

Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference

Source: DTE

Why in News?

The Bhutanese government hosted the **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference** on **Earth Day 2024** to mobilise **USD 1 billion** over the next decade for conserving tigers and their habitats **across Asia.**

What is the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference?

About:

- The two-day conference will be hosted by Bhutan under the patronage of the country's queen, Jetsun Pema Wangchuck.
- It seeks to mobilise the amount of USD 1 billion over 10 years for the preservation of tiger landscapes.
 - The conservation of tiger landscapes is vital to maintaining biodiversity, sequestering carbon, supplying resources to over 100 million people, and ensuring the overall health of the planet.
- The conference convened <u>tiger range countries</u>, visionary private and public sector donors, international development agencies, the <u>Tiger Conservation Coalition</u>, and other conservation organisations.

Key Highlights from the Conference:

- High-level representatives from ten tiger range countries delivered statements on the progress and ambitions for conserving their tiger landscapes.
- The conference culminated with the **Paro Statement** by the Royal Government of Bhutan reiterating it's objective.

Other Sources of Funding:

 Since 2010, the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> has provided more than USD 197 million in financing and mobilized another USD 880 million, in co-finance, for tiger conservation.

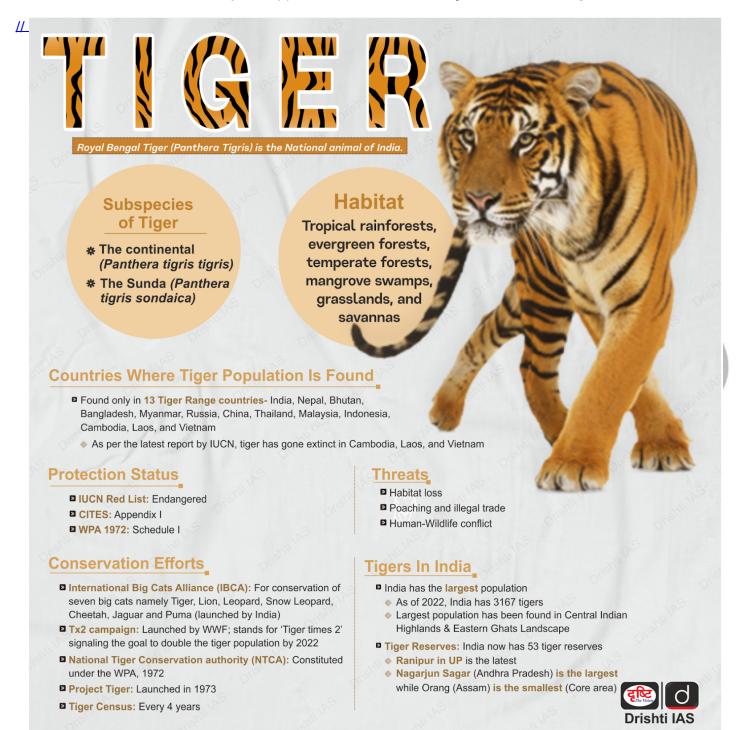
International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

About:

- India has proposed to launch a mega global alliance under its leadership to protect big cats and assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of USD 100 million.
- The proposed <u>International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)</u> will work towards the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.
- Membership to the alliance will be open to 97 "range" countries, which contain
 the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international
 organisations, etc.
 - The alliance was inspired by the <u>arrival of cheetahs in 2022 from Namibia</u>.
- India is the only country in the world to have tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards and cheetahs in the wild except for the pumas and jaguars.
 - So, it is only befitting that India takes the lead to bring together all big cat range countries under an **United Nations(UN)**-like organisation.

Structure of IBCA:

- A General Assembly consisting of all member countries.
- A council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.
- General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General for a specific term.



What are Global Initiatives for Tiger Conservation?

- Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP)
- St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation
- Global Tiger Forum

- Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)
- Tiger Conservation Coalition:
 - It is an independent group of organizations that have worked extensively together on major tiger assessments.
 - Its member organizations include the <u>International Union for the Conservation of Nature</u>
 (<u>IUCN</u>), <u>Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC</u>), the <u>United Nations Development Programme</u> and the <u>World Wildlife Fund</u>.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

- Q. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC): (2017)
 - 1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
 - 2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:(b)

- Q. Consider the following protected areas: (2012)
 - 1. Bandipur
 - 2. Bhitarkanika
 - 3. Manas
 - 4. Sunderbans

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- **(b)** 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)

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