

## **The Thimphu Affirmative Nine-Point Action Agenda on Tiger Conservation Thimphu, Bhutan, October 23, 2012**

The leaders of the governments of the 13 Tiger Range Countries<sup>1</sup> (TRCs) met in November, 2010, at the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, and declared their collective political will to take all action necessary to prevent the extinction of wild tigers. They set the goal of doubling the numbers of wild tigers globally by 2022 in the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation, and endorsed the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) as a road map to reach that goal, supported by international partners to mobilize needed external resources.

The TRC Ministers or their representatives who are charged with implementing the GTRP and its constituent National Tiger Recovery Priorities, met on October 22-23, 2012, at the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in Thimphu, Bhutan, to reflect on advances thus far, enhance the action agenda through 2014, and re-emphasize their political will for tiger conservation demonstrated at the International Tiger Forum.

Progress in reversing the wild tigers' decline toward extinction has been significant based on actions undertaken by TRCs. Nonetheless, the threats to wild tigers and their natural habitats are seen to be increasing. Tiger landscapes are economically and politically undervalued and their importance to human well-being poorly recognized.

Building on the pledges of the St. Petersburg Declaration, the Ministers or the Heads of Delegations of the TRCs have identified an affirmative nine-point action agenda up to 2014 and ask partners to intensify their support to:

1. **Actively strengthen front lines:** Urgently enhance rewards, recognition, and resources for frontline staff (in the form of numbers, institutional capacity, skills, tools, technology, infrastructure, operating costs, and insurance against loss of life and injury) in all TRCs over the next three years.
2. **Diligently conserve tiger habitat, inside and outside protected areas, against current and future threats:** Strengthen and continue programs to extend protected areas, remove current encroachments in core breeding areas and ensure full public disclosure through land-use plans, mapping current and future threats, application of the principles of Smart Green Infrastructure, better science to maintain quality habitats, smart patrolling to increase management effectiveness, and improved monitoring, with necessary programs and disclosure completed over the next two years.
3. **Significantly enhance engaging and sharing the benefits of conservation with communities,** making them partners in tiger and habitat conservation and expanding sharing of benefits from conservation, expanding alternative livelihood programs, and promptly and adequately compensating villagers for losses due to/caused by tigers in all TRCs in two years.

---

<sup>1</sup> The TRCs are the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Russian Federation, the Royal Thai Government, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

4. **Enhance and mainstream collaboration among TRCs** in management of transboundary landscapes and corridors, combatting illegal trade, and eliminating illicit demand through bilateral/multilateral mechanisms and with the support of organizations such as ASEAN-WEN, SA WEN, INTERPOL, and others.
5. **Support TRCs with low tiger densities to launch tiger restoration programs:** Build on lessons of success, create the conditions essential for successful restoration, and find suitable sources of tigers in at least two different national programs over three years.
6. **Significantly accelerate the flow of national and external funds to support actions on the ground:** Focus new support on gaps and accelerate projects to implement National Tiger Recovery Priorities (NTRPs) and fully fund the Global Tiger Recovery Program by 2014.
7. **Develop a new partnership with business and industry:** Engage business and industry in habitat conservation, valuation of ecosystems, sustainable finance, and outreach to consumers and other stakeholders, with five pilots that minimize and compensate for impacts to be launched across the TRCs in the next two years.
8. **Develop and implement comprehensive national awareness strategies and initiatives** to instill pride and bring people closer to nature to counteract the negative impacts on tigers from urbanization, disengagement of youth, development, and loss of cultural heritage, and to widely disseminate the value of tiger conservation landscapes.
9. **Develop national action plans for a period of two years for each TRC with criteria and indicators to monitor NTRP/GTRP implementation.**

By issuance of the **Thimphu Affirmative Nine-Point Action Agenda on Tiger Conservation**, the TRC Ministers or the Heads of Delegations re-confirm their commitment to collective action and political leadership, together with the continued support of international partners to reach the goal of doubling the number of wild tigers globally by 2022.