

Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) is a regional network of eight countries of South Asia; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Environment Ministers of South Asia at the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) held on May 2008 at Jaipur announced their support for the formation of SAWEN in 'Jaipur Declaration'.

SAWEN was formally launched during the Second Meeting of the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade held from 29-30 January, 2011 in Paro, Bhutan. The SAWEN Secretariat is located at Kathmandu in Nepal. Recently, the Government of India has adopted the statute of SAWEN on 13th April 2016.

- (d) The key objectives and the important steps proposed under SAWEN are:
- (i) To take initiatives for bringing harmonization and standardization in laws and policies of member countries concerning conservation of wild fauna and flora;
  - (ii) To document the trend of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and related threats to the natural bio-diversity within and across countries in the region;
  - (iii) To strengthen institutional responses to combat wildlife crime by promoting partnership with relevant institutions for research and information sharing, training and capacity building, and technical support; and
  - (iv) To encourage member countries to prepare and implement their National Action Plans to combat wildlife crime and to collaborate towards effective implementation of such plans.

#### **Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation**

742. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any conference named as Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation has been held in the recent past in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) how it would help in ensuring tiger conservation and reducing poaching incidents in forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation was held from April 12 to 14, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, which was attended by 13 Tiger Range Countries, besides conservationists, Non-Governmental Organisations and Scientists. A total of 366 participants from 24 nations along with 8 Ministerial Heads besides Kazakhstan participated in the said conference. Report on status/progress of Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP)/National Tiger Recovery Programme (NTRP) implementation in 13 tiger range countries was discussed besides several issues pertaining to landscape conservation, habitat management, anti-poaching, protection, illegal trade & trafficking, capacity building and leadership, sustainable development, smart green infrastructure, role of business and industries, resource mobilization in all the tiger range countries. The Global Snow Leopard and Eco-system Protection Programme was also discussed.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) For ensuring tiger conservation and reducing poaching incidents in forests, the New Delhi Resolution on Tiger Conservation, was adopted which is given in the Statement.

#### *Statement*

#### **New Delhi Resolution on tiger conservation**

3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

April 14, 2016, New Delhi, India

Wild tigers remain endangered across Tiger Range Countries (TRCs). While some TRCs have made progress in increasing their populations of tigers in the last few years, the global scenario is still a cause for major concern. Tigers have become critically endangered or locally extinct in some TRCs. The extent and quality of habitat has also been diminished in many. This is a serious impediment to achieving the goal of doubling the number of wild tigers range wide (Tx2) by 2022, the timeline envisaged in the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation of 2010. A renewed impetus is required to achieve the goal.

Therefore, drawing inspiration from and reiterating and reconfirming the principles and actions of the Hua Hin Declaration on Tiger Conservation (2010), the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation (2010), the Thimphu Affirmative Nine-Point Action Agenda (2012) and the Dhaka Recommendations (2014) - such as working collaboratively

to eradicate poaching, smuggling and illegal trade, strengthening frontline staff capacity, building partnerships, accelerating the flow of national and external funds - and building upon the first five years of implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) and National Tiger Recovery Programs (NTRPs), we renew our collective pledge to ensure the conservation of tigers in the wild and their habitats.

Inspired by the statement of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, during this conference that "conservation of tigers is not a choice, it is an imperative" and to achieve these concrete results by 2022.

We, the representatives of the Governments of the Tiger Range Countries, RESOLVE to:

1. Accelerate implementation of the GTRP/NTRPs and agreed actions from the above-mentioned declarations, review and update priority and differentiated action plans, and track progress through mutual and systematic reporting and evaluation.
2. Align development and tiger conservation in a mutually complementary manner by re-orienting development strategies to mainstream the concerns of tiger conservation, such as by integrating tiger and wildlife safeguards in infrastructure at the landscape level, developing partnerships with business groups, and strong engagement with local stakeholders.
3. Leverage funding and technical support from international organisations, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, foundations, civil society organisations, private sector, and climate funds, in addition to TRC Governments.
4. Recognise and enhance the importance of tiger habitats by promoting them as providing ecosystem services, as engines of economic growth and helping to address climate change.
5. Emphasize recovery of tiger populations in areas with low tiger densities and restoration in areas from which they have been extirpated by using successful programs of tiger reintroduction and rehabilitation of their habitats and prey.
6. Strengthen co-operation at the highest levels of Government to combat wildlife crime, address the demand for tiger products, and increase formal and informal transboundary coordination.

7. Enhance knowledge sharing and capacity development for all stakeholders and increase the use of technology, including smart tools, monitoring protocols, and information systems, to improve management effectiveness.

Acknowledging and appreciating the contribution of different partners during the implementation of the GTRP and NTRPs, we urge the Global Tiger Forum and the Global Tiger Initiative Council to continue their role in coordination, technical assistance, and incremental resource mobilisation toward achievement of this Resolution.

#### **Smuggling of animal parts**

743. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in smuggling of skins, bones and horns of endangered animals and species to other countries in recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has plans to enact stringent law to check such type of smuggling in future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the approximate number of animals killed in different National Parks of the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Reports of illegal trade of wild animal parts and products are received in the Ministry from time to time. However, there is no concrete report indicating an increasing trend in illegal trade of wildlife products.

(c) and (d) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishment for hunting and illegal trade in wildlife and its parts and products.

(e) The management and protection in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country is carried out by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. The details of animals killed in National Parks are not collated in the Ministry.

#### **Population of wild animals**

744. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the population of tigers, cubs and other wild animals in various reserve forests and in Kanha National Park of Madhya Pradesh, in particular;