



Press Brief

**Cabinet approves decentralization and strengthening of
National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**

Step to give major boost to tiger protection

New Delhi, January 13, 2011

The Union Cabinet today approved the creation of four posts in the rank of Inspector General of Forests for the three Regional Offices and Headquarters of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). This decision, in conjunction with the recent decision to set up 3 regional offices of the NTCA in Nagpur, Guwahati and Bengaluru is expected to give a major boost to India's tiger conservation efforts.

Welcoming the decision, the Minister of State (I/C), Shri Jairam Ramesh said: *"This is a great step forward. There was a crying need for decentralization so that we can enhance the monitoring of our conservation efforts and improve the quality and timeliness of support we give the field directors of our 39 tiger reserves across the country. There is no doubt that today's decision will strengthen the capacity of the NTCA to deliver on its mandate, and provide new teeth to our tiger conservation efforts."*

Further Details related to NTCA and the Cabinet Decision

A. Background :

The Government of India has revamped its tiger conservation efforts through the setting up of the NTCA by amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in 2006, based on the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Under the enabling provisions of the said Act, the NTCA has been constituted with effect from the 4th September 2006. The strengthening of the Headquarter setup and creation of three Regional Offices of the NTCA would facilitate guidance to States and monitoring in an ongoing manner at the regional level for addressing the ecological and administrative concerns relating to tiger conservation.

B. Implementation strategy and targets:

The implementation at the national level would be done by the NTCA Headquarter, assisted by the three Regional Offices at Nagpur, Guwahati and Bengaluru, covering the 17 tiger States (39 tiger reserves).



C. Major impact:

Close monitoring at the regional level resulting in strengthened tiger conservation

D. Expenditure involved:

A recurring financial implication of ₹ 70.32 lakhs per annum.

E. No. of beneficiaries:

This would benefit all the 39 tiger reserves falling in 17 tiger States.

F. States / districts covered:

17 States (39 tiger reserves).

G. Details and progress of scheme:

Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, launched in 1973. Over the years, the project coverage has expanded from the initial 9 reserves (1,400 sq.km.) to 39 reserves encompassing around 46,388.22 sq.km. India has the maximum number of wild tigers and tiger habitats in the world conserved due to Project Tiger. The National Tiger Conservation Authority provides a statutory basis to Project Tiger and has an overarching role as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



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Appendix I: LIST OF TIGER RESERVES IN INDIA

Sl. No.	Year of creation	Name of Tiger Reserve	State
1	1973-74	Bandipur	Karnataka
2	1973-74	Corbett	Uttarakhand
3	1973-74	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh
4	1973-74	Manas	Assam
5	1973-74	Melghat	Maharashtra
6	1973-74	Palamau	Jharkhand
7	1973-74	Ranthambore	Rajasthan
8	1973-74	Similipal	Orissa
9	1973-74	Sunderbans	West Bengal
10	1978-79	Periyar	Kerala
11	1978-79	Sariska	Rajasthan
12	1982-83	Buxa	West Bengal
13	1982-83	Indravati	Chhattisgarh
14	1982-83	Nagarjunsagar	Andhra Pradesh
15	1982-83	Namdapha	Arunachal Pradesh
16	1987-88	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh
17	1988-89	Kalakad-Mundanthurai	Tamil Nadu
18	1989-90	Valmiki (Not received)	Bihar
19	1992-93	Pench	Madhya Pradesh
20	1993-94	Tadoba-Andheri	Maharashtra
21	1993-94	Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh
22	1994-95	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
23	1994-95	Dampa	Mizoram
24	1998-99	Bhadra	Karnataka
25	1998-99	Pench	Maharashtra
26	1999-2000	Pakke	Arunachal Pradesh
27	1999-2000	Nameri	Assam
28	1999-2000	Satpura	Madhya Pradesh
29	2008-2009	Anamalai	Tamil Nadu
30	2008-2009	Udanti-Sitanadi	Chattisgarh
31	2008-2009	Satkosia	Orissa
32	2008-2009	Kaziranga	Assam
33	2008-2009	Achanakmar	Chattisgarh
34	2008-2009	Dandeli-Anshi	Karnataka
35	2008-2009	Sanjay-Dubri	Madhya Pradesh
36	2008-2009	Mudumalai	Tamil Nadu
37	2008-2009	Nagarahole	Karnataka
38	2008-2009	Parambikulam	Kerala
39	2009-10	Sahyadri	Maharashtra



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In-principle approval has been accorded for creation of five more tiger reserves are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Ratapani	Madhya Pradesh
2.	Sunabeda	Orissa
3.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Biligiri Ranganatha Temple	Karnataka
5.	Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries)	Rajasthan

Further, the following areas have been suggested, by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to States, for creation as tiger reserves are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name	State
1.	Satyamangalam	Tamil Nadu
2.	Nagzira-Navegaon	Maharashtra
3.	Bor	Maharashtra
4.	Suhelwa	Uttar Pradesh