



2ND INTERNATIONAL
**TIGER
FORUM**
VLADIVOSTOK-2022



THE VLADIVOSTOK DECLARATION ON TIGER CONSERVATION

(Vladivostok, Russian Federation, September 5, 2022)

We, the representatives of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, collectively referred to as the Tiger Range Countries (TRCs), being custodians of the last remaining tigers in the wild, along with countries with an intent to reintroduce tigers such as the Republic of Kazakhstan, have gathered at the 2nd International Tiger Conservation Forum in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, on 5 September 2022, with the common goal of ensuring viable wild tiger populations through conservation, recovery and reintroduction.

We:

EXPRESS strong concern that Asia's most iconic animal faces imminent extinction in the wild, primarily due to loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, climate change impacts, poaching, prey-base depletion and human-tiger conflict.

RECOGNISE that the tiger is one of the most important indicators of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems and a symbol of sustainability. Current negative drivers and stressors will result in the extinction of tigers from the wild and loss of biological diversity together with the ecosystem services they provide, while also exacerbating the adverse impacts of climate change.

ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts of the TRCs to implement the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), the outcome of the first International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg in 2010. As a result of the measures taken, the number of wild tigers in the world has registered a recovery from as few as 3,200 to over 4,700.

RECOGNISE, with concern that there has been uneven progress towards tiger recovery, and some regions are continuing to lose or have lost their tiger populations.

EXPRESS concern about the continued paucity of sovereign funds for tiger conservation in several TRCs.

SUPPORT efforts of the TRCs to implement their National Tiger Recovery Programmes (NTRPs) while also noting that tiger conservation is a national priority and a collective responsibility, requiring cooperation and coordination between TRCs.

WELCOME the intent of countries to reintroduce wild tigers to areas where numbers need to be actively augmented, including in key parts of their historical range.

EXPRESS serious concern that there is still no comprehensive strategy to address the issue of phasing out of tiger farms while their impact on driving illegal tiger trade continues unabated.

RECOGNISE the importance of enabling intra-sectoral policies and cross-sectoral coordination for the long-term conservation of tigers and their habitats.

CONFIRM our commitment to the principles reflected in international treaties that ensure the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of rare and threatened species, including the tiger and its prey species, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the World Heritage Convention, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement and other relevant initiatives.

RECOGNISE AND APPRECIATE the contributions of partners including international organisations and civil society in the implementation of the GTRP and NTRPs, and call upon the Global Tiger Forum and Global Tiger Initiative Council to continue to support and coordinate these efforts in future.

REAFFIRM our collective commitment to the principles and actions of the Hua Hin Declaration on Tiger Conservation (2010), the St Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation (2010), the Thimphu Affirmative Nine-Point Action Agenda (2012), the Dhaka Recommendations (2014), the New Delhi Resolution on Tiger Conservation (2016), and the Kuala Lumpur Joint Statement on Tiger Conservation (2022).

To fulfil our commitment to conserve wild tigers and to pass the benefits on to future generations, we hereby declare to undertake the following:

1. Adopt and implement the next Global Tiger Recovery Programme (2022-2034) and the revised National Tiger Recovery Programmes (NTRPs) with measurable and timebound indicators;
2. Develop updated National Tiger Reintroduction Programmes for the next 12-year period for countries where required;
3. Strengthen community stewardship for tiger conservation through enabling policy regimes leading to equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms (including Payment for Ecosystem Services), mitigating and managing human-tiger conflict, developing alternative and sustainable livelihoods (including green skills development) for enhancing their economic status and social well-being;
4. Address identified financial gaps through creating incentive mechanisms and leveraging conventional and innovative sources of funding, including government/sovereign funding, bilateral funds, private sector funding, endowments/trust funds, tiger bonds, etc. for long-term conservation of tigers;
5. Support the implementation of the South East Asia Tiger Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) based on agreed priorities, better coordination among countries, and setting up a well-resourced institutional structure;
6. Protect tiger habitats and prevent any further loss and degradation, including by increasing various forms of Protected Areas in prioritised tiger habitats;
7. Ensure adequate prey-base for tigers through better protection, recovery of habitats and populations and reintroduction where necessary;
8. Promote landscape-level conservation of tigers including the integration of ecological corridors in land-use policies, and implementation of climate-smart practices and green infrastructure in tiger habitats and corridors;
9. Strengthen law enforcement through enhancing numbers and professionalization of frontline staff/rangers, involvement of other enforcement agencies, establishing national database systems, harmonizing laws across countries (through bilateral instruments) and coordinated border patrols;
10. Strengthen the collaboration and sharing of information on wildlife crime among existing law enforcement agencies and regional networks (SAWEN, ASEAN-WEN) through adequate capacity and resourcing by the TRCs and donors;
11. Adopt the One Health approach to ensure sustainability of tiger landscapes and safeguard against zoonotic disease transmission;
12. Set up mechanisms and supportive policies to enable the mainstreaming of ecosystem services in development agendas;
13. Carry out regular monitoring of tigers and assessment of prey-base and habitats using best practices and enhance law enforcement monitoring as well as management assessment using tools such as SMART, M-STripes, MEE and CAITS;
14. Conduct ongoing, cutting edge and inter-disciplinary research through institutional partnerships to ensure that tiger conservation is informed and driven by robust science;
15. Promote and strengthen Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), including citizen science approaches to garner civil society support for tiger conservation.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the objectives and principles enshrined in this Declaration, TRCs commit to establish a mechanism that would oversee timely and efficient implementation.

By the adoption of this, the Vladivostok Declaration, we, the Tiger Range Countries of the world call upon the international community to join us in turning the tide and setting the tiger on the road to recovery.