

Saving Wild Tigers: Kathmandu Summary Document

**A Report from
the Global Tiger Workshop
October 27-30, 2009
Kathmandu, Nepal**



Government of Nepal



**Department of National Parks
And Wildlife Conservation**



**Department of
Forests**

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This report is based on the proceedings of the Workshop, particularly on the:

- final presentation made on each TRC delegation answering three questions; (i) what game changing strategies would be needed in your country to reverse the threat of extinction;(ii) what constraints would need to be overcome; and (iii) what support from the international community would be needed and
- presentation made by each thematic session on best practices, game changing actions and constraints; and,
- thematic papers prepared by the following authors/organizations.

Thematic Paper	Author, Organization
1. Smart Green Infrastructure in Tiger Conservation Landscapes: A Multi-Level Approach	Juan D. Quintero, Roberto Roca, Alexis J. Morgan, and Aradhna Mathur, The World Bank
2. Creating Local Constituencies for Tiger Conservation through Community Incentives and Alternative Livelihoods	Ghazala Shahabuddin, Ambedkar University, Delhi and others to be listed.
3. Managerial Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of Wild Tigers	John Seidensticker ¹ , Susan Lumpkin, Charles Lydeard ¹ , Mahendra Shrestha ² , Jennifer Sevin ¹ , Francisco Dallmeier ¹ , Eric Dinerstein ³ , Eric Wikramanayake ³ , Steven Monfort ¹ , Andrew Zakharenka ⁴ , Adriana Bianchi ⁴ , and Keshav Varma ⁴ ¹ Smithsonian Institution; ² Save The Tiger Fund, ³ World Wildlife Fund, ⁴ The World Bank
4. Landscape-scale, Ecology-based Management of Wild Tiger Populations	Ullas Karanth, John Goodrich, Srinivas Vaidyanathan, Wildlife Conservation Society; G. Vishwanatha Reddy, Indian Forest Service & Leuser International Foundation
5. Competing Demands: Understanding and Addressing the Socio-economic Forces That Work For and Against Tiger Conservation	Steven Broad, TRAFFIC, and Richard Damania, The World Bank
6. Innovative Finance for Tiger Conservation	Priya Basu, The World Bank, Melissa Moyer, (WWF).
7. What Do We Need to Conserve the Tiger in the Wild and How Much Will It Cost?	Joe Walston, Colin Poole, Anak Pattanavibool, and Arlyne Johnson, Wildlife Conservation Society

**SAVING WILD TIGERS:
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
KATHMANDU GLOBAL TIGER WORKSHOP OF OCTOBER 2009**

Executive Summary

Tigers are symbols of all that is powerful, mystical, and beautiful in nature. But wild tigers are in crisis, having fallen in numbers from about 100,000 in 1900 to just 3,200 today as a result of adverse human activities, including habitat destruction and a huge illegal trade in tiger parts. The decline continues to this day. This decade is the last opportunity to save wild tigers and the ecological riches they and the landscapes they inhabit represent. The good news is that despite serious loss, enough habitat remains in Asia that can be restored to support as many as 20,000 wild tigers.

To develop recommendations to reverse the wild tiger's decline, more than 250 participants from 13 of the 14 tiger range countries (TRCs) and the international community met in Kathmandu from October 27-30, 2009, as part of a process designed to lead to the Vladivostok Tiger Summit in September 2010.

The workshop resulted in the unanimous adoption of the Kathmandu Recommendations—**actions that will help achieve the goal of doubling the population of wild tigers within the next ten years**. These recommendations emerged from the national priority actions that each TRC identified in individual country sessions, after thematic sessions that offered ideas and approaches for their consideration.

Each TRC's priority transformational actions are a unique set and many of these are already under implementation. They can be summarized under the following broad themes:

- **Make core tiger breeding areas inviolate** with commitments from TRCs and financing institutions to not build infrastructure in these areas. Engage in cross-sector dialogue to integrate tiger conservation into land-use and infrastructure plans.
- **Ensure local support in favor of tiger conservation** based on participatory, community-based programs that provide social and economic incentives for conservation and pro-actively manage human-wildlife conflict through mitigation and compensation. Relocate villages from core tiger breeding area using best practices.
- **Develop innovative sustainable financing mechanisms** for tiger conservation. Determine full costs of tiger conservation activities. Pilot mechanisms to transfer resources from infrastructure activities to conservation programs. Assess carbon stocks in TCLs to make the case for funding from REDD
- **Build institutional capacity** to train the next generation of leaders in protected-area and landscape management, networked in a regional community of excellence, and develop science-based management plans for protected areas and tiger landscapes.
- **Dramatically reduce poaching and illegal trade** by enhancing national law-enforcement capacity and strengthening coordinated support from international wildlife law enforcement bodies. Implement the Pattaya Manifesto and CITES resolution Conf.12.5. Garner political will for improved law enforcement.
- **Reduce demand for tiger parts** through large-scale, targeted campaigns to change behaviors and perceptions of consumers of tiger parts and socialize opposition to tiger consumption.

To guide the international community and the Global Tiger Initiative, each TCR also identified specific areas for which it requires international support. Country requirements naturally vary but converge on capacity building, knowledge sharing, financing to fill critical gaps, cross-border law enforcement and protected-area management, global campaign to change consumer attitudes, and creating and sustaining political will.

Generating political will to conserve tigers—to take full advantage of the expertise that exists and transformational ideas that are emerging—is the most important step toward saving the world's most iconic species. This effort will intensify at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in January 2010, in Thailand, which will aim to define the support needed to accelerate the implementation of national programs. At the Vladivostok Tiger Summit in September 2010, the global goals, programs, funding, and implementation and monitoring mechanisms will be launched.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
KATHMANDU GLOBAL TIGER WORKSHOP 2009**
The Goal: Double the Number of Tigers in the Next Ten Years

A. Preamble

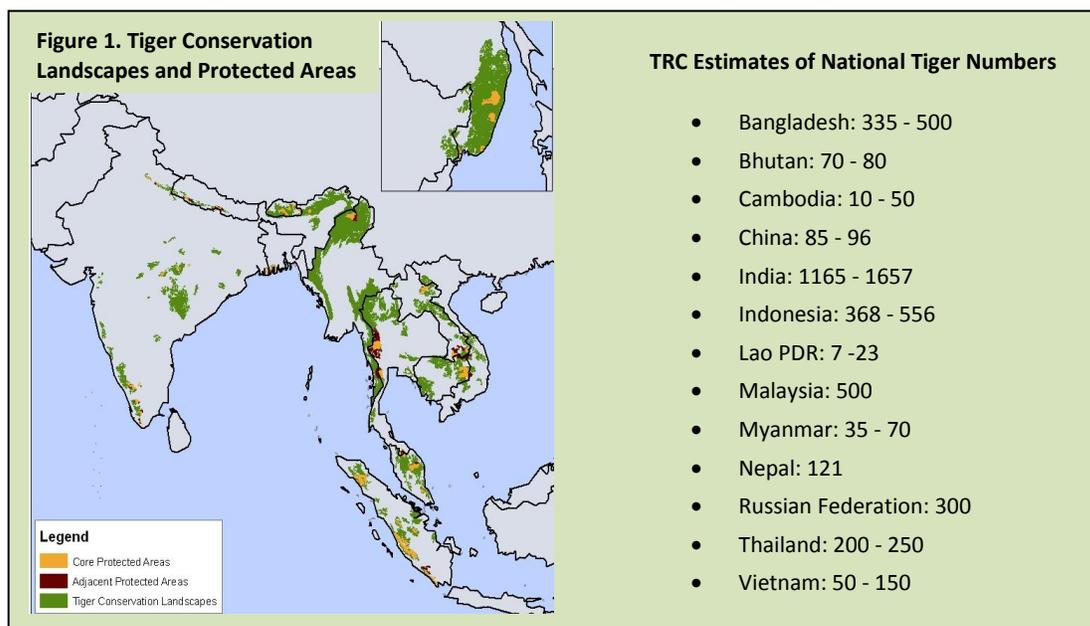
1. **Tigers are symbols of all that is powerful, mystical, and beautiful in nature.** As an apex species, they reflect the health of the ecosystems in which they live and on which people depend. Unfortunately, adverse human activities have driven wild tigers to the brink of extinction. Over the past century, their numbers fell from 100,000 to about 3,500 in the wild today, and the loss continues. The remaining wild tigers live in small refuges scattered across their once-vast domain in Asia. Without immediate, urgent, and transformational actions, wild tigers will disappear forever in the next decade.

2. **More than 250 participants from 13 of the 14 tiger range countries met in Kathmandu, Nepal,** from October 27-30, 2009. The KGTW was hosted by the Government of Nepal, with the full and active support of Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal. It was sponsored by the National Trust for Nature Conservation (Nepal), CITES Secretariat, Global Tiger Forum, Global Tiger Initiative, Save the Tiger Fund, WWF, and The World Bank.

3. **The primary focus of the KGTW was on national action plans and priorities** with a few thematic sessions to bring in global conservation experience. The goals of the workshop were three-fold: to share knowledge, experience, and best practices in tiger conservation; to identify country specific transformational (“game-changing”) actions that will effectively and immediately begin the recovery of wild tiger populations; and to devise ways to meet the challenges to implementing and sustaining those transformational actions. The workshop, characterized by a free exchange of ideas, lively debates and discussions, resulted in the adoption, after open debate, of the Kathmandu Recommendations, to achieve the goal of doubling the population of wild tigers within the next ten years.

B. Kathmandu Recommendations:

4. **The KGTW Recommendations are the result of the participants harvesting the best science, sharing the best practices, and agreeing to work in concert on wild tiger conservation.** The transformational actions presented in the Recommendations address six themes: capacity building to transform protected area and landscape management; wildlife law enforcement and governance; implementing tiger-friendly infrastructure development; reducing demand for dead tigers and enhancing demand for landscapes with wild tigers; creating incentives for people who live in communities near tiger landscapes; and finding new, sustainable mechanisms for financing wild tiger conservation.



Kathmandu Recommendations

1. Celebrate 2010, Year of the Tiger, throughout the world, to create global awareness of the critical plight of the wild tigers and enlist broad and deep support for their conservation.
2. Ensure strict protection of wild tigers and their core breeding areas.
3. Conserve and manage buffer zones and corridors that connect core tiger breeding areas in tiger landscapes.
4. Tiger range countries stop infrastructure projects in core tiger breeding areas and finance institutions avoid financing development projects that adversely affect critical tiger habitats.
5. Empower local communities that live in and around tiger landscapes with sustainable economic incentives and appropriate technologies to minimize human-tiger conflict.
6. Make core critical tiger habitats truly inviolate by incentive-driven, generous, participatory, and voluntary relocation.
7. All countries implement CITES resolution Conf. 12.5 "Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix I Asian big cat species."
8. Enhance the capacity of INTERPOL, WCO, UNODC), and regional wildlife enforcement networks (including ASEAN-WEN) to more effectively and sustainably combat the illegal trade in wildlife at the international level and through relevant national agencies; and implement the Manifesto on Combating Wildlife Crime in Asia, decided in Pattaya, Thailand, in April, 2009.
9. Conduct focused outreach to target audiences to reduce demand for tiger parts and enhance demand for live tigers living in the wild.
10. The international community makes a financial commitment to support long-term behavior-change campaigns with measureable outcomes on tiger conservation in the wild.
11. Intensify regional cooperation for better management and enforcement in trans-boundary tiger landscapes.
12. Implement capacity development programs to achieve effective landscape and protected-area management.
13. Use innovative science and technology to closely monitor and protect wild tigers and their prey and habitats.
14. Adopt innovative, sustainable mechanisms to finance wild tiger conservation.
15. Generate collective support for tiger range countries from the international donor community to reverse the decline of wild tigers now.

C. Crisis and Opportunity

5. **Wild tigers are in crisis.** This decade may be our last opportunity to save wild tigers and the ecological riches they represent. About 100,000 wild tigers inhabited Asia's forests and grasslands in 1900. In the 1960s, about 35,000 remained. Tiger was declared a threatened species facing extinction in 1969 and trade in tiger parts was banned in 1975. Despite more than 30 years of conservation initiatives, wild tiger numbers have continued to decline. Today, only about 3,500 of these majestic big cats are left in the wild. Even now, the bleeding continues, with Russia and India—the major wild tiger countries—reporting large losses in the last year.

6. **Growing economic prosperity in Asia has fueled a multi-billion dollar illegal trade in wildlife** with wild tigers treated as commodities to be traded for huge illegal profit, not ecological assets to be sustained. Adverse human activities have reduced and fragmented the wild tiger's range. Infrastructure development without concern for wildlife and nature has paved over much of the tiger's habitat and threatens to take it all, with spending on infrastructure in Asia expected to reach as much as \$1 trillion a year over the next ten years, some of it undoubtedly affecting tiger landscapes.

7. **Significant transformational action is required to save wild tigers** and the ecological values they represent. If we do not take action, the future will be bleak for people whose lives and livelihoods depend on the ecosystem services, such as watershed protection, of the tiger's forest and grassland habitats. Ecosystem services are estimated to form 51% of the GDP of the poor in India, and are likely to have similar value in other TRCs. Ecosystem services like carbon sequestration benefit everyone.

8. **The good news is that despite habitat loss, enough habitat can be restored in Asia to support as many as 20,000 wild tigers.** (See Figure 1 below.)

What Will Save Tigers?: The Essentials

- Inviolate core breeding areas connected in tiger-friendly conservation landscapes.
- Support and participation of people who live near tigers.
- Sufficient and sustained financial resources.
- Well-trained, dedicated conservation practitioners and managers using science-based practices.
- National, regional, and international cooperation to dramatically reduce poaching and illegal trade through better law enforcement.
- Reduced demand for tiger parts.
- Political will and commitment.

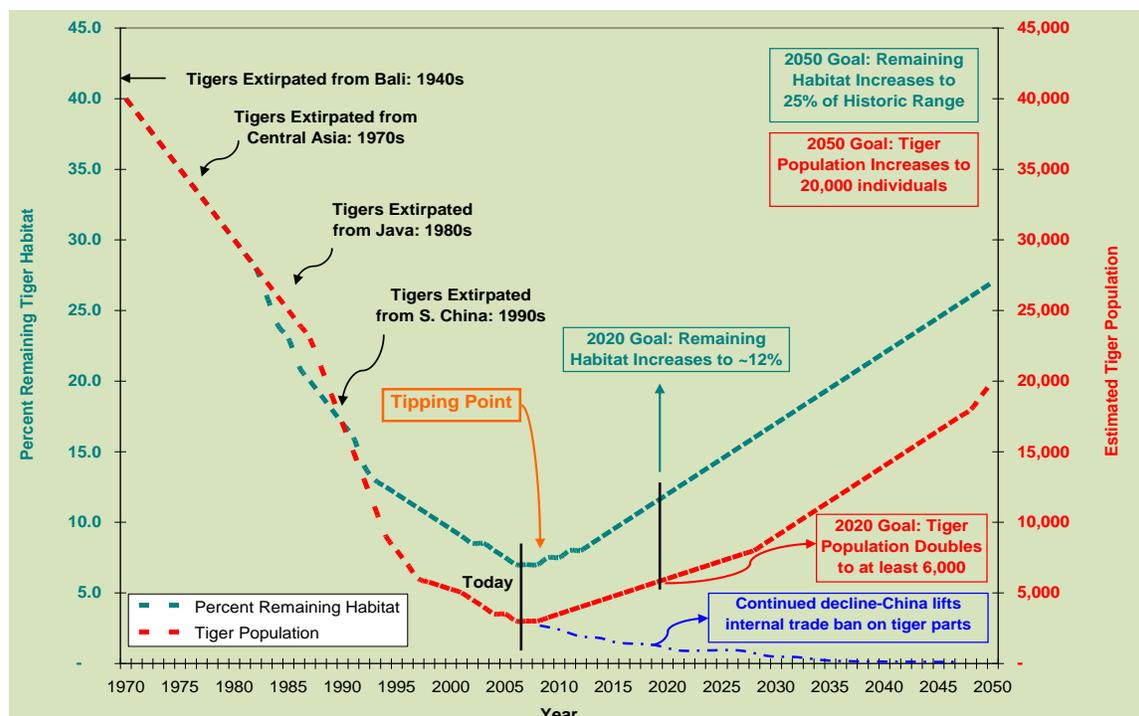


Figure 2. On the current trajectory, wild tigers are headed toward extinction. Action now can reverse this. Wikramanayake, E., et al. In Press. Road to recovery or catastrophic loss: How will the next decade end for wild tigers? In R. Tilson and P. Nyhus, eds. *Tigers of the World (2nd edition): The Science, Politics, and Conservation of Panthera tigris*. Elsevier/Academic Press.

9. **Generating political will to conserve tigers is the most important step to achieve success** — to take full advantage of the expertise that exists and transformational ideas that are emerging. This process of building political will was firmly launched in Kathmandu and will build in the months ahead, culminating in the Summit of Heads of Government in September 2010. If the challenges are addressed and the opportunities taken, wild tigers can survive.

10. **We cannot wait for the Summit to engage in the battle to save wild tigers.** We must act immediately and urgently. Nepal set an example at the KGTW by demonstrating political interest at the highest levels of the Government, and announced doubling the size of Bardia National Park, a key protected area in the Terai Arc Landscape; the creation of a commando task force to patrol wildlife smuggling across borders, and a National Tiger Authority and a wildlife law enforcement bureau. Soon after, Nepal declared Banke National Park in the Terai. Another positive outcome was an agreement to establish a South Asia regional protocol to increase cooperation in stemming illegal trade in tiger parts.

D. Thematic Discussions

11. After a review of the TRCs' existing national strategies, specialist-participants presented background information relevant to six thematic areas that address urgent needs to save the wild tiger and its ecosystems. Specialist-responders commented on the presentations and then opened the floor for further input and discussion of the theme. The outcomes of each thematic session were ideas and approaches for consideration by the TRCs in individual country sessions.

12. **Smart Infrastructure and Land Use.** Infrastructure development in TRCs, without regard for its impact on biodiversity and tiger landscapes, has contributed to the loss, fragmentation, and degradation of tiger habitat and this threat is expected to grow. It is possible for TRC governments to create policies and programs that both require and provide incentives for tiger-friendly infrastructure development (especially transportation, mining, and hydropower). The best option is not to develop infrastructure in TCLs as a matter of national policy. Where this is not possible, strategic environmental planning and mitigation at the sector level and engineering at the project level are required to minimize impacts on tigers and their habitat.

Key Recommendations

- TRCs and financing institutions not to develop infrastructure in core tiger breeding areas.
- Cross-sector dialogue to integrate tiger conservation needs into land-use and infrastructure plans.
- Mechanisms to transfer resources from infringing and benefiting infrastructure activities to conservation programs.

13. **Smart, tiger-friendly infrastructure options include land-use restriction in TCLs** coupled with incentives such as land easements; making permits required for infrastructure tiger-friendly by application of a filter that assesses potential impact on tigers; tiger-friendly Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments, especially those that evaluate impacts within TCLs; and payments for ecosystem services so the beneficiaries of these services pay to ensure they continue.

14. **There are several case studies of infrastructure projects that exemplify best practices.** At the project level, for instance, wildlife crossings were incorporated into a highway that bisects Malaysia's Taman Negara National Park. Biodiversity offsets often involve compensating for impacts of an infrastructure project by conserving or restoring habitat elsewhere. Biodiversity offsets are part of hydropower projects in Asia, Africa, and South America, and of mining projects in New Zealand, Africa, South America, and the United States. Transfer mechanisms from infrastructure, such as a requirement that a small percentage of the costs of infrastructure development support conservation can also provide sustainable financing for tiger conservation. This has been successfully done in Brazil.

15. **Overcoming the challenges to implementing the recommendations identified for smart infrastructure will require political will** to oppose vested interests and foster inter-sector communication, and capacity building in the use of sectoral assessment mechanisms and to improve collection of essential data.

16. **Deepening of the work to date is needed** to (i) assess known immediate threats to TCLs from planned infrastructure; (ii) define and map core tiger breeding areas; (iii) undertake in-depth case studies of compensation or transfer systems and develop pilot schemes in one or more TRCs; (iv) develop country profiles on smart infrastructure policy framework; and (v) detailed case studies on strategic environmental assessments, and project-level mitigation.

17. **Tigers, Communities, and the Poverty Trap.** The people who live near tigers are very often poor and heavily dependent on forest resources. Local people also tend to be alienated by conservation policies that ignore their needs in favor of those of wildlife. The poor are often lured by well-resourced illegal wildlife traders to engage in poaching. Combined, these factors lead to forest degradation, poaching of tiger prey, active or passive local involvement in tiger poaching, and revenge killing of tigers following human casualties and livestock depredations.

18. **Participatory, community-based, incentive-driven practices that give local people a stake in tiger conservation can make a live wild tiger worth more than a dead one:**

These include developing alternative livelihoods to compensate for loss of access to protected forest resources, such as community forestry projects in buffer zones and revenue-sharing between local communities, and conservation-related income-generators such as park entry fees. These measures have been very successful in Nepal. As another example, a community-based forest protection and regeneration program in Saigata (Central India) resulted in people fulfilling their livelihood needs while creating habitat for tigers. Eco-tourism enterprises that are owned and managed by local communities are one of the best options for generating revenue in tiger landscapes and providing alternative livelihoods; this has been demonstrated in Costa Rica.

Key Recommendations

- Develop incentives for local communities to conserve tigers through local participation in protected-area management, alternative livelihoods, revenue sharing, and community-owned and managed ecotourism enterprises.
- Rapid management intervention and compensation programs to deal with human-wildlife conflict.
- Relocation and rehabilitation of villages from core breeding areas using best practices.

19. **Human-wildlife conflict mitigation programs are recommended to address the issue of revenge killing** and wildlife depredations creating local animosity toward conservation and protected areas. This includes education about ways to prevent wildlife depredations, and rapid action management responses. Prompt, equitable compensation for losses to wildlife is very important, and compensation can be dependent on villagers' use of preventive measures; this has been successful in Sweden. Sustainable ways to fund compensation may include insurance programs, but thus far governments bear most of the financial burden of compensation.

20. **Relocation and rehabilitation of forest-dependent villagers is a viable option, if villagers participate in planning, compensation is fair** and sufficient, and relocation results in improvement to the villagers' quality of life. Based on these principles, voluntary relocation of villagers from India's Bhadra Tiger Reserve and Nepal's Chitwan National Park represent good models that have been beneficial to the villagers and improved wildlife habitat.

21. **Deepening of the work to date is needed** to (i) develop working models of participatory, incentive-based models of community engagement; and (ii) examine experience and alternatives models for community-based ecotourism development as a way to promote demand for live wild tigers.

22. **Wildlife Law Enforcement and Governance.** It is well established that poaching and illegal trade in tigers and their parts, both domestic and international, is taking a significant toll on wild tigers, leading to the extirpation of tigers even in reserves designed to protect them. Despite international agreements and national laws governing poaching and trade, little progress has been made in stopping these activities. Wildlife law enforcement suffers from a lack of political will, insufficient financial and human resources, lack of capacity at all levels of the law-enforcement establishment, and ineffective protocols and instruments for prompt sharing across borders of robust wildlife crime intelligence.

21. **Some progress is made when there are specialized wildlife law enforcement** units which bring together related functions of police, customs, forest administration and the like, with power to conduct searches and arrest suspects. Regional capacity-building programs look promising but there are doubts whether training alone is producing the impact that is required. Political will is necessary to ensure national legislation is adequate and cross border protocols are developed and implemented. This includes provision of strict penalties for offenders, information networks (domestic and across borders) that create a high risk that offenders will be detected, and support from the justice system so offenders receive those penalties and illegally obtained gains from trafficking are recovered. A new threat—Internet-based illegal trade in tiger parts—must be monitored so it can be promptly suppressed.

Key Recommendations

- Garner political will by showing how wildlife crime and related money laundering affects national security.
- Strengthen relevant national, regional, and international enforcement and networking agencies and programs.
- Implement the Pattaya Manifesto and CITES resolution Conf. 12.5.

22. **Deepening of the work done to date is needed** to develop a coordinated program by CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, and WCO for strengthened support to TRCs for wildlife law enforcement.

23. **Landscape Management and Capacity Development.** To ensure the conservation of tigers and their habitat requires science-based approaches to monitoring tigers and their prey in protected areas and broader tiger conservation landscapes. These science-based approaches are well established but are not implemented in all TRCs. Applying these approaches will require significant capacity development. The pace and quality of their implementation will be hastened and improved by creation of a strong regional and international network of management practice. Success in protection, however, also depends on managers working in close collaboration with local communities so they benefit from tiger conservation (see Tigers, Communities, and the Poverty Trap).

Key Recommendations

- Identify, recruit, and train the next generation of leaders for protected area and landscape management and in civil society support groups.
- Develop a strong, regional, networked community of excellence in protected area management practice.
- Develop science-based and adaptive management plans for protected areas and landscapes that fully recognize the tiger's ecological requirements.
- Communicate with other sectors and with other pillars of society, e.g., judiciary, politicians, and non-traditional players.

24. **Best practices in science-based monitoring of tigers and prey have been implemented** in India, Indonesia, Nepal, Russia, Malaysia, and some areas in Thailand. These can serve as models for other TRCs and be included in capacity-building and technology-transfer programs. Maintaining all TRCs' currency in new methods and technology is a role for the management practice network.

25. **Programs in Nepal, Indonesia, and Malaysia have fostered good relationships between civil society and protected area management.** For instance, MYCAT is a joint program of the Malaysian Nature Society, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Wildlife Conservation Society - Malaysia Program, and WWF-Malaysia, supported by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia, for joint implementation of the National Tiger Action Plan. MYCAT's primary function is to provide a formal yet flexible platform for information exchange, learning, collaboration, and resource consolidation among the conservation partners.

26. **Lack of political will to address corruption and foster change** in entrenched conservation-related civil service systems is a serious constraint to implementing transformational actions, as is the lack of sufficient and stable resourcing for protected area and landscape management.

27. **Deepening of the work done to date is needed** to (i) develop an agreed-upon TRCs-wide methodology for measuring and recognizing performance of protected-area management; (ii) standardize a methodology for measuring tiger and prey populations for application across the TRCs; and (iii) agree on a definition of core breeding areas that are to be "inviolable."

28. **Suppressing Demand for Wild Tigers and Enhancing Demand for Wild Tigers.** The value of a dead tiger is clear: the illegal trade in wild tiger parts is highly profitable to criminals, driven by a demand for bones and other parts used in medicines of unproven efficacy; skins for décor and garments and other parts for curios and amulets; and for wild meat. The value of wild tigers, living in the wild, is less clear though many recognize spiritual and cultural enrichment, ecological integrity, provision of ecosystem services, and conservation of other biodiversity in tiger landscapes. However, these values are not factored in the marketplace and do not contribute to financial returns and are typically ignored except when policy makers change the rules of the game for the market.

Key Recommendations

- Conduct focused outreach to target audiences and collaborative communications with local communities to model behavior change and change perceptions about the value of tigers.
- Orchestrate a disruptive and youth-based large-scale campaign to socialize opposition to tiger consumption.

29. **To reduce demand for dead tigers, it is essential to effectively communicate these values to the public to change the behavior of tiger-consumers.**

Consumers must be made aware that trade in tiger parts is illegal and subject to criminal penalties. Strategic communication of wildlife law enforcement actions and results, such as conviction and punishment of offenders, will act as a deterrent to illegal behavior. Outreach to build local, national, and international support by explaining the value of live wild tigers living in the wild and the ineffectiveness of tiger-based products for medicinal and other purposes may help make participation in the tiger trade a social liability and participation in tiger protection a social asset.

30. **There have been communications and outreach campaigns but these must be scaled-up, sustained, and reach key audiences with targeted messages.** In addition, all trade in tiger parts must be banned, with no possibility of trade restrictions being lifted. Legal sanctions on the use of tiger parts, rather than just their sale, is an innovative deterrent being used to combat prostitution and narcotics. Investment in a system to monitor progress as a basis for adaptive action is needed.

31. **Deepening of the work done to date is needed** to (i) further develop the outline for a consumer campaign to make tiger-part consumption socially unacceptable; and (ii) improve the current models of tiger-based eco-tourism to enhance revenues and benefits to local communities.

32. **Conservation Resource Needs and Innovative Financing.** Without significant investments in protected-area and tiger landscape management, community programs, wildlife law enforcement, demand reduction, and building capacity in all of these areas, the long-term future of tigers cannot be ensured. Initial rough estimates of the projected costs of protecting tiger core breeding areas alone suggest that current annual funding just for protecting these source population sites will need to be increased by many millions of dollars. Sufficient and sustainably resourced protection of core breeding areas will be critical for the success of concurrent and complementary conservation strategies, such as wildlife law enforcement, succeed.

Key Recommendations

- Identify costs associated with (i) protecting key tiger conservation landscapes; (ii) implementing smart infrastructure; (iii) strengthened wildlife law enforcement; (iv) undertaking consumer campaigns; (v) implementing human-tiger conflict management programs; and (vi) participatory, voluntary resettlement.
- Pilot programs for transfer payments from infringing and benefiting infrastructure activities to biodiversity and TCL recovery.
- Scientifically assess carbon stocks in TCLs to make the case for funding from REDD.

33. **A variety of innovative financing mechanisms exist and have been tested or implemented in other sectors.**

The example of the Asian Conservation Company shows that private-sector investment in biodiversity conservation can be profitable to investors, help conserve biodiversity, and provide a long-term funding stream. Voluntary or mandatory levies on various activities such as airline ticket purchases, currency transactions, and sales of emissions permits show some promise for raising predictable, sustainable funding but have not been fully tested. Dedicated bond-issues may also be feasible. Other mechanisms, such as financing from REDD, also have potential to mobilize funding for tiger conservation. A World Bank-sponsored

trust fund is an option for near-term financing while other mechanisms are tested and implemented. Others mechanisms, such as financing from REDD, also have potential for funding tiger conservation.

34. Constraints to pursuing innovative financing include lack of dialogue between conservationists and the financial sector and the lack of capacity in TRCs to implement financing programs.

35. **Deepening of the work done to date is needed** to (i) identify from the range of options the two or three sustainable financing options most suitable for the tiger agenda; (ii) develop these to a piloting stage in one TRCs, specifically with the Smart Infrastructure team to develop a pilot program for transfer payments from infrastructure to recovery of tiger reserves (see Smart Infrastructure and Land Use).

E. Tiger Range Countries' Goals, Strategies, and Priority Transformational Actions

36. Each of 13 tiger range countries presented at the KGTW their national strategy documents outlining the status of tigers in the country, ongoing conservation actions, goals for wild tiger conservation, and the challenges to success. As part of the workshop, and following the thematic sessions, each TRC developed a small set of priority transformational actions that would result in achieving its goals and contribute to the TRCs' collective goal of doubling the number of wild tigers within ten years. Given that wild tigers live in highly diverse habitats—from the rain forests of Southeast Asia, to the dry forests of South Asia, to the temperate forests of the Russian Far East and northeast China—each TRC's challenges and priority transformational actions are unique in detail. However, at a broader level, the challenges and the transformational actions identified by TRCs have a high degree of similarity and are often interdependent. The six broad themes found resonance in national transformational actions as follows:

a. **TRC Strategies for Wildlife Enforcement and Governance:** Eleven of the TRCs identified priority actions related to wildlife enforcement and governance. Most cite the importance of strengthening their on-the-ground law-enforcement capabilities and technology and regional or improved trans-boundary cooperation in wildlife law enforcement, including intelligence exchange. Some TRCs list actions to foster cross-sector engagement, such as an inter-ministerial task force on wildlife law enforcement, an interagency working group including NGOs, and exchanges and training seminars for scientists, law enforcement officers, and outreach specialists. One TRC cites engagement with INTERPOL, CITES, and other international organizations, another one tightening penalties for poaching and trade, and a third establishing a central national tiger conservation authority.

Corresponding Kathmandu Recommendations: #7. All countries implement CITES resolution Conf. 12.5 "Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix I Asian big cat species." #8. Enhance the capacity of INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), the CITES Secretariat . . . and implement the Manifesto on Combating Wildlife Crime in Asia decided in Pattaya . . .

b. **TRC Strategies for Landscape Management and Capacity Development:** Nine TRCs list priority actions related to landscape management and capacity development. Most view capacity building in protected area management as a priority and several cite adoption or improvement of scientific monitoring programs for tigers and prey, with funding or increased staff to accomplish both of these. Some cite creating or improving linkages among protected areas in landscapes both within country and trans-boundary. Unique priority actions include ungulate reintroduction programs to improve the prey base and addressing climate-changes issues as they related to tiger conservation. Establishing an international network, based on friendship among TRCs, so they can learn from each other was one TRC's priority action.

Corresponding Kathmandu Recommendations: #3. Conserve and manage buffer zones and corridors that connect core tiger breeding areas in tiger landscapes. #11. Intensify regional cooperation for better management and enforcement in trans-boundary tiger landscapes. #12. Implement capacity development programs to achieve effective landscape and protected-area management. #13. Use innovative science and technology to closely monitor and protect wild tigers and their prey and habitats.

c. TRC Strategies for Innovative Financing: Seven TRCs' priority actions involve development or use of innovative sustainable financing for their tiger conservation programs in general or for specific uses as human-wildlife conflict mitigation and community engagement programs. A few cite developing financing based on REDD, payment for ecological services (PES), ecotourism, or cross-sector dialogue on current budget allocations for priority species conservation. One country cites the need to develop a trust fund, collaborate with international donors, and acquire immediate funds to continue tiger conservation efforts while long-term financing is worked out.

Corresponding Kathmandu Recommendations: #14. Adopt innovative, sustainable mechanisms to finance wild tiger conservation. #15. Generate collective support to tiger range countries from the international donor community to reverse the decline of wild tigers now.

d. TRC Strategies for Smart Infrastructure and Land Use: The priority actions of seven TRCs dealt with infrastructure and land-use priorities. Among these are making core tiger breeding areas "No-Go" areas for new infrastructure and for hunting and logging; establishing connectivity, including trans-boundary connectivity, among protected areas; and decommissioning infrastructure in tiger landscapes where possible. TRC-specific actions are restoring and land-use planning for the Tenasserim corridor and cross-boundary with Myanmar (Thailand); establishing linkages to maintain a tiger meta-population in the Manas Complex and the Toorsa Complex (Bhutan); and securing an agreement regarding tiger conservation landscapes among provincial governors (Sumatra, Indonesia).

Corresponding Kathmandu Recommendations: #2. Ensure strict protection of wild tigers and their core breeding areas. #4. Tiger range countries stop infrastructure projects in core tiger breeding areas and finance institutions avoid financing development projects that adversely affect critical tiger habitats.

e. TRC Strategies for Community Engagement: Seven TRCs see community engagement as a priority with six citing the development of alternative livelihoods for communities living near tigers. Addressing human-wildlife conflict was a priority for most of these TRCs through activities such as compensation, establishing conflict response teams, and education to reduce the risk of conflict. One TRC's major priority is relocation and rehabilitation of villages in core tiger habitats.

Corresponding Kathmandu Recommendations: #5. Empower local communities that live in and around tiger landscapes with sustainable economic incentives and appropriate technologies to minimize human-tiger conflict. #6. Make core/critical tiger habitats truly inviolate by incentive driven, generous, participatory and voluntary relocation.

f. TRC Strategies for Suppressing Demand for Wild Tiger Parts and Enhancing Demand for Live Wild Tigers: Four TRCs particularly stress as priorities enhanced communications programs to reduce demand for tiger parts with focused campaigns to change tiger-consumption behavior. International and regional cooperation was cited as important to these efforts. One TRC cites developing regulations related to captive tiger breeding facilities.

Corresponding Kathmandu Recommendations: #9. Conduct focused outreach to target audiences to reduce demand for tiger parts and enhance demand for live tigers living in the wild. #10. The international community makes a financial commitment to support long-term behavior-change campaigns with measurable results for tiger conservation.



Unless policy makers ensure that the true social and environmental value of wild tigers living in tiger landscapes is fully recognized and protected, high profits from dead tigers will continue to motivate poaching and illegal trade. Images courtesy of the Save the Tiger Fund.

Table 1. Priority Transformational Actions for each TRC as presented by its Delegation in the Closing Session

TRC	Priority Transformational Actions by Themes
Smart Infrastructure and Land Use	
Bhutan	Secure tiger habitat against fragmentation through strong policy and management. Ensuring that all smart infrastructures comply with EIA. Establish trans-boundary ecological and administrative linkages to maintain a tiger meta-population in the Manas Complex and Toorsa Complex.
India	Strive to make core/critical tiger habitats free of infrastructure through a policy of “No-Go” for future development projects and decommission existing infrastructure.
Indonesia	Secure agreements from Sumatra’s provincial governors on the TCLs. Secure agreements from Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry on no further changes in forest functions by January Ministerial Tiger Meeting.
Malaysia	Integrate tiger conservation with development.
Russia	Improve connectivity within TCL through tiger-friendly practices and regulations on logging, hunting, and infrastructure development.
Thailand	Restoration and land-use planning for the Tenasserim corridor and trans-boundary cooperation with Myanmar.
Vietnam	Identify tiger landscape structure (core, corridor, matrix) and estimate cost of securing the survival of tiger and its prey. Establish “No-Go” zones for infrastructure and hunting and secure required funds.
Tigers, Communities, and the Poverty Trap	
Bhutan	Establish community-based enterprises such as eco-tourism. Mitigate human/wildlife/tiger conflict with a Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy. Involve local communities and national and international conservation advocates.
Cambodia	Develop community -engagement programs.
China	Help local communities with alternative livelihoods, compensation schemes, and resettlement.
India	Provide appropriate economic and social incentives through offset costs, existing funds (CAMPAs), and Rural Development Schemes to communities living in buffer and corridor habitats to ensure coexistence and habitat connectivity, and maintain habitats sustainable for wildlife and communities. Make core/critical tiger habitats truly inviolate by incentive-driven, generous, participatory, voluntary relocation. About 80,000 families residing in currently declared 31,000 sq.km core/critical tiger habitat are envisioned to be relocated in two plan periods - 10 years.
Indonesia	Establish district-level tiger-human conflict response units in problem areas paid for using state district budget, and use them to inform people how to reduce the risks before they become a problem.
Russia	Introduce incentives for tiger-friendly economic activities in local communities.
Thailand	Strengthen alternative livelihood programs.
Wildlife Enforcement and Governance	
Cambodia	Operate and strengthen law enforcement.
China	Give the tiger a higher priority in the National Programme for Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Development. Strengthen law enforcement and international cooperation. Establish and improve law enforcement and monitoring networks. Hotline and hot-email established on 1 October 2009. Improve information and intelligence exchange in and outside China. Engage with INTERPOL, CITES and other international organizations. Conduct joint law enforcement along the border. Build enforcement capacity, especially at local level. Strengthen interagency cooperation through a working group including NGOs. Establish formal channels for information exchange and sharing at national and provincial level. Formalize cooperation by adding appendix for wildlife crime cooperation to bilateral agreement.
India	Ensure protection of source tiger populations. Obtain political and financial commitment to professionalize protection and crime control through creation of tiger intelligence, investigation, and special prosecution units, through strengthening of WCCB and through rapid deployment of Special Tiger Protection Force.
Indonesia	Ensure available intelligence is used to reduce killing and trafficking of tigers and loss of tiger habitat.
Laos	Develop regional cooperation for exchange of intelligence information.
Malaysia	Ensure the long-term protection and management of tiger habitat.
Myanmar	Identify source sites for immediate intensive protection within the Hukaung Valley and Tanintharyi Tiger Landscapes and concurrent development of landscape strategies for both.
Nepal	Establish National Tiger Conservation Authority with implementation from central to field level.
Russia	Create an official channel of information exchange on regional level providing timely data on illegal wildlife trade, revealed violations, and abnormal climate conditions that might lead to wildlife mortality. Increase salaries and social protection for wildlife enforcement staff. Initiate several exchanges and training seminars for scientists, law-enforcement officers, and outreach specialists. Expand measures for effective protection of habitats and prey, not just tigers. Tighten administrative and criminal penalties for poaching, possession, and circulation of tiger parts and strengthen their enforcement. Establish a bipartite working group composed of experts from state institutions and NGOs responding efficiently to prompt information about tiger population status.

Thailand	Strengthen and standardize Smart Patrol System, CITES authority, and check points, and ASEAN WEN and THAI WEN.
Vietnam	Establish an inter-ministerial task force on wildlife law enforcement.
Landscape Management and Capacity Development	
Bangladesh	Modernize Forest Department through capacity development, modern communication facilities, special incentive and compassion package for staff working in the Sundarbans area. Strengthen wildlife circle, better scientific measures for conservation, etc. Address climate change challenges in the Sundarbans area.
Bhutan	Generate baseline estimates for tiger and prey in PAs and Government Reserve Forests. Recruit additional staff and develop capacity for PA and wildlife management.
China	Improve China-Russia trans-boundary cooperation. Build capacity. Improve and expand habitats. Establish and restore protected areas and corridors. Enhance forest management. Conduct joint surveys and monitoring. Mainstream into next 5-year National Plan. Establish international network building on friendship among TRCs to learn from each other.
Laos	Administration and supporting legislation to give new authority over all activities in PAs to new PAs Management division. Improve cross-sector integration. Improve PA management: Increase the number of field staff to 3,000 for class I and II TCLs (all stakeholders). Increase community outreach on new legislation. Improve monitoring of tigers and prey.
Malaysia	Identify locations to link forest blocks. Establish ecological linkages across fragmented habitats within tiger landscapes.
Myanmar	National-level support for tiger conservation needs to encourage provincial-level commitment to tigers. Install and provide sustainable funding for field-based Ranger and Outreach Training Centers in both tiger landscapes, to enhance patrolling, monitoring, outreach, and planning.
Nepal	Adopt innovative science and technology in conservation efforts. Provide the Terai Arc Landscape, including the critical dispersal corridors, with conservation status and pilot in Bardia in Nepal.
Russia	Operationalize the use of tiger monitoring program in management plans and budgets. Create trans-boundary ecological corridors starting with the establishment of a protected area in Khasansky district of Russia and Jilin Province in China to ensure safe passage of the Amur tiger and its prey across the border.
Thailand	Improve the prey base by ungulate (sambar, Eld's deer, hog deer) reintroduction programs. Standardize rigorous population monitoring system and ecological monitoring for tigers and prey.
Suppressing Demand for Wild Tiger Parts and Enhancing Demand for Live Wild Tiger	
China	Strengthen communication. Engage with international community. Develop a multimedia awareness-raising campaign. Create joint campaigns with other TRCs, including Tiger Day Festival.
Russia	Optimize the work in accordance with Russian-Chinese Protocol of International Cooperation on Environmental Issues to result in official mechanism of close collaboration on regional level.
Thailand	Strengthen wildlife crime units and informant network to suppress demands for wild meat. Strengthen education and awareness of wildlife conservation.
Vietnam	Develop large-scale, long-term behavior-change campaign to reduce consumption of tiger and its prey. Develop a regulation clarifying the goals, management, and monitoring of captive tiger breeding facilities.
Conservation Resource Needs and Innovative Financing Mechanisms	
Bangladesh	Innovative mechanism needed to tackle human-tiger conflict through community-based awareness campaign, reasonable level of compensation, insurance, health facilities, alternative livelihood options, etc.
Bhutan	Create trust fund and determine how to channel dedicated money for tiger conservation. Dialogue with international donors on sources, linkages, and collaboration. Consider REDD and PES. Acquire immediate funds to continue tiger work while long-term funding mechanisms are being sorted out.
Cambodia	Create sustainable financial sources.
China	Make more resources available.
Indonesia	Dialogue with National Planning Agency and Ministry of Finance on current budget allocation for priority species conservation, and on innovative funding sources for Tiger Conservation Landscape management. Promote broad adoption of habitat offsets and REDD as impact mitigation measures.
Laos	Develop financial support through innovative funding mechanisms including REDD, ecotourism, and PES. (Note: Current funding gap is more than US\$5 million for class I and II TCLs.)
Vietnam	Develop a sustainable financing mechanism for funding tiger conservation in National Tiger Landscapes.

F. Support Required from the International Community/Global Tiger Initiative

37. Tiger range country governments are primarily responsible for conserving the tigers that live within their borders. Global outcomes are determined by national actions. TRCs also look to the international community (IC) for some forms of assistance. And the IC benefits from tiger conservation through its role in conservation forests that sequester carbon to mitigate threats from global climate change. All TRCs at the KGTW presented their needs for assistance from the international community. Given the diversity in the conditions for wild tiger conservation, the various TRCs envision slightly different roles for the IC, but they fall under six general categories that can serve as a guide to the Global Tiger Initiative as it develops.

38. Capacity Building/Technology and Information Transfer: Twelve of 13 TRCs cite facilitating technology and/or information sharing and building capacity for conservation as a high-priority role for the international community. There is considerable variation, however, in the focus of the capacity building required. Several TRCs mention capacity building in the wildlife law enforcement arena, and a few in advanced methods of monitoring tigers and their prey. Other TRCs have unique, narrow requirements in this area, while others require broad-spectrum capacity building and advanced technology transfer mechanisms. It should also be noted that capacity building focused on cross-sector actors will also help to generate political will. The international community must play a major role in supporting capacity-building needs. The Conservation and Development Practice Network being developed in a partnership between the GTI and the Smithsonian Institution is concrete step toward meeting capacity-building needs.

39. Financial Support: Ten of 13 TRCs say they require financial support from the IC to conduct in-country activities that are part of national tiger conservation strategies. These activities range from funding education and awareness programs to supporting human-wildlife conflict mitigation and community engagement programs. Key to providing this financial support over the long-term is the rapid development of the innovative sustainable funding mechanisms proposed at the KGTW.

40. Creating Political Will: About half of the TRCs see a priority role for the GTI in creating political will for tiger conservation. A key theme is the need to facilitate cross-sector engagement in tiger conservation. Dialogue across all relevant sectors is necessary but is particularly important in law enforcement and perhaps even more so in promoting tiger-friendly infrastructure and ensuring inviolate tiger breeding core areas and minimum impact on buffer zones and corridors. The invited participation of ministers and senior officials from the infrastructure, law enforcement, ecotourism, and community development sectors in the Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation will be a foundation for future cross-sector dialogues, as the Summit will be for strengthening collective political will.

41. Combating Illegal International Wildlife Trade: Several TRCs agree that assistance in addressing the illegal international wildlife trade is a priority role for the IC. This includes national (cross-sector), regional, and international cooperation in law enforcement. The new regional protocol for tiger conservation that emerged from the KGTW and the work initiated by CITES, UNODC, INTERPOL, and WCO with the World Bank to develop a collaborative program to support TRCs in wildlife law enforcement are examples of a response to this expressed need.

42. Reducing Demand for Tiger Parts: Supporting large-scale, targeted consumer awareness campaigns to reduce demand for dead tigers and increase demand for live tigers is seen by some TRCs as a role for the IC.

43. Trans-boundary Issues: Some TRCs require the international community to facilitate trans-boundary protected-area development and management. At the KGTW, the idea of cooperation between China and the Russian Federation to protect Amur tigers in Russia's Primorye Territory and China's Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces was further developed.

Table 2. International/Global Tiger Initiative Support Required by Tiger Range Countries

TRC	Required Support
Bangladesh	Technical assistance for capacity building in Forest Department and forest-related institute as well as tiger and prey population assessment using proven and nationally acceptable scientific methods. Long-term programmatic grant support for sustainable habitat development for tiger conservation and mitigation of human-tiger conflict.
Bhutan	Facilitate technology transfer. Provide financial support. Lobby for conservation and trade control.
Cambodia	Funding for law enforcement and capacity building. Funding for developing Tiger Action Plan and strategy. Sustainable financial support for wildlife conservation including community engagement programs, law enforcement, research and monitoring, and trans-boundary cooperation.
China	Create incentives for law enforcement officers such as an award system. Facilitate international cooperation and information exchange and capacity building. Financial and technical support for tiger conservation and law enforcement. China welcomes the engagement of the international community.
India	Facilitate combating traffic in tiger parts on regional and international scales. Promote best practices through experience sharing. Capacity building of knowledge institutions and professionals.
Indonesia	Facilitate improvement of international trafficking controls through regular information sharing and coordination of enforcement. Facilitate high-level, active participation in the dialogue with BAPPENAS and Ministry of Finance on conservation issues including law enforcement costs and ecological services. Facilitate actions related to revitalizing the Governors' Commitment.
Laos	Cooperation with ASEAN-WEN, INTERPOL; World Customs Organization. Share responsibility for trans-boundary PA management. Support for monitoring tigers and prey. Support education materials. Raise awareness of the need for cross-sector support. Put pressure on investors to make infrastructure development tiger friendly. Funding for legislation process. Fund and facilitate cross-sector, trans-boundary dialogues. Provide examples of best practice from other countries. Support for development of sustainable funding mechanism including seed money.
Malaysia	Capacity building for participating agencies involved with law enforcement, development and public works, land use and conservation. Awareness building among participating agencies, state and local government, and local communities. Implementation of work plan.
Myanmar	Specific collaboration with specialists to enhance innovative conservation tools e.g. REDD and GCC, MIST and LEM. International financing support to implement the country's Action Plan for Tigers. Myanmar encourages international collaboration and sees NGO-Government partnerships as a priority method of implementation.
Nepal	Institutional capacity building both physical and human. Science and technology transfer. Immediate financial support immediate to show results in Thailand Ministerial meeting.
Russia	Streamline international and inter-agency operational information flows on enforcement. Develop international network of knowledge exchange and training in advanced practices and technologies for tiger conservation. Facilitate establishment of trans-boundary protected areas. Support international public review (expertise) of large investment projects in TCLs.
Thailand	Support livelihood programs. Capacity building and follow-up support for rangers and officers to use MIST-based Smart Patrol System at target sites. Capacity building for law enforcement officers in related agencies (e.g., customs, police, etc.) and follow-up support to suppress international wildlife trade. Improve skills of CITES officers to utilize the INTERPOL database to track and monitor performance. Improve data communication between MIST-based Smart Patrol at the site level, wild meat information network database at the provincial level, and the INTERPOL database at the international level. Strengthen design and support equipment to standardize tiger prey population monitoring and improve analytical skills.
Vietnam	Funding for studies and action plan meetings. Technical support and financing for inter-ministerial task force on wildlife law enforcement. Trainings on wildlife trade issues for all relevant bodies for long-term behavior-change campaign to reduce consumption of tiger and its prey. Ask GTI/World Bank-Vietnam to facilitate a process to design and implement suitable sustainable financing mechanisms for tiger and prey protection.

G. Next Steps

44. **The KGTW is part of a process that began in Pattaya, Thailand, in April 2009 and will continue to the Vladivostok Summit in Sept 2009 and beyond.**” The goal is to harness the wisdom of the global tiger community and to bring an action plan, already under implementation, to the leaders of the TRCs. A primary aim is to strengthen the collective political will to reverse the trajectory toward extinction facing the world’s most iconic wildlife species and help protect their valuable, biologically rich habitats.

45. **The KGTW demonstrated an impressive expression of regional unity and collective determination to maintain the momentum generated by the Global Tiger Initiative.** It reflects the emergence of a strong commitment to save Asia’s wild tigers. It also demonstrates the potential of the Global Tiger Initiative’s alliance of governments, civil society, and the private sector to catalyze international cooperation to save wild tigers.

46. **The first Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in January 2010 in Hua Hin, Thailand, is expected to take the largely technical work of the KGTW to the political level** and help TRC political leaders define bold programs to avert the threat of the tiger’s extinction. Representatives and specialists from other government sectors, including law enforcement, infrastructure, and ecotourism, and from donor agencies, will join conservationists to define the key elements of a Global Tiger Stabilization and Recovery Program (GTRSP). The political, management, and financial instruments, including support from the international community, needed to implement National Tiger Action Plans will also be identified. Before Hua Hin, TRCs are expected to further update their strategic action plans based on the outcomes of the KGTW. Thematic work will be deepened in key areas and new work such as a background report on ecotourism, will be undertaken. At Hua Hin, it is hoped that more and more TRCs will demonstrate leadership by launching priority actions within their influence, without waiting for the Summit.

47. **A Pre-Summit Pledging Conference is planned for late May/early June 2010 to start the process of raising resources to meet TRC needs.** Before this, the GTI secretariat will prepare a draft GTRSP whose aim is to accelerate the implementation of TRCs’ national action plans based on the Kathmandu Recommendations, the Hua Hin Ministerial deliberations, and underlying thematic papers. The GTRSP is currently seen as a three-to-five year initiative to provide TRCs with services ranging from knowledge sharing and capacity building to support for efforts to change consumer attitudes toward tiger consumption, strengthened law enforcement, trans-boundary protected area management, and a system for global monitoring and reporting. The scope and size of the GTRSP and its instruments will emerge from the Hua Hin discussions, taking into account TRC demands, ability to implement, and funding needs left uncovered by existing programs.

48. **The Summit of Heads of Governments will complete the process of agreeing upon global goals, joint global actions, international support for national commitments, and systems to monitor progress** toward the goal of doubling the number of wild tigers in ten years. This meeting is informally called the “Year-of-the-Tiger Summit” (2010 is the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar, and the UN’s International Year of Biodiversity). TRC governments will be invited to report on the status of the actions they have initiated in the months leading up to the Summit. The goal of the Summit is the adoption of a Global Tiger Stabilization and Recovery Program and agreement on its implementation and support mechanisms at the highest political levels in the TRCs and donor countries.