

A Brief Press Note on the Annual General Body meeting of Tiger Reserves of Tamil Nadu, held in Secretariat, Chennai, today (08.11.2023) under the Chairmanship of Honourable Minister (Forests)

Tamil Nadu has set up Tiger Conservation Foundation Trusts (TCFT) in all the Tiger Reserves in the State to support the management of tiger reserves, with the goal of conserving tigers and their habitats. The trust activities revolve around preserving the biodiversity and natural resources of the tiger reserves and promoting eco-development initiatives that involve local communities. The Tiger Conservation Foundation Trusts are Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) to provide institutional mechanisms to plough back Tiger Reserve receipts towards local conservation initiatives and for the welfare of communities involved in conservation.

The Tiger Conservation Foundations aim to provide financial and technical assistance to tiger reserve management for implementing tiger conservation plans, mobilising resources for tiger habitat conservation, promoting eco-tourism and eco-development, raising public awareness about the importance of tigers and their habitats, supporting research and monitoring activities related to tigers and their habitats, and collaborating with other stakeholders for effective management of the tiger reserve. The Tiger Conservation Foundations generate their own income from activities such as eco-tourism, entry fees, souvenir sales, donations, etc. The Trusts utilise these funds for various purposes, such as habitat improvement, wildlife protection, research and monitoring, capacity building, awareness generation, livelihood enhancement, conflict mitigation, and infrastructure development.

Each Tiger Conservation Foundation operates under the guidance of the Governing Body, which serves as the top decision-making entity and establishes policies for the organisation. The Chairperson of the Governing Body is the Honourable Minister (Forests), and the Vice-Chairperson is the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of the

Environment, Climate Change, and Forests Department. Members of the Governing Body include representatives from the State Legislative Assembly who represent constituencies within and around the tiger reserve, designated as members of the Governing Body. Additionally, members of local communities, non-governmental organisations, experts, and other stakeholders are nominated by the state government to serve as members of the Governing Body. District Collectors of the respective districts and senior officers from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, including the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Project Tiger), Field Directors, Deputy Directors, also serve as ex-officio members of the Foundation.

The Annual General Body meeting of the Four Tiger Reserves in the State, namely Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, were held at the Secretariat, Chennai, today (08.11.2023). The Honourable Minister (Forests) chaired the meetings duly attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly and nominated representatives of local communities, non-governmental organisations, and experts who participated in the meeting. The members shared their views and suggestions for the improvement of the reserves and the dependent local communities. The Governing Bodies reviewed the functioning of Trusts and approved the annual plan of operations. During the meeting, the Honourable Minister (Forests) lauded the efforts of the Department for tiger conservation and instructed the officers to work for the benefit of wildlife and people. Honourable Minister (Forests) also requested the Park Management to enhance the revenue generation of the Foundation so that more funds are available for conservation activities. The Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly expressed satisfaction over the conservation efforts of the Department and requested the officers to work tirelessly to preserve the pristine area. Honourable Minister (Diary Development) requested the department to find a long-lasting solution to the spread of

invasive alien species and maintain the integrity of the biodiversity-rich areas of Kanyakumari District.

The Vice Chairman of the Trust and Additional Chief Secretary to the Government implored the Tiger Reserve Management to take Tiger Conservation of the State to new heights, harnessing the benefits of new initiatives and commitment of the Government of Tamil Nadu towards the overall conservation scenario.

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