

Minutes of the Meeting held with Ambassador of Republic of Suriname on 22.8.2024 at Embassy of Suriname, A-13/8, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

After exchanging the pleasantries, the Interim Director General, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed His Excellency Ambassador of Republic of Suriname in India about establishment of International Big Cat Alliance, for conservation of seven big cats in the world viz, Lion, tiger, Leopard, Snow-leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah, with headquarters in India.

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, 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. India is in a position to offer its experiences through sharing of best practices with Guatemala 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.

4. Interim DG, IBCA sought cooperation and support of Republic of Suriname to take forward the initiative for conservation of the seven big cat species. It was also requested that Republic of Suriname to consider joining the IBCA.

5. 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. H.E. Ambassador of Suriname showed his concern about loss of biodiversity in the country due to increased developmental activities. He assured to interact with other neighbouring countries and their Diplomats especially Guyana and Brazil to join IBCA.
9. The Interim DG, IBCA thanked His Excellency Ambassador, Republic of Suriname and his team for their support and guidance for taking forward IBCA.

List of participants-Embassy of Republic of Guatemala

- (i) H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of Republic of Suriname.

List of participants- IBCA

- (i) Dr S.P. Yadav, Interim DG, IBCA
(ii) Dr Soumitra Dasgupta, Director (Programme)
(iii) Mr. Jerome Minz, Director (Operations & Finance)