



**Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation**

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## **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the World Bank host the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on Tiger Conservation**

On 21 January, 2010 Mr. Suwit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment chaired the press conference of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on Tiger Conservation, hosted by the ministry and The World Bank, and will be held on 27-30 January 2010 at Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan. This 1<sup>st</sup> AMC is organized by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, in collaboration with the Global Tiger Initiative and Save the Tiger Fund.

The objective of the 1<sup>st</sup> AMC are; to update the National Tiger Action Plans in coordination with law enforcement, financial, and land use planning agencies based on the recommendations of the Kathmandu Workshop on October 2009; to identify political, management, and financial instruments, including support from the international community, needed to accelerate the implementation of the National Tiger Action Plans built on the Kathmandu consensus; and to define the key elements of a Global Tiger Stabilization and Recovery Support Program for effective resource mobilization, Minister Suwit said.

The host of the AMC is invites the Ministers and Senior Officers from 13 Tiger Range Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam) and selected concerning agencies with the senior representatives of multilateral or bilateral organizations and technical tiger experts, and Asia-based NGO's working on tiger / wildlife conservation.

Minister Suwit briefly described Thailand's past efforts in conserving tigers. He also mentioned over the past century, tiger numbers have plummeted precipitously, A once widespread wild population of over 100,000 animals has dropped to less than 4,000. Mr. Suwit, therefore, welcomed with pleasure discussion on tiger conservation with tiger range countries and Thailand will demonstrate leadership by launching priority actions in advance of the up-coming Global Tiger Summit to be held in November 2010.