Minutes of the Meeting held with Ambassador of Federal Republic of Mexico on 06.6.2024 at Embassy of Mexico, C-8, Anand Niketan, New Delhi

 After exchanging the pleasantries, the Interim Director General, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed His Excellency Ambassador of Federal Republic of Mexico in India about establishment of International Big Cat Alliance, with headquarters in India. It was informed that the Union Cabinet, Republic of India, in its meeting held on 29.2.2024 approved the establishment of IBCA for conservation of seven big cats in the world viz, Lion, tiger, Leopard, Snow-leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah.

2. IBCA is established with a Mission and Vision to provide platform for partnership and cooperation among big cat range countries so as to ensure a viable population of big cats. It was also informed that India has five (5) out of seven (7) big cats and is global leader in Tiger, Lion, Leopard and Snow Leopard conservation. India has also demonstrated successful intercontinental wild to wild Cheetah translocation from African countries and its reintroduction in India. In view of this, India has a lot to offer (best practices and expertise) to other range countries for conservation of big cats. IBCA would be a platform through which the expertise and best practices could be shared with all the range countries.

3. India has gained extensive experience in habitat restoration, increase in forest cover and wildlife conservation. The intensive management of wildlife areas, mitigation of human wildlife conflict, community involvement are considered key to the improved state of affairs. With a strong legal and Government support with practical policies to dovetail conservation in the course of development are also considered important in the present status of forest and wildlife.

4. India is in a position to offer its experiences through sharing of best practices with Mexico for conservation of Jaguars in habitat management, eco-restoration, species conservation, community involvement, legal and policy framework, capacity building on wildlife and active management of wildlife etc.

5. The Interim DG, IBCA sought cooperation and support of Federal Republic of Mexico to take forward the initiative for conservation of the seven big cat species especially Jaguars in the world. He also requested the Ambassador to consider participating in the Conference of the Americas on Conflict Management and Co-existence between humans and wildlife being held in November,2024 at Peru. His Excellency assured representation of Mexico in the Conference.

6. It was also requested that Federal Republic of Mexico to consider joining the IBCA. The Ambassador stated that as the new Government has recently been formed in Mexico, the issue of membership of IBCA will be considered in due course of time. However, he requested for a brief write-up about the expected benefits to range countries in joining IBCA

7. It was informed that the IBCA is mandated to:

* To create synergy through a collaborative platform for increased dissemination of benchmarking big cat conservation best practices.
* To Provide access to central common repository of technical know-how and corpus of funds to enhance the status of habitats, prey and big cats in order to secure our ecological future and mitigate adverse effects of climate change.
* The IBCA's multi-pronged approach will enhance linkages, promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance, research, technical support, insurance against failures, education, awareness, employment, and sustainable local livelihoods.

8. The Interim DG, IBCA also thanked His Excellency Ambassador, Federal Republic of Mexico in India and his team for their support and guidance for taking forward IBCA.

 **List of participants-Embassy of Mexico**

 (i) H.E. Mr. Federico Salas, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Mexico in

 India

 (ii) Mr. Kharlo Mario, Internation Cooperation Affairs, Embassy of Mexico,

 New Delhi

 **List of participants- IBCA**

 (i) Dr S.P. Yadav, Interim DG, IBCA

 (ii) Dr Soumitra Dasgupta, Director (Programme)

 (iii) Mr. Juglal Singh, Admn & Communication Analyst