



MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID: P120623
GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 4204
COUNTRY: Russian Federation
PROJECT TITLE: Support to the Global Tiger Summit Hosted by the Russian Federation
GEF AGENCY: World Bank
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): All-Russia Research Institute for Nature Conservation "VNII Prirody" and WWF Russia
DURATION: 6 months
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): BD-SP1, BD-SP3, BD-SP4
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: 10/15/2010
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FEE: US\$56,000

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	560,000
PDF A	n/a
<i>Sub-Total GEF</i>	560,000
CO-FINANCING*	
GEF Agency	85,000
Government	440,000
Bilateral	n/a
NGOs	381,000
Others	n/a
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	906,000
<i>Total Project Financing:</i>	1,466,000
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY	
IF ANY:	n/a

* Details provided in the Financing Section

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN: The Global Tiger Recovery Program to be adopted by the Tiger Summit will have direct implications as (i) biodiversity conservation and sustainable use internalized into production systems, supply chains, markets, sectors, development models, policies, plans and programs, (ii) improved sustainability, management effectiveness and coverage of protected areas, including trans-boundary, and (iii) generation, dissemination, and uptake of good practices for addressing biodiversity issues.

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:

Igor I. Maydanov, GEF Operational Focal Point,
Deputy Minister of Natural Resources
and Environment

Date: December 8, 2009

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-sized Project.

Siv Elin Tokle
GEF Executive Coordinator
The World Bank
Date: _____, 2010

Project Contact Person: Andrey V. Kushlin
Tel.: +1-202-458-7268
Email: AKushlin@worldbank.org

PART I - PROJECT CONCEPT

A - SUMMARY

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The MSP objective is to prepare and hold the Global Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg (Russia) in November 2010 to bring together Heads of Governments of the Tiger Range Countries in order to endorse and launch the Global Tiger Recovery Program. The Global Tiger Recovery Program would strengthen conservation of the critically endangered wild tiger populations and habitats aiming to arrest and reverse the current progressing decline in this species and the losses in the related habitats of the high global biodiversity value.

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONAL

Tiger, which is the Asia's most iconic animal, currently faces imminent extinction in the wild. In the past century, tiger numbers plummeted from 100,000 to about 3,500, and continue to fall. Tigers are listed by IUCN as Endangered, because their total effective population size is estimated at below 2,500 mature breeding individuals, with a declining trend due to habitat and prey base loss and persecution, and no subpopulation containing more than 250 mature breeding individuals. Three of nine tiger subspecies are already extinct. Tiger habitat has declined by 40 percent in the last ten years alone. The existing wild populations inhabit fragmented and isolated patches of land that constitute just 7 percent of their historic range.

Habitat loss and trophy hunting were once the primary threats to the tigers' survival. Conversion of habitats to agriculture and other intrusive uses led to sharp declines in tiger numbers through the 1970s and 80s. Habitat loss remains a major issue, but poaching of tigers is now the most urgent and immediate threat. Tigers are killed for the flourishing illegal trade in tiger parts for traditional oriental medicine, clothing, and home decor. Legal international trade in tiger products has been banned since 1975 through inclusion of the species in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). However, the illegal international trade in wild tigers remains highly profitable, well-structured and has close links to other organized crime. More than 250 tigers were lost over the last two years alone because of poaching for illegal trade. Poaching of tiger prey is a further major threat. Even though legislation is in place to protect tigers throughout their natural range, wildlife agencies lack resources, expertise, and sometimes political support for effective enforcement of laws. Much of the illegal demand for tiger parts and products originates from large urban areas in tiger range states whose own tiger populations have been reduced or extirpated. Poaching has become so intense that tigers have disappeared even from some protected areas where they were once thought to be secure. The consequences are particularly damaging in areas with a depleted prey base due to poaching or habitat degradation, where tiger numbers are already low and growth is slow because cubs are at high risk of starvation. Serious though the situation is, it has been shown that with good protection, tiger populations can recover quickly and are therefore a reliable indicator of conservation efforts and healthy ecosystems, as has been well illustrated for the Amur tiger in the Russian Far East.

The issue of saving the tiger from extinction goes far beyond protecting this individual species. Since the tiger is Asia's largest top predator, the health of its populations is a reliable indicator of the health and sustainability of the region's natural environment and ecosystems. As tigers are wide-ranging species which require large landscapes to maintain viable populations, and as they are heavily

dependent on the interconnectivity and the quality of habitats, they are also particularly vulnerable to all kinds of anthropogenic pressure, including intrusive land use, unsustainable forestry and others. In that regard, the rapid infrastructure development, construction and urbanization, which accompanies the economic growth in South and East Asia, poses a set of additional challenges to conservation. Assessments of the Asian Development Bank anticipate that in the next decade infrastructure of the region will be 2/3 new with the respective investments exceeding US\$ 10 trillion, increase in construction area will reach 300 % by 2030, and the urbanization by 2020 will reach 1 billion people.

Therefore, an urgent action and the effective conservation measures are required to mainstream conservation in the operation of productive sectors in the Tiger Range Countries (TRCs). This would secure sustainable functioning of the critical tiger habitats, maintaining their required quality and continuity within the broader production landscape. The poaching crisis driven by the illegal trade in tiger parts, which is the most immediate short-term threat, requires an emergency response through strengthened protection and a greater investment in controlling the illegal trade across the market chain. All this must be complemented by approaches that tackle the cause of the problem - the overwhelming economic incentives to convert and fragment habitats and poach tigers for the urban consumers. In operational terms, the root causes of the tiger decline (progressive destruction and fragmentation of habitats and the poaching) should be addressed through significant improvements in: (i) laws, regulations and enforcement; (ii) control of poaching and trafficking of tiger and prey; (iii) people-wildlife interface; (iv) tiger habitat management; (v) tiger, prey base and habitat monitoring and research; (vi) protected area management; (vii) transboundary cooperation; (viii) tiger-friendly infrastructure development - so called Smart Green Infrastructure; and (ix) public awareness to reduce demand for tiger products. Improved protection of tigers and prey, habitat management, and improved enforcement capacity along potential trade chains, will benefit other globally-important species with which the tiger shares forests and grasslands within the range states.

To address this looming crisis, the World Bank, GEF, the Smithsonian Institution, the International Tiger Coalition, and other partners launched the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) in June 2008. The World Bank led this effort because it is committed to balancing economic development with nature conservation and environmental protection, and tigers are at the very heart of the matter in many parts of Asia. The World Bank is also using its convening power to strengthen political will for tiger conservation and influence public policy in support of strong national leadership on this agenda. Since then, the GTI has become an alliance of governments, including all 13 tiger range countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, and Vietnam), international organizations, civil society and the private sector. The alliance was deepened at a Global Tiger Workshop in Nepal in October 2009, which led to the 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in Thailand in January 2010. The Ministerial Conference supported the agreed course of actions and adopted a global goal to double a number of wild tigers within the next 12 years before the next Year of the Tiger (2022). These milestones are a result of all 13 TRCs and the international community working together for the first time on a cooperative platform, sharing knowledge and experience and developing a collaborative program.

B - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

1. COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

The Russian Federation ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on April 5, 1995 and is eligible to borrow from the World Bank.

2. COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

The project builds on ongoing programs, policies and political commitments of Russia. It will support implementation of the current Russia's National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. MSP will directly address the following specific priorities of the NBAP: 1.1 – conservation of rare species, subspecies and populations (activity 1.1.3 - action plans); 6.1 – public outreach and awareness raising (6.1.1-5); 6.2 – environmental education (6.2.2, 6.2.4-5); 6.5 – informing the public about threats to biodiversity (6.5.1-3).

Through the adoption of the GTRP the project will also address the following NBAP priorities: 1.1 – conservation of rare species, subspecies and populations (actions 1.1.1 and 1.1.3); 1.2 – conservation of game and economically valuable species (1.2.1-3, 1.2.5); 2.1 – conservation of unique natural complexes and centers of endemism (2.1.1.6); 2.2 – conservation of natural systems (2.2.5, 2.2.6); 2.5 – protected areas management (2.5.2-5); 2.6 – strategic planning for conservation of the specific ecosystems and the unique natural complexes; 3.1 – development of legislation (3.1.1, 3.1.2.1-2, 3.1.2.5, 3.1.2.7, 3.1.7); 3.2 – law enforcement (3.2.1-3); 6.1 – public outreach and awareness raising (6.1.1-5); 6.2 – environmental education (6.2.1-5); 6.3 – involvement of civil society organizations; 6.5 – informing the public about threats to biodiversity (6.5.1-3); 7.1 – conservation research (7.1.1, 7.1.3-8); 7.2 – legal studies for conservation (7.2.1-3), 7.3 – development of economic mechanisms for conservation (7.3.1-2); 8.1 – biodiversity inventories (8.1.1-2); 8.2 – biodiversity monitoring (8.2.2-5, 8.2.10-11, 8.2.15); 9.1 – international obligations of Russia (9.1.1, 9.1.3-4); 9.2 – use of international financing and experience.

The MSP would complement the on-going federal and regional programs targeted to ensure conservation of the Amur tiger and its habitats, sustain its prey base, support federal and regional networks of Protected Areas, and strengthen wildlife law enforcement. The project will support the launch of the updated in July 2010 National Strategy of Amur Tiger Conservation in Russia and preparation of the respective National Action Plan. It will also help Russia to meet its international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES.

Russia is the only tiger range country where the population of this species has increased since the 1960s, and over the recent 15 years, it has been generally stable. This became possible owing to major conservation efforts made in the 1950s-1980s, including the full prohibition of killing and catching tigers, establishment of a PA network, and implementation of a comprehensive research program. In the 1990s, international and Russian civil society organisations got proactively involved into Amur tiger conservation and raised significant funds to support nature reserves, fight poaching, and undertake research activities. In 1998, the first Russian National Amur Tiger Conservation Strategy was developed and adopted. In 2006-2008, support from leaders of the Russian Government resulted in the establishment of 3 new national parks and a federal special-purpose nature reserve to expand the area of tiger habitat protection by 770,000 ha (ultimately, over 20% of Amur tiger habitats are now under protection); and in August 2008, a new national Amur tiger research program was initiated under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Russia. As part of its preparation for the Tiger Summit, Russia has updated its Tiger Conservation Strategy and is developing a National Tiger Action Plan for the next decade.

The country demonstrates strong ownership of the project. Russia has been an active participant of the GTI since its launch in 2008. In March 2009, WWF-Russia submitted its proposal to the Prime Minister of Russia to host the Global Tiger Summit in Vladivostok in September 2010, in view of the

fact that Primorsky Krai contains the habitat of the largest contiguous population of wild tigers in the world. The proposal was supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Regional Development and the Administration of Primorsky Krai. In July 2009, the MNR forwarded to the World Bank (as the GTI Secretariat) an official proposal. In his letter of September 11, 2009 the President of the World Bank supported Russia's initiative to hold/host the Summit of Heads of Governments. **At the 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation (January 2010, Thailand), this proposal from Russia was officially endorsed by all TRCs and GTI partners.** In May 2010, for logistical reasons such as availability of the appropriate facilities for high-level attendance, the Government of Russia decided to move the Summit to the city of St. Petersburg, with Vladivostok hosting the International Tiger Youth Forum and other supporting activities linked to the Summit. In August 2010, the Government of Russia set the dates of the Summit for November 22-23, 2010.

C – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

1. PROGRAM DESIGNATION AND CONFORMITY

The Global Tiger Summit will promote increased support for Protected Areas, conservation financing and other strategic objectives of the GEF. The project is consistent with the Biodiversity GEF Focal Area, including the following strategic programs: BD-SP1 – PA financing, BD-SP3 – PA Networks, and BD-SP4 – Policy. As regards supporting tiger habitat conservation, the project is also consistent with the Sustainable Forest Management Focal Area, including the following programs: SFM-SP1 – Financing, SFM-SP2 – PA Networks, and SFM-SP4 – Policy. For example, as part of assisting with the development of the Summit documents such as the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP), the project will promote innovative financial tools for tiger habitat conservation and sustainable management, which is consistent with BD-SP1 and SFM-SP1. It will support adoption of policy and programmatic tools for optimisation and development of regional forested PA networks which is in line with BD-SP3, SFM-SP2. By focusing high-level decision-makers' attention on strengthening legal and regulatory framework and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into economic development, the project will address issues covered in BD-SP4 and SFM-SP4, and consolidation of wildlife enforcement and governance measures within the GTRP will contribute to BD-SP5. The project will also assist with resource mobilization for capacity building for law enforcement to protect the tiger (as a rare species) and its habitats and be instrumental in the development of a relevant Programmatic Framework for effective coordination and routine cooperation among Tiger Range Countries and interested organisations.

2. PROJECT DESIGN

(a) Sector Issues and the Baseline:

The Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) currently under preparation by GTI will support two types of actions: (i) scaling up practices already proven effective in one or more TRCs that need wider policy support and, usually, resources; and (ii) new transnational actions that enhance the effectiveness of individual TRCs' actions. Taken together, the GTRP will aim to achieve the agreed global goal of doubling a number of wild tigers over the next 12 years. The GTRP will be built from a foundation of robust National Tiger Recovery Programs that will selectively aim to scale up, as appropriate for each TRC, proven practices grouped in four themes:

- **Critical Landscape and Protected Area Management:** The most critical essential remaining tiger habitat - areas where wild tigers breed - will be made inviolate, with no development activities allowed. Core areas will be connected by green corridors and surrounded by well managed buffer zones. Principles of “Smart Green Infrastructure” will be applied to make development outside of core areas tiger friendly.
- **Technology for Wildlife Protection:** Technology-backed management and monitoring systems and forensic science capabilities, as well as performance incentives, will be introduced into tiger reserve management to control poaching of tigers and prey and reduce encroachment on tiger habitat.
- **Community Engagement:** Alternative livelihood programs, such as community-managed ecotourism, will be introduced in communities around tiger reserves as incentives for turning poachers into protectors and gaining widespread local support for tiger conservation. Systems to fairly compensate people for injury and economic loss from wild tigers will be implemented, along with education programs to give people the tools necessary to minimize tiger depredations.
- **Cooperative Management of International Landscapes:** A special focus on critical tiger landscapes that cross borders will be introduced. Promising transboundary landscapes are those between India, Nepal and Bhutan (*Terai Arc*), China and the Russian Far East (*Changbaishan*), and Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (*the Greater Mekong Subregion*).

In addition, the GTRP will support global action on new frontiers in a bid to fundamentally change the current dynamic threatening the extinction of the wild tiger. Key among these are:

- Create an effective and technologically savvy institutional architecture to help TRCs eliminate the huge illegal wildlife trade, focusing on effective interdiction and on wildlife law enforcement capacity building. The GTRP will support the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime being formed by INTERPOL, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Customs Organization, CITES Secretariat, and the World Bank.
- Persuade people to stop consuming tigers through a well designed, hard-hitting global awareness campaign to stigmatize using tiger parts and products as medicine, food, and adornment.
- Enhance the professional capacity of policy makers and practitioners for effective tiger and wildlife conservation in TRCs, building on the foundation laid by the recently established Smithsonian Institution- and World Bank-led Conservation and Development Network.
- Develop sustainable long-term financing mechanisms for conservation, including schemes for payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets from infrastructure development, resources from REDD+ carbon markets, and creation of a new market platform to recognize and monetize the value of wildlife.

Tiger range countries are already devoting considerable resources to wildlife conservation and some are planning to do even more. Total incremental costs to achieve the goal of doubling the number of wild tigers are currently being estimated but are likely to be in the range of \$100-200 million per year. To undertake catalytic activities that enable TRCs to strengthen political will, build institutional architecture, and develop project concepts for financing by traditional sources such as GEF and multilateral development banks, GTI is seeking the commitment of external incremental resources of about \$35-40 million per year for the next critical five years.

The financial architecture underpinning the GTRP will enable a wide range of potential supporters of wildlife conservation to effectively engage with and contribute to the GTRP, as follows:

- Support the implementation of a specific theme (such as Smart Green Infrastructure or eliminating illegal trade) in a TRC, a group of TRCs, or all TRCs, or in a global program;

- Adopt small-scale catalytic pilot projects (such as for smart patrolling or for managing tiger-human conflicts) that address a theme in target countries;
- Support technical assistance for preparatory work to develop and introduce Payment for Ecological Services (PES) schemes and monetize the value of wildlife;
- Support the global campaign to change consumer attitudes toward wildlife consumption;
- Support the Conservation and Development Network for capacity building in TRCs;
- Support preparatory work and feasibility studies to develop larger projects (such as cooperative management of transboundary landscapes) to be funded by GEF and the MDBs.

The instruments for engaging contributors in the GTRP will likely be:

- A **Multi-donor Trust Fund** (MDTF), to be managed by the World Bank with close supervision and regular reporting on individual activities and the Program as is customary for such trust funds;
- **Co-financing** by partners with part of the costs of Program activities implemented through the MDTF using its supervision and reporting procedures;
- **Parallel financing** by partners of Program activities for implementation through their own independent mechanisms, while reporting on these systematically as part of the Program; and
- **Independent financing** by partners of other relevant projects and activities endorsed for inclusion in the Program, with subsequent reporting on implementation.

Individual country-level activities to be supported (stand-alone or components of larger projects) are expected to cost up to about \$1 million each, and may include training and capacity building; building or strengthening relevant local and national institutions; technology transfer; workshops for knowledge exchange and cooperation; campaigns to reduce demand for tiger parts; developing sustainable financing strategies and options; and pilot projects, feasibility studies, and technical assistance to develop a proposal for funding from the traditional donors.

Transparency and accountability will be hallmarks of the GTRP. National activities will be executed by range countries with the help, as each TRC decides, of local and international NGOs. Global actions will be allocated for execution, in consultation with TRCs, to the most appropriate international institutions. Annual Reports based on robust monitoring systems in each tiger reserve, landscape, and range country will include a carefully designed Tiger ScoreCard. The ScoreCard will enable the TRCs, GTI, and Program donors and sponsors to monitor the direction and impact of the Program. The progress will be documented in regular high-level Program reviews.

(b) Description of the Project Alternative:

The success of the above efforts critically depends on the political will of the TRC leaders to support the effective transformational change in attitude to tiger and its habitats conservation and, more broadly, progress in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the operation of the productive sectors of the rapidly growing Asian economy. Most of the essential systemic problems to be addressed under the GTRP - like enforcement against poaching and illegal trade, Smart Green Infrastructure development, and transboundary habitat management - are all interdisciplinary and transboundary in nature and, therefore, cannot be dealt with solely by the TRC sectoral ministries responsible for wildlife (usually supervising environmental protection or forestry) alone. Issues of this magnitude can be effectively addressed only with the proper involvement, political support from, and ownership by all the involved branches of the TRC governments. For that reason it has been proposed that the GTRP, prepared by TRC sector ministries with the support from the other GTI partners, be adopted and launched by the TRC Heads of Governments at the Global Tiger Summit in Russia.

Therefore, the overall goal of the proposed MSP is to enable the Russian Federation (which accounts for 11% of the global wild tiger population) to make an effective and meaningful contribution into the development and adoption of a Global Tiger Recovery Program, containing a set of coherent transformational measures to prevent extinction of tigers and restore their population in the wild to sustainable levels, which would symbolise a transition to an environmentally responsible policy for the benefit of biodiversity as a whole. This goal will be attained through addressing the following **MSP objective: preparing and holding the Global Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg (Russia) in November 2010 to bring together TRC Heads of Governments in order to endorse and launch the Global Tiger Recovery Program.** As the Summit will be chaired by the Prime Minister of Russia and attended by TRC Heads of Governments, President of the World Bank Group, GEF Chairperson, top officials of other multilateral and bilateral donors and financiers, relevant development organizations of the UN family and convention secretariats, it will provide a solid platform for the subsequent joint collaborative action by stakeholders in building respective operational and financial architecture for the GTRP and in implementing the Program.

The project is designed to:

- (a) provide expertise and analytical support for the Summit preparation: activities would include development of the Russian inputs into the Global Tiger Recovery Program as an integral part of the updated Russian National Strategy and Action Plan for Amur Tiger Conservation and the Regional Action Plans. Analysis would specifically address transboundary international issues related to sustainable habitat management and the prevention of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The project would also support necessary inputs to the deliberations of the technical Working Group for the National Organizing Committee and the necessary post-Summit follow-up on the part of Russia, as the event's host country, towards launching the implementation of the Summit decisions.
- (b) provide organisational and logistic support for the Summit preparation: the project would finance operation of the Summit Secretariat (in Moscow and St. Petersburg), its Technical and Decision-Makers Programs (St. Petersburg, November 2010), and some other related activities.
- (c) deliver an information campaign to highlight the Summit, promote its goals and commitments: includes preparation and implementation of various public information activities – media, art and youth events, contests involving journalists, press conferences, publications, photo exhibitions, public service announcements, dissemination of the information materials, etc. It is expected that this campaign be undertaken in close cooperation with the principal international partners of the initiative – World Bank, GEF, National Geographic, WWF, Smithsonian Institution, IFAW and others, and that it would significantly contribute to the activities and global efforts for the International Year of Biodiversity.

Project activities are structured in two components: *Component 1 - Preparing and holding the Tiger Summit to launch a Global Tiger Recovery Program*, covering (i) analytical support, (ii) logistics, and (iii) information campaign (total US\$ 1,326,000; GEF cost US\$ 510,000); and *Component 2 - Project management* (total US\$ 140,000; GEF cost US\$ 50,000). Further details of the project are provided in Section E.3 of this document and in the Annex 2 “Detailed Project Description”.

The MSP will be administered by the All-Russia Institute for Nature Conservation “VNII Prirody” (research entity under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) jointly with WWF-Russia (a leading national environmental NGO with a strong involvement in tiger conservation). The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, supervised by the Office of the Prime Minister, takes the lead among governmental agencies in organizing the Summit and chairs the National Organizing

Committee. Active involvement in the Project of the principal international partners – World Bank, GEF, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, Save the Tiger Fund and others – is essential to ensure effective global coordination of the event and the appropriate coverage by the Summit of the relevant transboundary and global conservation issues.

(c) The global environment benefits:

The countries in the range of the tiger are amongst the most important in delivering global biodiversity benefits. At the same time the wild tigers give a face to the larger crisis of biodiversity loss in Asia and around the world – a crisis that threatens human well-being as much as declining wildlife and wild lands. Tiger habitats represent large, relatively intact ecosystems and harbor the best of Asia's biodiversity – lowland evergreen rain forest, peat forest, and other forest lands, other threatened predators, large herbivores such as gaur and banteng, and the most diverse terrestrial communities of wildlife. The tiger habitats are key protectors of watershed values and are amongst the most important carbon stores on the planet. Tiger landscapes are also pockets of deep poverty, and the rural poor have the most to lose when ecosystems are destroyed. These ecosystems provide vast and undervalued ecological services for billions of people in Asia such as fresh water, soil and watershed protection and the genetic base for food security and pharmaceuticals, as well as carbon sequestration, helping to mitigate climate change. Globally significant biodiversity beyond the tigers' range will also benefit if the demand for tiger and other wildlife products can be contained. Where tiger populations are depleted, commercial poachers have turned to the other Asian big cats: Asian lions, leopards, and snow leopards. Indeed, nearly one-tenth of the small Asian lion population of 300 to 350 individuals in India's Gir Forest were poached in 2007 alone – these are the only survivors of a subspecies that once ranged from Greece to India. Therefore, the proposed Global Tiger Recovery Program to be launched at the 2010 Global Tiger Summit in Russia would generate significant global environmental benefits. The Program would provide catalytic framework for the coherent and coordinated development and implementation of conservation projects in the Tiger Range Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, and Vietnam), which would strengthen conservation of the critically endangered wild tiger populations and habitats in order to arrest and reverse the current progressing decline in this species and the losses in the related habitats of the high global biodiversity value. As indicated above, **the direct global environmental benefits from the Program would include in a short term a decrease in tiger and its habitat losses and, in a longer term – an expected 2 times increase in the number of wild tigers over the next 12 years.** The specific measurable targets and indicators for the global environmental benefits by tiger range countries and for the transboundary and global actions will be further elaborated by the GTI - with the GEF as a principal partner - as part of the GTRP process.

The 2010 Global Tiger Summit in Russia supported by the proposed MSP **would mobilise and confirm political will of the Tiger Range Countries and the global community to take effective joint measures to prevent extinction of tigers and restore their population in the wild to sustainable levels.** The Summit offers a unique opportunity for **transformational change in how the world values and protects its natural heritage and its natural wealth, with the charismatic tiger as flagship.** Success of the GTRP, to be evident in five to seven years, in reversing the threat of extinction facing wild tigers will increase the global momentum toward protecting natural capital to benefit current and future generations.

The Tiger Summit of TRC Heads of Governments would have a significant impact at the political level:

- (i) it would lead to substantive and measurable commitments to tiger conservation by top political leaders of the TRCs, which would be operationalized through their respective national programs and supported by governmental budgetary allocations;
- (ii) the Summit would help mobilize political support to tiger conservation from major donors and financiers, and would inform and influence them to prioritize financing in the interest of biodiversity conservation and environmentally sustainable development at large;
- (iii) it would also influence broader investment policies by promoting tiger-friendly territorial development patterns, “green infrastructure”, sustainable forestry and wildlife management;
- (iv) transboundary cooperation would be fostered, which is critical as most of the tiger habitats spread across boundaries and, therefore, are heavily dependent on the neighboring countries’ coordinated supportive action;
- (v) the Summit, as a high-profile political event, would contribute to the work of the global environmental community towards fostering the change of the development paradigm to more biodiversity friendly. It would raise the issue of disappearing tigers as a “flagship” for the technically sound, coherent and consolidated multi-stakeholder approach to address the pressing threats to the global environment.

Key stakeholders will emerge stronger from the Summit. All stakeholders will significantly enhance the impact of their individual actions and create a legacy for the future by joining this pioneering, highly visible, and global effort. Philanthropist friends of wildlife, through a sustained commitment of grants, will be organically associated with this program and the GTI brand. Official donors will strengthen biodiversity conservation considerations in their portfolios and be at the forefront of supporting protection of the ecological services offered by tiger landscapes. TRC leaders will reinforce their individual commitments to national actions with the collective political will for joint global action. Conservationists will continue to harvest, share and apply the best available knowledge with the confidence of political and financial support. TRCs and national and international NGOs will achieve greater impact from their on-the-ground-efforts with communities, backed up by coordinated transboundary actions to end illegal trade and trafficking by substantially reducing consumer demand for tiger parts. International organizations charged with combating wildlife crime will work together with more effective national support.

(d) Project cost financed by GEF and Incremental Reasoning:

The project will be funded with resources from the GEF, public budget of the Russian Federation, the World Bank, and NGOs (WWF-Russia and Save the Tiger Fund). The GEF grant of US\$560,000 would cover 38% of the total project costs and would co-finance mostly the analytical support for the Summit preparation, airfare of sponsored TRC delegates, and a communication program.

In the absence of the GEF grant, the organisation of the Tiger Summit would proceed in accordance with the earlier adopted decisions of the Russian Government. However, in the course of the preparation, substance-wise it will not be possible to ensure its proper integration with the strategic objectives of the Global Tiger Recovery Program directly related to global environmental benefits, and, in particular, such issues as conservation of transboundary tiger habitats, coordination of tiger range countries’ actions in law enforcement, measures to address illegal wildlife trade, mobilization of

political will in the global community to take measures to increase in-situ conservation and reduce the demand for tiger parts, etc.

In terms of logistics, the organizers will not be able to sponsor attendance of meaningful delegations from all TRCs, which may result in limited representation of countries. The promotion of the Summit in the media and press will also be insufficient for the event of such scope and global significance – therefore, important opportunity to impact public opinions and further foster conservation agenda will be lost.

In addition to co-financing the project, the GEF involvement as a principal partner would help the project maintain stronger focus on the global environmental benefits and would allow maximize its synergies and complementarities with the other conservation initiatives in the targeted regions of the Tiger Ranges Countries. GEF has made a special gesture in offering to support the Tiger Summit, and later, through the GEF-5, the programmatic implementation of the tiger-related country programs ('National Tiger Recovery Programs') linked to the Global Tiger Recovery Program. The role of the GEF as the cofounder and major partner of the GTI would be recognized through appropriate protocol arrangements at the Tiger Summit and other follow-up events (including the use of the GEF logo and other relevant communication tools for the related activities and outputs).

3. SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY) AND RISK ASSESSMENT

(a) Sustainability:

In the *broader international context* this project and the Global Tiger Summit is an integral part of the GTI process to establish sound institutional architecture and long-term financing arrangements for the implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program (see Section C.2. above). It is expected that the Summit of TRC Heads of Governments would result in building high-level and measurable commitments for tiger and habitat conservation in the range states, which would include institutional and financing frameworks for the long-term sustainable operation of the GTRP with a goal to double the number of wild tigers by 2022. Respective proposals for the endorsement by TRC Heads of Governments at the Summit are currently under preparation with the GTI.

For the *Russia in-country activities* the MSP is fully linked to the long-term conservation programs supporting the implementation of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. There is a strong political commitment on the part of the Government of Russia to the Global Tiger Summit and the leadership in tiger conservation, which is being transformed in the related operational decisions (see Section B.2. above).

The MSP would build on the existing and functioning institutions. The implementation arrangements would conform with the current governance structures. The project would help establish strategic partnerships with stakeholders (including NGOs, academia, and the private sector) to ensure strong ownership of the activities by implementation partners and the continuity of the conservation effort beyond the project life.

(b) Risk Assessment:

The overall risks associated with the project are assessed to be *medium*. The potential risks, their rating and the mitigation measures proposed are summarized in a table below.

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measures	Residual rating
Attendance of the Summit by TRC Heads of Governments may be insufficient to duly authorize high-level coordinated action on GTRP.	High	All TRC Governments are being consulted - both by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through diplomatic channels and by the World Bank through its operational channels - to confirm availability and convenience of Heads of Governments for the proposed Summit. There is an on-going communication on that issue between Russian and TRC governments supported by the Summit National Organizing Committee.	Medium
TRCs at the Summit fail to agree to a meaningful joint 'game changing' action in some of critical areas, such as addressing illegal demand for and trafficking of tiger parts, and etc.	High	The key draft documents of the Summit – the GTRP and the Declaration of TRC Heads of Governments – undergo detailed review by all TRCs to clarify and account for their positions on the entire range of controversial technical and political issues. The expert working group of the National Organizing Committee takes the lead in coordinating this activity and addressing comments of the TRC sector ministries in the draft final documents.	Medium
Country's political commitment to address such issues as strengthening of law enforcement and sustainable tiger habitat management may turn insufficient to take the required action.	Medium	The risk for Russia will be addressed through increasing the visibility of tiger conservation needs for top decision-makers in Russia as the host country of the Tiger Summit and a global leader in tiger conservation using Amur Tiger as a flagship species. The project is specifically expected to increase the commitment of the range countries' political leaders to wildlife conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the tiger habitats (through an information campaign in mass media, various public events and the Tiger Summit itself).	Low
High-level commitments may not be translated and implemented on the ground and will not lead to conservation impact.	Medium	The risk for Russia will be mitigated through the proper integration of the critical elements of the Tiger Recovery Program into the Russian National Tiger Conservation Action Plan, Regional Action Plans and the relevant sectoral development programs.	Low

No risks related to climate change have been identified for this project. However, the global climate change agenda offers new opportunities for supporting the protection of forest habitats.

4. REPLICABILITY

The Global Tiger Recovery Program to be launched at the Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg would pilot and support replicable initiatives in four broad thematic areas: (i) critical landscape and protected area management, (ii) technology for wildlife protection, (iii) community engagement, and (iv) cooperative management of international landscapes (see Section C.2.(a) for details).

Resources for (including technical capacity, allocation of decisional authority and staffing) and experience in organizing the Summit will be further used by the GTI for building effective interaction among TRCs and global partners for the benefit of the GTRP successful implementation and in establishing procedures and activities for the follow-up high-level program implementation reviews.

5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The Tiger Summit is a culmination of the highly participatory process of elaborating the GTRP - the global program of joint and collaborative actions by a wide range of stakeholders, including the governments of 13 TRCs (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, and Vietnam), international NGOs (WWF, WCS, Save the Tiger Fund, IFAW, and etc.), international organizations and conventions (the World Bank, GEF, CITES, ASEAN-WEN, etc.). The proposal to hold the 2010 Tiger Summit in Russia was supported by all GTI stakeholders at the 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in Thailand in January 2010. Since then, preparation is underway: all TRCs carry out national consultations to refine individual countries' priorities and deliver their specific inputs to the global program. TRCs and GTI global partners have all appointed their senior officials who are now fully engaged in planning and coordinating various activities related to the Summit preparation. The Summit program and documentation will be in detail reviewed and agreed by all GTI stakeholders at the Pre-summit meeting in Indonesia in July 2010.

In-country arrangements for stakeholder involvement in the MSP implementation have also been established. The Summit National Organizing Committee chaired by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of Russia includes authorized representatives of the concerned federal and regional authorities, national and local environmental NGOs, academia, and the private sector. The project communication program would also specifically address and foster stakeholder participation. It is expected that the project would strengthen strategic partnerships among key stakeholders, including the authorities, environmental NGO community, other civil society organizations, and the sector industry, to insure the sustainability and maximize benefits from the project outcomes in the long-term.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The interagency National Organizing Committee (NOC) chaired by Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, which includes World Bank representatives, will closely monitor the implementation of all government- and GEF-funded activities for the Global Tiger Summit preparation and delivery. Project monitoring and evaluation will follow the World Bank standard requirements for medium-size project supervision, financial management and reporting, including the audit of the project and its executing agencies ("VNII Prirody" and WWF-Russia) that is estimated to cost US\$20,000. Project

supervision will be guided by the specific sources of verification indicated in the Results Framework (see Annex 1).

D – FINANCIAL MODALITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

1. PROJECT COSTS AND FINANCING PLAN

The MSP has an estimated total cost of US\$1,466,000, with the Government, World Bank and other donors' contributions for US\$906,000. The requested GEF co-financing is US\$ 560,000. Project costs by components are summarized in a table below. Further breakdown of costs by the specific activities and by the project Executing Agencies is provided in the Annex 2 – Detailed Project Description.

Project Components	Technical assistance (TA), scientific & technical analysis (STA)	GEF Financing		Co-financing		Total
		(US\$)	%	(US\$)	%	(US\$)
1. Preparing and holding the Tiger Summit to launch a Global Tiger Recovery Program:	STA, TA	510,000	38%	816,000	62%	1,326,000
2. Project management	TA	50,000	36%	90,000	64%	140,000
Total project costs		560,000	38%	906,000	62%	1,466,000

2. COST EFFECTIVENESS

The project is *cost-effective in relation to achieving the objectives of the GEF relevant strategic programs* for the following reasons:

(i) An emphasis on activities aimed at conservation of the tiger as a 'flagship' species will enable the project to address more substantive objectives of integrated wildlife conservation in the tiger range. The environmental benefits will be broader and will exceed those of protecting the tiger as individual species.

(ii) The project will target resources to assure a high quality of the Global Tiger Summit and as such lead to substantive and measurable commitments to tiger conservation by top political leaders. It is a small investment which is expected to lead to big returns and is thus highly cost-effective.

(iii) The Summit will provide additional impetus to the GTI through engaging top policy makers from all Tiger Range Countries under the convening power of the Russian Government, the World Bank and the GEF. The World Bank is already strongly committed to becoming more active in tiger conservation, using the tiger as one of the symbols for biodiversity conservation and more broadly environmentally sustainable development. The proposed project will help to strengthen the

collaboration among countries, NGOs, bilaterals, and MDBs to support national, regional and global commitments made at the Tiger Summit. The financial assessments will provide the analyses of funding gaps and needs to undertake new efforts to raise additional financing for conservation.

(iv) The Summit will be a high-level signature event in the International Year of Biodiversity, which will further foster conservation agenda.

The proposed MSP activities are also *cost-effective operationally* for the following reasons:

(i) The project is implemented through the leading Russian conservation organizations – WWF Russia and VNII Prirody with complementary technical strengths. The MSP will additionally benefit from their individual and cumulative experience, management and technical expertise.

(ii) MSP activities will use the existing and proven effective implementation structures and arrangements. The project will engage well established governmental procedures for organizing high level meetings and events.

(iii) Project activities providing analytical support to the Summit will to a large extent complement the ongoing work done by the MNR and both MSP EAs. In particular the National Tiger Action Plan to be developed will be based on the new National Tiger Conservation Strategy adopted in July 2010 and will incorporate the Regional Tiger Action Plan also already adopted by the Khabarovsk Krai (one of the Russian tiger regions). Both MSP EAs undertake their own broader activities (VNII Prirody - in technical analysis and WWF Russia - in communications for tiger conservation) which would help them maximize the cost-effectiveness of the MSP investment.

(iv) The project will seek to engage several stakeholders (such as the Administration of the city of St. Petersburg, industry, media, etc.) as additional sponsors and co-financiers, which is very likely given the magnitude and the high profile of the event.

(v) MSP EAs will select contractors on a competitive basis where feasible to minimize costs.

Project alternatives considered. In view of the need (explained above) to have the GTRP adopted and launched by the TRC Heads of Governments, there is no alternative to the proposed TRC Heads of Governments’ consultations with the signature event – Global Tiger Summit of TRC Heads of Governments. The Government of Russia has examined a number of alternatives for the Summit venue and selected the one which is balanced in terms of costs, logistics, and operational convenience.

3. CO-FINANCING

The project will be co-financed by the Government of Russia, the World Bank, WWF Russia and Save the Tiger Fund. The confirmed co-financing by sources is summarized in a table below.

<i>Name of Co-financier (source)</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Amount (US\$)</i>	<i>%</i>
Public budget of the Russian Federation	National Government	cash	440,000	49
World Bank	GEF Agency	in kind	85,000	9
WWF-Russia	NGO	cash & in kind	331,000	36
Save the Tiger Fund	NGO	in kind	50,000	6
Total Co-financing			906,000	100%

E - INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

1. CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

The project will support Russia's active involvement in the Global Tiger Initiative (see Section B.2. above). In parallel with implementation of this project, Russia will update its National Tiger Conservation Action Plan as part of its technical preparation for hosting the Tiger Summit. This will derive significantly from the results and outputs of the two completed GEF operations – *Biodiversity Conservation Project* (P008801) and the *MSP Regional Protected Areas Network for Sikhote-Alin Mountain Forest Ecosystems Conservation in Khabarovsk Kray* (P071337), as well as on-going GEF biodiversity projects in Russia implemented by UNDP and the ecotourism project implemented by UNEP. The project will also cooperate closely with another medium-sized GEF project: *Future for the Tiger: Conservation of Large Landscapes* (P112108) executed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which has a subcomponent for US\$100,000 directed at facilitating national consultations in all Tiger Range Countries and several other international inputs into the Tiger Summit preparation. Within that subcomponent, implemented by WWF in close coordination with all core GTI partners and the GTI Secretariat, assistance has been provided to the Tiger Range Countries in the public consultations on, and refinement of, the respective National Tiger Recovery Programs that constitute integral elements of the draft Global Tiger Recovery Program. The interim results of these inputs have already been presented by the TRC delegations during the Pre Tiger Summit Partners Dialogue meeting in Indonesia in July 2010 and will be used for the finalization of the Global Tiger Recovery Program to be presented for endorsement by Heads of Governments at the Tiger Summit in Russia.

2. CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND THE GEF SECRETARIAT, IF APPROPRIATE.

The MSP will be implemented through a single GEF Agency – the World Bank. As the coordinator of the Global Tiger Initiative, the World Bank will ensure proper integration of the MSP with the other GTI activities, including broader international efforts for the preparation of the Global Tiger Summit, development of the Global Tiger Recovery Program and mobilisation of financial resources for its implementation. In addition to its role in the GTI, the World Bank is a recognized leader in funding biodiversity conservation, with unparalleled convening power. It possesses strong experience in other conservation projects, including national projects and CEPF activities that have benefited tigers in the Tiger Range Countries.

The GEF, as a principal partner in the GTI, is expected to play an important role in providing critical catalytic and incremental funding for the eligible activities under the Global Tiger Recovery Program. Individual project proposals within this global framework are now being discussed in all tiger range states through national consultations and will constitute part of the GTRP package to be endorsed by TRC Heads of Governments at the Tiger Summit. Details and specific arrangements for this strategic programmatic approach and the implications for the GEF-5 programming will be further discussed and agreed with the GEF Secretariat and the relevant GEF Implementing Agencies.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The expected duration of the MSP is 6 months. The GEF-funded activities will be implemented by the All-Russia Nature Conservation Institute (NCI) “VNII Prirody” of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR) of the Russian Federation and WWF-Russia. Both organizations have been

directly designated by the MNR to execute these roles under the project and will be doing so under the direct and close supervision of the MNR, which has the overall responsibility for organizing the Summit. To oversee various aspects of the Summit preparation, the MNR has established and chairs an inter-ministerial National Organizing Committee (NOC) consisting of the authorized representatives of the concerned governmental authorities: MNR itself and its relevant agencies, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Federal Security Service, Ministry of Defence, Administration of the City of St. Petersburg, etc. The NOC will operate Working Groups guiding specific aspects of the preparation: (i) organization and logistics, including communications, (ii) technical substance, and (iii) financing. World Bank representatives will also participate in the NOC and its Working Groups. Operational interaction with the TRCs will be carried out through the National Focal Points appointed in each TRC government, with assistance from the GTI Secretariat housed at the World Bank.

Specific responsibilities for the globally coordinated Summit preparation and delivery will be divided among implementation partners as follows:

(i) Technical and analytical support: The Global Tiger Recovery Program is being developed under the coordination of the GTI Secretariat as a joint effort of the TRCs and global partners including the leaders in the conservation science. Country-specific segments of the Program have been discussed in the course of national consultations in each TRC. The draft Program will be reviewed and endorsed by the authorized TRC senior officials through the ongoing Pre-Summit dialogue process. Following that review the key elements of the Program will be ready for endorsement by TRC Heads of Governments at the Summit in St. Petersburg.

Under the subject MSP, the NCI “*VNII Prirody*” and *WWF-Russia* will jointly contribute to the finalization of the Russia-specific elements of the GTRP and support relevant incremental operating costs of the required technical inputs into the work of the NOC’s technical Working Group.

(ii) Organization and logistics: The MNR, as directed by the Office of the Prime Minister and in cooperation with the other relevant authorities (all are members of the NOC), will manage all organizational matters and all the internal logistics of the Summit. Among other related tasks, the MNR will contract (using Government funds) and supervise a turn-key logistical operator that will administer venue arrangements, hotel accommodation of the Summit participants, protocol, in-city transportation, and all related conferencing activities including the on-site Summit Secretariat. The high-level segment of the Summit involving Heads of Governments of the TRCs will be organized under the direct supervision of the Office of the Prime Minister.

The NCI “*VNII Prirody*” will use GEF grant funds to finance a specific subset of incremental operating costs for the Summit, including airfares for the sponsored delegates from Tiger Range Countries. This will be done in close coordination with the Government’s logistical operator for the Summit, the NOC’s logistical Working Group and the GTI Secretariat.

(iii) Information campaign: The overall campaign to highlight the Summit and promote its goals will be coordinated by the Department of Press Service and Information of the Office of the Prime Minister in close collaboration with the GTI Secretariat, and with inputs from the NOC’s Working Group. Specific incremental operating costs of this campaign will be financed with GEF funds provided under this project. *WWF Russia* will be responsible for delivering the International Tiger Youth Forum in Vladivostok and its presentation at the Summit, as well as incremental support to the production of the special issue of National Geographic Russia magazine dedicated to the Summit and the organization of the special National Geographic photo exhibitions on tigers, to be displayed at the Summit’s VIP and main venues in St. Petersburg and subsequently presented in Moscow and two main cities of the tiger

area in the Russian Far East – Khabarovsk and Vladivostok. The NCI “*VNII Prirody*” will provide incremental support to the production of a high-quality illustrated publication on tiger conservation issues to be distributed at the Summit and a documentary on tiger conservation to be aired on the Russian TV. Both organizations will provide incremental support to the dissemination of targeted materials in the Russian print and electronic media about the National and Global Tiger Recovery Programs.

Relevant incremental operating costs for project management and audit will be financed by GEF funds and co-financed by both recipient organizations. Project activities will be supervised, and implementation reporting provided, following standard World Bank procedures.

Considering that certain time-sensitive activities under this Project related to the preparation for the Tiger Summit in November 2010 had to be started prior to the final approval of the MSP, these Project activities will be eligible for retroactive financing in compliance with applicable rules and procedures of the World Bank as follows: (i) these activities are included in the project description submitted for GEF approval and in the Grant Agreement; (ii) provisions for retroactive financing are included in the Grant Agreement; (iii) the payments are for items purchased in accordance with applicable Bank procedures; (iv) such payments do not exceed 20% of the grant amount; and (v) the payments were incurred by the Recipient not earlier than August 1, 2010. This date complies with the standard requirement of not than 12 months (but no earlier than the parent GEF trust fund approval date) before the expected date of signing of the Grant Agreement.

PART II – SUPPLEMENTAL ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

ANNEX 2 – DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ANNEX 3 – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

ANNEX 4 – RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Objective	Outcome Indicators	Output Indicators	Sources of Verification
Provide support for the Global Tiger Summit hosted by the Russian Federation to bring together Heads of Governments in order to launch the Global Tiger Recovery Program.	High-level and measurable commitments for tiger and habitat conservation in the range states in place.	TRC Heads of Governments endorse and launch the GTRP, which addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) country-specific priorities as confirmed by the TRC national consultations; (ii) transboundary activities of the TRCs; (iii) global actions by international organizations; (iv) funding mechanisms for the GTRP sustainable implementation. 	GTRP endorsement publicized and the approved GTRP document and the signed Declaration of TRC Heads of Governments officially published.
Results by Components	Outcome Indicators	Output Indicators	Sources of Verification
1. Preparing and holding the Global Tiger Summit to launch a Global Tiger Recovery Program.	(i) Expertise and analytical support for the Summit preparation provided.	(i) Russia's technical inputs to the draft GTRP provided, based on the updated National Strategy and Action Plan. (ii) Technical Working Group (TWG) supporting the NOC. (iii) Technical oversight and monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the Russian elements of the GTRP in place.	Project EAs, MNR, and GTI GTRP team reporting. TWG and NOC protocols. Project EAs and MNR reporting.
	(ii) Organisational and logistic support for the	(i) Summit attendance by TRCs, donors, and	Project EAs and MNR

	Summit preparation provided.	<p>other concerned parties secured.</p> <p>(ii) Summit Technical Program (for experts and senior officials) delivered.</p> <p>(iii) Summit Decision-Makers Program (for ministers and heads of governments) delivered.</p> <p>(iv) Summit follow-up agreements and arrangements in place.</p>	<p>reporting.</p> <p>Project EAs and MNR reporting.</p> <p>Project EAs and MNR reporting and media coverage.</p> <p>MNR reporting and documentary evidence.</p>
	(iii) Information campaign to highlight the Summit and promote its goals delivered.	<p>(i) Summit promoted through articles in press, TV programs, photo exhibits, music concert and other public events.</p> <p>(ii) International TRC “youth tiger forum” in Vladivostok carried out.</p>	<p>Project EAs and MNR reporting and media coverage.</p> <p>Project EAs and MNR reporting and media coverage.</p>
2. Project management.	Financial, technical and administrative controls for the project and the use of funds secured.	<p>(i) Key staff and capacity for the MSP implementation in the Executing Agencies (NCI VNII Prirody and WWF Russia) in place.</p> <p>(ii) Project audit completed.</p>	<p>Project EAs reporting. Confirmation by the Bank.</p> <p>Project EAs reporting and auditors report.</p>

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MSP objective is to prepare and hold the Global Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg (Russia) in November 2010 to bring together Heads of Governments of the Tiger Range Countries in order to endorse and launch the Global Tiger Recovery Program. The Global Tiger Recovery Program would strengthen conservation of the critically endangered wild tiger populations and habitats aiming to arrest and reverse the current progressing decline in this species and the losses in the related habitats of the high global biodiversity value.

The expected duration of the MSP is 6 months. The GEF-funded activities will be implemented by the All-Russia Nature Conservation Institute (NCI) “VNII Prirody” of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR) of the Russian Federation and WWF-Russia. Both organizations have been directly designated by the MNR to execute these roles under the project and will be doing so under the direct and close supervision of the MNR, which has the overall responsibility for organizing the Summit. To oversee various aspects of the Summit preparation, the MNR has established and chairs an inter-ministerial National Organizing Committee (NOC) consisting of the authorized representatives of the concerned governmental authorities: MNR itself and its relevant agencies, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Federal Security Service, Ministry of Defense, Administration of the city of St-Petersburg, and etc. The NOC will operate Working Groups guiding specific aspects of the preparation: (i) organization and logistics, including communications, (ii) technical substance, and (iii) financing. World Bank representatives will also participate in the NOC and its Working Groups. Operational interaction with the TRCs will be carried out through the National Focal Points appointed in each TRC government, with assistance from the GTI Secretariat housed at the World Bank.

Total project costs are US\$ 1,466,000, of which the GEF cost is US\$ 560,000 and the co-financing is US\$ 906,000. MSP activities are structured in two components: Component I - Preparing and holding the Tiger Summit to launch a Global Tiger Recovery Program, covering (i) analytical support, (ii) logistics, and (iii) information campaign; and Component II - Project management. Specific project activities are summarized below.

I. Preparing and holding the Global Tiger Summit to launch a Global Tiger Recovery Program (Total cost US\$ 1,326,000; GEF US\$ 510,000; Co-financing US\$ 816,000)

1. Expertise and analytical support for the Summit preparation (Total cost US\$ 276,000; GEF US\$ 75,000; Co-financing US\$ 201,000)

The subcomponent would support development of the Russian inputs into the Global Tiger Recovery Program as an integral part of the updated Russian National Strategy and Action Plan for Amur Tiger Conservation and the Regional Action Plans. Analysis would specifically address transboundary international issues related to sustainable habitat management and the prevention of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The project would also support operation of the Expert Working Group for the National Organizing Committee and strategic follow-up on the part of Russia as the Summit host country on the implementation of the Summit decisions. Activities would include:

- (i) Support to finalization of the National Tiger Action Plan 2010-2020.
- (ii) Support to Technical Working Group for the National Organizing Committee
- (iii) Support to Drafting Committee for preparation of Summit documents

The Global Tiger Recovery Program is being developed under the coordination of the GTI Secretariat as a joint effort of the TRCs and global partners including the leaders in the conservation science. Country-specific segments of the Program have been discussed in the course of national consultations in each TRC. The draft Program will be reviewed and endorsed by the authorized TRC senior officials through the ongoing Pre-Summit dialogue process. Following that review the key elements of the Program will be ready for endorsement by TRC Heads of Governments at the Summit in St. Petersburg. These activities to finalize the GTRP are co-financed by the World Bank and Save the Tiger Fund (total US\$ 135,000).

2. Organisational and logistic support for the Summit preparation: (Total cost US\$ 520,000; GEF US\$ 230,000; Co-financing US\$ 290,000)

The subcomponent would finance organizational and logistical costs of organizing the Summit, delivering Summit Technical and Decision-Makers Programs in St. Petersburg and of the related supporting activities.

The MNR, as directed by the Office of the Prime Minister and in cooperation with the other relevant authorities (all are members of the NOC), will manage all organizational matters and all the internal logistics of the Summit. Among other related tasks, the MNR will contract (using Government funds) and supervise a turn-key logistical operator that will administer venue arrangements, hotel accommodation of the Summit participants, protocol, in-city transportation, and all related conferencing activities including the on-site Summit Secretariat. The high-level segment of the Summit involving Heads of Governments of the TRCs will be organized under the direct supervision of the Office of the Prime Minister.

GEF grant would finance a specific subset of incremental operating costs for the Summit, including airfares for the sponsored delegates from Tiger Range Countries. This will be done in close coordination with the Government's logistical operator for the Summit, the NOC's logistical Working Group and the GTI Secretariat.

3. Information campaign to highlight the Summit, promote its goals and commitments (Total cost US\$ 530,000; GEF US\$ 205,000; Co-financing US\$ 325,000)

The overall campaign to highlight the Summit and promote its goals will be coordinated by the Department of Press Service and Information of the Office of the Prime Minister in close collaboration with the GTI Secretariat. Specific incremental costs of this campaign will be financed with GEF funds provided under this project. It is also expected that this campaign be undertaken in close cooperation with the principal international partners of the initiative – World Bank, GEF, National Geographic, WWF, Smithsonian Institution, IFAW and others, and that it would significantly contribute to the activities and global efforts for the International Year of Biodiversity.

The subcomponent supports preparation and implementation of various public information activities – media, art and youth events, contests involving journalists, press conferences, publications, photo exhibitions, public service announcements, dissemination of the information materials, etc. Specifically it would include:

- (i) Production of a high-quality illustrated publication on tiger conservation issues to be distributed at the Summit;
- (ii) Production of documentary on tiger conservation to be aired on the Russian TV;

- (iii) National Tiger Strategy and Action Plan promotion in press;
- (iv) Support to the production of the special issue of National Geographic Russia magazine dedicated to the Summit;
- (v) Youth Tiger Forum in Vladivostok with videolink and presentation at the Summit;
- (vi) Organization of the special National Geographic magazine photo exhibition on tigers, to be displayed at the Summit venue;
- (vii) Promotion in press of Tiger Summit objectives and outputs;
- (viii) Public events promoting the Summit and tiger conservation.

II. Project management (Total cost US\$ 140,000; GEF US\$ 50,000; Co-financing US\$ 90,000)

GEF grant would finance relevant incremental costs for project management by both Executing Agencies and the final audit.

Implementation responsibilities for the MSP activities by Executing Agencies

1. All-Russia Research Institute for Nature Conservation “VNII Prirody”

Activity	GEF (USD)	Co-financing (USD)
1. Airfares for the sponsored delegates from Tiger Range Countries	230,000	-
2. Production of a high-quality illustrated publication on tiger conservation issues to be distributed at the Summit	50,000	20,000
3. Production of documentary on tiger conservation to be aired on the Russian TV	25,000	50,000
4. Support to finalization of the National Tiger Action Plan 2010-2020	30,000	30,000
5. National Tiger Strategy and Action Plan promotion in press	10,000	10,000
6. GEF Grant Audit - VNII Prirody	10,000	-
7. Project management - VNII Prirody	15,000	40,000
Total for VNII Prirody	370,000	150,000

2. WWF Russia

Activity	GEF (USD)	Co-financing (USD)
1. Support to the production of the special issue of National Geographic Russia magazine dedicated to the Summit	25,000	-
2. Youth Forum in Vladivostok with Videolink and Youth Presentation at the Summit	15,000	115,000
3. Organization of the special National Geographic magazine photo exhibition on tigers, to be displayed at the Summit venue	50,000	5,000

4. Support to Technical Working Group for the National Organizing Committee	25,000	25,000
5. Support to Drafting Committee for preparation of Summit documents	20,000	11,000
6. Promotion in press of Tiger Summit objectives and outputs	30,000	30,000
7. Public events promoting the Summit and tiger conservation	-	95,000
8. GEF Grant Audit - WWF Russia	10,000	-
9. Project management - WWF Russia	15,000	50,000
Total for WWF Russia	190,000	331,000

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

To be inserted after completion of internal Bank clearances

RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

I. Comments from GEF Secretariat at PIF

1. Comment: *Please further elaborate measurable GEB at the time of CEO approval of the MSP.*

The MSP finances a conference event to adopt and launch the Global Tiger Recovery Program. The Global Environmental Benefits resulting from the implementation of the Program are summarized in Section C.2. They include in a short term a decrease in tiger and its habitat losses and, in a longer term – a 2 times increase in the number of wild tigers over the next 12 years. Measurable targets and indicators for GEB by tiger range countries and for the transboundary and global actions will be further elaborated by the GTI - with the GEF as a principal partner - as part of the GTRP process.

2. Comment: *On the project consistency and coordination with the other initiatives – further details and collaborative mechanism and linkages are required at the time of CEO approval of the MSP.*

MSP consistency with national priorities and plans is detailed in Section B.2. The project's central role for the GTI activities and the GTRP is summarized in Section C.2.

3. Comment: *In addition to the benefit that the GEF investment would provide for the analytical work of the initiative, it would be important to note the impact at the political level.*

The 2010 Tiger Summit in Russia would endorse at the heads of Government level the political, institutional and financial architecture of the GTRP and define directions for the further evolution of the GTI as a global collaborative conservation mechanism. Detailed in Section C.2.

4. Comment: *Co-financing is considered adequate but all efforts are encouraged to increase the co-financing level at the time of CEO approval of the MSP.*

The indicated co-financing is firmly secured by the Government of Russia and the project implementation partners. The government also expects to engage additional resources from industry sponsors to further increase the international profile and magnitude of the event. For that purpose, major Russian companies have been invited to participate in the meetings of the National Organizing Committee for the Summit.

II. Comments from GEF Secretariat at CEO Approval

<p>(Q 4) Though the linkage with all identified GEF strategic programs is recognized, in order to promote further focus and considering that the finance is all coming from Biodiversity focal area, the PM suggests to remain only the BP 1, 3, and 4 on the cover page, while noting the wider SFM linkage on section C. Please revise accordingly.</p>	<p>RCE and Brief cover pages are revised accordingly.</p>
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<p>(Q 8) Is the global environmental benefit measurable?</p> <p>The PM suggests that the relevant response given under (RCE) Annex B to be moved to page 7, under the global benefit section.</p>	<p>RCE Part II (A) and Brief section C.2.(c) are revised accordingly.</p>
<p>(Q 9.1) Please indicate specific project outputs under Table A as has been done under the results framework (Annex A).</p>	<p>Table A of the RCE is revised accordingly.</p>
<p>(Q 9.2) Following standard practice, please provide further information on the project (project description) on each outcome with clear outputs and activities. Please further describe the operational and technical "support" that the project is going to provide with measurable indicators, targets, and means of verification.</p>	<p>Annex 2 "Detailed Project Description" is added to the Brief to provide further information on the project.</p>
<p>(Q 9.3) Please provide financial breakdown (GEF and co-financing budget) at least at the outcome level.</p>	<p>Financial breakdown at the outcome / subcomponent level and costs by individual project activities are provided in the Annex 2 "Detailed Project Description" to the Brief.</p>
<p>(Q 10) Please provide further information regarding the linkage of the project initiative to the NBSAP. Describe related initiatives identified under the NBSAP and key national strategies and policies.</p>	<p>Information is provided in RCE Part II (B) and Brief Section B.2.</p>
<p>(Q 13) Please describe the cost-effective measures taken to organize the summit.</p>	<p>Measures are described in RCE Part II (H) and Brief Section D.2.</p>
<p>(Q 15) Following standard practice, please provide a table that identifies several risks, with risk mitigation measures and risk rating.</p>	<p>The table is added to the RCE Part II (G) and to the Brief Section C.3(b).</p>
<p>(Q 18) In addition to the benefit that the GEF investment will provide for the analytical works of the initiative, it would be important to note the impact at the political level.</p>	<p>The impact is additionally described in the RCE Part II (A) and Brief Section C.2(c).</p>
<p>(Q 11.1) Further information is expected regarding the coordination with the Tiger Future MSP (e.g. what exactly would the project finance under the \$100000 related to tiger summit and how would it compliment this one).</p>	<p>RCE Part II (E) and Brief Section E.1 are expanded accordingly.</p>
<p>(Q 11.2) Also please describe linkages with the ongoing GEF investment in the tiger range countries.</p>	
<p>(Q 16) In relation to the last point noted in section F. the specific modalities for GEF's involvement would need to be clarified at this stage, considering that the summit is in Sept. Please discuss and clarify.</p>	<p>RCE Part II (F) and Brief Sections E.2 and C.2(d) are revised accordingly. Provisions for GEF visibility (including the use of GEF logo) are explicitly spelled out.</p>

<p>(Q 23) No tracking tool is attached. Please explain.</p>	<p>Per email guidance from GEF dated April 5, 2010, a tracking tool table is not required for this project given that the project is not going to work on specific protected areas or landscapes.</p>
<p>(Q 9.4) Please also provide results monitoring table, which we understand is a standard requirement for WB projects and helps track results. It is usually attached as annex to the WB implemented MSP package.</p>	<p>RCE Annex A and Brief Annex 1 (Results Framework) are expanded accordingly to include the sources of verification.</p>
<p>(Q 24) The M&E plan is incomplete. Please describe the full set of monitoring and evaluation activities that are going to be undertaken based on WB requirements and agreed by the GEF. Please also allocate necessary budget for these activities.</p>	<p>RCE Annex A and Brief Annex 1 (Results Framework) are expanded to include the sources of verification. M&E section is also revised to reflect the estimated cost of the project audit.</p>

September 29, 2010