



# Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference

[Source: DTE](#)

## Why in News?

The Bhutanese government hosted the **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference** on [Earth Day 2024](#) to mobilise **USD 1 billion** over the next decade for conserving tigers and their habitats across Asia.

## What is the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference?

### ▪ About:

- The two-day conference will be hosted by Bhutan under the patronage of the country's queen, Jetsun Pema Wangchuck.
- It seeks to **mobilise the amount of USD 1 billion** over 10 years for the **preservation of tiger landscapes**.
  - The conservation of tiger landscapes is vital to **maintaining biodiversity**, sequestering carbon, supplying resources to over 100 million people, and ensuring the overall health of the planet.
- The conference convened [tiger range countries](#), visionary private and public sector donors, international development agencies, the [Tiger Conservation Coalition](#), and other conservation organisations.

### ▪ Key Highlights from the Conference:

- High-level representatives from **ten tiger range countries** delivered statements on the progress and ambitions for conserving their tiger landscapes.
- The conference culminated with the **Paro Statement** by the Royal Government of Bhutan reiterating its objective.

### ▪ Other Sources of Funding:

- Since 2010, the [Global Environment Facility](#) has provided more than USD 197 million in financing and mobilized another USD 880 million, in co-finance, for tiger conservation.

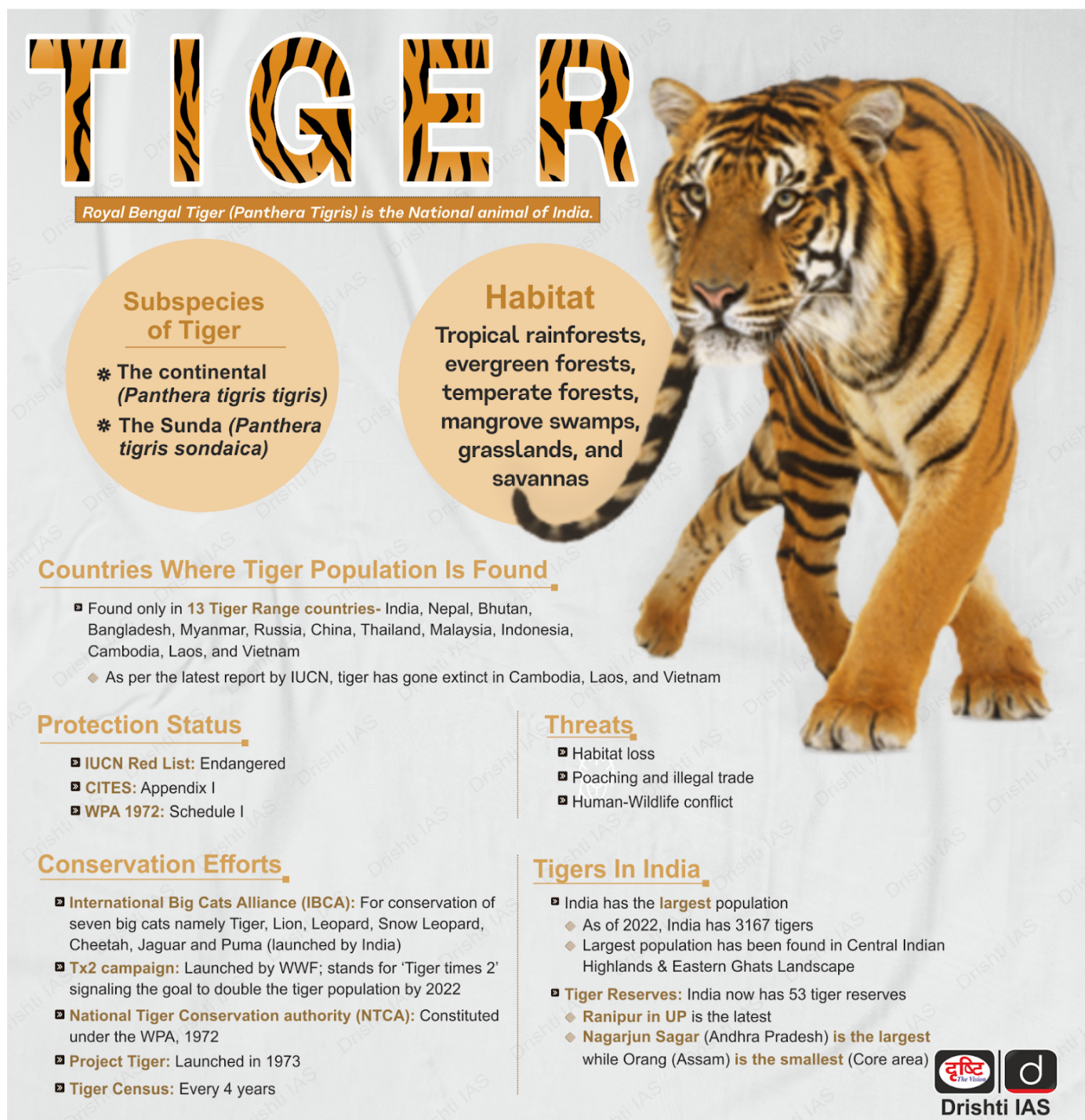
## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

### ▪ About:

- India has proposed to launch a **mega global alliance** under its leadership to protect **big cats** and assured support **over five years** with guaranteed funding of USD 100 million.
- The proposed [International Big Cat Alliance \(IBCA\)](#) will work towards the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats — **tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah**.
- Membership to the alliance **will be open to 97 “range” countries**, which contain the **natural habitat of these big cats**, as well as other interested nations, international organisations, etc.
  - The alliance was inspired by the [arrival of cheetahs in 2022 from Namibia](#).
- **India** is the **only country** in the world **to have tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards and cheetahs** in the wild **except for the pumas and jaguars**.
  - So, it is only befitting that India takes the lead to bring together all big cat range countries under an [United Nations\(UN\)](#)-like organisation.

## ▪ Structure of IBCA:

- A General Assembly consisting of all member countries.
- A council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.
- General Assembly will appoint the **IBCA Secretary General for a specific term.**



The infographic features a large tiger illustration on the right side. The word 'TIGER' is written in large, stylized letters with a tiger stripe pattern. Below it, a text box states: 'Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera Tigris) is the National animal of India.' The infographic is divided into several sections: 'Subspecies of Tiger' (listing continental and Sunda tigers), 'Habitat' (listing various forest and savanna types), 'Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found' (listing 13 range countries and noting extinction in some), 'Protection Status' (listing IUCN Red List, CITES, and WPA status), 'Threats' (listing habitat loss, poaching, and conflict), 'Conservation Efforts' (listing IBCA, Tx2 campaign, NTCA, Project Tiger, and Tiger Census), and 'Tigers In India' (listing population statistics and reserves).

# TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

### Subspecies of Tiger

- \* The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- \* The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

### Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

### Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- Found only in **13 Tiger Range countries**- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

### Protection Status

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

### Threats


- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

### Conservation Efforts

- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA):** Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973
- Tiger Census:** Every 4 years

### Tigers In India

- India has the **largest** population
  - As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
  - Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- Tiger Reserves:** India now has 53 tiger reserves
  - Ranipur in UP** is the latest
  - Nagarjun Sagar** (Andhra Pradesh) is the **largest** while Orang (Assam) is the **smallest** (Core area)



## What are Global Initiatives for Tiger Conservation?

- [Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme \(ITHCP\)](#)
- [St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation](#)
- [Global Tiger Forum](#)
- [Global Tiger Initiative \(GTI\)](#)

▪ **Tiger Conservation Coalition:**

- It is an independent group of organizations that have worked extensively together on major tiger assessments.
- Its member organizations include the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#), [Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce \(TRAFFIC\)](#), the [United Nations Development Programme](#) and the [World Wildlife Fund](#).

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Prelims:**

**Q. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC): (2017)**

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans:(b)**

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

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sunderbans

**Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?**

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

**Ans: (b)**