



Tigers in High Altitudes

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The **Global Tiger Forum (GTF)**, in partnership with the Governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal, and along with the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, is undertaking a situation analysis study for **assessing tiger habitat status in high altitude ecosystems**.

- The study has been supported by the **Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP)** of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and KfW (German Development Bank).
- **Need:** Most of the high-altitude habitats, within the range, have not been surveyed for an appraisal of tiger presence, prey and habitat status.
- **Findings:**
 - In its latest report, the study **identified possible viable habitats**, corridor linkages, anthropogenic pressures, and induced landscape-level changes for evolving an in-situ conservation roadmap.
 - It also provided the action strategy for a high altitude tiger master plan, with gainful portfolio for local communities and ensuring the centrality of tiger conservation in development.
- **Indian Government** will take inputs from the study to develop a **high altitude tiger master plan**.
 - Tiger habitats in high altitude will require protection through sustainable land use, as they are a high-value ecosystem with several hydrological and ecological processes providing **ecosystem services**.
 - Also, they will require **adaptation strategies** to mitigate the ill effects of climate change.

Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program

- Launched in **2014**, the ITHCP is a **strategic funding mechanism** that aims to save tigers in the wild, their habitats and to support human populations in key locations throughout Asia.

- It has already facilitated 12 projects in six countries (**Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Myanmar**) to better manage Tiger Conservation Landscapes.
- It is contributing to the **Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP)**, a global effort to **double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022**.

Global Tiger Forum

- The GTF is the **only intergovernmental international body** established with members from willing countries to embark on a **global campaign to protect the Tiger**.
- It was formed in **1993** on recommendations from an international symposium on Tiger Conservation at New Delhi, India.
- It is located in **New Delhi, India**.

Source: PIB