

## **Minutes of the Meeting held between officials of the International Big Cat Alliance and the officials of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Government of Kazakhstan**

A meeting was held between officials of the International Big Cat Alliance and the officials of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Government of Kazakhstan through virtual mode on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 to discuss about the role of IBCA for conservation of big cats and the process of becoming members of IBCA. After exchanging the pleasantries, Dr. S.P. Yadav, Interim Head, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed Mr. Sharbiyev Nurken, Vice Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and other officials of the Govt. of Kazakhstan about the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance, with headquarters in India. It was informed that twenty three (23) countries, including India, have already given their consent to join IBCA and two countries, namely, Republic of Nicaragua and Kingdom of Eswatini have already signed the Framework Agreement for becoming member of IBCA.

2. Dr. Yadav informed that India has five (5) out of seven (7) major big cats and is global leader in conservation of Tiger, Lion, Leopard and Snow Leopard. India has also demonstrated successful inter-continental wild to wild Cheetah translocation from African countries and its re-introduction in central part of India. He also mentioned that India aims to share the expertise and implement effective strategies to ensure the survival of these iconic species across their natural habitats. With this objective, the International Big Cat Alliance, was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

3. Dr. Yadav highlighted that IBCA is not just an organization, it is a call to action for every nation, community, and individual who values the natural world. IBCA would be a platform through which the expertise and best practices could be shared with all the range countries so as to ensure a viable population of big cats. There is no membership fee for joining the alliance, therefore, there is no financial liability on the Range Countries.

4. The Vice Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Govt. of Kazakhstan informed about the need for conservation of Snow Leopard in Kazakhstan and enquired about the modalities for joining IBCA.

5. Dr. Yadav also sought cooperation and support of the Government of Kazakhstan to take forward the initiative for conservation of the big cat species and requested to consider joining the IBCA. It was decided that IBCA would share the related documents with the Embassy of India in Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Government of Kazakhstan for information and further necessary action.

### **List of participants- Government of Kazakhstan**

- i. Mr. Sharbiyev Nurken, Vice Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- ii. Ms. Anash Ramzanova and Mr. Yerbol Ibramigov, Interpreters.

### **List of participants- IBCA**

- i. Dr S.P. Yadav, Interim Head
- ii. Mr. Jerome Minz, Director, Finance
- iii. Mr. Juglal Singh, Admn. and Communication Analyst
- iv. Mr. Aditya Bisht, Programme Associate

