

Action Plan for Restoration of Wild Tiger Population in China

(2010—2022)

Historical reasons have made wild tiger population in extreme endangered state in China. A series of measures have been taken in China in laws and regulations, in construction of natural reserves, in restoration of habitat, in cracking down poaching and illegal trade to save and restore the wild population of this specie, such efforts result in gradual improvement in the population and the habitat of Chinese wild tigers. China will continue to extend and optimize the wild tigers' habit, explore the release of artificial bred tigers into nature, strengthen the conservation management, intensify law enforcement and engage in wide dissemination and education to create sound conditions for the restoration of wild tigers so that to achieve significant population growth and large scale extension of the habitat of wild tigers by 2022.

I、 Long term target (2010—2022) .

There are four tiger subspecies in China: *panthera Tigris altaica*, *panthera Tigris amoyensis*, *panthera Tigris corbetti* and *panthera Tigris Tigris*. The main issues facing their population are: first, wild tigers live in limited areas, isolated from each other, hard to access to other potential, adequate habitat; second, poor vegetation in their habitat and severe insufficiency in preys resources; third, human activities interfere quite seriously with the activities of the wild tigers and their preys, illegal hunting still exists, illegal snare directly threaten the wild tigers in particular; four, the natural reproduction of the extreme small species faces severe genetic problems. In addition, the fact that the wild tigers injure people and domestic animals and the need to restrict the way of production and living in local communities in order to protect wild tigers will have close impacts on conservation.

Given the above situation, measures will be taken to focus on habitat rehabilitation, establishment of adequate ecological corridor between habitats, intensification of patrolling and monitoring, exploration of release to nature, and introduction of adequate ways of economic development accordingly. The objective is to achieve large scale extension and quality optimization of the wild tigers' habitat by 2022, to promote significant population growth of the wild tigers, to guide and assist the local residents to adequately develop economy and improve livelihood.

II、 General information

According to surveys and monitoring, it is estimated that there are about 40-50 wild tigers living in China, consisting: P.T. *altaica* living in the mountains connecting Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces with Russia or its eastern mountains in the neighborhood, their population has grown from 12-16 by end of last century to current 18-22; even though there are reports of sporadic traces of P.T. *amoyensis*, the tigers have not been seen over more than 20 years in the wild; there are about 11-16 P.T. *corbetti* living in Xishuangbanna and Huanglianshan Natural Reserve, a bordering area of Yunnan province with Laos and Vietnam; there are about 8-10

P.T.tigris living in the forestry in southeast of Tibet, bordering India. Given the limited technology and capacity of survey and monitoring in the past, more scientific and reliable methods and technology needs to be adopted to conduct more comprehensive survey and monitoring in order to have accurate dynamics of the population and habitat of wild tigers.

Current data also shows that the main constraint factors for wild tiger population growth consist of: limited and highly fragmented habitat, quite low density of preys in the habitat, existing poaching of preys which poses threat to the safety of wild tigers, serious interference from human beings, wild tigers injuring people and domestic animals from time to time, etc. Given all these problems, comprehensive study needs to be conducted over the tigers' distribution area and the current status of the habitat in the surrounding areas as well as the way of living and production of the local residents, systematic engineering measures and policy guarantee needs to be taken to promote the expansion and quality improvement of habitat to reduce interference from human beings; field patrolling and law enforcement and supervision needs to be strengthened to fight illegal hunting of tigers and other wild animals and to curb smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products; continuous and systematic scientific research and monitoring needs to be developed to ensure timely understanding of the population dynamics and evaluation of the habitat, so as to provide basis for conservation intensification and habitat improvement; capacity needs to be enhanced for prevention of damages to people and animals by wild tigers, improve compensation system relating to direct losses. Besides, pilot must be established for the release of amoyensis to the wild, the natural release zone will be gradually extended based on the experience from practices and relevant study results, stable and sustainable development of wild amoyensis population will be achieved eventually.

Another item of attention is that only with understanding and support of local people for wild tiger population and habitat conservation can objectives of conservation be basically assured. But conservation must require necessary constrains over the way of production and way of living for local people, it is easy to trigger conflicts between the conservation activity and local communities which will go against sustainable conservation. Therefore, while the conservation of wild tiger and their habitat is being strengthened, public education needs to be developed vigorously, and the needs of economic development and livelihood improvement for local residents shall be taken into account at the same time, proactive guidance shall be given to change the way of production and living inadequate to conservation, support shall be given for exploration of new ways of local economic development that are favorable to conservation, efforts shall be made to promote integration of wild tiger and their habitat protection with local economic development and local life improvement to achieve coordinated and sustainable development.

III、 Actions of first priority

China will focus in the following areas to promote population growth of wild tigers in the country based on the current population and habitat and the relevant

conservation management, scientific research and laws enforcement and supervision:

(I) Conservation, extension and optimization of the habitats of wild tigers

Based on systematic research and scientific evaluation, measures will be adopted for vegetation rehabilitation, introduction of prey resources and overall ban on hunting in wild tiger distribution areas and its surrounding area or in other adequate areas able to be connected through ecological corridors, the objective is to achieve maximum expansion of tiger activity zone and obvious improvement on the quality of the habitat, to achieve genetic exchanges among the key isolated species through restoration and optimization of the habitat in ecological corridor zones to ensure continuous growth of wild tiger population by 2022. In addition, pilot area will be established in adequate places for release of artificial bred amoyensis to the wild so that monitoring and study over the released species can be developed and preparation can be done for gradual growth of the natural release zone and establishment of new amoyensis species in the wild.

(II) Capacity building in conservation and monitoring agencies for wild tiger population and habitat.

Efforts shall be made in the following aspects in wild tiger activity areas to strengthen conservation and monitoring of tigers' population and habitat: to intensify capacity building in management agencies in the natural reserves and relevant conservation and monitoring agencies, to improve infrastructure and replenish equipment, to develop staff training with advanced technology, to enhance quality of conservation and management staff, to set up and perfect rules and regulations, to further promote standardized field patrolling and monitoring. All these efforts are in the objective to ensure the implementation of overall ban on hunting, to effectively prevent poaching and other behaviors damaging the habitat, to understand the population dynamics and habitat variation on timely basis, so that to provide scientific basis for evaluation of conservation effectiveness and decision making for relevant conservation policies. The scope of Natural Reserves will be adjusted, newly established or a series of conservation, monitoring stations will be added in blind zones free of conservation and monitoring to achieve overall conservation and monitoring in wild tiger activity areas.

(III) Coordinating wild tiger protection and social and economic development in local communities.

In order to obtain their understanding and support, close attention must be paid to the needs of social and economic development of local communities and to guide them in a way adequate for wild tiger protection. In this regard, the key activities to be developed: first, set up special funds for compensation of damages to people and animals and loss of crops caused by wild tigers so as to maintain the legal rights and interests of the local residents; second, strengthen propaganda to enhance awareness of tiger protection among local residents and disseminate safety prevention knowledge in guiding them on development of ways of production and ways of living favorable for tiger protection by means of establishment of poster boards, sign boards, dissemination booklets and community dissemination campaigns. Third, to effectively prevent and reduce the damages to people and animals and crops losses

caused by tigers and their prey animals by concentrated placement of scattered households, building fences and isolation ditches in areas with frequent activity of tigers and their preys; fourth, study and explore the ways of living and production favorable for conservation of wild tigers and their habitat and extend such approaches by piloting and demonstration, micro-subsidy, technical guidance, establishment of special funds so as to promote the coordinated and sustainable development of local society and economy with tigers conservation.

(IV) Intensify law enforcement over smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products

In order to effectively curb smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products, measures as survey on law enforcement, public reporting hotlines and international law enforcement information exchanges will be taken to timely understand the situation in key ports, bordering areas, markets and collection and distribution centers which are prone to smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products. For the above regional law enforcement agencies, efforts will be made to strengthen staff training, replenish enforcement equipment and detective devices, to improve enforcement mechanism to ensure proper patrol, responsibility division and vigorous enforcement of laws; based on local circumstances, irregular joint inspections by law enforcement and special cracking down will be conducted to form powerful shock and awe. Besides, wide and deep propaganda and education will be developed to guide public on volunteer resistance to illegal operation of tiger products, public reporting hotline will be established to encourage public on timely report of information on criminal activities such as smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products. By this way, the public can have a pro-active role in law enforcement on wildlife protection and enforcement team can be strengthened and law enforcement can be more effective.

(V) Extend international cooperation and exchange

A series of common understanding relating to tigers protection has been formed and exchanges are strengthened among tiger countries and international societies to save global wild tigers. The key for next step is to turn common understanding formed among all sides into action, especially joint actions needs to be taken by relevant international parties in certain areas. China will proactively promote the coordination and cooperation mechanism among conservation management agencies and law enforcement units on both sides of the border, rapid and effective information exchange will be achieved, China will try to implement cooperative joint monitoring in bordering areas; fast exchange of enforcement information will be adopted to strengthen enforcement effectiveness. International seminars, international professional training and friendly natural reserves will be used to strengthen tiger conservation and experiences exchange to promote joint enhancement of conservation management.

V、 Action indicators (mid-term)

The following indicators will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the actions:

Variation of population of wild tigers, extension of tiger activity areas, variance

of biotope in habitat, variance of prey density, occurrence of law breaking cases relating to tigers, improvement of livelihood in local residents, establishment of monitoring station and staffing for conservation management, threatening factors.

V、 Action indicators (2022)

The following indicators will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the actions:

Variation of population of wild tigers, extension of tiger activity areas, variance of biotope in habitat, variance of prey density, occurrence of law breaking cases relating to tigers, improvement of livelihood in local residents, establishment of monitoring station and staffing for conservation management, threatening factors.

Annex: Actions of first priority for restoration of wild tiger population in China

I. Objective

Long term strategic objective: by 2022, try to obtain large scale extension and quality optimization of wild tigers' habitat, promote significant growth of wild tigers population, achieve natural survival and natural reproduction in amoyensis released to the wild, guide and assist in ways of economic development and livelihood improvement favorable to wild tigers protection in local communities in tiger distribution areas.

The main issues facing the population growth of wild tigers in China: insufficient habitat area, poor quality, seriously fragmented, quite frequent interference by human activities, illegal hunting of wildlife such as snares still exists, conflicts between tigers and people are mounting. To solve the above mentioned issues, it is in urgent need to develop habitat rehabilitation, establishment of ecological corridor, strengthening patrol and monitoring, exploration of release back to the nature, it is also needed to adopt compensation and proactive prevention measures to deal with damages to people, livestock and crop losses caused by tigers and their prey animals so as to create a fine environment for wild tiger conservation.

Historical experiences indicate that the attitude of local residents toward wild tiger conservation is closely linked to conservation results. Therefore, in the process of wild tiger protection, efforts not only go in extensive propaganda and dissemination of conservation, in enhancement of public's awareness of conservation, in trying to obtain public's understanding and support in conservation activities, efforts also go in the attention paid to the impacts on production and living conditions of local residents brought by conservation activities, in guiding and assisting in ways of production and way of living favorable to wild tiger and their habitat conservation, in making integrated arrangements both in wild tiger protection and in local economic development and livelihood improvement so as to achieve coordinated and sustainable development.

II. Summary of actions.

Based on the population, habitat and current conservation status of wild tigers in China, actions shall be taken in the following five aspects of first priority. First, protection, extension and optimization of the habitat of wild tigers; second, capacity building in conservation and monitoring agencies of wild tiger population and their habitat; third, coordination between the wild tigers conservation and social and economic development in local communities; fourth, strengthen law enforcement against illegal operations of tiger products; fifth, extend international cooperation and exchanges. In addition, a series of relevant scientific researches and study of laws and regulations and policies will be developed to provide corresponding technical support and policy guarantee to the above actions.

(I) Conservation, extension and optimization of the wild tigers' habitat.

Action 1: Survey and identify action zone.

Identify the action zones for wild tiger conservation and restoration in this stage based on the survey, evaluation of the current distribution area and areas planned for extension and natural release.

Main activities in this action consist of:

One: collect information on topography, vegetation, roads and residents in tigers distribution areas and the surrounding areas, develop field surveys and evaluate its biotope if necessary, come up with the extent of habitat and ecological corridors for future extension, identify action zones for this stage;

Two: survey, select, identify release zone for amoyensis in its historical distribution areas;

Three: conduct planning over the above zones according to legal procedure, prevent irreversible damages to biotope by inadequate constructions, the plan will be used to guide and guarantee implementation of actions by steps and by stages;

Four: establish GIS for action zones of wild tigers conservation and restoration.

Projected outcome: the conservation and restoration action zones will be identified with legal guarantee through plans, the relevant GIS will provide effective data and information support to conservation actions.

Action 2: Conservation, extension and optimization of habitat for wild altaica tigers.

Take measures as vegetation restoration and rehabilitation, overall ban on hunting in current altaica tiger distribution zones, its extension zones in the surrounding area and ecological corridor areas, introduce preys resources under preconditions of necessity and scientific feasibility, achieve extension and quality optimization of the habitat, increase prey density to satisfy the needs of population growth of altaica tigers.

Activities:

One: study and draft technical guidance of wild altaica habitat restoration;

Two: implement overall ban on hunting in identified current distribution zones, the surrounding areas and ecological corridor zones of the wild altaica, study and draft habitat restoration plans by region and by category;

Three: in different vegetation areas, select 1-2 places for habitat restoration piloting and demonstration through farmland returning to forestry, single forestry revamp, keep adequate grass in forestry and scientific introduction of prey resources;

Four: based on the successful pilots and demonstration in habitat restoration, progressive extension in project areas;

Five: explore the necessity and feasibility of artificial bred altaica to be released to the nature.

Projected outcome: the zones adequate for altaica will be extended, the density of prey resources will be increased, fragmented habitat will be improved, and it will better satisfy the needs of population growth of altaica, effective promotion of genetic exchanges among isolated species and population.

Action 3: Establishment of experiment zones for amoyensis release to nature.

Start with small scale experiment zones in selected release area for amoyensis through scientific assessment, make sure that such zones adapt to natural survival and reproduction of the released amoyensis through vegetation revamp, implementation of overall ban on hunting, scientific introduction of prey resources. Extend such zones gradually to meet the needs of population growth based on the growth of their population and research outcomes.

Activities:

One: study and draft technical guidance of restoration and management over the natural release habitat of amoyensis, draft implementation plans for experiment zones for amoyensis being released to nature;

Two: establish fences in the experiment zones, implement measures as specified in the plan of this zone such as farmland returning to forestry, single pure forestry rehabilitation, keep adequate amount of grass in the forestry land and scientific introduction of prey resources, facilitate the habitat to better adapt to needs of natural survival and reproduction of the released amoyensis;

Three: develop continuous monitoring and scientific assessment over the released population and their habitat of the amoyensis, identify and analyze problems and come up with the working direction of next step;

Four: based on the scientific assessment, gradually extend the range of the experiment zone to meet the needs of the natural growth of the released population.

Projected outcome: to achieve natural survival, reproduction and sustainable development of the released population of amoyensis, and the biodiversity in this zone will be effectively protected and managed, the natural ecology will be further optimized.

Action 4: Conservation, extension and optimization of the habitat of wild corbetti.

Achieve scale extension and quality optimization of the habitat of wild corbetti in project areas including current distribution areas, their surrounding areas and ecological corridors through vegetation restoration and revamp, implementation of overall ban on hunting and scientific introduction of prey resources, increase the prey density and meet the needs of population growth of wild corbetti.

Activities:

One: study and draft technical guidance of wild corbetti habitat restoration and management;

Two: implement overall ban on hunting in identified project areas including current distribution zones, the surrounding areas and ecological corridor zones of the wild corbetti, study and draft habitat restoration plans by region and by category;

Three: in different vegetation areas, select 1-2 places for habitat restoration piloting and demonstration through farmland returning to forestry, single pure forestry revamp, keep adequate grass in forestry land and scientific introduction of prey resources;

Four: based on the successful pilots and demonstration in habitat restoration, progressive extension in project areas;

Five: explore the necessity and feasibility of artificial bred corbetti to be released

to the nature.

Projected outcome: the zones adequate for corbetti will be extended, the density of prey resources will be increased, fragmented habitat will be improved, and it will better satisfy the needs of population growth of wild corbetti.

Action 5: Conservation, extension and optimization of the habitat of wild Tigris.

Achieve scale extension and quality optimization of the habitat of wild tigris in project areas including current distribution areas, their surrounding areas and ecological corridors through vegetation restoration and revamp, implementation of overall ban on hunting and scientific introduction of prey resources, increase the prey density and meet the needs of population growth of wild tigris.

Activities:

One: study and draft technical guidance of wild tigris habitat restoration and management;

Two: implement overall ban on hunting in identified project areas including current distribution zones, the surrounding areas and ecological corridor zones of the wild tigris, study and draft habitat restoration plans by region and by category;

Three: select 1-2 places for habitat restoration piloting and demonstration through farmland returning to forestry, single pure forestry revamp, keep adequate grass in forestry land and scientific introduction of prey resources;

Four: based on the successful pilots and demonstration in habitat restoration, progressive extension in project areas;

Projected outcome: the zones adequate for wild Tigris will be extended, the density of prey resources will be increased, and it will better satisfy the needs of population growth of wild Tigris.

(II) Capacity building in conservation and monitoring agencies for wild tiger population and habitat.

Action 6: Improve monitoring system for wild tigers population and their habitat.

Study the distribution of existing monitoring agencies in action zones for wild tiger conservation and restoration, add conservation monitoring agencies in blank areas, identify the area of responsibility, establish coordination system, and achieve overall conservation and monitoring in action zones.

Activities:

One: study and analyze the institutional arrangement in existing monitoring agencies in wild tigers conservation and action zones, identify blind zones in conservation monitoring;

Two: add new conservation monitoring agency in blind zones;

Three: based on actual situation and scientific assessment, adjust the scope of the existing natural reserves according to legal procedure when necessary;

Four: divide zone of responsibilities in wild tigers conservation and action zones, identify responsible zones for each conservation monitoring agency to make sure that all the action zones are covered by monitoring.

Projected outcome: achieve overall conservation monitoring in all wild tigers

conservation and restoration action zones, and with clear responsibility.

Action 7: enhance the capacity of monitoring of wild tigers population and habitat.

Enhance the capacity of conservation monitoring agencies in dynamic monitoring of wild tiger population and habitat, in anti-poaching and coordination with local residents through polishing regulations and systems, improvement of facilities and equipment, replenish staffing and intensifying staff training.

Activities:

One: provide working staff and replenish the conservation monitoring management team based on the responsibility scope and work difficulty;

Two: improve the working facilities in monitoring agencies, to provide necessary equipment or renew the existing equipment for working staff and try best to introduce high tech equipment for conservation monitoring;

Three: study and draft conservation monitoring guidance for wild tigers population and habitat to guide monitoring agencies to conduct monitoring according to the unified plan;

Four: organize to conduct professional trainings for monitoring staff;

Five: through establishment a set of regulations and system such as meeting system, information notifying system, joint action systems to set up coordination mechanism among monitoring agencies, so as to ensure overall and coordinated development on monitoring of population and habitat of wild tigers, anti-poaching and joint management in communities;

Six: regular assessment of the results of the conservation management, improve target-oriented monitoring measures and enhance efficiency.

Projected outcome: more standardized and more effective development of conservation monitoring over the population and habitat of wild tigers, more timely and accurate understanding of the population and habitat dynamics, more effective curbing poaching and behaviors damaging habitats.

(III) Coordination between tiger conservation and the social & economic development of the local community

Action 8: compensate the losses on damages to people and livestock and crop losses from tigers and their preys

Through establishment of earmarked funds, clear standards and procedure of compensation, strengthened supervision and inspections to ensure that the damages to people, livestock and crops of local residents caused by tigers and their preys are rationally compensated, their legal rights and interests are well safeguarded and people-tiger conflicts are alleviated.

Activities:

One: for compensation to losses to people, livestock and crops caused by tigers and their preys, study and draft criteria and procedure for compensation to ensure that local residents can successfully claim for the relevant losses they suffer;

Two: establish special funds, study and draft utilization management and supervision methods of the funds, make sure that relevant compensations are cashed on time;

Three: regular and irregular check over the use of funds, survey local residents over their attitudes towards compensation.

Projected outcome: try to obtain public's basic satisfaction over compensation, maintain their understanding and support to tiger conservation, prevent any mood shift of local residents which is unfavorable to tiger conservation.

Action 9: Strengthen active prevention of damages to people and livestock and crops from tigers and their preys.

Popularize the prevention knowledge of personal safety among local residents, guide them to change the inadequate way of behavior through replacement of scattered households, establishment of prevention facilities so as to reduce the frequency and loss to people and livestock and crops caused by tigers and their preys.

Activities:

One, through establishment of warning sign boards, delivery of propaganda booklets and development of propaganda and education activities to popularize the prevention knowledge of personal safety;

Two, gradual concentrated settlement of scattered households living in areas with frequent tiger activities or in key ecological corridor zones, reduce the interference of human activities on wild tigers, their preys and the habitat;

Three: in quite populated areas, take active preventions to avoid tigers' attacks on people and livestock through establishment of fences and isolation belts etc.;

Four: guide local residents to change their free-range raising poultry and domestic animals in the forestry which could attract tigers' attack on people and livestock.

Projected outcome: incidents of people and animal being hurt by tigers and their preys will decrease gradually, losses will be reduced, the interference of human activities over wild tigers, their preys and the habitats will be alleviated progressively.

Action 10: Piloting and demonstration of economic development models favorable to wild tiger conservation.

Survey, study and evaluate the ways of production and living favorable to tigers conservation, extend such models step by step through piloting and demonstration, guide on coordinated and sustainable development of local community economy and conservation of tigers and their habitat, obtain wider understanding, support and participation of local communities in conservation.

Activities:

Conduct systematic survey on ways of production and living in local communities, assess the impacts of various way of production and living on tigers, prey resources and habitat, identify the ways of economic behavior unfavorable to conservation that needs to be adjusted and shifted;

Study with local residents on alternatives to replace the way of economic development unfavorable to conservation, encourage part of the local residents to take initiative on piloting through micro-subsidy and technical guidance based on assessment evaluation;

Three: conduct timely evaluation of the economic benefits and conservation

effectiveness of the pilots, gradually extend the alternatives of economic development that are effective, with high marketing perspectives and favorable to conservation through combination of demonstration and subsidies;

Four: integrate the supporting, reward and punishment system under the project with behaviors favorable to tiger conservation, achieve coordinated and sustainable development of tiger conservation and livelihood improvement of the local residents.

Projected outcome: the original way of economic development of local residents unfavorable to wild tigers conservation will be altered progressively, the economic activities favorable to conservation will be extended gradually, both the conservation and livelihood improvement of the local residents will be taken into account, the willingness of conservation of the local residents will be further strengthened and the local residents will become a major social force in conservation of wild tigers.

(IV) Strengthen the law enforcement against smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products.

Action 11: strengthen capacity building in enforcement agencies.

Collect information on smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products through various channels, identify key ports, bordering areas, markets and distribution centers, strengthen training to law enforcement agency staff of the above mentioned authorities, replenish enforcement equipment and detective devices, improve enforcement system so as to enhance enforcement effectiveness and curb illegal activities.

Activities:

One, analyze and determine the key ports, bordering areas, markets and collection and distribution centers for smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products through collection of information reported by public, active survey on markets and statistics and analysis on illegal cases;

Two, coordinate law enforcement agencies to replenish and improve target-oriented equipment and detective devices in their agencies in the above mentioned areas;

Three, strengthen staff training and law enforcement seminars in the above mentioned enforcement agencies to promote their awareness of responsibility on law enforcement and professional capacity;

Four, establish effective coordination mechanism to form joint forces of enforcement through formulation of patrol system, information notifying system, joint conference system, accountability system etc.;

Five, in areas where the situation is critical, multi-agency joint enforcement inspection and special cracking down will be conducted, the results of investigation and treatment of the illegal cases will be published on time to form strong shock and awe which will effectively curb criminal activities such as smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products.

Projected outcome: enforcement capacity against smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products will be strengthened, enforcement effectiveness will be increased with efficient curbing of the momentum on smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products.

Action 12: wide development of propaganda and education on tiger conservation.

Further raise public's awareness on tiger conservation through newspapers and magazines, radio broadcasting and TV and special topic propaganda campaigns, popularize the law and regulations on conservation, advocate public on volunteered resistance on smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products, advocate public to actively report on illegal activities to provide strong support law enforcement of conservation.

Activities:

One, explain to the public of the damages on wild tiger population brought by smuggling and illegal operations of their products, related rules and regulations to strengthen the public's awareness of conservation through newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasting and TV;

Two, conduct target-oriented propaganda and education through establishment of dissemination boards, warning boards and organization of special topic propaganda campaign in key ports, bordering areas, markets and collection and distribution centers, encourage public to take initiative to give up illegal activities such as purchase of tiger products;

Three, establish reporting phone line, set up reward and punishment system, encourage public to report on illegal activities;

Four, conduce wide dissemination of typical cases, facilitate public to further understand the legal consequences of illegal activities so as to achieve the all-round education.

Projected outcome: public's awareness will be significantly raised for volunteered resistance to operation and use of tiger products, the public will be more cooperative in reporting the illegal activities.

(IV) Extension of international cooperation and exchanges

Action 13: Improve international cooperation mechanism for wild tiger conservation

Based on current international cooperation framework of wild tiger conservation, promote more effective cooperation mechanism so as to achieve more effective technical experiences exchanges, information share and coordinated actions, etc..

Activities:

One, through international seminars and mutual visits to strengthen communications with other tiger countries, to understand the concerns from different parties, exchange and share technology and experiences on tiger conservation, anti-smuggling and fight against illegal operation of tiger products, analyze issues facing the global wild tiger conservation and explore directions of where joint efforts go;

Two, promote establishment of exchanges and cooperation among grass root conservation agencies in tiger distribution bordering areas;

Three, promote the information exchange and enforcement cooperation among grass root law enforcement agencies in bordering areas and ports.

Projected outcome: achieve multi-level, multi model international exchange and

cooperation on wild tiger conservation, intensify mutual understanding and support among tiger distribution countries so as to enhance conservation effectiveness together.

III. Policy guarantee

(I) Years of efforts have led to establishment of relevant laws and regulation framework for tiger conservation management in China, all tigers are listed as category 1 wild animal under conservation, there are not only clear specifications on conservation of their habitat and natural reserves, it also clearly states that all activities relating to hunting, domestication and reproduction of tigers without permit, sales, procurement, transportation, smuggling tiger and tiger products are criminal. Those engaged in poaching, illegal killing or illegal purchase, sales, transportation of tigers and tiger products will be sentenced for as much as above 10 years imprisonment with fines and confiscation of personal properties; those engaged in smuggling tiger products can be sentenced for lifetime or death, their personal properties will be confiscate. Besides, given the global population of wild tigers and artificial bred tigers, State Council of China has issued general orders in 1993 to fully ban the use of tiger bones in medicine or transaction, this is a huge contribution to global wild tiger conservation.

(II) Conservation network has been established consisting natural reserves and conservation management stations at grass-root level in wild tiger distribution areas, programs are implemented such as natural forestry conservation, farmland returning to forestry, wildlife conservation and nature reserve establishment, measures have been taken such as restoration of prey animals, compensation to injuries and damages to people, domestic animal and crops, strengthened patrolling in habitat and capacity building etc., all these efforts have led to obvious achievements in optimization of habitat and population growth of wild tigers.

(III) Multiple departments, multiple levels and multiple circles wildlife enforcement system and coordination mechanism is established in China consisting departments as forestry, public security, industrial and commercial administration and customs etc., capacity building is continuously strengthened through replenishment of equipment, information exchanges, staff training and improvement of systems. Tiger related cases are listed as key enforcement, regular and irregular inspections and special actions are developed and played an active role in investigation and treatment of smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products.

(IV) Artificial reproduction of tigers are under strict supervision in China. Permits system is in operation for domestication and reproduction of tigers, it is required to establish strict management archives and individual family tree system, especially since year 2007, microchip, gene samples and management information system that can be searched through internet started to be in use in China, oversight on artificial reproduction agencies and individual tigers can be achieved through MIS.

(V) Areas to be further improved relating to conservation policy of wild tigers in China include: one, conservation plan for wild tigers and their habitat needs to be examined and approved according to legal procedures before becoming legally binding; two, the systems on the following aspects needs to be further improved

relating to conservation management of wild tigers and their habitat: field patrol system, monitoring and evaluation system, accountability system and inter-departmental coordination system; three, aiming at smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products, the following needs to be further elaborated and clarified: market patrolling system, accountability system, public reporting reward system, departmental coordination and joint action system etc..

V. Capacity constraints

China is a developing country, a lot of constraints exist in tiger conservation and cracking down smuggling and illegal operations of tiger products due to long time insufficiency in investment. The constraints mainly include:

One, narrow application of high technology, the primary methods are still used for field patrolling and monitoring in most of the areas; equipment and facilities are seriously backward;

Two, poor conservation management, technical guidance or working manuals for standardized patrolling and monitoring are not even drafted in many places;

Three, understaffing and poor quality of staff is very common;

Four, severe shortage in supporting capacity to guide local communities to change their way of production and living which are unfavorable to conservation.

V. Relating parties on tiger conservation management

The relevant parties mainly include: management agencies engaged in wildlife and plants conservation and natural reserves from central to local, public security authority, industrial and commercial management agencies, customs, financial departments, local communities, traditional industries such as traditional Chinese medicine, research institutes, non-governmental conservation organizations, financial aid organizations, judicial organs, media, etc..

VI. Action evaluation indicators

The following indicators will be used to evaluate the relevant actions:

(I) Conservation, extension and optimization of wild tiger habitat

Evaluation indicators include: number of GIS in wild tiger habitats, variance of number of wild tigers, extension of tiger activity boundary, rehabilitation demonstration of the habitats, variance of prey density, tiger activities in ecological corridors, etc..

(II) Capacity building in conservation monitoring agencies for wild tigers and their habit.

Evaluation indicators include: number of monitoring stations and their range of responsibility, number of working staff, improvement of equipment and facilities, formulation and renewal of the technical guidance and management manuals and relevant systems of patrolling and monitoring, number and effectiveness of field patrols and monitoring, occurrence of tiger related illegal cases, capture of illegal snares, etc..

(III) Coordination between conservation of wild tigers and social & economic development of the local communities.

Evaluation indicators include: injuries to people and domestic animals by wild tigers and their preys, crops losses, number and amount of compensation, number

and rationality of establishment of warning sign boards, propaganda boards, construction of preventive facilities against damages to people, domestic animals and crops from tigers and their preys, understanding and application of personal safety knowledge among local residents, number of pilots and demonstration of ways of economic development favorable to tiger conservation and annual income increase in pilot and demonstration households, demonstration and extension, amount of supporting funds, reduction of economic behavior unfavorable to tiger conservation, etc..

(IV) Strengthen the enforcement capacity against smuggling and illegal operation of tiger products

Evaluation indicators include: number of agencies and staff in key enforcement areas, improvement of equipment and facilities, formulation and renewal of different systems, volume of trainings to professional staff, records of market patrols and cases investigation and treatment, investigation and treatment of reported cases, number of joint inspection and special actions, number of discovered illegal cases and the relevant treatment, etc.

(V) Extension of international cooperation and exchanges

Evaluation indicators consist: number of additional, renewed international cooperation agreement or memorandum at all levels, number of meetings, trainings, mutual visits and participants at all levels, information exchange by different channels, application and outcome of international advanced technology or management experiences, etc..

VII. Five year budget for action funds

To ensure the implementation of the above mentioned actions, huge amount of funds are needed, the specific amount needs to be estimated according to the planning of different distribution zones of wild tigers.

VIII. Financing

Funds will be raised by the following channels based on the needs for conservation actions:

One, necessary investment from central government in combination with the ecological development of “12th five year plan” in China;

Two, local governments will provide necessary counterpart funds according to proportions;

Three, try to obtain domestic and foreign financial aids.

Funds from World Bank Global Tiger Initiatives	
Unit: 10,000 USD	
Activities	Amount
1. Survey on wild tiger distribution areas, potential areas and ecological corridors	50
2. Construction and maintenance of GIS in conservation action zones	50

3. Study and draft technical guidance and training on field patrols and monitoring	50
4. Market patrols and law enforcement training	50
6. International seminars	20
Total	270