

PRESS RELEASE

Release of :

(i) Detailed report on the All India Tiger Estimation (2010)

(ii) Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves

28th July, 2011, New Delhi, India: The detailed report on the All India Tiger Estimation (2010) alongwith the outcome of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves were released today.

(i) Detailed report on the All India Tiger Estimation (2010)

A detailed report on the 2010 assessment relating to status of tigers, co-predators and their prey is a sequel to the outcome released in March this year. This study reports a countrywide increase of 20% in tiger numbers in **2010** with an estimated number of **1706** (1520-1909). The **2006** estimation was **1411** (1165 – 1657) tigers. This country level assessment is done once in every four years, and is a collaborative initiative between the NTCA, WII, tiger States and outside expertise. There is a decline of 12.6% in tiger occupancy from connecting habitats. This has happened in peripheral and dispersal areas having low densities outside tiger reserves and tiger source populations. The increase in tiger numbers is due to the fact that tiger populations in Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka have shown an increase in tiger density. The inclusion of Sunderbans, some portions of North East and parts of Maharashtra have also contributed to the increase. The methodology consisted of a double sampling approach – **Phase I** by Forest departments generate indices of abundance, **Phase II** – Remotely sensed information on landscape characteristics in a GIS, **Phase III** – research biologists sample areas with remote cameras and modern technology to determine tiger abundance. There has been an unprecedented effort of about 477,000 man days by forest staff, and 37,000 man days by professional biologists. A total effort of 81,409 trap nights yielded photo-captures of 635 unique tiger from a total camera trapped area of 11,192 km² over 29 sites.

Tiger occupied forests in India were classified into **6 landscape complexes**: (a) Shivalik Hills and the Gangetic Plain, (b) Central India (c) Eastern Ghats, (d) Western Ghats, (e) North-Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Plains, and (f) Sunderbans.

The report is not about tiger numbers alone and gives invaluable information on connectivity, corridors and habitats.

(ii) Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves

The MEE report contains the second round of independent assessment based on refined criteria done in 2010-11 for 39 tiger reserves. This assessment is based on the globally used framework, as adapted to Indian conditions. Five independent teams conducted the evaluation using 30 indicators. The framework consists of 6 elements: context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes.

The 39 tiger reserves were grouped in same landscape clusters as done in tiger estimation. An additional category comprising of tigers in 'red corridor' has been included, besides a separate category for reserves where tigers have gone locally extinct. Out of 39 tiger reserves, 15 were rated as 'very good', 12 as 'good', 8 as 'satisfactory' and 4 as 'poor'.

28 tiger reserves were compared with the MEE ratings of 2005-06. It is inferred that the 'very good' category increased by 4%, 'good' category increased by 3% and 'satisfactory' decreased by 7%.
