



CONNECTING
Tiger
POPULATIONS
FOR LONG-TERM
CONSERVATION





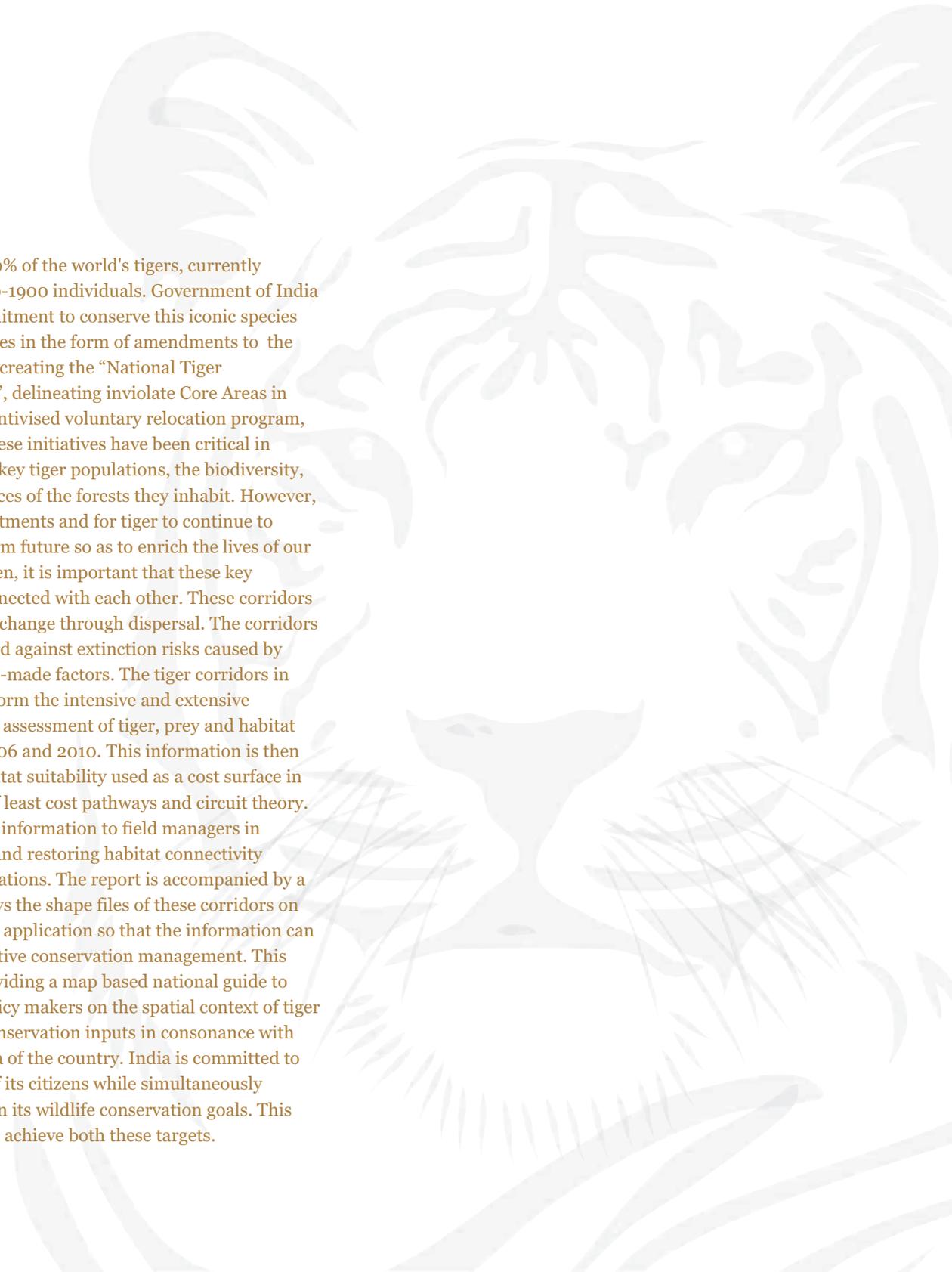
CONNECTING TIGER POPULATIONS
FOR LONG-TERM CONSERVATION

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PREFACE

India is home to over 60% of the world's tigers, currently estimated between 1500-1900 individuals. Government of India has shown strong commitment to conserve this iconic species through several initiatives in the form of amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act, creating the "National Tiger Conservation Authority", delineating inviolate Core Areas in Tiger Reserves and incentivised voluntary relocation program, among many others. These initiatives have been critical in securing the survival of key tiger populations, the biodiversity, and the ecosystem services of the forests they inhabit. However, to safeguard these investments and for tiger to continue to survive into the long-term future so as to enrich the lives of our great-great grandchildren, it is important that these key populations remain connected with each other. These corridors would ensure genetic exchange through dispersal. The corridors would also serve to guard against extinction risks caused by environmental and man-made factors. The tiger corridors in this report are derived from the intensive and extensive countrywide survey and assessment of tiger, prey and habitat assessments done in 2006 and 2010. This information is then used to model tiger habitat suitability used as a cost surface in GIS based algorithms of least cost pathways and circuit theory. They serve as a first-cut information to field managers in identifying, managing, and restoring habitat connectivity between key tiger populations. The report is accompanied by a software CD that displays the shape files of these corridors on any web based mapping application so that the information can readily be used for effective conservation management. This report is the first in providing a map based national guide to Field-managers and policy makers on the spatial context of tiger corridors for guiding conservation inputs in consonance with the development agenda of the country. India is committed to secure the livelihoods of its citizens while simultaneously minimizing its impact on its wildlife conservation goals. This report provides a tool to achieve both these targets.



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