



1st Announcement

1st Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on Tiger Conservation: Enforcement, Trade, Landscapes, and Financing

Consolidating and Preparing for the Year of the Tiger Summit

In late January 2010, the Royal Thai Government will host the 1st Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on tiger conservation: Enforcement, Trade, Landscapes and Financing. The upcoming Ministerial Conference is a follow up to the Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop. It will be organized in close collaboration with and support from Governments of the Tiger Range States, the World Bank, Save the Tiger Fund, USAID, FREELAND, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Development Partners.

At the 1st AMC, Ministers of Natural Resources and Environment of Tiger Range States and Senior Officials will review priorities and draft regional and national wildlife protection programs etc., decided at the Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop. Draft outlines of national and regional implementation plans and consolidated priority actions on tiger conservation are expected to be presented and reviewed for refinement and endorsement, then preparing them to the highest level for support at the 2010 Tiger Summit.

Host: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand

Co-organizers: The World Bank, GTI Secretariat, Save the Tiger Fund, USAID, FREELAND Foundation, WWF Thailand, WCS Thailand, IUCN Asia Regional Office, University of Minnesota, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, etc.

Potential Donors: The Royal Thai Government, The World Bank, GTI Secretariat, Save the Tiger Fund, USAID, FREELAND Foundation, etc.

Participants: Ministers and senior officers from Asian tiger range states and concerning agencies. Senior representatives of multilateral or bilateral organizations and Technical tiger experts. Asia-based NGO's working on tiger/wildlife conservation.

Venue: Hyatt Regency Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand

Proposed Dates: 27-30 January, 2010.

Expected Outputs:

- Refinement and Political endorsement of consolidated priority programs developed at Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop and plans for their implementation
- Political endorsement of Pattaya Manifesto and a plan for its implementation
- Reviews priorities and draft regional and national wildlife implementation and protection plans on tiger conservation to be endorsed at the 2010 Tiger Summit.
- Pilot projects initiated for implementation at the regional level
- Uptake of tiger-friendly investment filters by key international financing bodies

More information at www.dnp.go.th, www.globaltigerinitiative.org/

Background Information

Tiger trends

Wild tigers are a cultural icon for billions of people worldwide, especially in Asia. As apex predators, they are also indicators of environmental quality in the landscapes where they occur. Healthy tiger populations connote healthy numbers of species lower in the food chain, indicating proper habitat maintenance, and potential for continuance of valuable environmental services. Over the past century, tiger numbers have plummeted precipitously. A once widespread wild population of over 100,000 animals has dropped to less than 4,000. Three of nine tiger subspecies are already extinct. The world's remaining tigers occupy just seven percent of their former range.

Response

The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)

In June 2008, the World Bank Group, Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Tiger Coalition (ITC), Smithsonian Institution launched a Tiger Conservation Initiative to save the world's remaining wild tigers from extinction. The Initiative will involve the Bank's working with non-governmental organizations, scientists, institutions and governments to improve understanding of the threats to tigers and to develop effective conservation strategies.

The Pattaya Workshop

In April 2009, the Royal Thai Government hosted an international workshop to highlight initiatives on wildlife law enforcement in partnership with the World Bank, Save the Tiger Fund, USAID, FREELAND and TRAFFIC. This event, *A Forgotten Crisis: Arresting Wildlife Depletion in Asia through Strengthened Regional Cooperation and Effective Partnerships*, reviewed current and potential efforts to arrest depletion of tigers and other endangered species across the region. Current and future efforts to address wildlife crime were addressed as strategic components, including: A) Prevention, B) Detection and Suppression, and C) Consumer Demand Reduction and Public Awareness. A main meeting outcome included a Manifesto on Combating Wildlife Crime in Asia was developed on the priority issues and challenges facing Asia's wildlife conservationists. The Pattaya Manifesto is a call to action that needs further discussion and a plan for its implementation should be developed for political endorsement.

The Kathmandu Workshop

In October 2009, the Government of Nepal on behalf of the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) organized a Global Tiger Workshop in Kathmandu during 27-30 October 2009. The Global Tiger Workshop aims to assist the Tiger Range States to integrate current knowledge and lessons learnt with new ideas, to enable them to refine their tiger conservation strategies and plans including:

- A set of urgent actions to stop the further decline of wild tiger populations,
- Goals and critical supporting actions to pursue best practices for the conservation of wild tigers and their habitats; and,
- Policies and political measures for the effective integration of wild tiger conservation into national development objectives

The Global Tiger Workshop's recommendations would be submitted for review and endorsement by the Asia Ministerial Conference that the Royal Thai Government will host in late January 2010.