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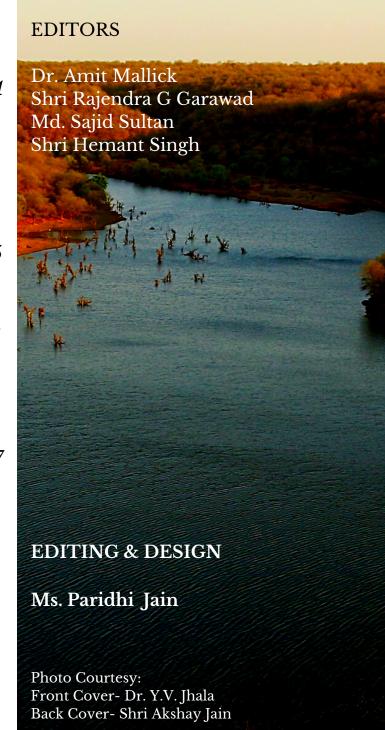
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FROM MEMBER SECRETARY'S DESK

India has the single largest population of free ranging wild tigers in the world and has achieved a remarkable feat of doubling the tiger population by 2018 itself, 4 years ahead of the targeted year 2022. With the common goal of stabilising wild tiger population and its prey, as well as strengthening the conservation efforts addressing new issues within Tiger Range Countries, National Tiger Conservation Authority participated in the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC).

The 19th meeting of NTCA was held on 5th January 2022 under the chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). During this meeting NTCA released three publications viz. Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India, Water Atlas of Tiger Reserves and a compilation on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 'India for Tigers: A Rally on Wheels'.

I am elated to share that India plans to restore the only large carnivore, the Cheetah that has been extirpated, mainly by over-hunting and loss of habitat in India in historical times. In this context, NTCA with other experts visited Namibia from 17th-23rd February 2022 and discussed Cheetah translocation logistics with the Government of Namibia. The goal of the project is to establish a viable cheetah metapopulation in India that allows the carnivore to perform its functional role as a top predator and to provide space for the expansion of the Cheetah within its historical range thereby contributing to its global conservation efforts.

I am hopeful that the readers are going to find this issue of STRIPES interesting and informative.

Dr. S P Yadav

Additional Director General, Project Tiger ℰ

Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority



4th Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on Tiger Conservation

"Your Excellencies, Secretary General-Global Tiger Forum and delegates!

Greetings from India!

At the outset, I congratulate the Government of Malaysia and Global Tiger Forum (GTF) for organizing the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation, an important event for introspecting progress towards the Global Tiger Recovery Programme and commitments to tiger conservation.

I appreciate efforts of the Government of Malaysia for creating a role model for mitigation measures with respect to linear infrastructure in tiger habitat, in the form of "Central Spine and landscape level planning." We consider the earth as our mother. Our Scriptures encourage us to treat the entire universe as one.

"Vasudaiv kutumbkam and lokah samasthah sukhinou bhavanthu" is our philosophy for peace and prosperity of everyone-including eco-system.

Tigers, the top predators in ecosystem are vital in regulating and perpetuating ecological processes. Ensuring the conservation of this top carnivore guarantees the wellbeing of forested ecosystems, the biodiversity they represent as well as water and climate security. However, the rise in organised poaching driven by an international demand for tiger body parts and products, depletion of tiger prey and

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habitat loss are challenge to tiger conservation.

In India, tigers inhabit, a wide variety of habitats ranging from the high mountains, mangroves swamps, tall grasslands, to dry and moist deciduous forests, as well as evergreen forest systems. By virtue of this, tiger is not only a conservation icon but also it is as an umbrella species for majority of ecosystem in the Indian sub-continent. Saving tigers means saving all other copredators, prey species and entire ecosystem.

In a country with an increasing demand for land population and development, conserving such a large carnivore demands innovative approaches to land use planning that maintains connectivity between tiger source population.

A viable tiger population undoubtedly symbolises a mitigation strategy for climate change. Tiger habitat conservation will create a huge carbon sink in the form of tiger bearing forests. Thus, conservation of tiger will go a long way in ensuring a good future for ourselves and our coming generations. Tiger conservation is crucial for sustaining a plethora of ecosystem services for mankind and recently we have published an Atlas of water sources and rivers in our Tiger Reserves.

India harbours 17 per cent of world human population and 18 per cent of global livestock population within 2.4 per cent land area of the world. Developmental needs of the country are paramount. However, we believe wildlife and biodiversity conservation are equally imperative.

India has a longstanding track record of protecting its tigers. We launched "Project Tiger" in 1973. Since then, coverage has increased considerably from the initial 9 Tiger Reserves to 51 Tiger Reserves at present. Our tiger reserves are the cornerstones of wildlife conservation and preserve natural ecosystems which support ecological processes responsible for providing various goods and services that are vital for human well-being.

India has provided a legal framework to tiger conservation by adding a separate chapter in the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 2006. This provides highest degree of protection to tiger under the law. We have created "National Tiger Conservation Authority" to spearhead tiger conservation in the country.

We follow the principle of "core-buffer-corridor" for tiger conservation. While the core area is to be maintained as inviolate, the buffer or peripheral area are multi use area and participation of community is ensured in such area for supporting tiger conservation. We have identified corridors for movement of animals and ensuring their functionality through management interventions. Not only this, but we are also declaring Eco-Sensitive Zones, an insular area, all around our Protected Areas.

We are conducting country wide tiger estimation, once in four years, based on a robust scientific methodology, and currently we are in the midst of the 5th cycle of tiger estimation process, which is being carried out fully 'digitally' using M-STrIPES application.

Your Excellencies!

India has already achieved doubling the tiger

population in 2018 itself, 4 years in advance of the targeted year 2022. The Guinness World Records recognized the country's efforts as the world largest camera trap survey of wildlife in 2018.

The model of success of India's tiger governance is now being replicated for other wildlife like the Lion, Dolphin, Leopard, Snow Leopard and other small wild cats, while the country is on the threshold of introducing Cheetah in its historical range.

I am happy to inform that 14 Tiger Reserves in India have already been awarded with international CA|TS accreditation. Two Tiger Reserves, Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam and Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh have been awarded at international level for achieving Tx2 target. Efforts are on to bring in more Tiger Reserves under CA|TS accreditation.

We have, increased our budgetary allocation for tiger conservation under the able leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister. We have increased it from INR 185 crore in 2014 to INR 300 crore in 2022.

The natural resources dependent community is an important aspect of tiger conservation, hence, the 'people agenda' ranks prominently in our 'tiger agenda'. Approximately 4.3 million man-days of employment are being generated by Tiger Reserves. Funds from Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) are being utilized for promoting voluntary village resettlement from core areas of the Tiger Reserves.

Status of wild tiger continues to remain



endangered world over. As we all know, threats to wild tiger and its habitat are due to several factors like poaching, illegal trade catering to demand for body parts and derivatives of tiger, loss of habitat due to extractive industries, infrastructure and revenge killings, list is not exhaustive. There are country-specific, area-specific issues which also affect tigers. Hence, the situation calls for adaptive as well as active management and NTCA has issued several SOPs and Guidelines for achieving this in India.

Frontline staff are important pillar of tiger conservation and hence we have extended INR 2 lakh life cover to each contractual/temporary worker under e-Sharm and INR 5 lakh health cover under Ayushman Yojana, which are Government of India initiatives.

Both conservation and development can



happen in a mutually complementary manner. India needs to prosper both economically and environmentally. Wildlife sensitive development and retrofitting of linear infrastructure with appropriate green mitigation measures will ensure the fulfilment of the commitment our Honourable Prime Minister.

India is one of the Founding members of the intergovernmental platform of Tiger Range Countries – Global Tiger Forum, and over the years, GTF has expanded its programme on multiple thematic areas, while working closely with the Government of India, tiger states in India and tiger range countries.

We have zero tolerance towards tiger poaching. We are leading by example and we are committed to co-operate with other tiger countries. We need to collaborate at the highest levels of Government to address this serious issue. India is tirelessly working with all tiger range countries towards nurturing the tiger. We have bilateral arrangements with China, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Russia. We hope to continue our efforts to address issues of mutual concern for Tiger conservation. I want to assure you all that we are determined to preserve tigers in the critical chain of sustainable ecosystem.

I recall the "Pre-Tiger Summit" meeting held at New Delhi 2010, wherein the draft declaration on tiger conservation for Global Tiger Summit was finalised. Again, I offer to Tiger Range Countries that we will facilitate finalisation of declaration at New Delhi for the Summit to be held at Vladivostok, Russia in 2022 later this year. Thank you all for your kind attention."

- Shri. Bhupender Yadav Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

The 4th AMC on Tiger Conservation was held from 19th January 20st January 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and attended virtually by Ministers and officials across tiger range countries. The Conference hosted by Malaysia through the Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources in cooperation with the Global Tiger Forum, was attended by over 200 participants across the globe. It aimed to discuss and solidify the Kula Lumpur joint Statement on Tiger Conservation, an action oriented document with lessons and challenges from across the tiger range countries. The conference also focused on the endorsement of South East Asia Tiger Recovery Action Plan (STRAP), along with resource mobilization, gaps and strategy towards the tiger conservation agenda.

4th Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) ~ **Social Media Snippets**











बाघों का संरक्षण वनों के संरक्षण का प्रतीक है। देश में 51 टाइगर रिजर्व हैं, और अधिक क्षेत्रों को टाइगर रिजर्व नेटवर्क के तहत लाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। बैठक में मलेशिया, कंबोडिया, भूटान, भारत, नेपाल, बांग्लादेश, रूस, म्यांमार के माननीय मंत्री गण उपस्थित

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Global Tiger Forum @Unitedfortigers - Jan 21

Hon'ble Ministers from the Tiger Range Countries reaffirmed their commitment to save wild tiger and its habitat, which serves as a life support system for millions of people. The 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger was hosted by Malaysia and GTF



Wetlands & Biodiversity

Below are some of the pictures showcasing the rich biodiversity of wetlands within tiger reserves in India. - (*Photographs By: Shri Hemant Singh*)



Swamp Deer (Rucervus duvaucelli)
DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE, UTTAR PRADESH



Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus)
PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE, KERALA



Saltwater Crocodile (Crocodylus porosus)
SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE, WEST BENGAL



Asiatic Wild Buffalo (Bubalus arnee)
KAZIRANGA TIGER RESERVE, ASSAM



One-Horned Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE, UTTAR PRADESH



Stork-Billed Kingfisher (Pelargopsis capensis)
RAJAJI TIGER RESERVE. UTTARAKHAND



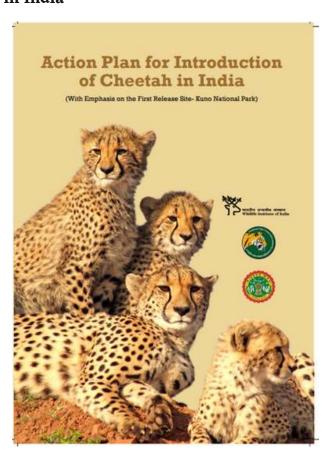
19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

The 19th meeting of National Tiger
Conservation Authority was held on 5th
January 2022 at Mahanadi Hall, Indira
Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi. The meeting
was presided over by Shri Bhupender Yadav,
Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

The meeting commenced with the round of introductions of NTCA members which was followed by two minutes of silence to pay tribute to all those field personnel who lost their life in the line of duty because of Covid-19 and animal attacks.

The ADG (Project Tiger) & Member Secretary (NTCA) while formally welcoming the members initiated the proceedings, requesting the chair for the release of three publications viz.:-

1. Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India



India plans to restore the only large carnivore, the Cheetah that has been extirpated, mainly by over-hunting and loss of habitat in India in historical times. Reintroductions/ conservation translocations of large carnivores have increasingly been recognised as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions. India now has the economic ability to consider restoring its lost natural heritage for ethical as well as ecological reasons. This endeavor will achieve the goal of establishing a viable Cheetah metapopulation in India that allows the Cheetah to perform its functional role as a top predator and provides space for the expansion of the Cheetah within its historical range thereby contributing to its global conservation efforts.

Objectives

- To establish breeding Cheetah
 populations in safe habitats across its
 historical range and manage them as a
 metapopulation.
- To use Cheetah as a charismatic flagship and umbrella species to garner resources for restoring open forest and savanna systems that will benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services from these ecosystems.
- To enhance India's capacity to sequester carbon through ecosystem restoration activities in Cheetah conservation areas and thereby contribute towards the global climate change mitigation goals.
- To use the ensuing opportunity for ecodevelopment and eco-tourism to enhance local community livelihoods.
- To manage any conflict by Cheetah or other wildlife with local communities within Cheetah conservation areas

expediently through compensation, awareness, and management actions to win community support.

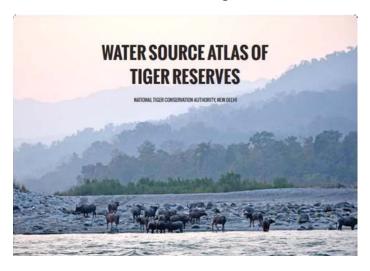
With this context, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India mandated the Wildlife Institute of India and the Wildlife Trust of India with this task of conducting a detailed survey of selected sites to explore the potential of introducing the Cheetah in India.

Amongst the ten surveyed sites in five central Indian States, Kuno Palpur National Park (KNP) in the State of Madhya Pradesh has been chosen as the first site for considering the introduction of the Cheetah because of its suitable habitat and adequate prey base.

The word 'Cheetah' meaning 'spotted one' is of Sanskrit origin and the Cheetah finds mention in the ancient texts such as the Vedas and Puranas; it is indeed ironical that the species is currently extinct in India. The original threats that resulted in the extinction of the Cheetah have been abated and India now has the technical and financial ability to bring back its lost Natural Heritage for ethical, ecological, and economic considerations.

Successful conservation introductions are a blend of best science, technology, sociological aspects and commitment of financial resources. These aspects are integrated in this Action Plan based on the modern scientific approach recommended by the latest International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines for reintroduction and other conservation translocations, provides the framework for bringing back Cheetah to India.

2. Water Source Atlas of Tiger Reserves



Being a keystone species, Tiger, holds an utmost position in biodiversity and forested ecosystem conservation in the Indian subcontinent. Through Project Tiger in 1973, the Government of India has created a framework for a holistic approach towards tiger conservation. Presently, India harbors about 70% of the tiger population in its 51 Tiger Reserves. Besides, these reserves play a crucial role in perpetuating the natural evolutionary processes and also ensures the ecosystem services.

Among the various ecosystem services, water security through natural water bodies is vital for sustaining lives. These Tiger Reserves are natural forests which have several watersheds and also have inbuilt mechanism for water purification. Moreover, the reservoirs in these reserves supports a number of irrigation and power supply projects. As per a recent study, it was quantified that the monetary value for water purification from only 10 out of the 51 Tiger Reserves varied between Rs. 38.19 Crores to Rs. 7,033.05 Crores per year (Verma et. al. 2019).

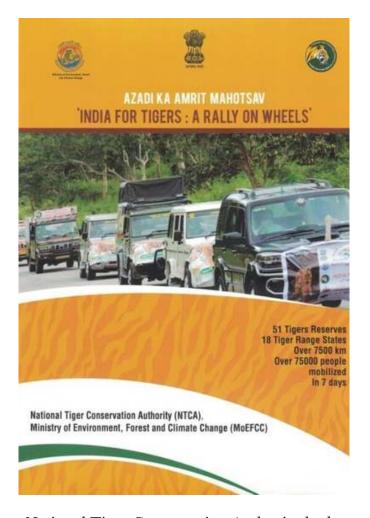
Considering the global and national water crisis, Tiger Reserves serve as the spine for water security along with the tiger and other biodiversity conservation. Using freely available remote sensing data and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, the authority has mapped all the water bodies in the tiger bearing areas of India. Landscape wise information have been outlined in this Water Atlas which includesthe Shivalik Hills and Gangetic plain landscape, Central Indian Landscape and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats landscape, North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra flood plains and Sundarbans. The Water Atlas provides a baseline information to the forest managers to further envision their conservation strategies based on the synoptic view of all the seasonal and perennial water sources in the respective Tiger Reserves.



3. Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav 'India for Tigers: A Rally on Wheels'

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has often shared his vision of building a new, 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' by the year 2022. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Indian independence on 15th August 2022, the Government of India has planned to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' an intensive, country wide campaign which will focus on citizen participation, to be converted into a 'Janandolan', where small changes, at the local level, will add up to

significant national gains. This Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India and is an embodiment of all that is progressive about India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity.



National Tiger Conservation Authority had launched a PAN India outreach activity: 'India for Tigers-A Rally on Wheels', to achieve the twin objectives of celebrating India's 75 years of independence and spreading the message of biodiversity conservation under the ambit of Project Tiger. 'India for Tigers: A Rally on Wheels', organized under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was a mega success. The rally saw an active involvement of diverse range of stakeholders - forest officials, school and college students, media persons, local communities, and representatives from NGOs etc. It had a multiplier effect and mobilized over 75000 people PAN India

across tiger landscapes, covering a distance of 7500 km in 7 days. The compilation showcases the highlights of 'India for Tigers: A Rally on Wheels' representing the journey of 51 tiger reserves in 18 tiger range states participating and traversing the diverse and picturesque landscape spanning across India, with an aim to raise awareness not only about the importance of tiger conservation but also environment, forests and climate change.



The release of publications by the Chairman and Hon'ble Minister EF& CC was followed by the agenda wise discussion.



Highlights (Jan-March 22)

National Tiger Conservation Authority
(NTCA) was conducted on 7th February 2022
under the chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Yadav,
Additional Director General (Project Tiger) &
Member Secretary (NTCA). Forest officials
from tiger range states, NTCA officials and
the experts in the field of tiger conservation
were a part of the virtual meet.



Nadu gets the prestigious TX2 award for doubling the tiger numbers in a record time. The award is instituted by the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Global Tiger Forum (GTF), IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP), Panthera, UNDP, The Lion's Share, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for celebrating the 10th anniversary of all 13 tiger range countries committed to double the global population of wild tigers by 2022.



Rajasthan was held on 03.02.2022 on the topic "Mid-term review of current status of Sariska Tiger Reserve post Tiger re-introduction and Tiger translocation and radio collaring strategies in the State of Rajasthan." The agenda for the conference included discussions and deliberations on the following topics:- (i) Status of Tiger Reserve Management and related dynamics post reintroduction (ii) Tiger translocation dynamics, its implication and process with references to Rajasthan (iii) Radio collaring strategy -extent and objective in the present day context (iv) Existing status of radio collaring tigress.



'Collarwali' tigress-the pride of Madhya
Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve died due to
old age. India's super mom tigress gave birth
to 29 cubs in 8 litters over her lifetime.
Collarwali was so named because of the radio
collar she wore. As a matter of fact, Collarwali
and her lineage of 29 tigers has played a
crucial role in facilitating tiger conservation
in the state.



Reserve has started. It is a first of its kind research activity in the country. The project has been launched with the main objective of studying the migratory pattern and travel path of scavenger birds. It will help in developing a concrete management plan for the conservation of these threatened species. As many as 25 birds will be radio tagged in the first phase launched by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) scientists.



Night vision drones to keep tigers safe at Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) has been added to PTR's Drone Squad team. The new night vision (Thermal and IR) drone acquired by the reserve will help boost its security and is another step to ensure 24 hour vigil in sensitive areas of the reserve.



A four horned antelope (Tetracerus quadricornis) also called as 'Chousingha' was sighted in the Kollegal range of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve during NTCA's All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2022 exercise. 'Chousingha' is one of the smallest Asian bovids with most of the existing population in the Indian subcontinent, and lower numbers in adjoining Nepal.





Photographs by: Dr. Amit Mallick

Project Cheetah G2G delegation visit to Namibia (17th-23rd Feb 22)

Government of India has decided to introduce the Cheetah, the only large carnivore species that went extinct in Independent India. The Cheetahs for release into the selected sites in India would be sourced from the ancestral Namibian Cheetah populations depending on the suitability and continued availability of animals. This international endeavour will not only strengthen the efforts for global conservation of the Cheetah but also the reestablishment of this species in its historical range in India. Bringing the Cheetah back to India has very vital and far reaching conservation consequences.

It is proposed to source Cheetahs annually for next 5 years from Namibia. This year we are hoping to import 8-14 individual Cheetah. All necessary measures

will be taken to ensure the safety of the sourced animals such as providing quarantine as well as veterinary facilities, adequate protection at the release sites, continuous monitoring and involvement of experts from India and Namibia. The National Tiger Conservation Authority in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is coordinating with the High Commission of India, Namibia and the Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia for selection and sourcing of appropriate Cheetah. To take this matter forward, the Indian Embassy in Namibia facilitated to coordinate and liaison with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Government of Namibia. As part of Project Cheetah initiation the Indian delegation headed by Dr. Amit Mallick IG, NTCA, MoEF&CC, Shri Jasbir Singh Chauhan, Chief



Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Ashok Barnwal, Principal Secretary, Forest and Wildlife, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Y. V. Jhala, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences, Wildlife Institute of India and Shri Rakesh Jagenia, Deputy Inspector General (Wildlife), MoEF&CC visited Namibia from 18th-22nd February 2022 to hold bilateral talks regarding modalities of sourcing of Cheetah from Namibia in consultation with the Namibian Authorities from Cheetah Conservation Fund and other Parks in Namibia for relocation into their historical range and wild habitat in India.

The delegation held G2G-level talks with the Namibian officials. The delegation had a comprehensive meeting with Executive Director, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Government of Namibia. The Head of the delegation briefed about the project Cheetah and the expected timelines for the introduction of Cheetahs in India and the significance of the 75th year of Indian Independence. The comprehensive Action Plan document draw up by India was also handed over elaborating about the protocols



and safeguards taken into account while the process of reintroduction of Cheetah is done. Further, the preparedness in the field to receive Cheetah was also highlighted briefly at the outset.

They also called on Hon'ble Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations & Cooperation. Delegation also had interaction with Hon'ble Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of National Assembly and Madame Jane Katjavivi, patrons of CCF. The delegation visited Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and held scientific and technical discussions with them regarding the project.



Cheetah is the only large carnivore which had gone extinct from India in the past. With strong commitment towards environmental conservation post-independence, India has enacted stringent laws against hunting and poaching, and also undertaken large-scale biodiversity conservation efforts. With about 3,000 wild tigers, India is today home to over 70% of world's Tiger-population and has already achieved in 2018 the St. Petersburg Declaration's target of doubling tiger-population, four years ahead of schedule.

Namibia, with its large number of free ranging Cheetahs, is called "Cheetah capital of the world". With a view to now reintroduce Cheetahs into India in wilderness in a scientifically-planned and carefully monitored manner, the Government of India had approached the Government of Republic of Namibia last year and requested for support in sourcing Cheetahs from Namibia to India. It is expected that as a friendly gesture by Namibia in a year when India is celebrating 75th anniversary of Independence, these Cheetah would be no less than Namibia's goodwill Ambassadors in India. India is prepared and in readiness, and is hopeful of achieving this by mid-2022

while partnering with Namibia on this important project, which would be a historical landmark in global conservation efforts.



Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh has been identified as the first site for the project. Necessary preparations and resource allocation in this regard have been done by authorities and the National Park with an extent of 748 km2 large site with no human settlement is ready for introduction of Cheetahs with minimal inputs. Some other sites examined by experts have also been found highly suitable and their restorative management is underway for future use.

Carnivore reintroduction/conservation translocation is an appropriate conservation strategy to restore the integrity of ecosystems. It is a rapidly growing science which, if carried out appropriately, has the potential to be a valuable component of the conservationist's toolkit. However, many pitfalls exist if not addressed adequately can



result in the total or partial failure of a reintroduction/conservation translocation program and can potentially waste valuable and limited resources.

Action Plan for introduction of Cheetah in India is developed in accordance with the IUCN guidelines on reintroductions and conservation translocations 2013, and aims to implement the Cheetah introduction program in Kuno and other Cheetah introduction sites based on science and proactive management.



The delegation visit to Namibia was very useful as far as management aspects, consultative meetings, field visits and other related issues are concerned. More importantly, the meetings at Namibia with concerned authorities were positive and enabled first-hand opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern and modalities of engagement apart from importing Cheetahs and considering a timeline was discussed threadbare. Inspite of the tight schedule significant consultative G2G meetings could be done to take forward the Project Cheetah initiative. Scope of engagement through the MOU could also be discussed and this was very important to shape the way forward. The High Commissioner of India in Namibia was extremely proactive to facilitate and organize very important meetings with the Namibian authorities, which would be positively deciding the way forward. The visit to Namibia and the outcomes of the interactions with concerned authorities would positively reflect and pave the way forward to initiation of transcontinental relocation of a mega species under Project Cheetah.

Inputs- Dr. Amit Mallick (IG) NTCA

