

Agenda No.1

**INSTITUTION BUILDING
FOR
MANAGING
OUR
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
August 18, 2009, New Delhi**

**Ministry of Environment & Forests
Government of India**

THE PRESENTATION

- 📊 The environmental challenge
- 📊 Constraints and management gaps
- 📊 Compliance & enforcement issues
- 📊 Institutional strengthening
- 📊 Enhancing collaboration
- 📊 Future steps

DIMENSIONS OF THE CHALLENGE

- Pressures on environment: economic development, infrastructure growth, urbanization & changing life styles
- Promoting intersectorality and integrating safety, health and environmental concerns
- Institutional reform to keep pace with legislation
- Strengthening implementation
- Enhancing scientific capabilities
- Appropriate technological applications
- Balancing environment & development

OUR STRENGTHS

- ✚ Robust legal framework
- ✚ Pollution abatement infrastructure created and valuable experience gained
- ✚ Increasing private sector participation – apex industrial associations
- ✚ Heightened public awareness
- ✚ Vigilant civil society
- ✚ Strong forestry institutions and effective regimes for biodiversity conservation

CONSTRAINTS

- Inadequacy of resources
- Protracted procedures and delays
- Weak data base
- Dearth of technical skills and know-how
- Limited institutional capabilities
- Functional silos
- Coordination lacking between centre, states and local bodies

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

- Weak monitoring network
- Major non-conforming sectors
- Inadequate sewage treatment infrastructure and sub-optimal utilization of assets
- Capacity constraints of states
- Fragmentation of wildlife habitats – man animal conflict
- Ineffective monitoring of environment and forest clearances

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

- Expediting adjudication and settlement of disputes
- Upgrading planning and management
- Ensuring effective compliance and enforcement
- Strengthening investigation
- Augmenting knowledge institutions
- Modernising field practices

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING (ENVIRONMENT)

- ✚ Establishment of National Green Tribunal
- ✚ Constitution of Environment Protection Authority
- ✚ Strengthening of Pollution Control Boards
- ✚ Hazardous substances: Operationalization of crisis management groups
- ✚ Capacity building of state authorities - EIA & CZM
- ✚ Constitution of State Biodiversity Boards & Committees

THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

- NGT Bill, 2009 introduced in Parliament
- For expeditious disposal of environmental civil cases
- To be headed by SC Judge with Expert Members
- To settle disputes related to E&F laws
- Powers to award relief and compensation
- Appellate body under six enactments
- NET Act, 1995 and NEAA Act, 1997 to be repealed

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

- To be constituted under E(P) Act, 1986
- Complementarity with NGT
- Regulatory body with domain expertise and teeth
- Autonomous body with Regional EPAs
- To exercise delegated powers under E(P) Act
- Major role in environmental planning & management
- Shall strengthen enforcement and compliance

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING (FORESTS & WILDLIFE)

- Operationalizing CAMPA
- Promoting Centre-State synergy: MoU for tiger conservation
- Modernization of Forest Department
- Strengthening wildlife institutions : the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and National Tiger Conservation Authority

DATA BASE MANAGEMENT (ENVIRONMENT)

- Generation of comprehensive database at CPCB and SPCB levels
- Use of ICT and upgradation of MIS/statistical cells in CPCB/SPCBS
- Data transmission to CPCB and MoEF
- Data to be web-enabled
- Updation of inventory of HW and data of web based GIS of MoEF by the States

INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (F&WL)

- Standard & objective methodologies for census and survey
- Quantitative & qualitative data bases of resources
- Use of GPS, GIS & ITES in forest management
- Focussed R&D in critical areas
- Optimal utilization of scientific institutions by States

COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES

- Common pollution control facilities to be modelled on PPP mode
- Need for improvement in the qualitative performance of CETPs
- Proposals for new CETPs not forthcoming from majority of states
- Proposals to be submitted by states for Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities
- TSDFs to be still set up in many States
- SPV to be created for establishing new STPs

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES (POLLUTION CONTROL & EIA)

- ✚ Guidelines for identification of Critically Polluted Areas to be developed
- ✚ High level monitoring and timely interventions in CPAs needed at state level
- ✚ Use of cleaner technologies
- ✚ SCZMAs to put the clearance process in public domain
- ✚ States to use GPS/GIS for effectively controlling CRZ violations and for EIA clearances

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES (WASTE MANAGEMENT)

- Preparation of onsite and offsite emergency plans for hazardous chemicals to be speeded up
- Web based chemical accident information system to be properly utilized by states
- Importers/recyclers of HW to be closely monitored
- States to improve municipal solid waste management .
- Implementation of Plastics Rules

OPERATIONAL ISSUES (FORESTS & WILDLIFE)

- 📊 Critical wildlife habitats: Delineation
- 📊 Frontline staff recruitment and training
- 📊 Expediting PA notification & settlement
- 📊 Preparing working/management plans
- 📊 Poor compensatory afforestation
- 📊 Land bank not identified in many States
- 📊 Delays in processing FC Act proposals

FUTURE STEPS

- Re-engineering institutions & processes
- Enhancing functional capacities of various tiers
- Strategic interventions in critical areas
- Innovating funding mechanisms and PPP
- Building synergies for expediting decision making
- Streamlining EIA/CRZ process & monitoring
- Accountability & transparency – use of ICT
- Community mobilization: awareness and education

CONCRETE STEPS

- Establishment of National Green Tribunal
- Operationalization of CAMPA
- Strengthening of State level bodies
- Constitution of Environment Protection Authority

THANK YOU

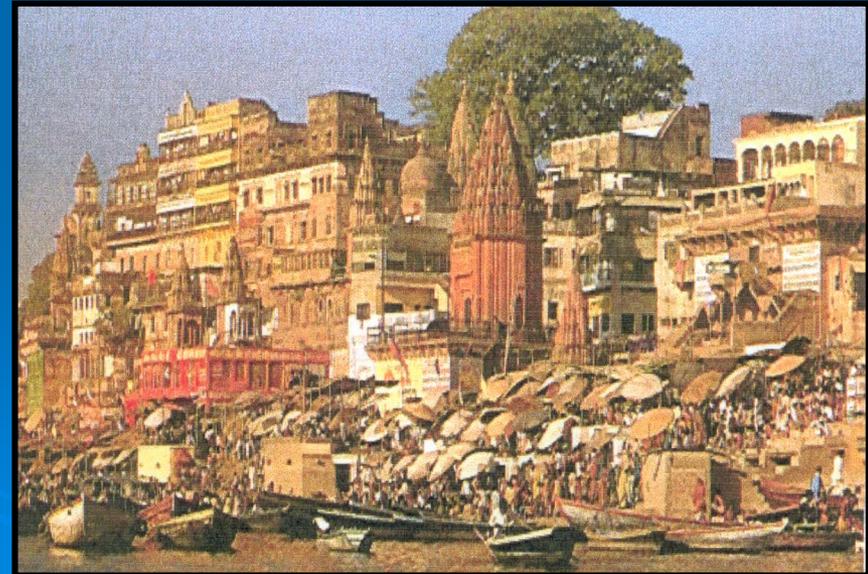
AGENDA NO. 2

River Cleaning using Innovative Models

National River Conservation Plan

BACKGROUND

- Systematic river conservation efforts commenced with the launching of Ganga Action Plan in 1985
- GAP subsequently expanded into NRCP which now covers polluted stretches of 37 rivers in 167 towns in 20 states
- Collective endeavor of Centre and States; 70:30 cost sharing
- Focus on interception, diversion, treatment of sewage



Experience with NRCP

- Sewage treatment capacity of 4000 mld created
- Implementation of river front development, low cost sanitation and crematoria schemes
- Limited success despite exponential increase in population
- Inadequate O&M, under-utilisation of assets
- Slow implementation, weak monitoring







Future Challenges

- **Increasing demand for irrigation, power, industry**
- **Demographic pressures**
- **Climate change impacts: Fluctuating flows**
- **Weak compliance & enforcement**
- **Mass awareness**

Magnitude of the Problem

- 33,000 mld sewage generated from class I & II towns in the country, treatment capacity of only 7400 mld exists
- Estimated 15500 mld wastewater generated from industrial sector, which is toxic and non-biodegradable
- 150 polluted river stretches as per CPCB survey

Ecological Flow

- Large proportion of river waters diverted for irrigation, drinking water, industrial use, power, etc
- minimum ecological flows are important for
 - sustenance of biodiversity and aquatic life
 - maintaining water quality standards
- Need to augment flows in the rivers through water conservation, reuse of treated wastewater, development of storage projects

Recent Initiatives

- **National Ganga River Basin Authority constituted as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority**
- **Enhanced allocation of Rs 526 crore for river cleaning for this financial year (Rs 250 crore for Ganga)**
- **Finance Commission has been moved to provide O&M grant to States**
- **Funding pattern for NE States revised to 90:10**
- **Action initiated for online reporting of water quality monitoring**

Lessons / New Direction

- Central and State Governments need to step up river conservation efforts, allocate more resources and revamp the strategy
- River basin as a planning unit
- Holistic approach to include catchment area treatment, water conservation, reuse & recycling, industrial pollution control
- Pollution abatement as well as maintenance of minimum ecological flow

Lessons / New Direction

- **Comprehensive planning to fully tackle all sources of pollution**
- **Mobilisation of additional resources**
- **Institutional redesign**
- **Improving implementation**

Points for discussion

- Comprehensive plans to be prepared for polluted stretches identified by CPCB
- Preparation of action plans for pollution hotspots on priority
- Plan should include pollution control measures, catchment area treatment and steps to increase flows
- State River Conservation Authorities may be constituted under CMs

Points for discussion

- **States should provide increased Plan allocation for river conservation and O&M**
- **Dovetailing of resources**
- **State Governments and the Urban Local Bodies to generate resources through taxes, levies, cess, user charges**
- **Resources from the private sector and the financial institutions through SPV route**

Points for discussion

- **Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement to be signed**
- **SPCBs to ensure compliance by industries**
- **Fast track approval mechanism for the projects**
- **Appropriate technologies to be adopted: Compendium of sewage treatment technologies prepared through IIT Kanpur for guidance**
- **Creation of City level Monitoring Committees with public representatives, prominent NGOs, officials, ULBs, etc**
- **Local entities, citizens, national youth corps to be involved closely in river cleaning endeavor**
- **Concurrent evaluation**

Thank You



Strategies for Increasing Forest and Tree Cover



Forest and Tree Cover :Overview

- National Goal - 33% under FTC
- FTC in 2005 - 23.4 percent - Gap ~ 31 m ha
- 25 - 26 m ha needed in non-forest areas
- India – despite pressures stabilised FTC

Enhancing FTC - Important

- Enhanced goods and ecological services
- Livelihood - 300 m disadvantaged people
- Climate Change response – 6622 m t C
- Forested watersheds – food security link

Present Emphasis and Approach

- Linking with livelihoods
- Landscape approach
 - Protection of Existing Forests
 - Improving Productivity
 - Not just planting trees
- Inclusive management
- Strengthening Institutions

Current Initiatives

- Strengthening NAP
- Convergence with NREGA
- National Mission for a 'Green India'
- State CAMPA
- Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana
- ACA for Regeneration of Forests

Strengthening NAP

- **State Forest Development Authority**
 - decentralized approval
 - timely fund flow
- **New Components**
 - Value addition, Marketing
 - Capacity Building

Convergence with NREGA

- Access to NREGA resources
- Resource pooling
- Integrated Approach and Planning
- 18 Pilots – scaled up in many states

National Mission - 'Green India'

- Regenerate - 6 m ha degraded forests
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Livelihood support
 - SMF for co-benefits – carbon
 - JFMC/EDC to implement
- 

State CAMPA

- Guidelines issued - flexible
- Accelerate sector development
- 3 tier institutional set up – State
- Independent M & E

Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana

Biomass resources: villages away from forests

Involving PRIs

Incentives to farmers for tree planting

High-tech nurseries - QPM

Village institutions – common interest group

ACA for Restoration & Regeneration of Forests

- Rs 500 Cr provided in 2009-10
- Guidelines drafted
- Sustainable management of forests
- landscape principles and participatory approach
- Focus - Regeneration, conservation and livelihood esp. NTFP based

Action Points

State CAMPA

- Set up State CAMPA,
- Open Bank a/c,
- Prepare and approve APO

ACA for Regeneration

- Identify landscapes (~ 500 ha)
- Prepare treatment plan
- Approve APO

Action Points

Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana

- Identify non forest lands

Convergence with NREGA

- Integrated planning and approach

Policy

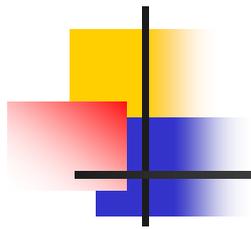
- Deregulate Felling and Transit rules

Climate Change

- Capacity Building in SFD for CDM

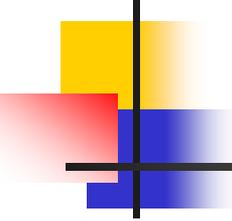
THANK YOU





**STRENGTHENING
&
MODERNIZING**

FOREST DEPARTMENTS



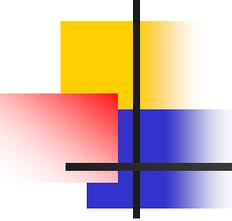
Strengthening.. an ongoing activity

- Since X Plan

- Funds released to States/UTs Rs. 407 cr.

- Physical Achievements

■ Buildings (office + residential)	1,645
■ Vehicles (field vehicles)	1,009
■ Roads (kms)	3,388
■ Forest fire-lines (km)	3,21,044
■ Boundary Pillars	3,86,943
■ Watch Towers	581
■ Water harvesting structures	876



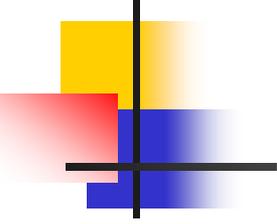
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- Since X Plan

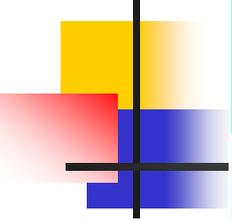
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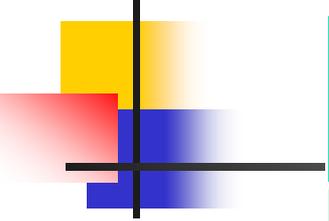
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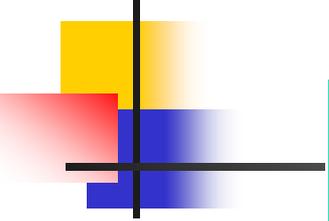
S.No.	State	Total Release (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	2876
2.	Chhattisgarh	2715
3.	Gujarat	2361
4.	Uttarakhand	2242
5.	Kerala	1802
6.	Tamil Nadu	1758
7.	West Bengal	1579
8.	Jharkhand	1514
9.	Andhra Pradesh	1416
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1195



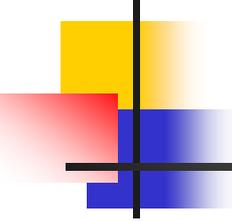
S.No.	State	Total Release (Rs. in lakhs)
11.	Maharashtra	1170
12.	Karnataka	1081
13.	Orissa	1001
14.	Himachal Pradesh	999
15.	Haryana	789
16.	Bihar	667
17.	Rajasthan	640
18.	Jammu & Kashmir	378
19.	Punjab	368
20.	Goa	190



S.No.	State	Total Release (Rs. in lakhs)
21.	Mizoram	2859
22.	Assam	2345
23.	Nagaland	2085
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1979
25.	Tripura	1402
26.	Sikkim	1280
27.	Manipur	1170
28.	Meghalaya	684



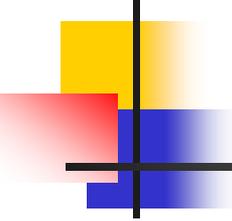
S.No	State	Total Release (Rs. in lakhs)
29.	D&N Haveli	60
30.	A&N Islands	37
31.	Daman & Diu	33
32.	Chandigarh	8
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	New Delhi	0
35.	Pondicherry	0



Now..... A Mission

- Modernize Forestry Administration

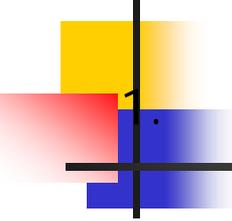
- Four dimensions
 1. Strengthen Frontline Force
 2. Enhance use of New Technologies
 3. Improve Infrastructure
 4. Build capacities



Strengthen Frontline Force

1. Fill up vacancies
2. Train & build capacities
3. Provide field facilities
4. Cover risks
5. Assure career progression
6. Support to families
 1. Housing
 2. Education
 3. Medical

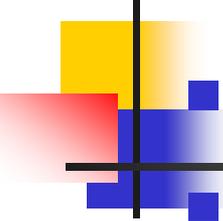
Improve Infrastructure



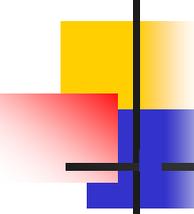
Strengthen Range Offices & Out Posts

- Post minimum viable strength of staff
 - Residence for all field staff
 - Communication equipments / Computer / internet / PDA
 - Strong room
 - Operational vehicles
 - Arms & ammunition
2. Improve road network & mobility
 3. Anti-poaching camps / strike force

Enhance use of Technologies

- 
- Digitize forest maps
 - Generate GIS based management information
 - Use MIS based modules for
 - Forest & WL surveillance & monitoring
 - Offence / court matters / rights
 - Working Plans / Management Plans
 - Personnel management
 - Introduce use of PDAs at cutting edge
 - Forest fire monitoring through satellite

Build capacities



Frontline Forestry Force

- Uniform mandatory induction training
- Specialized courses on new management tools / techniques
 - PDAs / GIS based reporting
 - New Acts (Forests Rights Act)
- Intelligence gathering / Information management
- Community participation
- **Middle Management**
 - Wildlife management
 - GIS / MIS reporting
 - Law and enforcement
 - Community participation
- **Top Management**
 - Specialization (Climate Change / WL / Law / Tribal Affairs etc.)
 - Regular refresher courses

Opportunities available

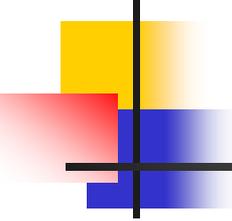
Revised Scheme:

- Intensification of Forest Management
- Capacity Building in Forestry Sector
- Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat"
- State CAMPA
- ACA for regeneration rehabilitation of degraded forests
- Allocation under IFMS could be high
- Concept for Strengthening Forestry Administration (SoFA) in Naxal Affected Divisions (NAD) approved

Action Points

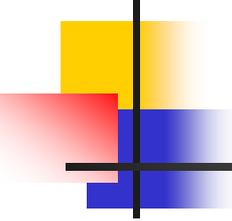
Plan for Forestry sector Modernization by 2012

- Designate Program Coordinators (New Schemes / Approach)
- Build Team
- Sign MoU
 - For IFMS
 - For Capacity Building Scheme
 - For SOFA-NAD
- Design APO for 2010-11 & 2011-12
- National Workshop of Program Co-ordinators in Bhopal in Sept.(Forestry Sector Modernization)
- Submit APO for 2010-11 by end November 2009
- Ensure filling up of Frontline vacancies
- States to ensure timely release of Central Assistance to the forest Departments



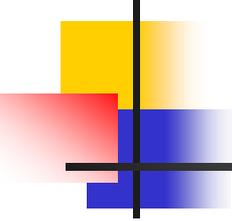
Expected Outcomes

- Forestry Force Modernized
- Forestry Personnel Motivated
- Forest Departments rejuvenated
 - Improved efficiency
 - Improved image
- Forests & Wildlife conservation strengthened



Resolutions

- States would undertake modernization of Forestry Administration on a Mission Mode.
 - Focus of Scheme would be on Front-line Forestry Force.
 - Attempts would be made by the States to bring the Forestry Force on par with the Police Force in terms their of pay, allowance, promotions etc,
- For areas affected by left wing extremism, the State Government would apportion funds from the Central Assistance for implementation of Divisional Plans under Strengthening of Forestry Administration.



Thank You



Protection of Forests

in the context of the

(Recognition of Forest Rights)
Act, 2006”

Highlights of Implementation of the Act

- ❑ Start date - 01.01.2008.
- ❑ Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) – Nodal Central Ministry.
- ❑ Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) – Facilitative Role
- ❑ Progress upto 31st July, 2009
 - More than 22.99 Lakh claims filed.
 - More than 2.88 Lakh titles distributed.
 - More than 1.54 Lakh titles ready for distribution.
 - Majority of the claims are for individual rights.

Slow Implementation

State/ UTs	Titles Distributed
Chhattisgarh	1,02,800
Tripura	74,042
Andhra Pradesh	67,963
Madhya Pradesh	32,876

State/ UTs	Titles Distributed
West Bengal	5,249
Rajasthan	3,288
Gujarat	2,431
Jharkhand	72

16 States/ UTs have not distributed any titles till date.

Role of State Forest Departments

- ❑ Custodian - To provide Map/ Document/ Evidence
- ❑ Active participation in SDLC and DLC
- ❑ Demarcation of forest boundaries in the areas where rights are settled.

Role of State Forest Departments

- ❑ To enlighten the villages about modalities for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.
- ❑ Right holders to be brought in the fold of JFMCs Network.
- ❑ Capacity Building of Right holders

Facilitative Role of MoEF

- ❑ Notification of the Critical Wildlife Habitat
 - No proposal.
 - Urgent need to speed up action on this front.

- ❑ Diversion of forest land upto 1 ha. – orders issued.

- ❑ FRA, 2006 compliance – Pre condition to FCA clearance.

Major Issues Raised by States

□ ANDHRA PRADESH

- Incentive scheme for increasing tree cover over areas under RoFR Act.

□ KERALA

- Possibility of Tribal land alienation in future.

Major Issues Raised by States

❑ MANIPUR

- Right holders not fulfilling duties under Section 5 of the Act!
- Procedure for declaring critical wildlife area is very stringent!

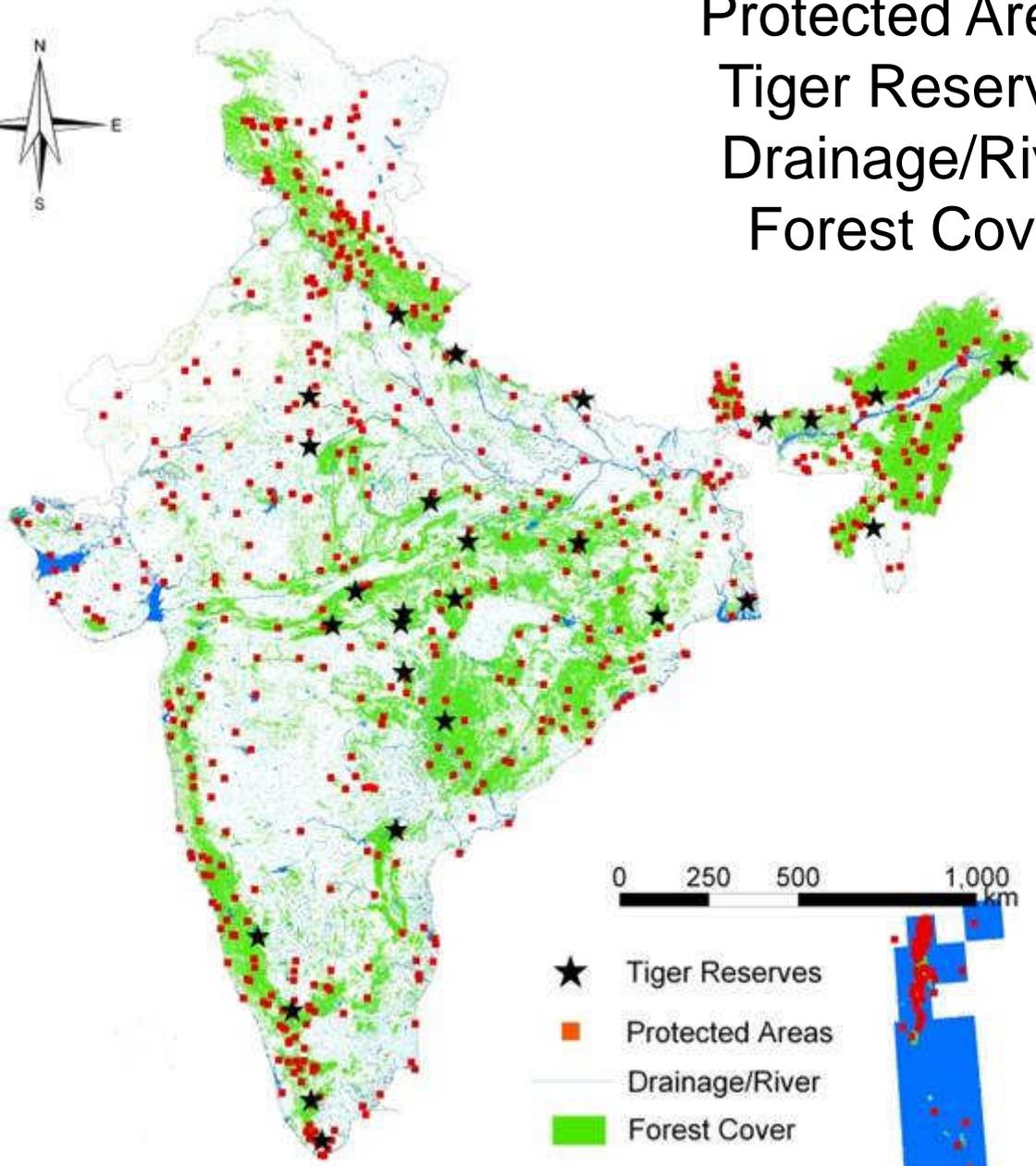
❑ RAJASTHAN

- Forest Consolidation Issue.

Wildlife Management
(including tiger conservation, man-
wildlife conflict & wildlife crime)



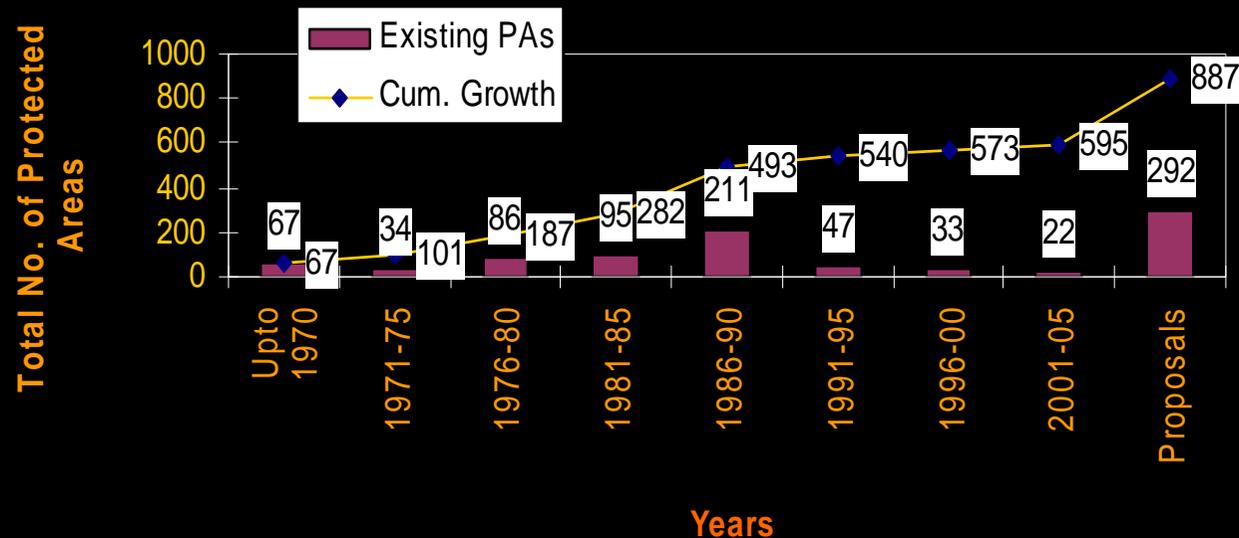
Protected Areas Tiger Reserves Drainage/River Forest Cover



- ★ Tiger Reserves
 - Protected Areas
 - Drainage/River
 - Forest Cover
- 0 250 500 1,000 km

Protected Area Coverage

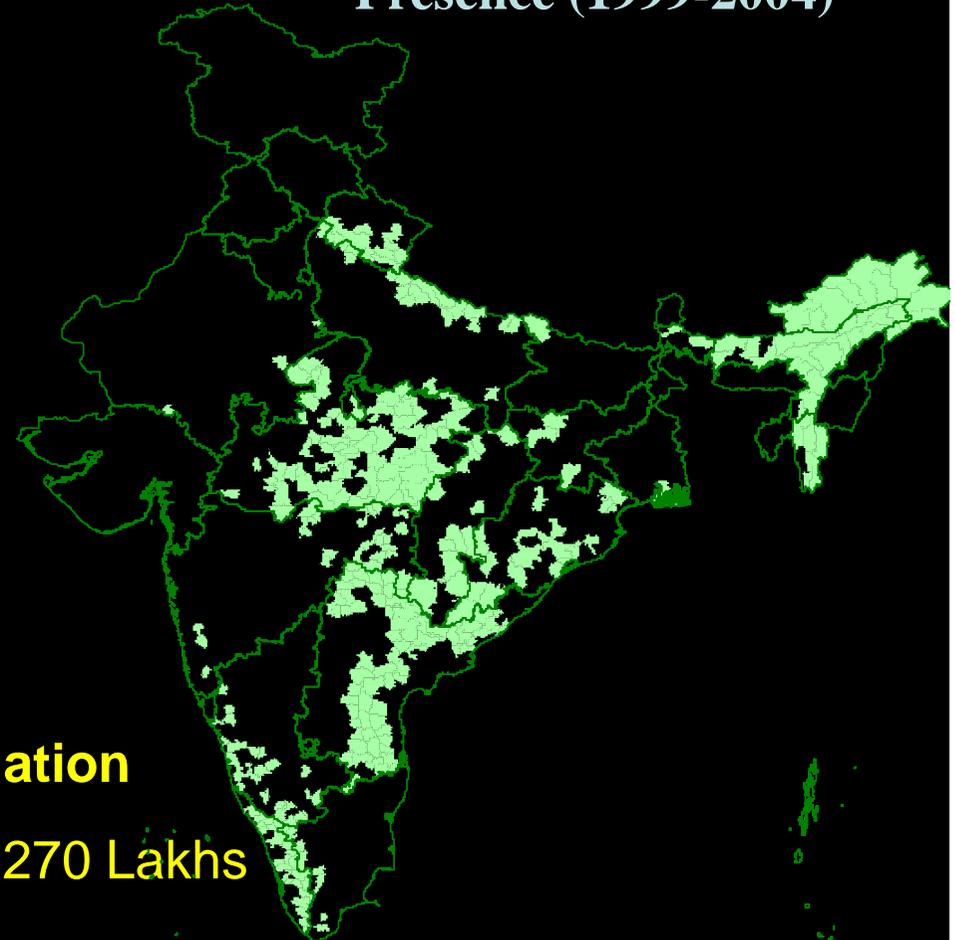
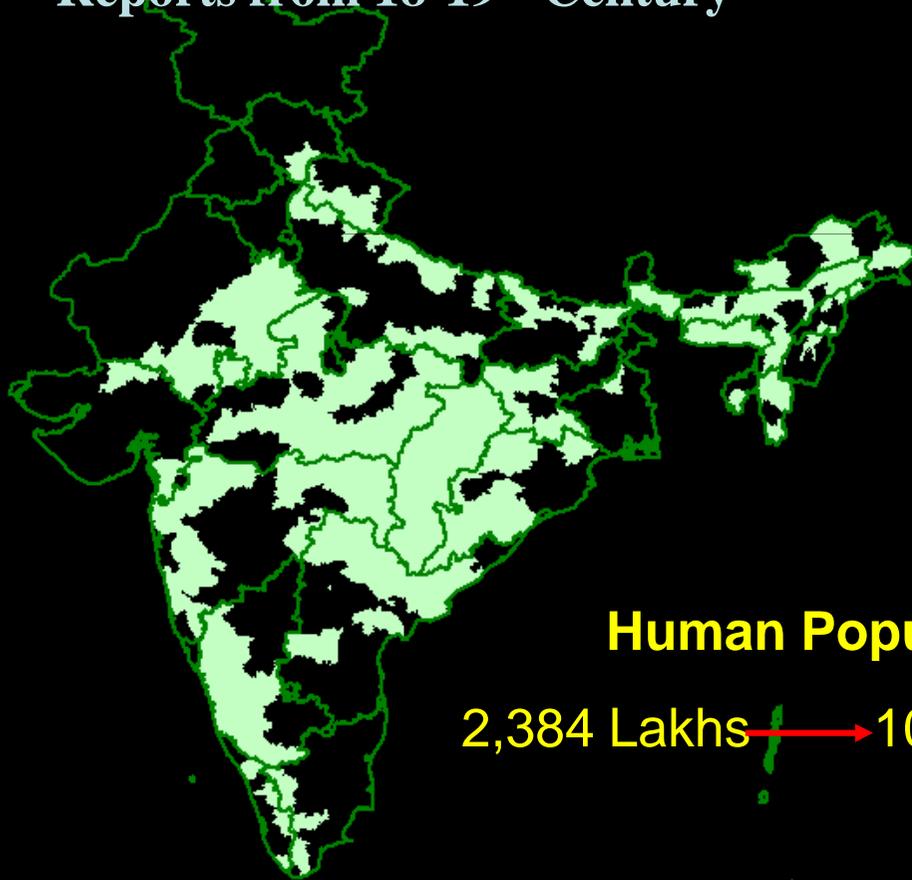
- **2.4% of the total area of the world**
- **8% species of the world**
- **Around 5% of the country's area has been brought under the Protected Area (PA) network**
- **Consist of 99 National Parks and 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries**
 - **Conservation Reserve 43, Community Reserve 4**
 - **Total PAs = 661**
 - **TR = 38**
 - **ER = 26**
 - **Based on the conventional isolationist approach**



Change in Tiger Distribution

**Historical Tiger Distribution
Mapped
to Current Tehsils
Reports from 18-19th Century**

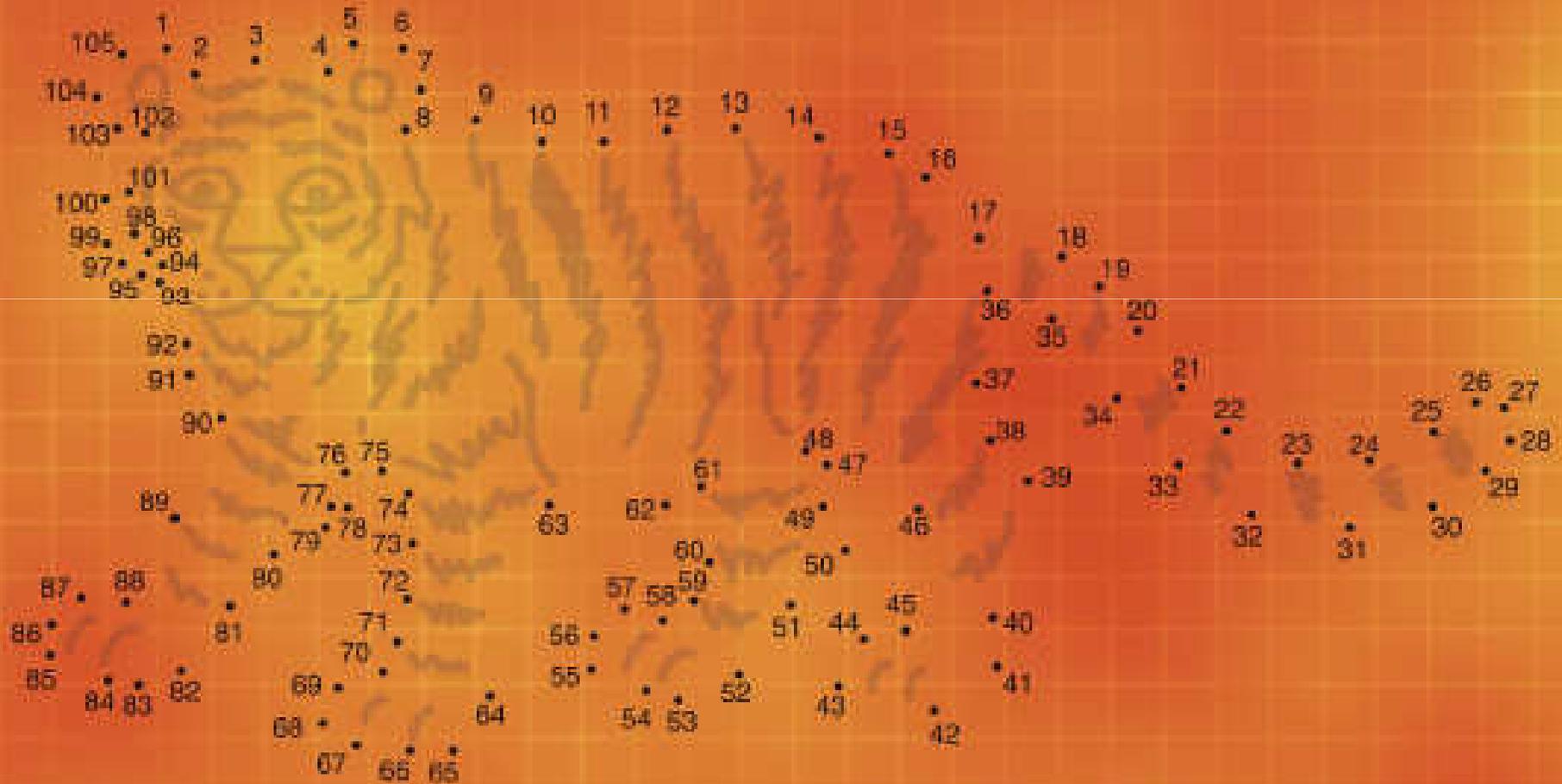
**Tehsils with Tiger
Presence (1999-2004)**



Human Population

2,384 Lakhs → 10,270 Lakhs

Implementation of Tiger Task Force Recommendations



Actions by GOI

- Disappearance of Tigers from Sariska in 2005
- Setting up Tiger Task Force
- Recommends a series of actions which were approved by MOEF
- Scientific methodology evolved for tiger count
- Wild Life Protection Act amended and National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wild Life Crime Control Bureau constituted
- Central Assistance for Tiger Protection Force
- Created 8 new tiger reserves
- Around 30,000 sq.km. of core/critical tiger habitat notified
- Relocation package enhanced from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 10.00 lakhs
- STPF approved for 13 sensitive tiger reserves

Recent actions by GOI

- Tripartite MOU linked to fund flows
- STPF guidelines revised for involving locals in protection
- All India tiger estimation made more transparent and participative with outside experts
- Monitoring parameters made robust
- Advisories / letters sent to Chief Ministers
- Initiatives taken for strengthening field protection (microlite air craft, night vision, metal detectors)

Recent actions by GOI

- Special focus on 16 problematic tiger reserves: crack teams being sent
- New day-to-day monitoring protocol being customized
- Capacity building modules for FDs, DDs and CWLWs
- Tiger crime database customized with TRAFFIC-India
- More regional interaction plans
- Active management and corridor restoration
- All India tiger status reviewed at Sariska (25-26 July, 2009)

Poaching

- Several seizures reported
- More than 13 cases of tiger poaching
- Total tiger deaths so far during the year : 45



HABITAT LOSS



There has been decline in extent and quality of wildlife habitats because of

- Encroachments
- Delayed settlement of rights
- Fragmentation of habitats.
- Diversion for development projects

MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

- Shrinking wild habitats, corridors and prey base lead to :
 - Straying of wild animals into human habitation
 - Increase in incidents of
 - **Human deaths**
 - **Livestock killing**
 - **Crop depredation**
 - **Retaliatory killings**



MUSTERING PUBLIC SUPPORT

- **Deciding inviolate spaces for wildlife & relocation**
- **Co-existence agenda in other areas**
- **Landscape approach in such areas & fringe involving people**
- **Sectoral integration & mainstreaming wildlife concerns**
- **Ecologically sustainable development programmes**
- **Providing livelihood options for locals**



PROBLEM OF INSURGENCY



- Special approach discussed in NTCA meeting
- Some seriously affected areas :
 - Manas (Assam)
 - Palamau (Jharkhand)
 - Simlipal (Orissa)
 - Indravati (Chattisgarh)
 - Nagarjuna Sagar (Andhra Pradesh)
 - Valmiki (Bihar)

BOTTLE NECKS IN IMPLEMENTATION

- Ban on recruitment & staff ageing
- Lack skill development
- Not posting the right personnel
- Lack of reciprocal commitment directives
- Funds released by Center not reaching operational staff in time.
- Lack of corridors, buffer, unsustainable landuses



CSS -Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats

- ADDITION OF NEW COMPONENTS TO EXISTING SCHEME
- XI PLAN OUTLAY: Rs.800.00 crore.
- COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME:
 - ❖ Support to Protected Areas.
 - ❖ Protection of Wildlife Outside PAs.
 - ❖ Species Recovery Programmes
- STATE GOVERNMENTS TO:
 - ❖ Submit appropriate proposals
 - ❖ Scale up State Plan financial allocation

Preparation of Management Plans in PAs

- Management Plans - Foundation of the scientific management of PAs.
- Less than 50 % of the PAs in the country have operational Management Plans.
- Many PAs - do not have Management Plans or have Plans already expired.
- Serious lacuna in the scientific management of PAs.
- State/ UT Governments -expeditiously prepare and operationalize Management Plans

Wildlife Crime



Bandipur 2007-08

- Two persons arrested along with skin
- Main shooter arrested after nine months
- Tiger nails recovered
- DNA test done
- Shooter arrested
- Still no bail to shooter

Fixing ID

Left flank skin



Left flank camera trap



Modus operandi of Tiger Poachers from Madhya Pradesh & Haryana.



- Poachers waylay the traps by planting into the ground
- These traps are nicely camouflaged with ground litter.
- traps are laid zigzag fashion on the path to the water hole.
- When a thirsty animal walks along the path, will be caught on foot,
- Poachers kill them alive ghastly with spears without damaging the skin.



A group of bahelias involved in killing a panther on the way to water hole using the above traps and arms

Recent herbivore poaching and arrest of culprits on 01.05.2009 at NSTR



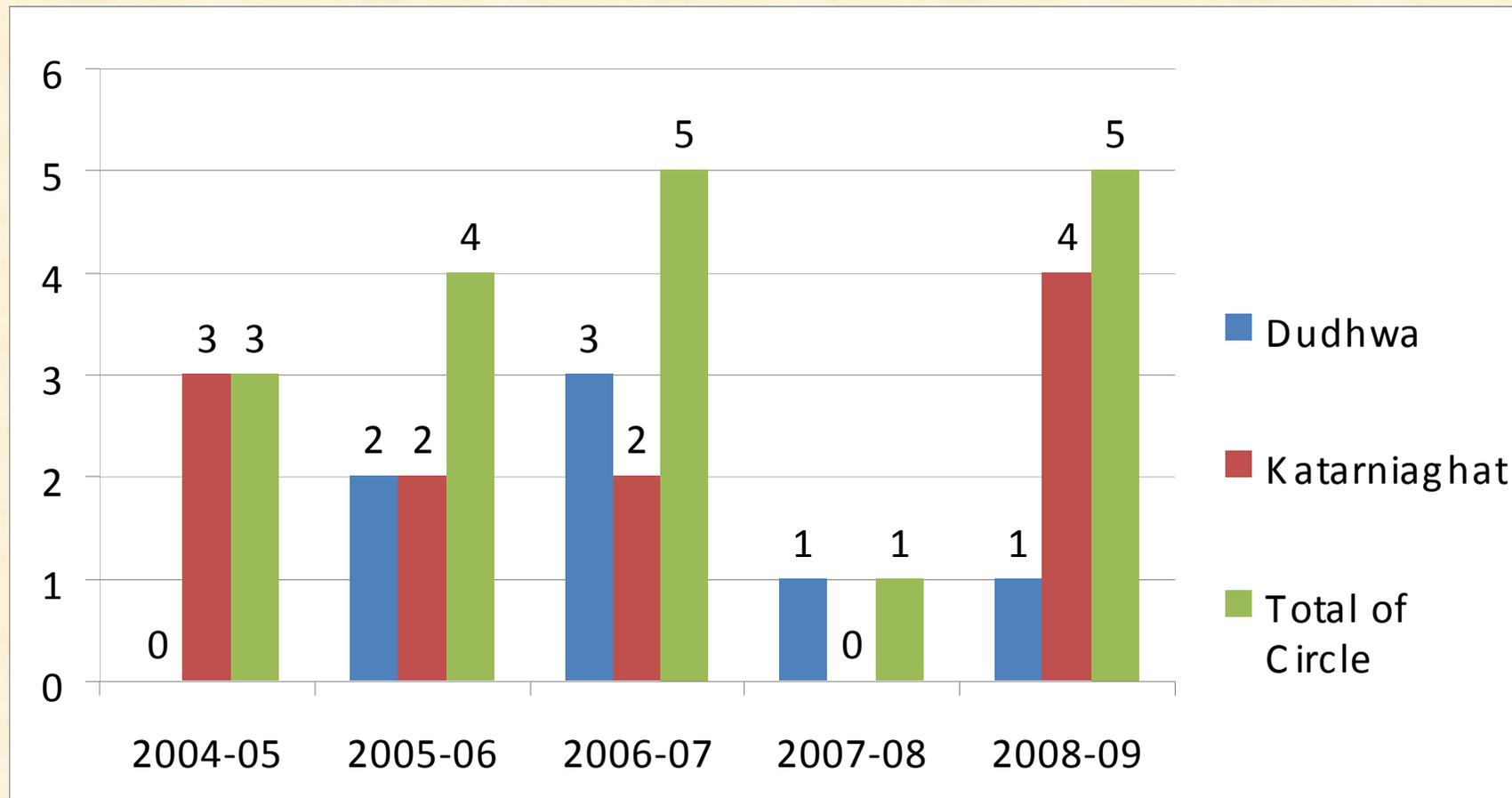
Recent Milestone Achievement



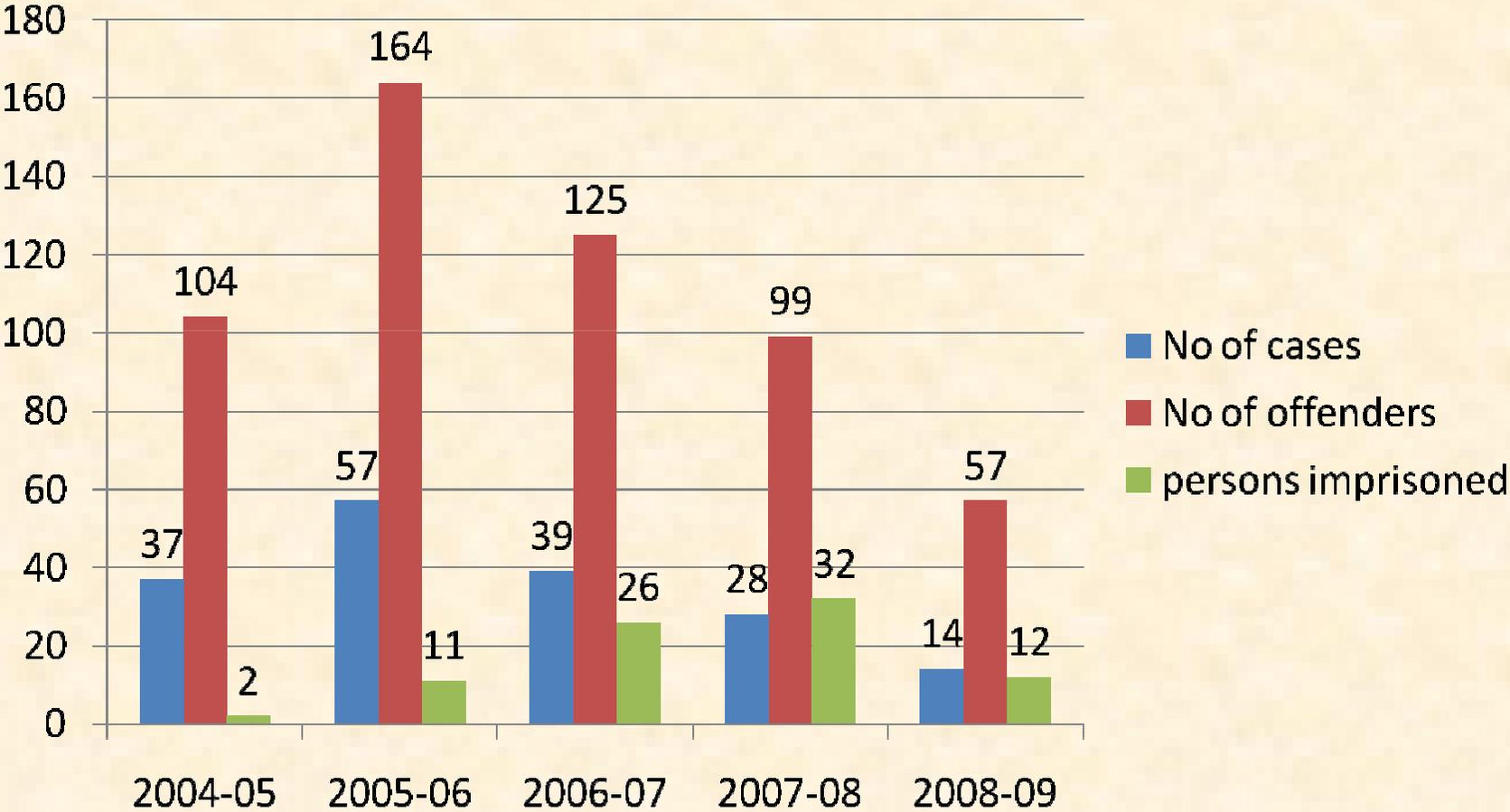
- Arrest of Narayan by CWLW Rajasthan & Sariska team
- Brother of Sansar Chand
- Wanted in several states
- Red alert issued

SUMMARY OF MAJOR SEIZURES(Dudhwa)

high prosecution rate (>25%)



DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE PALIA-KHERI



Seizures(Bandipur-Nagarhole)

- Tiger skins -3
- Tiger bones and other parts -2 cases
- Ivory – two cases of tusk recovery
- Leopard skin -1

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

- Established in June 2007.
- Regional Offices at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Jabalpur and Kolkata and the Sub Regional Offices at Cochin, Guwahati and Amritsar.
- Main objective is to combat wildlife crime through:
- Collection, Collation and Sharing of Intelligence, Capacity Building, Coordination of action with other agencies including State Governments etc.
- Notable tiger seizures: 2008 (2), 2009 (2) with international ramification

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

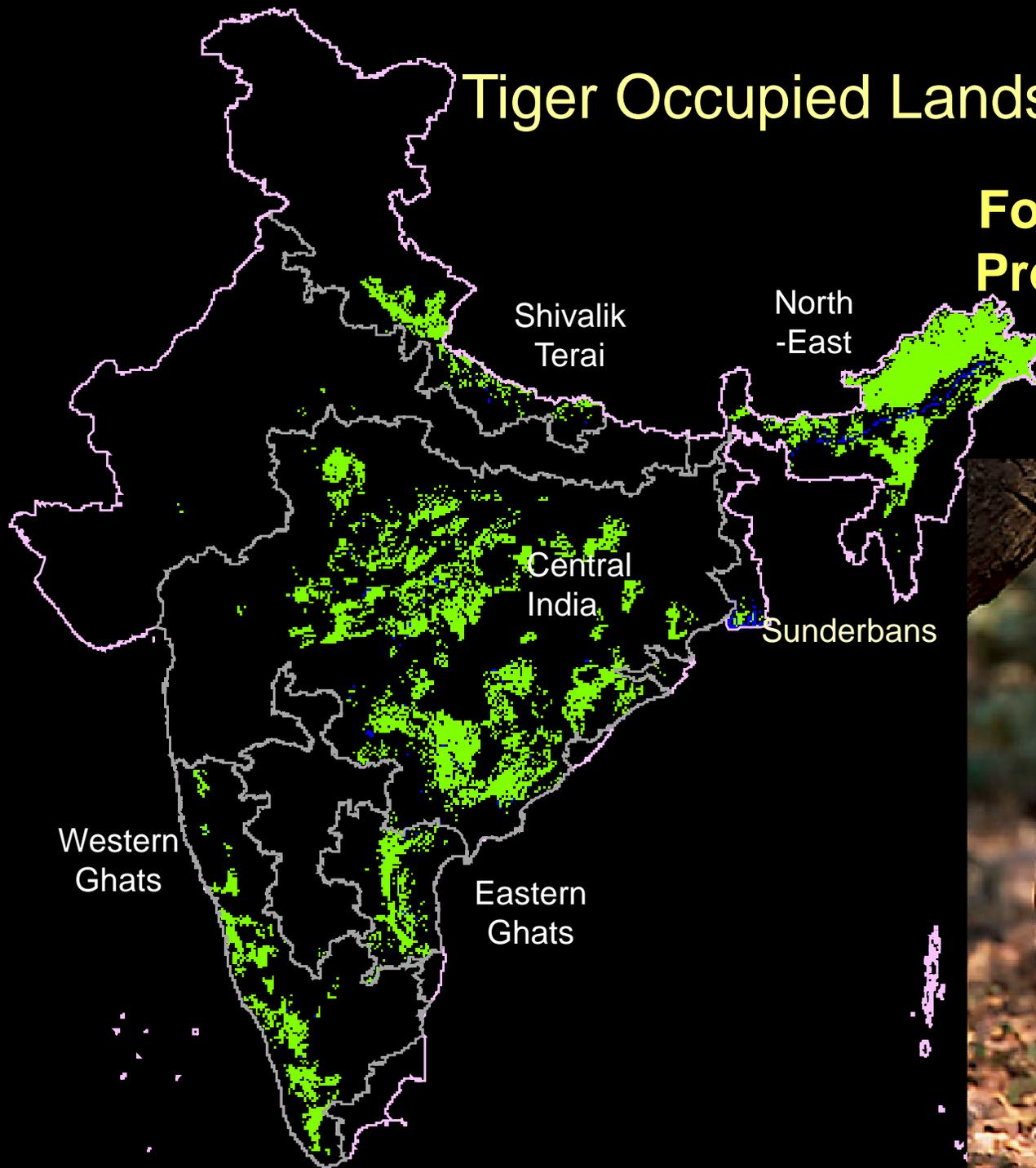
- States to appoint Nodal Officer in Forest and Police Departments for coordination on matters related to wildlife crime
- Establish a 24 X 7 Control Room/ Node at the State Head Quarters for intelligence exchange,
- To inform the occurrence of major crimes and also to give details of wildlife crimes during the last 10 years to facilitate the establishment of wildlife crime data base (formats already circulated),
- Desirability of taking up investigation by WCCB into cases of serious wildlife crime in State/ UTs and, if so, the mechanism thereof.

Project Elephant

- Project Elephant launched in 1991-92
- Objectives –
 - ❖ Protecting elephants, their habitat & corridors
 - ❖ Addressing issues of man-animal conflict
 - ❖ Welfare of domesticated elephants.
- State/UT Governments to -
 - ❖ Appoint independent Field Coordinators for each Elephant Reserve.
 - ❖ Notify Elephant Reserves already cleared by MOEF

Tiger Occupied Landscape Complexes

Forests with Tiger Presence at Tehsil Level



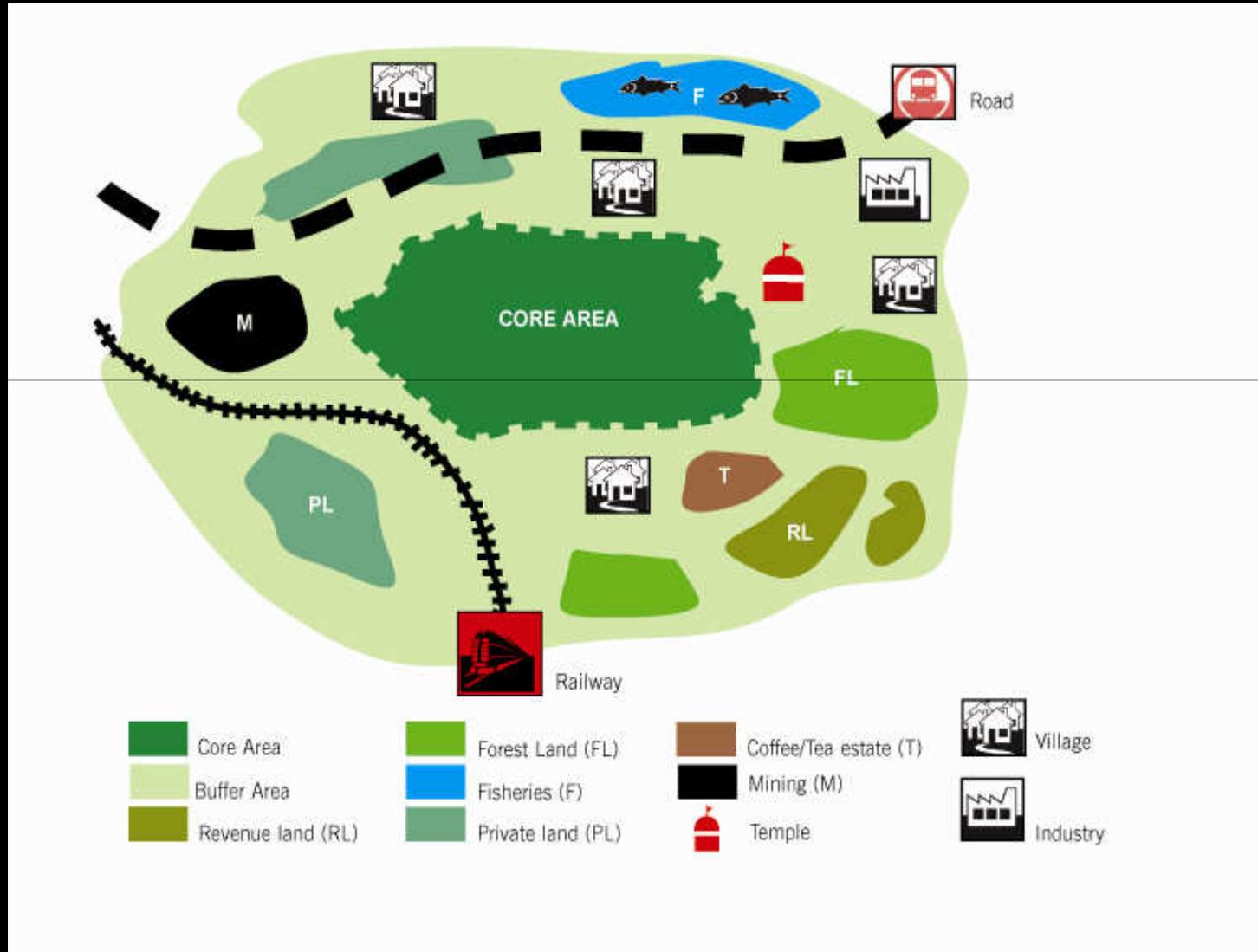
Status of Tiger in India

Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	1488	Not Assessed		
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal *	596	10	8	12
Sunderbans	1586	Not Assessed		
Total Tiger Population		1411	1165	1657

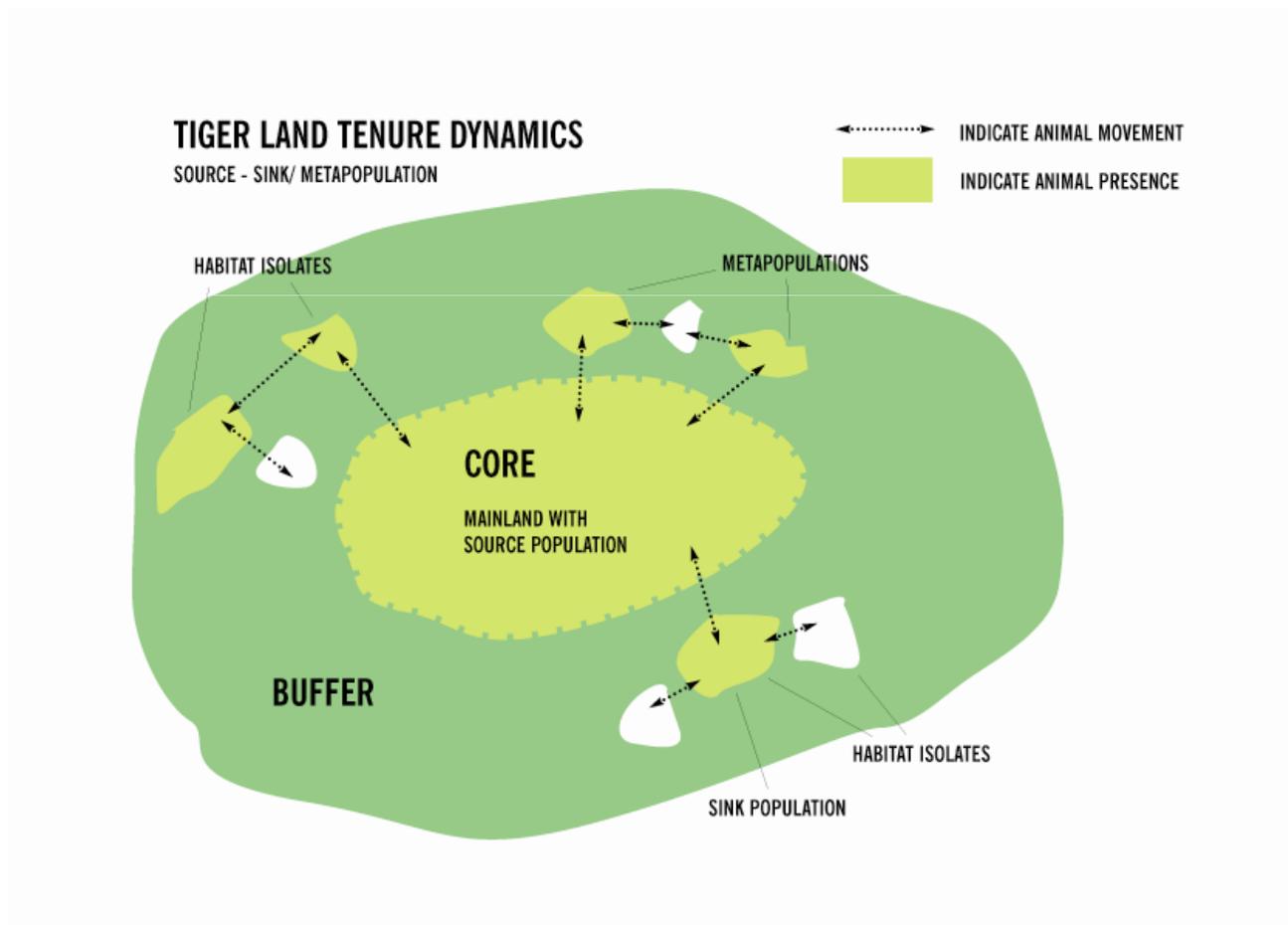
•Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

** Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km².

Production sectors in buffer landscape



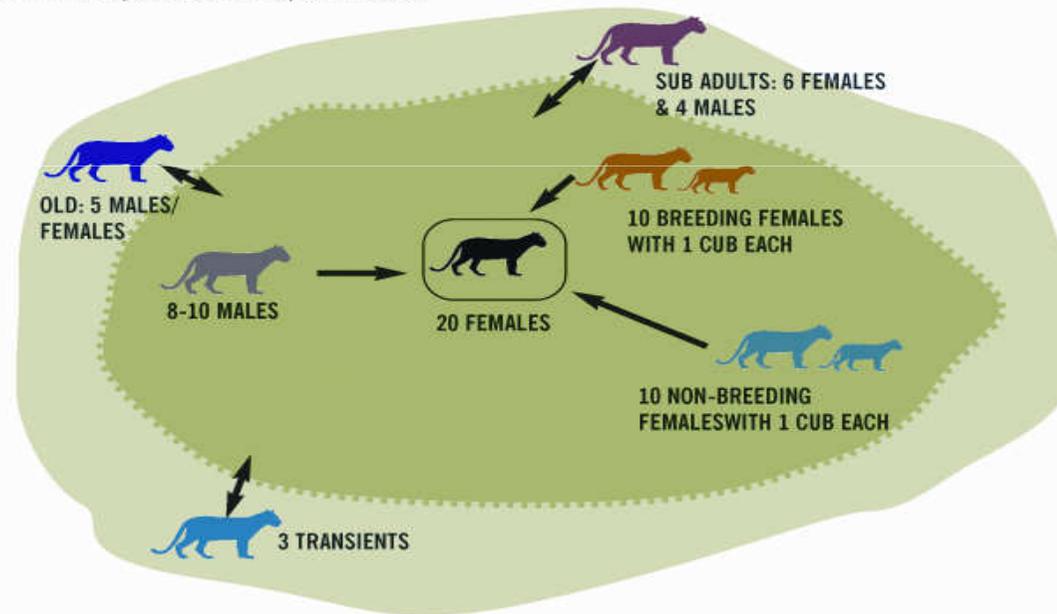
Source-sink dynamics

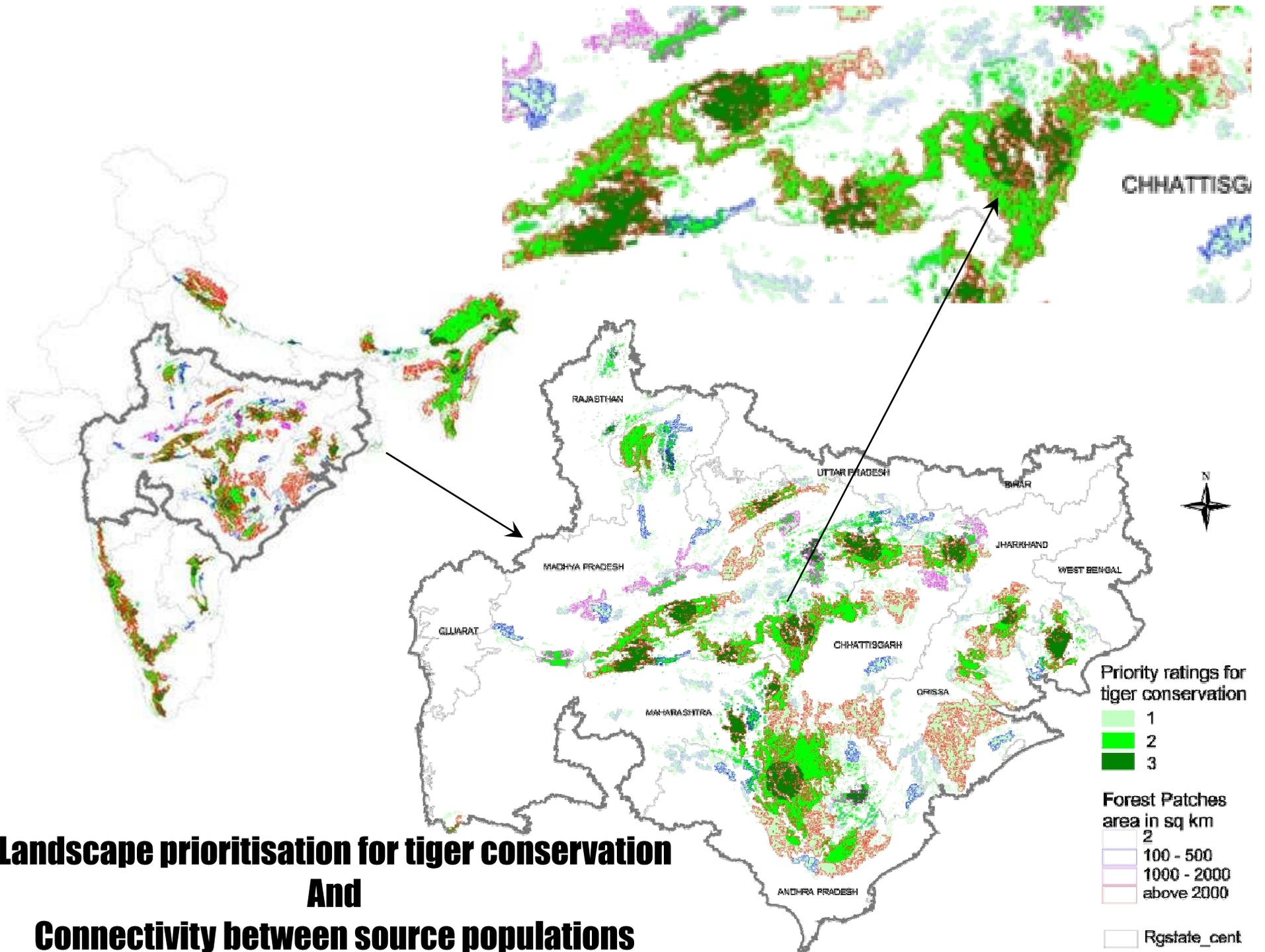


Tiger dynamics

TIGER LAND TENURE DYNAMICS

Minimum Population of tigers in breeding age needed for a viable population of (80-100 tigers) which require an inviolate space of 800-1000 square kilometers





Concerns

- Considerable tiger mortality since November 2008
- Total tiger mortality as reported by States in 2009 : 45 (poaching : 13)
- More deaths due to poaching outside tiger reserves (10)
- Tigers straying in man dominated landscapes (UP, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Karnataka)
- Damage due to left wing extremism (Similipal)
- Lack of buffer, corridor, unregulated tourism in core areas, unregulated tourism infrastructure in the surrounds, ecologically unsustainable land uses



Sondar Maidan

Kanha NP Boundary

Oberoi Hotel Under Construction



Only Forested Corridor to Balaghat Forests from Kanha



Showing 0 places



Corbett Resorts Barriers to Dispersal to Haldwani Division



Desired actions

- Stepping up intelligence networking and effective enforcement
- Promoting specialization to improve field delivery
- Establishing a 24 x 7 control room with the Chief Wildlife Warden for liaising with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
- Operationalising the tripartite MOU at the earliest for availing central assistance
- Ensuring statutory compliance as required by the NTCA (buffer zoning, Steering Committee, tiger conservation plan, foundation)
- Ensuring actions on the recommendations made in the All India tiger estimation report for corridor conservation

Desired actions

- Availing central assistance under the new components
- Scaling up matching grants and support under State plans
- Preparation of management plans / tiger conservation plan within 6 months
- Filling up frontline staff vacancy through a special drive
- Addressing man-wildlife conflict through landscape level, intersectoral planning by mainstreaming wildlife concerns
- Ensuring safeguards and timely compensation for man-wildlife conflicts in human dominated landscapes
- Delineation of critical wildlife habitat

Mitigating man-animal conflicts

- Loss of human life, livestock & damage to agricultural crops & property
- Financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments for mitigating man-animal conflicts.
- State/ UT Governments to –
 - ❖ Develop an action plan for tackling man-animal conflict
 - ❖ Augment mitigatory measures.
- Revision of compensation rates and speedy dispensation essential

A photograph showing three tigers walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The tigers are in the foreground and middle ground, with the third tiger further down the path. The path is surrounded by dense, dry brush and green vegetation. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thank You

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF
MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
NEW DELHI, 18th AUGUST 2009

The National Conference of Ministers of Environment and Forests was held on 18th August, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The aim of the Conference was to enhance cooperation and identify concrete actions in priority areas for protecting the environment and forests. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. It was attended by Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Ministers of Environment and Forests, States/UTs Secretaries of Environment and Forests, Principal Chief Conservators of Forests, Chief Wildlife Wardens, Resident Commissioners, Chairmen and Member Secretaries of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) & State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), senior officers from Central Ministries and States/ UTs, NGOs, officers from various Institutions of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), etc. The Administrator of Chandigarh (Governor) Punjab and Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands also participated in the Conference.

The agenda for the conference is at **Annexure –I** and the programme schedule is at **Annexure –II**.

Inaugural Session

The Minister for Environment and Forests (Shri Jairam Ramesh) gave the Welcome Address and Opening remarks. He highlighted the following issues:

- Environmental Management – Strengthening compliance and monitoring of standards
- Cleaning / conservation of Rivers and lakes
- Accelerating the pace of greening and improving the quality of forest cover
- Modernisation of Forestry administration
- Relationship between the Forest (Conservation) Act and ‘The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
- Wildlife Management, particularly Project Tiger
- The proposed creation of Environment Protection Authority and National Green Tribunal Act
- Increasing the resources for forests conservation and improving the quality of forest
- Release of CAMPA funds to States
- Better funding for environmental activities like Common Effluent Treatment Plants
- Re-imburement of water cess to State Governments

The Prime Minister in his **Inaugural Address** urged the State Governments:

- i. To create State level action plans for climate change consistent with the strategies in the national plans.
- ii. To modernize the existing Forest and Wildlife management system in the country with improved

resources, communication and improved training of personnel.

- iii. To fill positions of front line personnel lying vacant at State level.
- iv. To reverse the degradation of rivers of our country and set up institutional structures for synergizing the river conservation efforts at the national and state levels
- v. To effectively enforce legal provisions through State Pollution Control Boards to curtail the discharge of untreated industrial effluents that account for nearly 25% of the total pollution load in our river systems.
- vi. To involve more stakeholders, particularly youth, to lead the movement for environmental protection and regeneration.
- vii. To use collective knowledge and wisdom and experience to seek new pathways to reverse the environmental degradation and resource depletion.

A copy of the **Inaugural Address** of the Prime Minister is at **Annexure –III**.

Secretary (E&F) proposed a vote of thanks.

Working Session

The MEF recalled the detailed discussions held in the preparatory meeting on 17.08.09. The working session started with agenda-wise presentation and deliberations as per details given below:

Agenda I: Monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry related laws and regulations and the roadmap for institution - building;

A presentation on “Institution Building for Managing our Environment & Forests” was made by Shri Vijai Sharma, Secretary (E&F). The presentation, *inter alia*, highlighted the various dimensions of the environmental challenge and the issues involved in monitoring compliance with environment and forest laws. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure IV**.

Following the presentation, there was an exchange of views with the representatives of the State Governments. The State Governments expressed concern on the rising levels of air and water pollution and the limited capacities of the municipalities in particular for sound environmental management. It was also pointed out that there is a need for speedier establishment of common pollution control facilities, strengthening of the Pollution Control Boards and the creation of a robust regulatory regime including use of pecuniary instruments. The States in general stressed the requirement of better database management, improvement in surveillance and monitoring systems of pollution control and modernization of the infrastructure of the Forest Department.

After detailed deliberations, it was agreed to:-

- i. Establish an empowered Environment Protection Authority, within a year, which would be an autonomous, professional and science-based body, fully authorized to undertake effective implementation of the legislation and rules therein, as well as monitoring compliance with safeguards stipulated as part of environmental clearances and also to transmit to the States within a month a centrally prepared concept note on the proposed Authority;

- ii. Conduct a survey of the 17 categories of highly polluting industries in the current year at the State level to ensure compliance of relevant standards and also to document the clean technologies being adopted;
- iii. Work out a time-bound action programme for handling the industrial clusters having serious environmental pollution levels, to be implemented jointly by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. For this, the Central Government will issue guidelines for identification of critically polluted areas and the monitoring protocol to be enforced. High level monitoring at the State Level of these areas will be undertaken to ensure timely intervention;
- iv. Undertake a comprehensive inventorization of hazardous waste being generated in different States and UTs;
- v. Expedite sanctions due under the Water Cess Act by the Central Government to the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), with action to be taken according to a system to be devised to enable disbursements to the SPCBs without delay and also to provide additional resources to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Water Cess Act;
- vi. Strengthen the SPCBs by allocating greater budgetary resources and sanctioning additional posts wherever needed in terms of technical manpower and infrastructure, as a primary responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government will provide assistance to the weaker State PCBs for this endeavour;
- vii. Augment the technical manpower, infrastructure and financial resources of the CPCB;
- viii. Put in place innovative funding mechanisms, public-private partnerships and special purpose vehicles for setting up common facilities, such as Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) for hazardous wastes, and common facilities for treatment of bio-

medical wastes, keeping in view the need to substantially enhance the assistance by the Central Government;

- ix. Set up and strengthen, in view of the decentralized appraisal procedures, State-level Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities and Coastal Zone Management Authorities, with professional and technical expertise in the environment and forest related fields, supported by technology-enabled monitoring mechanisms for enhancing environmental compliance;
- x. Operationalize the crisis management systems to handle chemical accidents and related emergencies, supported by onsite and offsite emergency plans and systems for transmitting information using the web-based Chemical Accident Information and Reporting System. Preparation of emergency plans for the Maximum Hazard (MAH) units will be expedited.
- xi. Modernize and revitalize forest administration at various levels, particularly at the cutting-edge level of forest guards and rangers, including with regard to new recruitment, improvement of working conditions and better incentives for field-level staff. States will endeavour to bring the Forestry personnel on par with the Police Force in terms of remuneration and service conditions.
- xii. Circulate a copy of the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009, which has been recently introduced in the Parliament, to the States within a week.

Agenda II: Improving our approach to river cleaning using innovative models and enhanced coordination between Centre, State and Local Bodies;

A presentation on 'River Cleaning using Innovative Models' was made by Shri R.H. Khwaja, Additional Secretary. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure V**.

The presentation highlighted the recent initiatives of the Government for giving a fresh impetus to river cleaning and underlined the need for enhanced coordination between Centre, States and Local Bodies. The salient features of the presentation are:

- i. Setting up of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) for conservation of river Ganga by the Central Government with the river basin as the unit of planning and adopting a new institutional mechanism for a holistic river basin approach of river cleaning.
- ii. Increased allocation of Rs.250 crore in the Budget for 2009-10 for Ganga over and above the allocation for National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).
- iii. Proposal for a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the MoEF, State Governments, and the ULBs with a set of prior commitments by all concerned for ensuring proper Operation and Maintenance of physical infrastructure / assets created and to achieve their self sustainability. (A model MoA was circulated among the participants).
- iv. It was suggested that the State Governments may constitute State River Conservation Authorities for ensuring a better coordinated and comprehensive approach to planning and implementation of river conservation programme.
- v. Preparation of a Compendium of technologies for Sewage Treatment Plants through IIT, Kanpur, documenting the various technology options. (Copies of the Compendium were circulated among the participants).
- vi. Though O&M is the responsibility of the State Governments/ULBs, the Ministry has requested the 13th Finance Commission, to provide as a one time measure, Grants to States for meeting the O&M costs of assets created under NRCP for a period of 5 years.
- vii. Conversion of the 70:30 funding pattern in NRCP to 90:10 for North Eastern States.

The States took note of the aforesaid measures. Some of the States mentioned that they have already taken action to constitute State Level River Conservation

Authorities. In the case of inter-state rivers, the need for fully addressing the pollution by the upstream States was emphasized. Several states requested:

- i. Inclusion of their polluted river stretches in the National River Conservation Plan.
- ii. Provision of funding for Operation and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations created under NRCP.
- iii. Central assistance for setting up CETPs / upgradation of existing CETPs to tackle the pollution in rivers due to discharge of industrial effluents.

Responding to the issues raised by the States, MEF observed that:

- i. The focus should be on visible improvement in the water quality of rivers.
- ii. The States may prepare Detailed Project reports for pollution abatement, using the list of polluted stretches of rivers identified by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- iii. States may constitute River Conservation Authorities for river conservation and basin management for the rivers in the States.
- iv. States should mobilise resources for proper O&M of the assets created.

After discussions, the following conclusions were arrived at:

- i. To effectively coordinate the working of the Centre, States and Urban Local Bodies for river and lake cleaning programmes; to significantly enhance the resources allocated for these programmes; and seek bilateral/multilateral assistance for the effort and put in place new

implementation mechanisms, e.g., special purpose vehicles, drawing upon the experience gained over the past two decades;

- ii. To set up empowered structures in the States, headed by the respective Chief Ministers; complemented by tripartite Memorandums of Agreement (MoAs) between the MoEF, the State Governments, and the Urban Local Bodies concerned to effectively plan, coordinate and implement river conservation activities in an integrated manner. States will allocate dedicated funds for meeting Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses and consider measures for mobilization of resources for this purpose by levy of user charges, cess etc.;
- iii. To put in place innovative funding mechanisms, public-private partnerships and special purpose vehicles for setting up common facilities, such as common effluent treatment plants (CETPs).

Agenda III: Strategies for increasing forest cover and enhancing synergies between ‘Green India Mission’, National Afforestation Programme and CAMPA funds;

Shri K.B.Thampi, Inspector General of Forests made a presentation highlighting the present status of the Forest and Tree Cover (FTC) in the country, the strategies for increasing FTC, current initiatives and action points. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure VI**. This was followed by a discussion on the issues flagged and the following points were made by the states:

- i. MEF suggested that the national goal of bringing 33% of land under FTC needs a review. The emphasis should be on rehabilitation of degraded forests and enhancement of its quality, as well as its potential to capture carbon. It was stated that Central government is supporting the states through different channels, which include State CAMPA, National Afforestation Programme

(NAP), Convergence of NAP & National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and JICA Supported Capacity Building Programme. The states should take advantage of these initiatives

- ii. States generally commented that the present availability of budgetary resources for the forestry sector both at the centre and the State level is far too inadequate, given our goal of achieving 33% FTC.
- iii. Some States made a strong plea for compensating the states with forest cover higher than the national average, through devolution of higher financial resources.
- iv. Haryana requested that agro-forestry be promoted and additional budgetary resources be made available for the same. It also presented a case for providing more 'discretionary powers' to the states implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- v. Orissa called for the formulation of a Central Sector Scheme for providing Support Prices and assistance for undertaking value addition and marketing of NTFPs
- vi. Madhya Pradesh stated that about 20,000 crores are required for rehabilitating the 3.7 m Ha barren land in M.P. The state has been exploring innovative financing methods to bridge the resource gap including developing CDM projects. About 15 afforestation based CDM projects are under submission and the MoEF may expeditiously take necessary action on the proposals as soon as they are received in the Ministry.
- vii. A number of States urged the Ministry to allocate more funds under the Additional Central Assistance for Restoration of Degraded forests in view of less allocation for them under the CAMPA.
- viii. Kerala spoke in support of Ecotourism promoted by Government agencies but opposed private investment in forests in the name of ecotourism. The State also mooted the idea of instituting a cadre of National Green Guards with a provision for paying honorarium
- ix. The States generally welcomed the initiatives taken by the Central government in increasing the FTC in the country and in particular the operationalisation of

State CAMPA and the draft guidelines for the state Plan scheme of ACA for restoration and regeneration of forest cover.

The following conclusions were reached:

- i. States would immediately prepare a status paper showing the availability of budgetary resources in the respective states for the Forestry Sector from all sources and send it to the Ministry of Environment of Forests.
- ii. The information required from the states for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of a Rs. 1600 crores project likely to be supported by JICA should be expedited
- iii. States experiencing difficulties in accessing funds for forestry/afforestation projects under the NREGA may emulate the example set by Andhra Pradesh where the process has been considerably streamlined.
- iv. The Ministry would take necessary action expeditiously on the proposals on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that will be forwarded by Madhya Pradesh and other states.

Agenda IV: Strengthening of State Forest Departments by Modernization, Infrastructure development & Capacity building of forest officials.

Shri A.K.Johari, Deputy Inspector General of Forests introduced the agenda through a presentation. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure VII**. The significant points highlighted in the presentation were as under:

- i. As mentioned by the Prime Minister in his inaugural speech, the forestry sector frontline vacancies must have to be filled up on priority by the State/UT Governments.
- ii. There is a likelihood of increased outlays for the remaining financial years of the 11th Five Year Plan under the centrally sponsored scheme 'Intensification of Forest management'. Therefore, the State/UT

Governments may prepare Modernization Plan for their forestry sector and submit APOs accordingly.

- iii. The focus of scheme implementation has to be on modernising the forestry administration of frontline forestry force by way of:
 - Improving infrastructure
 - Enhancing use of technology
 - Building their capacities.
- iv. There is a need to bring the Forestry Force at par with the Police Force in terms of their pay, allowances and promotions.
- v. For induction of new technology at the grass root level, the State Forest Departments may like to designate Programme Coordinators. A national level workshop of these programme coordinators can be held at Bhopal sometime in September/October 2009.
- vi. For the areas affected by the Naxalism, efforts should be made by the State/UT Governments to apportion funds from the Central assistance received by them for implementation of Divisional Plans prepared for strengthening forestry administration.

The following Action Points were agreed upon:

- i. The State/UT Governments would prepare plans for modernising their forestry administration by 20.12.2009 and submit the APOs to the Ministry at the earliest. In this modernisation plan, the focus would be on the frontline forestry forces.
- ii. The State/UT Governments would submit information as per the Proforma enclosed with the agenda note of the Agenda Item No. 4.
- iii. Programme Coordinators for Intensification of Forest Management Scheme would be designated by the State/UT Governments.
- iv. For the areas affected by Naxalism, Divisional Plans would be submitted by the concerned State/UTs at the earliest.

The following conclusions were reached:

- i. States would undertake modernisation of Forestry Administration on a Mission Mode. Focus of Scheme would be on Frontline Forestry Force. Attempts would be made by the States to bring the Forestry Force on par with the Police Force in terms of their pay, allowances, promotions, etc.
- ii. For areas affected by left wing extremism, the State Governments would apportion funds from the Central Assistance for implementation of Divisional Plans under Strengthening of Forestry Administration.

Agenda V: Protection of Forests in the context of the implementation of “The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

MEF observed that 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006' needs to be implemented speedily and that it is the responsibility of all concerned to work in this direction. At the same time, it is also necessary to take necessary steps towards conservation.

Dr. P.B.Gangopadhyay, Addl. Director General of Forests made a brief presentation on the subject. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure VIII**. It was said that while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the implementation of the Act, the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the State Forests Departments have a facilitating Role.

Madhya Pradesh requested for wider consultations on the issue. In this regard, MEF observed that such a consultation should focus on developing strategies for the speedy implementation of the Tribal Act while minimizing its potentially deleterious impacts on forests. Kerala expressed concern over probable alienation of land being given to tribals by vested interest groups through illegal means. Gujarat requested for simplification of guidelines for declaring the Critical Wildlife Habitats.

In the ensuing discussions, the following action points were agreed upon:

- i. Forest Departments will facilitate the speedy implementation of the Act by providing maps, documents & evidences and by proactively participating in the Sub-division level & District level Committees.
- ii. States will expedite the identification of Critical Wildlife Habitats.
- iii. Forest Departments will prepare Scheme for permanent demarcation of the Right holders' land and request for funding by the Tribal Welfare Departments.
- iv. Forest Departments will prepare proposal for capacity building of forest dwellers so that they can conserve, regenerate, protect and sustainably manage the forests and can live in harmony with their environment. Such programme should be posed for funding by the Tribal Welfare Departments.

Agenda VI: Wildlife management including tiger conservation and issues related to man-animal conflict.

At the outset, the MEF remarked that wildlife conservation in the country faces several challenges. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority made a presentation highlighting the various issues pertaining to wildlife sector. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure IX**. It was informed that Central Government has widened the scope and mandate of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger'. It was also observed that many Protected Areas, either do not have Management Plans or have Plans already expired and it is imperative to prepare and operationalize Management Plans on a priority basis.

It was also mentioned that so far only five States have signed the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening the tiger conservation. MEF stressed on the need of Tiger Range States signing the MoU and requested the remaining Tiger Range States for expediting the same. He also directed

the MS (NTCA) to discuss this issue separately with the States who have expressed concerns and dispel their apprehensions.

Several States raised serious concern regarding the increasing incidences of man-animal conflicts in the country. States like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh pointed out the crop damage caused by Nilgai, whereas Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam etc drew attention to the loss of life and damage to property by wild elephants. It was also pointed out that the present allocation for addressing man-animal conflict is too small that needs to be increased substantially. There was an overwhelming opinion that being a sensitive matter, appropriate mitigatory measures need to be put in place for addressing man -animals conflict.

Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau briefed the gathering on the activities of Bureau. It was informed that Bureau is a nascent institution that needs to be strengthened. She further solicited the support of all for fulfilling the main objectives of the Bureau such as collecting and collating intelligence related to organized wildlife crime and to disseminate the same to State/UT Governments and other enforcement agencies, co-ordination among various enforcement agencies, etc.

In the ensuing discussion, the following action points were agreed upon:

- i. State/ UT Governments to make use of the provisions of the modified Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Wildlife sector and also to scale up financial allocation for wildlife conservation in State Plans.
- ii. Step up intelligence networking and effective enforcement in Protected Areas.
- iii. Promote specialization within Forest Department to improve field delivery.
- iv. Establish a 24 x 7 control room with the Chief Wildlife Warden for interlinking with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and field formations. Further, they shall inform the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau on the occurrence of major crimes in a format already circulated and also to give details of wildlife crimes during the last 10 years to facilitate the establishment of wildlife crime data base.

- v. Operationalise the tripartite MOU at the earliest for availing central assistance under Project Tiger.
- vi. Ensure statutory compliance as required by the NTCA (buffer zoning, Steering Committee, tiger conservation plan, foundation).
- vii. Ensure actions on the recommendations made in the All India tiger estimation report for corridor conservation.
- viii. Prepare and operationalize Management Plans / Tiger Conservation Plans within 6 months, wherever these are nonexistent.
- ix. Fill up frontline staff vacancy through a special drive.
- x. Ensure safeguards and timely compensation for man-wildlife conflicts in human dominated landscapes for enlisting cooperation of local inhabitants.
- xi. Appoint independent Field Coordinators for each Elephant Reserve in Elephant Range States.
- xii. Wildlife Institute of India to constitute a special team to study the man-animal conflict issues involving Nilgai. The team shall visit the badly affected States submit a report for addressing this issue within 2 months.
- xiii. MoEF to convene a separate meeting on issues related to elephant-man conflicts involving Elephant Range States.
- xiv. Mobilize local community participation as the primary instrument for protecting wildlife and for promoting conservation and sustainable management of forests;
- xv. Act effectively against poachers and, simultaneously, amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as necessary, to enhance its effectiveness.
- xvi. Take concrete steps, with the Centre and States working together, for addressing the special needs of communities living in and around the wildlife habitats, supported by Management Plans for the Protected Areas, which recognize the local communities as stakeholders.

Annexure-I

AGENDA FOR MEETING ON 18TH AUGUST, 2009

- (i) Monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry related laws and regulations and the roadmap for institution - building;
- (ii) Improving our approach to river cleaning using innovative models and enhanced coordination between Centre, State and Local Bodies;
- (iii) Strategies for increasing forest cover and enhancing synergies between 'Green India Mission', National Afforestation Programme and CAMPA funds;
- (iv) Strengthening of State forest departments by modernisation/ infrastructure development and capacity building of forest officials;
- (v) Protection of forests in the context of the implementation of 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;
- (vi) Wildlife management including tiger conservation and issues related to man-animal conflict;
- (vii) Any other important issues that the State Governments may want to raise.

Revised Programme schedule

**National Conference of Environment & Forests Ministers of States/ UTs
on 18th August, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**

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| 1. | 0800 - 0930 Hrs. | Security check and seating |
| 2. | 1000 Hrs. | Prime Minister arrives |
| 3. | 1002 Hrs. | Welcome and Opening remarks by Minister of Environment & Forests |
| 4. | 1010 Hrs. | Inaugural Address by Prime Minister |
| 5. | 1025 Hrs. | Vote of Thanks by Secretary, Environment & Forests |
| 6. | 1027 Hrs. | Prime Minister departs |
| 7. | 1030 -1100 Hrs. | Tea |
| 8. | 1100-1150 Hrs. | Monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry related laws and regulations and the roadmap for institution – building. A short Presentation * by Shri Vijai Sharma, Secretary (E&F) followed by discussions. |
| 9. | 1150-1240 Hrs. | Improving our approach to river cleaning using innovative models and enhanced coordination between Centre, State and Local Bodies. A short Presentation* by Shri R.H.Khwaja, Addl. Secretary followed by discussions. |
| 10. | 1240 -1330 Hrs. | Strategies for increasing forest cover and enhancing synergies between ‘Green India Mission’, National Afforestation Programme and CAMPA funds. A short Presentation* by Shri K.B. Thampi, IGF (NAEB) followed by discussions. |
| 11. | 1330 -1415 Hrs. | Lunch |
| 12. | 1415-1500 Hrs. | Strengthening of State forest departments by modernisation/ infrastructure development and capacity building of forest officials. A short Presentation* by Shri A.K.Johari, DIG (FPD) followed by discussions. |
| 13. | 1500-1545 Hrs. | Protection of forests in the context of the implementation of ‘The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. A short Presentation* by Dr. P.B.Gangopadhyay, Addl.DGF(FC) followed by discussions. |
| 14. | 1545-1630 Hrs. | Wildlife management including tiger conservation and issues related to man-animal conflict. A short Presentation* by Dr. Rajesh Gopal, MS (NTCA) followed by discussions. |
| 15. | 1630 -1700 Hrs. | Tea |
| 16. | 1700 -1730 Hrs. | Wrap up/ Closing |

**Presentation to be kept short to allow time for discussions.*

PM's address at the National Conference of Ministers of Environment & Forests

**August 18, 2009
New Delhi**

“I am happy to have this opportunity to address this very important National Conference of State Ministers of Environment and Forests. This is an area which is of great national importance and I am very happy that I have this opportunity to meet such distinguished group of representatives of our people debating an issue of critical importance to the future of our country.

The multiple environmental crises that confront our country have created in many ways an alarming situation. Climate change is threatening our fragile ecosystems. We are staring at the prospect of an impending drought. Water scarcity is becoming a way of life. Pollution is a growing threat to our health and to our habitats.

The agenda before you is, therefore, wide ranging and of great critical importance. I think the first task is to educate people not just on the impact of the crisis we face but also to encourage deeper reflection on what this obliges all of us to do. There are fundamental choices that we have to make about our lifestyles; about how we wish to produce and consume, the things we ought to do and the things we ought not to do. I sincerely believe that the greatest challenge facing humankind today is the challenge of arriving at a new equilibrium between man and nature.

The challenges we face are not insurmountable. We are blessed with nature's bounty but as a people, we also have a deep cultural sensitivity to our environment. In fact, it was Smt. Indira Gandhi's vision and love of nature that led to the setting up of a Ministry of Environment in the Government of India. She initiated Project Tiger in 1972 and was instrumental in the enactment of legislations such as the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Conservation Act. These monumental measures were ahead of their times. It is this far-sightedness, commitment and concern for our natural heritage that we need to invoke as we deal with the challenges that confront us now.

Climate change is today a major global challenge. The world is seriously concerned about it. So are we. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind that we fully recognize not just how important this issue is to our country's future but also our own obligation to address it. We are conscious of our responsibilities to both the present and the

future generations and we seek to enhance the ecological sustainability of our development path.

I seek your cooperation in making a success of the eight National Missions and other initiatives that are the key components of our National Action Plan on climate change. I would urge each State Government to create their own State level action plans consistent with the strategies in the national plans. We need much broader consultation with the States on this issue and I sincerely hope that this would be an important theme of this Conference.

There is a pressing need to modernize the existing Forest and Wildlife management system in our country. It is apparent that we have to modernize our forest departments with improved resources, communication and improved training of our personnel. I am concerned that there are a large number of positions of front line personnel lying vacant in many states in the Forests and Wildlife sector. I urge the Hon'ble Ministers of the concerned States to redress this situation on a priority basis.

Another critical issue is the need to ensure that local communities benefit from conservation so that they can be increasingly involved in the efforts of conservation. Our tribals are our environmental foot soldiers. They have guarded our forests and evolved a sophisticated way of living in harmony with nature over the centuries. Their wisdom and their experience should be utilised to preserve our forests, to nurse them rather than making them orphans of the environment. The tribal rights act is an opportunity to guarantee the legitimate rights of forest dwellers and to bring them in the frontline of the environment movement for regeneration.

The Green India campaign is a major initiative that will have many spin-off benefits. We need to quickly operationalise the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) by constituting State level authorities. I am very happy that Jairam has brought a new sense of purpose and earnestness to this department and what he has told us about the transfer of funds from the CAMPA account to the States is the forerunner of things to come of greater collaboration, cooperation between the Centre and the States. So, I congratulate Jairam for this initiative.

Our country is blessed with mighty rivers that are inextricably linked with our history, our religious beliefs, our culture and our customs of our people. It is a matter of great concern therefore that we have not been able to reverse the degradation of this very important natural inheritance.

We have decided to adopt a different and more holistic approach

taking the river and not the city as the unit of planning as we have done until now. The essence of this approach is not just to focus on river pollution but more comprehensively on catchment area treatment, protection of flood plains, ensuring ecological flows and restoration of the river ecosystem.

We have established the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) as an empowered body under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. We hope that this model will be adopted for other major rivers in our country based on the experience we gain in its implementation. We have substantially increased the allocation for river conservation programme in this year's budget, including a special provision of Rs.250 crores for the river Ganga.

It is vital that institutional structures are set up by all States for synergizing the river conservation efforts at the national and state levels. States should explore mobilizing additional resources for river cleaning through innovative models like Special Purpose Vehicles. I would also request State Governments to effectively enforce legal provisions through State Pollution Control Boards to curtail the discharge of untreated industrial effluents that account for nearly 25% of the total pollution load in our river systems.

We are all aware of the adverse impact climate change would have on our coastal areas. The Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification issued in the year 2008 has been thoroughly reviewed by a committee headed by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. I understand that this report has suggested an integrated approach in coastal area management for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and also for Lakshadweep Islands. I suggest that the Island authorities work in close coordination with the Centre to evolve an integrated approach.

I wish to draw your attention to the view that environmental clearances have become a new form of Licence Raj and a source of corruption. This is a matter that needs to be addressed head-on. There are trade-offs that have to be made while balancing developmental and environmental concerns. But the procedures must be fair, transparent and hassle free. Decisions must be taken within a specified time.

I am told that some times there are discrepancies in the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. The September, 2006 Notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is a major attempt to rationalize the system of giving mandatory environmental clearance. I hope that we can improve the system further in the light of the experience gained. I would urge all the States who have not yet established State EIA Authorities to do so at the very earliest. Effective coordination between the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State Ministry is vital if we are to build a credible and efficient system of

assessment and clearance.

The recent introduction of the National Green Tribunal Bill in Parliament is a positive step forward. This will strengthen environmental adjudication and settlement of disputes. We should consider setting up a National Environment Protection Authority supported by regional Environment Protection Authorities.

In dealing with the challenge of climate change and environmental degradation we face the unfair burden of past mistakes not of our making. But, as we go forward in the march of development we have the opportunity not to repeat those past mistakes. Our growth strategy can be and should be innovative and different. It must be different. We are still at early stages of industrialization and urbanization. Our energy needs will increase sharply in the decades to come. We can and we must walk a different road, an environment friendly road.

For this we need access to new technologies that are already available with the developed countries. We must also make our own investments in new environment-friendly technologies. We need to strengthen the scientific foundations of our environment policies and strengthen our capacity to deal with the challenges that lie ahead. We must involve more stakeholders particularly our youth to lead the movement for environmental protection and regeneration.

I urge all of you to use your collective knowledge and wisdom and experience to seek new pathways to reverse the environmental degradation and resource depletion that threatens our economic security and well being. With these words, I wish your Conference all success. I thank you.”
