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## PROJECT/PRIORITY PROGRAMME TECHNICAL REPORT GUIDANCE AND TEMPLATE

### PART 1: GENERAL NARRATIVE REPORT (DUE EVERY 6 MONTHS)

Project/ Programme Name:	Tigers Alive
Project/Programme Number(s):	9Z1402.01
Web Link(s) to project/programme strategic plan or other useful documents	<a href="https://sites.google.com/wwf.panda.org/tigers/strategy">https://sites.google.com/wwf.panda.org/tigers/strategy</a>
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Report Completed by:	Jenny Roberts (Impact Manager) on behalf of, and with contributions from, the entire Tigers Alive team
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#### Outcomes and Impacts Achieved

The WWF Tigers Alive is focused on the stated meta-goal of TX2 (doubling wild tigers by 2022) and strives to be the most ambitious and visionary conservation program ever undertaken for a single species. In the first half of FY20 we have continued a holistic push towards achieving TX2 with particular focus on our site specific support through the Tiger Heartlands Initiative of the Wildlife Practice. Our survey, in this reporting period, using a succinct version of the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) to assess management effectiveness of the tiger heartlands provides data to inform efficient and cost-effective interventions at the sites, national and regional level.

In the last six months Tigers Alive celebrates the recovery of several local tiger populations and increases in national tiger population estimates most recently released for India (July 29<sup>th</sup> 2019). These successes pave the way forward, proving it is possible for large carnivores to survive in a human dominated landscape, provided human-tiger interaction is managed. But in some countries the road to tiger recovery remains fraught with challenges. Further evidence of the extinction wave that is sweeping across much of Southeast Asia was seen in Laos, where a five year study revealed no evidence of tigers in that country. In Malaysia, tiger numbers are in free fall and could be gone within three years. There has never been a greater urgency to take action for tigers in Southeast Asia.

A few of the specific major achievements during the last six months in tiger landscapes:

#### Landscapes:

**Amur-Heilong:** The Komissarovskiy Wildlife Refuge was established on the China border in key territory for tigers and leopards and the **tiger population is on the rise** in Russia's Evrieskaya Province, according to camera traps

**Banjaran Titiwangsa:** WWF's increased investment into community patrols in Belum and Temengor tiger heartlands has led to an **89% decrease in snare encounters**.

**Brahmaputra:** From only 10 individuals in 2010, tiger population of Manas National Park has **grown to an estimated of 25-30 tigers** in 2019 with breeding females. Now Manas has the second largest source population of tigers after Kaziranga in Assam

**Dawna Tenasserim:** In July 2019, camera trap surveys show **evidence of tiger breeding** in Myanmar's two major tiger landscapes: Upper Chindwin and Dawna Tenasserim.

**Greater Manas:** Jigme Singye Wangchuck and Royal Manas National Parks receive **CAJTS accreditation**, signalling a secure future for tigers in this critical landscape.

**Terai Arc:** In September, camera trap evidence found tigers are dispersing from Nepal's Chitwan and even Parsa National Park (where **tiger numbers have climbed from an estimated four in 2008 to 18 in 2018**) using a once degraded patch of land that has been restored through years of planning and action. In the Indian Terai Arc, field surveys assessing tiger presence in high altitude areas captured tigers on camera traps above 3,600m in Uttarakhand and above 3,300m in Sikkim. This initiative was conducted through a collaboration between WWF-India, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Wildlife Institute of India, Global Tiger Forum and state forest departments.

**Satpuda Maikal:** 6000 cotton farmers covering an area of 6500 acres in the Satpuda-Pench corridors are being continued in the organic cotton project with an aim to reduce the impact of intensively cultivated cotton, **improve sustainability and in turn improve farmer incomes**. The "Organic Cotton Project" is deemed critical to conserving this corridor that is characterised by mixed land use comprising forests, farms and even mining areas.

**Sumatra:** A line of gourmet rainforest honey products harvested from WWF's ecosystem restoration concession in Sumatra's 30 Hills/Bukit Tigapuluh landscape is now on sale. The indigenous Talang Mamak people who live in the concession harvest the honey with traditional methods --free-climbing giant sialang trees with no special equipment. WWF-Indonesia's concession management team then **provides value-added services** and is working to market it globally.

**Sundarbans:** Discovery India and WWF-India have come together to **protect the world's only mangrove tiger habitat**, in partnership with the Forest Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans. The initiative builds on WWF India's work in the region to promote sustainable livelihoods, access to clean energy, and effective human-wildlife conflict management. It will work with Panchayats help build resilient communities in this ecologically fragile and climatically vulnerable region.

**Western Ghats- Nilgiris:** There were **no cases of retaliatory killing of large carnivores** in reported in priority sites in the last six months. The interim relief scheme supported by WWF-India was scaled up from 29 to 46 villages to cover additional areas of Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in collaboration with Mariamma Charitable Trust. A total of 52 cases were reported and benefited through interim relief scheme.

**Western India:** Over time, due to better monitoring, patrolling and habitat restoration activities supported by WWF-India, the **population of tigers in Keladevi has risen** to seven individuals including a breeding pair. Further, WWF-India has engaged four resource persons belonging to the local communities residing in and around Keladevi to help in monitoring of tigers and other wildlife species.

Reintroduction sites:

**Eastern Plains:** Conservation Cost Model developed in addition to the Sustainable Finance Plan being developed with the assistance of consultants Green Equity Asia. The Sustainable Finance Plan process includes **a view of possible long-term finance of the Tiger Reintroduction** program

**Ili Balkhash:** Pilotless aircraft with thermographic cameras enabled WWF to undertake a monitoring census confirming the level of wild boars and roe deer as more than five individuals per 1,000 hectares, as well one goitered gazelle per 1,000 hectares. These prey densities are not yet enough to support a healthy tiger population but **work continues to actively boost prey numbers.**

*For detailed information on the progress in each of the landscapes please refer to relevant TPRs on Insight.*

## **OUTCOME 1: SECURE TIGER LANDSCAPES**

**By 2022, tiger populations have expanded, habitat loss has been halted and a network of strategic sites and corridors are secured across the tiger landscapes** (*Contributing to Wildlife Practice Outcome 1: By 2030, protected areas and community conserved areas of high biodiversity value cover at least 30% of the earth and are measurably improved in management and connectivity*)

### Objective 1.1: Secure a network of the most critical sites

*Target 1.1a: By 2022, most of the 150 of the world's most important tiger areas are CA|TS Approved or on the way to Approval.*

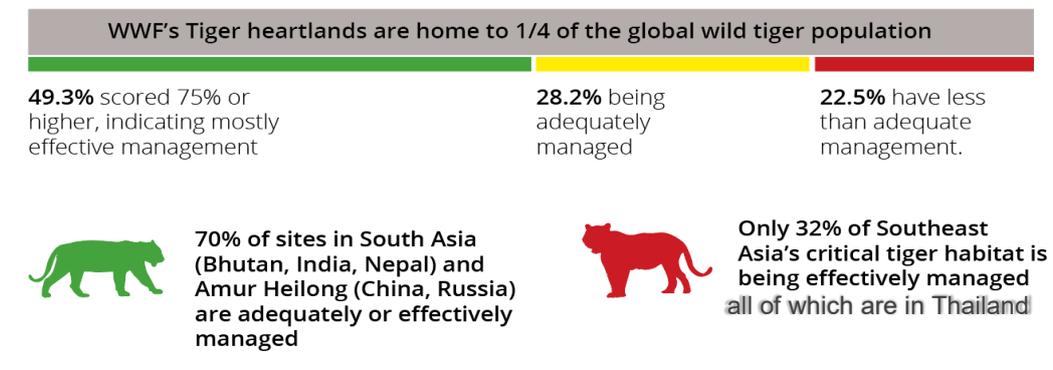
*Target 1.1b: By 2022, reintroduction has played significant role in the efforts to TX2*

*Target 1.1c: By 2022, 50 tiger heartland sites are secured (CA|TS accredited or equivalent)*

Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) started as a small project five years ago and has now evolved into a global partnership. Today with 70 sites spread across seven tiger range countries, CA|TS is a collective representation of tiger range governments, inter-governmental agencies, institutions, NGOs and conservation areas. This together forms the CA|TS Partnership. So far **seven sites (four of which are tiger heartlands) have been awarded CA|TS Approved status.** The most recent additions are from Bhutan in December 2019, three years after Bhutan began implementing CA|TS. The two parks that received CA|TS accreditation are Royal Manas National Park, the country's oldest park, and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park. This indicates, through an independent evaluation process, that the two protected areas have achieved the highest global standards of tiger conservation.

Over the last six months Tigers Alive conducted a rapid assessment of the 50+ tiger heartlands using a scaled down version of CA|TS (CA|TS Lite), enabling WWF to assess site needs, capacity and performance/ management levels. This survey and analysis of tiger heartlands will be used to guide interventions towards achieving the Wildlife Practice Initiative to secure 50 new tiger heartlands by 2022. The results have identified the gaps in achieving effective management at the site level and shown that most sites have some weaknesses in need of interventions. The results have also provided data for geographical and thematic patterns as relate to management effectiveness. These patterns will support WWF to make informed and cost-effective decisions for capacity support and investments into the tiger heartlands. The survey will allow WWF to conduct both targeted site level interventions and also strategic national and regional initiatives, which are all backed by data. The results (some key finding shown in the graphic below) will be released in a full internal report in March 2020.

The value of these surveys was demonstrated in India, when implementation of CA|TS in areas outside of tiger reserves resulted in government allocating funds for vital tiger areas that had previously received little attention, particularly when compared against designated tiger reserves that are well funded and heavily invested in.



In the second half of FY20 WWF, with the CA|TS partnership is preparing an updated version of the 2017 *Safe Havens for Wild Tigers: A rapid assessment of management effectiveness against the Conservation Assured Tiger Standard* and this will be presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Tiger Ministerial Meeting in 2020 in Malaysia (date TBC). This re-assessment will show changes in management over the last two years in 111 key tiger sites.

In this reporting period WWF, with the CA|TS Partnership, also launched CA|TS-LOG, a software that inputs, tracks and visualises CA|TS scores. Among other things, the secure platform helps to monitor changes over time across wildlife habitats, provide site managers with a first-cut assessment and early warning of major developments that could threaten protected areas. Bhutan, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal and Russia are the first to pilot the software.

CA|TS being the first species specific Conservation Assured tool, has been successful in capturing the conservation impact and providing the much needed guidance for tiger conservation areas. This has also generated interest among the other groups working on Jaguars (in Latin America), Lions (in Africa) and Fresh water Dolphins, to adapt this model and develop specific conservation standards to bring in the assurance and evidence by providing guidance backed by scientific rigour to catalyse species and site progress towards the specific shared conservation targets set globally, benefitting towards enhancing the global biodiversity and natural heritage. In the first half of FY20 CA|TS has helped in the push to conserve the 170,000 or so jaguars living in Latin America. Standards based on CA|TS were developed by Jaguar experts and partner agencies in consultation with CA|TS team. This was launched as a pilot in 2019.

Tigers Alive is supporting innovative new tiger and tiger prey monitoring systems to reduce investments required to gather such vital biological conservation data. For instance we are supporting the piloting of using eDNA taken from freshwater samples to deduce species composition (most notably tiger prey) in an area. Tigers Alive is also working with tiger range country offices to explore systems to use existing camera trap data (and future camera trapping)

to deduce prey densities. Parallels could potentially be drawn in other ecosystems for other species assemblages. In the first half of FY 20 TAI brought together the tiger biologists from all the tiger landscapes to determine monitoring standards, define heartland tiger and prey populations and share knowledge on innovative monitoring techniques.

Preparations for tiger reintroduction continued in Kazakhstan (led by Kazakh Government in partnership with WWF-Russia) where a number of exciting innovations are being employed to deal with challenges such as monitoring wildlife over vast areas. Pilotless aircraft with thermographic cameras enabled WWF to undertake a monitoring census confirming the level of wild boars and roe deer as more than five individuals per 1,000 hectares, as well one goitered gazelle per 1,000 hectares. These prey densities are not yet enough to support a healthy tiger population but work continues to actively boost prey numbers. This was kick started in 2018 with the release of the first five endangered Bukhara deer that are now being monitored via satellite collars as part of the reintroduction programme. Engagement with local stakeholders progressed as nine people from local villages received grants to support ecologically oriented small business activities. This programme is critical to compensate losses in communities where historically poaching has been an important source of income, and WWF continues to look for other financial support mechanisms for people in Ili-Balkhash.

In Cambodia, there have been successful efforts to advance long-term certainty specific to the financial and institutional feasibility to reintroduce tigers in to the Eastern Plain Landscape (EPL). This has focused on identifying potential risks, building WWF-Global institutional support for a 20-year Tiger Reintroduction Program and trying to begin to leverage that support to obtain government commitment at the Prime Ministerial level of Government in Cambodia. Further, this broader work around certainty and risk mitigation has involved near completion of a draft 20-year cost model for the Tiger Reintroduction Program, and a draft EPL Environment and Social Safeguard screening document which is planned to be formally submitted for review and approval in February, 2020. Inclusive in this work also has been a concerted effort to take necessary steps to advance compliance with human rights with direct engagement with the National Human Rights Commission in Cambodia and with intentions to implement human rights training to all law enforcement personnel supported by WWF. As a result of these efforts, WWF is now better positioned from an institutional framework perspective than ever before, and by extension, has a stronger potential for securing necessary funding if government commitment can be secured in the next half of FY20.

Although advances have been made on securing institutional commitments, law enforcement remains a challenge, and in-situ conditions vis a vis potential tiger prey continue to decline. Additionally, camera trap data suggests a further decline in Indochinese leopards within Phnom Prich and Srepok Wildlife Sanctuaries. With pervasive threats from snaring continuing, it has become a challenge to keep pace with countering pressures with limited capacity and resources. During this reporting period, continued efforts to increase tactical effectiveness of law enforcement, and advocacy campaign and lobbying activities have been a key focus for the tiger program.

#### Objective 1.2: Secure Connected Landscapes

*Target 1.2a: By 2022, all critical corridors are under improved management status, not contracting, and are functionally connected.*

*Target 1.2b: By 2022, significant potential negative impacts on tigers from any new infrastructure (or infrastructure expansion) in tiger landscapes are significantly mitigated through WWF involvement.*

*Target 1.2c: By 2022, (1) Demonstration projects linking critical tiger habitats and corridors to sustainable production / development and markets have been established / each landscape and (2) \$100 million investment secured for up to 5 landscapes to maintain long-term landscape integrity.*

In the last reporting period, Tigers Alive led the facilitation of the Myanmar tiger action plan for the Dawna Tenasserim Landscape. The resulting cohesive and integrated action plan is nearing completion and will be released in May 2020. Tigers Alive has been supporting the process to refine and clear up the spatial boundaries of the landscape, enhance the spatial logic of the conservation and community work, and finalise a structured action plan.

Also in the last reporting period, Tigers Alive with the forest hub led a transboundary conservation workshop which brought together people from around the world who work on transboundary conservation to gather lessons and best practice for improving our work. The transboundary conservation manual is nearing completion and will be released in June 2020. The manual will benefit landscapes globally that are transboundary and be accessible for organisations outside of WWF. Seven of WWF's priority tiger landscapes are transboundary.

Tigers Alive and the Governance Practice co-sponsored a short-term infrastructure specialist who has undertaken a review of country office capacity to predict infrastructure threats and capacity to influence or inform policy in a select group of tiger range countries (Myanmar, Nepal, Malaysia, and India). A publication on the findings was released in March 2020: *Assessing Learning Landscapes in Asia: Species and places at risk from linear infrastructure*. The report is complete and graphics and design is now being finalised by Tigers Alive. It will be circulated in the network in March 2020. The assessment showed that in India, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia and Mongolia, WWF has good connections with key stakeholders, internal experience and knowledge about key threats and impacts and already some success stories.

However, findings also revealed that this work is largely unfunded and either carried out as side projects of other work or on top of other peoples' responsibilities. In order to move the work forward, the report presents a number of possible approaches and recommendations. These include:

- More WWF regional coordination and collaboration on linear infrastructure work
- Engage with financiers of infrastructure projects to highlight possible risks related to biodiversity.
- Carry out more analyses on available infrastructure plans and biodiversity data and corridors.
- Increase fundraising for WWF offices to truly address this enormous threat
- Develop a regional training program that can be replicated in numerous countries
- Better spatial and scientific understanding of threats

Following on in this stream of work a global expert in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Milind Tambe – a past WWF partner for work in Uganda - was engaged. Through his role as Director of AI for Social Good at Google Research India, he is heading up a team that would develop an AI

infrastructure tool that would allow us and others to better project linear infrastructure (mainly roads) in tiger landscapes. In January 2020, Tigers Alive will co-facilitate a meeting at Google India headquarters in Bengaluru. The results of this should give WWF (at some scale) a better idea of where to galvanize our efforts, advocacy, and data collection to secure the best possible tiger corridor outcomes.

## **OUTCOME 2: END EXPLOITATION OF WILD TIGERS**

**By 2022, tiger poaching, and the trade that drives poaching, no longer threatens tiger populations and tiger population recovery.**

*(Contributing to Wildlife Practice Outcome 2: By 2030, illegal wildlife trade is eliminated & exploitation is reduced to sustainable levels for priority species)*

### Objective 2.1: Stop the Poaching

*Target 2.1a: By 2022, all TRCs have the willingness, processes and capacity to deliver on the Zero Poaching Framework*

*Target 2.2b: By 2022, all critical tiger sites (100+ sites) have effective anti-poaching (and habitat encroachment) measures.*

*Target 2.1c: By 2022, there are more, better and responsible boots on ground*

In November 2019, WWF published the report, *Life on the Frontline 2019: A Global Survey of the Working Conditions of Rangers*, which provided regional and global average responses to 197 questions by 7,110 rangers. The single most obvious thread that runs through the survey completed by patrol rangers at nearly 500 sites in 28 countries is that rangers are facing excessive safety and health risks that could be significantly reduced with the appropriate interventions. The survey included countrywide surveys in 10 of the 13 tiger range countries, and partial tiger landscape ranger surveys in two others. Rangers play a critical role in conservation the world over, but the survey revealed that many are experiencing health and safety risks that could be significantly reduced with appropriate interventions. For example, analysis of survey results and related activities for only the tiger range countries revealed:

- **Nearly 2/3 of rangers 'rarely' or 'never'** have access to communication devices on patrol.
- **Roughly 60% of rangers** in tiger range countries have no insurance coverage in case of serious injury or death.
- **Six tiger range countries** (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Malaysia) fall below the recommended number of rangers (2 - 10 per 100km<sup>2</sup>)(IUCN, 2006)

The publication has provided the evidence base needed to more deeply engage our government partners in survey countries (national versions including more detailed analysis are being prepared and disseminated now), and approach non-traditional partners to provide solutions to problems identified in the survey (e.g. provision of solar panels through Zero Mass Water to provide clean water at remote ranger sites in Cambodia and India, etc.).

Also in November 2019, WWF provided financial and technical support to the 9th World Ranger Congress from 12-16 November in Nepal - the first time in Asia. Participants, of which 40 per cent were women, included over 550 rangers across 70 countries. WWF also supported 34 rangers from 12 countries to attend. This landmark event encouraged and supported capacity

building for rangers. The Chitwan Declaration that came out of the Congress urges conservation NGOs to work together for the next three years to implement the actions identified in the declaration.

We have been facilitating the establishment of the International Ranger Coalition that will bring together a global network of organizations willing to put their voices and efforts to the task of achieving positive and lasting changes for rangers and the important natural and cultural heritage they protect. The coalition will work towards the goal of the Earth's protected and conserved areas are effectively managed and protected by professional, well trained, and supported rangers. The coalition has signed a Letter of Intent for 12 months that will be superseded by the formal MoU once the action plan is complete. Currently, International Ranger Federation (IRF), WWF, Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), Force for Nature (FFN), Flora & Fauna International (FFI), Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Panthera and IUCN-WCPA. The coalition is working on eight white papers that will create the basis for the five step action plan on rangers to deliver the [Chitwan Declaration](#).

In the last six months Tigers Alive continued in the pursuit of the effective implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) across key tiger habitats. There are currently 67 sites in 11 tiger range countries using SMART. There are also 14 SMART Connect sites in tiger range countries that include the using of real-time monitoring technology. WWF recently assessed all the WWF supported SMART sites in Asia in order to guide investments in capacity building and ensure the effective implementation of the tool. We have also done the in depth evaluation of SMART in Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan to determine the impact of SMART in terms of biodiversity conservation. The evaluation clearly reflects the effective implementation of SMART approach does help in curbing poaching and increase in wildlife numbers. A research paper is currently being drafted to publish the results.

Over the last six months we have been supporting the development of the Zero Poaching Manual. This zero poaching manual describes a holistic approach to tackling poaching on the ground, rather than seeking to address consumer demand or trafficking (Biggs et al. 2017). Specifically, the primary focus of this manual is to provide guidance to NGO conservation partners, working at a landscape-level to support relevant government agencies, on how to support, plan and roll out actions to achieve zero poaching of target species. Although the primary audience of this best-practice manual is NGO partners, the contents are relevant to other groups such as government agencies, community groups and donors. The manual will be reviewed and updated periodically, reflecting learning. The manual will be released in the second quarter of 2020 along with the Practical Operations Guidelines (POG). The guidelines will support tiger range country in implementation of Zero Poaching approach.

Tigers Alive has been continuing its support towards the institutionalisation of ranger training in tiger range countries to ensure sustainability. In the last six months Tigers Alive worked with WWF offices on a project supporting the eight key training colleges in India and one (the only) ranger training institution in Bhutan. The project will amend the curriculum to address the current needs of frontline staff, strengthen trainer capacity and streamline the current training intervention. In India two out of four regional workshops have been conducted to gather the feedback from ranger colleges to understand the gap in curriculums and ways forward. In

Bhutan a consultation workshop on current curriculum offered was completed and this will contribute to our intended output of Review wildlife crime modules in ranger's curriculum. A similar initiative is being taken in Myanmar where the inception workshop will be conducted at the of March 2020 with financial support from WWF-Singapore and WWF-US.

We have also been supporting the development of Practical Operations Guidelines (POG) lead by WWF-US. These guidelines will set the standard operating procedures for WWF field team for on ground engagement on anti-poaching projects. Tigers Alive have also been helping Myanmar office to develop standard operating procedures for Wildlife Protection Units in Karen Area. The SoPs are currently being translated into Karen language.

A few other partnerships that have developed over past six months;

- SigFox: SMART-Sigfox integration has been completed for the Royal Manas National Park. The integration allows park management to receive real time alerts on SMART Connect window on the location of rangers 24x7 irrespective of phone connectivity. The integration will allow park managers to receive real time alerts on SMART Connect window on the location of rangers 24x7 irrespective of phone connectivity. The testing will continue for another six months before we move to other sites. We have also been working on a sustainable business plan with Sigfox so that this tech solution can be implemented at wider scale.
- University Southern California: We are working with this university to test a tool for predictive patrol planning work in Malaysia and Cambodia. The USC has published an [article](#) and a [video](#) on the testing. The plug is ready and will be released in June 2020.

In 2019, Tigers Alive also developed a proposal to undertake a comprehensive wildlife crime case review in Thailand, in collaboration with Thammasat University (Faculty of Law) and the IUCN-Environmental Law Centre, based in Bonn Germany. Both WWF and IUCN-ELC are exploring funding options to undertake such work in up to four tiger ranger countries simultaneously, but have secured a non-binding agreement to proceed first with a study in Thailand. Thammasat University has undertaken exploratory research at the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals level judiciaries to help identify the necessary scale of the undertaking. A preliminary contract will be concluded in March 2020 to kick off the work, with the research projected to take roughly one year. After case collection, WWF will work with the two partners to both publish the results for advocacy and policy change purposes, and work with judiciary experts in that country to provide information on the findings and targeted training to judges/benches that seem to dismiss or otherwise downplay the toll extracted by wildlife crime.

#### Objective 2.2: Break the Trade Chains

*Target 2.2a: By 2022, One national level example of international cooperation, intelligence driven enforcement and closure of markets has been completed and used to mobilise efforts in other tiger range countries.*

*Target 2.2b: By 2022, A multi-stakeholder alliance against corruption will activates government actions or policy changes in multiple tiger range countries to combat corrupt practices that facilitate tiger poaching and crime.*

*Target 2.2c: By 2022, Captive breeding of tigers no longer stimulates demand for tiger products, thus reducing killing or capture of wild tigers.*

*Target 2.2d: By 2022, all tiger farms closed or phase-out plan in place and trade from the farms is effectively halted as soon as possible.*

*Target 2.3a: By 2022, governments of China and Vietnam are committed and undertaking a long-term behavioral change programme to halt demand for tiger parts.*

Following the gathering of experts in tiger trade from WWF and TRAFFIC at an internal planning workshop in the previous reporting period, the tiger trade strategy to 2022 has been completed. Building on the analysis of trade trends and understanding, this has established an ambitious programme of work needed to tackle one of the biggest threats to tigers in the wild. Our strategy is focused on improving law enforcement effectiveness, reducing demand and improving policy to support needed measures.

WWF uses its influence to elevate the issue of wildlife crime to the highest levels of governments across the globe. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES COP18) in Geneva in August 2019 there was overwhelming support for specific decisions to strengthen interventions tackling the Asian big cat trade. These included deadlines for sharing photos of seized tiger skins as an enforcement tool, greater direction on demand reduction, improved enforcement and reporting and Secretariat missions to facilities breeding Asian big cats which may be of concern for their involvement in trade.

To support work to reduce the demand for tiger parts and products Mr. Deng Lun, a famous actor in China with more than 34 million followers on Weibo (China's equivalent of Twitter) joined WWF-China's tiger campaign. He called on the public to refuse consumption of tiger. Meanwhile, his public service announcements with the TX2 message and advice to refuse consumption of tiger products were posted in six prominent locations at Beijing's international airport.

The release of the TRAFFIC "Skin and Bones Unresolved" report also provided valuable information to advocate a need for urgent action on tiger trade, including decisions taken at CITES COP18. Key findings includes 2,359 tigers seized in 19 years over 1,142 seizure incidents. WWF and TRAFFIC will continue to work together to stamp out the tiger trade. We will use an upcoming comprehensive analysis of legislation in the tiger range countries for targeted advocacy to address the weaknesses uncovered.

### **OUTCOME 3: PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF CONSERVATION**

**By 2022, those communities and businesses sharing a landscape with tigers actively support wild tiger conservation.**

#### Objective 3.1: Manage Human-Wildlife Conflict

*Target 3.1a: By 2022, Human-wildlife Conflicts (HWC) incidents are decreasing; severity is decreasing; and retaliatory killings decreasing.*

*Target 3.1b By 2022, the SAFE System has made a significant contribution to the reduction in human-tiger conflict.*

As a critical part of building up a knowledge base to enhance the science and practice of HWC, Tigers Alive is conducting comprehensive research and review of global programs across all the six conflict elements (Policy, Prevention, Mitigation, Response, Understanding the conflict and Monitoring). The results are being developed into the SAFE HWC Series of reports that fill vital information gaps for practitioners and decision-makers across our landscapes. In the last six months we kicked off this HWC Safe report series, as a knowledge base on HWC that can be used by our tiger landscapes as well as globally. It will be a living resource that will continually be added to, and demonstrates the innovation initiated by Tigers Alive, but also showcases that

we are a thought leader in HWC across the network. All the topics to be covered over time are either current gaps in HWC knowledge, or are findings from new tools and ideas we are testing to minimise conflict into the future. All the topics fit within the six elements of conflict and are structured that way. To start that process we released the first two reports in the last six months:

1) **Human Wildlife Conflict – Response Teams:** Global Lessons In Design, Operation, Monitoring, And Sustainability on the element RESPONSE

This report sets out to capture global lessons for setting up, managing, monitoring, and sustaining a Response Team (RT). The findings in the report are the culmination of lessons captured through interviews with experts that have direct experience with all aspects of RT design, management, and operation. RTs are one of the most critical pieces of the HWC chain. They perform diverse tasks ranging from first aid; crowd control; animal trapping, capture or killing; and the difficult task of retrieving the bodies of humans killed as a result of HWC, as well as community education. Understanding where, when, how, and why RTs succeed or fail is a critical part of managing HWC. RTs fit within the Response Element of conflict and are, therefore, a critical part of the overall system of HWC. Fourteen clear lessons, encompassed under the themes of design, operation, monitoring, and sustainability, have emerged from this review that can help enhance the effectiveness of RTs globally.

2) **Human Wildlife Conflict – Mitigation:** Lessons Learned From Global Compensation And Insurance Schemes on the element MITIGATION

When utilised in species conservation programs, mitigation mechanisms aim to offset negative attitudes of those impacted by or fearful of HWC, increase local tolerance, and ultimately reduce the likelihood of retaliatory killings of wildlife. HWC compensation and insurance schemes have not been comprehensively implemented or adequately evaluated, and improved efforts toward monitoring and impact evaluation must form part of their design in the long term. This review suggests that compensation and insurance schemes are a critical part of any HWC management program and can achieve positive conservation outcomes when tailored to local settings. This report is the culmination of research into compensation and insurance models in general, with a focus on HWC specifically. The initial review was used to guide a deeper analysis of twelve global case studies where insurance or compensation are utilised as part of a conservation goal relating to a conflict species. Despite the wide variety of HWC contexts globally, all HWC compensation and insurance schemes share the same basic components that allows for comparison between their design and implementation, as well as collation of the lessons in this report.

Tigers Alive will be showcasing the outcomes of the above research together with other HWC prevention and mitigation work at the IUCN HWC conference in Oxford in September 2020. Tigers Alive are also going to begin piloting some future focused approaches to monitor and track community attitudes to wildlife and HWC, and to pilot a HWC index for landscape to be able to compare and contrast management progress between sites.

Objective 3.2: Gain Support (from communities & businesses)

*Target 3.2a: By 2022, establish social carrying capacity as a methodology for designing community development and increase social carrying capacity across the tiger landscapes*

*Target 3.2b: By 2022, demonstrated US\$ 200 million turnover for Wildstuff*

Community engagement is a cross-cutting element embedded in all WWF work. Thus, advocating for effective and equitable community engagement in the TRCs is expected to leverage wider impacts “beyond tigers”. Tigers Alive is assisting countries to embark on a critical review of current community-based conservation programs/practices. In this journey, Tigers Alive is working with TRCs to develop and test approaches toward equity in conservation; advocating for an adaptive measure to build long-term and genuine partnerships with communities. This approach aims to align with Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) and the People Protecting Landscapes and Seascapes initiative.

Tigers Alive is also supporting all the tiger landscapes to conduct screening and any necessary mitigation measures as per WWF’s rollout of the ESSF.

To secure wild tiger populations, WWF seeks to promote equitable and sustainable partnerships and gain active support from communities and other stakeholders in tiger landscapes. This is done through developing co-management and leadership mechanisms for habitat management, incentivising protection and employment in conservation actions, supporting access and usage rights to indigenous lands, or linking local products to bigger market opportunities.

An innovation WWF is leading on, "*Wildstuff: the tiger -friendly marketplace*", is exploring how to create an online marketplace that aggregates produce from tiger landscapes, plus attracts premium prices for those commodities. In 2020 our work towards "*Wild Stuff*" will be ramped up in order to achieve fair market prices for produce that is sourced or grown sustainably by communities located in and around wildlife habitats. We will be engaging corporate partners in designing how this could function in tiger landscapes and ensure local livelihoods benefit while contributing to species recovery.

### **1) Effective Implementation of Work Plans and Budgets**

The Tigers Alive has made good progress against our work plan. Implementation has been most efficient where clear activities have been identified and funding has been available. Some impacts have been seen connected to the BuzzFeed allegations and required internal responses that we scale back on our global advocacy plan for ranger welfare. The last six months held some critical moments for or work in supporting rangers across Asia and some of this was hampered due to the current situation particularly as relates to communication on our work.

### **2) Challenges and Strengths Affecting Performance**

The greatest strengths of the Tigers Alive have proved consistent from the outset of the Initiative, first and foremost is the meta-goal of TX2. This ambitious, clear goal has helped with implementation, communication but most importantly motivation. A second strength is the dedicated commitment the leadership of offices involved in the initiative either as implementing offices or supporting offices.

Communications effectiveness for Tigers Alive (having not had a Communications lead since May 2019) has been a challenge for the team but this received a major boost in December 2019 with the incoming Communications and Advocacy Directors, Tristan Tremschnig. He is now

leading on the design of an action plan to build momentum up to and beyond the 2022 Year of the Tiger.

A brewing challenge for Tigers Alive (and the WWF network) towards the end of this reporting period was the notice of the closing of the MoU between WWF-Indonesia and the country's environment ministry. This presents massive challenges to WWF's ability to affect tiger recovery in Sumatra where monitoring suggests tigers are in decline. However, successes have been seen in sites where WWF has been focusing investment such as Rimbang Baling and this positive trend is now at risk with the limitations of the actions we can take in protected areas across the country.

### **3) Adaptive Management**

Over the last six months Tigers Alive has also begun to define the strategy from the final years up to 2022 (FY21 – 23) where we are refining and strengthening our strategic interventions to achieve our impact ambitions. The drive to achieve funding targets is also building momentum as Tigers Alive brought together the experts from across the network for a TX2 Campaign Steering Group meeting in December 2019 to strategise how to reach the 200m USD fundraising goal in support of our tiger conservation impact ambitions. The resulting action plan is being taken forward now.

### **4) Sharing of Lessons Learned**

The decline and tragic extinction of tigers in Laos and the disturbing downward trend of wildlife populations in the Eastern Plains in Cambodia are symptomatic of a broader biodiversity crisis caused by the widely expanded use of snares in the region and minimal government investment in protected area management. In the last six months Tigers Alive has been continuing to put further emphasis (both in terms of capacity and where possible financially) on the most at risk tigers and the most at risk geographical areas of the tigers range, Southeast Asia. The survey of the tiger heartlands employing CA|TS lite revealed similar patterns across these key tiger sites to which Tigers Alive will respond to as detail in the full internal report coming March 2020.

Tigers Alive also recognises that Southeast Asia's tiger crisis requires significant financial support in landscapes that may not have been the traditional recipients of WWF Network financial support. After Tigers Alive defined WWF's priority landscapes in 2011 it also encouraged supporting network offices to partner with implementing offices to commit significant multi-year investments. This model has been incredibly successful in some key landscapes driving forward conservation impact for instance in the Amur Heilong, Terai Arc among others. However this also resulted in some implementing offices (without long term partnerships with support offices) being challenged to find less restrictive funding for instance in Malaysia's Banjaran Titiwangsa. Tigers Alive is now creating a Tiger Heartlands Accelerator Fund to help combat this challenge and to receive geographically unrestricted tiger funding which the Tigers Alive can then redistribute to the landscapes in most need.