



# International Big Cat Alliance

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## Why in News?

The [International Big Cat Alliance \(IBCA\)](#) officially became a **treaty-based intergovernmental organization and international legal entity** on 23rd January 2025 with **headquarters in India**.

## What is the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?

- **Origins:** IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of [Project Tiger](#), and was formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.
- **Implementation:** IBCA established through the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
  - It functions as a global platform to **share conservation expertise, fund conservation initiatives, and create a repository of technical knowledge**.
- **Objective:** The initiative's main objective is the **conservation of seven major big cat species: the [Tiger](#), [Lion](#), [Leopard](#), [Snow Leopard](#), [Cheetah](#), [Jaguar](#), and Puma**.
- **Membership:** The Republic of Nicaragua, Kingdom of Eswatini, Republic of India, Federal Republic of Somalia, and Republic of Liberia have **ratified the IBCA framework agreement**.
  - **Membership is open to all [United Nations](#) member states**, including range countries where these species naturally occur and non-range countries interested in supporting big cat conservation.
- **Need for IBCA: Big Cats are under threat** due to **habitat loss, [poaching](#), [climate change](#), and [human-wildlife conflicts](#)**.
  - Conservation at a **global scale** is required to **halt population decline and reverse negative trends**.
- **Funding:** India has committed Rs. 150 crore (2023-2028) in support to the IBCA and is exploring additional funding through bilateral, multilateral, and donor organizations.
- **Role in Conservation Efforts:**
  - **Collaborative Conservation Platform:** IBCA creates a global network of conservationists, policymakers, researchers, and governments.
    - Facilitates sharing of best practices in habitat management, anti-poaching strategies, and ecological restoration.
  - **Financial and Technical Assistance:** Acts as a **common funding pool** for conservation projects worldwide.
    - Provides **technical know-how and scientific research** to under-resourced nations.
  - **Strengthening Existing Agreements & Initiatives:** Works alongside [CITES \(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species\)](#), [CMS \(Convention on Migratory Species\)](#), and other wildlife protection treaties.
    - Aims to **support national and regional big cat conservation programs**.
  - **Climate Change Mitigation & Ecological Security:** Conservation of apex predators like big cats ensures **healthy ecosystems, biodiversity preservation, and climate resilience**.
    - Restoration of forests and grasslands through IBCA initiatives will aid in **carbon sequestration and climate adaptation**.

## National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- The NTCA, a **statutory body** under the MoEFCC, was established in 2005 following the **Tiger Task Force's recommendations** and gained **legal status under Section 38L of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006**.
- **Objectives:** Grants statutory authority to Project Tiger, ensures federal accountability in tiger reserve management and addresses local livelihood concerns around tiger reserves.

## Conservation Efforts for Big Cats in India

- [Asiatic Lion Conservation Project](#)
- [Project Snow Leopard](#)
- [Project Cheetah](#)
- [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)
- [National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#)
- [Project Tiger](#)

### Habitat and Gestation Period of Big Cats

Big Cats	Habitat	Gestation Period (Days)
Tiger	Temperate, tropical and evergreen forests, mangrove and grasslands	95-110
Cheetah	Shrublands, grasslands, savannas and temperate to hot deserts	90-95
Leopard	Forests, subtropical and tropical regions, Savannas, deserts and rocky and mountainous regions	90-105
Lion	Open plains, dry thorn forests and grasslands	100-110
Snow Leopard	Northern and central Asia mountains.	90-105

# INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

The International Big Cat Alliance is a multi-country, multi-agency coalition aimed at conserving big cat species and their habitats.

**Launched by**  
India (2023)

**Headquarters**  
India

**Member states**  
**96** countries

**Structure**  
Consists of Assembly of Members  
Standing Committee & Secretariat



## FUNCTIONS

- Secure the future of big cats (Tigers, Lions, Leopards, Snow Leopards, Pumas, Jaguars, and Cheetahs)
- Mitigate the adverse effects of climate change
- Advocate for policy initiatives
- Attain the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals

## THREATS TO BIG CATS

- Poaching
- Habitat loss & fragmentation
- Human-Leopard conflict
- Climate change & Deforestation

## Conservation Status of Big Cats

Species	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List	CITES	Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
<b>Tigers</b>	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Endangered	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
<b>Lions</b>	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
<b>Leopards</b>	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
<b>Snow Leopards</b>	<i>Panthera uncia</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I
<b>Pumas</b>	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Least Concerned	Appendix II (P. c. Costaricensis and cougar: Appendix-I)	NA
<b>Jaguars</b>	<i>Panthera onca</i>	Near Threatened	Appendix-I	NA
<b>Cheetahs</b>	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Vulnerable	Appendix-I	Schedule-I

## Other Conservation Efforts in India

- Project Tiger (1973)
- Project Snow Leopard (2009)
- Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project (2004)
- Project Cheetah (2022)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)**

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2024)**

1. Lions do not have a particular breeding season.
2. Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
3. Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.

**Which of the statements given above are correct 2**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 2

**Ans: (a)**

**Q. Consider the following: (2012)**

1. Black-necked crane
2. Cheetah
3. Flying squirrel
4. Snow leopard

**Which of the above are naturally found in India?**

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (b)**

