



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 [tiger range countries](#), visionary private and public sector donors, international development agencies, the [Tiger Conservation Coalition](#), 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 its objective.

▪ Other Sources of Funding:

- Since 2010, the [Global Environment Facility](#) 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 [International Big Cat Alliance \(IBCA\)](#) 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 [arrival of cheetahs in 2022 from Namibia](#).
- **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.**

TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger

- * The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- * The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- ▣ Found only in 13 **Tiger Range countries**- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- ◆ As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status

- ▣ **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- ▣ **CITES:** Appendix I
- ▣ **WPA 1972:** Schedule I

Conservation Efforts

- ▣ **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- ▣ **Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- ▣ **National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA):** Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- ▣ **Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973
- ▣ **Tiger Census:** Every 4 years

Threats

- ▣ Habitat loss
- ▣ Poaching and illegal trade
- ▣ Human-Wildlife conflict

Tigers In India

- ▣ India has the **largest** population
 - ◆ As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
 - ◆ Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- ▣ **Tiger Reserves:** India now has 53 tiger reserves
 - ◆ **Ranipur in UP** is the latest
 - ◆ **Nagarjun Sagar** (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)

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 [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#), [Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce \(TRAFFIC\)](#), [the United Nations Development Programme](#) and [the World Wildlife Fund](#).

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)