

MEE Team-wise Report

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CHANDIGARH

1. SUKHNA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, CHANDIGARH

MEE Year (2015-16)

Management Strengths

1. This protected area (PA) has an approved management plan (2007–2017) that is being implemented well.
2. The PA is mostly free from encroachment.
3. There are no villages inside the PA, and only five villages are present in the fringe. There is no dependence on the PA as the local villagers are employed elsewhere and are well off. Most people are reported to have good relations with the management of the PA owing to a few benefits that the PA brings to them (some employment, water security, etc.).
4. The biodiversity is representative of the lower Shiwalik sub-tropical forests.
5. The groundwater regime is supported by the healthy lake.
6. A large number of soil and moisture conservation works, as suggested in the approved management plan, have been sanctioned and successfully carried out in the PA. More than 180 soil conservation structures have been erected in the PA.
7. Vulnerable areas along habitations, especially along the southern border of the PA, have been fenced.
8. The number of visitors is large, but the tourism is regulated and is mainly along the bund and about six specifically marked trekking routes. There are only two well-maintained entry points.
9. No forest/wildlife offence cases have been reported in the last 5–6 years.
10. There is an interpretation centre, and this is visited by large numbers of tourists every year.
11. Timely and adequate release of funds is a practice in the state, and the PA benefits from this in the planning and completion of works.

Management Weaknesses

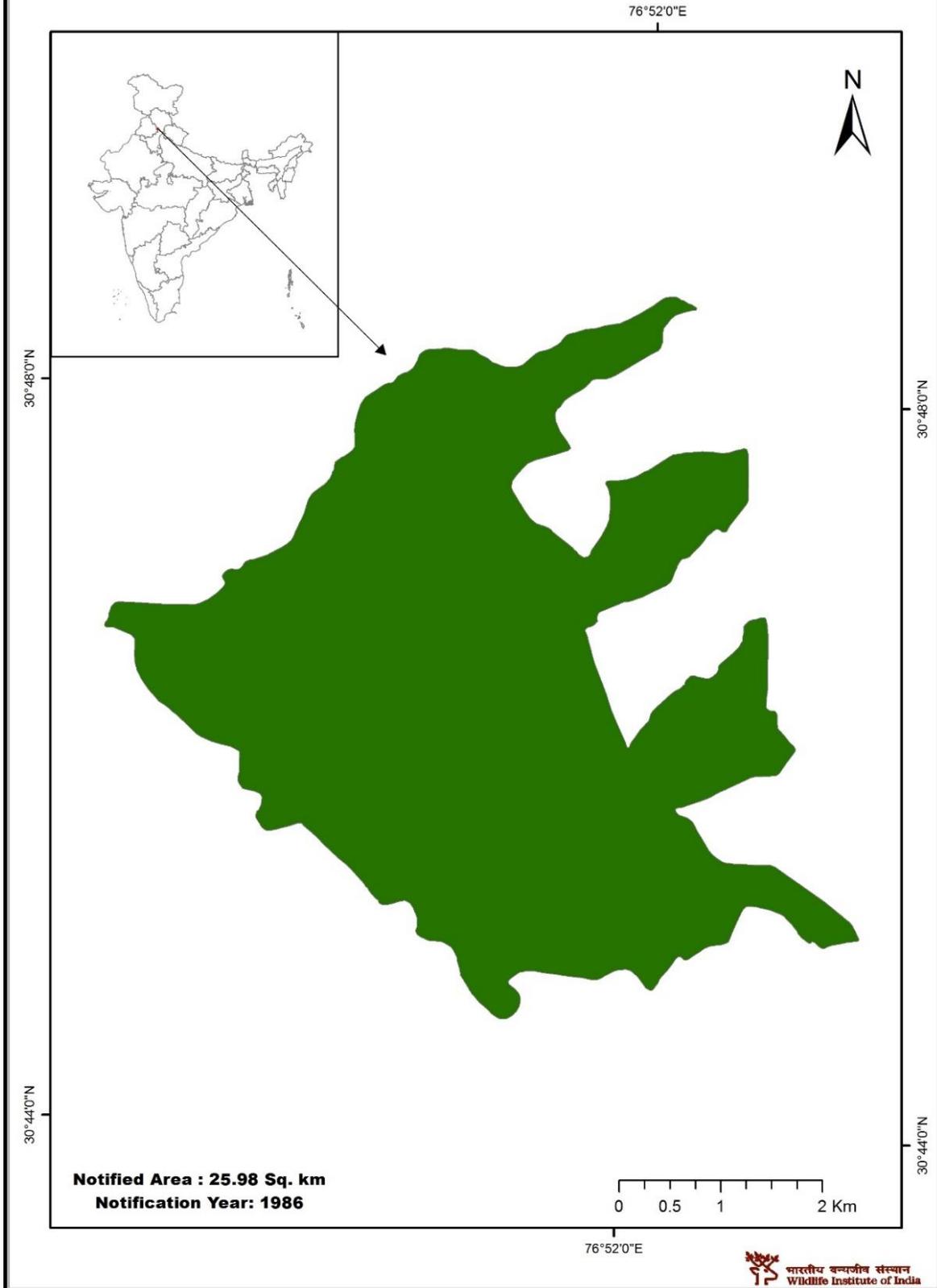
1. No major top carnivores have been identified. There may however be smaller felids such as the fishing cat and caracal and canids such as the jackal. Leopards have sometimes been reported, these may be seasonal visitors.
2. There are 200–300 feral cows, which can damage the vegetation, especially in the absence of a large carnivore.
3. There is a lack of staff members trained in wildlife management. Although some officers have been trained in wildlife management, most of the frontline staff has not been trained in wildlife management.
4. No wildlife census has been conducted after 2010, when one was conducted with the assistance of WII. The PA is a small area, and close monitoring and censuses may be carried out with a trained staff, volunteers and scientists.
5. A dog problem has been emerging over the past few years. This can be aggravated when prey is available in the form of feral cows, water birds, etc.
6. *Adhatoda vasica*, even though it is a native species, is often considered a weed as it is not palatable and can spread far, masking any other palatable ground vegetation. It does have some untapped medicinal value (<http://nif.org.in/ADHATODA-VASICA-L>) and is important as cover for wildlife.

Actionable Points

1. The relevant zones in the sanctuary should be declared according to the management plan's prescription (page 45).
2. Wildlife training is to be provided to the staff so that they can effectively monitor all wildlife taxa. With the PA being small and compact, it is possible for the staff to learn specific skills (arachnids, insects, birds, photography, etc.), which can ultimately help make the monitoring of the PA effective and continuous. The number of staff members in this small state on the whole is sufficient, but we recommend that an RFO and a few guards be posted exclusively for the PA.
3. Local people and the wildlife staff members can also be trained as nature guides to enhance the visitor experience.
4. A comprehensive large-mammal wildlife census should be carried out as soon as possible. The assistance of organizations such as WII may be sought again till local capacity is built.
5. We found *Eucalyptus* covering a large proportion of the PA, thus masking much of the representative plant species that the area can conserve. We thus suggest that *Eucalyptus* be removed in a phased manner. The removal of *Eucalyptus* can be included in the management plan to be prepared and implemented from 2017. *Lantana* can also be removed simultaneously and the typical sub-tropical Shiwalik forest type restored using native tree, shrub and herb species. The removal of any trees, shrubs, etc. should be done keeping in view the various orders and guidelines issued by different courts, the MoEFCC, etc.
6. The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) should be made large enough to maintain the essential features of the wildlife sanctuary (WLS).
7. Sukhna WLS should be transferred from Punjab to the Union Territory of Chandigarh according to the provisions of the Punjab Reorganization Act 1966 for optimal management.

8. A total area of 450 acres is to be acquired for establishing a 2 km long corridor between Sukhna lake and the WLS. An extent of 75 acres has been acquired. The acquisition of land can be expedited so that the PA is expanded to a more ecologically meaningful unit. This can also reduce to some extent the threat of encroachment from the southern borders and provide access to the lake for wildlife.
9. In the absence of large carnivores, the feral cattle, already numbering around 300 in just 26 km², can potentially degrade the forests and compete with wild herbivores. It is important to institute a management strategy for them, including mass sterilizations, stopping any further release by villagers and translocation into gaushaalas wherever possible. This strategy should in compliance with the existing animal welfare laws of the country.
10. Similarly, there is an unknown population of free-ranging dogs in the PA. As has been seen in different parts of the country and the world, such dogs can seriously deplete local wildlife, from birds to mammals. They may be sustained by nearby garbage sites and hunt animals whenever they get a chance. A management strategy should be developed for tackling this issue in compliance with the existing animal welfare laws of the country.
11. Part of the revenues from rentals, etc. of the gymkhana, club and car park near Sukhna Lake could be ploughed back into the funds of the WLS.

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan (MP) pg 7 Sec 1.3 and Chapter 2 (Sec 2.2 and 2.6), Chapter 3 and Chapter 5	The values have been listed in the MP as given in the Reference document column
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good			
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good	✓		

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		MP pg 18-19 Sec 2.4 and Sec 2.6	Considerable effort made in MP to understand and tackle threats. <i>Lantana</i> removal and siltation prevention efforts are significant
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good			
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good	✓		

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Site has been fenced in the lower areas and is hilly in the upper side
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair			
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good	✓		

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		MP pg 33 and pg 45	There is no separate demarcation of Core and Buffer Zones, however as per management needs wilderness, ecotourism and restoration Zones have been prescribed
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓		
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		MP pg 34	A comprehensive MP (2007-8 to 2016-17) has been prepared by T Johri, DCF Resource Survey and Management Division, FRI
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good	✓		

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓	As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	It has not been mentioned in the MP. However, since the last year of the current MP is approaching, this can be kept in mind for the next one.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguard the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	On account of no threatened species and significant efforts being made towards soil and moisture conservation, the site has been safeguarded
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good	✓		

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Various stakeholders like villagers, NGOs, Education Dept. universities etc. are being actively involved in various activities
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good	✓		

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Not species specific. Also 450 acres of private/revenue land is in the process of acquisition for making a corridor connecting the WLS and RF
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair			
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations). Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is there a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		MP Chapter 6	Fencing and patrolling vehicle
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good	✓		

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Almost negligible man-wildlife conflict is there as the peripheral villagers are well-off and have no dependency on the WLS. Also the southern side of the WLS is fenced minimizing chances of crop depredation
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good			
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good	✓		

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		MP pg 44	The WLS is connected geographically with the Shiwalik forests and one corridor has been identified
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good			
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good	✓		

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organized and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	At present 12 forest guards and five foresters are posted in the WLS of 26 km, which appears to be adequate. However some of them have been given additional charge of city forest area, which may be avoided.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Two vehicles have been sanctioned and will be procured within a week, one for patrolling and the other for RFO wildlife. Other resources are adequate
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good	✓		

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	This is very heartening to know that Funds are adequate and released timely.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good	✓		

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	NGOs are involved in various awareness generation services
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions(cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Resources are sufficient
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good	✓		
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	RO has attended Certificate Course at WII, most frontline staff not trained
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Performance is evaluated through the established system of ACR.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Awareness building programmes are conducted on regular basis. However as dependence of villagers on WLS is negligible other public participation efforts are not significant. There is however high visitation by inhabitants of Chandigarh and neighbouring areas, and the local press often covers articles on the Sukhna waterbody.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Quick disposal of complaints/grievances is done through a well established complaint redressal system having hotline number (4639999) for rescue, Complaints and suggestions through forestchandigarh@gmail.com , and relevant complaints received on Police emergency number are also passed on to the Department
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good	✓		

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	There is negligible dependence on the forest so only forest related daily wage labourers are drawn from adjacent villages
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Pamphlets and brochures also have been made available apart from the website pages at www.chandigarhadministration.gov.in
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Interpretation Centre is located at the regulatory end of Sukhna Lake and is visited by large number of visitors. Several watch towers are available at strategic vantage points along the trekking routes. Kansal and Nepli Log Huts with their sprawling lawns and open <i>jhompas</i> are popular among trekkers and students.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good	✓		

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists (both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	No systematic research and monitoring is being done to improve the management. Research Project on Carrying (storage and siltation) capacity of Water Bodies has been done. In 2010 a census was undertaken with the assistance of WII, however no follow-up census has been done since then.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Maintenance is regular as funds are not a constraint.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good	✓		

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Though no census has been carried out after 2010 yet as per discussion with staff most wildlife species populations are reportedly stable
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	As such there are no major threats to the WLS, however Department is alert and prepared to deal with any threat if at all they occur.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair			
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good	✓		
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.3 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		Visitors remarks in the register at Nepli and as per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	The trails within the WLS are very popular with the visitors
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good	✓		

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		As per discussion with CWLW, DFO and RO	Most locals are supportive of PA management as they are not dependent on the PA and obtain some benefits from the large number of visitors and get some additional jobs.
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	30	240 (80%)
2.	Planning	09	10	90	77.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	40	
4.	Process	05	10	50	30	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	32.5	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	30	
Total		30		300		

* The six Framework Elements were subsequently assigned equal weightage of 100 each. The total MEE score is 600 out of which this site has score 344.6 or 57.4%

2. CITY BIRD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, CHANDIGARH

MEE Year (2017-18)

Management Strengths

1. City Bird Wildlife Sanctuary is a compact protected area (PA) within the urban limits of the union territory. There are no settlements/encroachments inside the PA.
2. The people living around the PA are aware of the wildlife sanctuary and are law abiding. There is no dependence on the sanctuary of the people living around the PA.
3. The PA has no resource constraints.

Management Weaknesses

1. There is no Management Plan.
2. There is no signage at the entry gate, and no information is available for the visitors.
3. There are no check lists, and there is no monitoring of the wildlife in the PA.

Immediate Actionable Points

1. Prepare a Management Plan according to the WII guidelines and implement it at the earliest.
2. Systematic baseline data on the flora and fauna of the PA should be generated as quickly as possible. The status of key wildlife species must be monitored regularly.
3. Habitat enrichment (including provision of nest boxes and water) for birds must be carried out in consultation with relevant research institutions/organizations.
4. The park staff must be trained in wildlife management.
5. A committee comprising local residents living around the PA, conservation NGOs and the forest department should be constituted for the long-term conservation planning of this small PA in an urban setting.
6. A website must be developed for the PA and hosted in the portal of the Chandigarh Forest Department.
7. Upgrading/revamping/correction/establishment of signage in all aspects (warning, education, information, etc.) is needed.

CITY BIRD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, CHANDIGARH

1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor	✓		No Management Plan.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good			
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor			No threats recorded.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good			
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			Management Plan should be prepared at the earliest.

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor			No settlements / encroachment / interference
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair			
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good	✓		
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category+	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		Annexure – 1 Notification and map	Core zone, tourism zone well demarcated. ESZ well demarcated.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good	✓		

*Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category+	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor	✓		
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive, science-based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

*Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓		No management plan till date.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the management plan elaborate on safeguarding the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor	✓		No management plan exists.
The plan safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
The plan safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
The plan safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓		Only morning walkers. Constitute a Society of local residents and involve them in protection and management of the PA.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor	✓		Habitat enrichment (nest boxes), water provisioning are proposed.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair			
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good			
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations). habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is there a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor			Boundary wall well maintained and no threats to PA. Stray dogs to be prevented from entering the PA and /or should be sterilized.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good	✓		

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Does the management plan integrate the site into a wider ecological network/ landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not integrate the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor	✓		No scope for integration as the PA is an isolated patch.
The plan makes some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
The plan integrates the site generally quite well into a network/ landscape.	Good			
The plan fully integrates the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor			Existing staff strength is adequate.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		

Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range, Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis-a-vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor			1 FRO had undergone induction training. Other wildlife staff to be deputed for training.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

3.3 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Annexure 3 List of infrastructure (office buildings, Rest houses, accommodation for staff, vehicles, etc.)	
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.4 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor			Funds from CSS and CAMPA are adequate for protection and management of PA.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good	✓		

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.5 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor			NGO and school children visit PA.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

*Details of contributions (cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.6 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor			Financial support & human resource are adequate.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good	✓		
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor			No awards for best performing field staff.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	√		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.2 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor	√		
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair			
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.3 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Annexure IV	Dedicated hotline dealing with complaints, RTI, Email etc. mostly pertaining to snake rescue. Log books maintained.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good	√		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.4 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor			Not applicable.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor	✓		No Brochures/ Pamphlets printed and provided to users. Forest Dept. website exists.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good			
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor			About 100 persons (morning walkers) visit the Tourist Zone of PA every day.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			

All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			Some information and signages available.
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* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feedback on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists (both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor	✓		No field survey to assess baseline status of wildlife in WS. Engage researchers for wildlife surveys or outsource it to relevant institute/ university / NGO.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair			
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all sites attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Annexure 1	
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good	✓		

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor	✓		Population trends of key species such as parakeets are unknown. Systematic monitoring to be initiated.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor			No threats to the PA. Maintenance of the status of vegetation and its improvement is suggested.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair			
Most threats to the Site have been abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good	✓		

6.3 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor			There are no cases of HWC reported due to PA.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good			
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good	✓		

* Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 years may be collected.

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor			As the Tourist zone is maintained by the Municipal corporation, there is still scope for improvement.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair	✓		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.5 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor			Local residents are supportive of PA.
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Like-wise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	15.0	55%
2.	Planning	08	10	80	35.0	
3.	Inputs	06	10	60	40.0	
4.	Process	04	10	40	20.00	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20.0	
6.	Outcomes	05	10	50	35.0	
Total		30		300	165.00	

DELHI

3. ASOLA BHATTI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, DELHI

MEE Year (2008-09)

A. Management Strengths

1. The site has little human and biotic interference. As the protected area (PA) is in the capital city, with thickly populated surroundings, it is cumbersome to keep it free from biotic interference; yet, by erecting storm fencing, etc., a great effort has been made to minimize the biotic interference.
2. The site safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values. This is one of the few sanctuaries situated in a metropolis in India and surrounded by concrete jungle. The biodiversity values are immense.
3. There is stakeholder participation in most of the planning processes.
4. Keeping this small green island in the midst of a metropolis is a big task, considering the adverse factors of a poor soil, low rainfall, biotic interference, etc. The habitat restoration programmes are well planned and monitored.
5. The site has a comprehensive protection strategy.
6. Human–wildlife conflicts have been mitigated.
7. The limited number of personnel available in the PA is well organized and managed with the resources required for that level.
8. The resources are organized and managed to the extent required. The buildings, etc. are adequate.
9. Human and financial resources appear to be no problem. There was no complaint about a paucity of funds or delayed release by funds by the state government.
10. NGOs' contributions are systematically sought for management of some site-level activities.
11. The resources are sufficient for most of the tasks.
12. Most threats to the site have been ended.
13. The expectations of many visitors are met.
14. A planned approach to management is being instituted, and a deterioration of assets is being redressed.

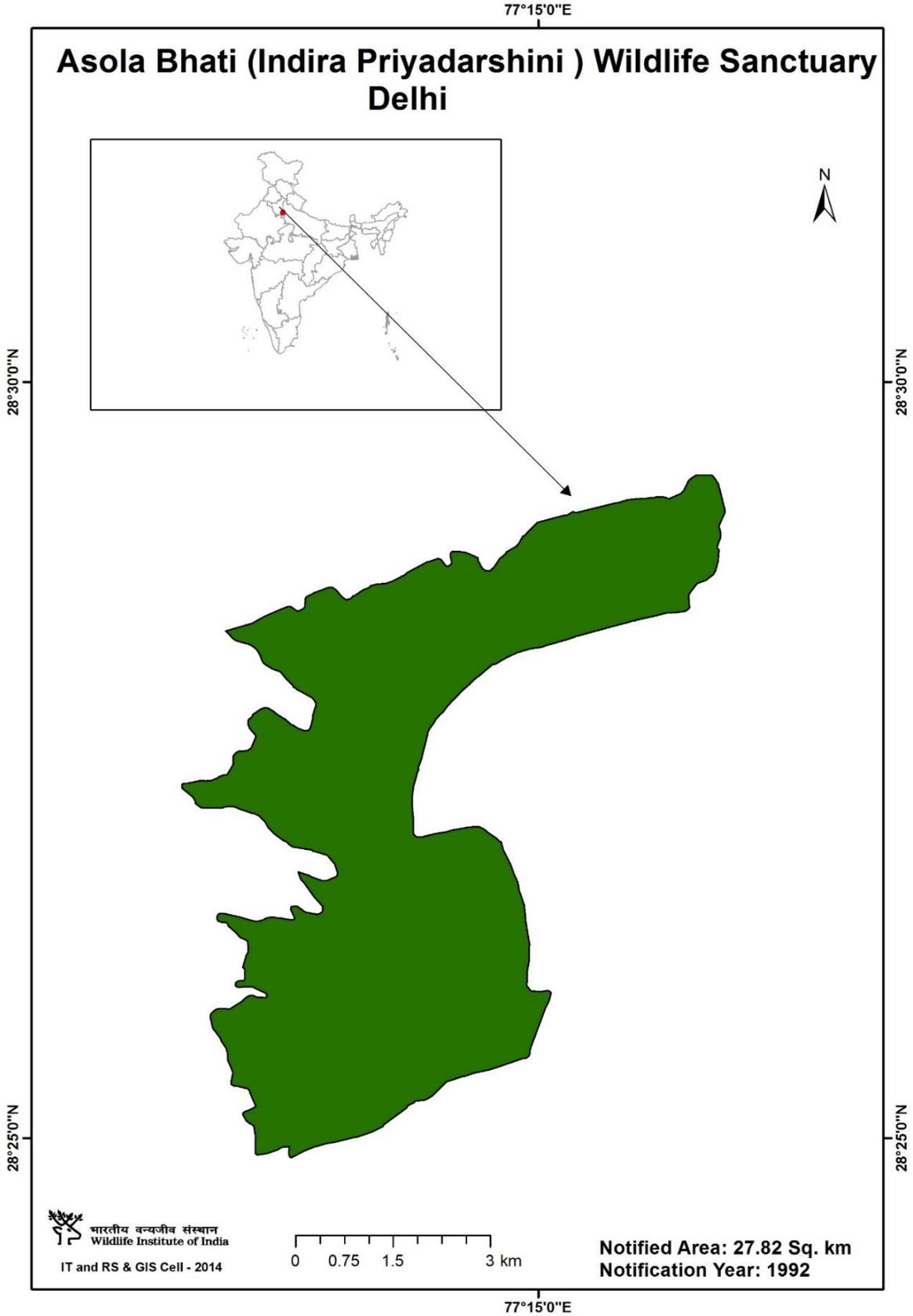
B. Management Weaknesses

1. There is no management plan in place.
2. A limited number of planning and monitoring programmes are in place. Part of the wildlife sanctuary is being used to maintain deer enclosures and an enclosure for problem monkeys from various parts of the capital that are to be rehabilitated. Maintaining the monkey enclosure may be an unpleasant job for the PA management, but it is unavoidable. The number of monkeys is increasing, and they are degrading a part of the habitat where they are kept.
3. The site is not integrated into the wider network/landscape.
4. There is little or no public participation in the management of the PA. Except for the BNHS, there is hardly any public participation.
5. A complaint handling system is operational, but it is not responsive to individual issues, and limited follow-up is provided.
6. No livelihood issues are addressed by the PA management because there is no scope for this here.

7. There is some evaluation and reporting, but these are neither systematic nor routine.
8. The neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile and could not be involved in the management of the PA.

C. Actionable Points

1. A comprehensive management plan needs to be developed on a priority basis for effective PA management.
2. There is scope for integration of the network/landscape with Haryana State as the PA runs all along the western boundary. There is a good chunk of community/government land in Haryana that can be declared a conservation/ community reserve, but there seems to be no coordination with that state.
3. More public participation is needed for managing the site.
4. The complaint handling system needs to be responsive to individual issues and follow-ups.
5. Systematic and routine reporting of the flora and fauna needs to be taken up.



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		It is an important PA situated in the Northern terminal of Aravilli Hills, one of the oldest mountain system of the world, which serves as potential green lung and carbon sink of county's capital. Approx. 28.6 Km ² area of villages Asola, Sahurpur & Maidangarhi (4707 acre) was notified in 1986 and land of Bhatti (2167 acre) was notified in 1991. This has put an end to the extensive sand mining from Bhatti area which was spoiling the landscape of the capital and causing pollution. Though no Management Plan was available at the site but the field staff was clear about the values of the site.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair		
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good	✓	
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good		

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		In the absence of Management Plan it is difficult to comment but the local field staff was clear about the threats to site values.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓	
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good		

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		Being in the capital city with thickly populated surroundings it is always cumbersome to keep the PA free from biotic interferences yet by erecting storm fencing etc. great effort has been made to minimize the biotic interference.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good	✓	
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good		

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		The site is properly demarcated and notified as WLS. This being a small area does not need zonation as such. However some area is used by students for nature trails and in some area there are enclosures for wild animals. Bhatti area is being used for holding the problem monkeys from various parts of the capital.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓	
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good		

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor	✓	No Management Plan is in place.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair		
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓	Not applicable
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		The WLS has been established on Southern Ridge, the Northern terminal of Aravalli Hills, one of the oldest mountain systems of the world. It merges with Indo Gangatic Plains, which makes it significant from biodiversity point of new. This is one of the few sanctuaries situated in a metropolis in India and surrounded by concrete jungles. The biodiversity values are immense.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair		
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓	
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good		

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Bombay National History Society's Conservation Education Centre has been helping in nature camp planning, identification of flora and fauna and creating awareness among school children by organizing various walks for identification of butterflies, birds, trees & medicinal plants.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair		
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good	✓	
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good		

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Keeping this small green island in the midst of a Metropolis is a big task, looking at the adverse factors of poor soil, low rainfall, biotic interference etc. The habitat restoration programmes are well planned and monitored.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good	✓	
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.7 Are reintroduction programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Reintroduction programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Part of the WLS is being used to run deer enclosures and enclosure for rehabilitating the problem monkeys from various parts of the capital. It may be unpleasant job for the PA Management but will be difficult to avoid. Number of monkeys is increasing and they are degrading part of habitat where they are kept. No other reintroduction programme is going on.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for reintroduction programmes.	Fair	✓	
Reintroduction programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good		
Reintroduction programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.8 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		One Dy. Ranger Incharge of the PA with 4 Wildlife Guards are efficiently protecting this site.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓	
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good		

2.9 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Due to critical situation of the PA the entire area is fenced off and conflicts are less, however it is not free from cattle grazing etc. at places.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair		
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓	
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good		

2.10 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor	✓	There is scope for integration with Haryana State as the PA runs all along its western boundary. There is a good chunk of Community/ Govt. land in Haryana which can be declared as Conservation/ Community Reserve but there seems to be no coordination with that State.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair		
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good		
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good		

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		The limited number of personnel available in the PA are well organized and managed with necessary resources required for that level.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair		
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓	
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Resources are organized and managed to the extent required. Buildings etc. are adequate.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓	
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc and funds are never released in time.	Poor		Human and financial recourses appear to be no problem. There was no complaint about paucity of funds or untimely release by State Govt.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action and some funds released in time.	Fair		
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide most resource allocation and generally funds released in time.	Good	✓	
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide complete allocation of resources for management and on-time release of funds.	Very good		

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		BNHS has been helping in planning nature trails/walks, evolving education material, identifying flora and fauna etc. They have a field office in the site.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good	✓	
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good		

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		Resources are sufficient for most tasks.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good	✓	
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good		

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		The field staff is not trained in wildlife management as such but they get benefit from BNHS staff who are technically qualified.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓	
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good		
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good		

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Only some linkage is there.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓	
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good		
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good		

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor	✓	Except the BNHS there is hardly any public participation.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good		
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good		

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Complaints are handled by Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓	
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good		

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor	✓	There is no such scope here.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good		
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good		

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		There was no Management Plan but there is a good and informative folder on Asola Bhatti WLS. A folder on "Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary - Conservation Education Centre, New Delhi" jointly by BNHS and Department of Forest and Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has good technical information.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair	✓	
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good		

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Only nature walks for school children are organized through BNHS for which there are reasonably good facilities.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓	
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good		

5.3 Are management related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of management related trends.	Poor		With the help of BNHS biodiversity trends are being followed.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓	
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good		
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Very good		

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Yes.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good	✓	
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good		

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are threatened/ endangered species populations stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		In a PA surrounded all along by thick concrete jungles and dense population everything (flora and fauna) is threatened and endangered. The population trends were not available but the inventory of various species of flora and fauna has been made which needs periodical revision. Management Plan must be prepared immediately.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓	
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good		
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good		

6.2 Are biological communities at a mix of ages and spacings that will support native biodiversity?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Biological communities unlikely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Poor		The biological communities in this small PA have established as a result of constant protection supplemented by artificial planting. Despite being a poor site and with low rainfall the biological communities are well represented.
Some biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Fair	✓	
Most biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Good		
All biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Very good		

6.3 Have the threats to the site being abated/ minimized?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats to the site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Most threats have been abated.
Some threats to the site have been abated.	Fair		
Most threats to the site have been abated.	Good	✓	
All threats to the site have been abated.	Very good		

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair	✓	
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good		
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good		

6.5 Are neighbours and adjacent communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile.	Poor	✓	Due to typical location it is not applicable.
Key neighbours/communities are supportive.	Fair		
Most neighbours/communities are supportive of PA management.	Good		
All neighbours and communities supportive of PA management.	Very good		

6.6 Are cultural heritage assets protected?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no management undertaken, or despite management efforts, deterioration of cultural heritage assets continues, or values are unknown.	Poor		The significance of cultural heritage of the site is that this is the northern terminal of Aravallis, the oldest mountain system of the world with biodiversity significance of its merger with Indo Gangetic Plains.
Some management activity, but deterioration continues.	Fair		
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being redressed.	Good	✓	
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being significantly redressed.	Very good		

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	20	56.8%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	57.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	35	
4.	Process	05	10	50	20	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	22.5	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	32.5	
Total		33		330*	187.5	

* The six Framework Elements were subsequently assigned equal weightage of 100 each. The total MEE score is 600 out of which this site has score 344.6 or 57.4%

HARYANA

4. KALESAR NATIONAL PARK, HARYANA

MEE Year (2006-2009)

A. Management Strengths

1. The site safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.
2. Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.
3. The site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.
4. Human–wildlife conflicts have been mitigated.
5. Adequate resources have been explicitly allocated for achievement of specific management objectives.
6. The resources and funds are sufficient for most of the tasks, and these are released on time.
7. The performance management of most of the staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.
8. The populations of most threatened/endangered species are increasing, and most others are stable.
9. Most of the biological communities are likely to be able to sustain the native biodiversity.
10. Most of the threats to the site have been abated.
11. The expectations of most visitors are met.
12. Most neighbours/local communities are supportive of the PA management.

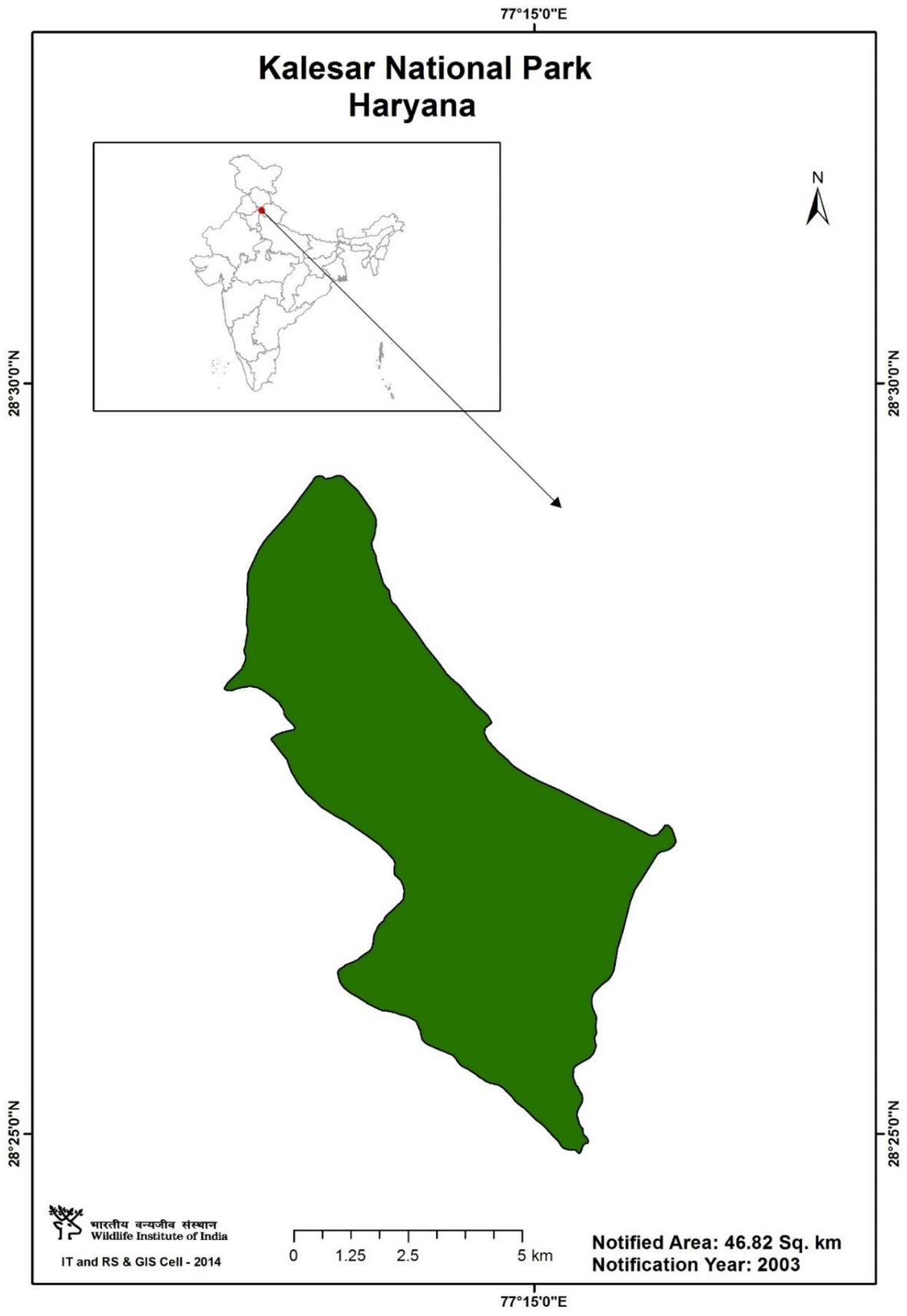
B. Management Weaknesses

1. There is no management plan in place.
2. The values and threats of the site have been identified correctly but not systematically categorized, assessed and monitored.
3. There is little, if any, opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.
4. NGOs contribute nothing to the management of the site.
5. There are only a few trained officers and frontline staff posted at the site.
6. There is little or no public participation in the management of the PA.
7. The complaint handling system is operational, but it is not responsive to individual issues, and limited follow-up is provided.
8. Little or no information is publicly available on the management of the PA.
9. There is some evaluation and reporting of management-related trends, but these are neither systematic nor routine.
10. Inventory maintenance of assets is ad hoc, and so is the maintenance schedule. Though funds do not seem to be a problem, there is no inventory or maintenance schedule.
11. Little or no management has been undertaken, or despite management efforts, deterioration of cultural heritage assets continues, or values are unknown.

C. Actionable Points

1. Immediate actions are needed to develop a comprehensive management plan.
2. The site values and threats need to be systematically categorized, assessed and monitored.
3. Stakeholders need to be involved for long-term effective management of the site.
4. The contributions of NGOs to the management of the PA should be improved.
5. The site needs more trained frontline management staff.
6. Steps need be taken to ensure strong public participation in the management of the PA.

7. The complaints handling system should be responsive to individual issues.
8. Information on the management of the PA should be made available to the public.
9. Systematic and routine reporting of management-related trends is needed.
10. An inventory and maintenance schedule of assets needs to be maintained.



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		No Management Plan was made available at the site so it is not possible to comment. However, this is the only Sal forest in the state of Haryana and situated at the tri-junction of three states of Haryana, HP and U.P. it is a very significant biodiversity site to be conserved as a NP in Haryana, where there is very poor forest cover.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓	
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good		

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		In the absence of MP, it is difficult to comment but interaction with field level staff of wildlife wing indicates that they are well aware of threats to site values and are taking adequate steps to mitigate them.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓	
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good		

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		Except on the outer fringes adjoining habitation the biotic interference is minimal. The highway which runs through the NP causes large number of casualties of wild animals specially during night. There is always a danger of poaching from HP villages and from "Dhe-Bangali" a nomadic tribe living close by, near Tajewala.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good	✓	
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good		

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		The site is properly identified as a NP with a small area of about 4820 ha. It has a good buffer of a wildlife sanctuary and RF of the state. On other side Simbalwada WLS of HP and RF of UP are there. No zonation seems necessary as it is little used by visitors.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓	
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good		

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor	✓	There was no MP available nor the local staff was aware of it.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair		
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓	Not applicable
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		The site safeguards large number of threatened biodiversity values. In a state like Haryana with very low forest cover this is the only significant Sal Forest which harbors Leopards, Goral, Cheetal, Sambar and large no. of birds and reptiles. Yamuna river which forms the boundary has aquatic fauna. Tigers and Elephants also migrate from nearby Uttarakhand/ UP forest and stay for fairly long time. One sub adult tusker is staying in the NP for last two years. Upto nine elephants have been sighted in the past.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair		
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓	
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good		

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	The two stakeholders are the Haryana Forest Department under territorial DFO and Haryana Wildlife Department under CWLW. Both carry out their activities independently and there is dual control over the NP. In spite clear guidelines from the MOEF, GOI. One wing looks after the habitat and other takes care of wild animals. The system is detrimental to proper management and there is great bickering and petty politics. In the interest of the NP it is strongly recommended that the dual control must end. The control of Kalesar NP, Kalesar WLS and the adjoining RF should go to wildlife management preferably with the DFO at Yamunanagar who can also control wildlife protection in the district where there is great threat from poachers not only to wildlife of Haryana but outside State also.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair		
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good		
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good		

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		It was heartening to note that the habitat is well preserved, thoroughly protected from fire and degradation. In spite of high summer temperature there was no fire incident and the fire lines were well maintained. Plantation activity is carried out by territorial wing and there was no record with wildlife wing.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good	✓	

2.7 Are reintroduction programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Reintroduction programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		No reintroduction programming has ever been carried out here. Elephant Rehabilitation and Research center is coming up at Bansantour close to NP, which is still under construction. One trained inspector is looking after the project with great enthusiasm. The migratory elephants sometime stay in NP for long time and recently one Tusker who had migrated from UP/UK died due to natural death.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for reintroduction programmes.	Fair		
Reintroduction programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good	✓	
Reintroduction programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.8 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		The site has effective protection system. One Inspector and 6 WL Guards are effectively protecting this small NP.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good	✓	

2.9 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		There are less of conflicts except on fringes adjoining habitations and on the HP border from where the spillover population gets poached in HP. It is good that no sand and bolder mining is done in river Yamuna upto 1km distance from Park boundary.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair		
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓	
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good		

2.10 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Within the State the site is integrated with Kalesar WLS (5560 hc.) and one contiguous forest block which is under territorial wing of FD. Outside State the NP has a forested buffer both in HP and U.P. with intermittent habitations in HP. There is no coordination of any kind even within the state for integrated ecosystem approach.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair	✓	
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good		
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good		

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		One Inspector has revolver and WLG have 3 nos. 12 bore guns. There is a Gypsy and 5 motorbikes for patrolling. Personnel are well organized.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair		
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓	
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Apart from firearms and vehicles there are enough number of buildings etc. which are well maintained.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good	✓	

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc and funds are never released in time.	Poor		Resources are linked to priority activities and no problem of fund release was observed.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action and some funds released in time.	Fair		
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide most resource allocation and generally funds released in time.	Good	✓	
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide complete allocation of resources for management and on-time release of funds.	Very good		

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓	No resources are provided by NGOs for this small park.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good		

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		Sufficient for most tasks.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good	✓	
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good		

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Inspector I/C is untrained but all the WLGs are trained from Bandhargarh WL Training Centre (MP). This is the only NP of significance in Haryana and deserves a trained I/C of which there is no shortage in the State.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓	
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good		
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good		

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		In the absence of Management Plan it is difficult to comment but the ground situation shows direct linkage with achievement of objectives.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good	✓	
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good		

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor	✓	There was hardly any evidence of it.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good		
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good		

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Complaints are handled at the level of Dy. CWLW who is overall in charge of the NP.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓	
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good		

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		There is no effect nor it seems necessary in this small NP with well to do surrounding population.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓	
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good		
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good		

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor	✓	There is no Management Plan nor there was any brochure or folder specifically on the NP. The only folders made available were for the State which have brief information on Kaleser NP.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair		
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good		

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		There are hardly any visitors except for VIPs and departmental people. One well furnished FRH is beautifully located overlooking Yamuna. There is no other visitor facility. This being a small habitat needs to be kept free from visitors interference.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓	
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good		

5.3 Are management related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of management related trends.	Poor		The latest census records made available were of 2006 in which following figures were recorded at local level but there has been no compilation at State level. Leopard -20 Goral -27 Cheetal -58 Sambar -109 Wild pig -69 Nilgai -31 Relative evaluation should not be difficult with little guidance from HQs and technical input from WII which is just 70 km from the Park and should be very much willing to offer the expertise.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓	
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good		
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Very good		

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Though funds do not seem to be problem but there is no inventory or maintenance schedule.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair	✓	
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good		

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are threatened/ endangered species populations stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Population of endangered species though appear fairly satisfactory on the ground but in the absence of Management Plan and proper evaluation nothing more can be commented. It is an additional responsibility of the Park Management to take care of migratory elephants and occasionally tigers.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good	✓	
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good		

6.2 Are biological communities at a mix of ages and spacings that will support native biodiversity?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Biological communities unlikely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Poor		Most biological communities are able to sustain native biodiversity.
Some biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Fair		
Most biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Good	✓	
All biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Very good		

6.3 Have the threats to the site being abated/ minimized?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats to the site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Threats have been abated and minimized.
Some threats to the site have been abated.	Fair		
Most threats to the site have been abated.	Good	✓	
All threats to the site have been abated.	Very good		

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		There are few visitors whose expectations are generally met.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good	✓	
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good		

6.5 Are neighbours and adjacent communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile.	Poor		No conflicts were noticed except between within the two wings of the department.
Key neighbours/communities are supportive.	Fair		
Most neighbours/communities are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓	
All neighbours and communities supportive of PA management.	Very good		

6.6 Are cultural heritage assets protected?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no management undertaken, or despite management efforts, deterioration of cultural heritage assets continues, or values are unknown.	Poor	✓	There are none.
Some management activity, but deterioration continues.	Fair		
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being redressed.	Good		
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being significantly redressed.	Very good		

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	17.5	59.8%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	62.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	35	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	17.5	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	40	
Total		33		330*	197.5	

* The six Framework Elements were subsequently assigned equal weightage of 100 each. The total MEE score is 600 out of which this site has score 351.3 or 58.5%

5. BHINDAWAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, HARYANA

MEE Year (2012-13)

A. Management Strengths

1. Part of the Yamuna river basin in the state is predominantly agrarian, and yet because of its peculiar geomorphological features, it traditionally supported a rich biodiversity in its flood plain.
2. With intensive agricultural practices and urbanization/industrialization, dedicated land resources for conservation of aquatic faunal attributes are the need of the hour.
3. Site also freshwater faunal biodiversity outside reserve forest.
4. What was initiated as an irrigation balancing tank, required for regulating the flow of water in the Yamuna and an irrigation canal network for supplying water to towns, etc. incidentally started attracting migrant aquatic birds. This has provided a unique opportunity to conserve aquatic avifauna, which has been harnessed effectively.

B. Management Weaknesses

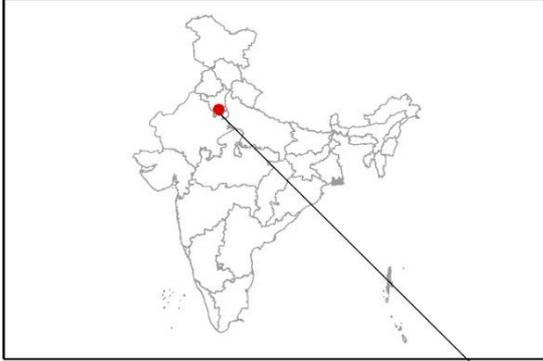
1. The water body and appurtenant lands are actually under dual control, and the objectives of the concerned agencies need be harmonized for better results and long-term sustainability.
2. Threats to the aquatic life, such as infestation by weeds [water hyacinth in particular], and increasing salinity may lead to eutrophication. Grazing by domestic cattle grazing, illicit felling of trees and trespassing are also management concerns.
3. There is a lack of control of the movement of vehicular traffic along the embankments.

C. Actionable Points

1. The management plan of Dalal is to be dovetailed with the report submitted by Tetra Tech. The plan should be consonant with the guidelines developed by the National Wetland Development. The emphasis should be on the provisions of the amended Wildlife Protection Act and strengthen a consultative mechanism for better convergence with the concerned agencies.
2. Science-based decisions need to be taken about an environmentally apt weed eradication method that will contribute to the income generation activity of Ecodevelopment Committees.
3. The interpretation centre needs to be refurbished, improved and made operative as soon as possible.
4. NGOs (local or otherwise, including those based in Delhi) need to be encouraged to carry out a long-term inventory, to institute a monitoring mechanism and to participate in environmental education/extension, etc.
5. The statutory requirements of appointing Honorary Wardens and forming a PA advisory committee need to be met to enhance local participation in planning and implementation of works as also to ensure transparency.

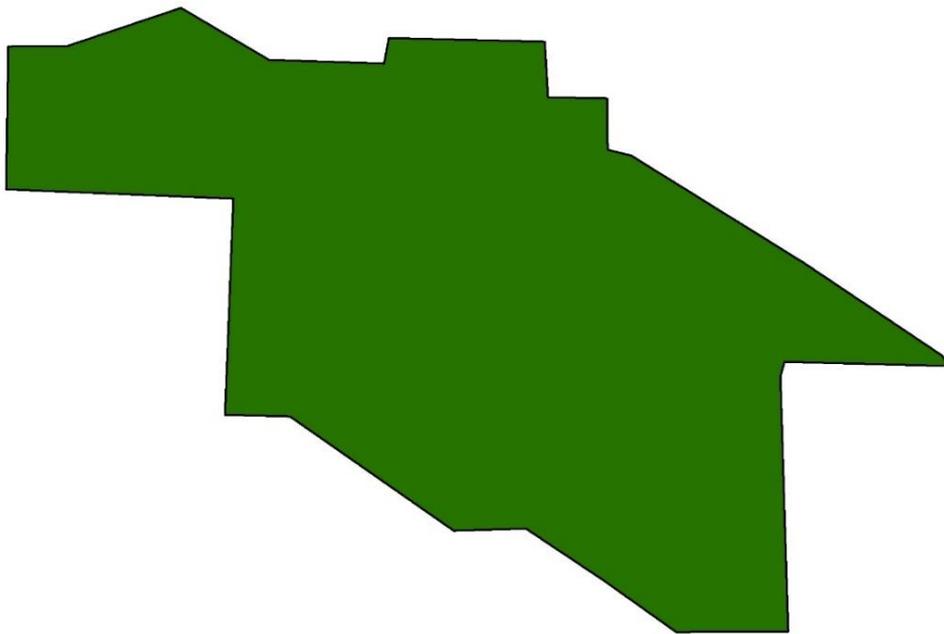
77°15'0"E

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary Haryana



28°30'0"N

28°30'0"N



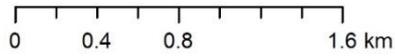
28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 4.12 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1986

77°15'0"E

1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan [MP] for Bhinwas & Khaparwas written by DWL Dalal & MAP as per National Wet land Development Guide lines by Tetra tech Consultancy – base line information Chapter II and III/ Gazette notifications & information provided by the PA management	Site has unique feature of “balancing reservoir” to hold excess water from JNL canal & release of surplus into drain no 8 that has become a wetland; PA is thus, incidental to irrigation project. Its conservation centric history is recent. Most of the values of the PA have been understood and documented but more in-depth ecological status of key species need be documented.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓		
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good			
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor			MP provides an account of threats like weed infestation /increase in salinity etc leading to eutrophication has been adequately dealt with. Domestic cattle grazing / illicit felling / trespass are noted. Grid based quantitative area specific information need be recorded.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good			
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor			There is no village within the PA but adjoining villages have considerable impact hence In a participatory mode authentic information need be recorded
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair	✓		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		Gazette notification dated May 7th 1986	Relatively small size has administrative implications but nonetheless, area has been duly identified and zonation indicated in an appropriate manner
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓		
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		MP & MAP documents	MP written by Dalal has been further supplemented by report in consonance with the National Wet land development guidelines by Tetra Tech consultancy report; considering its limitations, agency has done good work. Scope for grounding the revised plan based on remote sensing time series data and local site specific knowledge.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		MP & MAP documents	Revision / updating in place before expiry of plan period; but leaves scope for in depth and proper consultation with stake holders and /inter disciplinary approach.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good	✓		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Dalal plan Appendix 2 & 3. Tetra tech table 3.16 & 3.17	Statement on floral terrestrial and aquatic diversity /list of birds is provided but it does not indicate their ecological status and thus area specific information on RET status would be useful for enhancement of park values. Key indicator species including Odonates, turtles etc representing healthy wetland need to be identified for interdisciplinary focused conservation efforts.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.6 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	Tetra tech Chapter 5	Lack of mechanism for stakeholder consultation evident in Dalal plan and rudimentary efforts in Tetra tech document.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Dalal plan 6.4. TetraTech 6.3.2 monitoring 6.3.5	MP has discussed in depth weed removal as habitat improvement and planned activities. Suggestion of use of heavy machinery leading to high inputs need be re-examined keeping in view observation in Dalal Plan / annexures thereto. [Separate note given]. Monitoring mechanism for water quality is in place but impact of habitat restoration on site utility by desired species need be evolved
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good			
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations).Habitat structure,

composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is there a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor			With lack of control on trespass, site is not protected adequately and thus strategy for manned barrier gates /alternate access / fodder resources etc be examined. Inlet-outlet regulations to minimize water pollution /weed infestation threat can possibly be contained under legal provision of WLPA 1972 / joint action with irrigation department.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Dalal 3.6.6	At the landscape level there are many issues like salinity in agriculture fields; water pollution; liver-fluke infestation of cattle etc. Policy level decisions are required on water cycle; time of water release etc in consultation with concerned irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandry departments.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair	✓		
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good			
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up

actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Chapter 1 Tetrattech	PA is part of Yamuna flood plains / catchment area and thus serves habitat needs of local and migratory birds.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓		
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Information provided by PA manager	As per thumb rule norms for an area of approx 4 km2, sanctioned staff of Inspector and Sub-Inspector Wildlife [one each] and Guards [4] is adequate but managing miniature PA's is a challenge as normal staffing norms are inadequate to address issues of interface with surround and needs for interpretation and education aspects as well as ensuring habitat protection works.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor			Information with Dy. WL Warden is limited. Limited funds till recent past; Resources for maintenance of infra structure are limited. Binoculars, spotting scope etc are in place. However, needs Jeep and two wheelers for patrolling.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor			No central assistance till last year; ad-hoc fund sourcing [Funds from DC under NREGS, CAMPA, etc]. Varied aspects of park management are dealt with by Territorial DFO. Irrigation Department do pumping of water from farmer's field into pond during floods, etc. High level Steering committee for wetland has been constituted recently but still need for coordination for better utilization of funds i.e. status of herbal garden / non functional interpretation centre till date, etc
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor			No NGOs is active & involved in the PA related works, leaving ample scope for improvement.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions(cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor			Not sufficient earlier but now there is improvement – National Wetland Conservation Programme, MoEF support is available and expected to be continued.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair	✓		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Information provided by PA manager	Wildlife Inspector & Sub-inspector are trained in wildlife management . Their commitment and sincere approach is remarkable. Territorial forest wing and irrigation department staffs, also being implementers, need to be oriented. Scope to utilize local traditional knowledge is immense, as was explained in the field. Exposure through short re-orientation workshops & exposure visits to places like Yamuna Biodiversity Park are indicated for science based wetland management activities
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good	✓		
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor			Universal ACR system is in place but introduction of reward system at the State / circle level is proposed.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor			On the lines of involvement of stakeholders in planning and management of Conservation and Community Reserves under amended WLP Act 2003, A steering committee at state established recently is a step in right direction but Institutionalized consultation will be useful at park level too. Appointment of Honorary Wild life wardens will provide scope for institutionalized contribution to managerial issues. SHGs have been formed and scope for income generating activities linked to Park resources are being explored.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor			No complaints
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good	✓		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor			Though there is no village within the PA ignoring agriculture based livelihood has been initiated only at planning level, for translating these ideas into action, institutional framework need be developed.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			

Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			Eco-development planning at Village panchayat level, grounded in gender based livelihood issues and proactive efforts need to be made.
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5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		Field observations.	PA has not optimally utilized eco-tourism potentials; brochures being brought out is of good quality. Considering the small size of PA and limited extension efforts at PA level, suitable extension materials can be developed at division or state level. Also, prominent signages at entry points are essential.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair	✓		
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good			
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor			Visitor services need be improved and scaled-up. Nature Interpretation centre building is ready but needs to be made operational, soonest. Camping sites need to be developed. Day tourism facilities through EDCs in the villages can be explored
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor			Monitoring system is indicated and funds are earmarked but actual mechanism is yet not in-place. Amateur bird watchers are recording informally bird presence; for ecological status of birds such information need be collected /collated and analyzed professionally.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor			BO, Guard quarters maintained in 3 year cycle. Road network maintenance is Ok.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Population estimation figures on record and teams observations	It is a small PA and thus need to be contextualize with larger landscape level. Moreover, with the scope for improvement in population estimation of water birds, the general observation is that population of key species are stable.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good	✓		
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor			Threats have been contained but not completely and effectively curbed.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.3 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor			Though visitors are rather casual and are generally satisfied with the values, the scope for improvement are plenty. Also, science based management efforts needed for addressing varied aspects like encroachment
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good	✓		
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor			Efforts for involvement need to be put in place but people generally are not anti-PA
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	15	59.17%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	55	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	30	
4.	Process	05	10	50	30	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	27.5	
Total		30		300	177.5	

Remarks: Creation of PA is incidental or accidental outcome of primarily an Irrigation Project and hence has inherent limitations. More efforts need be made for better convergence for between sectors for better results.

6. CHHILCHHILLA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, HARYANA

MEE Year (2015-16)

Management Strengths

1. As a result of the easy accessibility of the WLS, the staff and the manager of PA visit it frequently, and so the management of the PA improves continuously.
2. The PA is rich in historical values.
3. The PA has good potential as a wetland ecosystem and can be developed into a good bird sanctuary.
4. The PA provides a good wintering/breeding ground for many migratory and resident birds.
5. The public support for the PA is adequate.
6. Adequate funds are released in a timely manner. This the staff ample time to carry out the necessary protection and development works.
7. Trained human resources (DFO, Inspector (RO) and well-trained field staff) are available in the PA for handling various issues such as human-animal conflicts and census operations.
8. Motorcycles and other equipment are available in the PA.
9. The adjacent landscape is conducive for resident and migratory bird species, and there are no major threats to the WLS.
10. No major wildlife and forest offence cases have been reported during the last few years.
11. It is a potential ecotourism site that, if developed and maintained as a good bird sanctuary, may attract many tourists and nature lovers.
12. There is no habitation inside the WLS except a temple on its boundary.

Management Weaknesses

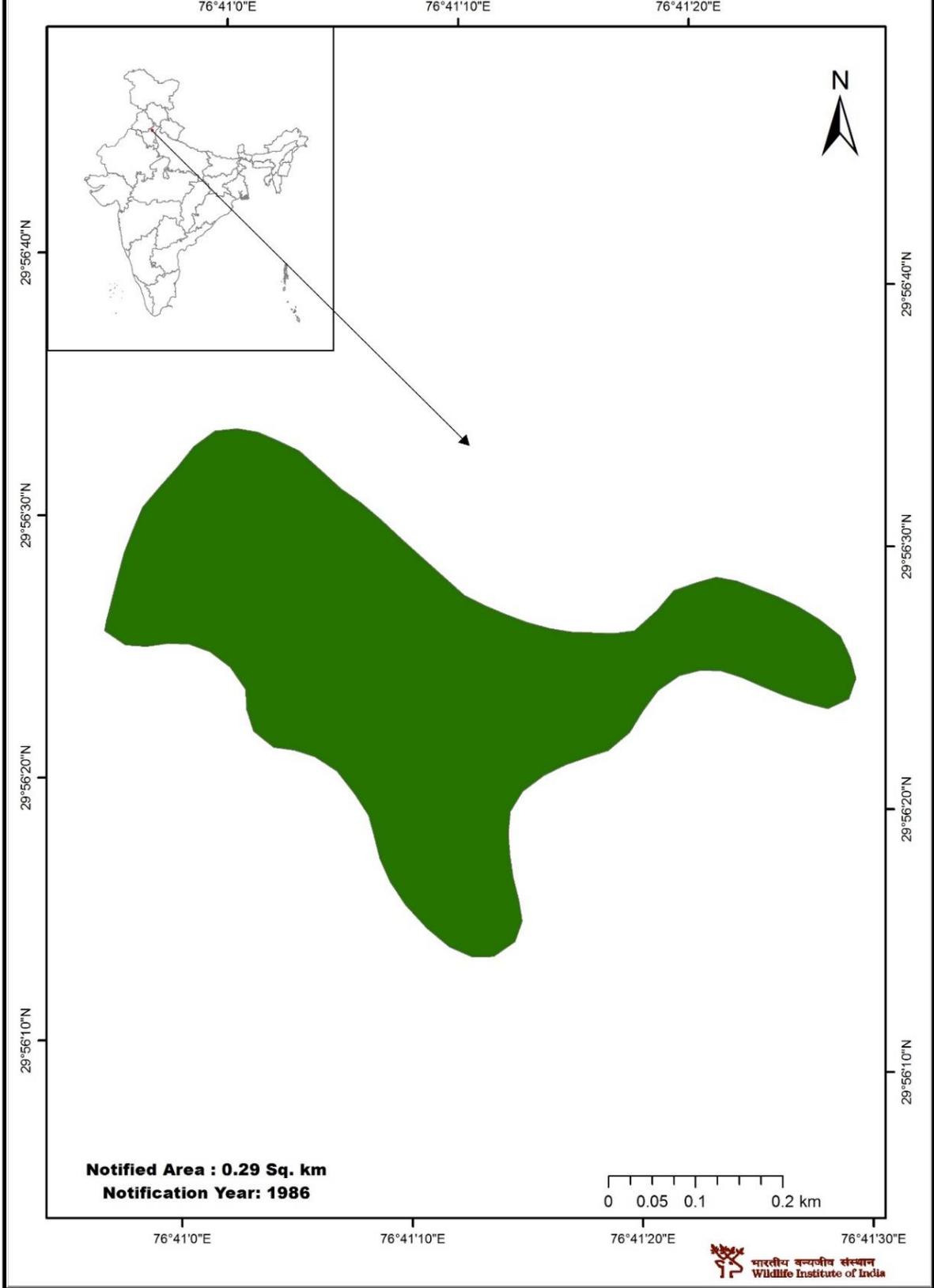
1. The WLS, being a small and isolated area surrounded by agricultural and other land use, is difficult to manage.
2. Because of intensive paddy/wheat cropping, pesticide and fertiliser runoff enters the sanctuary.
3. The area, being dependent on rainwater, faces a lot of uncertainty regarding the availability of water.
4. There is a shortage of dedicated staff in the sanctuary.
5. There is no fencing on the boundary of the PA.
6. There is a wide opening in the embankment, because of which water drains away from the sanctuary.
7. There are no proper mounds for birds to nest on within the WLS.
8. Many eucalyptus trees that were planted long back in the area still exist. They are not conducive for birds.
9. The existence of the temple may cause disturbances in the sanctuary.
10. There is no proper approach road to the sanctuary.
11. The PA does not have any interpretation centre.
12. There is a lack of publicity for the PA. It does not have good or adequate publicity material.

Actionable Points

1. Adequate field-level staff, including one sub-inspector, two forest guards and two watchers should be deployed in the WLS.
2. A pucca wall and entry gate should be constructed.
3. The broken portion of the bund on the eastern side should be repaired to maintain the minimum level of water inside the PA.
4. A spillway should be provided for safe drainage of wastewater.
5. Five or six earthen mounds of irregular shape should be made at different places inside the water body, and planting of *Acacia nilotica* should be done on the mounds.
6. It should be ensured that no construction or extension of buildings is taken up in the temple in the WLS.
7. A pucca approach road should be constructed so that the staff can move easily.
8. The required action may be taken up against the nearby polluting industry, which is causing adverse impacts on the flora and fauna of the WLS.
9. One interpretation centre having signage that highlights the historical and biodiversity values should be set up near the entry gate.
10. The WLS should be publicized extensively through the print and electronic media.
11. Crop diversification in the immediate vicinity of the sanctuary should be encouraged to reduce the pesticide and fertilizer runoff in the WLS.
12. Ecodevelopment committees (EDCs) should be constituted at the earliest.
13. An awareness programme for encouraging the use of organic farming should be taken up.

14. Sections on monitoring and evaluation, updating the plan and prescriptions need to be incorporated in the management plan.
15. A section on human–wildlife conflicts should be incorporated in the management plan. Conflicts should be addressed on a priority basis.
16. Benchmark studies of the area should be carried out involving university scholars or institutions such as WII and BNHS, and periodical studies undertaken at intervals of 5 years or so.
17. Censuses should be carried out regularly to discern the trends of populations of various species.

Chhilchhila Wildlife Sanctuary



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan (MP) 2014-15 to 24-2025 written by Mr K C Meena, Section (S)1.2 and 1.7 and Chapter (C) 7	
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓		
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good			
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		MP S3.11 S6.4.1.5	
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good	✓		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor	✓	MP 3.11	
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair			
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		MP S6.2 and S6.3	
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good	✓		

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		MP Ch8 on eco-development	Meetings have been done with researchers of Kurukshetra University, Scientists of BNHS and WII
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good	✓		

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		MP S12.2	
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair	✓		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Watch and ward strategy, Protection Plan S6.4.2	
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		MP S8.3 subsection 10	Regular meetings are done with stakeholders but record is not maintained
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good	✓		
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		S6.4.1 of MP	Kurukshetra Univ researchers, BNHS and WII Scientists have been consulted
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair			
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations). Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is their a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		S6.4.2 of MP	MP recently Approved and implementation has to be undertaken for sufficient period in order to enable review effectiveness
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		S9.7.4 of MP	Problem of Human-Wildlife conflict as such does not exist, 4 trainings have been imparted to staff
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		As per discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	As such the WLS exists in isolation and only one adjacent RF patch of (10 ha) or so area is located about 1 km to the north – west of the WLS
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair	✓		
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good			
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organized and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		S10.2 of MP	1 sub inspector, 1 forest guard and 1 peon are explicitly allocated and deployed for the WLS
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		S10.1 and S10.2 of MP	Tranquilizer gun, GPS, binoculars, motorcycles, vehicles etc are available with the staff
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good	✓		

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		As per discussion with CF and WLS staff	Funds have been sanctioned (Rs 1.5 crs) for the first time for development and habitat improvement of WLS and will be utilized.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		As per discussion with CF and WLS staff	Wildlife SOS, BNHS and Kurukshetra Univ, WII, GEER Foundation have contributed towards training and research
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions(cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		S10.11 of MP	Financial, Building, Equipment, Vehicles etc. are sufficient and the 3 vacant posts should be filled up at the earliest
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good	✓		
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	All staff (DCF, Inspector/RO and FG) are trained in wildlife management
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good	✓		

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		As per discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	Special appreciations and certificates are given to the outstanding staff, system of CRs
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Ch 8 and discussion with CF	Public participation is being taken up in Protection and awareness generation programme etc.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		S7.5.5 of MP	No separate system for complaints/comments exists. However complaints are handled through the C M window system
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		C 8 of MP and discussion with CF	3 SHGs are working in the villages adjacent to the WLS, Agroforestry and farm forestry are also encouraged. The community is not forest resource dependent as such.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair			
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good	✓		
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor	✓	S6.4.6 and S 6.4.7 of MP and discussion with CF	Pamphlets, brochures and posters to be produced, wider coverage in electronic media, no print material exists as on today.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good			
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor	✓	S 7.5.3 of MP	Facilities have to be put in place for attracting visitors
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor		C 9 of MP	3 research papers on the WLS have been published
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		C12 of MP	Prioritization and year wise breakup of Physical targets needs to be done in the MP
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	Reasonable passage of time should be allowed for MP to take effects
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	Pesticide residues from farm runoff, factory for corn starch
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.3 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor	✓	Discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	Visitors facilities have not been developed yet.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		Discussion with CF and Wildlife Staff	Most locals are supportive of PA management as they are not dependent on the PA and obtain some benefits from the large number of visitors and get some additional jobs.
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	15	187.5 (62.5%)
2.	Planning	09	10	90	67.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	37.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	32.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	15	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	20	
Total		30		300		

7. KHOL-HI-RAITAM (MORNI HILLS) WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, HARYANA, MEE Year (2016-17)

Management Strengths

1. The final notification of Khol Hi Raitam Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) has been issued.
2. An ecosensitive zone with width varying between 0 and 925 m was notified on 3 June 2009.
3. The forest cover is good, and there are only a few degraded areas within the WLS.
4. There is strict protection in the WLS, and no poaching activities have been reported.
5. The water regime is good. There are both natural and artificial tanks (10 open tanks and one guzzler, with two more guzzlers under construction). Most of these water bodies have water throughout the year. Only the guzzler requires replenishment during the pinch period (March–June).
6. The number of vehicles (one Bolero for the DFO, one motorcycle for the guards) available to the staff of the WLS is sufficient.
7. The funds are adequate (totalling about Rs..50 lakhs) and are released in a timely manner (30% in Quarter 1, 25% in Quarter 2, 20% in Quarter 3 and 25% in the last quarter). The funds are utilized fully.
8. The people are generally supportive of the WLS. They cooperate with the staff/management of the WLS and provide information.
9. A secret fund has been available since last year, for better gathering of information.
10. The territorial staffs are bound by duty to engage in fire extinguishing tasks in the WLS.
11. A bird safari and a trail within this safari have been created for visitors.
12. There is no encroachment in the WLS.
13. There are no habitations inside the WLS.
14. Around 80% of the boundary pillars have been constructed/ repaired.
15. The prey base (Goral, Barking Deer, Wild Pig, Rhesus Macaque, Blue Bull and Sambar) available for the flagship species, the Leopard, is good.
16. With the proximity to Chandigarh and the ease of approach by road, there is potentially a very large number of visitors.
17. The staffs are trained in wildlife management. The DFO has attended a 3 month certificate course at WII, and the FG has undergone a 6 month wildlife training programme at Bandhavgarh as well as attended refresher courses.
18. The infrastructure available for the management of the WLS is adequate.
19. The office of the RFO is equipped with computer and landline broadband facilities.

Management Weaknesses

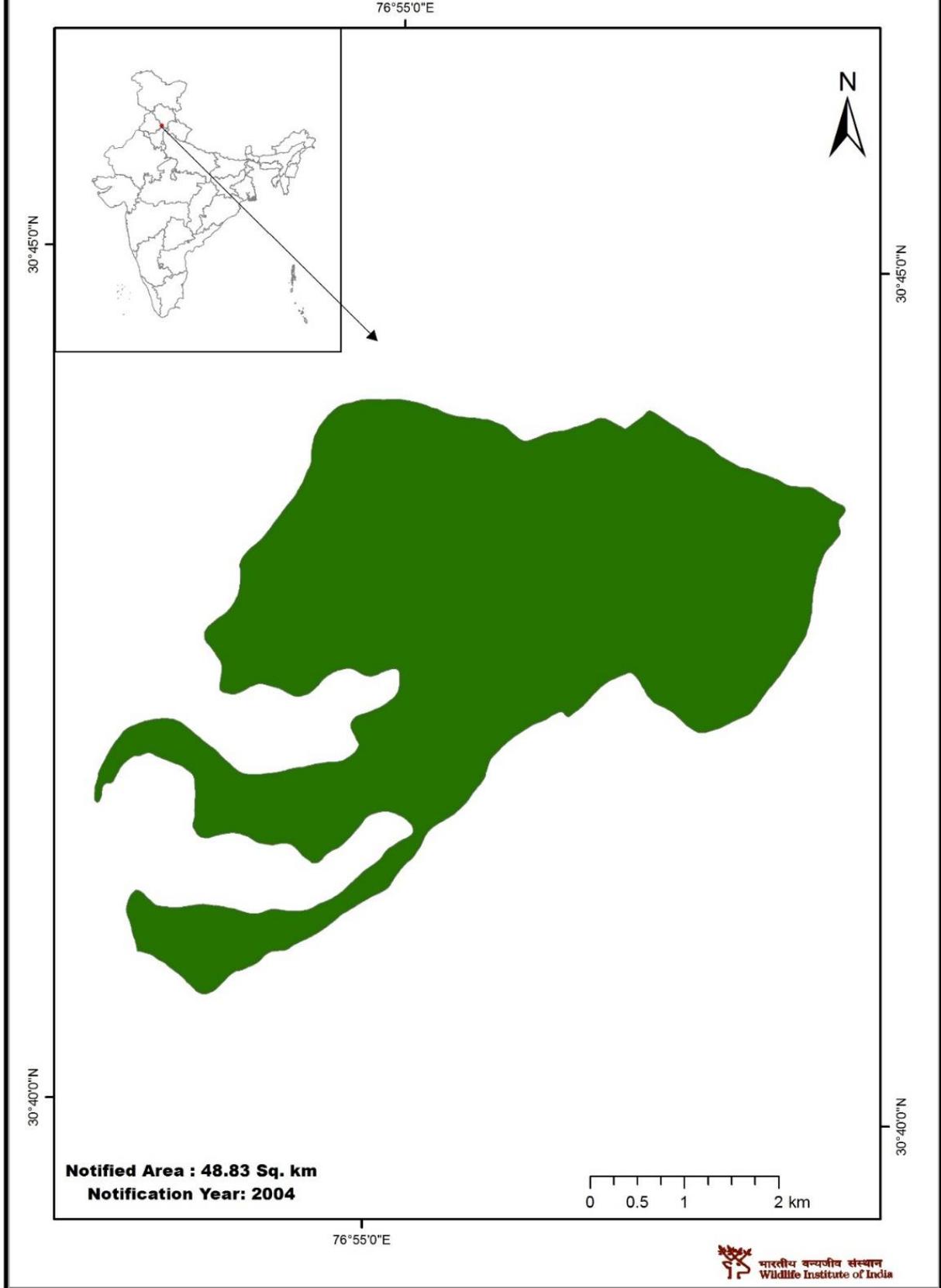
1. Zonation has not been carried out for management of the WLS.
2. There are very few staff members to manage the WLS (one Inspector, one WLG and one daily wage labourer).
3. Plantation work is undertaken by the territorial wing according to their requirements and not according to the needs of the wildlife.
4. The wireless sets have become old and non-functional and have not been replaced.
5. The staff members are not reimbursed for calls made using their mobile phones.
6. Grazing is prevalent in some areas of the WLS.
7. There is dual administrative control of the WLS (wildlife offence cases are dealt with by the wildlife staff, whereas forest offence cases inside the WLS are being dealt with by the territorial staff).
8. The area has been declared a WLS, but the corresponding territorial staff have not been transferred to the Wildlife Wing.
9. There is no promotional avenue for state wildlife service officers.

Actionable Points

1. The management plan needs to be improved upon and approval obtained subsequently at the earliest.
2. The information gathering system should be strengthened.
3. An interpretation centre should be established at Berwala, which is a strategic location.
4. After the WLS was declared, only the area was transferred to the Wildlife Wing but not the staff. The corresponding staff need be transferred to the Wildlife Wing now so that the protection and development works are improved.
5. The work of fixing boundary pillars (new and repairs) needs to be completed at the earliest.
6. Staff members can be reimbursed for mobile phone charges (up to a certain limit).
7. Plantation work has to be carried inside the WLS in consultation with the Wildlife Wing or by the Wildlife Wing itself.
8. Promotional avenues need to be created/ revived for Divisional Wildlife Wardens and Class II Divisional Wildlife Officers to motivate them.

9. Eco-development committees need to be established so that the interface between the WLS and the human populations on the fringes is improved.
10. One check post needs to be established at Mandhana.
11. Nature trails with vantage viewing points should be created within the WLS.
12. Brochures providing information about the salient features and attributes of the WLS need to be made available to the public.
13. Entry fees can be charged at Berwala and Mandhana.
14. Considering the practical difficulties in the field (searching and frisking), lady forest guards can be deployed at the WLS.

Khol Hi Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan (2013-14 to 2018-19) (MP) Ch 1 and 2 (Sec 1.3, 2.2, 2.3) and discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Management Plan exists but needs to be in the WII prescribed format.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good	✓		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		MP Sec 3.11	Most threats have been identified but need elaboration.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good	✓		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		MP Annexure 8	There are no villages inside the WLS but there are 42 villages (622 households) and hamlets on the fringes of WLS with approximately 2400 livestock.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair	✓		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		MP Ch 4 and discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	There is no demarcation of tourism zone, core buffer etc.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair	✓		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		MP 2013-14 to 2018-19	MP is not approved though it has been submitted for approval to the CWLW. There is scope for further additions and improvements in the MP submitted. Stakeholders' concerns have to be incorporated.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Provision for mid term-review of the MP needs to be incorporated in the revision.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair	✓		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		MP Ch6 Sec 6.4.1, pp 48, Sec 7.4.2 Sec 8.2, 8.3	Several measures have been taken to safeguard the threatened biodiversity values; eg. Several waterholes have been created in the park to provide water to the wildlife during the pinch period.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	MP Ch8	EDC formation needs to be initiated and specific programmes based on the socio-economic context need to be started for the villagers living on the fringes.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		MP 3.6.2, Sec 6.1(c), 6.4.1	Specific restoration programmes/ treatments need to be written in the MP.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good			
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations). Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is there a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		MP Sec 3.2, 3.3	Detailed provisions for protection need to be written into the MP. Patrolling is done with the existing limited staff, coordination with Police Crime Branch for wildlife offence cases needs to be enhanced.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Animal Human Conflict Register	Very few human wildlife conflicts exist, however Rs 1.91 lakhs have been paid over the last 3 years (livestock depredation).
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all humanwildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	On eastern side the WLS is connected with the Thapli Block and it is also connected to Bir Shikargah via 2.6 km corridor along Ghaggar River.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓		
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Checklist document and discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	On declaration of WLS, only the area was transferred but the corresponding staff was not transferred to the Wildlife Wing.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Except for the vehicle the WLS does not have any modern equipment.The facilities including Animal Rescue Centre and Veterinarian are required.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3. Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Human resources are minimal but the financial provisions in the Budget is adequate. However CAMPA budget is delayed a bit leading to difficulties in its utilisation.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓	Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	There is no contribution by NGOs towards the WLS management.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions (cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Financial resources are sufficient but human resources are deficient.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Training inputs have been provided to the Inspector and Guard (ACF – certificate Course), Guard has undergone tranquilization training at Bandhavgarh and another by the Crime Control Bureau.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	APR system is in place where performance of staff is evaluated.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	There is scope for public participation for reducing human wildlife conflict, livestock immunisation needs to be done.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Complaints register, Public grievances redressal register, Animal rescue, conflict register is maintained and dealt with efficiently.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good	✓		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	NA , adjacent villages are relatively well off and are not dependent on the WLS and negative impacts on WLS are minimal.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair			
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Brochure is not available, however the website for statewide information contains material of Khol Hai Raitan , tie up with tourism department has also been done.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Interpretation Centre needs to be made, Signages to be put on various points, Viewpoints, watch towers to be created and drinking water facilities to be made.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor		WII Report for Haryana State 2013	No specific research for Khol Hai Raitan has been made. Local College/ University students need to be encouraged for undertaking the Area specific and need based research for the sanctuary.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Though the systematic inventory exist yet regular maintenance needs to be undertaken.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	No estimates available and hence trends are not discernible, some ocular estimates suggest increase in leopard and sambar population, but there is no scientific basis for this.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		MP Sec 3.11	Some threats like availability of water have been minimised, poaching is not a problem at all, macaque problem is , however, increasing.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.3 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	No system for tracking visitors and feedback is there.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		Discussion with CF, ACF and Inspector	Locals are not dependent on WLS, so as such they are supportive of PA management.
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	20	55.35%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	52.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	17.5	
4.	Process	04	10	40	22.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	25	
6.	Outcomes	03	10	30	17.5	
Total		28		280	155	

JAMMU & KASHMIR

8. CHANGTHANG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, JAMMU & KASHMIR

MEE Year (2006-09)

A. Management Strengths

1. The site safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.
2. The site is fully integrated into the wider network/landscape.
3. There is systematic public participation in most aspects of the management of the protected area (PA).
4. The PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource-dependent communities to the extent possible. Changpas, who are mainly pastoralists, are not disturbed. Improvement of coral pens, supply of fodder, construction of home stays for tourists, etc. are being carried out on a limited scale for the local people.
5. A detailed insight into management issues and information are available to the public.
6. The expectations of most visitors are met.
7. Most neighbours/local communities are supportive of the PA management.
8. A planned approach to management is being instituted and a deterioration of assets is being significantly redressed.

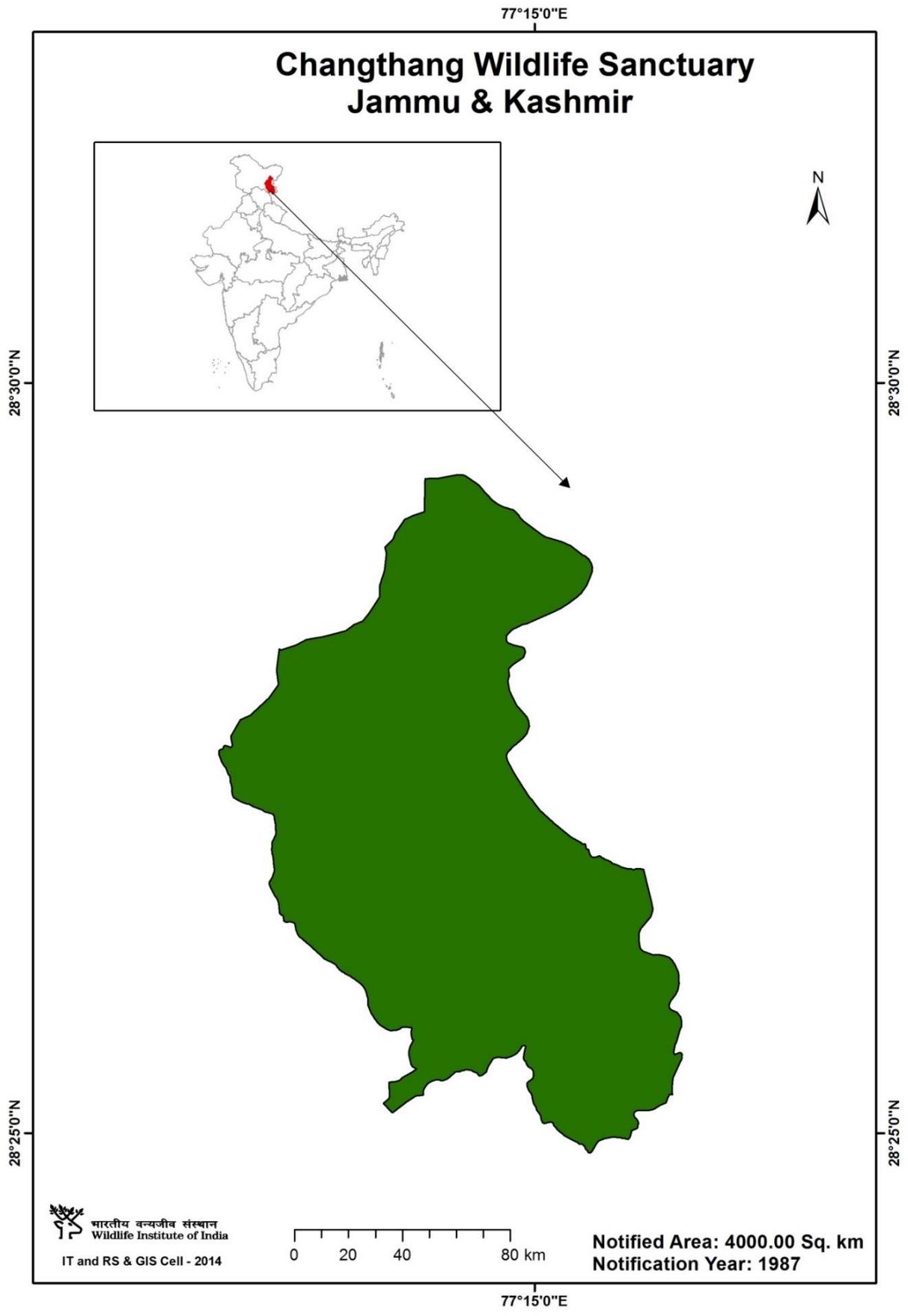
B. Management Weaknesses

1. Values and threats have been identified but are not systematically assessed and monitored.
2. The site has extensive human and biotic interference. In spite of the large geographical area of the PA, the biotic pressures are high, especially when the biomass production is very poor, due to the cold desert conditions. There are 28 villages with 45 hamlets, with a population of over 15,000. Apart from the local population, there are about 10 Tibetan Refugee (TR) camps, with a population of over 2200. All the households, including those of the TRs, have on an average about 40 to 50 sheep and 150 to 200 goats, apart from large numbers of yaks, horses, donkeys and dogs. There is a huge presence of military and paramilitary persons all over the PA in 15 to 20 locations. The tourist inflow is also high, which necessitates the movement of pack animals, camping and movement of supplies.
3. The site has not been identified correctly or categorized. An extent of 4000 km² was notified as Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in 1987, but the local wildlife department is of the view that the boundaries described in the notification actually encompass an 18,800 km² area.
4. The site has no management plan in place.
5. Stakeholders participate in some planning processes.
6. A few planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.
7. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy.
8. There is a scarcity of resources. The only Forest Ranger in the WLS does not have any vehicle in spite of the vast area in which he is supposed to move around. There is one two-wheeler with him, but due to the harsh climate, its use is limited. The only two check-posts, at Tangse and Anle, are in a dilapidated condition. There are no guard *chowkis*. The Range Office and Range Quarter at Nyoma are also old. There are no weapons. There is no communication system. No high-altitude uniform has been provided; instead, the normal uniform is provided.
9. There has hardly been any contribution by NGOs in terms of finances or material. There has also been a general discouragement by the state government of such funding and resources.

10. The resources are highly insufficient, including the human resources, for the large number of tasks to be undertaken in such a vast landscape.
11. None of the frontline staff are trained in wildlife conservation and management.
12. There are hardly any complaints to be handled due to the poor communication facilities, ignorance of the people and token presence of PA staff.
13. There are very few assets available in the PA, and funds are not available for their maintenance and management.
14. There are numerous threats to the site such as grazing, tourism and other biotic pressures, which have not been ended.

C. Actionable Points

1. Immediate actions are needed to develop a comprehensive management plan.
2. The values and threats need to be systematically assessed and monitored.
3. The site needs to be re-notified after the final area is identified.
4. The extensive human and biotic interference should be minimized through community participation in the management and conservation of the PA.
5. The site needs an effective protection strategy.
6. The scarcity of funds needs to be addressed immediately.
7. Collaboration with NGOs should be enhanced for the management of the PA.
8. The complaints handling system needs to be more effective for better management of the site.



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Significant amount of research work has been done Changthang by scientific institutions, researchers and individuals which has been documented to a great extent in the Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP) document prepared by Samrakshan and other NGOs for the MoEF. Unfortunately this information has not yet been used as by the J&K Wildlife Department for preparation of the Management Plan of Changthang WLS though it had been notified in 1987.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓	
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good		

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		In the absence of any Management Plan of the PA it is difficult to comment. Local Wildlife officials identify the threats but they are not yet documented.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓	
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good		

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor	✓	In spite of large geographical area of the PA, the biotic pressures are high especially when the biomass production is very poor due to cold desert conditions. There are 28 villages with 45 hamlets with a population of over 15000. Apart from the local population there are about 10 Tibetan Refugee (TR) camps with a population of over 2200. All the households including those of TRs have on an average about 40 to 50 sheep and 150 to 200 goats, apart from large number of Yaks, horses, donkeys and dogs. There is huge presence of Military and Paramilitary persons all over the PA in over 15-20 locations. The tourist inflow is also high which necessitates movement of pack animals, camping and movement of supplies.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good		
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good		

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor	✓	4000 sq km area has been notified as Changthang WLS in 1987 but the Local Wildlife Department is of the view that the boundaries described in the notification actually encompass 18800 sq km area. This requires clarity. Regional WL Warden informed that he is getting the issue sorted out with the help of the Revenue Department. This would be the first step for preparation of Management Plan.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good		
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good		

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor	✓	No Management Plan has yet been prepared though the present Regional Wildlife Warden is taking steps for preparing it.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair		
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓	Not applicable as the first Management Plan is yet to be prepared.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		As detailed in BCRLIP final report, the site has two categories of Biologically Significant Areas (BSAs), typifying the Tibetan Plateau elements of upper Indus landscape (UIL) in terms of large mammal assemblages, Tibetan Argali, Wild Yak etc and the other which include areas having endangered species such as Snow Leopard. There are also some areas having high biodiversity values and these include the Rong Gorge, the Pangong Tso area, the Shyok mountains, the Quintso basin, Kharnak and the mountains between Kuyul and Hanle.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair		
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓	
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good		

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Though MP has not yet been prepared but the local people specially Changpas are consulted in preparation of Annual Plans. The tour operators and people connected with ecotourism are also consulted.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair	✓	
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good		
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good		

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Due to poor strength of field staff and vastness of area the only Forest Ranger and 6 Guards find it difficult to carry out any habitat restoration program. In absence of vehicle, the movement of Range Officer is highly hampered because the public transport system to far off valleys is very weak.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair	✓	
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.7 Are reintroduction programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Reintroduction programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor	✓	There are no reintroduction programme in place.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for reintroduction programmes.	Fair		
Reintroduction programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good		
Reintroduction programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.8 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Due to token presence of staff (One Forest Ranger and 6 Guards in 18800 Km ²) it is not possible to have any protection strategy especially when the mobility has not been provided. The management has to rely on local people for protection which is the best thing to do under the present circumstances.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓	
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good		

2.9 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Docile Changpas do not disturb the wildlife as such but due to desert conditions there is intense competition for grazing between wild ungulates and domestic cattle. State Govt. does not pay any compensation for cattle killing. If the amount is sanctioned under Central Sector Scheme, then only compensation is paid.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair	✓	
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good		

2.10 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Changthang WLS comprises of a vast landscape of over 22000 sq km which is contiguous with Tibetan Plateau. This is a harsh and highly seasonal Trans Himalayan landscape with very low population density of human beings.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair		
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good		
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good	✓	

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		The strength of personnel is very poor though they are allocated for PA Management only. In the absence of the Management Plan the personnel do not have a long term vision of the PA management.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓	
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good		
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	There is scarcity of resources. The only Forest Ranger in the WLS does not have any vehicle inspite of a vast area in which he is supposed to move around. There is one two wheeler with him but due to harsh climate its use is limited. The only 2 check posts at Tangse and Anle are in dilapidated condition. There are no Guard Chowkis. Range Office and Range Quarter at Nyoma are also old. There are no weopans. There is no communication system. No high attitude uniform is provided instead normal uniform is provided.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc and funds are never released in time.	Poor		Looking at the vastness of the landscape under management and the importance of fauna and flora needed to be conserved under harsh climatic conditions of cold desert and high altitude area, the resource allocation both by the State Govt. and GOI is poor and adhoc. The sanction against the demand made through annual operation plans is also inconsistent. The expenditure pattern of different years shows that the budget release is not timely and there are unspent balances needing revalidation in next financial year.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action and some funds released in time.	Fair	✓	
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide most resource allocation and generally funds released in time.	Good		
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide complete allocation of resources for management and on-time release of funds.	Very good		

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓	There has hardly been any contribution in terms of finances or material by NGOs. There has also been a general discouragement from the State Govt. for such funding and resources.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good		

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	The resources are extremely insufficient including the human resource for large number of tasks in such a vast landscape.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good		
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good		

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	None of the frontline staff is trained in wildlife conservation and management. One trained Forest Ranger is assisting the RWLW in his office.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good		
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good		

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		In the absence of Management Plan the long term objectives of the PA are difficult to be linked with staff performance though their actions generally lead to fulfillment of the management objectives.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓	
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good		
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good		

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		With token presence of PA staff, the management has the only option of involving the local people in management. The PA can be a model where public participation can be sought to the maximum possible extent.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good	✓	
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good		

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor	✓	There are hardly any complaints to be handled due to poor communication facilities, ignorance of the people and token presence of PA staff.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good		

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		The PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependant communities to the extent possible. Changpas, who are mainly pastoralists are not disturbed. Improvement of coral pens, fodder supply, construction of home stays for tourist etc. is being carried out on a limited scale for local people. Much more needs to be done in this direction.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓	
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good		
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good		

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		Though no Management Plan has yet been prepared for the PA but lot of research work has been done by Wildlife Institute of India, BNHS, WWF – India, researchers, sociologist and others, which is publicly available. The Biodiversity Conservation and Rural livelihood Improvement Project indicative plan prepared by Samrakshan and other NGOs for upper Indus Landscape, on the behest of MOEF, GOI contains adequate information. 135 references have been quoted in the above indicative plan.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair		
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good	✓	
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good		

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Tourism is one of the most important activity in the PA where large number of visitors mostly from abroad come every year during the tourist season. Though there is little regulation by PA Management but most of the visitors are conservation oriented and much of adverse effect is not noticed. No facilities have been provided by the PA management except the camping grounds and few home stays. An interpretation center at Nyoma has been constructed but it is not operational.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓	
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good		

5.3 Are management related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of management related trends.	Poor		Management related trends such as estimation of species of flora and fauna on regular basis is not done. Detailed assessment of flora and fauna within Changthang are not available. Research in the Tsokar basin has been substantial. Knowledge about the distribution and at places status, of most mammals and the waterfowl is reasonable from the region; however the information on other animal taxa is poor. The BCRLIP indicative plan has identified Biologically Significant Area (BSAs). Category I of BSA consists of 4 areas and Category II also consists of 4 areas. Population estimates for important species of mammals such as Argali, Gazelle, Kiang, Dong and Chiru have been given from different research papers. The present management has been surveying the PA extensively to generate information about population estimates of important mammals and birds.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓	
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good		
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Very good		

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor	✓	There are very few assets available in the PA and funds are not available for their maintenance and management.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good		

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are threatened/ endangered species populations stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Based on data collected from 2000 to 2004 and unpublished data of WWF – India as in August – September 2005 relative abundance of species of birds such as Black necked cranes, Rudy shelduck, Bar headed goose. Great crested grebe and Brown headed Gull have been tabulated in BCRLIP report for different sites. Similarly, abundance baseline for large mammals such as Argali, Gazelle, Kiang, Dong and Chiru have been given for BSAs of both the categories in the same report. In the absence of repetition of counts it is not possible to comment on whether the populations are stable or increasing or decreasing. Barring Kiang and Bharal all other wild animal species have severely been decimated in the recent decades as reported in different research findings.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓	
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good		
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good		

6.2 Are biological communities at a mix of ages and spacings that will support native biodiversity?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Biological communities unlikely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Poor		Large number of wetlands including marshes, freshwater and brackish water lakes provide breeding grounds to numerous species of migratory birds, Tibetan gazelle, and wild yak, migratory Chiru, Tibetan Argali and wild Ass are all highly endangered species of mammals found in different specific locations with in the PA. Blue sheep in the only wild ungulate that is still relatively common in higher reaches with good mix of age classes. Kiang is another species with reasonable mix of ages.
Some biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Fair	✓	
Most biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Good		
All biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Very good		

6.3 Have the threats to the site being abated/ minimized?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats to the site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor	✓	Numerous threats to the site like grazing, tourism, other biotic pressures have not been abated.
Some threats to the site have been abated.	Fair		
Most threats to the site have been abated.	Good		
All threats to the site have been abated.	Very good		

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		The extraordinary landscapes with vast cold desert, large water bodies, extensive Himalayan ranges, sprawling and winding steppes and rich culture of local people attracts large number of visitors mostly foreigners whose expectations are generally met.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good	✓	
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good		

6.5 Are neighbours and adjacent communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile.	Poor		The pastoralist community of Changpas is very docile and simple. They are supportive of PA Management. The Tibetan Refugees with large cattle herds tend to disturb the management of the PA. Very few incidents of poaching and law violation have come to light during past few years.
Key neighbours/communities are supportive.	Fair		
Most neighbours/communities are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓	
All neighbours and communities supportive of PA management.	Very good		

6.6 Are cultural heritage assets protected?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no management undertaken, or despite management efforts, deterioration of cultural heritage assets continues, or values are unknown.	Poor		Cultural heritage assets which mainly consist of monasteries (Gompas) are very well protected and managed. Cultural heritage of entire Ladakh is very rich. The culture of the people is also intact.
Some management activity, but deterioration continues.	Fair		
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being redressed.	Good		
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being significantly redressed.	Very good	✓	

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	12.50	47.7%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	47.50	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	17.50	
4.	Process	05	10	50	22.50	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20.00	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	37.50	
Total		33		330*	157.50	

* The six Framework Elements were subsequently assigned equal weightage of 100 each. The total MEE score is 600 out of which this site has score 281.7 or 46.9%

9. HEMIS NATIONAL PARK, JAMMU & KASHMIR

MEE Year (2009-10)

A. Management Strengths

1. The site has properly been identified as a national park representing a varied assemblage of habitats of the high-altitude Trans-Himalayan regions.
2. There is a management plan. Recently, efforts were initiated to prepare a scientifically sound management plan with technical guidance from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.
3. The site safeguards threatened biodiversity values such as the snow leopard, wolf, Himalayan red fox, blue sheep, Ladakh urial, Tibetan argali, ibex, Himalayan snow cock, golden eagle and lammergeier vulture, found typically in rolling and rugged hilly terrains.
4. Stakeholders participate in some planning. While a committee has not been created, the local participation is mainly drawn through a registered eco-development committee (EDC) named the Youth Association for Conservation and Development of Hemis National Park.
5. Due to the presence of Buddhist communities in and outside Hemis National Park (HNP), the site receives an effective social fencing. The communities help prevent any sort of poaching of wildlife species. The Wildlife Department has appointed Wildlife Watchers, and anti-poaching patrolling units have been established.
6. Human-wildlife conflicts are mainly restricted to livestock killing by snow leopards or wolves and crop damage by wild herbivores such as blue sheep. The Wildlife Department pays compensation for killing of livestock.
7. The site is integrated fairly well into the network/landscape. HNP is part of the Trans Himalayan region and is contiguous with other ecologically similar regions of high conservation values such as Nubra Valley and the Changthang region.
8. Wildlife Department is working along with a few local and national NGOs in various activities. The Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC), Ladakh Ecological Development Group (popularly known as Ecology) and WWF are providing support in research, education and various programme implementations. Also, the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) provided some assistance in reducing human-wildlife conflicts in and around the HNP area. Recently the park authorities combined their research efforts with WWF and SLC.
9. Although a grievance redressal system is in place at HNP, an officer has been nominated for RTI-related enquiries. So far, no one has made any RTI request. For other complaints and comments, routine filing procedures are followed.
10. Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by the protected area (PA) management. Considering the fact that in recent years tourism (mainly trekking) has become a significant income generating system for the local people, the Wildlife Department has given support to the local people.
11. The populations of most threatened/endangered species are increasing, and most of the others are stable. Although no scientific census of major mammals has been carried out recently, in 2007 efforts were made to estimate the numbers of a few species such as the snow leopard, blue sheep, Ladakh urial, argali and ibex.
12. All the biological communities are likely to be able to sustain the native biodiversity.

13. Most of the threats to the site have been ended.
14. The expectations of most visitors are met. Large numbers of tourists/trekkers visit the HNP area. But no records are maintained about the feedbacks of visitors, and it is generally reported that those who visit HNP and experience the Buddhist culture, varieties of wildlife and colourful landscapes are generally satisfied.
15. Most of the neighbours/local communities are supportive of the PA management.
16. The main heritage asset of the site is the strong Buddhist culture, which is protected by the age old conservation ethos of the local people and constant motivation from the teachings of their revered masters. There are many old monasteries (gompas) located within HNP (e.g. in Hemis, Chilling, Markha, Kaya and Skyu.). These gompas stands naturally protected within the precincts of the national park.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. Threats and values have been systematically identified but not assessed properly.
2. The site has some human and biotic interference. Tourism-related activities, especially trekking, are the main human interference in the PA. Locating camping sites at different places of the NP is a key concern.
3. The site has not been systematically categorized and demarcated into different zones.
4. Though HNP was notified in 1987, there has been just one management plan, drafted in 2007, for a five-year period. The management plan draws only broad contours of PA management.
5. No targeted habitat restoration programmes are being planned and executed.
6. Given the large size of the national park, the manpower available to manage and guard the site is quite limited. The Wildlife Warden has additional charges of Changthang and Karakoram sanctuaries. There are just one RFO and one Forester to look after the entire national park area. Often, the staffs under the Leh Wildlife Division are given additional duties in the HNP area. Several requests were made to fill the positions of the vacant staff, but till date not much has happened on that front.
7. Surprisingly, no vehicles are available specifically for the management of HNP. So far, the need for vehicles has been met through the Leh Wildlife Division. There is no effective communication system in place. Most importantly, there are no buildings or camping sites for the patrolling or guarding staff within the HNP area. A request for one wildlife rescue vehicle was made in 2009–2010, but no grant has been received for one.
8. The resource allocation is ad hoc, and funds are never released in time. The resources are insufficient for most of the tasks. The PA management at the local level is helpless without adequate resources being received from the authorities. The funds released over the last many years are quite inadequate for achieving the objectives of the overall management of HNP.
9. There is no linkage between staff performance management and the management objectives. There is no clarity of objectives of the management in the absence of any well chartered management plan. None of the staff have been recruited specifically for HNP. Staff members from the Wildlife Division are deputed for some work on a need basis. Also, the staffs have to look after duties other than PA management. The Management plan suggested recruitment of PA staff, but no sanction has been made so far.

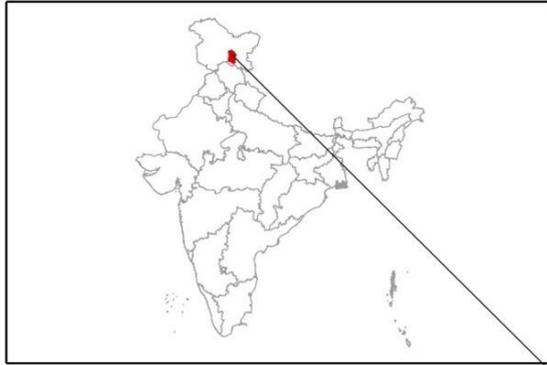
10. There is hardly any information available to the public. A web site was developed and hosted earlier, but it was not updated later on and currently it is non-functional. Within the HNP area there are hardly any hoardings, messages, etc. related to PA management.
11. There are no visitor services or interpretation facilities in place.

C. Actionable Points

1. Threats and values need to be properly assessed for the PA management.
2. Human and biotic interference, especially tourism, need to be regulated.
3. Considering the vastness of the site, coupled with the very low density of human presence, the site needs to be demarcated into different management zones innovatively. Since, the national park has been mainly formed by three almost parallel valleys (Rumbak, Markha and Shang), zoning needs to consider in these naturally demarcated areas.
4. The site needs immediate actions to revise the present management plan, prepared in 2007, including all site necessities.
5. Realizing the importance of this site, several other smaller PAs were proposed by WII. However, it would be extremely desirable to establish a biosphere reserve as suggested in the management plan for effective and effective management of the entire landscape instead of having many small PAs.
6. Habitat restoration should be carried out in a planned way.
7. Adequate funds and resources need to be released on time. The available human and financial resources are insufficient for most tasks. Even the sanctioned strength of frontline staff is not in position. In view of the ecological and historical importance of the PA, the allocation of funds by the Government of India needs to be enhanced immediately
8. The staff performance management and management objectives need to be linked.
9. Information about the management of the site should be available to the public. Looking at the projected demands of both domestic and foreign tourism, a concerted plan for sustainable tourism needs to be put in place sooner than later. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Area Development Council needs to play a major and significant role towards achieving this goal. Urgent steps need to be taken to improve the visitor services.

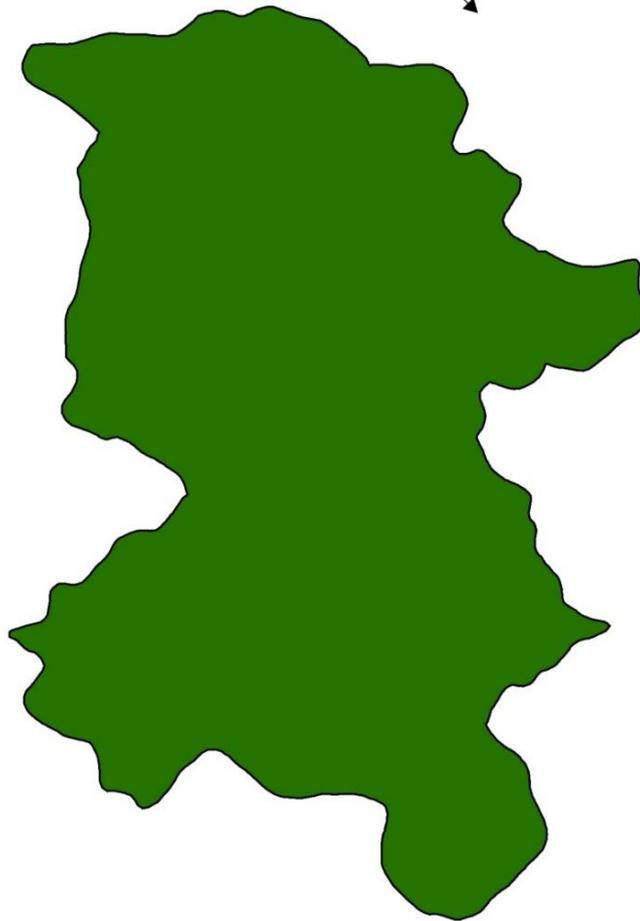
77°15'0"E

Hemis National Park Jammu & Kashmir



28°30'0"N

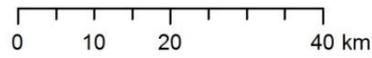
28°30'0"N



28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N

 भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 3350.00 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1981

77°15'0"E

1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Hemis NP, derives its name from the famous 'Hemis Gompa' (Monastery) and notified way back in 1987. It comprises an area of 3350 sq km. The area includes the valleys of Markha, Rumbak, Chang-Chu Alam and Shan-Sadi. It hold the area mainly drained by Zanskar River and had confluence with the river Indus via Chilling-Samdoo. The NP is part of trans-Himalayan region and thus support a rich and unique assemblage of flora and fauna. While, among the fauna, Snow leopard, Bharal or blue sheep, Himalayan Red Fox, Himalayan Marmot etc. are present, scrubs of Ephedra and Caragana are forming major vegetation assemblages. At many places riparian vegetation is also present. Due to preparation of just one Management Plan (2007), the documentation, assessment and monitoring of different values of NP needs to be done more systematically.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓	
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good		

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		Tourism related activities especially the trekking is the main human interference in the PA. Setting of camping sites at different places of the NP is key concern. Although, it does not have any direct conflict with wildlife values, it causes shortage of grazing/ browsing biomass resources for wild herbivores. Importantly, due to presence of Buddhist communities in most of the settlements, high degree of protection are provided as part of their culture.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓	
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good		

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		Tourism related activities especially the trekking is the main human interference in the PA. Setting of camping sites at different places of the NP is key concern. Although, it does not have any direct conflict with wildlife values, it causes shortage of grazing/ browsing biomass resources for wild herbivores. Importantly, due to presence of Buddhist communities in most of the settlements, high degree of protection are provided as part of their culture.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good	✓	
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good		

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		The site has properly been identified as a National Park representing varied assemblage of habitats of Trans Himalayan, high-altitude regions. However, it has not been systematically categorized and demarcated into different zones. Considering the vastness of the site coupled with very low density of human presence, site needs to be demarcated into different management zones, innovatively. Since, the NP is mainly formed by three almost parallel running valleys (Rumbak, Markha and Shang), zoning need to consider in these naturally demarcated areas.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓	
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good		

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		Though the HNP was notified in 1987, there was just only one Management Plan, drafted in 2007 for a five year period. However, the management plan draws only very broad contours of PA management. Recently, efforts have been initiated to prepare a scientifically sound management plan with the technical guidance from WII, Dehradun. It is also reported by Mr. Takpa, (CF, Wildlife, Ladakh Region) that WII, WWF and Snow Leopard Conservancy are planning to combine their efforts in generating key management related data and information to prepare the management plan.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair	✓	
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		See Remarks in 2.2
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair	✓	
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good		

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		The site safe guards threatened biodiversity values such as Snow leopard, Wolf, Himalayan Red Fox, Blue sheep, Ladakh Urial, Tibetan Argali, Ibex, Himalayan Snow Cock, Golden Eagle, Lammergeier vulture, etc. found in typically rolling and rugged hilly terrains.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair		
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good		
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good	✓	

2.7 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Though the existing Management Plan has not been made with major community participation, but it spells out for their engagement through HNP Management Committee. While, the committee has not been created, the local participation is mainly drawn through an registered Eco-development Committee (EDC) named Youth Association for Conservation and Development of Hemis National Park. This Youth Association had representation of all the villages/ hamlets present within the limits of HNP. The Association mainly helps in managing various tourism related issues. In addition, the Association regularly interact with PA management officials and give necessary inputs. Thus, the association is playing crucial role in voicing community's concerns related to PA management. However, while preparation of a revised management plan is underway, their direct role needs to be ensured, especially of women.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair	✓	
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good		
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good		

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor	✓	No targeted habitat restoration programs are being planned and executed.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.7 Are reintroduction programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Reintroduction programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Not Applicable
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for reintroduction programmes.	Fair		
Reintroduction programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good		
Reintroduction programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good		

2.8 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Due to the presence of Buddhist Communities in and outside HNP, site receives an effective social fencing. Communities help prevent any sort of Poaching of wildlife species. On the part of the Wildlife Department, the Wildlife Watchers are appointed and Anti-Poaching patrolling units are established. However, due to limited funding available, the above initiatives get impaired. Overall, community representatives had strong feelings that Forest Department is not doing enough to protect the well being of wild animals.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓	
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good		

2.9 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria																											
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks																								
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		<p>The Human-Wildlife conflicts are mainly restricted to livestock killing by snow leopard or Wolf and crop damage by wild herbivores like Blue sheep. Wildlife department paid compensation to killing of livestock. However, no compensation is provided for crop damage. As per official records, following is the details of livestock killing and compensation paid:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. of Animals Killed</th> <th>Compensation Paid (Rs.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2001-02</td> <td>160</td> <td>256900.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002-03</td> <td>166</td> <td>261300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003-04</td> <td>346</td> <td>234250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004-05</td> <td>246</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005-06</td> <td>133</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009-10</td> <td>389</td> <td>1102992.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>145</td> <td>427250.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2004-05 onward, due to change in Govt. policy, no compensation was paid. However, 2007-08 onwards, the compensation was paid by linking it to Home Stay program related to tourism development. During 2009-10, three persons were injured by Wildlife. They got medical help from forest Department. In addition, Wildlife Department had provided part funds to local people in creating Snow Leopard proof Coral Pens. That has controlled the problem to substantial level. Regarding the crop damage, community is quite tolerant and erecting various preventive fencing around crop fields, either by on their own or by leveraging some collateral funds from other Department or District councils.</p>	Year	No. of Animals Killed	Compensation Paid (Rs.)	2001-02	160	256900.00	2002-03	166	261300.00	2003-04	346	234250.00	2004-05	246	NIL	2005-06	133	NIL	2009-10	389	1102992.00	2010-11	145	427250.00
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2005-06	133	NIL																									
2009-10	389	1102992.00																									
2010-11	145	427250.00																									
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair																										
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓																									
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good																										

2.10 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		<p>The HNP is part of Trans Himalayan region and is in direct contiguity with other ecologically similar regions of high conservation values like Nubra Valley and Changthang regions. Realizing the importance of this site, several other smaller protected areas were proposed by Wildlife Institute of India. However, it would be extremely desirable to establish a biosphere reserve as suggested in the mgmt plan for an effective and wise management of the entire landscape instead of having many small PAs.</p>
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair		
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓	
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good		

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Compared to the large size of the NP, manpower to manage and guard the site is quite limited. The Wildlife Warden is also having additional charges of Changthang and Karakoram sanctuaries. There are just one RFO and one Forester to look after the entire NP area. Often, the staff under Leh Wildlife Division is given additional duties in HNP area. There were several requests made to fill the position of vacant staff, but till date not much happened in that front.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair		
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good		
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Surprisingly, there is no vehicle available specifically for the purpose of management of HNP. So far, vehicle demands are met from the Leh Wildlife Division. There is no effective communication system in place. Most importantly, there are no buildings or camping sites for the patrolling or guarding staffs, within the HNP area. Demand of one wildlife rescue vehicle was made in 2009-10 but not received any grant for that.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good		

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc and funds are never released in time.	Poor	✓	The funds are released based on submitted Annual Plan of Operation. While, funds under CSS have regularly been provided by MOEF, more than often they were released nearly at the end of the financial year i.e. in February and March. Considering that the no physical work in the HNP is possible between November and March, the financial progress is not possible to be made. Thus, revalidation (or carry forward) is a routine process to utilize the unspent funds. Adding to it, fund release from State Govt. to the Park is routinely delayed. In some years e.g. 2008-09, no funds were released. It may be, therefore, essential to have relook at the allocation and expenditure over a period of two financial years rather than one single year, considering that six months in a year are not conducive for taking up any field related, physical work.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action and some funds released in time.	Fair		
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide most resource allocation and generally funds released in time.	Good		
Comprehensive formulae systematically applied to decide complete allocation of resources for management and on-time release of funds.	Very good		

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria

Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		Wildlife Department is combining their effort with various activities by a few local and national NGOs. Snow Leopard Conservancy and Ladakh Ecological Development Group (popularly known as Ecology) and WWF are providing support in research, education and various program implementations. Also, National Conservation Foundation (NCF) provided some assistance in reducing human wildlife conflicts in and around HNP area. While, of late, such cooperation were limited, recently Park is combining their research efforts with WWF and SLC.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓	
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good		

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria																															
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks																												
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	PA management at Local level is helpless without adequate resources from the authorities. The state of fund release in last many years is highly inadequate for achieving the objectives and overall management of HNP: <table border="1" data-bbox="1023 1182 1385 1563"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>District</th> <th>State</th> <th>CSS (in Lakh Rs.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2004-05</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005-06</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>17.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006-07</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>16.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007-08</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>19.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008-09</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009-10</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>25.12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is also requested that considering the onset of winter in November to March, fund need to be released effectively by April/ May every year.</p>	Year	District	State	CSS (in Lakh Rs.)	2004-05	0	0	16.00	2005-06	0	0	17.00	2006-07	0	0	16.89	2007-08	0	0	19.29	2008-09	0	0	0.00	2009-10	0	0	25.12
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Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair																														
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good																														
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good																														

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		The in-charge Wildlife Warden is trained in Wildlife Management. While most of the front line staffs including the Ranger and Foresters are trained in Forest Management. Hardly any high altitude forestry and Wildlife training is imparted to staff. Similarly, no one is trained in tourism management- a major economic activity linked to HNP. A few foresters and guards are highly experienced in census/ survey of high-altitude wildlife species. They could handle survey tools like camera traps, GPS etc. Most importantly, quite a few remained with the site for long period of time and thus had vast experience of the terrain and wildlife of the HNP.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓	
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good		
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good		

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor	✓	There is no clarity of objectives of management in the absence of any well chartered management Plan. No staff is dedicatedly recruited for HNP. Staffs from Wildlife Division are deputed for some work on need basis. Also, staff has to look after duties other than PA management. The Management plan suggested recruitment of PA staff but no sanction has been made so far.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good		
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good		

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		See remarks in 2.5
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓	
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good		
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good		

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		There is hardly any grievance redressal system in place at HNP level. However, an officer is nominated for RTI related enquiries. So far, no one has made any RTI request. For other complaints and comments, routine filing procedures are followed.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓	
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good		

4.5 Does PA management address the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Considering the fact that in recent years, tourism (mainly the trekking) are significant economic generating systems for local people, Wildlife Department give necessary support to the locals. Major focus is given on improving the Home Stay infrastructure in the villages falling within the trekking routes. As on Oct. 2011, a total of 89 home stay facilities were created within NP area (Mr. Jigmet Takpa, (CF, Wildlife) informed that a total 450 home stay facilities were created in entire Ladakh region and it is targeted that by next year it should be around 1000. Planning commission is providing funds for that). In addition, WL Department also helped building foot bridges at critical river crossings, a few bunds were created to stop the land cutting by the rivers flow and regular vaccinations to livestock.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good	✓	
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good		

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor	✓	There is hardly any information available. A website was developed and hosted earlier. But not updated later on and currently non-functional. Within the HNP area there are hardly any hoardings/ messages etc related to PA management.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair		
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good		

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		There are no visitor service or interpretation facilities in place. However, one Interpretation Centre is planned for the park. Toursim related information are available at both park and private tour operator levels. Although, the Home Stay program is running successfully, there is hardly any information at the level of Park. However, the entire home Stay related information is provided by Youth Association (See remarks in 2.5). However looking at the projected demand of both domestic and foreign tourism, a concerted plan for sustainable tourism needs to be put in place sooner than later. The Laddakh Autonomous Hill Area Development Council needs to play a major and significant role towards achieving this goal.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓	
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good		

5.2 Are management related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of management related trends.	Poor		Two of the management related trends: the number of tourists and the population of wildlife are monitored. It is important to mention that while in recent years total number of tourists has increased, the number of camping tourists had gone down, mainly due to increase in home stay facilities. As per understanding and perception of local staffs and community, Wildlife Population in the HNP are also increased.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓	
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good		
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Very good		

5.3 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor	✓	No funds are available.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good		

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are threatened/ endangered species populations stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria															
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks												
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		No scientific census of major mammals has been carried out recently. However, in 2007 efforts had been made to estimate numbers of at least few species like Snow Leopard by using camera traps. As per Wildlife Department Records following are the numbers of key species inside HNP: <table border="1" data-bbox="917 633 1284 857"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Estimated Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Snow Leopard</td> <td>15-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blue Sheep</td> <td>5500-6700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladakh Urial</td> <td>750-950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tibetan Argali</td> <td>22-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ibex</td> <td>350-450</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Estimated Number	Snow Leopard	15-20	Blue Sheep	5500-6700	Ladakh Urial	750-950	Tibetan Argali	22-28	Ibex	350-450
Species	Estimated Number														
Snow Leopard	15-20														
Blue Sheep	5500-6700														
Ladakh Urial	750-950														
Tibetan Argali	22-28														
Ibex	350-450														
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair														
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good	✓													
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good		Discussions with villagers suggested that in recent year's population of wildlife species has increased. Wildlife Department had made a comprehensive plan to conduct survey of wild animals using scientific techniques and tools with the help of WWF, WII and SLC, soon.												

6.2 Are biological communities at a mix of ages and spacings that will support native biodiversity?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Biological communities unlikely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Poor		HNP, which is extended in about 3350 sq km area, comprises of biological communities that are distributed across the wide range of altitudinal variations (i.e. between 3500 to 6000 m ASL). Further, the snow /ice create major heterogeneity in habitat conditions, supporting different species of flora and fauna. While no data is available on the population of different species of flora and fauna, including many native rare and endangered ones, it is assumed that due to limited as well as dispersed anthropogenic pressures, most of the biological communities are still in better condition. Importantly, other than wild biological communities, the area amply support native domesticated diversity of crops and livestock (e.g. barley, Yak, Pashmina goats etc.).
Some biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Fair		
Most biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Good		
All biological communities likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.	Very good	✓	

6.3 Have the threats to the site being abated/ minimized?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats to the site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		As discussed earlier, tourism is considered as one of the potential threats to the biodiversity values of HNP, especially those who move in camps. Wildlife Department, as a long term strategy, started promoting Home Stay facilities along the trekking routes. This start reducing the numbers of camps in the NP area. Conflict between human and snow leopard is considered as another key concern. By adopting dual measures of preventive (construction of Coral Pens for livestock keeping) and compensation mechanisms, the conflicts were reduced to significant level. In addition, by providing fencing to the crop fields at many critical locations, people's antagonism with wild herbivores like blue sheep was reduced.
Some threats to the site have been abated.	Fair		
Most threats to the site have been abated.	Good	✓	
All threats to the site have been abated.	Very good		

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		There are large number of tourists/ trekkers visit the HNP area. Although, there are no records maintained about the feed-backs by visitors, but it is generally reported that those who visit HNP and experience Buddhist cultures, varieties of wildlife, and colorful landscapes, are generally goes satisfied.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good	✓	
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good		

6.5 Are neighbours and adjacent communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile.	Poor		As described earlier there are about 10 villages and 10 hamlets present within the limits of HNP. These support a human population of about one thousand- majority belongs to Buddhist community. These communities are quite vigilant for the protection of the NP, especially against the poaching by outsiders. On the other hand, communities also expect development of some basic infrastructure, mainly the roads. An innovative approach involving various line agencies and Army may be explored and put in place in providing efficient energy resources, crops, market access, communication and sustainable livelihoods.
Key neighbours/communities are supportive.	Fair		
Most neighbours/communities are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓	
All neighbours and communities supportive of PA management.	Very good		

6.6 Are cultural heritage assets protected?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no management undertaken, or despite management efforts, deterioration of cultural heritage assets continues, or values are unknown.	Poor		While the main heritage asset of the Site is the strong Buddhist culture which is protected by their age old conservation ethos and constant motivation from the teaching of their revered masters, there are many old monasteries (Gompas) that are located within the HNP (e.g. in Hemis, Chilling, Markha, Kaya, Skyu etc.). These Gompas stands naturally protected within the precincts of the National Park.
Some management activity, but deterioration continues.	Fair	✓	
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being redressed.	Good		
Planned approach to management underway and deterioration of assets is being significantly redressed.	Very good		

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	17.5	54.68%
2.	Planning	9	10	90	57.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	15	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	15	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	45	
Total		33		320*	175	

* The six Framework Elements were subsequently assigned equal weightage of 100 each. The total MEE score is 600 out of which this site has score -----%

10. DACHIGAM NATIONAL PARK, JAMMU & KASHMIR MEE Year (2012-13)

A. Management Strengths

1. The biodiversity of the site is representative of eight forest types in the Himalayan Biogeographic Zone, with Alpine, Temperate and Temperate Broad-Leaf biomes.
2. Together with other protected areas (PAs) in the buffer zone (Overa Aru Sanctuary–Dara Khimber, City Park, Khonmoh, Khreu and Khangund (CRs)), it makes an almost_continuous, near-pristine area of nearly 500 km² extent.
3. The PA was acclaimed for its good governance during the 1980s (MoEF award for well managed national park).
4. The science-based comprehensive management plan that has been placed on the web site has established an open, transparent approach—a good trend setter for others to follow.

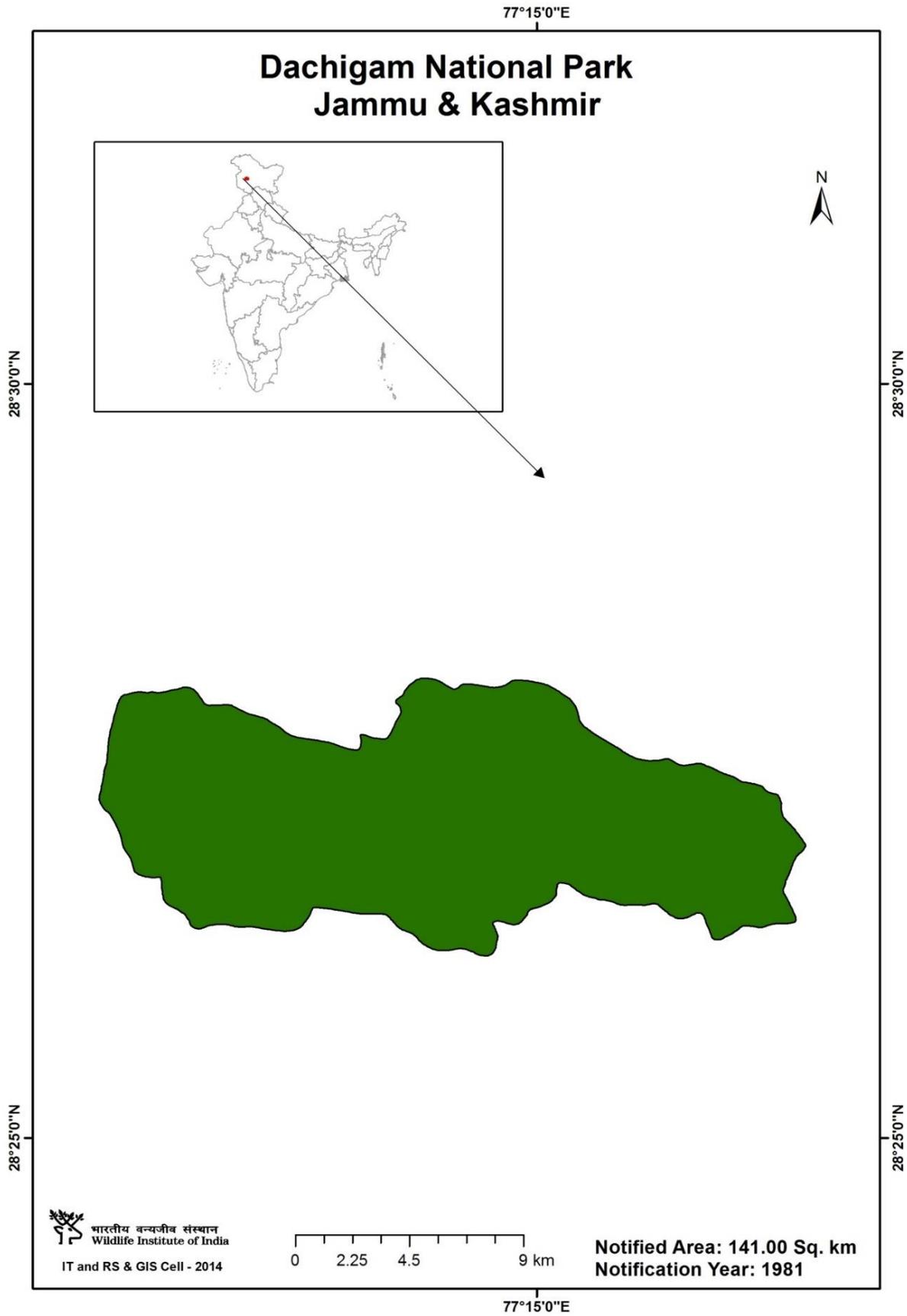
B. Management Weaknesses

1. Despite an almost century old history of wildlife conservation-centric forest resource management, documentation thereof is not evident.
2. The information available on the stakeholders, their needs and support needed and areas for joint efforts is rudimentary.
3. There is deterioration in the law and order situation as a result of weak administration of the upper regions, which are important as hangul habitats.
4. The mitigation measures for habitat improvement (planting 1 lakh seedlings for improvement of grazing land, with an outlay of Rs.2 lakhs per annum, and weed control, with an outlay of Rs.3 lakhs) are ad hoc and inadequate.
5. With more than 40 villages reported to be in the surrounding area, the provision made for eco-development (Rs.10 lakhs per annum) is ad hoc and inadequate.
6. The measures taken to protect key species are not fully tuned for the best results.
7. The contentious issues of relocating a sheep breeding farm and excluding grazing by sheep and goats as measures for restoration of hangul habitats are unresolved. A database on man–animal conflicts is incomplete.
8. Considering the potential for tourism and environmental education, the proximity to the state capital, etc., the PA requires more staff, but even the currently sanctioned staff component is not in place. The staff is not fully equipped to work in the difficult terrain and climate.
9. There is a lack of participation of stakeholders in the development of the management plan.
10. “Holding of problematic animals” for too long within the PA is not desirable, and the allocation made therefor (Rs.4 lakhs per annum) is meager. There has been sub-optimal utilization of funds during the last two years.

C. Actionable Points

1. Garnering the people’s support for the conservation initiatives needs to be the first priority.
2. The efficacy of concerted measures for regulating grazing rather than fencing needs to be evaluated before substantial investments are made. Alternative pasture land development outside the PA is to be explored and planned. “Rescue centres” need to be phased out from the PA.

3. Enhance posts and ensure that the same are manned fully/ resolve issue of temporary 'labor'.
4. Information related to the PA needs to be made available, and the scope of public support for conservation and management needs to be defined.
5. Tourism-related support providers are also stakeholders and thus need to be consulted.



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		MANAGEMENT PLAN (2011 - 2016) by NAQASH R. Y. & L. K. SHARMA Chapter - 1.3, 2.5, 2.6, Ann 6, 7, 8 Birds / butterflies/ flora respectively. Status Report, 2012	Area is of ecological significance as it represents biodiversity of Eight forest types in the Himalayan Bio-Geographical zone [2] Province[B] with Alpine, Temperate, Temperate broad-leaf, as biomes in it. Together with other PAs in the buffer zone Overa Aru Sanctuary & Dara Khimber/ City park /Khonmoh /Khreu /Khangund CRs) an almost continuous, near pristine area of nearly 500 km ² , housing a number of endangered animals species i.e. Hangul / Black bear /Musk Deer, Himalaya Tahr, Serow, Pheasants etc make the National Park an area of International significance
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good	✓		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		Chapter III-6 & IV Proceedings of SWAC 2nd Meeting	Most of the threats have been recognized but lack of coordination between stake holders, and security of habitat need [sheep breeding farm] be studied more thoroughly.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good	✓		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		Chapter IV Human /biotic interference 5.3.4.1	With paradigm shift in land resource management in and around PA, balancing needs of urban sprawl and conservation is a Herculean task; Encroachment, livestock grazing, staff quarters of Sheep breeding farm etc are some of the problems; need to assess the socio-economic status of the local people living in villages around PA. Public support for rational use of resources to minimize man animal conflicts and greater thrust on conservation is imperative.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair	✓		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		Chapter II	Site has conservation centric management since 1910 and thus has been well defined and is identifiable on the ground. Declared as sanctuary in 1951, even prior to J & K WL [P] Act, 1978; Legal formalities are in progress. Separate functional unit since 1981.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓		
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		MANAGEMENT PLAN [Draft] (2011 - 2016) by NAQASH R. Y. & L. K. SHARMA	Claimed to be first science based comprehensive management plan but participation of stake holders therein not evident; having placed it on the web site, an open and transparent approach has been established. Processes of approval is being evolved. (Current plan operative since last two years.)
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		Management plan and its revision Status report, 2012	Though almost century old history of wild life conservation centric forest resource management, documentation thereof is non-evident. PA has been acclaimed in past for good governance. Claim of being first plan, puts past forty years in poor light. Present [draft] plan has inbuilt provision for revision. Reported to be one of the best managed PA during eighty's.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair	✓		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Provisions for protecting major values; Chapter V & VI. Status report – enquiry process for DNP action expected by May 2012.	Most of the values have been recognized i.e. Key species and areas of significance/Flagship species etc, etc. (para 1.1 at supra) but measures to protect not fully tuned for the same. Enquiry by collector is complete (VVIP Rest house /Fish hatchery excluded) but settlement need be expedited i. e. removal / physical possession of land by PA management. From Govt. Sheep Breeding Farm. Impact of government departments working inside the PA boundary need be studied thoroughly / quantified. Extent of threats due to grazing by govt. and private cattle needs special attention. With a sanctuary and conservation reserves in the surround, concerted effort for grazing threat mitigation are suggested rather than fencing that has been provided for and fencing should be restricted to areas closer to the urban areas.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair	✓		
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.8 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓		Information on stake holders, their needs /support needed and areas for joint efforts is rudimentary. People's participation in planning process not evident; Park advisory committee (?), a statutory requirement, not in place. Tourism related support providers are also stake holders and thus need be consulted.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Habitat restoration / Eco development Chapter VI Strategy & VII	Need for restoration is voiced but mitigation measures need be more focused. Remedial prescriptions [Planting 1 lakh seedlings / out lay of 2 and 3 lakhs on grazing land improvement and weed control respectively per annum] are 'ad hoc' and inadequate. With > 40 villages reported to be in the surround provision made for eco development (@ Rs 10 lakhs/ annum) is 'ad hoc' and considered inadequate. Possible alternative pasture land development, outside PA be explored and planned. Sheep breeding farm areas need special attention from the plantation of seedlings of forage species preferred by Hangul.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good			
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations). Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is there a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Protection strategy , Chapter 6.3, Ann 10, 13 poaching	Issue broached but this multifaceted issue requires more thrust and involvement of local population. Need to relocate “non wild life activities” within PA be examined and if found imperative, alternatives measures there for. be worked out. Consistent with the CZA guidelines “Holding of problematic animals” for too long within the PA not desirable and allocation made there for (4 lakhs/ annum) is meager; its phasing out / shifting may be considered.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Chapter IX / Mitigation of Human Wild life conflicts	Para 6.3.7 deals with varied aspects. On this sensitive issue specific details are wanting (Ann-9 list of villages and population is incomplete) hence mitigation measures need be anchored more firmly in science based and socially acceptable measures.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair	✓		
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good			
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Ecological perspective Hunting for Hungul - Occasional Report 27	J&K Wildlife Protection Dept.'s vision document offers broad perspective which is laudable. PA has common boundary with a sanctuary and Conservation Reserves but leaves scope for an integrated approach. Enlarging scope by inclusion of Reserve forests between DNA and Overa a Aru Sanctuary is suggested.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓		
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Staff position Personnel and their resources 3.10 / 10 Information provided by PA manager	As per [thumb rules]norms, for an area of 150 Km2 sanctioned strength of one warden namely Central Dachigam [HQ. Herwan, Srinagar] supported by field staff in two ranges is adequate; but special features of the area / its tourism - environmental education potentials, proximity to State capital etc. requires preferential treatment. Full staff component not in place [Out of 55 –are vacant]. Vacancies at field level / inadequate provision to employ casual work force need be resolved. Need to have staff dedicated for regulating tourist traffic /education interpretation etc. [10.1.2]Group Insurance scheme is suggested to cover possible injuries.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Resources available – Chapter 10.2 and information given by staff	Staff not fully equipped to work under difficult terrain and climate and plan suggests additional facilities [page 123-124] & funds there for under budget non recurring 2(iii) and recurring 2(iv);
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and

'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		Resources link to priority	Projected outlays for initial three years was 391, 266 and 362 lakhs. But funds released / used is 52.47/52.47; 148.39/113.31, 120.76/106.34 respectively during last three years. There is sub-optimal utilization of funds during last two years .
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		NGO support	As seen from publications, work initiated by researchers within and outside state by NGO is note worthy. With suitable institutional arrangements CSR support is possible.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions(cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		Perception of PA manager	Uncertain financial support is a constrain.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair	✓		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Trained man power Information provided by PA manager	2/3 staff > 45 year old and most of them are not trained and thus exposure through measures like short reorientation workshops /visits to places are indicated for science based management activity.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Staff performance link to management priorities	Universal ACR system is in place but introduction of reward system at the state / circle level proposed.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Public participation in management	With proximity to capital city there is scope for inviting more support for environmental education / census operation etc.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Complaint redressal	Staff is responsive to social obligations and sincere and redressal of complaints was satisfactory.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Livelihood issues /gender	Under eco-development alternatives for forest based resources are being provided in few areas. Gender issues are being addressed adequately. Scope for involving local youth in nature education services.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		Publicity / extension Field observations.	Departmental website is excellent source of information [including DNP Management plan, Red deer conservation, Himalayan black bear attacks, etc] Substantial number of visitors are already attracted but more information related to PA potentials values, need for public support for conservation and management, need be put in place. Need to put effective signage's along routes for this purpose. Hand outs area positive efforts but scope to improve s web site may be useful.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Visitor services Chapter 7	35 to 40 thousand visitors during last two years. After set back due to militancy there is commendable recovery. Interpretation center and other facilities are being activated.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor		Research monitoring Chapter 9	In house research limited but convergence with WII and NGOs is note worthy
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Systematic maintenance Control forms 191 – 220 [30 forms in all]	Prescription of control forms is note worthy but compliance there to, is required.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Population estimation figures on record and teams observations	Hangul population before independence was about 1000-2000 but by late 1950's, it was reduced to 140 -170; after 1980s the population has showed marked fluctuations. WII has indicated a positive trend in its population (March, 2011, 218±13); age group and sex ratio. With efforts to conserve habitat / poaching control, there has been steady trend indicating recovery . Status on Himalayan Black bear is also showing similar trends. But it leaves scope for improvement. Monitoring need be more comprehensive i.e. bird count / permanent vegetation monitoring plots etc.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Threat perception now	Though poaching pressures are reported to be curbed, threats to habitat, mainly by uncontrolled grazing by cattle living within and around PA; has not been fully abated.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.3 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		Visitors perception of expectations fulfillment	Mostly it is casual visitors to lower Dachigam and hence are generally satisfied, scope for improvement in science based efforts encompassing varied aspects
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair	✓		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		Support of local community	Eco development / tourism framework need be used more effectively for meaningful involvement of the stake holders / focused attention at policy level and higher echelons of administration advised.
Some are supportive.	Fair	✓		
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good			
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	20	55.83%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	50	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	27.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	25	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	20	
Total		30		300	167.5	

11. GULMARG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, JAMMU & KASHMIR

MEE Year (2015-16)

Management Strengths

1. The WLS has very high potential for all-season tourism that can be used to spread conservation awareness among the lakhs of existing visitors from India and abroad. It also has great potential for getting some of the revenue from tourism, which at present goes solely to the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tourism Department and private enterprises. There are greatly revered shrines such as the Baba Rishi, which also attract additional pilgrims.
2. In summer the glaciers of the WLS melt and are a source of drinking water to downstream areas such as Srinagar, Badgaon, Baramulla and Sopore.
3. There are no permanent habitations inside the WLS, and some seasonal hamlets are occupied during June–September. Compartments 50–58 are reported to be less disturbed by human use.
4. Musk deer, goral and brown bear are reportedly found in good numbers in the WLS.
5. The WLS provides a good habitat for the revival/recovery of the markhor. This is an endangered species that possibly went locally extinct four or five decades ago and can be helped to recover. Markhor are known to occur in nearby catchments in the Boniyar and Poonch regions.
6. The staff is well versed in handling human–animal conflicts and has the necessary equipment. There is however a dearth of staff members, which can make handling cases difficult at times.
7. The occurrence of fires is rare. Fires are controlled in time.

Management Weaknesses

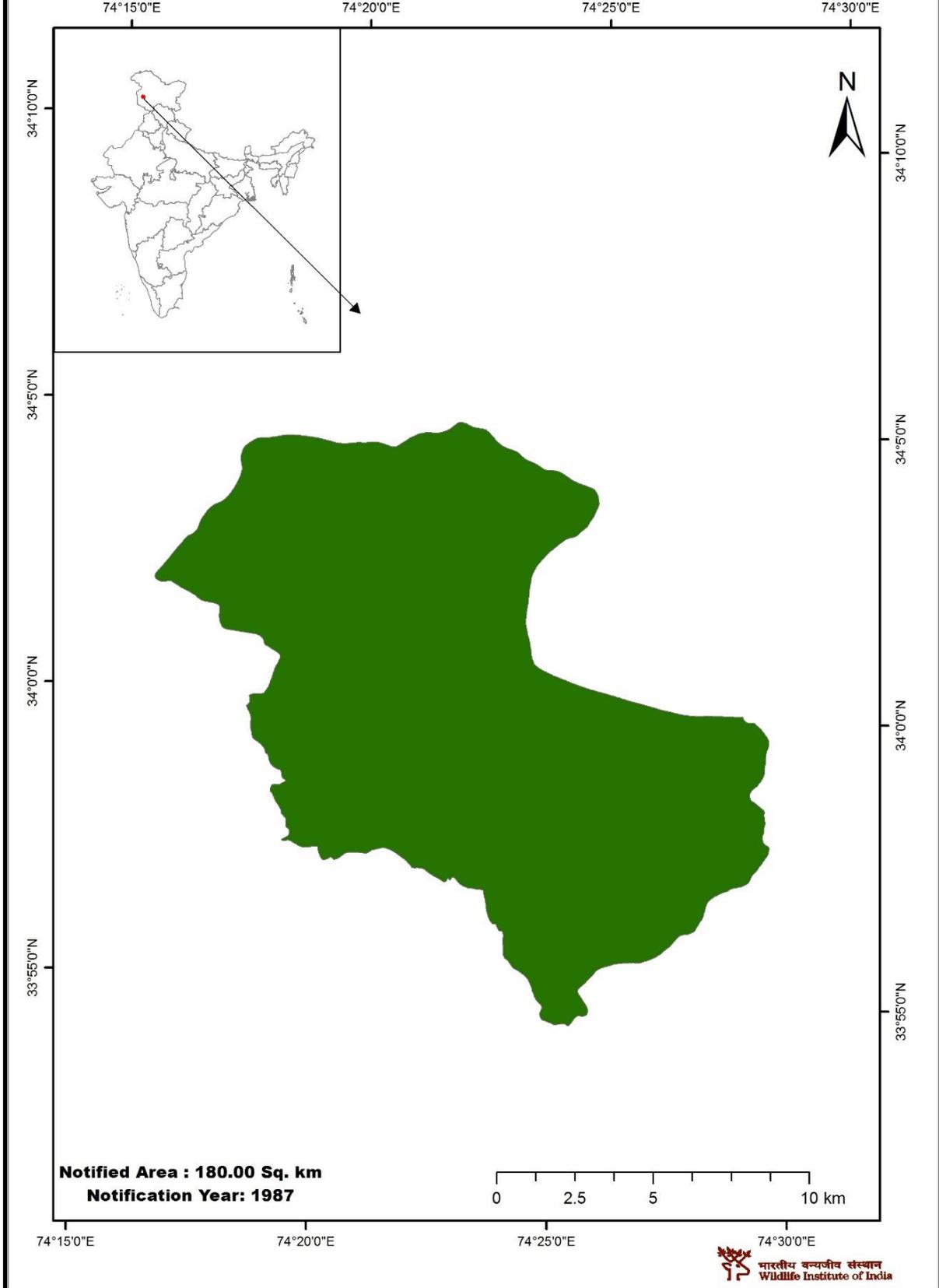
1. The periphery, including the vulnerable areas, does not have fencing and is quite porous, permitting grazing and some illegal extraction from parts of the PA.
2. The ground -level staff has very few members. Only one Range Officer, two Foresters and two watchers have been posted in an area of 120 sq km² in mountainous terrain where the weather is harsh.
3. Blocks 31–40 are under the control of the Territorial DFO, and only Blocks 41 and 50–58 are with the Wildlife Wing. Blocks 37 and 38 are with the GDA.
4. A considerable number of sheep, goats and domestic cattle graze in some blocks during the only growing season, from July to mid-September, which can deplete the forage for the wild herbivores. This as-yet undetermined number of livestock, belonging to the Bakarwals, Gujjars and other communities, apparently uses the area for 15–20 days during spring (going to summer pastures) and autumn (returning to winter pastures). It is however felt that large numbers, especially during the autumn, when plant growth ceases, can deplete forage resources for the critical winter period.
5. A lack of winter gear such as snow scooters and vehicles makes patrolling the WLS difficult during harsh winters, leaving wildlife such as musk deer vulnerable to poaching.
6. The lack of communication facilities is also a hindrance to efficient monitoring and patrolling in the PA.
7. The PA is provided with grossly inadequate funds, and these funds are not released in a timely manner too.

Actionable Points

1. The area controlled by the Territorial Wing should be transferred to the Wildlife Wing along with the staff posted there at the earliest so that uniform management may be carried out by the mandated agency, i.e., the Wildlife Department.
2. Specific prescriptions regarding activities to be taken up, their prioritization and annual physical and financial targets should be incorporated in the management plan.
3. Adequate funds need to be released in a timely manner for the PA to function efficiently. It is critical that the state ensure this.
4. There should be a provision for systematic updating of the management plan on the basis of lessons learnt from periodic monitoring and evaluation, and census operations should be included in the management plan.
5. The stakeholders (villagers, pastoralists, armed forces, GDA, Tourism Department, etc.) should be identified clearly, and provisions for regular meetings with them should be incorporated in the management plan.
6. EDCs should be constituted for each village at the earliest so that there is a greater involvement of the people in the management of the PA and there are activities that serve as positive incentives to them to conserve the PA.
7. Provisions for systematic maintenance of assets should be incorporated in the management plan.

8. Demarcation of the WLS should be done on priority basis so that all the stakeholders are clear about the boundaries and the legal aspects of any violations.
9. Awards and rewards should be given to deserving staff members to boost their morale.
10. Establishment of an interpretation centre near Kongdoori to educate the Gondola visitors is highly desirable, and this should be included in the Gulmarg Development Authority Master Plan. Exhibits from the existing one at Tangmarg can be moved to this one, which is likely to have much more visitors.
11. Signage showing the biodiversity values and do's and don'ts should be placed at vantage points in and around the WLS, especially along the Gondola and other paths frequented by tourists.
12. Publicity material in the form of brochures about the WLS, a short film on the wildlife of the sanctuary and a website should be prepared at the earliest and made available at the interpretation centre as well as tourist establishments.
13. There should be adequate arrangements for receiving visitor feedback, which can be used by the management to make the facilities more conducive for them and provide better material for developing awareness among them. Here too, the proposed interpretation centre or other points along the Gondola route can be of great use.
14. Cases of man-animal conflict outside the WLS should be dealt with by the concerned territorial staff. Alternately, adequate staff members should be made available to the Wildlife DFO to manage these incidents, which can often become very volatile.
15. Some percentage (possibly 10%) of the revenue earned from the Gondola tourists should be allocated for the development of the WLS. This may need political will, and the appropriate authority in the Wildlife Department should prepare a suitable case for this.
16. Revival/restoration plans should be prepared and implemented for threatened and representative species such as the markhor, brown bear and musk deer.
17. Census operations should be carried out regularly (at least once in 3 years) and according to protocols. These protocols are now available from institutions such as WII and NCF.
18. A camera trap-based method should be adopted for ascertaining the occurrence and populations of mammals and pheasants. It needs to be noted that with proper training by scientists, the departmental staff can design and implement such research initiatives that help assess the populations of target species, and also assessment of biodiversity values, especially the more cryptic species such as nocturnal mammals and birds or small cats.
19. With a large part of the PA being located in high altitudes, including areas under permafrost and with the relatively high livestock grazing pressures, the PA faces unknown threats due to climate change. Brainstorming sessions in which scientists and researchers from local universities, national institutions and local villagers participate need to be facilitated by the Wildlife Department.
20. It is a known fact that timely promotions motivate officers to give their best. In Jammu & Kashmir, the prospects of promotion of Wildlife Wardens appear to be quite bleak or limited. The Service Rules may be amended so as to give the Wildlife Wardens equal opportunities for promotion. This is a general recommendation for the state, but clearly it affects the PA under consideration too as it is a part of the same system.

Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) prepared by Md. Sadiq Mir and Amit Sharma Chapter (C) 2 Section (S) 3.2	A comprehensive Management Plan has been formulated with good background information about geomorphology, cultural & historical aspects and gives insight into biodiversity value of the Protected Area. The checklist of avi-fauna, fauna, butterflies along with various types of vegetation are available,.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good	✓		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) S3.3	The threats within the Protected area have been identified, and are assessed constantly. The impact of these threats is observed and monitored in the field by the staff patrolling in the area.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good	✓		
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		MP S3.2.2	The P.A is free from permanent human habitations. However, due to nomadic grazing pressure for both transient and resident livestock, some seasonal hamlets are present during summers. There is movement of the armed forces too due to proximity of the LoC. The nearest village (Drung) is about 1 km away from the Sanctuary
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair	✓		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The area has been divided into Core Zone, Buffer Zone and Eco-tourism Zone.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair	✓		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		MP 2015-20	The latest Management Plan has been formulated for the year (2015-20).
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓	Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The first Management plan was prepared in the year (2005-09) and was revised up to year (2011-14) and a comprehensive Management Plan has been formulated for the year (2015-20)
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) C4	The Management Plan identifies the problems and threats and proposes how to minimize and combat these threats. The Management Plan guides the managers, what management interventions are to be taken when, why and how for conservation, protection and Management.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The area is free from human interventions and stakeholders do take an active part in controlling man-animal conflict,
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair	✓		
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

				Public awareness programmes. However, there is scope for a larger engagement with other stakeholders such as the migratory herders and Armed forces
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* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) S4.5	The Management interventions are proposed, discussed, implemented and are being constantly monitored. The habitat restoration works are carried out under various Schemes, viz C.S.S, CAMPA, State Plan when funds are available. The limiting factors are redressed and threats to flora and fauna are minimized by taking out habitat restoration works like planting, DRSM, crate wire, bunding etc. depending up on the problems in the particular area so as to achieve long term objectives. However, the issue of some threats such as that posed by the migrant herders and forces needs urgent attention
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good			
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations).Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is their a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) S4.5.5, 4.5.6, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8	The check on encroachment, anti-poaching, anti-grazing is managed and controlled by way of constituting anti-poaching, anti-grazing squads. The man-animal conflict Control Rooms are established for handling /tackling of man-animal conflict incidents. The frequent patrolling is carried by the staff posted in the area for protection and conservation of flora and fauna. The staff is given frequent trainings on habitat improvement works, Survey /census, anti-poaching, handling of man-animal conflict, check on forest damage and lodging of cases before various honourable courts. However, dealing with the issue of migrant herders and armed forces needs attention.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
&Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Management Plan for the year 2015-20 S4.8	The staff is imparted training on handling man-animal conflict. They are trained to operate automatic trapping cages for capturing, tranquilizing guns for immobilization and rehabilitation of wild animals in the wild .The staff is well equipped along with rescue van for tackling of man- animal conflict situations. The man-animal conflict camps are established in the area which witness higher intensity of such conflicts. The camp staff is provided all assistance needed in the field for combating man-animal conflict. Man-animal conflict awareness camps are organized at vulnerable sites. Awareness campaigns on man–animal conflict are organised during periods when conflicts are usually high. Compensation is provided for injury/death cases rendered by man-animal conflict. The details of compensation paid during last three years for death cases is 2.00 Lakhs and injuries is approximately 9.00 Lacs. While the arrangements are good, the managers feel that more dedicated staff and equipment can help in more timely and effective mitigation
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor	✓	Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The WLS is connected on almost all sides with forests and alpine areas and is a part of the Middle Himalayan ecosystem. The region however doesn't seem to be managed as an integrated unit. There are frozen lakes and glaciers, high mountain peaks and rocks and a extensive alpine meadows.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good			
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Management Plan for the year (2015-20) S3.1.1 pp193	The department is facing dearth of staff. However, this shortage is mitigated to some extent by engaging staff on part time /seasonal /need basis. The fire fighting squads are constituted for fire suppression. The Forest Dept. still controls many compartments covering c. one third of the PA (60 sqkm) with sufficient staff. These are however not available for the Wildlife Dept.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organized and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) S4.3	There is a dearth of vehicles and equipments like rescue van/ tranquilizing gun, trapping cages, snow scooters (for patrolling), staff amenities and camping gear to work efficiently in harsh winter periods
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor	✓	Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	Total fund released for Management and protection under different schemes during last three years was Rs. 30.585 Lakhs and funds stand utilized. There is limited working season and normally funds are released late. During last year C.S.S was not released.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓	Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	There is no support or contribution of NGOs in the Management of Sanctuary.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions(cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.5 Does PA manager consider resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓		The resources available are inadequate for management of the protected area.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) As per Discussion	The hierarchy of officers such as CCF/CF/are IFS Officers and Wildlife Wardens in the State are post graduate in Wildlife Science, the Range Officer is DDR and the frontline staff are also well trained in Management practices and handling of wildlife issues.

Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	ACRs are the means through which performance is evaluated. The WLW's promotional aspect are reported to be very bleak. The evaluation team gets a sense that this has led to reduced motivation. It is felt that due processes may be undertaken at the State level so that they can be taken into the mainstream along with the other officers of the department.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair			
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good	✓		
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) C6	People take active part in the awareness /man-animal conflict camps organized regarding conservation and protection of the Protected area and for resolving man- animal conflict respectively. There is some involvement of the villagers for fire fighting too. With varied and powerful stakeholders around this PA there is a greater need for engagement with them for both, planning and implementation of the Plans
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The Park management reportedly tries to address complaints as and when possible. There is however no clear method whereby important stakeholders such as the villagers, herders, tourists or armed forces can lodge complaints.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20) C6	Various programmes under eco-development activities are being carried out. The people residing near the sanctuary are being provided Gas <i>Chullas</i> , Solar lanterns, etc. The local communities are being given preference in various works so as to generate their livelihood. EDC's for Drang and Mahiya are to be formed. No specific inputs are being made to address women as yet. It also was reported that the people by and large are fairly well off due to the thriving tourism and agriculture and the need for eco-development is limited
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor			Some hoardings are installed at prominent places. Posters and brochures are prepared highlighting the bio-diversity of the area and guiding the visitors when to visit the area. The hoardings are not maintained well and there is no clear system for the distribution of the pamphlets. No website exists.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair	✓		
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good			
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The Protected area has an interpretation center at Tangmarg (relatively poor quality and visitation) but a good network of nature trails, foot bridges/watch towers. There are however no clear packages for trekking in the PA. Accommodation is readily available in privately managed hotels at Gulmarg. The Tourism Department also has hotel in the area.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor		Management Plan for the year(2015-20) S5.1	One survey on Markhor has been led by Wildlife Trust of India. Another study on man-animal conflict by Wildlife SOS has been undertaken.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/ assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor	✓	This was not clear in the Management Plan	It has to be included in the Management Plan.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The WLW reported good sightings of musk deer, brown bear & goral during winters. Leopard and black bear are sighted round the year. The area is rich in pheasants. Census operations should be carried out once in 3 years. Because of lack of such census it is difficult to say whether the population is declining stable or increasing.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The grazing by nomads is the primary threat to the PA but as of now there are no clear strategies of dealing with it. The management reports that thousands of sheep & goats pass through the upper reaches of the PA in transit to other pastures in the region twice in a year – in spring and in autumn, on way back to their wintering grounds.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.3 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor	✓	Management Plan for the year 2015-20	It is not clear, as there are no records of visitors' feedback. Much of the tourism takes place in and around the Gondola and people may be unaware of even the existence of the PA as there are no hoardings in this region or any clear presence of the Wildlife Dept.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		Management Plan for the year (2015-20)	The local communities do take part in Wildlife awareness camps, and render good support for fire fighting. They are concerned about frequent man-animal conflict episodes for which there seem to be greater expectations from the WL Dept..
Some are supportive.	Fair	✓		
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good			
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	20	49.16%
2.	Planning	10	10	70	50	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	15	
4.	Process	05	10	50	27.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	17.5	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	17.5	
Total		33		330*	147.5	

12. KARAKORAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, JAMMU & KASHMIR

MEE Year (2016-17)

Management Strengths

1. A beautiful landscape with diverse ecosystems such as the extensive Sea Buckthorn forests and sand dunes (around 11,000 ha) makes this sanctuary an attractive area for visitors.
2. The Snow Leopard is the flagship species of the wildlife sanctuary (WLS).
3. The Lynx Lynx lynx population is significant.
4. This is the only area in India where the Chiru Panthalops hodgsoni is found.
5. The Ladakh Urial Ovis vignei is also found in the WLS.
6. The human population density is low. Only the valleys are inhabited.
7. The terrain is highly undulating, and hence the level of poaching is low despite the extremely small strength of the staff protecting the PA.
8. The wildlife owes its existence to the cooperation of the local people. Villagers inform the authorities about wildlife crime, and wildlife conservation is aided greatly by them.
9. Ecotourism initiatives have been implemented (furnishing houses and providing training for hosting home stays, training nature guides, etc.).
10. Nature camps are organized twice a year for school students.
11. Pastoralism is on the decline.
12. Snow Leopard sightings have improved, and there is a demand among tourists to see the animal.
13. Large numbers of wild medicinal plants are found in the area, in Nubra Valley.
14. There is a high level of endemism among the butterfly species in Nubra Valley.
15. Tourists are distributed across the large area, and thus the adverse impacts on the PA are limited.
16. The coordination with the district authorities is quite good.
17. Law enforcement is quite strict even with the small staff strength.

Management Weaknesses

1. There is a severe shortage of staff in the PA, where a large and remote area has to be looked after.
2. The staff of the PA does not have adequate equipment (night vision binoculars, infrared cameras, etc.).
3. There is no wireless network inside the WLS.
4. The management plan has not been approved by the CWLW (it has been sent for approval).
5. Only the intention to declare the area a WLS is in place; the final notification has not been issued yet.
6. A total of 66 villages are present within the WLS, causing biotic interference.
7. The extensive army presence throughout the area may be detrimental to wildlife conservation.
8. There are Advanced Landing Grounds at Thoise and DBO (for aircraft), within the WLS.
9. The funds available for maintenance and development of the WLS are insufficient. The funds are released very late (as late as March).
10. Wildlife censuses are not conducted at regular intervals.
11. There is no interpretation centre.
12. There are no contributions from NGOs.

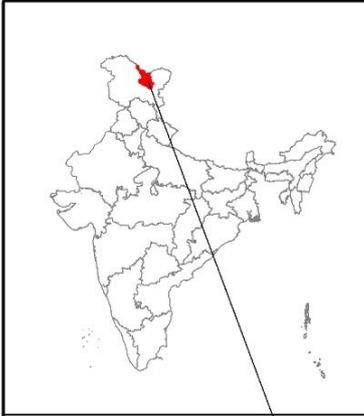
Actionable Points

1. The final notification is to be done at the earliest.
2. The Siachen Peace Park work should be re-initiated.
3. Demarcation of the revenue villages inside the WLS should be carried out, and they may be excluded from the sanctuary in the final notification.
4. Coordination with the army may be established for gaining access to remote and army-controlled areas.
5. Mobile phone bills paid by members of the field staff should be reimbursed.
6. Wireless equipment/stations need to be established at vantage points in the sanctuary to improve the communication network.
7. Motorcycles need to be provided to forest guards.
8. Specialized high-altitude equipment should be made available to the staff.
9. The Hill Council entry fees should be ploughed back for Karakoram WLS as is done in Hemis National Park.
10. The tourism activities should be regulated.
11. Periodic censuses/surveys of the large mammals should be carried out.
12. An interpretation centre should be created
13. Sign posts should be provided at appropriate locations to inform visitors about the WLS and its values.

Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary

75°30'0"E

77°15'0"E



36°00'N

36°00'N

34°15'N

34°15'N

Notified Area : 5000 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1987

0 12.5 25 50 Km

77°15'0"E



1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan (MP) Sec 1.2 & 2.5, 2.6 and discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J. Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The management plan identifies unique landscape and unique flora and fauna as its key values
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓		
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good			
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		Management Plan section 4.3.3, 5.4 and 5.5	Some of the threats have been identified as issues but the larger one such as presence of Army are not mentioned
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good			
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	66 villages are located in the valleys, and extensive presence of Army is also there inside the Sanctuary while wildlife occurs in the mountains and small valleys, hence looking to the vastness of the area the interference is low.
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair	✓		
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	As per the landscape and local conditions, zonation is not required hence this criterion is 'Not Applicable'
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		Draft Management Plan and discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The MP was prepared in 2014, and has been sent to CWLW, but has not been approved and is not drafted as per WII guidelines.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair	✓		
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive, science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor	✓	Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The management plan has not been approved yet and this document does not clearly state the need for regular review and updating.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		MP Chapter 2 and discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The flora and fauna of the region is thriving well in the WLS. There are few immediate concerns.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good	✓		

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	No effort is being made in this regard.
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			

* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Reduced livestock and fuelwood collection on account of alternative livelihoods and renewable energy provision leads to regeneration of degraded areas.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair			
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations).Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is their a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Management plan Section 5.1(ii) and discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Though there is ad hoc protection strategy yet it is quite effective.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?

2.8 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Management Plan section 4.3.3 and 5.4 and discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The livestock corral improvement has been successful in reducing the number of livestock killed by snow leopards.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police. Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

2.9 Is the site integrated into a wider ecological network landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The management of WLS is being done on landscape basis and funds are available from other sources/ministries like the Autonomous Hill Council, district administration and MNREGA etc.
Some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
Site is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good			
Site is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good	✓		

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Management Plan and discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Only 2 ROs, 1 Forester and 4 Wildlife FGs are in place, no staff on work charge basis is there for the entire WLS.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	2 Range Offices, 2 Chowkies and 1 Forester Office exist, 1 Scorpio is also available for the WLS.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.3 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor	✓	Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Funds are inadequate and there are delays in receiving funds. Normally the funds come after November and then works cannot be carried out due to the harsh winter weather when the temperatures drop below -40 degree celsius.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓	Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The NGO's in the region do not contribute financially or otherwise.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

Details of contributions(cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.5 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The staff are too few to manage the entire park. Only 4 Forest guards are there for protecting the PA of 5000 sq km. Funds are also inadequate.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Though the WLW and Staff have not received any formal training in Wildlife, they are given
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			

All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			training on wildlife related issues locally by the CCF and other officials.
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* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

4.2 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	APR system is in place
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Most of the works are carried out in consultation with the public. People act as informers and provide vital secret informations which help in preventing poaching.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair			
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.4 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	No formal system exists but complaints are handled promptly in time.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good	✓		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.5 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Management Plan sec 4.3.3 and Homestays Data (2010-2016) provided by WLW	Homestays, handicrafts and souvenirs are promoted for providing alternative sources of income. SHGs are also operational.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair			
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good	✓		

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Eco-tourism facilitation Centre has been established in the Leh main market.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Handbooks of Birds, Mammals and Plants are available. Website conservelelakh.org	Ecotourism Facilitation Centre has been established in Leh market. Pamphlets in English and bilingual Handbooks of Birds, Mammals and Plants are available. Website conservelelakh.org also gives information about the WLS.
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	It is difficult to monitor wildlife populations due to the harshness of the landscape. However, surveys are conducted.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/ assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Ad-hoc inventory maintenance and the maintenance schedule is there in the PA.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Snow leopard sightings are on the rise after the successful implementation of tourism activities in Hemis-National park.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good	✓		
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	Fuel wood collection has reduced (due to alternative sources of energy) and livestock population has declined due to alternative livelihoods provided to people in the form of homestays and handicraft etc.
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			
All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			

6.2 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	No systematic record is being maintained but trip advisor rates the place 4.5 on 5 after 672 reviews.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good	✓		

* Is there any system of receiving/ analysing visitor feedback?

6.4 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		Discussions with CCF Wildlife Mr J Takpa, WLW Mr Angchuk and staff.	The local communities are very supportive of the PA management. On multiple occasions they have reported poachers to the department.
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	15	58.62%
2.	Planning	08	10	80	50	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	15	
4.	Process	05	10	50	35	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	25	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	30	
Total		29		290	170	

14. BALTAL-THAJWAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, JAMMU & KASHMIR, MEE Year (2017-18)

Management Strengths

1. The Sanctuary is situated in the Zaskar mountain range of the North-west Himalayan Bio-geographical zone and constitutes a large ecological landscape having connectivity with rich wildlife areas of Aru, Upper Dachigam and the Sind forest known for the conservation of many endangered wildlife species such as the asiatic black bear, himalayan brown bear, snow leopard, common leopard, kashmir musk deer, asiatic ibex, tibetan wolf, himalayan monal, koklass pheasant, himalayan snowcock and golden eagle.
2. The famous tourist destination of Sonamarg is located on the fringe of the wildlife sanctuary, which adds to its importance.
3. The Sanctuary is flanked by the large snow-laden peaks of Sonamarg, the Sindh river which originates from the Thajwas glacier abounds with trout and mahseer populations and is a major hub of tourism in summer.
4. The area is reasonably well protected because of its remoteness, rugged and inaccessible terrain and its being snow clad for 5–6 months in the year.
5. Local people are generally supportive of conservation.

Management Weaknesses

1. The Management Plan of the sanctuary is still under preparation with inputs from the Wildlife Trust of India.
2. Considering the terrain and remoteness of the sanctuary, where protection has to be carried out through foot patrolling, the strength of the available field staff is inadequate and there are no Forest Guard. Field equipment is lacking and general facilities for the staff are poor.
3. The area remains snow-clad for 4–5 months and generally inaccessible. Therefore, the release of funds for management works has to be timely, as once the snow sets in, undertaking habitat management works become difficult to execute.
4. The local people's dependence on resources such as fuel-wood and grass and on grazing is quite high.

Immediate Actionable Points

1. The Management Plan of the sanctuary should be finalised and approval obtained from the Chief Wildlife Warden.
2. The Government may consider enhancing the field staff strength of Foresters and Forest Guards, considering the remoteness and rugged terrain of the sanctuary.
3. The Government may also consider providing field gear for high-altitude patrolling, vehicles and communication systems.
4. Providing more funding support for ecodevelopment works may be considered so that activities such as providing livelihood alternatives to local people and reducing their dependence on the resources of the sanctuary may be taken up.

1. Context

1.1 Are the values of the site well documented, assessed and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		1. Currently there is no Approved Management plan for the sanctuary. 2. Some annual approved work plans were seen. 3. Discussion with FRO	1. The sanctuary is connected with other important wildlife areas, like Overa-Aru, Upper Dachigam and the Sind forest. Sindh River originates from Thajwas glacier and is known for its trout and mahaseer population. 2. The area is representative of dry temperate and Himalayan moist temperate forests and lies in the North-West Himalayan Biogeographic Zone. 3. The warden has provided some information on importance of the area along with the check list of fauna and flora of the sanctuary which will be included in the Management Plan under preparation. 3. WTI is assisting in Management Plan preparation and it is presumed that good work will be done by them as has been done for the Management Plans written for Limber and Lachipora Wildlife Sanctuaries.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good	✓		
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good			

*Values would also include geo-morphological, historico-cultural and faunal and floral species.

1.2 Are the threats to site values well documented and assessed?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor	✓	1. Currently there is no Approved Management plan for the sanctuary. 2. Discussion with FRO	It was informed that common threats to the site like fire, grazing, removal of resources, tourism pressure etc. Are prevalent in the site. The socio-economic and demographic details of the villages in and around the sanctuary were not provided.
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good			
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good			

* This assessment should be based on number, nature and extent of threats. Threats within and outside PA should both be considered. Impacts, if any on the population abundance of key species may be indicated in the remarks.

1.3 Is the site free from human and biotic interference?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The site has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor	✓	Discussions with the FRO	Details not provided
The site has some human and biotic interference.	Fair			
The site has little human and biotic interference.	Good			
The site has no human and biotic interference.	Very good			

*This assessment should be based on existence of human settlements/ villages; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments etc, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. Number and size of human settlements/ enclaved villages and their impacts on the site may be indicated in the Remarks.

2. Planning

2.1 Is the site properly identified (NP/WLS) and categorized (in terms of zonation) to achieve the objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category+	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not identified correctly or categorized.	Poor		1.The management plan is not prepared and approved 2.Discussions with Regional Wildlife Warden and FRO	It was informed that the sanctuary is currently managed as one zone to serve the management concerns. It is proposed in the Management Plan under preparation core, buffer and tourism zones will be prescribed.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair	✓		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

*Management prescriptions for various zones (Core, Buffer, Tourism etc) may be carefully assessed.

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category+	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor	✓	1. Currently no Management plan is available and it was informed that it is under preparation. 2.Discussion with FRO	WTI is assisting in Management Plan preparation and it is presumed that good work will be done by them as has been done for the Management Plans written for Limber and Lachipora Wildlife Sanctuaries.
Management Plan exist but not comprehensive.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive Management Plan.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive; science based Management Plan prepared through a participatory process.	Very good			

*Is the Management Plan consistent with WII Guidelines or not? The extent to which the concerns of the stakeholders, if any have been incorporated in the Management Plan may be commented upon.

2.3 Is the Management Plan routinely and systematically updated?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		No Approved management plan in place	WTI is assisting in Management Plan preparation and it is presumed that good work will be done by them as has been done for the Management Plans written for Limber and Lachipora Wildlife Sanctuaries.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair	✓		
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the management plan elaborate on safeguarding the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		1.Discussions with FRO 2.No approved Management plan in place 3.Annual work plan of last some years	Perusal of APOs revealed that management action for issues like protection (fire, poaching etc.), habitat improvement, capacity building of staff, eco-development works, staff welfare, containing human-wildlife conflict conservation education and awareness etc. Are being taken up under CSS and CAMPA schemes and it can be concluded that current efforts are there to safeguard biodiversity values of the area.
The plan safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
The plan safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
The plan safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

* Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Discussions with the FRO	It was informed that the meetings with the local people are being conducted on regular basis. Local
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair	✓		
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good			

Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good			people are engaged in sanctuary management works and help in fire control, intelligence sharing. People are not hostile to the conservation efforts.
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* The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise. Further, is there a system/scope of putting the draft Management Plan in Public Domain in place?

2.6 Are habitat restoration programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Habitat restoration programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor		1.Approved Management Plan is not in place 2.Some APOs of last few years 3. Discussions with FRO	Perusal of some APOs provided reveals that habitat improvement works like fire protection, fencing of sensitive areas and grass restoration, removal of weeds, planting of fruit/fodder species, soil moisture conservation works etc are being done.
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair			
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

* This assessment should be primarily based on habitat management programmes in relation to habitats for species that are threatened (IUCN categories), are habitat specialists, subjected to seasonal movements, wide ranging with emphasis on the breeding and rearing habitat and may include factors such as food, water, shelter (all connotations).Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats. Have these been addressed? Is their a planning process in place? What is the extent of 'invasive species in the Site? Are there any measures to reduce/ remove them? Have these been successful?

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		1.Approved Management Plan is not in place	1. Perusal of some APOs provided reveals that works like fire protection, anti-poaching camps during rush season, demarcation of
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓		

Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good		2. Some APOs of last few years 3. Discussions with FRO	area and boundary pillar installation are being undertaken 2. Intelligence gathering through local communities. 3. Routine patrolling by available staff and casual daily workers.
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

* This assessment takes *inter-alia* into account the nature of threats, the number and location of patrolling camps and foot and mobile patrolling, needs that relate to available manpower, terrain difficulties, practicability of area coverage, readiness to contain specific threats with necessary support and facilities. Is there any coordination with other wings of the Forest Department/ Police/ Customs etc? Are these effective?* Score: Poor: 2.5; Fair: 5; Good: 7.5; Very Good: 10

2.8 Does the management plan integrate the site into a wider ecological network/ landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not integrate the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		1. Approved Management Plan is not in place 2. Discussions with FRO	The Baltal-Thajwas WLS connects with Dachigam NP, Overa-Aru WLS and Sindh forest division and forms a large contiguous landscape 2. However, the management is focused on sanctuary and national park management currently. But the scope to manage it on landscape is there. on landscape basis. 3. Administration of three Pas is under one control.
The plan makes some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair	✓		
The plan integrates the site generally quite well into a network/ landscape.	Good			
The plan fully integrates the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organised and deployed with access to adequate resources in the site?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	1. Staff sanction position 2. Discussion with FRO	1. One FRO (I/c); one Supervisor and three helper are currently available. 2. Daily wage watch and ward persons are engaged for protection as and when needed. 3. FRO also informed that current staff strength is not adequate. 4. Perusal of some APOs reveals that funds are by and large are made available.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range, Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

3.2 Does the site have trained manpower resources for effective PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	Discussions with the DFO and details of staff qualification	In J&K, the Department of Wildlife Protection is separate. Wildlife Wardens are qualified in Wildlife Science. Formal training in wildlife management is lacking in staff. In house trainings are provided to build capacity of staff now and then on management related themes.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

* Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. i.e. Higher Management: ACF/ DCF/ CF/ CCF; Frontline Staff: Range Officer; Beat Officer; Forest Guard; Casual Daily Labour (CDL); Others.

3.3 Are resources (vehicle, equipment, building etc.) adequate, well organised and managed with access to adequate resources?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	1.List of buildings 2.Discussion with FRO	1. Limited Building, equipments and staff quarters.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

* These form a variety of resources. These may be segregated into immovable (structures) and movable categories and each further may be considered under the essential and desirable categories. It is best to start with what are the minimum needs to attain each objective, what is available and manner of use/deployment. The proportions of the 'essentials' and 'desirables' along the importance gradient of objectives would serve as pointers for score categories. Specific remarks would be vitally important.

3.4 Are resources (human and financial) linked to priority actions and are funds released timely?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		1.Discussion with FRO 2.Statement of funds allotted and utilized for some of the years in the last three years	1. Funds are noticed to be adequate. 2. It was informed that The state funds are generally released in time. 3. Financial resources are linked to priority management actions
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

*Obtain details of funds released by MoEF and their utilization by site in the last 3 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and their mitigation.

3.5 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		1.Discussions with FRO	WTI reported to be involved in preparation of Management Plan.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓		

NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

*Details of contributions (cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

3.6 Does PA manager considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		1.Discussions with FRO 2.Statements on funds allotted and utilized (for some years) 3.Details of staff sanctioned and vacancy position	Allotment and release of funds to the opinion of MEE team was adequate but and current staff strength is not adequate
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair	✓		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

4.1 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Discussion with FRO	Generally yes
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair	✓		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

*Has the PA staff received award/ appreciation from any agency in the last 3 years?

4.2 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Discussion with FRO	1. It was informed that the local communities were involved in fire protection; intelligence sharing and carrying out departmental works as and when needed. Some skilled local people are also engaged as eco-guides. 2. The locals were not hostile to the.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

* Participation would include Conservation & awareness programmes, Census operations, Intelligence gathering, Forest fire control etc.

4.3 Is there a responsive system for handling complaints and comments about PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Discussions with FRO	It was informed that complaints register is maintained and no complaints received during the recent past according to the FRO.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

* Number of queries made and response thereof under the Right to Information (RTI), Act in the last 3 years may be compiled.

4.4 Does PA management addresses the livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		1.Discussions with FRO 2. Perusal of some APOs	1. It was informed that The villages in surrounding areas are depending upon the sanctuary resources. 2. Some locals were employed as eco-guides, causal workers for various developmental and management related sanctuary works. 3. In past LPG, solar lanterns were supplied to some households by the department.
Few livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Fair	✓		
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Good			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially women are addressed effectively by PA managers.	Very good			

5. Output

5.1 Is adequate information on PA management publicly available?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		1.Discussion with FRO 2.Perusal of some APOs	1. Sanctuary does not have a website. 2.Awareness programmes are being conducted for children, public and visitors 3. Some Hoardings/publicity boards about the sanctuary are put at some places.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair	✓		
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good			
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

* Does the Site has a website? If yes, is it comprehensive, well-managed and periodically updated?

5.2 Are visitor services (tourism and interpretation) and facilities appropriate for the relevant protected area category?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		1.Discussion with FRO	1. Many visitors during summer season.

Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓		2. Two Eco-huts are available.
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feed back on the quality of wilderness experience. Details of numbers of visitors/ tourists(both domestic and overseas) coming in the last 3 years and the revenue earned may be compiled.

5.3 Are research/ monitoring related trends systematically evaluated and routinely reported and used to improve management?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor	✓	1.Management Plan is not in place 2.Discussion with Regional Wildlife Warden	1. It was informed that WTI conducted some encounter rate survey of Musk deer, Himalayan brown bear, snow leopard, Tibetan wolf and Asiatic ibex. 2. However, no trend analysis of population of key faunal species of the sanctuary was made available.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair			
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all site attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site own steam because of systemic limitations. However, monitoring of some critical issues is expected e.g. population of tiger, co-predators and prey with insights into their demography and distribution (some opportunistic sampling by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment would be extremely useful in terms of expert impression and as a pulse), monitoring incidence of livestock grazing, fires, weeds, sources of water, a variety of illegal activities typically associated with the reserve, wildlife health (e.g. epidemics, immunization of livestock) regeneration and change in vegetation, visitors and their activities, offence cases, ex-gratia payments etc. Details of number of research projects in the last 3 years, institutions involved, salient outcomes may be collected and used in awarding scores.

5.4 Is there a systematic maintenance schedule and funds in place for management of infrastructure/assets?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		1.List of some assets 2.Discussions with FRO 3. Perusal of some APOs	It was informed that the assets and infrastructure created under various projects/schemes are well documented and listed and are maintained. Some funding for Maintenance was seen in the APOs.
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

6.1 Are populations of threatened species especially key faunal species declining, stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		1.Management Plan is not in place 2.Discussion with Regional Wildlife Warden	1. It was informed that WTI conducted some encounter rate survey of Musk deer, Himalayan brown bear, snow leopard, Tibetan wolf and Asiatic ibex. 2. However, no trend analysis of population of key faunal species of the sanctuary was made available.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

(This question was not evaluated)

* This needs to practically relate to the natural ecosystem potential rather than being driven merely by numbers and visibility. The assessment score may be elaborated under remarks. Comments on the population trends may be made under Remarks.

6.2 Have the threats to the site being reduced/ minimized or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		1.Discussions with FRO	1. The rugged mountainous terrain makes the sanctuary inaccessible and therefore fairly protected. Local people except graziers go to the higher
Some threats to the Site have abated, others continue their presence	Fair	✓		
Most threats to the Site have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good			

All threats to the Site have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good			elevation alpine meadows during summer. Protection staff provides watch on their activities. Poaching not reported in recent years. Anthropogenic pressures do remain in some intensity.
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6.3 Has the site been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		1.Discussions with FRO 2. Perusal of some APOs 3.Compensation details for the last three years for the sanctuary was not provided.	Perusal of some APOs revealed that some activities related to containing human-wildlife conflict have been taken up by the management. No allotment of funds for compensation payment was seen in the APOs provided to the MEE team.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair	✓		
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good			
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

* Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 years may be collected.

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		Discussion with FRO	It was informed that the tourism is very high during summer season. Some facilities are only available. Day visitation is generally permitted. No feedback analysis. Local facilities available in Sonmarg are being utilized by the tourists.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair	✓		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

* Is there any system of receiving/ analyzing visitor feedback?

6.5 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		1.Discussion with FRO	1. The local communities are involved in fire protection, intelligence sharing and some departmental works execution and protection duties and some skilled people are also engaged
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		

All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			as eco-guides during the tourist season. 2. The locals are not hostile with the conservation of sanctuary and its staff and by and large supportive of conservation.
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* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	12.5	49 %
2.	Planning	08	10	80	42.5	
3.	Inputs	06	10	60	25	
4.	Process	04	10	40	20	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	05*	10	50	22.5*	
Total		30		300	142.5	

*Question number 6.1 was not evaluated.