



International Big Cat Alliance

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The [International Big Cat Alliance \(IBCA\)](#) officially became a **treaty-based intergovernmental organization and international legal entity** on 23rd January 2025 with **headquarters in India**.

What is the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?

- **Origins:** IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of [Project Tiger](#), and was formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.
- **Implementation:** IBCA established through the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
 - It functions as a global platform to **share conservation expertise, fund conservation initiatives, and create a repository of technical knowledge**.
- **Objective:** The initiative's main objective is the **conservation of seven major big cat species: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.
- **Membership:** The Republic of Nicaragua, Kingdom of Eswatini, Republic of India, Federal Republic of Somalia, and Republic of Liberia have **ratified the IBCA framework agreement**.
 - **Membership is open to all United Nations member states**, including range countries where these species naturally occur and non-range countries interested in supporting big cat conservation.
- **Need for IBCA: Big Cats are under threat** due to **habitat loss, poaching, climate change, and human-wildlife conflicts**.
 - Conservation at a **global scale** is required to **halt population decline and reverse negative trends**.
- **Funding:** India has committed Rs. 150 crore (2023-2028) in support to the IBCA and is exploring additional funding through bilateral, multilateral, and donor organizations.
- **Role in Conservation Efforts:**
 - **Collaborative Conservation Platform: IBCA** creates a global network of conservationists, policymakers, researchers, and governments.
 - Facilitates sharing of best practices in habitat management, anti-poaching strategies, and ecological restoration.
 - **Financial and Technical Assistance:** Acts as a **common funding pool** for conservation projects worldwide.
 - Provides **technical know-how and scientific research** to under-resourced nations.
 - **Strengthening Existing Agreements & Initiatives:** Works alongside [CITES \(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species\)](#), [CMS \(Convention on Migratory Species\)](#), and other wildlife protection treaties.
 - Aims to **support national and regional big cat conservation programs**.
 - **Climate Change Mitigation & Ecological Security:** Conservation of apex predators like big cats ensures **healthy ecosystems, biodiversity preservation, and climate resilience**.
 - Restoration of forests and grasslands through IBCA initiatives will aid in **carbon sequestration and climate adaptation**.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- The NTCA, a **statutory body** under the MoEFCC, was established in 2005 following the **Tiger Task Force's recommendations** and gained **legal status under Section 38L of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006**.
- **Objectives:** Grants statutory authority to Project Tiger, ensures federal accountability in tiger reserve management and addresses local livelihood concerns around tiger reserves.

Conservation Efforts for Big Cats in India

- [Asiatic Lion Conservation Project](#)
- [Project Snow Leopard](#)
- [Project Cheetah](#)
- [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)
- [National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#)
- [Project Tiger](#)

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Habitat and Gestation Period of Big Cats

Big Cats	Habitat	Gestation Period (Days)
Tiger	Temperate, tropical and evergreen forests, mangrove and grasslands	95-110
Cheetah	Shrublands, grasslands, savannas and temperate to hot deserts	90-95
Leopard	Forests, subtropical and tropical regions, Savannas, deserts and rocky and mountainous regions	90-105
Lion	Open plains, dry thorn forests and grasslands	100-110
Snow Leopard	Northern and central Asia mountains.	90-105

INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

The International Big Cat Alliance is a multi-country, multi-agency coalition aimed at conserving big cat species and their habitats.

Launched by
India (2023)

Headquarters
India

Member states
96 countries

Structure
Consists of Assembly of Members
Standing Committee & Secretariat



FUNCTIONS

- Secure the future of big cats (Tigers, Lions, Leopards, Snow Leopards, Pumas, Jaguars, and Cheetahs)
- Mitigate the adverse effects of climate change
- Advocate for policy initiatives
- Attain the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals

THREATS TO BIG CATS

- Poaching
- Habitat loss & fragmentation
- Human-Leopard conflict
- Climate change & Deforestation

Conservation Status of Big Cats

Species	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List	CITES	Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
Tigers	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Endangered	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
Lions	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
Leopards	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
Snow Leopards	<i>Panthera uncia</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
Pumas	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Least Concerned	Appendix II (P. c. Costaricensis and cougar: Appendix-I)	NA
Jaguars	<i>Panthera onca</i>	Near Threatened	Appendix-I	NA
Cheetahs	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I

Other Conservation Efforts in India

- Project Tiger (1973)
- Project Snow Leopard (2009)
- Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project (2004)
- Project Cheetah (2022)

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2024)

1. Lions do not have a particular breeding season.
2. Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
3. Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.

Which of the statements given above are correct 2

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

Ans: (a)

Q. Consider the following: (2012)

1. Black-necked crane
2. Cheetah
3. Flying squirrel
4. Snow leopard

Which of the above are naturally found in India?

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

Ans: (b)

