

It has been a long time since our last CA|TS Update. 2017 has been so busy we have let the CA|TS Update slip. We will do better in the future!

If you are interested in the latest CA|TS news the website has been rebuilt (after a disastrous hacking attack) and updates on CA|TS sites and related publications can be found at:

[www.conservationassured.org/resources](http://www.conservationassured.org/resources)

And our facebook page also has all the latest news: [www.facebook.com/conservationassured/](https://www.facebook.com/conservationassured/)

CA|TS is now established across most of the tiger range countries, with National Committees (NCs) set up in seven countries (Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Russia and Malaysia). NC establishment is also in discussion and pilot assessments are progressing in Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. 45 sites have been Registered which means we are now really making progress towards our target of having more than 150 sites registered and well on their way to CA|TS Approved status by 2022. But there is still much to do.



Much of our work in 2017, reported below, has focussed on planning and building capacity for reaching this ambitious target.

### **Formation of the CA|TS Support Group**

CA|TS has never been conceived as an initiative of one organisation, but rather by a partnership of expertise in wild tiger conservation. These plans came to full fruition in June 2017. A two-day meeting in Bangkok brought together representatives from 13 organisations (Equilibrium Research, Freeland Foundation, GTF, GWS, Harimaukita, IUCN, IUCN WCPA, Panthera, Smithsonian, UNDP, WCS, Wild Team, WWF and ZSL) to discuss the formation of the Support Group – its role and terms of reference. A final Support Group agreement was agreed in June and 11 members have so far become part of the Group.

The CA|TS Support Group will play a major role in supporting, promoting and implementing CA|TS across tiger range countries and will working closely with government agencies responsible for supporting tiger conservation. Membership of the Support Group is voluntary and open to any non-government organisation, institution, intergovernmental organisation, non-tiger range Government and donor organisations committed to the aims of CA|TS.

Benefits include:

1. Being part of a group supporting effective management of tiger conservation areas through the implementation of CA|TS.
2. Provision of a framework for cooperation and coordination in project designing, fund mobilisation, funding and monitoring of management activities related to CA|TS.
3. Provision of links to tiger conservation sites, e.g. for research etc., beyond individual organisations' immediate operations.

For more details of the CA|TS support agreement see: [www.conservationassured.org/resources](http://www.conservationassured.org/resources)



### Building Capacity

Now the majority of NCs have been established the CA|TS management team is focussing resources on training and capacity building for members of the NC and the Independent Expert Reviewers who are an essential part of the CA|TS accreditation process. A major

international training workshop is being held in October 2017 in Bogor, Indonesia for NC members and reviewers and training materials and information packs are being prepared to ensure all those involved in CA|TS are fully briefed on the processes and standards.

A draft Business Plan is close to being finalised. This will be implemented from 2018 to 2022. The Business Plan outlines a three phase process for the development of CA|TS: 1) the set-up phase, which has been completed; 2) the on-going extension phase where the scope of CA|TS is being extended to an increasing number of tiger conservation areas (TCAs) and finally, and hopefully, 3) the monitoring phase which will only begin when most sites have met CA|TS and we focus on monitoring to ensure they continue to meet the standards. The Business Plan also introduces a new programme of CA|TS that will go further than providing an accreditation process but will also actively support the advancement of the TCAs towards meeting the Standards.



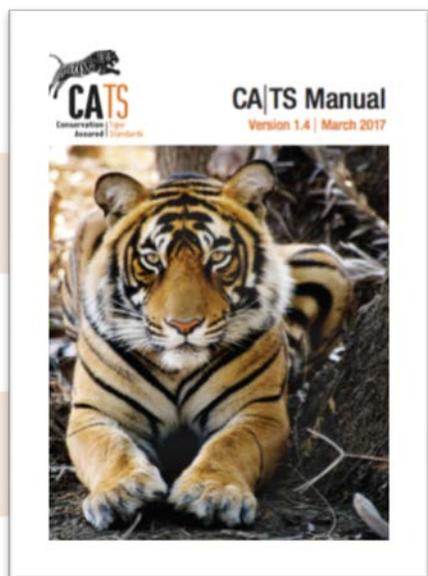
During the extension phase, CA|TS will aim to mobilise support to the TCAs that need funds or technical advice to reach the Standards but this will be on an opportunistic basis. Minimal capacity is therefore planned for this support under the daily operations of CA|TS. However, during the start-up phase and discussions with the Support Group during the Bangkok meeting (see above), it was recognised that many TCAs need a great deal of support if they are to reach the standards. Providing large scale support will therefore not only increase the impact of CA|TS but will provide a very significant incentive for TCAs to register for CA|TS.

### **CA|TS Council**

The final step in setting up the full governance structure of CA|TS will be the inaugural meeting of the CA|TS Council in Bogor, Indonesia in October 2017. The CA|TS Council is a non-decision making body of CA|TS; the primary purpose of the Council is to provide a formal process for liaison and discussion between the CA|TS NCs and the CA|TS International Executive Committee; on which the chair of the Council will sit.

### **CA|TS Manual update**

The CA|TS manual outlines the processes and standards of CA|TS. The manual was originally published in 2013 after two years of development. Minor updates, such as corrections, minor additions, new tools etc, are added to the manual periodically to ensure the manual stays up to date. These updates are developed by the CA|TS management team and approved by the International Executive Committee. The current version of the manual (version 1.4) can be downloaded at: [http://www.conservationassured.org/files/resources/CATS\\_Manual\\_1.4.pdf](http://www.conservationassured.org/files/resources/CATS_Manual_1.4.pdf)



A more detailed review and update is envisaged periodically, and there are now plans in place to produce version 2.0 of the manual in 2018. This version will include the final agreements and TORs of all the governance structures which make up CA|TS and which have been finalised this year. The revision of the manual will also provide an opportunity for comments on the manual from a wide range of stakeholders. Anyone can send in comments, using the review format available on the CA|TS website, and the management team will circulate the call for updates as widely as possible. The manual will be open for comment for at least 60 days.

The form for providing your inputs can be downloaded from the CA|TS website. Please follow the link given here.

<http://www.conservationassured.org/resources>

### CA|TS Country updates

#### **Third CA|TS Approved site – and first site in India**

Lansdowne Forest Division in Uttarakhand, India, became the third CA|TS Approved site globally and the first in India in June 2017. Lansdowne was presented with the CA|TS Approved certificate on Global Tiger Day, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan, handed over the award to the Uttarakhand State Forest Minister, Dr Harak Singh Rawat.

Lansdowne Chief Wildlife Warden, DVS Khati, welcomed the approval stating: *“CA|TS accreditation is given to the forest division outside the tiger reserve which has significant tiger population. After recognition it becomes easier to get fund from international agencies for any project related to tiger conservation. It is a matter of great honour for the state that one of its forest division has made it to the CA|TS list.”*



### Forests divisions in India

In India the **forest division** is a term used to signify an area containing one or more (usually) demarcated and (usually) protected or resource-managed forests, for administrative purposes. Each division controls the **protected areas** and managed resources under its jurisdiction. About 30% of the tiger population in India is spread outside the Tiger Reserves and the forest divisions are the key centres for these tigers. In India there are a total of 29 CA|TS Registered sites of these 19 are forest divisions spread across five States: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The 50 tiger reserves in India will also be registered under CA|TS in the future. The present focus is to get the key forest division which hold considerable numbers of tigers and help them set up effective management for tiger conservation using the CA|TS framework. Lansdowne forest division in Uttarakhand achieving CA|TS Approved status is the beginning of this journey. In August, an initiation and sensitization workshop for CA|TS took place for 11 forest division in Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

### **Media coverage of the Global Tiger Day and CA|TS in India included:**

[www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/lansdowne-forest-division-makes-it-to-cats-list/articleshow/59685878.cms](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/lansdowne-forest-division-makes-it-to-cats-list/articleshow/59685878.cms)

[www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/lansdowne-forest-division-awarded/444079.html](http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/lansdowne-forest-division-awarded/444079.html)

[www.hindustantimes.com/dehradun/haldwani-ramnagar-to-vie-for-global-accreditation-for-tiger-conservation/story-a6p8WBoGMOsiNCbXbRvCtO.html](http://www.hindustantimes.com/dehradun/haldwani-ramnagar-to-vie-for-global-accreditation-for-tiger-conservation/story-a6p8WBoGMOsiNCbXbRvCtO.html)

[www.hindustantimes.com/environment/the-tiger-s-world-and-ours/story-k23FEVDiSTYVL8dPLZBqZN.html](http://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/the-tiger-s-world-and-ours/story-k23FEVDiSTYVL8dPLZBqZN.html)

[pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169257](http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169257)

[www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/tiger-bearing-forests-help-combat-climate-change-harsh-varadhan-117072900679\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/tiger-bearing-forests-help-combat-climate-change-harsh-varadhan-117072900679_1.html)

[ddnews.gov.in/videos/people/global-tiger-day-celebrated-much-fanfare](http://ddnews.gov.in/videos/people/global-tiger-day-celebrated-much-fanfare) [video]

### Malaysia

The first country in South East Asia to register a site for CA|TS was also celebrated on Global Tiger day. While the global population of tigers has slightly increased recently, the Malayan Tiger has fallen to as low as 250 from an estimated 500 in 2003. WWF Malaysia CEO, Dr Dionysius Sharma, in a speech during the Global Tiger Day ceremony highlighted the registration of Royal Belum State Park for CA|TS and noted: “*When a country registers for CA|TS, it sends a strong message to the world showing an individual conservation area or networks’ commitment to protecting tigers.*” CA|TS is one of the many initiatives making Belum-Temenggor a model site for conservation among the 37 ecological corridors identified under the Central Forest Spine Master Plan.

Speaking on behalf of the Perak State Government, Dr Muhammad Amin bin Zakaria of the Perak State Education, Science, Environmental and Green Technology Committee, reiterated the state's promise to champion Malayan tigers. He said: *"It is both a privilege and a responsibility to conserve the Malayan tiger in the state of Perak. It is indeed very sad to note that our tigers are still threatened, despite the intensity of efforts taken to protect them. Tiger conservation is a state priority, and this move of registering Royal Belum State Park under CA|TS is a testament to our commitment of saving tigers within the country. Many deliberations and decisions have been discussed in great detail on Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, particularly in addressing poaching and illegal wildlife trade. On behalf of the Perak State Government, I am certain that the CA|TS registration will raise the bar on collaborative conservation amongst stakeholders in the state."*



YB Dato' Dr Muhammad Amin Zakaria, Chairman for Education, Science, Environment and Green Technology Committees, Perak officially announcing the state's registration for Conservation Assured | Tiger

**Media coverage of the Global Tiger Day and CA|TS in Malaysia included:**

[www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/07/30/royal-belum-park-roars-for-fading-tigers-protected-area-for-conservation-of-malaysias-national-anima/](http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/07/30/royal-belum-park-roars-for-fading-tigers-protected-area-for-conservation-of-malaysias-national-anima/)  
[http://www.wwf.org.my/media\\_and\\_information/updates\\_former\\_newsroom\\_main/?uNewsID=24285](http://www.wwf.org.my/media_and_information/updates_former_newsroom_main/?uNewsID=24285)  
[wildsingaporenews.blogspot.sg/2017/07/malaysia-royal-belum-park-roars-for.html#.WX7WG62B3-Y](http://wildsingaporenews.blogspot.sg/2017/07/malaysia-royal-belum-park-roars-for.html#.WX7WG62B3-Y)

**Indonesia**

Following hot on the heels of Malaysia, a two-day introduction to CA|TS was held in Rimbang Baling, Indonesia in early August 2017. The area includes the Rimbang Baling Wildlife Reserve and Bukit Bungkok Nature Reserve, part of the UNESCO-recognised Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra.



### Nepal

The CA|TS roll-out across all the protected areas with tiger populations in Nepal is on-going. On Global Tiger Day the importance of secure source populations for tigers in sites like Chitwan National Park, the first site to become CA|TS Approved across the whole tiger range, to populate the wider landscape and the need for secure corridors for connectivity was stressed by IUCN.

This year the floods in Nepal took a heavy toll on wildlife. But no reports were reported for tigers from the CA|TS sites. The situation is returning back to normal and management has taken all necessary steps for post flood recovery of habitat and protection of wildlife.

#### **Media coverage of the Global Tiger Day and CA|TS in Nepal included:**

[www.iucn.org/news/species/201707/chitwan-parsa-valmiki-complex-corridors-future-tigers](http://www.iucn.org/news/species/201707/chitwan-parsa-valmiki-complex-corridors-future-tigers)

### Bhutan

Bhutan has also joined CA|TS – and three sites have so far been registered: Jigme Dorji National Park, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park and Royal Manas National Park. The announcement was made at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the end of 2016. Sonam Wangchuk of the Department of Forests and Park Services, Royal Government of Bhutan stated: *“Bhutan is committed to safeguarding our protected areas for wild tiger populations to thrive. Being part of CA|TS is a big step towards achieving this, by ensuring that our protected areas meet the highest global standards for conservation management.”*



#### **Media coverage of the Global Tiger Day and CA|TS in Bhutan included:**

[www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-to-adopt-conservation-assured-tiger-standards/](http://www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-to-adopt-conservation-assured-tiger-standards/)

[www.bbs.bt/news/?p=64243](http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=64243)

[www.wwf bhutan.org.bt/?287111/Bhutan-commits-to-creating-safe-havens-for-tigers](http://www.wwf bhutan.org.bt/?287111/Bhutan-commits-to-creating-safe-havens-for-tigers)

[www.worldwildlife.org/stories/amazing-image-of-wild-tiger-in-bhutan?link=txt&utm\\_campaign=wildlife-crime&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=cons-update&utm\\_content=180129-ed](http://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/amazing-image-of-wild-tiger-in-bhutan?link=txt&utm_campaign=wildlife-crime&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cons-update&utm_content=180129-ed)

