

Status of Tiger Habitats in high altitude ecosystems

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Recently the Union Environment Minister released a report on Status of Tiger Habitats in high altitude ecosystems. The Government of India will take inputs from this study to have a **high altitude tiger master plan**.

About the report

- This study, led by the **Global Tiger Forum**(GTF), with range country governments of **Bhutan, India, and Nepal**, along with conservation partners (**World Wide Fund for Nature**(WWF) and country-specific collaborators)
- Range Country Government Partners are;
 1. Nature Conservation Division Department of Forests & Park Services, Government of Bhutan
 2. National Tiger Conservation Authority, Government of India
 3. Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Government of Nepal
- It has been supported by the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHPC) of the IUCN & KfW a German bank

Key findings

- It reveals that even ecology at high altitude is compatible for the tiger growth
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- The instant situation analysis study provides the rationale for stepping up high altitude conservation of the tiger, while identifying possible viable habitats, corridor linkages, anthropogenic pressures, and induced landscape-level changes for evolving an in-situ conservation roadmap.
- This provides the action strategy for a high altitude tiger master plan, with gainful portfolio for local communities and ensuring the centrality of tiger conservation in development, through an effective coordination mechanism, involving stakeholders and line departments operating within the landscape.

Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHPC)

- Initiated in 2014, the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) or 'Tiger Programme' is a grant-making initiative that contributes to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), a global effort to **double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022**.
- The programme **consists of a portfolio of 12 large-scale projects in key Tiger Conservation Landscapes across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Myanmar**.

Global Tiger Forum(GTF)

- The **only international, intergovernmental organization of its kind owned and manned by Tiger Range Countries (TRCs)**.
- The said forum, **headquartered at New Delhi (India)**, has an overarching mandate of handholding TRCs for strengthening wild tiger conservation natural range.

It is also an **implementing arm of the Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), for coordinating the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP)** launched earlier by the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI). GTF's goal is to highlight the rationale for tiger preservation and provide leadership and a common

approach throughout the world in order to safeguard the survival of the tiger, its prey and its habitat.