

**International Conference on Tiger Conservation
and
Global workshop on implementation of the Global
Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP)**

March 28 – 29, 2011,
Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
India

**Documentation of proceedings
by WWF-India**

Day 1 (28 Mar 2011)

Inaugural session (National events)

10:00 AM: Welcome address by Dr. Rajesh Gopal, APCCF and MS, NTCA – Dr. Gopal informed that there are 39 tiger reserves in India spread across 17 states. The estimation of tigers is done once in four years. The present method involves double sampling and using capture - recapture technique. Social dynamics of tigers revolve around breeding females, hence counting them is important. The core/critical tiger habitats have already been notified by 16 out of 17 tiger States. Dr. Gopal thanked the Planning Commission for being helpful. He also mentioned that the success for tiger conservation depends on protecting source populations and corridors. However, he said that there are several threats, and the most important being development pressures, there is a need for a balance between development and conservation. He also thanked WII, WWF, WTI, Aaranyak and CCMB for assisting in the recent tiger estimation.

10:10 AM: Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India: Mr. Ramesh welcomed all delegates from the participating countries, ministers and MPs from states. Special mention was made of Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh, Mr. Brijendra Singh and Mr. Naresh Bedi. He said that the tiger estimation for 2010-11 will be released along with a film DVD prepared by the Bedi brothers, and a book authored by Dr. Ullas Karanth.



10:15 AM: Dr. Y. V. Jhala, Faculty, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) – Dr. Jhala started by thanking the many partners particularly Aaranyak, WWF and Wildlife Trust of India

(WTI). The difference between 2006 and 2010 was that large number of NGO partners were involved this time in collecting the data. For example in the Sundarbans, 14 different NGOs were involved in data collection. He stressed that monitoring on a large, on a country wide scale, is a compromise between logistical constraints and science. This is particularly true with tigers as this is like counting needles in a hay stack. He said the tigers occupy huge landscapes, are cryptic and it is believed that if a tiger is seen once, it has seen the person ten times. Hundreds of trained wildlife guards are required to cover vast parts of India to do a rigorous scientific estimation of tigers and use camera trap mark recapture.



Dr. Jhala from WII explaining the tiger estimation results in the presence of Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Mr. Jayaram Ramesh, Mr. Salman Kursheed and Dr. Rajesh Gopal.

Photo: WWF-India

He said that double sampling approach was adopted for estimating tigers and sign sampling was also done for tigers and prey species. Forests were at first sampled along transects, each of which was walked at least three times. Second level of sampling was done by trained biologists and camera trapping carried out, whereas the third level involved calculation of indices. This is an unprecedented feat in the whole world. There were over 70,000 camera trap nights involved, and the technique of camera trapping was adopted from the one first developed by Dr. Ullas Karanth.

He gave statistics on India's tiger population. The population in Western Ghats showed an increasing trend. Sharavathy Valley-Anshi-Dandeli population is 36 – 42 tigers. Nagarahole- Mudumalai – Wayanaad complex presently holds about 350-411 tigers in a landscape that is 9000 sq. km. big, which is probably the single largest tiger population in India.

Parambikulam – Indira Gandhi has about 32-35 tigers and KMTR-Periyar complex has 36-40 tigers. In central India, losses were significant in terms of occupancy as well as numbers particularly in northern Andhra Pradesh areas of Adilabad, Khammam, Karim Nagar, E. Godavari and Vishakapatnam, Madhya Pradesh areas of Hosangabad-Betul belt between Satpuda and Melghat, northern banks of Narmada and to some extent in the landscape around Kanha. Maharashtra gained about 20-22 tigers and the Tadoba landscape population is now between 60-70. In the Terai Shiwalik complex, numbers in Corbett has been constant, the range being 195 and 239 in the Corbett Landscape including Ramnagar and Haldwani Forest Divisions. Rajaji and Dudhwa have shown stable populations. The Valmiki Tiger Reserve also showed an upward trend in tiger numbers. In northeastern India, Kaziranga has more than 100 tigers and is the main source for this region. Manas showed very poor density. Sunderbans posed a great challenge in tiger population estimation - mark recapture and home range estimate has been done here. 5 tigers were radio collared with iridium satellite collars and managed to get data from 4 of these. One of these crossed into Bangladesh and gave data for 3 months after crossing over. A density of 4.3 tigers/ 100 sq. km. was found with the range being 64-90 tigers (for Indian Sunderbans).

For constant monitoring, Corbett Tiger Reserve was selected where a 500 sq. km. area was sampled and the tiger numbers has been constant there between 2006 and 2010.

Salient features of this estimation has been the following –

- a) 1571-1875 adult tigers of age above 1.5 years;
- b) 12% increase in the tiger numbers in the areas estimated in 2006;
- c) New areas assessed include Sunderbans, parts of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Assam;
- d) There has been a decline in tiger occupancy from 93,600 to 72,800 sq. km. which is alarming. Losses are mostly from outside of Protected Areas resulting in isolation of source populations;
- e) There is a need for conserving habitats along the corridors for long term viability of source populations;
- f) Most of the source populations are stable;

g) Some populations outside the Protected Areas, like Moyar - Sigur - Satyamangalam in southern India, Ramnagar in Uttarakhand and Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh are increasing; and

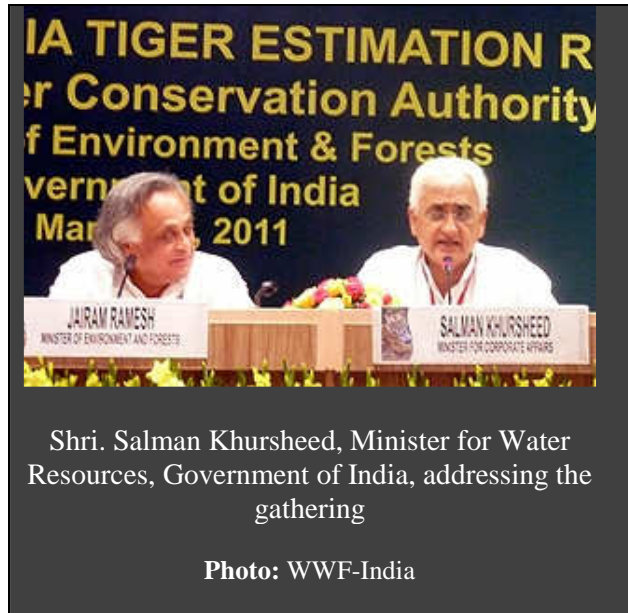
h) There is a cause of concern as well. The increase in tiger populations in high human dominated areas as seen around Corbett, Ranthambore, Tadoba, Bandhavgarh and Bor, has increased human tiger conflict. Policy and management strategies for mitigating this conflict are essential for continued survival of these tiger populations.

10:35 AM: Mr. Jairam Ramesh, MoS/ IC, MoEF - Said the number 1411 has gone up to 1636, leaving aside the estimate from Sunderbans which was not covered during the last phase. What is important that 30% of the estimated tigers are outside the 39 Tiger Reserves, and we don't have a strategy to tackle these tiger corridors which are under threat.

10:40 AM: Shri M. S. Alhuwallia, Dy. Chairperson, Planning Commission - Mentioned that the Planning Commission strongly supports project tiger. However, he expressed concern for the difficulty being faced in the present day for keeping human interference at bay. He was astonished to see the kind of data and analysis that has gone into the estimation, and suggested taking help from an economist who could do a lot with this data.

10:45 AM: Shri Salman Khurseed, Minister, Minister of Water Resources - He started by saying that we should let the tiger population grow, and need to check the human population growth. There is a challenge to keep a balance between development and environment. We need to save tiger as development needs to be sustained along with the environment. For this, modern technologies are to be adopted. He suggested that the good news of increase in tiger numbers needs to be used for launching a sustained environmental development.

11:00 AM: Shri Jairam Ramesh, MoS/IC, MoEF – The tiger is facing threats from poachers, international wildlife trade network, and mining and real estate mafia. The development dynamics and requirement are not matters of dispute, and the Government has to make some development choices. However, at the same time many Tiger Reserves are threatened by coal mining. Environmentalists say that nuclear and hydropower are bad, which is not true.



There is a need to find a way to meet the growing appetite for energy. He also suggested that the Planning Commission will have to convince the states, keeping in mind the question if India can afford the planned 9% growth that will result in large scale degradation of forests. He mentioned some examples of development that is threatening tiger or other wildlife, saying that the Ken - Betwa river linking project will submerge good parts of Panna Tiger Reserve; power projects in Bhutan that India is developing will completely destroy Buxa; irrigation projects in Jharkhand are damaging the remaining wildlife habitats of the state; and hydropower in Arunachal Pradesh also threatens biodiversity. The Minister expressed satisfaction saying that in terms of tiger conservation, the Terai region and Maharashtra are doing well; northeastern India is not doing so well like Central India where the threats are imminent. Growth agenda is essential, however, it has to be struck a balance with the environment. He requested the Planning Commission to increase the budget for NTCA, which is required for relocating villages from the Tiger Reserves. He also mentioned that there is a need for bringing decentralization in tiger conservation and that NTCA's first office outside Delhi will be in Nagpur.

Inaugural session (International events)

11:45 AM: Ms. Isabel Guerre, VP, World Bank - She started by saying that the Global Tiger Recovery Programme will require frontline staffs' active participation in the field. These foresters will have to be trained and the poachers and traders need to be convicted fast. She expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Interpol is also part of international trade control and trade is now a regional problem, it's not a country's problem anymore. She also expressed her pleasure by saying that the Indian park managers have come up with the best practices.

11:55 AM: Shri Kesav Verma, Programme Director, GTI, World Bank - Appreciated the commitment of the frontline staff, and took examples from Dudhwa. He said that the political will is there, but that has to be translated in to ground actions. The main element required is capacity building, with modern management practices. The Smithsonian Institute training for capacity building will be useful for this. There are billions of US dollars available for development but very less is there for environmental conservation and a balance is required here. Habitat management is going to pose the biggest challenge. He also had drawn the attention to the fact that except India and Indonesia, most of other countries' tigers are along the international borders and transboundary cooperation is required for their long term survival. A business model has to come up with community stakes.

12:15 AM: Release of 'Action Tiger' by MoS/ IC, MoEF

Session 1: Status of the tigers in Indian states

Chair: Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister, Environment and Forests

12:35 PM: Shri Vijay Shankar, MoF, Karnataka – Said that it is a great pleasure that the state of Karnataka has the highest population of tigers in India. This population is in and around Nagarhole and Bandipur. He thanked the Mr. Jairam Ramesh for the tremendous support he received from the Central Government in this regard. They have dedicated officials in the state and this success in tiger conservation is the result of teamwork over the past few decades.



12:40 PM: Shri Ramlal Jat, Minister of Forest, Rajasthan – He informed that there are threats, but the Chief Minister of the state of Rajasthan has started the *Green Rajasthan* programme to get the conservation agenda imbibed in people's mind. He spoke about the culture of conservation, taking example of the Bishnoi community and their 400-year old tradition. He mentioned about Ranthambore and Sariska, the later being the first Tiger Reserve in India but whose tigers got decimated because of organised crime. He reminded that India's first wild to wild tiger translocation happened in this state. However, as a matter of concern, he said that the people staying within the Tiger Reserves value cattle more than tigers. There are 64 villages in Ranthambore and 26 in Sariska which are to be relocated, and local administration is convincing the villagers for this relocation. Positioning a local officer in each village to convince the villagers has been a good strategy. There has to be a clear strategy for tiger - livestock conflict.

12:45 PM: Shri Vilas, Member of Parliament (MP), Nagpur - Thanked the MoS/ IC, MoEF for choosing Nagpur as the first office of NTCA outside Delhi, and also for shifting of power plant and coal mines from tiger habitats in Maharashtra. He also

informed the gathering that the Maharashtra state government has allocated INR 25crore for saving tiger forests.

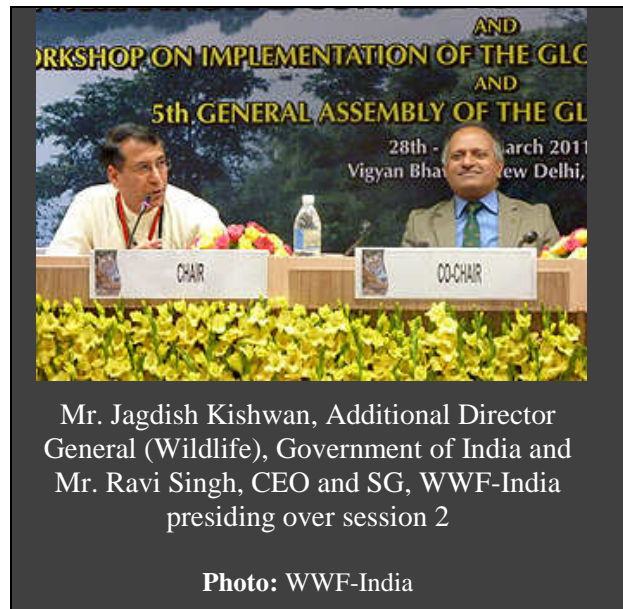
12:50 PM: Shri Jairam Ramesh, MoS/ IC, MoEF - Suggested that local communities need to be made parties in developing tourism entrepreneurships around the forests and that benefits should go back to the communities. Conservation is not just a federal affair, but states need to be equal partners along with the federal government and local communities.

Session 2, Best practices in tiger conservation – the Indian experience from the frontlines

Chair: Mr. Jagdish Kishwan, ADG (Wildlife)

Co-chair: Mr. Ravi Singh, CEO, WWF-India

2:00 PM: Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Member Secretary NTCA – Dr. Gopal presented the challenges and achievements in tiger conservation. He provided brief background of Project Tiger and about tiger occupancy survey of 2010. The challenges to tiger conservation are from habitat fragmentation, ecologically unsustainable land use, human-tiger conflicts, poaching and trafficking of wildlife, he said. India is committed to tiger conservation and has taken some new initiatives such as Wildlife (Protection) Act, amendment 2006; making core areas inviolate; mainstreaming tiger conservation in areas outside tiger reserves; use of new scientific approach such as radio telemetry, camera trapping, GIS, novel measures like M-STripES; and engaging with the locals by providing them alternatives. India has identified some new sites for tiger conservation and there is need now to identify and secure corridors for viable tiger populations, he added.



The Chair noted that livelihood of people around tiger reserves is a matter of concern and this has to be included in the actions of all the concerned agencies, if poaching has to be addressed.

2:10 – 2:15PM: Dr. H.S. Negi, Field Director, Kanha Tiger Reserve – Dr. Negi presented the habitat management initiatives in Kanha tiger reserve. He informed the house about

the habitat management interventions for Hard Ground swamp deer – found only in Kanha, and the habitat management in the areas evacuated due to village relocation. Kanha has reclaimed 69 sq. km of land due to relocation of about 25 villages since 1969. He emphasized about the need of corridor connectivity and between tiger reserves. He also informed that Madhya Pradesh is the only state in India where benefits of tourism are shared with the locals.

2:15 – 2:20 PM: Dr. N.S. Dungriyal, Field Director, Satpura Tiger Reserve – He shared his experiences on village relocations – with Bori village as a case. The relocation was based on Forest Rights Act and the locals were provided both the options (1: cash compensation, 2: settling them in new locations). The process involved social and ecological impact assessment, infrastructure development, and restoration of the site evacuated. Good practices followed included formation of village relocation committee and all the decisions were taken in consultation with this committee; developing a village relocation plan and creating a social security fund for relocated people.

2:20 - 2:25 PM; Dr. R. K. Srivastava, Field Director Mudumulai Tiger Reserve - He presented the fire management practices being adopted. He delved into the impact of fire on invasive species, insects, birds and mammals. The steps taken for pre-fire and post-fire management were listed. Forest fire disaster management centres have been created at range levels and these centres are responsible for preparedness, communication, transportation and coordination in case of fires. Fire management is being done at beat levels and Eco-development committees are helping in controlling fires.

The chair suggested that it would be better if the centre is named as Forest Fire Disaster Prevention centre.

2:25 – 2:30 PM: Mr. Shailesh Prasad, Field Director Dudhwa Tiger Reserve – Mr. Prasad presented the steps taken for protection of tiger in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. The strategies for protection include identification of the sites, suspected poachers and route of wildlife trade; development of intelligence network and cooperation from other agencies.

Monitoring of crime, proper documentation of crime and criminals, supervision of efforts made are crucial aspects of protection. Enhancing the capacity of the staff and officials through trainings is an integral part of the protection.

2:30 - 2:35 PM: Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, Field Director, Sunderbans Tiger Reserve: He shared the experiences of managing human tiger interface. Sunderbans Tiger Reserve includes one national park and three wildlife sanctuaries and there are records of human wildlife conflicts since 1881. He classified the human-tiger interface based on whether it was inside the forest or outside it. Similarly, the straying of tigers was categorized as temporary or permanent. He illustrated the use of research in mitigating the conflicting part of this interface, which included release of tigers in water from boat than on land (as was done earlier), conducting medical inspection and tagging the animals before releasing these.

The co-chair applauded the efforts of the people who act on ground to protect the tiger and on his request the house gave them standing ovation.

2:35 – 3:00 PM: The house was opened for discussion.

Mr. Atanu Raha, PCCF & CWW, West Bengal, commented on the tiger numbers in Sunderbans and suggested that the methodology should be refined so that the estimations are done in better way.

Dr. Tapan Kumar, CF, Bangladesh noted that the Sunderbans present unique habitats and even radio-telemetry is difficult in these conditions. One has to be careful in using estimation in Sunderbans as the chital population ranges from 15-160 per sq km. Bangladesh would like to adopt the methods being used in India for tiger estimation.

Dr. YV Jhala, WII commented that the chital density in Indian Sundarbans is 12-14 per sq. km and this also supports the observation that there can not be a large population of tigers.

Mr. S C Dey observed that mainstreaming conservation into development is needed and a beginning should be made in India.

Mr. AK Mukherjee suggested of levying an eco-tax on the hotels and resorts up to 3 km from tiger reserve boundary. But the Chair stated that due to the complexities involved in taxation, eco-tax may not be an easy thing to do. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, NTCA, informed that the government has formed a committee to look into the sharing of tourism benefits with locals.

Mr. Keshav Verma, GTI, wanted to know about the success of releasing captive tigers into wilderness, as done in the state of Madhya Pradesh in India. Dr. HS Pabla, PCCF (WL), Madhya Pradesh replied underlining the need of re-introducing captive tigers in wild – as all the earlier efforts were criticized on one account or the other. The cubs in Kanha were found abandoned and were earlier treated like any other pet. But subsequently these were trained to hunt and have been hunting chitals in the enclosure. One of these cubs, released in Panna on 27 March 2011, is now five year old and hunts chital. He said it needs to be seen how successful this endeavour will be.

Mr. Mukherjee, Principal Secretary, Karnataka suggested that tourism even in the corridors should be controlled through measures like fee hike, no communication about sightings of tigers and strictly implementing measures such as leaving the animal at sighted location and not disturbing it and forcing it to go away.

The co-chair hoped about the positive outcomes of the tiger conservation and that the upper range of tiger estimation this year becomes the lower range of next estimation.

Session 3, Conservation & Economic development – the challenges and the way forward.

Chair: Mr. T Chatterjee, Secretary MoEF, Government of India

Co-chair: Dr. Roberto Zaga, Country Director, World Bank

The Chair opened the session with remarks that in this era of increased awareness and concerns about environment conservation, industries are also willing to support the conservation of natural resources. Therefore, we should focus on discussing the mechanisms needed so that conservation and development work together.



Delegates at the meeting

Photo: WWF-India

The Co-chair suggested that the institutional mechanism for trade-offs should also be discussed so that a balance in conservation and development is maintained.

3:30 – 3:45 PM: Mr. Keshav Verma, GTI Programme Director, presented conservation challenges from infrastructure development - He proposed ‘smart green infrastructure’ in tiger conservation landscapes. Dams, mining, roads, urbanization have impacted the tiger landscapes adversely. About 17% (57 million ha) of tiger habitats in tiger range countries have been lost due to deforestation. The situation is that the only tiger habitats left are those where development has not reached. The suggested steps to minimize the damage are:

- Avoid adverse impacts through development on alternate sites.
- Minimize negative impacts during proper design and construction.
- Rectify the damage done by rehabilitating and restoration of sites.

- Compensate for the loss by providing adequate tiger habitat

Multi-sectoral approach should be adopted that should include policy, a clear framework, using best practices and green infrastructure development.

3:34 – 4:00 PM: Mr. Christian Delvoie, World Bank, GTI: He presented on integrating infrastructure development with conservation. There is a need for new paradigms for sustainable development in Asia because energy and infrastructure demands are going to increase substantially. China was cited as a case where increase in investment infrastructure, energy and land transport has been phenomenal. There are challenges of social inequalities, decentralization and increased pressures on natural resources that have to be tackled with such developments. For this, social and environmental dimensions should be an integral part of project design and implementation. An example of Nam Theun 2 dam in Laos was given towards this, where the project could be implemented only after getting the support and participation of stakeholders. Social and environment costs amount to about 8-10% of the total project costs and these should be factored in. He suggested that ‘building today, clearing tomorrow’ is not a viable approach and that the key to success is leadership, commitment and ownership at all levels.

Mr. Mukherjee, Principal Secretary, Karnataka shared his thoughts on the impact of expressways, conversion of mixed forest to monocultures/plantations on animals. To minimize such damages, it is crucial to nurture and support the feeling for wildlife in the mind and heart of people who are not in the field of conservation. But there is another factor – greed that is basically behind the damage to environment. He asked how we could take care of greed? The tiger estimation shows that there are now more tigers in lesser space. This will lead to human tiger conflicts and we should prepare ourselves for mitigating the conflicts.

The house was opened for discussion.

Mr. RN Mehrotra, PCCF, Rajasthan asked about how could a landscape that is disturbed in a fragmented area be reconstructed? Also, was it possible to have good leadership at all levels?

Mr. Dilip Khatau commented that one needs to have a change of heart to be in the field of conservation and we should also compare the price of live tiger vs. dead tiger. *Panthera* did one such comparison for Jaguar. Once this is done, the price for live tiger may be given by industries to the states and/or tiger reserves. Mr. PK Sen responded by asking how long it would take to implement *Panthera* model in India. In case there is a loss of human or livestock how long would it take for people to receive compensation / incentives under such a model.

Mr. Anand Mohan, Field Director, Ranthambhore brought to the notice that human census results for India may be out soon and it may show an increased gap in development and conservation.

Mr. AK Mukherjee agreed that development today and cleaning tomorrow should not be adopted in India. Hotels and resorts are coming up right at the border of tiger reserves. Why was this not being stopped? There should be eco-tax on these hotels as they earn from tigers. This should be on the basis of polluter pays principle.

Mr. SC Dey suggested that the value of ecosystem services to the society should be conveyed to policy makers.

Harbert Raffelle, USFWS, commented on the strengths and value systems of India that has helped her protect the tigers. According to him the many of the tiger reserves in India are big and India also has more wildlife/conservation scientists than US. Despite having high population of humans, tiger are still surviving in India because of the deep rooted values that motivate people to conserve and protect tigers and their habitats. Therefore, incentives to the people in and around tiger reserves may be more helpful in tiger conservation. While people in urban India may be more qualified academically, they may

not have the traditional knowledge and value system to conserve resources. Therefore, it is critical on how to carry on the traditional values of tiger and not the economical values.

Dr. AJT, Johnsingh, brought to the notice that more animals are killed in road accidents than poaching and this is of serious concern. He suggested creating speed breakers on the roads passing through protected areas.

Dr. Tapan Kumar Dey, CF, Bangladesh highlighted the significance of political will by stating that the PM, Bangladesh stopped minor forest produce collection after St. Petersburg meet and did not relent even under pressure.

Dr. MK Ranjitsinh informed that the problems being pointed today were discussed in IUCN meeting in 1969. In this meeting, we should use the golden opportunity of the presence of all the range countries, the World Bank and the NGOs and deliberate on how we put our acts together to curb trade and tackle other problems with tiger conservation.

Mrs. Rina Mitra informed the house about the actions taken on ground by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB). The strengths of the staff in tiger reserves are being increased in forensics and patrolling. WCCB is not stopping only at the seizures but getting down to the network behind trade to curb the problem of poaching at root.

Field Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, informed about the recent success in arresting tiger poachers in Bandipur and their prosecution.

The Chair, concluded that important point is that conservation of tiger is not just conservation of one species but of all the species in ecosystem and these ecosystems provide us valuable services. He suggested the introducing of concept of zoning in the country. Pollution will be permitted only in the red zone and the Green zone should not be disturbed. Green zone will recharge the red zone. Industry is realizing the shortage of the resources such as water and is keen on conservation of natural resources that originate from tiger reserves. The major issues is that there seem to be some lack of clarity and

industry wants Government to be clear on the guidelines issued from time to time. There is need to improve the process of conservation, and development should be used for conservation.

Day 2, Session 4: Implementing the GTRP/ NTRP

Chair: Head of Delegation, China

Co-chair: Executive VP, IFAW

Chair – Opening remarks: Said that four months ago the St. Petersburg Tiger summit was held and now it was more important to have a series of actions. The chair thanked Govt. of India, GTI and GTF for providing an opportunity to TRC's to talk and discuss.

Co-Chair- Said that the previous day there was discussion on describing

the problem and not talking of solutions. And this day talk of solutions were to be given.

TRC presentation (in alphabetical order)

Bangladesh.

Bangladesh started its presentation with a short film in Bangla entitled '*Aameder Sundarban*'.

National Tiger Conservation Actions of 2011 for Bangladesh: Presented by Tapan Kr. Dey, Md. Abbas Hossain and Jahan Ara Begum. The presentation provided the extent of Tiger habitat (6017 sq km) and population figures for Tigers and prey species. In the year 2004 there were 440 tigers in Bangladesh Sundarbans, based on pugmark census. In the year 2009, these were estimated to be between 300 to 500 Tigers (based on track surveys). The population of Chital was estimated at 85,000 approx. Chital density for different habitat types was also presented. Likewise, the estimations for other species



Head of the delegation, China and Executive Vice President of IFAW presiding over session 4, on day 2

Photo: WWF-India

were: Wild pig – 35,000; Barking deer – 2000. Scat analysis showed 30% of Tiger diet to consist of wild pigs.

Policy Institutional Action and activities after the Tiger summit: A new Wildlife Protection act was approved. It provides for a twelve year jail term for killing a tiger. Regarding investment activities after summit, technical and financial support was needed.

Activities planned for 2011:

- Institutional development and policy;
- Forest protection and law enforcement;

Investment activities: Research and monitoring; Tiger human conflict.

Mr. S.P Yadav welcomed Mr. V.P Singh, Member of Parliament from Rajasthan on behalf of organizers.

Bhutan

Post summit to date:

Policy/ Institutional activity:

- A national ecotourism policy is in place.
- Collaborate with regional institutes.
- Training for participatory management
- Partner law enforcement agencies (Customs, BAFRA and others)
- Upscaling of community based livestock conflict management was designated as a year round activity.

Investment activities: Nation wide Tiger survey using camera traps, Revision of biological corridors system, Zonation of PA's

Activities planned for Feb-Dec 2011:

- Zonation finalized.-May 2011
- Two bills to go to Parliament – June 2011.

- A detailed monthly timetable was presented.

Cambodia

National To Do list of activities, Post summit to date:

- Forestry administration revised and wildlife law being updated.
- National stakeholders' consultation workshop on Cambodia Tiger Action Plan.

China

National To Do list of activities, Post summit to date:

- Nov 2010 – Approved state council to save wild Tigers in China.
- National 5 year plan for conservation of wild Tigers.
- Focusing on awareness about CITES.
- SFA responsible for reviving and reintroduction of south-China Tiger.

Upcoming activities:

May 2011: SFA – Special wildlife courses; Closely working with CITES and other International NGO's; Posters displayed at Sino-Mayanmar and other international borders informing about illegal wildlife trade.

June 2011: Start field survey for Amur and Indochinese Tiger; Capacity building for local Tiger monitoring and patrolling units; Habitat restoration for Amur and Indonesian Tigers.

April-Dec 2011: Reintroduce south China Tigers; SFA working on compensation for human and property losses; Livelihood options; CITES implementation task force.

Lao-PDR

Post summit to date:

- Policy and Institutional- The Lao National Tiger action plan made
- Three provincial PA's upgraded to national PA's. 24 National PA's now.

- Discuss implications of new road upgrading in NEPL core zone. Impact on Tiger population.

Investment activities:

Feb-Dec 2011: Conclusion of drafting of new PM decree on Protected areas; Lao Wildlife enforcement network; Meetings

Investment:

- Highlight- Control prey and Tiger poaching.
- Scientific monitoring, survey and research.
- Ve Pian- monitoring Tiger presence

Malaysia

National activities:

Policy Institutional - Malaysian cabinet acknowledged the Tiger summit and the outcomes. GTRP and declaration; New wildlife conservation act 2010. Penalty RM 100,000 and mandatory jail term for killing a Tiger; Ban on Tiger prey hunting till 2015; National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (NTCAP) and CFS (Central Forest Spine) strategy under the 10th Malaysia plan (2010-2015) policy document; Standard protocol for national Tiger survey adopted partnering WWF and WCS; Funds secured for Tiger survey of Taman Negara, Pahang, Belum and Endau Rompin; Sg Yu wildlife corridor development as recommended by CFS; Stakeholder consultation meeting; Connectivity and continuity of the forest complex in the CFS; Masterplan for CFS for acceptance by Malaysian cabinet.

Tiger density: Taman Negara - 1.1 to 1.98 Tigers per 100 sq. km.

Mechanism- Promote sustainability; Science based monitoring; Strengthen wildlife Crime Unit.

Myanmar

National To do list of activities 2011.

Priority TCL's: Hukang valley wildlife sanctuary; Tanimtharyi nature reserve; Plans to do Transboundary cooperation with China.

Post Summit to do: Criminal procedure code 144 enacted in the Hukang Tiger reserve to create a non-violate area; Tiger-Human conflict and community engagement; Tiger focused education and outreach in Hukang valley WS and TR; Opportunistic survey for Tigers.

Upcoming activities: Feb-Dec 2011.

- Establish Tiger conservation task force (Tiger protection units) in HVWS. Strengthen patrolling.
- Control illegal trade and reduce illicit demand.
- Set up billboards informing about wildlife
- Scientific monitoring.
- Transboundary management. Revitalize the process.

Nepal:

National To do:

Policy and Institutional: Operationalize wildlife crime control coordination; Reviewed NP and wildlife conservation act; Relief fund for death and injury.

Investment:

- Tiger Population monitoring: Suklaphanta, Chitwan, Bardia.

Progress post St. Petersburg:

- A subadult tiger was translocated to Bardia;
- Anti trade and poaching activities;
- Review and regularly update Tiger Action Plan;
- Bill to amend NPWC Act;
- Parliament to approve CITES bill;

- National Tiger census; Preybase survey in all potential Tiger habitat.
- Community engagement: Very good examples from Suklaphanta, replication planned.
- Transboundary meeting with India and China.
- With increase in price of Tiger products there is more incentive to poach, hence the need to work together to curb the demand.

Russia

Progress: Legal protection of Korean Pine, a mast producing tree and a key resource for Tiger prey base. Logging prohibited.

Monitoring of Tigers and prey:

- Snow track surveys, DNA (scats): 16 units monitored.
- PA and hunting leases exist all across Amur.
- Curbs on illegal trade
- Support to hunting management unit to increase prey numbers.
- Increase prey numbers.
- Sredneussulysky an important corridor. Create a nature reserve connecting Sikhoste with China.

Policy:

- Amend criminal code
- Sredneussulysky nature refuge

Investment:

- Habitat managements
- Control prey and Tiger poaching.
- 16 anti poaching brigades.
- Scientific monitoring survey and research.

Control illegal trade:

- Information gathering

- Identify incidences of transport
- Block channels of illegal trade

Thailand

National to do list:

Cabinet approval of Tiger Action Plan and GTR.

Investment:

- Setting up of a Wildlife Crime Center and two Wildlife crime units.
- Concept note, project proposal for funding from GEF

Feb-Dec 2011:

Policy/Investment: Establish advisory committee on the regional Tiger conservation and research centre at Huai Kha Khaen WS.

Investment:

- Habitat management- Identify suitable habitat for reintroduction.
- Engage with Myanmar.
- Engage with major stakeholders in road, oil, gas, mining and power sectors.
- Control prey and Tiger poaching – MIST based smart patrol.

Scientific research and monitoring:

- Control illegal trade.
- Organised National Tiger Day.
- Formation of Regional Tiger consultation centre.
- Support regional conservation at multiple levels.
- Formation of Advisory committee: This includes Dept of NPs (Thailand), Representatives from TRC's and WCS

1st year activity:

- A workshop for 16 regional directors

- Trainer-activity-Target audience.
- Support received from Smithsonian Institute.

Vietnam

Post Summit:

- Cabinet acknowledges the St. Petersburg Summit.
- Approval of National cabinets on Tiger conservation, fully support GTRP, NTRP.
- Develop full proposal on wildlife consumption in Vietnam.

Habitat management:

- Carry out basic feasibility study on the protection of Tiger source sites in Son La province.
- Finalize draft decree on Endangered sp criterion.
- National Tiger day.
- Awareness workshops to raise public awareness on tigers
- Strengthen capacity to deal with Tiger related crime.
- Strengthen national committee on controlling trade
- Strong monitoring of private Tiger holding facilities.

India

GTRP implementation priorities. National activities.

- The session begun by applauding the Field Directors & Frontline staff of Tiger Reserves. There was a special mention of Field Director Anshi-Dandeli Tiger Reserve for doing ‘great work with education,’ FD of Kalakkad Mundunthurai TR was recognised for doing ‘excellent Microfinance’ work, Shri P R Sinha, Director WII and his team were applauded for their hard work and completing the mammoth task of collating data on the All India Tiger estimation within a short period of time. The role of Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority was appreciated for his commitment, dedication, game changing role, and strategic leadership in tiger conservation during recent times.

- Securing habitats: Improve management; Capacity building; Community engagement.
- Monitoring populations: Rs. 871 million to monitor tiger populations involving independent experts.
- Anti Poaching: Special Tiger protection force with the premise –“ Every wild Tiger is under great threat of poaching”
- New Tiger reserves: Funding support to 8 new TRs; One new TR created and in principle approval for 5 new Tiger reserves.
- Improve management: Funding for 39 Tiger Reserves; Reserve specific TCP finalization..
- Monitor and evaluate: Deployment of Crack teams; MEE completed; Tigernet with help of TRAFFIC; Launching of M-STRIPES; Equipment support – Camera traps and GPS; information technology based “e-Eye” electronic surveillance system to monitor; Economic evaluation of Tiger reserves.
- Staff welfare and development: Special project allowances.

Tiger reserve infrastructure:

- 3 regional offices of NTCA, South, Central and North-east.
- GIS lab.
- Rapid response teams to tackle human-tiger conflicts.
- Compensation: Funding support to needy States.

Community development and engagement:

- Co-existence
- Resettlement plans by States, funding support.

Comments by Chair:

According to the chair the following have been done by TRCs

- The TRCs have enabled political support
- Implementation momentum in all TRCs

- Plans for 2011 are robust and customized: These include a) making core breeding areas inviolate: India and Myanmar, and b) connecting critical habitats through corridors: Malaysia, India and Thailand.
- Anti-poaching and law enforcement: Block illegal trade; Confiscating illegally traded wildlife.

Moving forward:

- Identify 3 – 4 majors from the long list
- Note resource constraints in some TRCs: Bhutan
- Invitation to partners to focus on conditionals.
- Identify some of the TRC-wide interests.
Eg: India: Valuation of eco-services; Thailand: Prioritising of key corridors; China: Pilot programme for habitat restoration; Vietnam: Feasibility of source sites in Son la
- Re-engage Indonesia

Questions and comments:

Question by S.C Dey to China: Regarding reintroduction proposal- where are wild South China Tigers present, where is the habitat and does it meet IUCN guidelines? And also when is it planned?

Response: The goal is for 10 years. Field surveys have been conducted by WWF South China. There are signs of South China Tiger, but no individuals have been seen. Some captive individuals are present. The captive population was established 30-40 years ago. Plan is also to “rewild” the population and reintroduce. International experts have been involved. South China Tiger foundation has been established and the website publishes information every week.

Question to Bangladesh: What is the status of Indo-Bangladesh proposal?

Response- Protocol to be signed. Started in 2003, the process has been long drawn. Final comments and approval of cabinet will happen soon.

Question to Nepal: The CITES bill pending for 4 years, when will it be finalized by Nepal Government?

Response: This was recently approved by the Ministry of Justice. The bill is in the parliament and it is hoped it will be approved soon.

Comments – Keshav Verma (World Bank): The presentations were very positive. May consider mutual support and reward. Recognize countries, institutions and managers. There can be support for this from GTRP.

Co-Chair thanked participants.

Chair- Comments:

- Commitment for conservation of wild tigers seen through presentations.
- Law enforcement information sharing is essential and cooperation should increase.
- International support is essential.
- If we can establish suitable mechanisms for cooperation we will achieve our common targets.

Session 5: Role of the International/ national partners

Chair: Jim Leape, CEO, WWF-International

Co-chair: Hart Schaffer, Director, World Bank

2 PM

Jim Leape: Informed the gathering that partner organisations help in many ways including funding, scientific training etc. It's important to recognize that most of the engagement and coordination happens at the TRCs level as heard from the presentations by the TRCs in this meeting till now. It is happening in various ways at various levels. We are clear about the way what each of us can help with. But it will be valuable to have some overall coordination on key issues for various purposes including wildlife trade. Good work is already being done in terms of the coordination that is required. As a representative of one of the partners, we are a huge supporter of this overall effort and also the NTRPs and GTRPs and the commitment to doubling the global tigers by 2022. We are committed to working with each of the range countries and with other partners. There is need now to ensure the funding goes to the range countries. We welcome the cooperation efforts of the partners and the transparency by each partner in the same. We have made key progress on that.

Hart Schaffer: Said that the past day has already shown a significant progress since the St. Petersburg. This exceeded their expectations as seen from the series of presentations since morning. The TRCs are in the lead and have announced their NTRPs. What had to be seen that afternoon was that the funding was provided and that the action from the international partners actually taking root. Funding was needed and the money can not sit in any bank, be it in Washington or anywhere else, but money has to get into the TRCs to combat wildlife crime, to habitat preservation and so on, to make an impact.

World Bank has initiated a 5 track programme of which are monitoring the legal side, one of the areas in which WB has comparative advantage.

- 1) In St. Petersburg President Zoeleck announced a US \$100 million of contribution from IDA for tiger conservation. Out of this, the project was going to the board by

- the middle of this year, probably by end of next month for Nepal and Bangladesh, to receive about US \$39 million. He hoped that additional contribution will come.
- 2) The second track is the GF and on this a very strong commitment was made for regional efforts and to support tiger range countries. There have been interests from Thailand, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam. A programme proposal was being prepared as heard from his colleague in the Thailand and this was being forwarded to the GF coordinator and being registered on the radar screen of GF. Overall this support money would be in the range of USD 30 – 40 million.
 - 3) The third track was something that a no: of partners, particularly the donors have tried the WB to focus on. That is the vehicle for both the bilateral partners who do not want to have their own programme but to pool their funding for regional efforts. So far, within the bank, a partnership has been developed, in consultation with a no: of partners in Washington a concept note that will be discussed and seen if it was actually feasible to tiger range countries' ambitions and various disbursement channels for WB's partner.
 - 4) The fourth exercise was done by his colleague Andrew and it was to map resource commitments. There is a bottom line for the GTRP and there were a lot of pledges from the St. Petersburg meeting. And what we was being done now was to see how to match the activity and the requirement. This exercise is cumbersome and Andrew had done quite a bit of work on it, but there are still a lot of gaps to be filled in it. Hart requested the TRCs, if Andrew was going to try to seek a meeting with them to try and seek a clarification, the TRCs could meet that request because a clear picture is needed of what funding was required and what were the gaps at the activity level and the country level so that additional funds to fill those gaps were channelised.
 - 5) The fifth and the last area was about wildlife training, that is to combine payments for Red Plus Plus with additional premium for biodiversity and wildlife conservation. This was a very innovative idea and a couple of corporate partners had indicated they would like to do that but also because it was innovative it would require some time to mature and think it through. WB is also planning to do piloting and test the methodology in one country and see how it works so that

so that there might be additional funding on which they can piggy back like Carbon payments etc.

These are the five tracks on which overall good progress has been made. Hart to emphasised that this has been possible because of close consultations with the TRCs and partners in Washington. The numerous meetings have helped develop the concepts

Mr. Anand & Keshav: After St. Petersburg GTI mulled over what the expectations were. First it was felt that the TRCs have done an extraordinary work in getting bold enough and this community speaks as a community. GTI felt that the partners need to learn from that lesson and they need to do a better job in getting organised. That reflection led to the notion of coming up with a draft 'to-do' list, which the partners could do to help the TRCs achieve their goals. Each partner could play a different role. He explained what partner organisations can offer to the Tiger Range Countries (TRCs). The TRCs had done an extra ordinary job. A mapping exercise was done to find out the three of four important things that the thematic group needs to do, the gaps that need to be filled, to support the TRCs.

Due to paucity of time each of the session's 9 speakers was allotted 3 minutes.

Marshall Jones, Smithsonian Institute: Informed that the GTRP calls for an investment of US \$70.9 million in the next 5 years in the tiger range countries to build their capacities to achieve their tiger conservation goals. The Smithsonian is the coordinating partner for capacity building and knowledge exchange activities. They see every member as an equal partner to support the tiger range countries. In 2010, Smithsonian conducted a pilot activity – a training of the trainers' course, in India at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in March as well as an Executive leadership course at Washington, DC in April. These activities have led to the drawing up of a programme for 2011 and beyond.

The objectives for 2011 are:

- 1) Help tiger range countries with their PA management programme including SMART patrolling, leadership skills etc.

- 2) Fostering of cooperation
- 3) Cooperation between TRCs and Govt and NGOs
- 4) Formation of consortium to include every TRCs and every other NGO or International organisation that wants to scale up the conservation.

Dr. Ullas Karanth, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): Dr. Karanth informed that WCS is working in India since the pioneering work by Dr. George Schaller at Kanha National park in 1963. They bring along a set of skills that are important for tiger recovery on a scientific basis. Substantial long term tiger projects in India and Russia, which have gone on for decades and have got a lot of knowledge about tiger capture techniques, tiger telemetry techniques, human tiger conflict resolution issues as well as population monitoring at different scales, which are better known than their other engagements on ground. They work very closely with the local governments and where possible with civil society organisations for long-term (20-30 years) recovery efforts. In India, for example, they have worked with the Government of Karnataka for nearly two decades for recovery efforts not just on scientific side but on voluntary resettlement as well. They have the best scientifically documented voluntary relocation efforts which were used by the Indian Government as a model, which is an area of engagement that one normally don't associate WCS with. In a nut shell they have a set of skills local advocacy, voluntary relocation in addition to scientific research of a fairly high quality. All this engagement on ground involves a very large number of people and for it to be cost effectively it has to involve local, middle class people. They have done this systematically in India and to a lesser extent and we have been able to catalyse, rather than brand ourselves as WCS, wear a number of different hats in local contexts. These are the set of skills that they would be more than happy to share. The other example they have is the transfer of knowledge across country borders. They help them with camera trapping techniques being implemented in Thailand. The same to Malaysia.

Miss. Pauline, TRAFFIC: Based on its areas of expertise, TRAFFIC wishes to support actions by the Tiger Range Countries to Control illegal trade and reduce demand. In the GTRP there are 3 global support programmes which are relevant to this: combating

wildlife crime, demand reduction and capacity building and knowledge sharing. Naturally TRAFFIC also wishes to support National Tiger Recovery Priorities that fall under these 3 focus areas.

For combating wildlife crime this means that TRAFFIC will continue its support to regional enforcement cooperation. They believe that effective regional enforcement cooperation is essential to stopping trans-boundary wildlife crime. They have supported the launch of SAWEN which happened earlier this year and they have supported the ASEAN-WEN programme since its beginning in 2004. The GTF is another important form of regional enforcement cooperation which they wholeheartedly support. Besides these multilateral networks they also work to support bilateral collaboration between Tiger range countries and have supported dialogues between them.

Looking at demand reduction, they believe a renewed, scaled-up and sustained effort is needed to dissuade people from using tiger parts and traders from supplying them. That effort needs to transmit two key messages: 1) use of Tiger products is socially unacceptable; and 2) anyone who decides to use or trade Tiger parts risks a high chance of being prosecuted. TRAFFIC is organizing a workshop to develop a demand reduction strategy. This strategy will identify key demand sectors, audiences that should be targeted and effective messaging to change the consumer behavior of these audiences.

The demand reduction strategy will be developed in collaboration with the Tiger Range Countries, NGO's who have expertise in the field of consumer awareness campaigns and other interested stakeholders such as traditional medicine associations.

As far as law enforcement support is concerned, they wish to scale up their capacity building of enforcement agencies and sensitisation of judiciary. The aim is to help Tiger Range Countries to strengthen their enforcement and make enforcement more effective. Their law enforcement support work is not just about capacity building. It's also about providing enforcement tools to enforcement agencies. For example, in India they have

provided deep metal search detectors to park rangers in over 30 protected areas. They have also implemented sniffer dog programmes in India and in the Russian Far East.

At the heart of all this work is trade monitoring. Information about trade feeds into their work on law enforcement support, regional enforcement cooperation and demand reduction. They will scale up our market surveys in key consumer countries, and will further expand the Tiger seizure database which they established for the report they published last year: *Reduced to Skin and Bones, an Analysis of Tiger seizures from 11 Tiger Range Countries*. Their aim is to provide regular analyses of illegal Tiger trade based on the seizure database and to map Tiger seizures via an online system which they will launch later this year. They hope that increased knowledge of hot spots for illegal killing and trade, the groups which are involved and the modus operandi which are used will help enforcement agencies to better target their action. After all, knowledge of the problem was crucial to tackling the problem.

They look forward to working with all the Tiger range States in addressing these crucial issues

Mike Baltzer, WWF International:

This year, WWF will celebrate its 50th anniversary. As part of their birthday celebrations next month, WWF will remember with a great deal of pride their contribution of funds to Project Tiger in 1973. At that time their contribution was mainly about raising funds and the ambition and vision of Project Tiger truly inspired WWF into action. Mike felt, the new global effort led by all the TRCs with the GTI and GTF, to him was somewhat like a new global project tiger. So the inspiration goes on, he added.

Since the time of their first projects in India, WWF has broadened, strengthened and intensified its tiger conservation programme. Further more, in 2009, WWF responded to the crisis by creating a new Initiative, our Tigers Alive Initiative. The aim of this Initiative is to double the number of tigers in the wild and the strategy is to use the full

force & full strength of their organisation to help contributing to the doubling the number of tigers. Now, for this year,

- First, WWF will continue to, as it in 1973, to help mobilize the resources to support the efforts to bring back this species from the brink. This year they are offering to help any TRC that wants to approach donors through donor workshops or other methods.
- Second, they will continue to provide the highest quality of technical support. Their principle focus is on the protection of core tiger sites and critical corridors. For example, they are now developing a scheme to evaluate and certify protected area management so that they can highlight those parks which are protecting tigers and encourage those that aim to do so. The concept was just completed and they would like to find partners to help take it forward as soon as possible.
- Third, they will increase their efforts to support learning and sharing of lessons, and drive innovation. They will help develop innovative financing mechanisms such as avenues like REDD+ and compensation payments from infrastructure development. This year, in recognition of the need to step up protection, they will support the development of state of the art enforcements strategies for the 12 focal landscapes. They will bring people from each of the landscapes to share their ideas and experiences and increase their knowledge and capacity.
- Fourth, they will continue to help support collaboration between TRCs, and reach out across boundaries.
- Finally, they will mobilize support from those people who can help them all make a difference. They will continue to use the power of our network to mobilize the decision-makers and the stakeholders through persistent, incisive and motivational communication campaigns - from the field level to the global level. Their single most important objective is to raise tigers to the highest political agenda and keep it there.

Mike summarised that the tiger was a part of WWF's soul and that they will never give up on it. WWF has been a partner in tiger conservation for close to 50 years and if there

is still a need for WWF to be a partner for the next 50 years, they will be there and will be ready to act.

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) / International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW): Stated what IFAW and WTI, its partner in India can contribute to implementation of plans and programmes and help identify priorities by tiger range countries. They believe in international collaboration based on complete openness on each others plans and challenges. They would be willing to share the details with others on this. They have an honest offer to TRCs help you in your desires and identified needs. Their organisation's strength's on one hand was in long term support to protect habitat and corridors or short term action when it comes to mitigating tiger conflict. They also have long standing experience in supporting enforcement measures – anti-poaching, anti-smuggling and building enforcement capacity as well as to reduce demand for tiger products and have market and education campaigns. Geographically they have carried out their work primarily in India and its neighbouring country China and also Russia. They do not have plans to expand beyond these areas of expertise because other groups are already waiting for assistance there, unless a need is signalled. Rather they will respond within their capabilities for specific requests coming from the TRCs, GTF or GTI. In their capacity building approach on the enforcement side which is one of their core priorities they will always make sure the training is carried out in the languages of the country and the region by trainers from the counties involved and whenever beneficial and possible, skill share with the agencies from those and neighbouring countries. They always wish to coordinate closely with the NGOs already working for tiger. They will continue enforcement support in India and Russia. They are in discussion with the governments of Bhutan and Nepal to develop necessary enforcement capacity particularly of front line officers in the tiger areas. They are in touch with Chinese agencies to conduct a workshop on cross border enforcement in China with officials from India and Nepal. On the demand reduction part they are continuing with their public campaigning and also collaborating with China on China which will be launched in hundreds of border crossing across china reaching out to travellers in China and also in Russia to support the Public Tiger Day, which reaches to thousands of young people as well as the media. They agree completely with the outcome

coming out of St. Petersburg that the initiative is driven by the TRCs and they will be there to support these.

Krishnacharya, South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), Nepal: SAWEN was established to strengthen regional and International cooperation in wildlife law enforcement against wildlife trade chiefly India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Recent meeting in Bhutan defined three different time lines for the implementation of their work plan. First is immediate, second is short term and third is long term. Communication regarding this has already started. They are working now to develop operational framework for the SAWEN's functioning, and how to develop the coordination and other details. They have an office open in Nepal in the premises of the Dept of Wildlife and National Parks. They request more funding support and coordination mechanism for the working of SAWEN in a transparent and collaborative way. Krishnacharya thanked US Department of State, TRAFFIC, WWF for their support.

ICCWC: The GTF secretariat was requested by the CITES to deliver a short message on behalf of them. CITES and Interpol are identified as the lead partners in this area.

Five organisations have signed up a letter of understanding to combat international trade in wildlife crime. These are:

- 1) CITES
- 2) Interpol
- 3) UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- 4) World Customs Organisation and
- 5) World Bank.

They have agreed to work together to combat wildlife crime. This is global, and broader than the tiger and TRCs and includes all wildlife crime. But within the specific context of this meeting, the partners of this consortium are of the understanding that they have to move aggressively to prove their work to countries. There was a meeting last month at Vienna of these 5 partners, coordinated by Dr. George Schaller, who has sent a letter to

each of the 13 TRCs. Bangladesh and China have already responded to this and the consortium needs feedback directly from the other TRCs. There are five main points agreed upon at this meeting in Vienna, based on immediate priorities to be taken up this year. The most important being a senior level seminar involving customs and police officials. Interpol is taking a strong lead on this and the workshop is tentatively scheduled for 3 June 2011. They have developed a tool kit on wildlife crime.

Herbert, US Fish and Wildlife Service: The USFWS for 15 years now has provided funding for tiger conservation under the wildlife conservation fund. In 2010, they supported 34 grants in tiger conservation which totalled US \$1.8 million. So far, this fiscal year they have supported 17 grants totalling US \$850,000 in TRCs. Anybody who can get their proposal by 1 April, they will be happy to review them. They review the proposals on a 6 month cycle basis. They would like to see groups work on those aspects that are working fine for the tiger in India and what has saved tigers around the world till now.

They analysed conservation in USA and India using 12 different criteria like: 1) Availability of scientists and experts 2) Infrastructure 3) Funds available 4) Geographic space to contain wildlife etc. The US has an advantage in all except in one - the cultural values. It is these values that have saved the tigers for thousands of years. Values have been changing faster in any time in history, in all countries. The tiger provides a very good opportunity recognise conservation as a social problem and not just a scientific problem. The TRCs have to think about the mid-term and long term goals remembering these things, to save the tiger.

Trevor Salmon, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA): DEFRA has been involved in the GTF since its inception. They have been involved in the preparations of the GTI all the way through. Over the years, particularly in the past 2 months they have continued with their support to the GTF and GTI, and they have continued to find on ground work through their Darwin Initiative and most recently in exchanges with India and China. Although they are not speaking on behalf of it, but they

certainly believe there is a desire within European Union countries to save the tiger. Among the EU countries, the UK has certainly taken the lead be it CITES or organisations to raise the issue. Trevor said that the fantastic presentations since morning have begun to erase doubts on any doubts any EU countries had regarding efforts to save the tiger. The wheel is starting to turn with more countries putting in their resources and money. Looking forward, they need to see the distilling of some of the work. They need to see how the GTI and GTF can work together. They need to see that this process is a top down process with involvement at the regional and local levels as well and not just national or international level.

Mr. V.P.Singh, Member of Parliament, India: Mr. Singh told the gathering that there is a need for political will to save the tiger. In 2005, India's Sariska Tiger Reserve lost all its tigers (13). From there the poachers went to Ranthambore. Fateh Singh Rathore, the tiger man, then said there could be no more than 8 – 10 tigers in Ranthambore. The Chief Minister of the state of Rajasthan, where Sariska and Ranthambore are located, formed a task force of experts to save tigers of the state. Mr. V.P.Singh was appointed its chairman. An emergency was declared and the authorities were given more powers to tackle the issue. There has been a turnaround and now there are more than 40 tigers in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the state. These tigers are now repopulating the surrounding forests as far as Madhya Pradesh. In a nutshell, conservationists have to take the politicians along in saving the tiger.

Mr. J.S.Rawat, IUCN: IUCN has been helping tiger conservation. IUCN fully supports the GTF and would be happy to provide technical support for the same.

Debbie Banks, EIA: EIA is a campaign based organisation that is gathering and sharing information in 18 states. They will continue to investigate the illegal trade in tiger parts. Using covert methods they will gather information on the dynamics of the trade. They will continue to inform enforcement community and the decision makers, to ensure their enforcement strategies keep pace with changes. They are also working in consultation with Interpol and CITES to produce an updated version of an enforcement training film

that was produced by them a few years ago. This film will share the best practices and will be produced in many different languages. They will help intelligence to be gathered, shared and analysed with the intelligence agencies of different countries to target major trans-national networks of wildlife trade. They would like to congratulate Vietnam for the recent prosecution of an illegal tiger farm. This set an excellent example to all tiger countries that have the problem of illegal trade in captive bred tigers.

Summary of the session by Hart: Hart said, what was very clear was that this was a unique partnership as it brought together people who wouldn't otherwise work together – for example Interpol and WB. He summarised the outcome of this session into the following ten points

- 1) Money was necessary and it is not sufficient.
- 2) Training the trainers was absolutely essential in the TRCs.
- 3) The civil society needed to be involved, as mentioned by Dr. Ullas Karath, - their cultural values etc needed to be addressed. Also, watchdog organisations like EIA need to be involved.
- 4) Peer learning and south-south exchange needed to continue, as there were some countries more advanced than others in knowledge. There was a need to draw on the knowledge from one another.
- 5) There was a need to work across borders to address wildlife trade as mentioned by TRAFFIC.
- 6) Protection of critical corridors, traditional habitat conservation, biodiversity conservation, which WWF is doing, is critical.
- 7) Need to balance short term actions with long term ones mentioned by IFAW
- 8) Innovative and strategic alliances were very important, like the consortium mentioned by ICCWC.
- 9) As Ananth referred to it as a living, a working document that needed to be updated. Ananth needed to again remind the gathering about the same to ensure progress was being made on it.
- 10) Let's just do it!

Additional summary of the session by Jim: This was one of the most extraordinary effort to recover a wildlife species ever. Never before such efforts to save a single species were seen. The partners and TRCs were committed to this. It had to be made sure the resource were being mobilised commensurate with that challenge. It was also heard how a lot of other ways in which partnerships could happen - from technical support to mobilising political will. Every one was committed to doing that together and it just needs to be ensured it was done in a transparent way.

Session 6, Monitoring the GTRP

Chair: Head of Delegation, Malaysia

Co-chair: P.R.Sinha, Director, WII

GTF: A monitoring framework for GTRP implementation: Dr. Sejal Worah

Sejal took through a brief process and framework for the monitoring of the GTRP and the role of GTF in trying to implement this monitoring plan. This was very much a suggestion and not 'set in stone'. As a background, it she reminded that GTF and GTI were going to collaborate to support monitoring of GTRP. This monitoring had 2 parts to it. The first was actual monitoring of entire GTRP , the implementation of the GTRP. The second was the science based, the more technical monitoring of the tiger, prey and habitat. GTF was not going be monitoring, the monitoring was going to be led by the TRCs. The role of GTF was going to be the support of this monitoring, through providing the framework and capacity as requested by the TRCs.

First part: Monitoring of the GTRPs

Sejal said, as had been seen, each of the TRCs had developed a plan, a to-do list for what they were going to do in the upcoming year. There were lots of actions planned under broad objectives. But the emphasis on each of the actions was different for each of the countries. The monitoring of each of these actions could be done by the countries themselves through a self- assessment and what needed to be done was to agree on some kind of a common frame work and a set of indicators so that this assessment could be rolled out through a global level assessment. Each country could also setup a national

level committee or a group to set this self assessment. It was up to that country to decide how to do it. The role of GTF then was to help gauge and adapt that the commonly agreed monitoring framework, to the country specific situation. GTF could also help to collate and synthesise information from the countries in to a Global Monitoring strategy. This was more difficult than it sounded. Often it was thought that one could take country specific plans, add the indicators and roll it into one big global plan, which didn't work. This process was slightly more complex depending on how the countries had used the different indicators. But this was where the GTF could play a role and help the countries understand how they are doing when compared to the GTRP.

The proposed framework had a set of simple indicators and tools that could be used to assess the programmes of GTRP. The countries' 'to do' lists were taken along with actions and were rolled into eight broad objectives:

- 1) Enhance management of tigers and prey populations, habitats and landscapes.
- 2) Control poaching of tigers and prey.
- 3) Control illegal trade and reduce demand for tiger parts and products.
- 4) Develop effective engagement with communities (including managing human-tiger conflict).
- 5) Promote excellence in scientific monitoring, surveys and research.
- 6) Build adequate capacity and strengthen institutions for tiger conservation.
- 7) Promote appropriate policies and institutions to support tiger conservation (including transboundary).
- 8) Enhance financial investment and promote sustainable financing for tiger conservation.

Hence, all the actions proposed by the countries fitted into one of these objectives. Monitoring frameworks were also developed for each of these broad objectives.

Sejal took the gathering through one of the objectives to show how the framework would work. The idea was to use two types of approaches to see how it would work. One was to have a simple approach of having pluses and minuses in relation to each objective. That would show if we one was doing either:

- a) the best (green colour code)
- b) are we doing just OK (Yellow) or
- c) we are not doing well (red).

This gave a simple overview of how it the GTF was doing.

The second was quite subjective, she added. It gave a set of indicators which helped each country to assess its own selves and explain how they have arrived at any of the above colour codes to measure against the objectives. She took here an example of an objective that was believed by many as quite hard to monitor '*Promote appropriate policies and institutions*'. But she said it was not so difficult, and it was actually possible to measure policy processes. She took the example of 'Changing or proposing an act or getting a new policy'. There were many different steps that could be monitored. Had it been developed? Had it been tabled? Had it been approved? Had it been accepted? At which stage of the policy process was it in? Similarly, if the objective was to set up an institution where was it through its different steps? Are there roles? Are there people? Does it have the staffing? Are there resources? Hence, each country could decide what indicators they wanted to use. Sejal said, the GTF wants the participants to have a look at the information sheets given and get back to GTF to let GTF know if they can be implemented.

Second part: Monitoring tigers and prey

Sejal said she was informing the TRCs on what GTF was offering. The success of GTRP will ultimately be measured in numbers and the increasing tiger population. There need to be some objective of assessing the global levels of these numbers. There were several different methods to measure tiger populations, depending on resources, landscapes. Countries needed to define which of the methods was ideal for them. This was an ongoing process. GTF was to help bringing the ideas on one platform and help the countries choose the best method for them. Again, to reinforce GTF was a convening platform and not a technical body that will actually do the monitoring. What was proposed was possibly set up a body like an International Technical Advisory group

consisting of range states and members of international organisations working on tiger and prey monitoring. The role of this group could be:

- a) to generate ideas and best practices,
- b) help the countries identify the most appropriate method for that country.
- c) adapt and modify those methodologies based on feedback from the countries which are trying it and
- d) to review and suggest outcomes at the global level.

Each country could then set up national tiger monitoring committee which could include key government and non-government partners selected by the country itself. The role of this group would be to take the advice from the international group and agree and decide on the best approach for each country and identify capacity and needs and collate and analyse the information at the country level and decide for itself what the numbers were telling, what needs to be done. In a nut shell this would be a national level group that took information, make broad level decisions and also takes decisions on management at the national levels. Then there could be site level teams. These could be determined by the national governments and PA managers. These were the teams conducting the monitoring and collecting the info, providing feedback on methodology, providing info back to the PA managers to say what was happening so that the PA managers could take the call on how to direct resources, change approaches etc.

Sejal summed up by saying the above were just the proposals by the GTF. GTF would only provide the platform to promote these but the actual implementation had to be done by the countries. Hence this proposed structure was up for discussion. There also was a structure and a work plan to implement the above, which could be discussed in detail in the meeting the next day.

TRC inputs from national self assessments:

India: India said it had published the scientific estimation techniques. There was an independent assessment of tiger reserves. There was a statutory body NTCA that evaluated the NTRP.

Malaysia: There was a tiger action plan in place. The implementation of the same was in progress as well as monitoring by an independent body. But the monitoring found the progress of the plan to be slow.

Thailand: Thailand was not a member of the GTF, though it was a member of the GTI. They were not sure if the monitoring of the GTRP was a must.

International inputs on the monitoring framework:

Dr. Ullas Karanth, WCS: There was a need for scientists to communicate effectively. The focus had to be on 6% of the habitats that was home to 70% of the tiger. The tigers had a very good reproductive capacity. Census of the tigers was not possible and sampling of the wildlife needed to be done. Monitoring was integral to conservation. There was a need to scale up sampling. Nearly 3000 km of transects were being monitored as of the day annually in Karnataka. About five NGOs having a base of 100 to 150 people belonging to the middle class were available to help in the monitoring.

The recovery of tiger populations takes years. In WCS, with available data they thought it would take 10 years to recover a tiger population, at 20% of tiger population turn over a year.

MEE() Dr. Mathur, WII: Dr. Mathur summed up how PAs were being managed in India. They were using different approaches to assess management effectiveness. The different factors used in MEE were sent to IUCN for peer review. The data credibility of MEE was analysed both quality and quantity wise. The next step was to move from MEE framework to certificate framework have the following three standards a) Gold b) Silver and c) Bronze

M-STRIPES (Monitoring System for tigers – Intensive protection and Ecological Status)

The aims of M-STRIPES were:

- 1) Effective patrolling and protection

- 2) Evaluating status and trends of carnivores and ungulates at regular intervals
- 3) Monitor habitat change
- 4) Evaluate human presence
- 5) Generate reports.

Features of M-STRIPES:

- 1) This provided user friendly field protocols, data storage and reports generating tool.
- 2) This was administered at the park level by the NTCA

WWF's Tigers Alive initiative, M.Craig, WWF-International:

This was a major campaign of WWF to save the wild tigers. The aim was to double the number of wild tigers by 2022.

The plan was to:

1. Improve the protection of tigers across the 13 priority landscapes.
2. Eliminate poaching in the core areas of the 13 TRCs.
3. Work to reduce demand of tiger products.
4. Work to persuade the 13 governments to protect the tiger.
5. Secure long-term funding for tiger conservation.

Smithsonian Institute, John. S: John said, there could be many tools to employ monitoring. There need to be incentives to support tiger conservation. It was ever important for the monitoring of tigers to be transparent. The importance of science based monitoring was that, it was peer reviewed and transparent. 11 of the tiger range countries need incremental funding for science-based monitoring. A series of workshops were needed to find the best tools 'out there'. There was a proposal for an International Technical Group to find the best tools that were new in the field and the evolving best practises. Many of the TRCs needed support for data analysis.

Queries and answers for the session

Query/ statement: VP Singh, MP: ‘Scientific monitoring is important, but statistics show most of the poaching is 5 days before or after the full moon’.

Responses:

- Dr. Ullas Karanth: Quality of leadership was important in the parks to control poaching

- S.C.Dey: Foot patrolling was very important.

- Field Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve: Intelligence gathering was required. There needed to be a watch on what was happening just outside the parks to get a pulse of the would be poachers’ intentions. This could prevent them from striking.

- Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Director, NTCA: In most of India’s 39 tiger reserves patrolling was happening through the park directors.

- Dr. MK.Ranjitsinh: There was a need to focus on man management. There was excellent management of the parks when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was at the helm of affairs in Government of India.

- Dr. AJT John Singh: Patrolling had to be on foot rather than 2-wheelers. Those patrolling should walk but not talk. There had to be ban on use of mobile phones by patrolling staff when walking in the forests.

- Mr.Karthik, Wildlife SoS: There was a general hesitation by the park managers to inform their higher ups on the instances of poaching. This was due the repercussions they might face.

- Shubro, IFS, Field Director, Sundarbans Tiger Reserve: Foot patrolling was not easy in some of the forests, particularly Sundarbans.

- Chair’s comments: It was not easy to get good park managers and rangers as seen in Malaysia. Most of the managers came to the park to take up the job when they do not have ‘anything else to do’. It was ultimately up to the individual TRCs to protect the tiger.

Session 7, Conclusion

Co-Chaired by: Head of the Delegation (Russia) and Bruno Laporte (GTI)

Opening comments by HoD, Russia: The biggest concern was the decrease of the tiger's habitat. In Russia the reason for this decline was commercial forestry and hunting. Sustainable development was very important for the tiger. GTI was very important for tiger conservation and it had proven to be useful for Russia.

Opening comments by Bruno Laporte: The GTI is multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional. GTI helped in capacity development. Capacity development could also be knowledge exchange between south-south as is happening among the TRCs. GTI was a collation building platform. GTI could see itself as a change forcer at local level. Though the initiative started only 2 years ago, the emerging results were encouraging, he said. Countries that wanted to share their best practices could connect to the countries that wanted to get them. The World Bank's *Innovation Platform* could give a chance to bring innovative practises to the park managers. Leadership and coalition building of the GTI facilitated processes among the stake holders. There was a need to have young people on the board. The leadership of the parks had to be brought together and help them connect with various stakeholders.

Igor: There were plans for reintroduction of the tiger in Kazakhstan. The country was home to the Caspian Tiger which is now extinct. The closest gene is that of the Amur tiger. An area along the border with China near Lakse Bolstan had been identified. The area was being given protection. Igor informed that, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan was interested in the reintroduction of this animal in the country and US \$7 million had been allotted for this purpose. This would in a short while increase the number of TRCs from 13 to 14. Also, Istanbul was going to be in the next GTI meeting!

Closing comments by participants: Open forum

Anand (GTI), Stock taking of the progress: A lot of things needed to be done but the good news was, a lot of things were already under progress. The funding gaps remained as the ask at St. Petersburg was US \$360 million and the same has not been raised as yet.

He said, there were four priorities for successful stock taking:

- 1) Deliver on prioritised national to do lists:
 - To keep doing what was started so well.
 - Apply 80-20 rule.
 - Reengage Indonesia.
 - Fill up the project pipeline: IDA, GEF, Donors.
 - Track special actions of TRC wide interest.
- 2) Deliver coordinated partners' support: Raise resources to meet the demands of TRCs.
- 3) Advance common monitoring framework: Joint GTI/ GTF support
- 4) Communicate:
 - Engage with key development sectors like roads, mines and hydro electric projects.
 - Engage civil society in new ways about values and services.

He summed up by saying, the world was watching and there needed to be transparent reporting which had to be annual and periodic.

Dr. Keshav: He said IFS officers needed to be brave as they were facing huge challenges and stereotypes of being anti-development. They were already doing good work despite the huge pressure from the industry.

Mr. V.P.Singh: There was excellent support for tiger conservation being provided in India irrespective of the differences among the political setups of the centre and the different states. This political support crossing political boundaries was needed to save the tiger.

Dr. M.K.Ranjitsinh: There was a need for full report of the recent estimation to be made public. There was a need to resolve man-animal conflict. The people need to value wilderness.

Dr.B.K.Singh, PCCF (Wildlife) Karnataka: There was a lot of patrolling happening in Karnataka. Chowkis (forest patrol staffs' posts) has been set up, GPS had been given to

the patrolling staff and patrolling reports were monitored. Some times adverse comments against the forest staff affected the work of the forest department and widened the gap between it and the organisations. Some times reports were given in the newspapers about new roads being built, although only old roads are being rejuvenated to patrol effectively. There had to be no more eco-tourism before determining the carrying capacity levels of the current parks.

Mahendra Shreshta: He said, there was a need for competent people. There was a need to recognise good people who were working in the field.

Closing remarks by Dr. Rajesh Gopal: Dr. Gopal said, the GTF was in the process of compiling action reports in association with WTI. The tiger was a sovereign issue in India. The federal government needed to consult states to move forward on issues and agenda. The hand holding by GTI or GTF had to facilitate and not impose conditions on countries. He said, the GTI/ GTF should not go beyond being catalysts. The current meeting was a significant step beyond the St. Petersburg meeting. The monitoring had to be left to range countries. The GTI or the GTF could only assist the national advisory groups in furthering the agenda of these countries.

Comments Received from Ms Debbie Banks (EIA): Many thanks for forwarding the proceedings of the March tiger meeting, as documented by WWF India.

Not sure who exactly was recording the meetings, but in case anyone asks you, please be advised that EIA does not work in “18 states”, as suggested in page 41.

Also, WWF India didn't record the question from Bangladesh to China at the end of Session 4 (page 28), and China's response. Bangladesh had commented on the fact that they, Nepal and Russia had all reported continued trafficking of tiger parts and derivatives into China, and asked China what actions they were taking to combat it.

That is when China responded by saying that since they had not received recent reports from TRAFFIC, IFAW and EIA, that they believed they had effectively addressed the problem.

For your information, I did ask Wan Ziming for clarification over what he said, and he confirmed that when he did not receive a report from EIA in 2010 he genuinely believed it was because we could not find any problems. I advised him that the reason we didn't send a report in 2010 was because we did not have the resources to do an investigation in 2010!

We were greatly troubled by the assumptions made by Wan Ziming as Head of the Law Enforcement Division in this regard, and have sent the attached letter to Premier Wen Jiabao.

We have subsequently seen a copy of China's report to the CITES Secretariat ahead of the CITES Standing Committee in August 2011, and remain concerned that China does not provide any evidence to substantiate their claims that they have effectively deterred trade in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), Gansu, Qinghai and Sichuan Province.

Especially given that the data provided to TRAFFIC for their report "Reduced to Skin and Bones" suggests there have not been any seizures in TAR since the 2003 Sangsang seizure, despite the overwhelming evidence from our investigations 2005-2009 showing persistent offenders continuing to trade tiger, leopard and snow leopard skin and bone there.

Also in China's report to the CITES Secretariat, they reiterate they are stockpiling skin and bone from captive bred tigers, but do not provide a rationale for why they are doing this if they are truly committed to ending the tiger trade.

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