

Hua Hin Declaration on Tiger Conservation
at the First Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation (1st AMC)
January 29, 2010
Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand

During the past 100 years, wild tigers have declined from about 100,000 to the current 3,200, in spite of huge resources being invested since the 1970s. With political will and implementation of the needed actions, the extinction of wild tigers across much of their range can be averted. Tiger conservation is important to protect biodiversity and to preserve a vital part of our natural heritage for the benefit of communities dependent on nature and for our children and their children. This crisis of extinction has to be averted.

Therefore,

We, the conservation leaders of sovereign tiger range countries (TRCs), reaffirm our commitments to the implementation of national tiger conservation efforts.

We also reaffirm our commitments to the related international agreements and conventions, including, inter alia, CBD and CITES.

We acknowledge:

1. The Manifesto on Combating Wildlife Crime in Asia, adopted in Pattaya, Thailand, in April, 2009.
2. The Recommendations of the Global Tiger Workshop in Kathmandu, October 2009.

And we commit to a shared goal of reversing the declining trend in tiger numbers and strive to increase the occupancy and numbers of the remaining wild tigers within each country, and jointly strive to double globally the occupancy and number of the remaining wild tigers by the year 2022.

Furthermore, to accomplish this goal, we collectively pledge through national actions and regional cooperation, to initiate the following transformational actions immediately:

1. With regard to **landscapes**, we pledge to strike a balance between conservation and development needs and thus to:
 - Make the critical tiger habitats and existing tiger source populations as true sanctuaries for tigers, and be inviolate from economic development.
 - Subject buffer zones and corridors that connect the critical tiger habitats and existing tiger source populations to such principles of zoning that ensure that they will remain functional landscape components that facilitate tiger survival and conservation.
 - Not support nor finance development projects that adversely affect critical tiger habitats and existing source populations.

- Mainstream tiger concerns by sectoral integration in the tiger landscape, where tiger conservation is not the primary objective.
2. With regard to ***law enforcement and illegal trade***, we pledge to:
 - Protect wild tigers and their prey base from poaching, and critical tiger habitats from encroachment, through smart patrolling, trans-boundary coordination, and elimination of international trade of tigers, tiger parts, and derivatives through effective laws and their enforcement, at national and international levels, if necessary, with support of specialized international agencies, such as CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC and WCO, if necessary.
 - Conduct focused outreach to target audiences to reduce demand for tiger parts and enhance demand for live tigers living in the wild.
 3. With regard to ***management***, we pledge to:
 - Implement scientifically developed adaptive management tools in tiger conservation landscapes.
 - Implement scientific systems of estimating and monitoring the status of tigers and their prey across all TRCs and professionalize and improve management practices by adopting best practice systems, technology, and science.
 4. With regard to ***communities***, we pledge to:
 - Encourage communities living in and around tiger landscapes with sustainable livelihood support and appropriate technologies to minimize human-tiger conflict and impacts to tiger habitat.
 5. With regard to ***sustainable financing***, we pledge to:
 - Explore and mobilize domestic funding, including new financing mechanisms based on forest carbon financing, payment for ecosystem services (PES), ecotourism, and private sector, donor, and NGO partnerships.
 - Appeal for the commitment of international financial institutions, such as World Bank, GEF, ADB, bilateral and other donors and foundations, CITES Secretariat, NGOs, and other conservation partners to provide or mobilize financial and/or technical support to tiger conservation.
 6. To ensure **accelerated implementation of national and regional tiger conservation programs as well as work toward a successful Tiger Summit and its follow-up**, we the conservation leaders of sovereign TRCs:
 - Invite the international community to launch a multi-donor trust fund or other flexible arrangements to be functional before the Tiger Summit to support a global tiger conservation.
 - Undertake to review and update our national tiger conservation strategies, action plans, or similar documents to reflect the undertakings above to be ready for presentation at the pre-Summit partners' dialogue in June 2010.

- Intensify the trans-border cooperation on wildlife law enforcement for tiger conservation, including interdiction support activities of ASEAN-WEN.
- Intend to develop implementation plans for trans-border tiger landscapes.
- Recognize the Global Tiger Forum, having the endorsement of Governments of member-countries of the GTF, as an important platform for sharing knowledge among the TRCs and facilitating cross-border cooperation on tiger conservation.
- Seek to set up robust mechanisms to monitor progress toward achieving our shared goals.
- Acknowledge with appreciation and welcome the invitation of the Russian Federation to host the Tiger Summit of heads of governments and global partners in Vladivostok in September 2010.

As we save wild tigers, we will save Asian biodiversity. It is our responsibility to future generations as they inherit the planet.

Definition

- *Critical tiger habitats are areas where it has been established on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, within the framework of each TRC's laws and policies, that such areas are required to be kept inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation. They are inclusive of core breeding areas and crucial corridors.*