

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

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Why in News?

Ahead of the Global Big Cat Summit by IBCA, India is drafting a New Delhi Declaration, set to become the first international declaration on big cat conservation if adopted.

- **IBCA** - It is the *first-of-its-kind* multi-country, multi-agency coalition with an interest in big cat conservation.
 - **7 Big Cats** - Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- **Launch** - Initiated by India in April 2023, marking 50 years of Project Tiger.
- **Vision** - To cultivate a global ecosystem where big cats thrive in harmony, achieved through international collaboration, scientific research, and community involvement.
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi, India.
- **Partnership** - It brings together 97 range countries (where these big cats live), non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners, and scientific organisations.
- **Objectives**
 - To ensure cooperation for the conservation of 7 big cats by arresting the decline in population and reversing the trend.
 - To establish a central repository for knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance and support research.
- **Membership** - *Open to all UN member states*, including "range" and "non-range" countries; currently, it has 22 member countries, including India, Bhutan, Nepal, Russia, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malaysia, and others.
 - **Ratified Members** - India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, and Liberia
 - **Observers** - Kazakhstan, Namibia, Thailand.
 - **Recently Joined** - Nepal (August 2025) and Russia (December 2025).
- **Structure** - General Assembly (apex decision-making body), A Standing Committee (governance and recommendation), & A Secretariat headed by a Director-General.

Quick Fact

Big Cat	IUCN Red List	WPA (India)	CITES
Tiger (Panthera tigris)	Endangered	Schedule I	Appendix I

Big Cat	IUCN Red List	WPA (India)	CITES
Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo persica)	Endangered	Schedule I	Appendix I
Leopard (Panthera pardus)	Vulnerable	Schedule I	Appendix I
Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia)	Vulnerable	Schedule I	Appendix I
Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus)	Vulnerable (global); Extinct in the wild in India until 2022	Schedule II (special provisions for reintroduction)	Appendix I
Global Big Cat Summit 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be convened on June 1, 2026, in New Delhi. • Aim - To promote habitat connectivity, wildlife crime prevention, financial mobilisation, and an integrated "One Health" approach. • Declaration - The New Delhi Declaration will be adopted, becoming the first-ever International Declaration on Big Cats (all 7 big cats). 			

India is collaborating with African nations for **cheetah reintroduction** (imported from Namibia, South Africa, Botswana) & with Cambodia for **translocating tigers**, marking intercontinental wildlife conservation partnerships.

References

1. [Indian Express | IBCA](#)
2. [IBCA | IBCA](#)