

Minutes of the Meeting held with High Commissioner of Republic of South Africa on 17.2.2025 at High Commission of South Africa, 18 Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

At the beginning of the meeting, the Interim Director General, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed His Excellency High Commissioner of Republic of South Africa 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. The High Commissioner stated that the population of lions and tigers in South Africa has increased beyond the carrying capacity of their habitat and they are exploring the possibility of relocating these species to the countries, who are willing to reintroduce them/or willing to accommodate these animals in their country.

5. Interim DG also sought cooperation and support of Republic of South Africa to take forward the initiative for conservation of the seven big cat

species. He also requested that Republic of South Africa to consider joining the IBCA. High Commissioner assured to take up the matter with his country.

**List of participants-High Commission of Republic of South Africa**

- (i) H.E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner
- (ii) Mr. Sedula Mashudubele Mamabolo, Counsellor

**List of participants- IBCA**

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