

Keshav Varma

Keshav Varma was the founding director of the World Bank's Global Tiger Initiative, which is largely responsible for facilitating partnerships between the 13 tiger range countries and international partners to save the globes remaining wild tigers. Throughout Mr. Varma's career, his main focus has been to change the conversation about conservation and introduce innovative ideas in the field of biodiversity and conservation. In 2013, Mr. Varma broadened the scope of GTI, to offer advisory services to the Kyrgyz Republic to initiate partnerships and collaboration for the protection of the Snow Leopards involving 12 countries. Currently Keshav serves as Senior Advisor for the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Protection Program. During his tenure, Mr. Varma guided and coordinated the formulation and development of projects with the World Bank, GEF and other IFIs, raising over US\$225 million for implementing activities under the Global Tiger Recovery Program. He is now facilitating the implementation of Global Tiger Recovery Program projects to ensure impact in the front lines of tiger and snow leopard conservation. Prior to his conservation work, Mr. Varma served as **Sector Director** of East Asia Urban Development and Disaster Management program and the **Head of Global Urban Programs** for the World Bank and Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad, India, a city of over 6 million people.