



Frequently Asked Questions about Project Predator

What is Project Predator?

Project Predator (<http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-PREDATOR>) is an INTERPOL project designed to support countries in their governance and rule of law with respect to conservation of wild tigers and many other species. Its specific purpose is to improve host country agencies' ability to collect and share intelligence information on the illegal tiger trade to stem the poaching of wild tigers. USAID's support to INTERPOL leverages INTERPOL's unique expertise and networks regarding transnational crime to reduce the illegal tiger trade. In addition to USAID, Project Predator will be receiving funding from the World Bank and the United Kingdom, along with others donors. Support to INTERPOL leverages multi-donor efforts for effective and coordinated engagement to combat the illegal tiger trade, as well as strengthening the capacity of host countries.

Who is participating in this partnership?

This partnership is supported by INTERPOL (www.INTERPOL.int), the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (www.defra.gov.uk), the Smithsonian Institution (www.si.edu), the U.S. Agency for International Development (www.usaid.gov) and the World Bank (www.worldbank.org).

How does this project improve upon current tiger conservation efforts?

This project builds upon current efforts by wildlife and customs officials to protect tigers by enabling police, wildlife and customs officials to share information with each other on tiger crimes. Stronger transnational coordination across countries means a stronger, more united force against poachers.

What role do other organizations (such as non-governmental organizations) play?

This project complements the work other partners and organizations are already doing to raise awareness for tiger conservation by providing them a contact among police, wildlife and customs officials for their information and data. By coordinating with police, wildlife and customs officials, partners and organizations provide the project an additional element of transparency and accountability.

Given how bad the economy is, why should we be spending any money at all on a project to protect tigers?

This project is well worth the investment because the benefits extend beyond tigers. Protecting tigers protects the unique and interrelated ecosystem that we all depend upon for our survival. Establishing the information infrastructure to protect tigers leads to improved governance and rule of law, elements that are necessary for more transparent, productive, economically viable societies. Finally, given the connection between the illegal tiger trade and other unlawful activities, reducing the illegal tiger trade helps crack down on other unlawful elements, contributing to a safer world.