

Minutes of the Meeting held with Director of Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Embassy of Russian Federation on 7.10.2024 at F-50, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

After exchanging the pleasantries, the Interim Director General, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed Her Excellency, Director of Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Embassy of Russian Federation 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 success of conservation in India. 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 Embassy. He also sought cooperation and support of Russian Federation to take forward the initiative for conservation of the seven big cat species. He also requested that Russian Federation to consider joining the IBCA. Director of Russian Centre of Science and Culture assured to take up the matter with the Government of Russian Federation to join IBCA.

(5) During the meeting, it was also mentioned that first summit of global leaders for conservation of tigers was held at St Petersburg at the initiative of President of Russian Federation. Hence, Russian Federation has played a pivotal role in the field of tiger conservation.

(6) Director of Russian Centre of Science and Culture enquired about the procedure to become the member of IBCA and also wanted to know whether there is any membership fee to join IBCA. She was informed that a willingness through a Note Verbale needs to be conveyed to Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India, along with signing the Framework Agreement to become member of IBCA. It was also informed that there is no membership fee to become member of IBCA. She was also told that a brief writeup about IBCA and a soft copy of Framework Agreement will be mailed to the Embassy.

(7) A representative of Russian side also wanted to know about steps taken by India for conservation of elephants. He was informed that there is a separate division in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for dealing with conservation of elephants.

List of participants- Embassy of Russian Federation

- (i) Ms Elena Remizova, Director of Russian Centre of Science and Culture
- (ii) Mr Igor Semenov, Counsellor (Science and Technology)
- (iii) Mr Konstantin Malashenkov, Counsellor (Agriculture)
- (iv) Mr Maksim Kashubin, Second Secretary (Science and Technology)

List of participants- IBCA

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