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पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
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New Delhi-110003

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Mr. John Scanlon  
Secretary-General to CITES  
International Environment House  
Chemin des Anemones; 1219 Châtelaine  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

With reference to the 'Notification to Parties No. 2012/054', the Government of India would like to herewith submit the compliance report on status of tigers, their conservation and trade controls realising said notification as below:

#### STATUS OF TIGERS, THEIR CONSERVATION AND TRADE CONTROLS

1. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation and assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy. The second round of country level tiger status assessment, based on the said methodology, was completed in 2010, with the findings indicating an increase with a tiger population estimate of 1706 (20%), lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively, as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657, respectively. The status of tigers is satisfactory in protected areas. The third round of such assessment would be done in the year 2014. Tiger reserve level monitoring (Phase-IV) using camera traps has been launched at annual basis, and a National Repository of Camera Trap Photographs of Tigers is being created.
2. All the 17 tiger States have notified the core/critical tiger habitat (35123.9547 sq. km.), and the buffer/peripheral area (28750.73421 sq.km.) of all the 41 tiger reserves in the country, under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, which covers roughly 2% of the geographical area of the country. Further, in-principle approval has been accorded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for creation of five new tiger reserves, and the sites are: Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), Sunabeda (Odisha), Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan) and Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu). Final approval has been accorded to Kudremukh (Karnataka) for declaring it as a tiger reserve. The State Governments have been advised to send proposals for declaring the following areas as tiger reserves: (i) Bor (Maharashtra),

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- (ii) Suhelwa (Uttar Pradesh), (iii) Nagzira-Navegaon (Maharashtra), (iv) Guru Ghasidas National Park (Chhattisgarh), (v) Mhadei Sanctuary (Goa) and (vi) Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel / Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries / Varushanadu Valley (Tamil Nadu).
3. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of the 29th February, 2008, inter alia, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 500 million provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. The States of Karnataka and Maharashtra have already created and deployed the STPF in 3 tiger reserves.
  4. Antipoaching activities have been strengthened, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to tiger reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel or home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication and wireless facilities.
  5. Tiger and other wildlife cannot be protected by excluding local people. Our endeavour all along has been to deploy local workforce in protection. In all, approximately 2.4 million mandays are generated annually with 50% central assistance amounting to around Rs. 240 million (excluding matching 50% share given by States) under Project Tiger. Many local tribes constitute such local workforce (besides non-tribals), eg. Baigas, Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, Gonds in Maharashtra, Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh, Sholigas in Karnataka, Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Irulas in Tamil Nadu to name a few. The deployment of such local tribals has been fostered /encouraged in the last two years.
  6. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, an online tiger crime data base has been launched, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.
  7. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'Monitoring System for Tigers' Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-STrIPES)' for effective field patrolling and monitoring. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
  8. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserves, and a 24x7 electronic surveillance using intelligent, thermal & infrared cameras has been launched at the Corbett Tiger Reserve.
  9. The second round of independent assessment of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves done in 2010-2011 for 39 tiger reserves based on globally used framework. Out of 39 tiger reserves, 15 were rated as 'very good', 12 as 'good', 8 as 'satisfactory' and 4 as 'poor'. The said independent assessment would be again done in the year 2014.
  10. The allocation in Project Tiger has been enhanced with additional components.

10. The allocation in Project Tiger has been enhanced with additional components.
11. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to State Governments for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, inter alia, include financial support to States for enhanced village relocation or rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 100,000 per family to Rs. 1 million per family), rehabilitation or resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
12. Special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas is being provided.
13. A 'Standard Operation Procedure' for dealing with tiger deaths has been issued, based on advisories of Project Tiger / National Tiger Conservation Authority, with inputs from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, State officials and experts, fine tuned to meet the present challenges.
14. A 'Standard Operation Procedure' for dealing with emergency arising out of straying tigers in the human dominated landscapes has been developed to meet the present challenges.
15. Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority have been created at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati for better monitoring and hand holding with States.
16. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers and tigresses have been done (first of its kind in the world).
17. Special advisories issued for in-situ build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.
18. A comprehensive set of guidelines under section 38 (O) (1) (c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been issued on 15 October, 2012 for regulated tourism in and around tiger reserves benefitting local community and wildlife.

#### **Efforts at the international level taken by Government of India:**

- i. India has a bilateral understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China, and the parties have met.
- ii. As an outcome of the 'Sixth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting' held in January, 2013, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for biodiversity and tiger conservation.
- iii. A protocol has been signed in September, 2011 with Bangladesh for conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarbans.
- iv. A sub-group on tiger and leopard conservation has been constituted for cooperation with the Russian Federation and the parties have met and discussed cooperation relating to research and capacity building for tiger conservation.

- v. Provision for collaboration and technical support to Bangladesh on tiger monitoring and capacity building under the existing bilateral protocol.
- vi. Cooperation with Russia in research and capacity building for tiger conservation.
- vii. Willing to provide technical support to China on tiger reintroduction and information sharing on anti-poaching activities.
- viii. Continue efforts for a bilateral protocol on tiger conservation with Myanmar.
- ix. Collaboration with Bhutan on joint monitoring, conservation and protection of tiger in the Manas tiger landscape.
- x. Joint tiger monitoring with Nepal in the Terai-Arc Landscape and continue bilateral cooperation and information sharing on enforcement.
- xi. Participating in the events organised by the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) and INTERPOL.
- xii. Supporting the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

  
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