

We have been holding off sending out issue 8 of the CA|TS Update until the launch of the first CA|TS Partnership report ... more on this below and on the launch of the CA|TS Business Plan. Read on for information on these publications and lots of exciting news from the tiger range countries (TRCs) implementing CA|TS.

More information on CA|TS sites and related publications can be found at: www.conservationassured.org/resources and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/conservationassured/

Quick CA|TS overview

- ✓ Seven National Committees in Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Russia and Malaysia
- ✓ 50 sites Registered
- ✓ Three sites CA|TS Approved
- ✓ 18 CA|TS Dossiers pending final Approval: 6 prepared, 12 under preparation [6 in India, 1 Malaysia, 4 Nepal, 1 Russia]



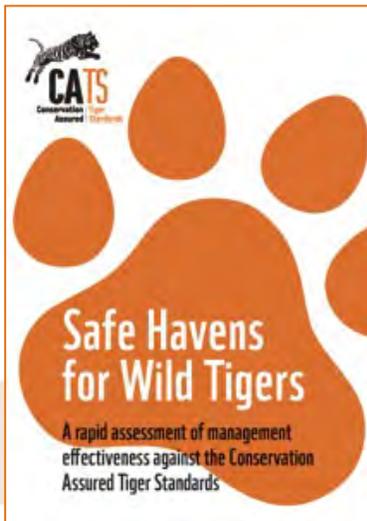
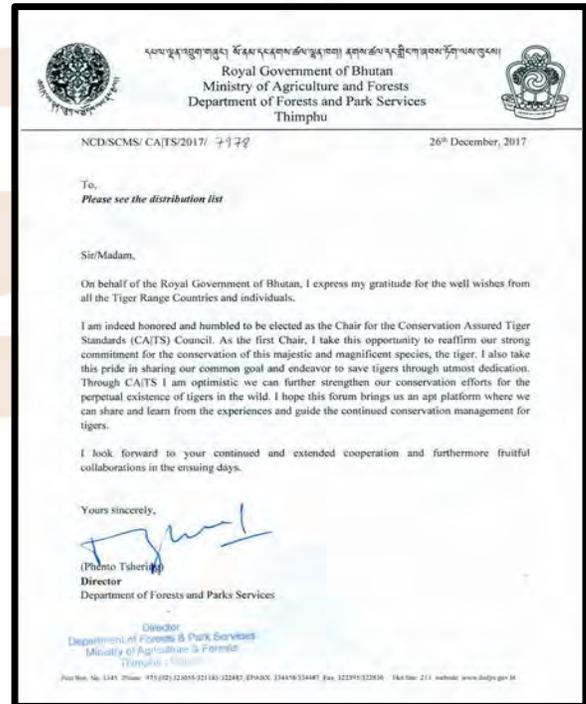
CA|TS Council

The final piece in the CA|TS governance structure has been formally established. The CA|TS Council is made up of the chairs (or their appointed representatives) of the CA|TS National Committees.

The CA|TS Council is an advisory body for CA|TS; its primary purpose is to provide a formal process for liaison, coordination and discussion between the CA|TS National Committees and the CA|TS International Executive Committee; on which the chair of the Council sits. The Council will also provide a forum through which formal meetings and informal discussion to review national wild tiger conservation and CA|TS implementation can occur. The aim is to ensure good coordination, sharing of experiences, inputs and updates to the CA|TS manual across the tiger range.

The Chair of the Council is appointed for two years on a rotational basis and selection is made in alphabetical order by country. As Bangladesh does not currently have a CA|TS National Committee, Mr Phento Tshering, Director of Wildlife and Park Services in Bhutan, was chosen as the first Chair of the CA|TS Council (see letter inserted).

The CA|TS Council has now taken a lead on consolidating the CA|TS implementation country plans. Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Russia have already submitted their plans. Engagement with other countries (Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar) is ongoing.



NEW REPORT: *Safe Havens for Wild Tigers: A rapid assessment of management effectiveness against the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards*

For over a year the Global Tiger Forum (GTF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IUCN/KfW Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation and WWF have been working with the whole CA|TS Partnership to undertake a rapid self-assessment of tiger conservation areas status against a summary of the CA|TS Criteria. On 28th February we published a summary of the finding of this survey; the first and largest rapid assessment of site-based tiger conservation across Asia.

Information was gathered from 112 tiger conservation areas where an estimated 70% of the world's wild tigers live. In terms of the goal of effective management the results were mixed. At least one-third of these areas have such a lack of management processes and capacity in place they are severely at risk of losing their tigers. Alarming, most

of these are in Southeast Asia, where tigers have suffered the most dramatic decline in the past decade. Two-thirds of the areas surveyed however reported fair to strong management; with about 13% of areas assessed likely to have reached or being close to reaching the CA|TS standards. In terms of issues which need most attention enforcement against poaching, engaging local communities and managing conflict between people and wildlife, remain the weakest issues across all the areas surveyed.

Released ahead of World Wildlife Day on 3rd March, which this year calls for the protection of big cats, the report acts as a timely reminder of the need to secure the homes of wild tigers and engage local communities, in order to ensure their protection and recovery. Data from the survey will form a baseline for the future implementation of CA|TS. *"The results in this report provides a way for countries to make informed decisions in driving tiger conservation forward, helping to lead a sustainable path for parks, people and tigers to all thrive together,"* said **Sugoto Roy, Coordinator of the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme, IUCN.**

Addressing the lack of investment remains one of the most urgent tasks needed to ensure the future of the species and the far-reaching benefits that thriving tiger populations bring to people and nature. *"The tiger's survival is a critical indicator for sustainable development in tiger range countries – it is intrinsically linked to the integrity of nature and the services it provides, upon which all development rests,"* commented **Midori Paxton, Head of Ecosystems and Biodiversity at the UNDP.**

For more details visit: www.conservationassured.org and www.facebook.com/conservationassured/

The report has been well received. Khalid Pasha, the CA|TS manager, was interviewed on the BBC News Channel and the report was presented as a poster at the *Symposium on Safeguarding Space for Nature and Securing our Future: Developing a Post-2020 Strategy* at the Zoological Society of London. Below is a snapshot of the media coverage globally and across TRCs the report received. Many CA|TS Partners also shared the news through their social media channels - Twitter and Facebook.

CA|TS PARTNERS - SOCIAL MEDIA

1. **Panthera:** twitter.com/PantheraCats/status/970017232267997189
2. **Freeland:**
www.facebook.com/freelandfoundation/photos/a.274646395640.302622.268258690640/10160025790875641/?type=3
3. **IUCN-WCPA:** www.facebook.com/groups/619295954876670/permalink/1045940195545575/
4. **IUCN Protected Areas:** twitter.com/WWF_tigers/status/969056868436815873
5. **WWF:** twitter.com/WWF/status/969574331750772736

NON-TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES

UK

6. **Daily Mail UK:** Tigers could vanish from a third of protected areas, experts warn
www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-5442987/Tigers-vanish-protected-areas-experts-warn.html
7. **Express, UK:** Tiger WARNING: Big cats under threat in their last sanctuaries, warns report
www.express.co.uk/news/nature/925296/tigers-warning-big-cats-threat-endangered-species-sanctuaries
8. Several other papers noted the report

Sweden

9. **SEVENSKA DAGBLADET:** Många tigerreservat är inte värda namnet
www.svd.se/leif-gws-kritik-fick-nye-sapochefen-att-ryta-ifran
10. 20 other leading Newspapers covered the report

Australia

11. **The Guardian, Australia:** Tigers 'could vanish' from protected areas
www.theguardian.com.au/story/5255796/tigers-could-vanish-from-protected-areas/?cs=5
12. **Daily Telegraph, Australia:** Tigers 'could vanish' from protected areas
www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/breaking-news/tigers-could-vanish-from-protected-areas/news-story/07bea8812746d5649ed75bfb2828910d

TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES

Bhutan

13. **WWF Bhutan:** www.wwfbhutan.org.bt/?uNewsID=323852
14. **Ministry of Agriculture and Forests:** www.moaf.gov.bt/cats-partnership-report-online/

India

15. **The Indian Express:** Only 13% of over hundred tiger conservation areas meet global standards
indianexpress.com/article/explained/whats-hobbling-the-global-effort-to-save-the-tiger-5083328/
16. **Down To Earth, India:** New study shows over a third of protected areas in Asia surveyed are severely at risk of losing tigers
www.downtoearth.org.in/news/new-study-shows-over-a-third-of-protected-areas-in-asia-are-severely-at-risk-of-losing-tigers-59806
17. **Live Mint, India:** Over a third of protected areas surveyed are at risk of losing tigers: Study
www.livemint.com/Politics/yTxetwY5x1He7AFnd7Ecfl/Over-a-third-of-protected-areas-surveyed-are-at-risk-of-losi.html
18. **The Pioneer, India:** ONLY 4K WILD BIG CATS LEFT IN WORLD
www.dailypioneer.com/nation/only-4k-wild-big-cats-left-in-world-wwf.html

Nepal

19. **The Himalayan Times, Kathmandu:** thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/one-third-conservation-areas-risk-losing-tigers-shows-study/
20. **Financial Express, Nepal:** 'Only 13 pc of Asia's tiger protected areas meet global norms': Survey
www.financialexpress.com/world-news/only-13-pc-of-asias-tiger-protected-areas-meet-global-norms-survey/1083937/

Thailand

21. **The Nation, Thailand:** Tigers at risk in SE Asian reserves, says survey
www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/asean-plus/30339877

Lao PDR

22. Lao News Agency: Over A Third of Protected Areas Surveyed are Severely at Risk of Losing Tigers, Study Shows
kpl.gov.la/En/Detail.aspx?id=32141

OTHER COVERAGE

23. **SPACE FOR NATURE SYMPOSIUM:** Safeguarding space for nature and securing our future – *Developing a post-2020 Strategy: Safe Havens For Wild Tigers | A Rapid Assessment Of Management Effectiveness Against The Conservation Assured Tiger Standards*
 Poster Presentation by: Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley, Equilibrium Research (on behalf of CA|TS Partnership) <https://www.zsl.org/sites/default/files/media/2018-02/Full%20Programme%20with%20talk%20abstracts%20-%20Space%20for%20Nature%20Symposium.pdf>

CA|TS Business Plan 2018-2022

The CA|TS Business Plan has been developed to outline the actions required for the successful implementation of the CA|TS from 2018-2022. Over a year in development the plan addresses the actions needed to build on the achievement of CA|Ts to date to create:

- a strong, credible and lean governance framework with the participation of all those involved in CA|TS (the CA|TS Partnership) and
- an effective and efficient CA|TS Management Team able to carry out its responsibilities.

The plan sets out steps to achieve the rigorous delivery of CA|TS in tiger conservation areas, including the technical and resource capacity required to undertake the improvements required by these areas. It also looks at how to provide credible and effective monitoring and reporting function that meets the needs of a range of stakeholders. And provides an indication of the level of resourcing required for achieving the CA|TS goals and objectives.

The business plan will provide the blueprint for the future work in implementing CA|TS across the CA|TS partnership.



International Executive Committee

The CA|TS International Executive Committee was the first element of the CA|TS governance structure to set up in 2013. Over this time the committee members have worked hard to fulfil their role as the main decision-making body for CA|TS. The committee's primary function is to ensure CA|TS is an effective tool for wild tiger conservation and that CA|TS processes and approvals are equivalent across the tiger range. The committee is made up of international experts across a range of disciplines linked with protected area management and tiger conservation. Membership is voluntary and honorary and members are expected to act in an individual capacity and not represent affiliations.

We would like to thank all those who have sat on the committee over the past few years. In particular we note the contribution of our friend and colleague Dr Tony Whitten who tragically died last year (www.fauna-flora.org/news/memoriam-dr-tony-whitten). The Committee is made up of individuals who bring to CA|TS a range of different capacities (see table).

Role

CA|TS Council Chair/Rep
CA|TS Support Group
Management team host
(Institution / Organization)

Current make up (March 2018)

Governance Bodies of CA|TS

Ugyen Penjor – representing Mr Phento Tshering
Represented by several members indicated below by SG
Mike Baltzer (SG)

Official Policy Bodies related to Tiger Conservation and / or Protected Areas

GTF	SP Yadav (SG)
IUCN WCPA	Kathy MacKinnon (SG)
SSC	Mahendra Shrestha (SG)

Thematic Area of Expertise

GLPCA (Green List)	James Hardcastle (SG)
PA Management Effectiveness	Marc Hockings (SG); VB Mathur
Protected Areas	Craig Bruce; Midori Paxton (SG)
Capacity building	Sugoto Roy (SG)
Tiger Experts	Matt Linkie, Dale Miquelle
Standards	Sue Stolton (SG)
Social	Member to be invited

Observer

CA TS Management team (CA TS Partnership Manager)	MKS Pasha
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WH outlook

The results of the 2017 IUCN World Heritage Outlook

(www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/)

indicate that for 64% of all natural and mixed sites World Heritage the conservation outlook is either good or

good with some concerns, while for 29% of sites (70 sites in total) the outlook is of significant concern, and for 7% of sites (17) it is assessed as critical. The first two CA|TS Approved sites (Chitwan and Sikhote-Alin) were World Heritage sites and we were delighted that the assessment results were used in the Outlook research.

For Sikhote-Alin the change in management approach which was key to the site receiving CA|TS Approved status has led to a far more effective regime and a change in conservation outlook. In 2017 the outlook status was “good with some concerns” a significant improvement from the “significant concerns” status of 2014 (the outlook has four ratings as outlined in the table below). The evidence for this improvement came from the CA|TS Assessment and the extensive information on monitoring and conservation management from the site.

For Chitwan the outlook remains as having “significant concerns”. The outlook assessment summarises that “The management at Chitwan National Park has been successful in ensuring effective conservation over the last few years; as shown in the rapid increase in tiger and rhino numbers. Nevertheless, the site remains vulnerable to current threats such as pollution, invasive species and negative impacts of mass tourism, and to potential threats such as proposed road developments (including the Tarai Hulaki Highway), increasing human-wildlife conflicts, the impacts of climate change or earthquake or sudden and unexpected increases in poaching or the resurgence of political instability.” The findings are in line with the CA|TS assessment which highlights the effective management of Chitwan and the need to closely monitor the many potential threats to the site.

The site's values are in good condition and are likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained.

Good	The site's values are in good condition and are likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained.
Good with some concerns	While some concerns exist, with minor additional conservation measures the site's values are likely to be essentially maintained over the long-term.
Significant concern	The site's values are threatened and/or are showing signs of deterioration. Significant additional conservation measures are needed to maintain and/or restore values over the medium to long-term.
Critical	The site's values are severely threatened and/or deteriorating. Immediate large-scale additional conservation measures are needed to maintain and/or restore the site's values over the short to medium-term or the values may be lost.

TRCs working together

One of the goals of CA|TS is to demonstrate and promote best practice in protected area management in Asia. Sharing experiences and expertise across countries is one measure by which to achieve this. TRCs have been sharing experiences across countries for the last few years. Managers from China, for example, visited Nepal in 2016 to take part in CA|TS training and discuss the management of Chitwan National Park, the first area to receive CA|TS Approved status. Plans are now underway for Bhutan to host a delegation from Russia and Indonesia to see how CA|TS is being implemented.

Nepal CA|TS Implementation (phase 2) planning meeting

The meeting, held in Kathmandu in early December 2017, was targeted at field managers and reviewers working on CA|TS implementation in Nepal: Phase-2. Managers from the CA|TS registered sites (Bardia National Park, Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Banke National Park) discussed the CA|TS process in detail. Jhamak Karki and Fanindra Kharel, appointed as Independent Reviewers by the CA|TS National Committee of Nepal, were also present.



Discussions on the country planning for CA|TS implementation were held. Presently all four of the sites listed above have completed the self-assessment; and the aim is for Nepal to complete all site assessments by the end of May 2018. The dossiers will then be reviewed, and presented by the Reviewers to the National Committee for further decision. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Govt. of Nepal along with WWF Nepal and other local partners have been leading the work on CA|TS in Nepal.



Bhutan CA|TS Orientation Workshop

A CA|TS national workshop was organised in Bhutan on 9th December 2017 at Paro. The members of the newly formed National Committee met to discuss the CA|TS implementation plan. The Bhutan Ecological Society (BES) has been engaged as the Independent Reviewers. The key findings from The Bhutan METT+ exercise for the three registered sites were presented: Royal Manas National Park, Jigme Dorji National Park and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park.

All participants were given hands on practice to familiarize them with the F2 form (the CA|TS field assessment form). Presentations on the CA|TS Approved sites demonstrated the dossier preparation and assessment process of CA|TS. The Department of Wildlife and Park Services, Royal Govt. of Bhutan along with WWF Bhutan and local partners has been leading the work on CA|TS in Bhutan.

Key action points from the meeting included:

1. All the three registered sites to complete the self-assessment (F2 form) and send in their dossiers to the National Committee by 15th February, 2018.
2. National Committee to depute BES to review the F2 forms for the three sites by end of February 2018.
3. BES to complete the desk and site reviews by 30th March, 2018.
4. By early April 2018, Site Managers and Reviewer to convene with the National Committee to discuss the sites and present.
5. Reviewer to make final presentation to National Committee by 15th April, 2018.
6. The National Committee and BES will responsible for presenting the Dossier for site CA|TS Approval directly to the International Executive Committee. The CA|TS Management team will facilitate in organising the approval meeting.
7. By mid-May 2018 International Executive Committee to review the recommended sites and give their decision.
