



Tiger Landscapes Investment Facility



Tigers on the Brink

The tiger is a powerful symbol revered across and beyond its range, spanning belief systems, cultures, and generations. It is an apex predator recognized as the ultimate indicator of the health of the ecosystems it inhabits.

From an estimated population of 100,000 at the beginning of the 20th century, the population of wild tigers had crashed to as few as 3,200 by 2010, with this small remnant restricted to around 8% of its former range. Today, the breeding populations of tigers are found in 10 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, and Thailand.



2022 marked a turning point in the struggle to restore wild tiger populations. For the first time in the history of tiger conservation, the decline in wild tiger numbers was arrested, and **global populations increased to 4,485 tigers.**¹ However, the increase has not been consistent across the tiger's range. With the exception of Thailand, the population of wild tigers continues to decrease dramatically in Southeast Asia. Worryingly, the threats causing the decline have not disappeared and new threats have emerged. Tiger conservation urgently needs to be strengthened to achieve long-term success.

Tigers, Biodiversity, Climate & Livelihoods

Tiger landscapes are large blocks of ecologically connected areas of suitable tiger habitat. They are highly diverse, ranging from dense rainforests to open grasslands and from snow-covered regions to coastal swamps. These landscapes cover over 100 million ha of the current tiger range and over 70 million ha of tiger restoration landscapes,² which could positively impact not just tigers and their prey, but also a vast array of biodiversity.

These areas also contribute to human well-being, locally and globally, through the provision of many ecosystem services such as clean water supply, carbon storage and sequestration, food security, medicinal plants, and benefits that support livelihoods and spiritual health. Such large, ecologically intact areas are critical in supporting sustainable development, addressing the triple crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and the rising threat of zoonotic diseases, along with providing the stable conditions essential for healthy, sustainable economies, and security for millions of people.³



Photo by Debjoy Biswas on Unsplash

1 The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2025-1. Available at <https://www.iucnredlist.org>

2 Frontiers in Conservation Science. (2023). Range-wide trends in tiger conservation landscapes, 2001 - 2020. Available at <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/conservation-science/articles/10.3389/fcosc.2023.1191280/full>

3 WWF India. (2017). Tigers can support the realization of UN Sustainable Development goals in Asia. Available at <https://www.wwfindia.org/?16921/Tiger-conservation-can-support-the-realization-of-UN-Sustainable-Development-Goals-in-Asia>

Tiger Landscapes Investment Facility

The Tiger Landscapes Investment Facility (TLIF) has been developed in response to the urgent need to channel private sector investments into businesses that contribute to the conservation of tiger landscapes, while enhancing financial sustainability and delivering durable, positive outcomes for nature and people.

The aim of the Tiger Landscapes Investment Facility is to design and deploy an innovative, fit-for-purpose financing mechanism. Since the challenges and opportunities associated with the sustainable financing of biodiversity vary among countries, the mechanism should be tailored to each specific national context.



Financial Sustainability

Improve the financial sustainability of conservation efforts to ensure long-term impact



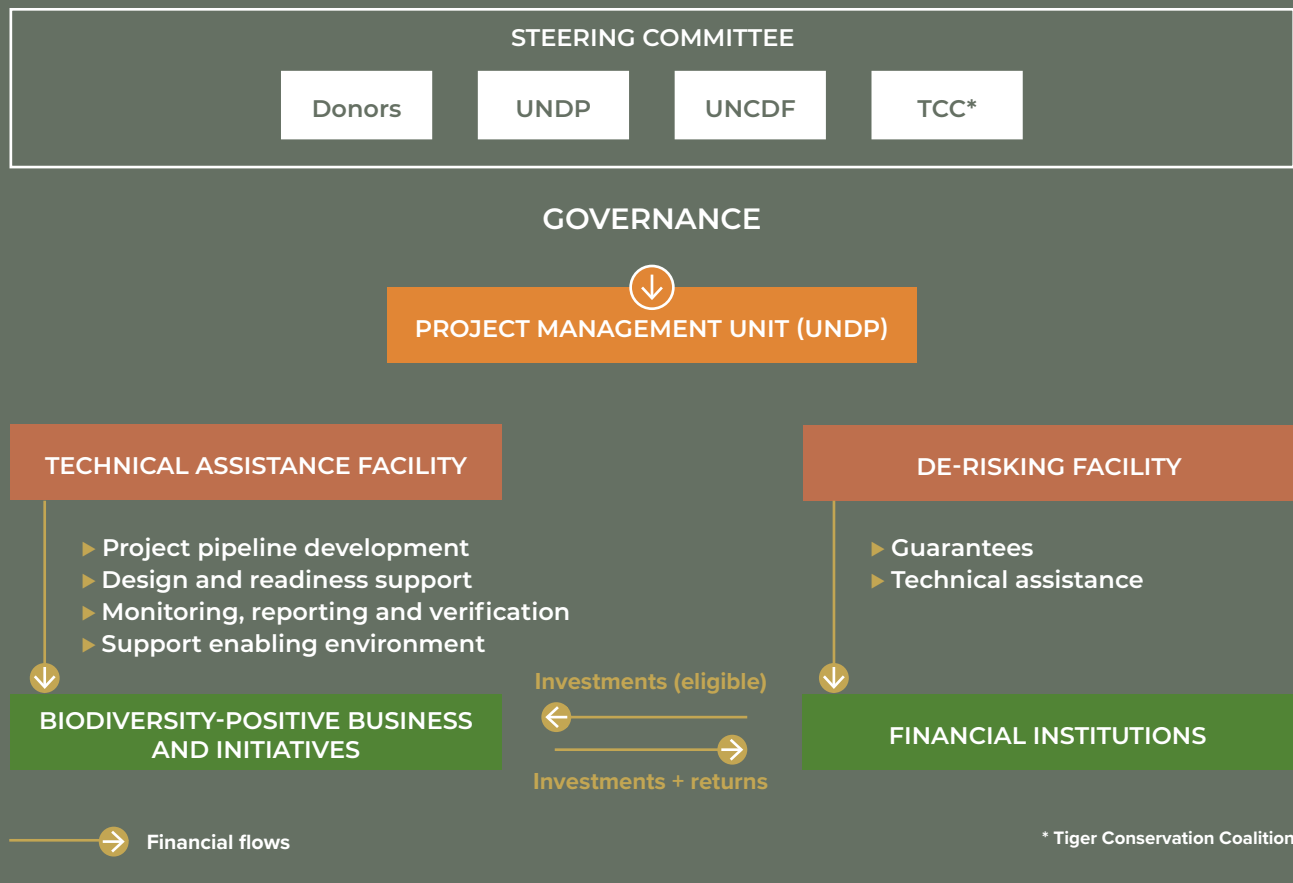
Tiger Conservation

Reduce threats to tiger landscapes and contribute to ecosystems recovery



Sustainable Livelihoods

Enhance sustainable livelihoods aligned with biodiversity conservation



The three central components of TLIF are: (a) Technical Assistance Facility; (b) De-risking Facility; and (c) Governance. Together, these three components ensure that TLIF delivers on its objective to identify, incubate, and finance investable biodiversity conservation opportunities in tiger landscapes conservation.

Technical Assistance Facility

The technical assistance facility (TA Facility) will have four main functions aimed at ensuring that TLIF finances activities that deliver durable, positive biodiversity outcomes in the tiger landscapes.

1 Project pipeline development

A lack of high-quality, investment-ready projects is often one of the biggest challenges in blended finance. TLIF addresses this by focusing on incubating business and conservation initiatives with the potential to deliver positive impacts on tiger landscapes. The goal is to bring these initiatives to a stage where they are eligible for commercial or concessional financing. To build this pipeline, TLIF will deploy several approaches, including but not limited to:

- a. **Incubation Programme:** In collaboration with existing business incubators, TLIF will identify and support community-based entrepreneurs and project developers. Through a structured incubation programme, these stakeholders will receive support to refine their business plans and reach investment readiness. Typical areas of support include market access and analysis, marketing and packaging, business planning, and organizational management.
- b. **Tiger Conservation Coalition (TCC) and Conservation Organizations:** Several conservation organizations already work with the local communities to strengthen their livelihoods through enterprise development. Moreover, several conservation organizations often develop large scale conservation projects that generate nature credits (carbon and biodiversity credits). TLIF will support these organizations to design projects and incubate businesses to reach an investment-ready stage.
- c. **Partner Financial Institutions:** The partner financial institutions will leverage their networks to identify and source businesses that contribute positively to biodiversity. Where appropriate, TLIF will support these businesses in enhancing their impact on nature, helping them become eligible candidates for financing.

2 Design and readiness support

Before expanding the programme and support to a country, TLIF will conduct a design, scoping and readiness assessment to identify the gaps and opportunities in terms of designing and scaling up appropriate financial mechanisms. The scoping study includes identifying the challenges micro and small-scale enterprises face in establishing sustainable businesses, as well as the challenges financial institutions face in lending to them. The scoping study also broadly includes assessing barriers to scaling nature markets, and how TLIF could help address those barriers within a country-specific context. Readiness assessments are critical in structuring country-focused de-risking facilities and incubation programmes.



3 Monitoring, reporting and verification

The TA facility ensures that positive impacts on nature, climate and people are accurately reported and verified. In addition to self-reporting, TLIF will conduct third-party verification to ensure that positive impacts are accurately assessed and reported. The TA facility will continue to provide technical assistance to micro and small-scale enterprises, enhancing post-investment impact. This may include support in measuring and reporting impact as well as addressing day-to-day challenges they may face.

The TA facility will also ensure that any environmental and social risks are identified prior to the investment decision, and if risks are manageable, that necessary and sufficient safeguards are deployed. The Environmental and Social Framework of TLIF guides the eligibility criteria, risk assessment, and safeguards.

4 Support enabling environment

The TA facility will support the strengthening of the enabling environment for biodiversity-positive investments by facilitating exchanges between different range countries to learn from their experiences.

The TA facility will also assist countries in strengthening existing guarantee and capacity building programmes to make them more effective, impactful, and scalable in incentivizing financing for biodiversity-focused projects.

De-risking Facility

The de-risking facility aims to reduce and share the risk for commercial investors to incentivize the financing of biodiversity-positive projects. The scale and scope of de-risking vary based on the context. For instance, local financial institutions play a pivotal role in mobilizing domestic capital for the financing of micro and small-scale enterprises. However, for many financial institutions, the actual and perceived risk of financing such biodiversity-positive enterprises tends to be high, resulting in high collateral requirements, which is often a challenge for eligible borrowers. The de-risking facility incentivizes lending to such enterprises from local financial institutions through a portfolio guarantee administered by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). In the event of non-performance of an enterprise, provided the enterprise continues to meet the TLIF Environmental and Social Framework requirements, UNCDF would recover the losses of the local financial institution. The partner financial institution would be required to deploy appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the TLIF Environmental and Social Framework.

The mandate of the de-risking facility remains broad. The scale, scope, and coverage of de-risking will be based on the instrument identified as the best fit during the scoping assessment conducted in the initial phase of scaling TLIF in a tiger-range country.

Fit-for-purpose guarantees are expected to incentivize local financial institutions to finance the eligible enterprises successfully developed through the Technical Assistance Facility.

Governance

The governance of TLIF is inclusive. The Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body, consisting of representatives from donors, the United Nations and Tiger Conservation Coalition.

What makes TLIF unique?



Partnership with local financial institutions

TLIF partners with local financial institutions, unlocking private capital from their own balance sheets. This enables local capital to drive positive outcomes for nature.



Small ticket size

Partnerships with local and global financial institutions, many of which have outreach in remote areas, enable TLIF to serve sustainable micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, many of which have small-ticket-size requirements.



Biodiversity focus

TLIF focuses on landscapes rather than specific value chains and collaborates with conservation organizations operating within the target landscapes.



Integrated approach

TLIF includes both technical assistance for pipeline development and post-investment support, along with a de-risking facility.

Anticipated Impact

The measurement, reporting and verification framework of TLIF defines indicators to be measured in order to assess its impact on nature, climate, and people. Impact will be measured at the individual investment level and then consolidated to evaluate the overall effectiveness and leverage of the Facility.

Given TLIF's country-focused and bottom-up approach, it is difficult to predict the exact anticipated impact. However, at a minimum, TLIF aims to achieve the three main goals listed below.



Hectares of tiger habitat conserved, restored and sustainably managed:

1,000,000



Contribution to reduction in and sequestration of GHG emission:

8 MILLION TONNES



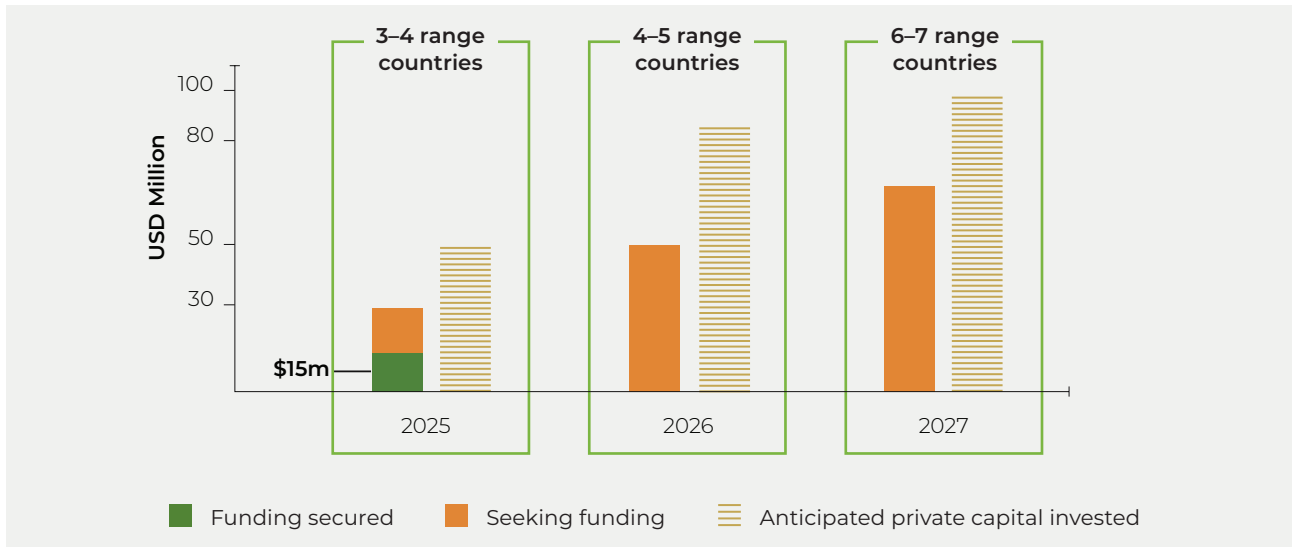
Number of people directly benefiting from TLIF through sustainable livelihoods:

10,000

Ambition

In April 2024, under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen of Bhutan, Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the conference on Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes and the subsequent “Paro Statement”⁴ called for an additional US\$1 billion in financing for tiger landscapes over the next 10 years. Recognizing that unlocking additional funding will require innovation and the exploration of non-traditional financing sources, the statement explicitly called for the development and capitalization of new financial mechanisms for tiger landscapes.

It is TLIF’s mission to help fulfil this ambition by contributing up to US\$200 million in public and private capital towards the collective commitment of US\$ 1 billion for the conservation and sustainable management of tiger landscapes.



4 [Paro-Statement.pdf \(tiger-finance.org\)](#)



Thank you

For more information on the Tiger Landscapes Investment Facility

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Cartier for Nature

In collaboration with the following members of the Tiger Conservation Coalition

