

भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण  
National Tiger Conservation Authority  
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F. No. 7-1/2011-NTCA

Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub:** Request for holding the next subgroup on Conservation of Tigers & Leopards under India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) – reg.

**Ref:** E-mail dated 3.7.2018.

Reference is invited to the subject and correspondence cited above. In this context, I am to inform that the Indo-Russia sub-group on tiger and leopard conservation is a valuable experience sharing platform for furthering the cause of tiger conservation in synchrony with the St. Petersburg declaration of 2010.

2. It shall be in the fitness of things to continue this dialogue under aegis of this subgroup or, if it is subsumed in the new working group on Environment.

3. Date as convenient to the Embassy of India, Moscow is agreeable during the said time frame. Agenda may be restricted to the agreed action points as earlier, with special emphasis on signing a MOU between the Wildlife Institute of India and NTCA with A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russia.

**Encl: Agreed action points**

**(Dr. Vaibhav C. Mathur)**

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests (NTCA)**

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**Mr. Inbasekar S.,  
Counselor/Director to GOI,  
Head of Economic & Commercial Wing,  
Embassy of India,  
Moscow.**

**Copy to:** Shri Nikunja K Sundaray, Joint Secretary (IC), MoEF&CC.

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF AGREED ACTIONS AS AN OUTCOME OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP ON TIGER AND LEOPARD CONSERVATION BETWEEN RUSSIA & INDIA HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2011 AT NEW DELHI.**

The India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) is the apex G2G forum for bilateral economic cooperation. The IRIGC-TEC is chaired by the External Affairs Minister from the Indian side and Deputy Prime Minister from the Russian side. The IRIGC integrates inputs from seven working groups: economic and trade cooperation; mining; fertilizers; energy and energy efficiency; tourism and culture; science and technology; and IT; and two sub-groups on banking & financial matters; and **tiger/leopard conservation**.

2. India hosted the first meeting of the sub-group on tiger and leopard conservation from May 24 to 27, 2011 and again the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 at New Delhi.

3. **The agreed actions on bilateral cooperation, based on the outcome of the meeting of the said Sub-Group, are as below:**

**i). Scientific field:**

Both countries are carrying out research on tiger using the non-invasive DNA extraction from scats. India is using this methodology to estimate the minimum population, individual identification for biological as well as forensic purposes. The Indian institutions like the Wildlife Institute of India, working in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority, may facilitate as a Focal Institution for cooperation in this field, with the Russian institutions.

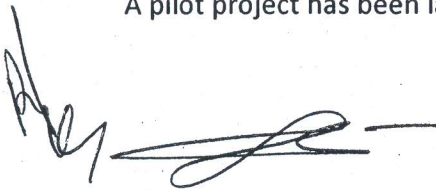
**ii). Tiger reintroduction and rehabilitation:**

India has a good experience in the reintroduction of tigers from wild to wild, which is a success story in terms of planning, execution and monitoring. Considering the interest evinced by the Russian side in leopard and tiger reintroduction, the India may share these experiences with the Russian counterparts for mutual benefit.

On the request from the Russian side for providing a Royal Bengal white tigress (1 to 2 years old) to the Siberian reserve "Royev Ruchey", it is stated that in India white tigers are not found in the wild, but are available only in captivity (zoos). The captive tiger from any of the Indian zoo may be provided for rearing in captivity (zoo), after following the due protocol.

**iii). Monitoring and surveillance of long ranging tigers, electronic surveillance of tiger reserves:**

A pilot project has been launched at the Corbett Tiger Reserve in India for 24x7 Electronic





Surveillance using long range intelligent infrared and thermo-cameras mounted on towers at strategic locations, generating alerts in case of intrusions. India may share this expertise with the Russian counterparts.

**iv). Training and capacity building of Field Officers/ Specialists in India and vice versa:**

The Wildlife Institute of India is a premier institute for capacity building in wildlife management which offers several short term and long term courses. Building capacity of field officers/ specialists in the designated institutions of both the countries may be an area of cooperation.

**v). Landscape planning and smart green infrastructure in the tiger landscape:**

India has recently done the country level status assessment of tigers, co-predators, prey and their habitat based on scientific methodology, which has been peer reviewed and published in an international journal. This also includes identification of crucial corridors and their delineation in the GIS domain for taking informed decisions on proposals for infrastructure development. The Indian experience may be shared with the Russian side for planning at the landscape level.

**vi. Cooperation on anti-poaching strategy & planning:**

India has developed a set of generic guidelines for security planning of tiger reserves besides creating the Special Tiger Protection Force for anti-poaching activities. The Indian experience in this field may be shared with the Russian side for their tiger occupied landscapes.

**vii). Management interventions for model ecosystem for tiger and their comparison from India:**


The tiger occupied landscapes may be studied in both the countries for comparing the ecological status.

**viii). Exchange officers to share experience on good practices in the tiger conservation:**

Exchange of officers to share experiences on good practices covering the areas of cooperation relating to tiger and leopard conservation may be an area of cooperation.

**ix). Global Tiger Forum (GTF):**

The Global Tiger Forum is an intergovernmental international organization, of which India is the founder member. Tiger Range Countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Cambodia; non-tiger range country like U.K. and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service besides several international and national NGOs are members. The IUCN is willing to enter

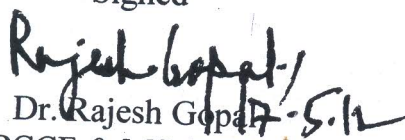


into MOU with the GTF for cooperation which has been assigned the status of "Special Invitee" of the GTF. The joining of the Russian Federation to the said Forum would further strengthen the tiger conservation at the Global level.

Signed on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 at New Delhi.

On behalf of  
The Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Signed



Dr. Rajesh Gopal  
APCCF & MS (NTCA)  
National Tiger Conservation  
Authority  
Ministry of Environment & Forests

On behalf of  
The Russian Federation



Signed

Mr Amirkhan Amirkhanov  
Deputy Head  
The Federal Supervisory Natural  
Resources Management Service