

Minutes of the Meeting held with Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasinghe, Deputy High Commissioner Commission of Sri Lanka at 11.00 am on 3.9.2024 at 27, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,

After exchanging the pleasantries, the Interim Director General, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed H.E. Deputy High Commissioner of Republic of Sri Lanka in India about establishment of International Big Cat Alliance, with headquarters in India.

2. It was informed that 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 inter-continental wild to wild Cheetah translocation from African countries and its re-introduction 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, eco-tourism biodiversity conservation, 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. Interim DG informed that Indian Missions have circulated Framework Agreement to the countries for signing to become member of IBCA. However, a copy the Framework Agreement will be again mailed to the High Commission. He also sought cooperation and support of Republic of Sri Lanka to take forward the initiative for conservation of the seven big cat species. He also requested that Republic of Sri Lanka to consider joining the IBCA.

The Deputy High Commissioner assured to take up the issue with the concerned authorities in her country for joining IBCA.

**List of participants- High Commission of Sri Lanka in India**

- (i) H.E. Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasinghe, Deputy High Commissioner
- (ii) Ms. W. Amarasinghe, Minister Counsellor

**List of participants- IBCA**

- (i) Dr S.P. Yadav, Interim DG, IBCA
- (ii) Dr. Soumetra Dasgupta, Director (Programme)
- (ii) Mr. Juglal Singh, Admn and Communication Analyst