

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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GLOBAL TIGER INITIATIVE

The attached document has been prepared by the World Bank*. It is provided by the CITES Secretariat as background for discussions in relation to the agenda item on Asian big cats and document SC58 Doc. 33.

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Global Tiger Initiative: Mainstreaming Conservation into Development

Launched on June 9, 2008 by the World Bank Group, Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Tiger Coalition (ITC), Smithsonian Institution. Open to all interested parties.

Objectives:

Strategic Objective (by 2020): stabilize and restore populations of wild tigers (a ‘flagship’ species) and associated habitats / landscapes to a sustainable level.

Expected Operational Outcomes (2009-2011): establish and deploy effective mechanisms for comprehensive global and national efforts in tiger and broader biodiversity conservation in the mainstream economic development, i.e.:

- Effective transnational framework of enforcement networks and crime bureaus to curb poaching, illegal trade and reduce consumption/demand in tiger and wildlife products;
- Country public policy and investment practices in tiger range countries strongly in favor of tiger and broader biodiversity conservation;
- Awareness / information dissemination campaigns affecting consumer behavior (new urban middle class);
- Development cohesion among government, NGO and private sector efforts.

Timetable:

I. Deployment Phase (mid 2008-mid 2009)

- Public launch of the Global Tiger Initiative (June 9, 2008, Washington DC, USA)
- Conduct Country Dialogues in the Tiger Range Countries, update status of National Tiger Action Plans
- Define collaboration mechanisms with NGOs, establish key bilateral and multilateral partnerships (US, EU, CITES, Interpol, others)
- Launch key regional partnerships – e.g. with the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (venue – Pattaya, Thailand, April 2009)
- Adopt progress monitoring indicators (jointly with partners)
- Launch core analytical work (trade, finance mechanisms, economic incentives)

II. Mobilization and Early Action Phase (mid 2009-early 2010)

- Consolidation of a Global tiger strategy and a Pre-Summit Conference (suggested venue – Kathmandu, Nepal, Fall 2009, to be confirmed)
- Launch technical assistance & capacity building with US, ASEAN, CITES, Smithsonian, and other partners
- Business development and early action pilots (including tiger monitoring systems) with GEF, UNDP, ADB, NGOs, others
- Public awareness and media campaigns (incl. “Amba Fest”) with NGOs, corporates, EU, US, celebrities, etc.
- Design innovative finance mechanisms, conduct fund-raising.

III. Implementation Phase (2010-2011 and beyond)

- “Year of the Tiger” Summit – mid-2010 (venue – to be determined)
- Launch of financing mechanism and national/international policy commitments.
- Analysis: Mainstreaming conservation in Country policies and strategies
- Implementation through Country Partnership Strategies, projects with WB, GEF, other multilateral development banks, etc.

Role of the World Bank Group:

- Convening power (“honest broker”) – globally, regionally and nationally.
- Work at national policy level, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in Country Partnership Strategies.
- Tiger-friendly (conservation-friendly) downstream investments with improved safeguards / best practices (going beyond process, i.e. not only “do no harm”, but also “do measurable good” towards the Initiative’s strategic objective).

“What If...”

(Forward Thinking towards the Year-of-the-Tiger Summit and Beyond)

Tigers are experiencing a range collapse and wild populations are at a tipping point. We must seize the moment and seize the Year of the Tiger as a critical step in the range-wide recovery of tigers. To this end, the leaders of the Tiger Range Countries and the international community could exercise their leadership by joining forces and pledging key actions under a Year of the Tiger Summit in 2010.

Why do we believe that a global tiger summit could accelerate a range-wide recovery of the tiger, its prey, and the restoration of tiger habitat? The Yaoundé Forest Summit for the Congo Basin is a compelling example of how a summit that convenes the top leaders of range states can change the course of conservation for a global conservation priority. The tiger, and the species for which it serves as an umbrella, deserve no less; and will be a fitting tribute during the Year of the Tiger of the Chinese calendar, and a year the United Nations has dedicated to conserving the Earth's biodiversity.

Although the Tiger Summit is still an evolving concept and will only move forward and gain structure once range state leaders embrace the idea and help to design it, the synergism for commitments of mainstreaming conservation into development from such a summit comprising of most of the leaders in Asia raises much hope. For instance, **what if:**

- political leaders were to agree to a common goal of doubling the number of wild tigers across the range within a decade?
- range states pledged a new commitment to enact enforcement and trade laws and cooperate regionally to end smuggling of tiger parts?
- the Global Tiger Summit sparked a global communications and outreach effort that called upon all nations to refrain from using tiger parts and agreeing in an international commitment to end the farming of tigers?
- range state leaders declared their commitment to protecting core reserves, buffer zones, corridors and more tiger friendly management in the priority Tiger Conservation Landscapes across the range?
- the Global Tiger Summit triggered donor nations and funding institutions to help offset the recurrent costs of tiger conservation through sustainable financing mechanisms such as trust funds and carbon financing?
- and what if the major financing institutions created and implemented mechanisms to ensure that infrastructure and other regional development projects invoked a tiger filter to ensure that such projects contained significant components to enhance tiger conservation and mainstream it rather than simply "doing no harm"?"

As an indicator of healthy ecosystems in Asia, rebounding wild tiger populations will also be a harbinger of successful conservation of Asia's other facets of biodiversity and continued provision of ecosystem services that support and sustain lives, livelihoods and sustainable economic development.