

## Global Tiger Recovery Program: First Year of Implementation Summary of Achievements and Challenges in 2011

Unprecedented political will generated by the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in November 2010, created an extraordinary response in the implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) even during times of global economic challenges. The Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) led policy and institutional reforms that enabled changes on the ground: new tiger reserves were created; resourcing of protection and conservation efforts, modern technologies, and science was enhanced; public awareness about the ongoing wildlife crisis received greater attention. These efforts have been augmented by support from international partners. The following summary of the achievements and challenges in 2011 is compiled on the basis of the information submitted by the TRCs and international partners.

### 1. National Programs in the Tiger Range Countries

Major Achievements	Major Challenges
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the Wildlife (Conservation) Act 2011</li> <li>• World Bank’s US\$36 million project on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection launched; it will create a new wildlife crime control unit and hire 100 additional patrol and conservation staff</li> <li>• Prepared Strategic Management Plan for the Sundarbans, introducing its transboundary management with India, SMART patrolling of habitats, co-management organization to improve livelihoods for local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under-staffed, under-resourced wildlife institutions, vandalized infrastructure, uncontrolled pirates in habitats</li> <li>• Resource over-exploitation by community, acute tiger-human conflict, killing of stray tigers, poaching of deer</li> <li>• Increasing salinity, shortage of fresh water, sea level rise</li> </ul>
<b>BHUTAN</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the St. Petersburg Declaration and Forest Policy</li> <li>• National Assembly is adopting Revised Forest and Nature Conservation Act 2011 and Wildlife and Protected Area Bill</li> <li>• Community-based livestock insurance fund replenished, World Bank’s US\$2.25 million project on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia launched</li> <li>• First re-verification survey of tiger density completed in Royal Manas National Park and similar surveys commenced in two more parks with funding support from WWF-Bhutan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intense conflict between development (roads) and inviolability of tiger habitats</li> <li>• Severe lack of committed financial resources and field research supplies</li> <li>• Increasing problem of human-wildlife conflict which may stall or reverse conservation efforts</li> </ul>
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First National Tiger Action Plan completed</li> <li>• MOU on transboundary law enforcement against wildlife smuggling signed with Lao PDR; first Wildlife Law being drafted</li> <li>• Scientific tiger census is planned to verify wild tiger existence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few, if any, tigers left in the wild – need for relocation program</li> </ul>
<b>CHINA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Council acknowledged the Global Tiger Recovery Program; wild tiger conservation actions are included in the 12th five-year plan</li> <li>• Field survey and monitoring of Amur and Indo-Chinese tiger populations, regional planning for their conservation started</li> <li>• Four special wildlife law-enforcement training courses for about 170 staff and another professional training on conservation of wild tigers to enhance implementation of the National Tiger Recovery Program for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severely degraded tiger habitats and prey base</li> <li>• Conflict between impoverished communities and conservation</li> <li>• Limited funding and personnel resources</li> </ul>

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<p>50 staff completed; an international law-enforcement training course, including dialogue meeting between China, India, and Nepal, was held in China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian delegation and CITES Secretary General visited China; Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group established</li> <li>• Funding to improve patrolling and secure monitoring equipment for local conservation units appropriated</li> </ul>	
<b>INDIA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added 2500 km<sup>2</sup> of new tiger habitat by establishing two new Tiger Reserves, bringing a total of 54,656 km<sup>2</sup> under 41 Tiger Reserves. This represents a 5% increase in tiger habitat under protection. In addition, five more tiger reserves (4,000 km<sup>2</sup>) are under establishment and another six (4,500 km<sup>2</sup>) are proposed. Collectively, these will increase the tiger habitat under protection by 24% since the Tiger Summit</li> <li>• Nationwide tiger and prey estimations recorded modest increase in tiger numbers; annual intensive monitoring (Phase-IV) of tigers, prey, and habitat initiated; transparent and independent monitoring and evaluation of tiger reserves being done, wildlife corridors connecting critical tiger breeding areas identified and published</li> <li>• US\$20 million allocated for relocation of villages from eight identified tiger reserves to create inviolate core habitats; Special Tiger Protection Force sanctioned in 13 tiger reserves</li> <li>• Held series of bilateral meetings with Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and Nepal on tiger conservation and signed a bilateral protocol with Bangladesh for transboundary cooperation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining the integrity and inviolability of core tiger habitats and corridors (mounting pressures from roads, mining, and extractive industries), US\$1 billion needed to relocate villages out of the core areas</li> <li>• Maintaining tiger occupancy in habitats outside tiger reserves (20% decrease in tiger occupancy observed in habitats outside designated tiger reserves)</li> <li>• Managing human-wildlife relationships (increased tiger-human conflict in some landscapes)</li> </ul>
<b>INDONESIA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sumatra-wide assessment of tiger occupancy completed</li> <li>• High-level inter-agency command team established to deal with wildlife traders; issuing of new forest logging concession permits suspended by a Presidential Instruction No. 10 in 2011; Governor Decrees in North and West Sumatra, Jambi, and Lampung created wildlife-human conflict mitigation taskforces</li> <li>• Seven new Smart Patrolling Teams made operational in Dangku and Bukit Tigapuluh, two team Mitigation Units and one mobile awareness unit in Bukit Tigapuluh.</li> <li>• A national movement against cyber crime in tiger trade launched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe pressure from roads, coal mining, and palm oil plantations on habitats, especially in lowland forests</li> <li>• Poor coordination between national and local agencies, and among different sectors</li> <li>• Under-resourced protection teams</li> </ul>
<b>LAO PDR</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the St. Petersburg Declaration; new Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment created in order to protect the environment and ensure sustainable development</li> <li>• US\$19.5 million project on protected area management and wildlife conservation developed and submitted for approval (linking financing from GEF-5 and World Bank's regional project on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection)</li> <li>• Increased transnational cooperation with Vietnam and training on anti-poaching and patrolling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads, mining, illegal logging, hydropower impact on tiger habitats</li> <li>• Near-extinct single tiger population in the country</li> <li>• Illegal logging and poaching fueled by regional demand and porous borders</li> </ul>
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	

Major Achievements	Major Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Wildlife Conservation Act (2010) adopted and being implemented; Master Plan for Central Forest Spine (CFS) landscape to secure the contiguity of wildlife habitats was accepted, making Malaysia a leader in land-use planning for wildlife conservation</li> <li>• Two wildlife corridors with six viaducts at the cost of US\$37 million to link fragmented wildlife habitats within the CFS being developed based on Smart Green Infrastructure principles</li> <li>• National protocol for tiger survey developed as part of the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan, seed funding secured for 2012 tiger survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building needed among diverse stakeholders to mainstream conservation, enforce the new law, secure and manage ecological corridors, and undertake scientific surveys</li> </ul>
<b>MYANMAR</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the St. Petersburg Declaration and Revised Criminal Procedure Code</li> <li>• Established Tiger Protection Units to strengthen habitat patrolling</li> <li>• Modern monitoring and patrolling technologies introduced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under-resourced, under-staffed patrolling task forces; poachers and illegal traders in the Hukaung Valley</li> <li>• Lack of modern technologies</li> <li>• Impacts on tiger habitats from infrastructure developments such as road and large-scale agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>NEPAL</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the St. Petersburg Declaration; Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation initiated organizational and policy reforms; Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee and Bureau (central and field level) institutionalized and strengthened</li> <li>• South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network's Secretariat launched in Kathmandu</li> <li>• World Bank's US\$3 million project on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia launched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme poverty of growing local communities, encroachment of parks</li> <li>• Under-resourced tiger parks (human resources, poor infrastructure of posts and all-weather roads for patrolling)</li> <li>• Poaching and trade</li> <li>• Capacity development</li> </ul>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logging of Korean pine, a key source of food for prey of tigers, is banned; Customs activity to control trafficking of tiger parts and derivatives is strengthened, three large channels of illegal trade and export are blocked by Customs, police dogs were trained under special program to search for derivatives, including those of tigers</li> <li>• Primorsky and Khabarovsk Administrations strengthened anti-poaching brigades – rights of regional rangers are fully granted, 10% increase in monthly allowances, 25 new staff hired, digital system and database for recording and monitoring poachers is being created; strengthened cross-regional cooperation resulted in creation of special groups to deal with human-wildlife conflict, and protocol on joint annual tiger monitoring 2012 and data exchange</li> <li>• International cooperation intensified: Russia-China expert working group on transboundary management of protected areas is established; Sino-Russian Agreement on cooperation in tiger conservation between Primorsky Region (Russia) and Jilin (China) province is signed; standardized scientific monitoring protocols developed, genetic analysis of gathered materials conducted by Russian Academy of Science and by Hokkaido University, Japan</li> <li>• Tiger conservation awareness is raised through the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tiger Day Festival in Vladivostok, Primorsky Region, and Moscow, September 24-25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poaching of tiger and prey</li> <li>• Illegal logging in some parts of tiger habitats</li> <li>• Under-resourced programs to control threats at regional level</li> <li>• Wildlife corridor between Sikhote-Alin, Russia, and Wandashan, China, has not been created yet</li> </ul>

Major Achievements	Major Challenges
<b>THAILAND</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the St. Petersburg Declaration; new Wildlife Crime Center, two Wildlife Crime Units, and Regional Training Center launched</li> <li>• Tiger landscape connectivity plan developed, wildlife corridor and habitat restoration prioritized</li> <li>• Smart patrolling expanded to cover three new protected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous threat of tiger poaching, trade, and smuggling across borders</li> <li>• Development pressure (roads, mines)</li> </ul>
<b>VIETNAM</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the St. Petersburg Declaration, provided full support for implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program; Endangered Species Decree being approved</li> <li>• Held cross-sectoral roundtable (conservation, forestry, police, customs, INTERPOL, health agencies and NGOs) on tiger issues, organized first celebration of global tiger day</li> <li>• Level of wildlife law enforcement increased (illegal tiger case uncovered and subjects punished); five tiger protected areas are surveyed and selected for intensive management and restoration; MOUs on transboundary enforcement of wildlife smuggling signed with Lao PDR and Cambodia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit and end market for tiger and wildlife products</li> <li>• Near-extinct tiger population in the wild</li> <li>• Development pressure on remaining tiger habitats and poor public awareness on tiger / wildlife crisis and need of biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>

## 2. International Partners Supporting the Implementation

Major achievements include:

- Coordination of resource mobilization resulting in confirmed incremental and external to the TRCs funding for GTRP implementation in the amount of US\$67.9 million (as of September, 2011); major contributors to date are the World Bank, US\$34 million; European Commission, US\$12 million; WWF and Wildlife Conservation Society consolidating various funding sources through respective programs, US\$10 million and US\$7 million respectively;
- Enhanced capacity building efforts to train managers and field staff of tiger protected areas to use new technologies and strategies in patrolling of tiger habitats, led by the Smithsonian Institution; application of Smart Green Infrastructure; roll out and testing of SMART patrolling system by WCS, WWF, and other partners expected in early 2012;
- Transboundary operations and ongoing dialog between the TRCs sustained by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) launched in St. Petersburg, November 2010;
- USAID support to Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST) program and INTERPOL's Project PREDATOR, grant to WWF Nepal to pilot Wildlife Premium Market Initiative in the Terai Arc and the Chitwan-Annapurna Landscapes.