

Management Response

Evaluand identification data	
Evaluand title:	Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) Phase I
Date started:	30 November 2022
Date closed:	15 June 2023
Evaluand manager:	Phurba Lhendup, ITHCP Coordinator
Programme/office:	Species Conservation Action Team

Management Response data	
Type of evaluation or review:	Final Evaluation
Date received:	8 June 2023
Date Management Response approved:	6 October 2023
Last progress update:	<i>[date, for internal progress updates only]</i>
Expected duration required to fully implement the MR:	Two years and the response will be updated every year
Unit/person responsible for managing/tracking follow-up:	Phurba Lhendup, ITHCP Coordinator
All units/positions requested to take action:	ITHCP Secretariat and Species Conservation Action Team

Narrative response:

The recommendations put forward after the external review of the first phase of the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) provide a comprehensive roadmap for its future endeavours. They advocate for diversifying funding sources to ensure sustainability, fostering coexistence by alleviating livelihood-related pressures on tiger habitats, and taking a holistic approach that encompasses species conservation, habitat management, and law enforcement. The suggestions to test and promote innovative habitat management practices, facilitate peer learning, and collaborate with other IUCN offices to emphasize the importance of shared knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, the call to develop a Theory of Change through consultations and to enhance results monitoring underscores the need for clear direction and data-driven adaptation. These recommendations collectively aim to fortify ITHCP effectiveness, promote collaboration, and establish a robust framework for achieving long-term tiger conservation goals. There are eight recommendations in particular as listed below.

1. Engage in mobilisation of additional funding sources
2. Seek to achieve a catalytic impact on livelihoods-related pressure on tiger habitats
3. Work on all aspects of species conservation and habitat management, including law enforcement
4. Test and assess current and alternative habitat management conservation approaches and promote best practices
5. Provide additional opportunities for peer learning
6. Make better use of IUCN's core capacities vis-à-vis research and policy dialogue
7. Elaborate a Theory of Change through a consultative process and revise the results framework.
8. Streamline and further strengthen results monitoring

While all the recommendations are accepted, ITHCP in consultation with the donor (kfw) has chosen not to proceed with recommendation number 7 to elaborate a Theory of Change through a consultative process and revise the results framework. This decision stems from the fact that the log frame to be used in Phase IV has been recently reviewed and improved and has received donor approval. The Phase IV of the programme has already commenced, and developing a new Theory of Change at this juncture could entail a significant time investment without much added value.

In response to the rest of the recommendations provided by the external review, ITHCP has outlined a series of proactive measures. Firstly, in response to the first recommendation, ITHCP plans to collaborate with the Partnership Development staff of the Species Conservation Action Team to identify various funding sources and subsequently devise a strategic roadmap to guide this funding diversification process. In line with the second recommendation, ITHCP intends to develop a comprehensive capacity-building strategy, enabling project grantees to effectively design and execute sustainable livelihood activities that contribute significantly to tiger conservation. To accomplish this, ITHCP will conduct targeted capacity-building programmes and workshops. Addressing the third recommendation, law enforcement activities have been included as eligible components in the Phase IV, Tranche 2 Call for Concept Notes, underlining commitment to robustly address the issue with adequate code of conducts. In response to the fourth recommendation, the ITHCP will initiate a review of the existing habitat management practices, leading to the implementation of more effective strategies. Additionally, the fifth response involves the establishment of a regular workshop series for grantees every two years, fostering a community of practice to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and insights among various projects. Responding to the sixth recommendation, the ITHCP is set to develop a strategic approach for capacity building, knowledge dissemination and policy engagement.

Finally, addressing the eighth recommendation, the ITHCP is introducing an online monitoring functionality in the IUCN's Grants Portal, streamlining the monitoring process, and will engage in discussions with grantees during a workshop in January 2024 to address any monitoring-related concerns. These comprehensive responses collectively underscore the ITHCP's commitment to not only acknowledging the recommendations but also taking practical steps towards their effective implementation.

ITHCP Coordinator

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Evaluation Recommendations	IUCN Management Response	Key actions in response	Intended Result	Responsible unit	Timeframe	Status (for tracking)	Comment (for tracking)
<i>[List each recommendation from the report, one per row.]</i>	<i>[Accepted, Partially accepted, or Not accepted and justification]</i>	<i>[Actions to respond should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound)]</i>	<i>[What is the intended result of the action you plan to take? Include indicators that will demonstrate]</i>	<i>[Responsible unit/position, do not include specific staff names]</i>	<i>[Date by which the result should be achieved.]</i>	<i>[Has the result been achieved?] Not started Partially achieved Fully achieved</i>	
1. Engage in mobilisation of additional funding sources	Accepted	By mid-2025 map out funding avenues in collaboration with partnership development staff of SCA team and develop a fundraising strategy to guide the process.	Secure funding for ITHCP after 2027. The indicators include numbers of meetings among ITHCP staff and SCA Team. identified potential donors, funding proposals developed and the fund in place if successful.	ITHCP Secretariat and SCA	2023-2025	Not started	

2.Seek to achieve a catalytic impact on livelihoods-related pressure on tiger habitats	Accepted	<p>Develop a capacity-building strategy to provide the grantees with the necessary knowledge to design and execute sustainable livelihood activities that can significantly contribute to tiger conservation efforts. ITHCP will carry out capacity-building programs and workshops to implement this strategy effectively by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Develop a policy and knowledge engagement strategy to provide a structured framework to effectively utilize IUCN's core capacities in research and policy dialogue, aligning with the program's</p>	<p>Grantees and ITHCP staff are equipped with adequate knowledge in developing sustainable livelihood activities that leads to catalytic impact on tiger conservation.</p> <p>Indicators include numbers of meetings among ITHCP staff, with SCA team and the strategy document.</p> <p>IUCN's core capacities and that of external ITHCP affiliated expertise are effectively used to support ITHCP activities and the outcomes influence the policy decisions.</p>	<p>ITHCP Secretariat</p> <p>ITHCP Secretariat</p>	<p>2023-2024</p> <p>End of 2023</p>	<p>Not started</p>	

		objectives and at the same time influence policy decisions of the respective tiger range country governments on tiger conservation. The document to be in place by the end of 2023.	Indicators includes number of meetings among ITHCP staff, with SCA team and the strategy document in place.				
3.Work on all aspects of species conservation and habitat management, including law enforcement	Accepted	Law enforcement activities included as one of the eligible activities in the Phase IV, Tranche 2 Call for Concept Notes.	Implement law enforcement activities with proper due diligence and proper code of conduct.	ITHCP Secretariat	2023 - 2024	Started started	
4.Test and assess current and alternative habitat management conservation approaches and promote best practices	Accepted	By mid-2024 conduct a review on current status of habitat management. By the end of 2024 discuss the results of the assessment with the grantees and incorporate effective habitat management strategies in the project activities.	Implement habitat management that supports tiger conservation effectively. Indicators includes field visit (if required), review document, meetings with the grantees which would include capacity building workshop.	ITHCP Secretariat and grantees	2023- 2024	Not started	

<p>5. Provide additional opportunities for peer learning</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Conduct grantees workshop every two years (one in 2024 and another one in 2026).</p> <p>By the mid 2024 develop community of practice to share knowledge and information among projects. This will be deliberated during the grantee workshop in Jan 2024 to get the</p>	<p>Grantee with adequate knowledge of best practices among the projects to replicate best practices learnt from other projects. Indicators include number of workshops and improvement in the project implementation assessed via monitoring missions.</p> <p>A community of practice group involving ITHCP Secretariat and all the grantees that would allow regular exchange and flow of information. The indicator includes meeting to discuss the means and mechanisms of communication, ToR for the members and a group platform.</p>	<p>ITHCP Secretariat</p> <p>ITHCP Secretariat</p>	<p>2024-2026</p> <p>2024</p>	<p>2024 workshop preparation started</p> <p>Not started</p>	
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		<p>consensus among grantees.</p> <p>Conduct grantees exchange programme (in 2025 and 2026) to promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, and cross-cultural collaboration among conservation projects.</p>	<p>Improve project effectiveness, innovation, and sustainable practices.</p> <p>Network of professionals among grantees built and knowledge improved.</p> <p>Indicators include exchange visits, visit reports and improvement in the impact accessed via monitoring missions.</p>	ITHCP Secretariat	2025 -2026	Not started	
6.Make better use of IUCN's core capacities vis-à-vis research and policy dialogue	Accepted	Develop a policy and knowledge engagement strategy to provide a structured framework to effectively utilize IUCN's core capacities in research and policy dialogue, aligning with the program's objectives and at the same time influence policy decisions of the	<p>IUCN's core capacities and that of external ITHCP affiliated expertise are effectively used to support ITHCP activities and the outcomes influence the policy decisions.</p> <p>Indicators includes number of meetings among ITHCP staff,</p>	ITHCP Secretariat	End of 2023	Not started	

		respective tiger range country governments on tiger conservation. The document to be in place by the end of 2023.	with SCA team and the strategy document.				
7.Elaborate a ToC through a consultative process and revise the results framework	Not accepted as there is already a well-established ITHCP logical framework, which has been revised for Phase IV to guide the Programme. It has been discussed with the donor that developing a new Theory of Change at this juncture could entail a significant time investment without much added value.						
8.Streamline and further strengthen results monitoring	Accepted	By 2024 the online monitoring system will be incorporated in the IUCN Grants Portal and adopted for ITHCP grants, which will facilitate reporting and analysis	Project monitoring system streamlined and effective. Indicators include online monitoring system in place, training on the use of	ITHCP Secretariat	2023-2024	Started	

		<p>of monitoring data more effectively and accurately.</p> <p>Dedicated training for the grantees will be provided to use the online monitoring system.</p> <p>By 2025, a training dedicated to monitoring of tigers and their prey population among the grantees will be conducted to in-depth knowledge and skills related to conducting research and monitoring activities for tiger conservation and standardising tiger monitoring protocol across ITHCP projects.</p> <p>Discuss monitoring issues with the grantees during the January 2024</p>	<p>monitoring system conducted.</p> <p>Grantees uses online monitoring effectively.</p> <p>Well trained pool of expertise among grantees conducting effective monitoring of tigers and their prey species.</p> <p>Standard method of tiger monitoring across ITHCP projects.</p> <p>Indicators includes number of trainings, number of expertise among grantees and a well-established monitoring protocol.</p>	<p>ITHCP Secretariat</p> <p>ITHCP Secretariat</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>Not started</p> <p>Not started</p>	
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