

Global Tiger Recovery Program
Kunming Consensus on Transboundary Conservation and Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade
Kunming, China, 31 July 2013

The St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation, endorsed by the heads of government of the tiger range countries (TRCs) at the 2010 Global Forum on Tiger Conservation, committed the TRCs to work collaboratively to advance transboundary issues, such as the uninhibited movement of tigers and the management of tiger conservation landscapes, and to eradicate poaching, smuggling, and illegal trade of tigers. This was reaffirmed at the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in October 2012, in Bhutan, where TRC ministers or delegation heads committed to enhanced collaboration in management of transboundary landscapes and corridors, combatting illegal trade, and eliminating illicit demand in the Thimphu Affirmative Nine-Point Action Agenda Item 4.

The *International Workshop for Transboundary Conservation of Tigers and Other Endangered Species and the Strategy to Combat Illegal Trade in Wildlife* was convened and hosted by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management of the State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China, in Kunming, China, from 29-31 July 2013. The CITES Management Authority of China, China Wildlife Conservation Association, Global Tiger Initiative and the World Bank, Save China's Tigers Special Fund of China Green Carbon Foundation, and the World Wide Fund for Nature co-sponsored and provided excellent support to the Workshop.

Representatives of the TRCs, international partner organizations of the Global Tiger Initiative, and others interested in the conservation of wild tigers met with the objective to identify and promote good practices to enhance and mainstream collaboration among countries in management of transboundary landscapes and corridors, combatting illegal trade, and eliminating illicit demand for wildlife products. The opening day of the Workshop coincided with Global Tiger Day celebrations.

The **Kunming Consensus** outlines recommendations based on best practices and the TRCs' planned transboundary activities to sharpen and advance the commitments of the St. Petersburg Declaration and the Thimphu Agenda regarding:

Transboundary Landscape Management

Recognizing that maintaining ecological and administrative links between TRCs sharing tiger conservation landscapes (TCLs) is a fundamental component of wild tiger recovery and important to achieving Tx2 because there is more than three times as much potential tiger habitat in transboundary TCLs (920,000 km²) than there is in any single country's TCLs (270,000 km²), the following are recommended:

- Operationalize for action on the ground existing memoranda of understanding or results of bilateral meetings and develop and operationalize new ones between countries whose protected areas are connected in tiger conservation landscapes based on identifying and/or designating transboundary protected areas and harmonizing protected-area management.
- Advance transboundary landscape management by translating the shared vision of TRC leaders expressed in the St. Petersburg Declaration into practices; preparing and implementing harmonized transboundary conservation plans; establishing mechanisms for sharing timely information on illegal activities; enhance communication and collaboration on research, monitoring, and capacity building programs; sharing knowledge and experience through increasing the number of meetings and exchange visits of staff of

protected areas involved. Identify and designate new protected areas where needed to establish viable ecological corridors.

- Conduct research to develop strategies, tactics, financing, and mechanisms for the long-term effectiveness of transboundary landscape management.
- Call for the international community to provide technical and financial support to the TRCs' transboundary landscape initiatives.

Combatting Illegal Trade and Eliminating Illicit Demand for Wildlife Products

Recognizing that the illegal trade in tigers and their parts and products is driving poaching and threatening the survival of tiger populations, the following are recommended:

- Increase collaboration, cooperation, and communication among the TRCs to combat illegal trade.
- Strengthen enforcement against illegal trade and poaching by increasing capacity, training, use of innovative enforcement methods, and motivation of enforcement teams at all levels.
- Strengthen within-country coordination and communication among all law enforcement and other agencies, as well as non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and local communities with a role to play in combatting wildlife crime and, as a priority, use existing international mechanisms to strengthen bilateral, regional, and global coordination and communication among counterpart agencies.
- Recommend the relevant national authority to promote the collation of information on wildlife crime and exchange it with relevant countries through appropriate mechanisms of INTERPOL and WCO, to enable more directed intelligence-led enforcement.
- Given that the illegal wildlife trade is serious transnational organized crime, request the national agencies responsible for law enforcement against organized crime groups to help combat the illegal wildlife trade through cooperation among TRCs, and if requested by a TRC, with assistance, from international bodies.
- Enhance understanding of the nature of illicit demand through data-driven research and investigations and use the information to collaborate on the development and implementation of initiatives to dissuade consumption and eliminate illicit demand for wildlife products. Ensure that all information conveyed to the public is relevant and appropriate so it does not result in stimulating poaching. Explore all possible measures to combat poaching and illegal trade.
- Call for the international community to provide support to enhance TRC resources and capacity for implementation of the above law-enforcement activities, based on need.
- Ensure effective monitoring and information sharing, within the GTRP implementation framework, on progress in transboundary landscape management and combatting illegal wildlife trade.

Additional supporting information is provided in the Workshop proceedings.