



SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
AND WILDLIFE SCIENCES

August 31, 2018

Mr. Mike Kensler, Director
Office of Sustainability
Langdon Hall Annex
Auburn University, AL 36849

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University, I am very pleased that the U.S. Tiger University Consortium is being included in the Auburn University Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) report as a thoughtful, innovative, and timely initiative that promotes tiger conservation for sustainable future. With less than 3,500 tigers remaining in the wild and with continued deterioration of their habitat, conservation of these apex predators is key for the sustainability of lower tropic levels in tiger range countries.

The U.S. Tiger University Consortium, consisting four land-grant universities—Auburn University, Clemson University, Louisiana State University, and University of Missouri, is committed to raise awareness of the challenges faced by tigers in the wild and to provide practical solutions through a collaborative network of professionals, organizations, and citizens. In particular, working collaboratively with the Global Tiger Initiative Council, the consortium pursues training and capacity building, research, technology transfer, and outreach activities to realize its goal.

Working with several national and international organizations such as Government of India and the World Bank, leaders of participating universities have already committed significant amount of resources for the consortium. Several PhD students have been recruited into these universities to develop science-based solutions for complex problems relating to tiger conservation. In order to continue these capacity building efforts, the Tiger University Consortium is raising funds by engaging a range of government and non-government organizations, private companies, and citizens.

In brief, we cannot afford sit back as the few tigers left in the wild dwindle down to the point of extinction. The Tiger University Consortium has determined to enhance tiger populations through education, research, and outreach efforts. Should you have questions or need any more information, please let me know.

Janaki Alavalapati
Professor and Dean