



Smithsonian Castle

The Global Tiger Initiative Conservation Development Network (GTI-CDN)

The GTI-CDN facilitates strategic collaboration among national and international partners and provides conservation leaders and policy makers with the advanced knowledge, tools and skill sets required for implementing effective conservation strategies. The GTI-CDN facilitates collaboration among stakeholders in tiger range countries who seek to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions focused on the conservation of wild tigers, their prey and their natural habitats



Global Tiger Initiative Conservation and Development Network

April 16 - 21, 2010

"Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Sustainable Development"

SHARPENING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND TIGER CONSERVATION: THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP FORUM

What is the best approach to mobilizing resources to protect wild tigers? How can organizations secure the sustainable financing critical to tiger conservation? How can we prevent the illegal trade of coveted tiger parts? These and other intriguing questions were the focus of presentations, workshops and discussions during the Global Tiger Initiative and Conservation and Development Network's Executive Leadership Forum (ELF) held in Washington, D.C., April 14-23, 2010.

During the seven-day event, 34 participants from 13 tiger range countries engaged in a wide range of thought-provoking activities, including: a field trip to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia; presentations and panel discussions on sustainable financing; resource mobilization; institutional and governance challenges; smart green infrastructure; tiger poaching, illegal trade in tiger parts; and patrolling and intelligence gathering.

At the end of the working sessions, representatives from each country presented a "short list" of conservation priorities and projects that could be included in Global Tiger Stabilization and Recovery Program (GTSRP) briefing materials for the Tiger Summit in September, 2010. The busy week-long program concluded with addresses by Smithsonian Secretary Wayne Clough and World Bank President Robert Zoellick and the opening at the World Bank of "Vanishing Icons: Connecting Conservation and Development," a National Geographic photographic exhibition about the plight of tigers and other big cats.

SEEING CONSERVATION IN ACTION: THE SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

Participants toured parts of the 3,200-acre Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), the umbrella organization for the Smithsonian's global efforts to conserve species and their habitats and train the next generation of conservation practitioners. SCBI consists of six program centers, each with a specific disciplinary function: Conservation Ecology Center; Center for Conservation Education and Sustainability; Center for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics; Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center; Center for Species Survival; and the Center for Wildlife Health and Husbandry Sciences.

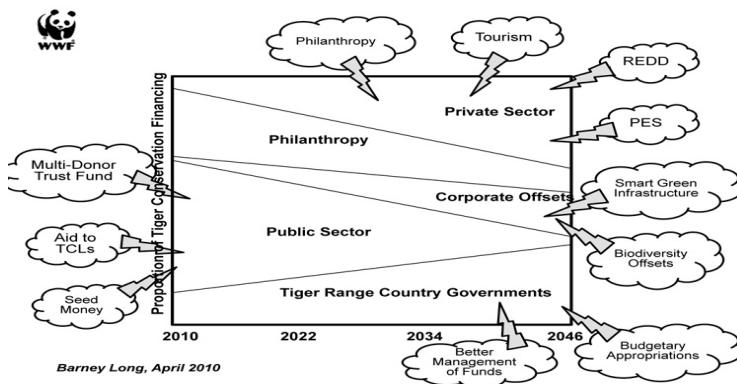
During the tour, participants learned about SCBI's conservation programs for endangered and threatened species including the American bison, black-footed ferret, Eld's deer, clouded leopard, maned wolf, Pacific island birds, Przewalski's horse and red panda. They also learned of SCBI's prominent role in saving several species from the brink of extinction, the black-footed ferret, Eld's deer, and Przewalski's horse being notable among them. SCBI Director, Dr. Steven Monfort, noted that while "these comebacks are miracles," scientists would much rather extinguish the threat of extinction long before species' numbers declined to perilously low numbers in the wild.



Participants also visited the Conservation GIS lab where satellite imagery and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology is being applied to ongoing efforts to prevent habitat loss and wildlife declines in critical ecosystems around the world. Dr. Peter Leimgruber, Director of the GIS Lab, discussed the Asian Elephant Satellite Tracking Initiative, a conservation program that uses satellite-tracking technology to generate the baseline information on elephant habitat selection and movement patterns that conservationists need to develop strategies to alleviate human-elephant conflict.

TECHNICAL SESSION: RESOURCE GAPS AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

In her stimulating presentation on resource gaps and sustainable financing, Melissa Moye (WWF) explained how conservation finance is attempting to generate new, long-term revenue streams for tiger conservation from a variety of public and private sources. Traditional funding for conservation, she explained, has typically come in the form of short-term project-based grants, donations and government budget allocations used to support core costs. Today, however, innovative long-term sustainable financing is needed to underwrite growing and recurrent costs of conservation. Moye cited as a successful example of conservation financing the Terai Arc landscape project in Nepal where WWF-Nepal has partnered with the Alternative Energy Promotion Center and Biogas Sector Partnership-Nepal to install biogas methane generators for individual homes, a project that has helped protect forests in critical wildlife corridors by providing local communities an inexpensive and reliable energy alternative to forest fuel-wood (http://nepal.panda.org/our_solutions/conservation_nepal/tal/project/biogas). Moye called on participants to ramp-up conservation financing in tiger range countries with programs such as: REDD-based carbon financing; conservation compensation payments to local communities; income streams from tourism; and payments for environmental services.



TECHNICAL SESSION: ADDRESSING POACHING AND ILLEGAL TRADE: PATROLLING, INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, CROSS-BOUNDARY COLLABORATION

Poaching for the illegal trade in tiger parts is a major factor in the decline of wild tigers and a lively panel discussion, led by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC, Craig Bruce, WWF, J. Hampton, F. Bagley, USFWS, J. Webb, USDOJ, B. Kanchanasaka, MoNRE, Thailand, explored the reasons why. Allan described how the surge in organized poaching has been driven by increased demand for tiger skins for fashion, tiger meat for the exotic food trade, tiger bones for traditional medicines, and tiger teeth and claws for jewelry and religious talismans. Allen stressed the need for intergovernmental cooperation and international coordination in efforts to stop illegal tiger trade and strengthen the populations of remaining tigers and their prey base. He also called for efforts to reduce consumer demand, regulate commercial captive tiger "farming" and sustain anti-poaching efforts in the field.



Przewalski's Horse

THE CENTER FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY (CCES)

is part of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) and is dedicated to studying and understanding the complex relationship among biodiversity, people, and the environment, and to train the next generation of conservation practitioners. CCES is implementing the GTI CDN with multiple national and international partners. CCES offers professional training and certificate programs in conservation and has an academic partnership with George Mason University in conservation studies. CCES sustainability and conservation programs develop innovative and strategic partnerships, facilitate biodiversity monitoring networks, and work with conservation and development stakeholders to integrate biodiversity conservation into sustainable development.



SCBI Campus, Front Royal, VA

COORDINATORS & INSTRUCTORS

Special Guest:

Deepak Bohara
Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation
Government of Nepal

Budsabong Kanchanasaka, MoNRE

Barney Long, WWF

Craig Bruce, WWF

Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC

Eric Dinerstein, WWF

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Gustavo Fonseca, GEF

James Hampton, US FWS

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Richard Worden, IEG

Sina Odugbemi, CommGAP

B. Kanchanasaka of Thailand discussed MIST (Management Information System), an innovative, user friendly spatial information management software program that utilizes a variety of data - such as location, date and time of patrol, animal sightings and signs, hunting, logging, fishing and other human activities – to identify hotspots of illegal activity and help law-enforcement determine where better patrolling is needed.

Tiger densities have increased in Huai Kha Khaeng, Thailand since MIST-directed patrolling was implemented in 2007, but major challenges remain elsewhere. Craig Bruce, who has been patrolling tiger habitat in the eastern plains of Cambodia for three years, noted that “to save tigers we have to be willing and able to train, motivate, empower, equip and inspire the people who protect the tiger” – i.e., the enforcement rangers. Craig noted that enforcement rangers are typically under-trained, underpaid, poorly led and under-equipped then described key actions needed to implement the required changes.

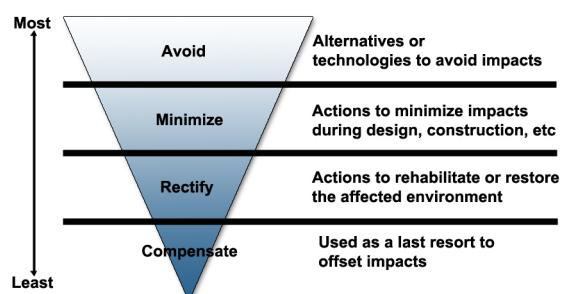
SMART GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND USE PLANNING

Sprawling and uncoordinated infrastructure development, resulting in loss and fragmentation of critical habitat, has been another major factor in the decline of wild tiger populations. “What is necessary is tiger friendly infrastructure or smart green infrastructure development,” declared Juan Quintero of the World Bank.

Quintero defined smart green infrastructure development as that which avoids tiger habitats, minimizes and rectifies adverse impacts through tiger-friendly design, and compensates for any damage incurred. Avoiding infrastructure development in or near tiger habitats lies at the top of the hierarchy of possibilities, he explained, because it is the cheapest, most effective and most immediate step that can be taken to protect wild tiger populations. Project-by-project mitigation efforts have been insufficient to halt habitat fragmentation and tiger population declines, Quintero argued, and to be effective, future efforts must be supported at the national policy level, the sectoral planning level, and the project implementation level simultaneously.

Quintero explained that compensation is the least desirable action in the event hierarchy because it implies a *quid pro quo* for damage already done. However, Quintero sees conservation opportunities if compensation is creatively structured in the form of biodiversity offsets and compensations that enhance the connectivity of critical tiger habitats. He cited as a possible tiger conservation model the Brazilian Environmental Compensation Law that requires development projects with a significant environmental impact to compensate for biodiversity losses by paying at least 0.5% of total project costs (more than 6% in the case of projects in sensitive rainforest) into a fund used to create and maintain strictly protected areas.

The Mitigation Hierarchy



Source: Rio Tinto (2004)



SHORT LISTING PROJECTS AND PROGRAM – COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

Anand Seth of the World Bank Institute challenged the assembled tiger range countries to develop a set of four questions that could form the basis for discussions at the September 2010 Tiger Summit on how to double the wild tiger population in 10 years. Four consensus questions that emerged were: (1) How can the necessary political will be generated? (2) How can the proposed template of the Global Tiger Stabilization and Recovery Program (GTSRP) be improved? (3) What are the best practices for scaling up conservation efforts?; and (4) What are appropriate performance indicators for success?

For years tiger conservationists have recognized that tiger conservation cannot succeed without the support of tiger range country governments. They have also wrestled endlessly with the question of how to generate the necessary political will and the variety of participants' opinions on how to do so reflected the diversity of approaches that will be required.

The delegation from Bangladesh suggested that enhancing their national credibility globally and demonstrating a commitment to tigers and forest conservation was the best approach for their country.

The representatives from Bhutan, India, and Malaysia expressed confidence in the political goodwill already in place in their nations. For example, Bhutan has a constitutional mandate to maintain 60% forest cover in perpetuity and that the nation's "Gross National Happiness" (GNH) philosophy contributes greatly towards balancing conservation and development. Nepal also reported that strong national political commitments were already in place.

The Cambodian delegation suggested that political will could be further enhanced by having the World Bank and GTI group visit Cambodia, thereby calling attention of national leaders to this important issue.

Chinese representatives noted that strong political will exists in general, but that a coordinated media campaign should be mounted to inform local residents how tiger conservation could benefit them. The Indonesian delegation concurred that public outreach could be of value in their country also.

Representatives from Vietnam, Thailand and Lao People's Democratic Republic were of the opinion that attendance of numerous government officials at the September 2010 Tiger Summit would generate substantial political will.

All agreed that further campaigns are necessary to make politicians and lawmakers aware of the value of biodiversity conservation.

The question of how the proposed template of the newly developed Global Tiger Stabilization and Recovery Program (GTSRP) could be applied in tiger range countries generated thoughtful discussion. Several representatives, notably those from Thailand, Nepal and Cambodia, mentioned improving "smart" patrol and long-term monitoring as being critical to tiger recovery efforts in their countries. Russia expressed the need for new protected areas, and Bhutan and Indonesia identified the need for additional wildlife corridors. Several countries cited sustainable financing mechanisms as being critical to long-term tiger conservation and Vietnam noted the importance of a clear legal frameworks as a necessary underpinning for sustainable financing and compensation.

Then there ensued a discussion of the best practices currently in place and which of those could be scaled up. The aggregated list of responses included: increasing smart patrols to decrease poaching; supporting sustainable livelihood practices; enhancing efforts to reduce human-tiger conflict; improving habitat, buffer zone and corridor protection; increasing management capacity through training; creating more

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tiger sanctuaries; forming more and better conservation partnerships and involving stakeholders (communities, NGOs, local government officials, law enforcement agencies, village leaders, military, etc).

COUNTRY PRESENTATION: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The final working session involved a discussion of how to measure and evaluate outcomes. Each participant was asked to identify key performance indicators by which his or her country could measure success. Many of the participants cited direct indicators, such as increased tiger populations, enhanced—and expanded tiger habitat, reduced poaching of wildlife and wildlife trade, and increased tiger prey densities.

Participants also suggested other, less direct outcomes as evidence. Laos indicated that an increased number of better-educated wildlife officials would be a good metric of progress. India suggested evidence of higher income and positive lifestyle changes for residents around tiger reserves and Nepal and Thailand suggested as a valid measure a demonstrable increase in the application of research and technology to tiger conservation.

Another frequently mentioned desirable outcome was the positive transformation of attitudes about tigers. The Russian delegation suggested this could be reflected as an increased number of people being aware of the plight of the tiger, and the Indian delegation suggested it might mean increased involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in tiger conservation. Vietnam concurred and expressed a desire to implement an annual attitudinal survey to measure the views of residents.

LUNCHEON PANEL: CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Sanjay Pradhan, vice president of the World Bank, hosted and chaired a special luncheon panel entitled "Connecting Conservation and Development: Striving for Results on the Ground". The expert panel participants were: John Roome, Director, Sustainable Development Department, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank; Steve Monfort, Director, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute; John Robinson, Senior Vice President, Wildlife Conservation Society; Claudia Sobrevila, Senior Environmental Specialist, Environment Department, World Bank; and Richard Worden, Senior Environmental Specialist, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank. Bruno Laporte, Director, Thematic Knowledge and Learning, World Bank Institute, moderated the discussion. A delegate from each tiger range country presented highlights from his/her country's tiger conservation vision and the session closed with remarks by the Honorable Deepak Bohara, Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal.

ADDRESSES AND EXHIBIT OPENING:

VANISHING ICONS: CONNECTING CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

On the final day of the Executive Leadership Forum, the participants gathered - in the words of Robert Zoellick, president of the World Bank - "to celebrate the power of cooperation and partnerships among the tiger-range countries and four world-class institutions." Zoellick praised the work the group has set out to accomplish noting that each institution was contributing unique expertise and perspective to the challenge of saving the tiger. Zoellick expressed his appreciation to those present stating that each person was important to the work ahead. He spoke about the time-critical nature of the challenge stressing "We must ensure the robust implementation and regular stock taking the next three to five absolutely critical years if we're going to be able to achieve success." The plight of tigers," said Zoellick,



"highlights the broader biodiversity challenge, for if we fail to save the tiger, its loss would be a dramatic indication of our failure to safeguard biodiversity."

While speaking passionately about importance of conserving biodiversity generally, the World Bank President emphasized the front-line work that must be done to achieve success with tigers in particular. He reminded the executives present that community outreach, training for park officials, and the education of political leaders would all play a crucial role in this effort: "Two thousand and ten, the year of the tiger, must be the year that we take joint action to save this majestic species," he said.

Dr. Wayne Clough, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution also spoke at the event, praising the work of the group and the importance of the collaboration. Secretary Clough noted that the Smithsonian's history of tiger conservation dates back to the 1960s and that the work of saving the tiger also helps the planet we inhabit. "In the coming years," Clough said, "you will help determine not only the tiger's fate, but the fate of much of Asia's, if not the world's biodiversity and natural environment. Today we celebrate the completion of the first networking forum for executives. You will be able to now to create a platform from which conservation leaders in your countries can share experiences and forge cooperative programs."

Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility, spoke about the tiger as being "the very essence of nature" noting that with the loss of each tiger and its habitat, the Earth loses part of the ecosystems that provide vital services that humans depend on. Barbut also praised the groundbreaking work of the World Bank, which has dedicated its resources to conserving the tiger. She indicated the importance of conservation as a key component of sustainable development and also acknowledged the importance of the research that enables conservationists to "learn to do things in favor of tigers."

The concluding highlight was the dedication of "Vanishing Icons: Connecting Conservation and Development", a photo exhibition produced by the National Geographic Society. Dr. Chris Johns, editor-in-chief of National Geographic Magazine and a wildlife photographer, spoke about the importance of the work being done by the participants and the role of the exhibit, which is to document the "wonder and plight of the big cats throughout the world". The exhibition, which is on view at the World Bank, features magnificent images of the world's big cats and underscores the need to strengthen connections between biodiversity conservation and development if tigers and other big cats are to be saved.



WB President Zoellick, Secretary Clough with ELF participants.



Mother and Cub, National Zoo



Guests at the Photo Exhibition



Guests at the Photo Exhibition