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Group within GTF, for smoothening trans-boundary issues

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THE GLOBAL Tiger Forum (GTF), an association of seven tiger range countries, has decided to set up a key group to achieve better coordination among members on trans-boundary issues.

The group will comprise about 3-4 members and will tour the member countries to bring about cohesion in the efforts to conserve tigers. India, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh share contiguous tiger habitats, thus necessitating co-ordinated efforts at conservation.

The decision was taken at the GTF meet held over the past two days at Sariska, Rajasthan.

Talking to The Indian Express, Belinda Wright of Wildlife Protection Society of India said, "this was by far the most well-attended GTF meet with about 30 participants, including two members of the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI), nine NGOs and UK, the observer country member."

"It was also decided to set up national core groups in each tiger range country and set better standards for tiger



monitoring. Also, better following of India-China, India-Nepal and India-Myanmar tiger protocols was stressed," she said.

India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam are the members of GTF though there are 14 tiger range countries in the world where tigers exist.

"China has shown huge interest in joining the GTF, which is a very encouraging sign," Wright said.

Nepal is the current GTF chair, but the secretariat is in New Delhi. National Tiger Conservation Authority member secretary Rajesh Gopal is the GTF secretary general.

Thailand and Malaysia also attended the meet.