

Precursor to the 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation - 1st Senior Officers' Meeting at Dehradun

The Global Tiger Forum (GTF), along with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Government of India is organizing the 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on tiger conservation in New Delhi from 12th to 14th April, 2016. As a step towards this, the first of the two senior officers' meeting was organized at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 20 and 21 January, 2016. The meeting was a precursor to the 3rd Ministerial conference for sharpening deliberations towards a meaningful outcome that would lead to enhanced tiger population in tiger range countries.



The meeting was attended by senior officers from five tiger range countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal) as well as senior representatives from the GTF, Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), NTCA, Uttarakhand Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

A presentation on the need for a differentiated approach for saving wild tigers was made by Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, GTF. He also elucidated the concept behind the development of the revised Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) forms that were circulated to each tiger range country earlier this year to effectively understand the present scenario and work to address identified gaps related to conservation of wild tigers. Mr. B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, NTCA gave an update on the preparations of the 3rd AMC and stated that the host country is making all the necessary efforts to ensure that this event leads to a major paradigm change in all the range countries for enhancing efforts and political will to ensure wild tiger conservation.

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII that the institute was well poised to work with the tiger range countries on areas of wildlife research and monitoring, forensics, and sustainable infrastructure around tiger bearing regions. Mr. Keshav Varma, CEO and Executive Director, GTI Council discussed the setting of the agenda for the meeting and expectations from the 3rd AMC.

Senior officers from each of the five countries made presentations on the status of the Global Tiger Recovery Program implementation and the revised KPIs, including resource, capacity gaps and priority actions for reaching towards the Tx2 (doubling the number for wild tigers by 2022) as endorsed by the range countries in the St. Petersburg Declaration. The requirements and expectations from each country for the 3rd AMC was discussed at length and the countries were also requested to prepare exhibits showcasing various efforts towards tiger conservation as well as associated implementation challenges.

Post the presentations by each country, the agenda for the 3rd AMC was discussed and participants gave the necessary inputs for each of the proposed technical session during the 3rd AMC. After the agenda was revised the first draft of the Delhi Declaration was prepared and more revisions in both the documents will be considered during the second senior officers meeting with the rest of the range countries to be held in Bangkok between 2nd to 4th March, 2016.