, expansion of tiger activity boundaries, status of habitat rehabilitation demonstrations, change in prey density, tiger activities in ecological corridors, etc.

## 7.2 Capacity building of conservation and monitoring units of wild tiger populations and their habitats.

Evaluation indicators include: number of monitoring stations and range of their responsibilities, number of working staff, improvements in equipment and facilities, formulation and renewal of technical guidance and management manuals and relevant systems of patrol and monitoring, number and effectiveness of field patrols and monitoring, rate of occurrence of tiger-related criminal cases, and capture of illegal snares, etc.

# 7.3 Coordination of wild tiger conservation with local society and economic development.

Evaluation indicators include: injuries to humans and

domestic animals by wild tigers and their prey, crop losses, frequency of compensation distribution and amounts awarded, number of warning and awareness sign boards as well as the rationality of their locations, deployment of preventive measures against damages to humans, domestic stock and crops from tigers and their prey, understanding and application of personal safety knowledge among local residents, number of pilots and demonstrations applying methods of economic development favorable to tiger conservation, as well as annual income increases in pilot and demonstration households, a numerical increase of such demonstration households, an increased amount of supporting funds made available, a reduction of economic behavior unfavorable to tiger conservation, and etc.

# 7.4 Enhancement of law enforcement against smuggling and illegal trade of tiger products

Evaluation indicators include: the number of agencies and staff in key enforcement areas, an improvement in equipment and facilities, the formulation and renewal of different systems, the volume of training given to professional staff, records of market patrols and case investigations and treatment, the establishment of crime reporting hotlines and volume of reports, the investigation and treatment of reported cases, the number of joint inspections and special actions, the number of discovered illegal cases and their relevant treatment, etc.

## 7.5 Extension of international cooperation and exchange on tiger conservation

Evaluation indicators consist: the number of additional and/or renewed agreements or memorandums on international cooperation at all levels, the number of meetings, training sessions, mutual visits and participants at all levels, information exchange via different channels, the application and outcome of advanced international technology or management experiences, and etc.

### 8. Budget and Funding Sources

To ensure the implementation of the Actions mentioned above, huge amounts of funds are needed. A specific budget needs to be calculated according to the planning done in the different distribution areas of wild tigers.

Funds will be raised through the following channels based on the need for conservation actions:

- China central government and local government will provide necessary investment in combination with national programs for protection of natural forests and wildlife conservation & nature reserve development during the e c o l o g i c a l c o n construction of "12th five-year plan".
- Potential domestic and foreign financial aid.