

Country Logo



Global Tiger Initiative

National Consultations—the Road to the Tiger Summit

National Tiger Recovery Program

MYANMAR

June 2010

Template to describe a Summary of National Tiger Recovery Program (NTRP)

(NTRP will feed into the Global Tiger Recovery Program—GTRP)

Country Name: MYANMAR

Long Term Strategic Goals. *Examine the implications of the global goal to double the numbers of wild Tigers in your country and briefly describe appropriate national strategic Tiger conservation goals by 2022.*

In Myanmar the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in the north and Thaninthayi Nature Reserve in the south of the country are considered to be the areas for TCLs where the NTRP should be focused.

Myanmar's Long Term strategic goal is to conserve two source sites for Tigers. Within these source sites it is expected to increase the Tiger population in the Hukaung TCL from 50 to 100 and in the Taninthayi TCL the number will increase from 35 to 70. The existing Tiger populations in both areas are based on the best estimate of the NWCD. The Tiger population outside of the TCLs and PAS is currently unknown.

Illegal trade in Tiger products is extending beyond Myanmar's boundaries. Eliminating such trade needs trans-boundary cooperation between Myanmar and neighboring countries.

Baseline Status. *Briefly describe the gap between each Long Term Strategic Goal described above and current situation.*

Currently the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) of the Forest Department (FD) is trying its best to protect Tigers with its existing capacity, but there are considerable needs for increased human and financial resources to meet the goals set for a long-term strategy. Even though the FD is struggling to protect Tigers with its current resources, in June 2010 the government has made a strong commitment to save the Tiger for the future by designating an extension area of 11,002 sq. km to be added to the existing Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (6,371 sq. km). Now, the total area designated for conservation in the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is 17,373 sq. km. The combination of the two areas will be known as the "Hukaung Tiger Reserve" and will be managed by the existing park authority. NWCD is also implementing the second phase of the Thaninthayi Nature Reserve Project and will expand Tiger related activities in the area in the coming years.

The following activities should be implemented to reach the set goal.

1. Increased 20 more staff assignment to Hukaung and total 15 staff to Taninthayi to increase patrolling presence and effectiveness
2. Continue the use of SMART patrolling in Hukaung and Taninthayi Nature Reserve,
3. Improve information gathering and law enforcement to reduce illegal Tiger trade in the PAs, in major cities and at border crossings,
4. Increase awareness among stakeholders and law enforcement agencies such as local police, customs, and township forestry officers to fight against wildlife trafficking.
5. Evaluate the potential to expand protected areas in Thaninthayi to include Mount Myint- Mo-Lakat or other areas in the south that may still support Tiger populations and to establish ecological corridors where possible to connect the critical habitats.
6. Increase education outreach programs for Tiger conservation in areas where Tigers occur, are being hunted or are being traded.

Priority Actions to achieve Long Term Strategic Goals. Identify 4-5 most critical NATIONAL and TRANS-BOUNDARY actions.

To achieve long-term strategic goals, the following are considered to be the critical actions for national and trans-boundary issues.

1. The Government of Myanmar will form Tiger conservation taskforces (e.g. Tiger protection unit-TPU in Hukaung) to strengthen patrolling and law enforcement in Hukaung and Thaninthayi,
2. The Government of Myanmar will search for opportunities to expand PAs and ecological corridors in both TCLs,
3. The Government of Myanmar will improve international cooperation in trans-boundary areas with the Governments of India, Thailand, and China through increased communication and cooperation.
4. The Government of Myanmar will continue to monitor the status of Tiger and Tiger prey populations to assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts, and
5. The Government of Myanmar will continue to raise public awareness on Tiger conservation for cross-sectoral support and the crimes associated with Tiger trade for elimination.

Program Indicators (interim) to achieve country's Long Term Strategic Goals. Identify and describe measurable indicators that will demonstrate the progress by 2015.

The indicators that are showing the progress by 2015 would be:

Landscapes with appropriate extensions and corridors legally protected

1. With Tiger numbers at such a low level there is need to maximize protection for any remaining populations close to source landscapes. This will include an assessment of ecological corridors and potential extensions to priority protected areas.

Improved Management especially concerning law enforcement in Source Landscapes

2. Increase of enforcement and prosecutions for Tiger related crimes through more patrols and close coordination with relevant organizations.
3. Reduction of professional hunting and commercial exploitation through cooperative management between TCLs authorities and local villagers.

Monitoring ongoing in Source Landscapes

4. Ecological monitoring in place to document changes in the numbers of monitored Tigers and preys
5. A database system (e.g. MIST database) regularly applied across both landscapes so as to improve patrolling decisions.

Improved national and trans-boundary cooperation

6. More cooperation and support from other government line agencies for the protection of Tigers
7. An increased frequency of meetings and dialogues with trans-boundary partners to discuss Tigers and conservation priorities. This would consist of a minimum of two meetings with each country (India, Thailand and China) before 2015.

Program Indicators (final) to achieve country's Long Term Strategic Goals. Identify and describe measurable indicators that will demonstrate achieving the Long Term Strategic Goals by 2022.

1. A true reduction of Tiger related crimes indicated by a gradual decrease of professional hunting and arrests.

2. Improved law enforcement throughout the expanded PAs with increased staff assignment,
3. Ongoing cooperation and Trans-boundary agreements in place with all three neighboring countries
4. Increase of Tiger and Tiger prey populations to be double from current levels in the TCLs
5. Cooperative management agreements between TCLs authorities and local villagers in place and functioning.

Template to describe a NTRP Component linked to the Priority Actions

1. Mapping. Describe HOW this Component is linked to respective Long Term Strategic Goals and Priority Actions.

Long Term Strategic Goal: **Myanmar's Long Term strategic goal is to conserve two source sites for Tigers.**

Priority Action (-s):

1. The Government of Myanmar will form Tiger conservation taskforces (e.g. Tiger protection unit-TPU in Hukaung) to strengthen patrolling and law enforcement in Hukaung and Thaninthayi,
2. The Government of Myanmar will search for opportunities to expand PAS and ecological corridors in both TCLs,
3. The Government of Myanmar will improve international cooperation in trans-boundary areas with the Governments of India, Thailand, and China through increased communication and cooperation.
4. The Government of Myanmar will continue to monitor the status of Tiger and Tiger prey populations to assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts, and
5. The Government of Myanmar will continue to raise public awareness on Tiger conservation for multi-stakeholders participation and the crimes associated with Tiger trade.

2. Description of program component *Briefly describe (i) Objectives, (ii) Activities, (iii) Expected Outcomes, (iv) duration and location of the Program Component.*

Myanmar's long-term strategic goal of conserving tiger populations has four principal components: **1) Landscapes with appropriate extensions and corridors legally protected, 2) Improved Management especially concerning law enforcement in Source Landscapes, 3) Monitoring ongoing in Source Landscapes, 4) Improved national and trans-boundary cooperation**

Component 1: Landscapes with appropriate extensions and corridors legally protected

Objective 1: Identify remaining important areas for Tigers in and around both TCLs

Activities:

- Surveys for Tiger presence in unprotected areas around both TCLs
- Nomination of important Tiger areas for legal protection

Outputs:

- Legal designation of areas important for Tigers
- Incorporation of new areas into management planning for existing source landscapes

Duration/location:

- 4 years/Hukaung and Thaninthayi Landscapes

Component 2: Improved Management especially concerning law enforcement in Source Landscapes

Objective 2: Improve capacity of management and law enforcement agencies to achieve conservation

Activities:

- Recruit and train more FD staff in wildlife conservation, law enforcement and monitoring techniques
- Provide necessary field equipment
- Provide sufficient funding for operations and maintenance
- Expand management infrastructure
- Increase effective patrolling and integrate with appropriate database (e. g MIST) for effective management

Outputs:

- Measurable decline in wildlife related crimes, especially those associated with Tigers

Duration/location:

- 5 years/Hukaung and Thaninthayi Landscapes and National level

Component 3: Monitoring ongoing in Source Landscapes

Objective 3: Implement standardized monitoring protocols in source landscapes

Activities:

- Recruit and train more FD staff in monitoring protocols
- Establish a baseline for tiger and tiger prey species
- Review existing biological monitoring protocols and standardize for future use
- Implement MIST across both Tiger landscapes

Outputs:

- Monitoring protocols standardized and providing regular indication of population change.
- Monitoring protocols fully integrated into planning and resource allocation

Duration/location:

- Ongoing/Hukaung and Thaninthayi Landscapes

Component 4: Improved national and trans-boundary cooperation

Objective 4: Strengthen support for Tiger Conservation across all Myanmar line-agencies

Activities:

- Open dialogue at the national level between the Ministry of Forestry and other Myanmar line-agencies concerning Tiger conservation
- Explore opportunities for improved national policies to support Tiger conservation

Outputs:

- All Government line-agencies fully informed and aware of the importance of Tiger Conservation and how their agencies can contribute
- Policies related to Tiger Conservation strengthened

Duration/location:

- 3 years/National Level
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Objective 5: Strengthen Trans-boundary collaboration with the Governments of India, China and Thailand

Activities:

- Increase dialogue with bordering countries concerning Tiger and other wildlife crimes
- Assess opportunities to conduct annual meetings to promote cooperation in law enforcement in key border areas

Outputs:

- Trans-boundary agreements concerning Tigers and other conservation priorities agreed between the Government of Myanmar and Governments of India, Thailand and China
- Increased cooperation at key border areas for the enforcement of Tiger and other wildlife crime

Duration/location:

- 4 years/National and Trans-boundary

3. Policy. Briefly describe what kind of policy or legislation is needed (amended or introduced) to achieve the Component's Objectives.

- Amend the existing penalties of the current law and legislations with regard to tiger related offences
- Cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination is needed to be promoted in order to maximize Tiger

conservation at source sites

- Trans-boundary agreements between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of India, Thailand and China for cooperation on reducing Tiger and other wildlife crimes.
- Review of existing development policies to strengthen support for Tiger Conservation
- Integrate “ Tiger conservation” as a priority task in the development agenda of the government

4. Capacity. Briefly describe what kind of capacity needs to be enhanced or created to achieve the Component’s Objectives.

It is crucial that the Forest Department has adequate capacity to thoroughly evaluate and react to the outcomes of conservation effort so that it can effectively meet its obligation to conserve resources. However, capacity to provide comprehensive information on population status and threat level to large mammals including Tiger throughout Myanmar is not currently sufficient.

Therefore, the following capacities are required to be enhanced:

- Improve capacity and strengthen the infrastructure of site-level management authorities to monitor the population status and distribution of Tiger.
- Build capacity by organizing training modules and exchange programs between Tiger taskforces.
- Prepare management plans for each Tiger landscape and PAs with Tigers based on the national conservation strategy and updated Tiger action plan
- Create serious collective efforts and meaningful cooperation from other government line agencies to get effective and efficient law enforcement and education outreach implementation for Tiger conservation.

5. Stakeholders. Identify and briefly describe the roles of other critical actors, NGOs, organizations, or cooperating TRCs in achieving the Component’s Objectives.

Amongst the stakeholders, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) plays a major role by providing technical and financial assistance in the field of Tiger conservation especially in the Hukaung landscape. Other stakeholders include the general administration department, land record department, agricultural service, police force, local army commands, judicial offices, law offices and customs offices.

Other organization which plays a major role is MGTC and TPC gas and oil exploration company is actor in Myanmar Tiger conservation in the Thaninthayi landscape.

The Governments of Myanmar and India are also preparing to launch trans-boundary cooperation on conservation through a MoU and other mutual agreements.

6. Performance Indicators. Identify key measurable indicators that will demonstrate progress towards achievement of the Component’s Objectives.

1. Substantial decrease in professional hunting and commercial exploitation of natural resources from Tiger habitats
2. Cessation of illegal encroachment into Tiger habitats (e.g. agriculture, mining)
3. Increase of Tiger and prey densities in and around Tiger habitats.
4. More supports from local and other government line agencies in saving wild Tigers and their habitats

7. Indicative Costs in US\$ (order of magnitude only):

Activity	Costs
Identify remaining important areas for Tigers in and around both TCLs	300,000
Improve capacity of management and law enforcement agencies to achieve conservation	3,000,000

Implement standardized monitoring protocols in source landscapes	2,000,000
Strengthen support for Tiger Conservation across all Myanmar line-agencies	200,000
Strengthen Trans-boundary collaboration with the Governments of India, China and Thailand	500,000
TOTAL	6,000,000

8. Financing Options. Explore the options to enhance potential government or national funding including GEF, Multilateral Development Banks, international NGOs, below.

- International Development Agencies: Limited engagement with Myanmar on conservation activities
- GEF: Potential GEF-5 biodiversity priority areas and activities.
- International NGOs: Currently supporting the Hukaung landscape.
- PES/REDD: A PES system currently operates in the Thaninthayi Nature Reserve but other PES type projects are not being developed. No REDD projects are being developed yet in Myanmar.
- Tourism: Revenues from Tourism are limited
- National budget: Institutional support from central government.

Support needed from the GTI in US\$¹

Identify and indicate the amount of funding needed from the GTI to support the Component in the table below. The GTI can only support the following type of activities costing less than \$500,000:

Activity (provide brief description)	Costs
Training and Implementation of MIST in Thaninthayi	50,000
Awareness-raising and multi-agency support campaign for national government	30,000
Training and capacity building for biological monitoring in Thanintahyi	50,000
Trans-boundary meetings with India, China and Thailand to strengthen cooperation on Tiger and other wildlife crime enforcement	150,000
Small-scale Occupancy surveys for Tiger Prey in both landscapes	300,000
TOTAL	580,000

¹ The GTI is not a primary financing organization. Any funds directly raised by the GTI will be used by TRCs for catalytic and initial work required to bring best practices to full-scale projects. GTI support, in general, will be less than US\$500,000 in each case. For TRCs that may have already developed detailed plans for large scale projects costing more than \$500,000, the GTI will facilitate access to large funders if needed.