



Global Tiger Initiative Conservation and Development Network

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Executive Leadership Forum

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Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) Conservation and Development Network

... to provide conservation leaders and policy-makers in TRCs with the advanced knowledge, tools, skill sets, and sustained support necessary for developing and implementing effective conservation strategies





Why the Smithsonian Institution?

“Studying and understanding biodiversity, people and the environment, and training the next generations of conservation practitioners”

- Knowledge-based institution with reputation as convener, connector and partnership builder
- Understand the power and legacy that can emerge from capacity building, networking and partnership
- Realize it is NOT enough to “train” people, but that we must also expand and exploit our partnership networks



Birth of the Smithsonian Institution

- James Smithson, a British scientist, died in 1829
- His estate went *"to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."*
- Estate of gold coins translated to approximately US \$500,000
- Smithsonian Institution established August 10, 1846 by an Act of Congress
- Administered by a Board of Regents and a Secretary
- 20 years later a museum was built to house collections





Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Smithsonian Institution

Mission: The Increase and Diffusion of Knowledge

- **Unlocking the Mysteries of the Universe**
- **Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet**
- **Valuing World Cultures**
- **Understanding the American Experience**





Today's Smithsonian

Resources

- Museums **18**
- Affiliate museums **140**
- Research centers **9**
- Collections **143.5 mil**
- Websites **500+**
- Website pages **1/2 mil**
- Visitors per year **~26 mil**
- Museums **3.9 mil**
- Traveling exhibitions **78.8 mil**
- Website unique visitors **78.8 mil**



GTI - Conservation and Development Network Pre - Assessment

Issue: Capacity building is occurring yet tiger populations continue to decline

Identified factors:

1. Not enough skilled individuals
2. Difficulty in implementing skills
3. Lack of communication, collaboration and long-term support





GTI - Conservation and Development Network Pilot Project Concept

1. Increase individual capacity and numbers of trained individuals.

(Training of Trainers (ToT) Program)

Strategy: develop a cadre of qualified instructors to provide training for a critical mass of conservation practitioners.





ToT Course Development Process

Needs Assessment

Interviews
Surveys
Focus Groups
Document Review
Case Studies
Discussions
Workshops

Course Design

Rationale
Curriculum
Faculty Selection
Participant Selection
Venue
Budget
Evaluation
Pedagogy

Feedback

Reviewers
• **Experts**
• **Instructors**
• **Participants**
New Data
• **Publications**
• **Workshops**
• **Reports**
• **Meetings**





GTI - Conservation and Development Network Pilot Project Concept

2. Encourage Pan – Institutional Management (Executive Leadership Forum – ELF)

- Senior level representatives from TRCs – individual and institutional capacity building
- Engage leaders in multilateral communication and action
 - Intra-departmental, cross disciplinary and trans-national collaboration
- Provide foundation for conservation knowledge, tools, strategies and practices to be implemented

Pilot event: April 15-22, 2010 in Washington, DC



GTI - Conservation and Development Network Pilot Project Concept

3. Facilitate communication, collaboration and long-term support: **Community of Practice**
 - Enable communication and collaboration
 - Provide access to cutting edge conservation training, news, reports, legislation, funding sources and more
 - Inform the public about tiger conservation



Integrating Core Competency's and the Community of Practice

Holistic Concepts Competency

- Economic
- Political
- Biological
- Historical
- Cultural
- Social

Field Skills Competency

- Habitat Monitoring
- Wildlife Trafficking
- Prey Surveying
- Tiger Monitoring
- Wildlife Health

Leadership and Communications Competency

- Communication Techniques
- Team Building and Motivation
- Project Management

Community of Practice

- Communications
- Collaboration
- Networking
- Funding Contacts
- Continuing Education
- News and Updates



Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) Conservation and Development Network

- Identify best practices, learn from existing experiences, and develop new models where appropriate.
- Build capacity at multiple levels – from practitioners and protected area managers to decision makers in government including infrastructure sectors.
- Support and connect existing institutional capacity across TRCs to create a functioning network of conservation practice.
- Develop a mechanism for supporting a capacity building platform among tiger conservation stakeholders.



THANKS