



## **Press Release**

### **India to host the “International Bear Association (IBA) Conference & IUCN Bear Specialist Group Meeting” in November 2012 at New Delhi**

In a major step towards enhanced international cooperation for the conservation and management of several species of Bears, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests has given approval to host the “International Bear Association (IBA) Conference & IUCN Bear Specialist Group Meeting” in November 2012 at New Delhi.

Eight species of bears are found in the world of which four occur in India. These are spread across the country from the Himalayas down to peninsular India and to the north east. Conservation of bears poses serious problems due to the shrinking habitats, shortage of natural food in the forests, illegal trade of their parts, and ever increasing human-bear conflicts. To deliberate on these important issues, an international conference will be held in New Delhi in November 2012, in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India, Wildlife Institute of India, International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) and the IUCN. Over 300 delegates and bear experts from all over the world are expected to participate in this congregation to debate on current issues related to conservation of all bear species of the world. The participants are expected to cover themes like status and distribution, ecology, management of bears including human-bear conflicts, rehabilitation and captive care of dancing (sloth) bears, and control of illegal trade in bear parts across various countries.

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