

MEE Team-wise Report

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MADHYA PRADESH

1. RATAPANI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH

MEE YEAR (2006-09)

A. Management Strengths

1. Most of the values and threats have been systematically identified and assessed. Threats to the wildlife due to poaching, uncontrolled grazing and the consequent possibility of contagious diseases, habitat destruction by fire, illicit tree felling and collection of minor forest produce (MFPs), etc. have been identified.
2. There is a management plan. The old plan was extended for almost 20 years without revision. The present plan has just begun and the next revision is due after 2018.
3. The site safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.
4. Many human-wildlife conflicts at the site have been mitigated. The human-wildlife interface is not very alarming and extreme mitigation measures such as giving permissions to kill Wild Pigs/Blue Bulls causing damage to agriculture are in place. Compensation for loss of human life or injury is in place and is said to be effective as seen from the records (injuries caused by Bear, deaths due to Leopards, etc. have been reported). No inordinate delays have been reported, and cases of unauthorized graziers not getting compensation are reported.
5. The site is fully integrated into a wider network or landscape. The sanctuary is surrounded by forests at some places. Connectivity (a corridor) on the eastern side with Singhory Sanctuary has been ensured.
6. A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted at the site.
7. Eco-development funds have been utilized for livelihood support (Rs.40 lakhs during 2001-2004). Within three forest villages and two revenue villages, Sewing machines, Paper Machines and 16 women forest guards were appointed. A total of 52 Ecodevelopment Committees within and outside the 32 villages are associated with the park.
8. Visitor services are available at the MPTDC (Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation) complex at Delawadi/Bhimbetaka. Information centres are planned at Bhimbetaka and Barrusot. There is a plan to upgrade the information centre at Delewadi. Upgrading forest rest houses and inspection huts at three places is planned.
9. Most of the biological communities are likely to be able to sustain the native biodiversity. Field visits indicated that there is a good mix of ages. Varied forest types at various stages of ecological succession were observed.
10. There are laudable attempts to minimize the threats.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. The site has been identified correctly but not categorized into zones.
2. There is a management plan, but it is not comprehensive.
3. The potential of the area is well recognized. A recent estimate of the population of the key species, the Tiger, indicates that it is declining.
4. New provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and its amendments make it mandatory to have advisory committees, Honorary Wardens, etc., but such measures are not in place. The participation of stakeholders at the divisional and local levels is thus not adequate.

5. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy.
6. As of today, not much NGO involvement is seen on the ground. The reported formation of the Ratapani Foundation augurs well.
7. There is no linkage between staff performance management and the management objectives as there is no institutional arrangement.
8. Little or no information on the management of the PA is publicly available.
9. The participation of the public is not organized and there is considerable scope for improvement.
10. A complaint handling system is operational, but it is not responsive to individual issues and limited follow-up is provided.
11. There is little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of management-related trends. Estimation of the populations of threatened species on a regular basis is called for. Scientific and transparent methods are needed as authentic figures are not readily available. The Tiger population estimates show a decline [from 21 to 12]. There have been no bird counts, but an IBA has been declared based on the IBA criteria.
12. Tourism is still at a nascent stage; hence the expectations of visitors at this stage are not appropriate.
13. The cultural and heritage values need to be strengthened.

C. Actionable Points

1. The site needs categorization into zones.
2. Immediate steps are needed to develop a science-based comprehensive management plan.
3. There is a need to establish vegetation monitoring plots and permanent transects for animal population estimates and evaluation of management trends. There is an urgent need to determine the cause of the decline in the numbers of the key species like Tiger.
4. The participation of stakeholders in management planning is to be enhanced.
5. The site needs an effective protection strategy.
6. NGOs need to be involved and the Ratapani Foundation needs to be formed for managing the PA.
7. There is a need to develop a linkage between the staff performance and management objectives through institutional arrangements.
8. Information on the management of the PA needs to be available to the public.
9. The participation of the public needs to be enhanced for effective PA management.
10. There is a need for a specific complaint redressal system for handling complaints.
11. Immediate steps need to be taken to start visitor services for ecotourism.
12. The site has tremendous potential in the form of cultural heritage and is recognized as a World Heritage Site. However, present PA management shows little convergence with the Archaeology Department. There is considerable potential to use the site to demonstrate linkages between nature and culture. Evolution processes can be demonstrated in an appropriate manner. The link between human beings and the environment could be stressed and explained. The Kakadu National Park in Northern Territory, Australia is strongly recommended as a model.

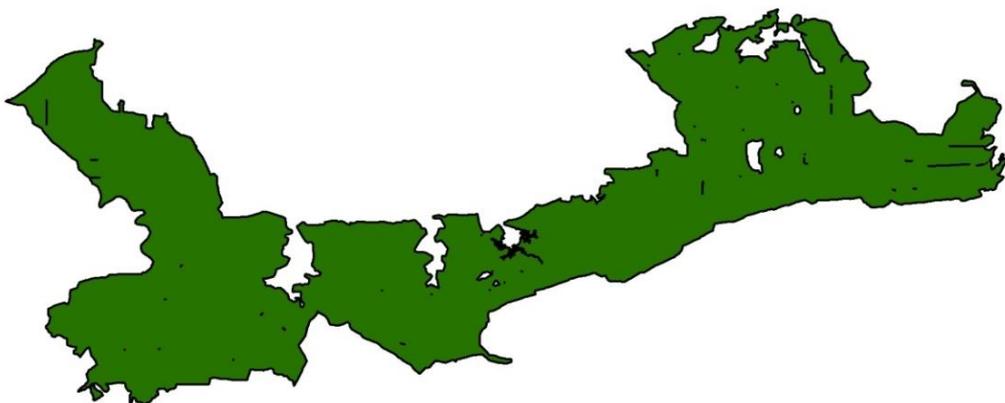
77°15'0"E

Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary Madhya Pradesh



28°30'0"N

28°30'0"N



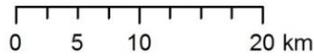
28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 823.84 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1978

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		Ratpani Sanctuary, situated partly in Raisen and Sehore Districts having an area of 824 km ² area was notified in 1974; it is formed of four Ranges namely Dahod, Delabadi, Barkheda & Bineka. Biodiversity values of the area have been documented properly as seen from the good tradition of written plan starting from S. K. Sharma's plan [1984 -85 to 1988- 89] & the current Management plan by Mr. Nirankar Singh & R.K. Dixit [2008-09 to 2017 - 18]
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		Threats to wildlife due to poaching, uncontrolled grazing & consequent possibility of contagious diseases / habitat destruction by fire, illicit tree felling, collection of MFP etc have been identified.
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		Spread and intensity of human and biotic influences has been recorded in an elaborate manner.
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		Location has positive attributes, it represents bio-geographic zone appropriately; is large enough for achieving conservation goals. Division into core and other area as was shown earlier, has not been continued but on the back drop of restrictions on sanctuary now imposed by statutory changes as also the judicial interventions [Supreme Court Central Empowered Committee rulings] treating entire PA in a uniform manner as seems appropriate.
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		The first plan was found to be a model at that point of time and had lot of relevant information required for management. Present Management Plan duly approved by the competent authority, the CWLW vide letter dated 24/4/08 is in place; plan has lot of basic information obtained by using geo-spatial technology; plan runs over two parts covering 16 chapters. Plan includes lot of relevant information, however, it lacks well spelt out strategy and planned activities are not indicated therein. It is not fully consistent with guide lines issued in this context by 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		

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		The old plan was extended for almost twenty years without revision. Though present plan has just begun and next revision is due after 2018, mid course review is recommended by 2010 for up gradation/ higher inputs (Inclusion under Project Tiger / major inputs under CAMPA) for better resource utilization through more specific as also effective measures based on sound strategy.
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		Potential of the area are well recognized and recent population estimation trend of key species, the Tiger is reported to be on decline. Area being considered for inclusion in the Tiger reserve thus augurs well. Process of declaring it as "Sensitive area" under Forest Dwellers Settlement of Rights is a step in right direction and needs to be expedited. Scope for improvement in the safeguards.
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		New provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendment there to, make it mandatory to have Advisory Committees / Hon. Wardens etc but such measures are not in place. Stakeholders participation at Division / local level is thus not adequate.
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		Status of habitat deterioration has been well documented. Activities planned have major thrust on water harvesting, road network rather than soil moisture conservation and mitigation of human and cattle pressures. Settlement of rights / concessions and issue of final notification of the Sanctuary has not received priority that it demands. Remedial measures are indicated in the plan but actual thrust in that direction is not commensurate with needs. Ecodevelopment activity was initiated but not sustained beyond 2004, out of 70 lakhs actual utilization of only 40 lakhs; activity covers few 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		

2.7 Are reintroduction programmes systematically planned and monitored?

Assessment criteria

Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Reintroduction programmes are entirely adhoc.	Poor	✓	A critical assessment is called for to first know the missing or threatened elements so that re- introduction could be planned for.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		During discussions it was, learnt that Beats have been reorganized for effective control/ concept of group moving together has been introduced and thus effective protection strategy partly in place; more detailed study is called for.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Human wildlife interface is not very alarming [and extreme mitigation measures like permission to kill wild pig/ blue bull causing damage to agriculture is in place. Compensation for loss of human life / injury is in place and said to be effective as seen from records (injuries by Bear / death due to Leopard etc are reported). No inordinate delays reported, cases of unauthorized graziers not getting compensation reported.
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		Sanctuary surrounded by forest at some places; connectivity or corridor on the eastern side with Singhory Sanctuary ensured. Other than this there is no further scope for expansion.
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		Administrative control at District level and above leaves scope for improvement and Post of DFO who is cadre officer who is 'de jure' controlling offices & Dy. CF in state cadre as his staff officer [seems to be under utilization of both] and leads to dual control and needs to be re examined. As of today the officer in charge seems to be not committed fully to wildlife conservation being saddled with other multifarious duties. With upgradation to Project Tiger status, in consultation with the Project Tiger authorities, a senior level officer is expected to be posted. Field level staff that is fully committed to protection.
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		During the last five years the site had GoI commitment of 175.13 lakhs [average of 35.19 /annum]out of which 145.53 lakhs were actually utilized ; in comparison, state level plan expenditure for last four years is reported as 145.53 [about 36.4 lakhs /annum] which works out to be around 70 lakhs per annum. Resources mobilization is expected to improve [CAMPA funds under Narmada water supply scheme to extent of 1200 lakhs are reported to be in pipeline]
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		During field visits it was observed that there is a scope for prioritization of activities and better deployment of resources e.g. mobilization of daily wage staff away from HQ.
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		As of today not much of NGO involvement seen on the ground and reported formation of Ratapani Foundation augurs well
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		Had discussions at various levels and particularly two levels at the district level gave varied perceptions particularly unified command / control / supervision . Govt. of Madhya Pradesh / PCCF (CWLW) needs to look into the matter and resolve the differences, if any.
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		Though trained staff is wanting at varied levels commitment at the level at Park Supd level as also field staff is high.
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	✓	Staff performance link to objectives. There is no institutional arrangements as such there are adequate checks and balances in the system.
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	✓	Public participation not in an organized manner and there is lot of scope for improvements.
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		Responsive system for handling 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		

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		Livelihood support under ecodevelopment funds utilized (40 lakhs during 2001 to 2004). Sewing machines and paper Mache in two villages [16 women from two villages /lady forest guards, three forest villages, two revenue villages covered [total villages 32 within park and EDC 52 within and outside] Total population 19,000. 21 villages that include tolas to be carved out. 9 villages to be relocated-but this contradicts stand taken under Critical Tiger Habitat.
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	✓	Information brochures printed /signage at number of 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		

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	✓	Visitor services/ MPTDC complex at Delawadi / Bhimbetaka are in place Information centre in Bhimbetaka & Barrusot planned upgradation at Delewadi. Upgradation of FRH and Inspection Huts at three places planned.
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	✓	There is a need to establish vegetation monitoring plots / permanent transects for animal population estimates, etc Evaluation of management trends lacking.
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		Systematic maintenance is carried out.
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		Threatened species status Population estimations on regular basis is called for scientific and transparent methods are needed as authentic and timely figures are not readily available. Tiger population estimation shows decline [21 to 12] No bird count but IBA declared on the criteria.
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		Field visits indicated good mix of ages and varied forest types at various stages of ecological successions were observed.
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		There are laudable attempts to minimize the threats.
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		Tourism is still at nascent stage hence expectations of visitors at this stage is not appropriate.
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		There is still lot of scope for improvement.
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		Site has tremendous potentials for cultural heritage and is recognized as World Heritage site. However present PA management shows little convergence with Archaeology Department. There are a lot of possibilities to utilize site potentials to demonstrate linkages of nature and culture. Evolution processes can be demonstrated in an appropriate manner. Link between human beings and environment could be stressed and explained. As a model Kakadu National Park in Northern Territory, Australia is strongly recommended.
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	52.3%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	57.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	30	
4.	Process	05	10	50	22.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	12.5	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	32.5	
Total		33		330*	172.5	

* 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 306.3 or 51%

2. NORADEHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH

MEE YEAR (2009–10)

A. Management Strengths

1. Most of the values and threats are systematically monitored and assessed.
2. The site has a comprehensive management plan.
3. The site safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.
4. From time to time, consultations are carried out to involve stakeholders in the management of the PA.
5. Extensive water conservation and habitat improvement works are undertaken.
6. The site has a comprehensive protection strategy and weapons, wireless sets and mobile units are available.
7. In terms of a wider network, the southern side, up to the Narmada, has forest connectivity. Along the eastern boundary and on the western side, there is only agricultural land.
8. An NGO from Rewa provides support in terms of technical advice. Others work as intermediaries and provide suggestions.
9. The resources are sufficient for most of the tasks. NREGA input has added to the financial resources (Rs.1.8 crore in 2009–2010).
10. There is no participation of the public in the management of the PA, but where works are likely to affect people, they are consulted.
11. A *Jan* Survey is conducted on every Tuesday. A proper complaint register is maintained in the office.
12. Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by the PA management. Villagers have been employed for road work, etc. and as fire watchers. Water conservation work has increased the agricultural productivity of the land and has in turn reduced the dependence of the people on the forest.
13. Publicly available information provides detailed insights into major management issues of the PA.
14. There are very few visitors to the wildlife sanctuary (around 1200); however pamphlets have been made available for them.
15. Beat guard's record and maintain diaries for management-related trends.
16. The numbers of the Nilgai and Chinkara are increasing; however the trend of the Wolf, the flagship species, is not available.
17. Most biological communities are likely to be able to sustain the native biodiversity.
18. Crop raiding by Nilgai has been reduced as a result of the construction of a stone wall.
19. The expectations of many visitors are met.
20. A planned approach to management is being developed, and the deterioration of assets is being redressed.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. The site has some biotic interference due the presence of large human and cattle population dependent on the PA. With 69 villages depending on the PA, there is one village for every 18 km². The exclusion of 13 villages on the eastern border has been proposed after realignment of the boundaries.
2. There is no categorization into zones.

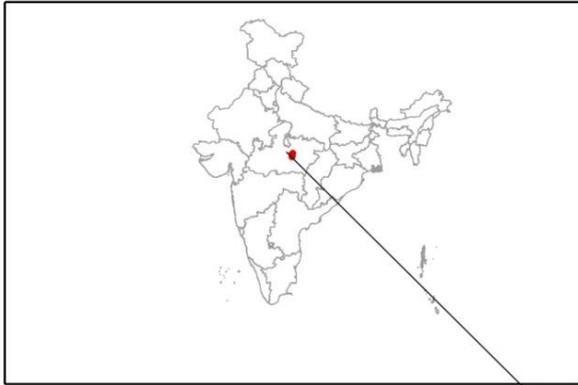
3. There is no linkage between the staff performance management and management objectives.
4. There is little or no participation of the public in the management of the PA.
5. The trend of the Wolf, the flagship species, is not available.

C. Actionable Points

1. There are some biotic pressure on the site, such as the large human population and the cattle from 69 villages. This pressure needs to be minimized immediately. The grazing issue need to be tackled for conflict mitigation.
2. The site needs to be properly categorized into zones.
3. Staff performance should be linked to the management objectives of the PA.
4. The participation of the public should be enhanced for long-term management of the PA.
5. Immediate actions need to be taken to develop a nature interpretation centre.
6. A proper systematic study of the population trend of the Wolf, the flagship species of the site, needs to be carried out on a priority basis.

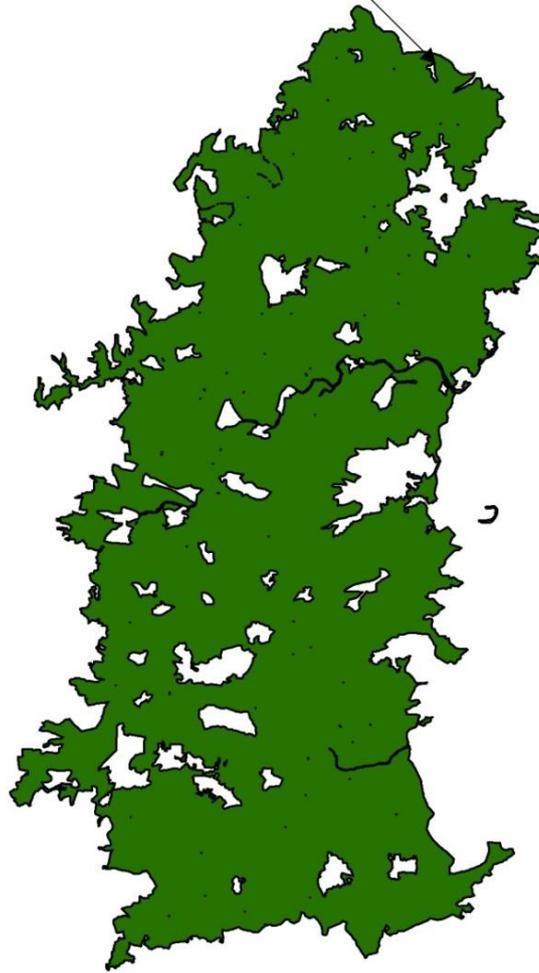
77°15'0"E

Noradehi Wildlife Sanctuary Madhya Pradesh



28°30'0"N

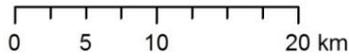
28°30'0"N



28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N

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



Notified Area: 1194.67 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1984

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		Values assured & monitored Management plan current and approved
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		
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		69 villages depending on the PA 1 village/18 sq. kms. 13 villages on the eastern border that have been proposed for exclusion after realignment of boundaries
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		
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		
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		Review will be taken up after 5 years
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		69 villages and a large human and cattle population dependant on the PA
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		Time to time consultations are carried out
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		Extensive water conservation and habitat improvement undertaken
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 as no reintroduction programme undertaken
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		Weapons, wireless sets and mobile units are available
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		Grazing issues need to be tackled
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		Southern side upto Narmada has forest connectivity, eastern boundary and western side only agricultural land
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		
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		Regular maintenance being undertaken
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		
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		NGO from Rewa provides support in terms of technical advice, others work as intermediaries and provide suggestions
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		NREGA input has added (Rs 1.8 crores in 09-10) to financial resources
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		Only 3-4 ground personnel have received some 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		

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	✓	
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	✓	Public participation in PA management is absent but where work likely to affect people, they are consulted
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		Jan Sunvai conducted every Tuesday, proper complaint register maintained in the Office
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		Villagers have been employed for road work etc., and as fire watchers. Water conservation work has increased agricultural productivity of the land and has inturn reduced dependence on forest
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		
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		Visitation in WLS is very low (~ 1200) and hence may not warrant an interpretation center, however pamphlets have been made available
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		Beat guards record and maintain diaries
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		
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		Nilgai and Chinkara increasing, however Wolf the flagship species trend is not available (36 reported latest available figure)
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		
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		Crop raiding by Nilgai has been reduced as a result of construction of a stone wall
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		Hostility may not be present and support is selective
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		
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	59.37%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	52.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	32.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	25	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	35	
Total		33		330*	190	

* 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 -----%

3. KARERA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH

MEE Year (2012-13)

A. Management Strengths

1. Immediate correction measures to reclaim the lost ground are taken, it could start breathing again. It could, to a small extent and in a small area, become a tourist spot.

B. Management Weaknesses

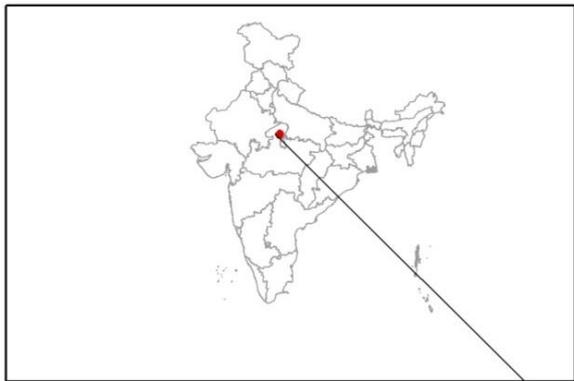
1. The area, which once comprised extensive grasslands and shrubby patches, is being encroached upon. This has resulted in habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation of the habitat of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB).
2. Though the sanctuary was notified primarily for the GIB, the bird is reported not to be seen now. The agricultural fields and water resources have maintained a token presence of blackbucks and waterbirds.
3. The presence of 33 villages, with a human population of 3600 and an equal number of cattle, inside the sanctuary and encroachments on revenue lands for agriculture and for irrigation canals have resulted in degradation of the GIB habitat. They have also alienated the local people since they have not been able to exercise their sovereign rights on their lands fully. Expansion of agriculture into adjacent grasslands, drainage of wetlands for conversion into agricultural fields and sand mining were prevalent in the area.
4. There is no forest land in the sanctuary area. There are revenue lands and private lands.

C. Actionable Points

1. The notification of areas included in the sanctuary needs to be rationalised as it neither serves the purpose for which it was created nor benefits the people around. There is practically no wildlife conservation or tourism activity, and the field staffs are constantly under pressure. Immediate measures to stop further encroachment are required; a concerted effort should be made by all to retrieve whatever is left of the habitat, along with the adjoining forests and grasslands. Suitable private lands should be acquired after giving adequate compensation to make the sanctuary a viable proposition.
2. The vacancies among the frontline staff should be filled urgently, preferably from the local area, and wildlife training should be imparted to the staff members.

77°15'0"E

Karera Wildlife Sanctuary Madhya Pradesh



28°30'0"N

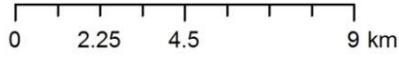
28°30'0"N



28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N

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



Notified Area: 202.21 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 ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed or monitored.	Poor		Management Plan	The values of the site are described in the management plan 2008-09 to 2017-18 does not elaborately cover the geo-morphological, historico-cultural and biological values of the sanctuary. The area once comprised of extensive grassland and shrubby patches are now under encroachment. this has resulted in habitat loss and degradation for Great Indian Bustard. presently except for some patches of grass and <i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> bushes which could be habitat for GIB other areas are mostly covered with irrigated agriculture/agriculture fallow. These form as habitat for blackbuck and Nilgai. There are two wetlands namely Dihala and Rajpur and two perennial rivers (mahura and Sindh), which are abode for wetland birds.
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	The threats have been identified and enumerated in the management plan and the assessment is not based on systematic data collection and analysis. the threats comprise of presence of 33 villages inside the sanctuary, encroachments on revenue land for agriculture expansion, grazing by livestock, destruction of GIB habitat, Non cooperation of local people as they have been deprived to alienate their land. Draining of Dihala wetland and Rajpur wetland for agriculture.
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	✓	Management plan	There are 33 villages inside the sanctuary, about 36000 people and rising cattle population of 34000. Expansion of agriculture into adjoining grasslands. Encroachment and draining of wetlands. there has been reduction in cover for other animals. sand mining is also prevalent in the area.
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	✓	Management Plan	There is no forest land in the sanctuary area. it included only agriculture (146.66 sq. km) and revenue land (55.55 sq. km). at the time of notification of the area as sanctuary the habitat was conducive for GIB, blackbuck and wetland birds. Later the habitat has deteriorated and is major part of the area available is not suitable for the Key species (GIB) and in view of this fact in 1999 the name of the sanctuary was changed from Karera Bustard Sanctuary to Karera Wildlife Sanctuary. the Sanctuary does not have any zonation plan. The area has not been properly delineated and specific zone plans do not exist.
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	✓		The site does not have a comprehensive management plan consistent with WII Guidelines. The concerns of the stakeholders are not adequately reflected in the plan. the management plan generally described the objectives, area and strategies.
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 2001-2005 and 2008-09 to 2017-18, Proposal for wetland development project of Dihala Jheel.	There has been a consistent effort on part of the sanctuary to review and update the plan and introduce the strategies for mitigation of threat to the area.
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	The area does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values. the habitat condition has deteriorated and degraded due to agriculture expansion, free grant for digging of well, increase in network coverage of canals over a period of time resulting in local extinction of GIB from the area. the Black buck population has also declined
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	✓		No opportunity was given to stakeholders to participate in planning.
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	✓		The habitat restoration and management programs have been taken up in the sanctuary based on the identified works in the management plan, however these do not directly relate to the threatened species (GIB and Blackbuck) and other wildlife. there has been no improvement in the natural forage and cover for these animal and vegetation quality and cover extent has declined. the mahuhar river which forms the eastern boundary of the sanctuary has also lost the riverine habitat because of water lifting, sand mining and extensive human use.
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	✓		There are a total of four patrolling camps in the sanctuary area. Every camp has two people (forest Guard + helper). These are however not effective as sanctuary is open from all sides. there is a system of intelligence gathering but at an nascent stage. it does not have any institutional support. the sanctuary management does not have any coordination with other wings of forest department/police/ customs and others. The sanctuary has only 50% (7 out of 15) of its sanctioned staff in place.
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	✓		The site is not effective in mitigation of human wildlife conflicts. human wildlife conflict occurs on account of encroachment of habitat for agriculture <i>vis-a-vis</i> depredation of agriculture crops by blackbuck and Nilgai. there is no request for compensation from local people. There is no specific/ systematic documentation of compensation.
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	✓		The sanctuary landscape comprises of a diverse land use patterns (agricultural fields interspersed with revenue land, grassland, scrubland, wetland). the wildlife habitat is fragmented into small patches forming ecological disjunct units with no viable corridors and potential wildlife habitats. the area is not integrated into any wider ecological network of landscapes. However the area across the mahuhar river has limited connectivity. this area can be used as wildlife habitat (shivpuri division)
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	✓		Sanctuary extend to 202.02 sq. km and the sanctioned staff strength is 14 out of which the vacant post are 8. so the staff manning the sanctuary is grossly inadequate and ill equipped to attend the purpose and objectives of the sanctuary. there are four patrolling camp in the entire sanctuary each manned by two people (one guard + one helper)
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	✓	Management plans 2008-2018 and separate list of annexure	One 15 year old gypsy and one motor cycle. 5 walkie- talkie with one fixed station. Three guns (one American pump action and two double barrel 12 bore) 21 buildings. One computer PDA,s should be given to all the staff members. Considering the fact that the prime wildlife habitats are dispersed in the entire 202.02 sq.km landscape the infrastructure and resources do not match the requirement for the management of the sanctuary
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			<p>In the APO for the year 2009-10 for the proposal submitted on 23.03.09 for 51.82 lacs the budget was allotted on 17.09.09 for 18,85 lacs only. this related to works, though the amount was considerably reduced but was for meeting the objectives and strategies in the management plan.</p> <p>In the APO for the year 2010-11 for the proposal submitted on 27.03.10 for 36.88 lacs the budget was allotted on 06.07.10 for 17.42 lacs only. this related to works. though the amount was considerably reduced but was for meeting the objectives and strategies in the management plan.</p> <p>In the APO for the year 2011-12 for the proposal submitted on 23.01.11 for 25.26 lacs the budget was allotted on 20.10.11 for 11,20 lacs only. this related to works. though the amount was considerably reduced but was for meeting the objectives and strategies in the management plan.</p> <p>In the APO for the year 2011-12 for the proposal submitted on 21.03.12 for 55.20 lacs the budget was allotted on 20.11.12 for 12.35 lacs only. these related to works. though the amount was considerably reduced but was for meeting the objectives and strategies in the management plan.</p> <p>It has been observed that the funds are released only in the fag end of the year Sept, Nov and December and there is considerable delay in release of funds. however the entire amount released have been spent.</p>
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	✓		There is no contribution from the NGO's in the development and management of the 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 considers resources (human and financial) to be sufficient?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓		The PA manger considers that for management of such an large area (202.02 sq) the human and financial resource is insufficient.
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	✓		Out of six staff currently in position none of them have been trained for wildlife management except the park superintendent who has attended one two day workshops on wildlife crime. the staff needs to be trained on specialized courses for effective 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			The staff performance management is considered based on the achievements in meeting out the objectives and the strategies of the sanctuary. There is a standard Performa for the evaluation of performance and the promotions are linked to this report. The staff of the sanctuary have received cash award as an appreciation for good work done to control wildlife crime and sand mining
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	✓		The villagers do not participate in PA management and are against the declaration/ notification of this sanctuary. Their right to alienate the land has been restricted.
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			The sanctuary is maintaining a complaint register for recording the complaints received and the actions taken. During 2011-12 two complaints were received and after due enquiry replies have been sent. There are very few complaints received in the sanctuary as there is no forest land.
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	✓		The sanctuary management has not collected data on resource dependency of people especially women and has not devised any strategy for addressing the livelihood issue and enhancing the income of the people especially women. In four villages eco-development committees have been formed and due to lack of funds and direction they are not very well organized.
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?

5.2

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor			The sanctuary does not have a separate website but has a link in the Madhav national park website which gives the general details of the sanctuary. there is no systematic updating for last three years. the sanctuary has published posters and brochures and have organized special programmers during wildlife week celebrations.
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	Very good			

PAAs or groups of PAAs.				
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* 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	✓		The sanctuary does not have any tourism facilities (interpretation centre to facilitate the visit of people)
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	✓		The sanctuary does not have any research and monitoring activities and this is no provision in the management plan to systematically carry out research and monitoring. casual observations of special committee formed to evaluate the management and conservation status of the key species is available, A report by Mr. Mahendra Vyas member CEC is also available. Apart from this no other assessment has been carried out. Study by Dr. Rahmani and Ranjit Manakadan on GIB in karera as part of the grassland ecology. copies of this report not 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			The infrastructure and assets in the sanctuary are not maintained based on a systematic maintenance schedule and repairs are carried out on adhoc basis whenever funds are made 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 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	✓		Key species have become locally extinct and blackbuck population shows a declining trend.
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 increased
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	✓		Absence of visitor book. No records of visitors in the sanctuary. Since there is no forest land it is an open access resource, so there is no information available whether expectations of visitors have been met or not.
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	✓		Local communities are not at all supportive of PA management. they feel that the notification of sanctuary has curtailed their rights to alienate their land.
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	12.5	33.33 %
2.	Planning	09	10	90	25	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	15	
4.	Process	05	10	50	22.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	15	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	10	
Total		30		300	100	

4. KEN GHARIAL SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH

MEE Year (2015-16)

Management Strengths

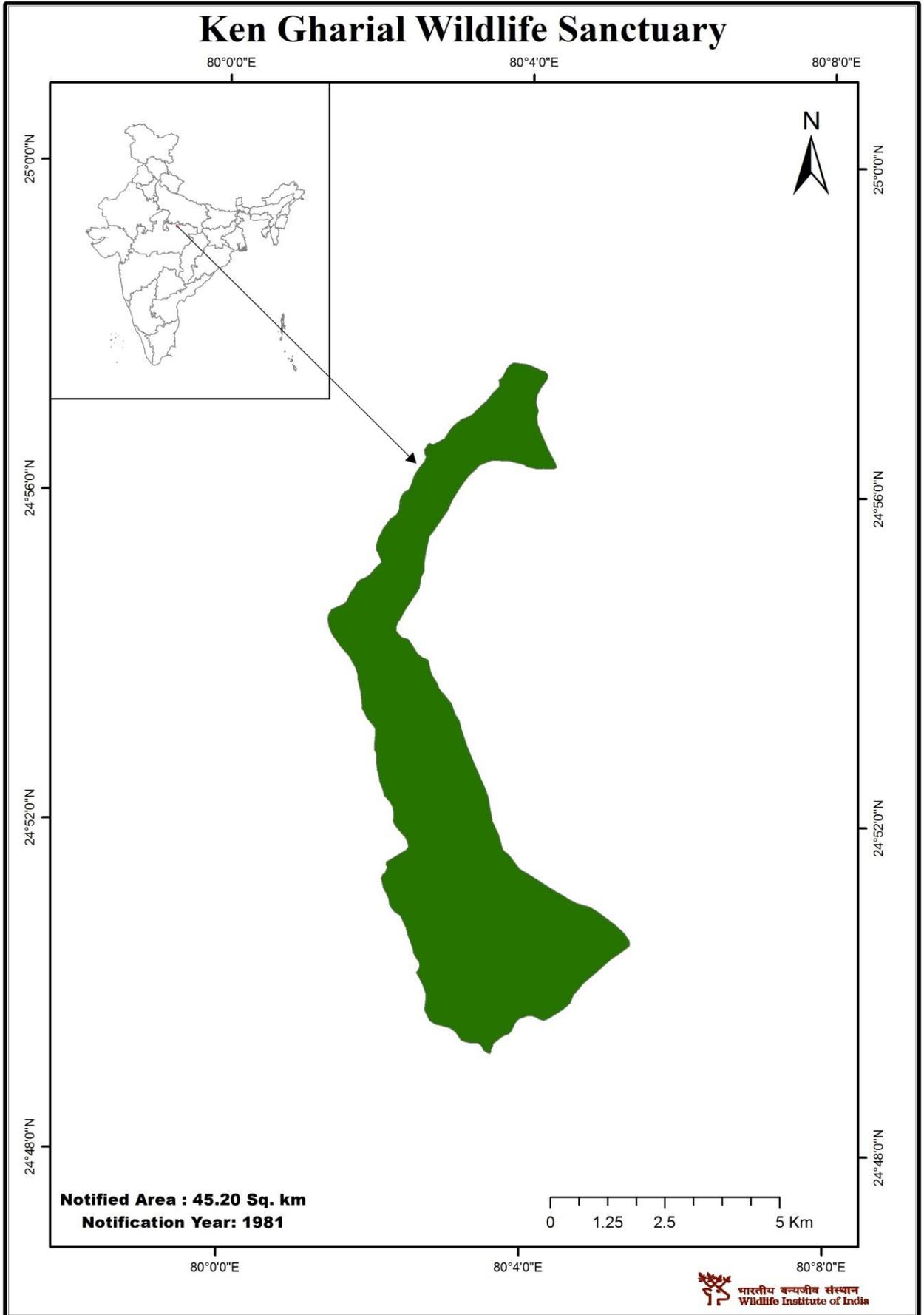
1. The sanctuary is under the control of Panna Tiger Reserve. As a result, the resources available to this sanctuary and the supervision levels are far better than those of a small sanctuary.
2. The sanctuary is endowed with an extremely beautiful geomorphological formation, which attracts a lot of visitors from Khajuraho, which is a world-famous tourist destination.
3. The sanctuary has fairly good tourist infrastructure and attracts a significant number of visitors.

Management Weaknesses

1. This is a linear riverine sanctuary, flanked by a narrow forest belt. The sanctuary does not have the equipment (e.g., boats) and facilities required for protecting and managing a riverine sanctuary.
2. The habitat available to the flagship species of the sanctuary (the gharial) is very limited. Therefore, it is unlikely to support a self-sustaining population of gharial and other aquatic species.
3. The annual flooding of the river during monsoon often washes away gharial and other animals downstream. This militates against richer stocking of the sanctuary with aquatic animals.

Actionable Points

1. The management should focus all its efforts on protection of the areas where the aquatic biodiversity is greatest, i.e., Muhara Ghat and Bhaura Dah. Patrolling camps and patrolling boats and vehicles should be concentrated only in this area. It should be fairly easy to make the area really safe against any serious crime.
2. The river patrolling capability of the staff should be significantly improved by providing versatile boats and other facilities.
3. As the population of gharials in the river is likely to continue to fluctuate due to flooding and other factors, a reasonable population of the species must be maintained by introducing fresh stock regularly from the Devri Gharial Breeding Centre, in National Chambal Sanctuary.
4. The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department must negotiate a minimum water inflow in the sanctuary from the existing upstream storage facilities (Gangau and Bariarpur reservoirs) in the lean season to meet the requirements of the aquatic fauna.



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 2007/08-2016/17	The management plan has identified values but there is need to collect quantitative information and regularly monitor it.
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 2007/08-2016/17	The threats are identified based on the data and the data has been presented in the management plan. Gharial population has been repeatedly depleted under the impact of the prevailing threats such as illicit fishing and destruction of gharial nests.
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	✓	Management plan 2007/08-2016/17– Appendix 5: Information and data furnished. Field visit.	There are 3 revenue villages inside the PA (population 1604, Livestock population 1287) and 42 villages on the periphery (population 39250, Livestock population 26321). The livestock grazing is heavy in most of the PA. There is also pressure of illegal fishing by local people.
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		Management plan 2007/08-2016/17	The site is a sanctuary notified under the law. Five zones are identified with detailed prescriptions and strategies.
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 for the period 2007/08-2016/17	The management plan is based on WII guidelines and is very comprehensive.
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 2007/08-2016/17	This is the first management plan of the PA.
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*				
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Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Management plan 2007/08-2016/17	The flagship species of PA is Gharial that is not surviving in significant numbers due to inadequate habitat, lack of sandy banks and biotic pressures.
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		Meeting registers of EDC on 3 villages inside the PA	No record of the planning process adopted for the preparation of the current management plan are available. However regular meetings are held with EDC and the outcome of these meeting will feed into next the management planning cycle.
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		Management plan 2007/08-2016/17: Pers. Com DFD	Sand bank in certain patches were replenished by adding sand. Lantana removal is done regularly.
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 2007/08-2016/17. Information and data furnished; Protection plan. Field visit.	The Planned strategy is implemented well with required infrastructure available (6 patrolling camps and 30 casual labourers, regular patrolling and use of ex-servicemen). Large number of wild animals observed undisturbed by human presence.
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 2007/08-2016/17: Information and data furnished; Pers. Com, DFD	The PA is under management of Panna TR that has the required capabilities of managing HWC. Compensation is paid for human injuries/death. Livestock deaths and crop damage is compensated. There is no report of any retaliatory killing of any wildlife in last 3 years.
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 2007/08-2016/17: Information and data furnished; Pers. Com, DFD	Ken river is a part of the Yamuna watershed and all major biodiversity centers of Yamuna (Chambal, Ken and Sone) are protected under the WL protection act. Panna TR also protects 55 km of the river length.
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 2007/08-2016/17: Information and data furnished;	There is overall 40 % vacancy (7 of 17 posts vacant) and 60% (6 of 10 posts vacant) at guard levels. However the shortage in the number of forest guards is made up by engaging casual labour for protection.
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		Management plan 2007/08-2016/17. Information and data furnished;	There is staff shortage but 30 casuals labours are deployed for protection. The number of boats is not adequate. Other vehicles are sufficient. All staff have wireless, GPS and mobile phone. Buildings are adequate and 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			

* 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		Information and data furnished – Appendix 5; APO	Central funds are generally inadequate and are released late. As stop gap arrangements funds are made available through Vikas Nidhi. All the available resources are primarily deployed for strengthening protection of wildlife and its habitat.
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		Pers. Comms DFD.	Resources for field gears, equipments, trainings are provided by WCT, and WTI. Nature camps are supported by WWF. These contributions are based on systematic planning of Panna TR.
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		Pers. Comm. DFD.	Some resources are met through Panna TR funds.
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		Pers Coms. DFD	The FD is trained in WII Diploma course. The DFD is trained in 3 weeks course for IFS officers sponsored by MoEF&CC. No frontline staff is trained in WL in WII, but short trainings by other organizations are regularly conducted and all the staff is 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			The PA staff performs based on clear tasks assigned to them annually and the performance is assessed based on the assignments. The FD and former DFD have received awards at national/state level for conservation.
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		Minutes of EDC meetings. Pers comm. DFD	Public participation is noted in awareness generation, vulture population estimation and forest fire control.
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 register	The PA maintains a complaint register but no public complaints have been recorded since 2005. FD informed that only one or two oral 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	Very good			

system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.				from tourists have been received which were promptly redressed. No RTI applications received.
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* 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 address 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		Pers comm. DFD. Field visit	The PA has constructed ecotourism huts that will be run by EDC. Local guides have been trained. Canteen and nature shop at Raneh falls run by locals. Tourism in the sanctuary supports many indirect job as well.
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		Website of MP FD, Brochure, boards.	The PA information is generally available with that of Panna TR. Information is displayed at Raneh falls.
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		Websites of MPTC and other tourism sites	The PA has good tourism facilities at Raneh falls – a major tourist attraction. Convenient pathways and viewing platforms have been constructed. A road for game drives also prepared. The PA also as a good interpretation centre and nature shop and a refreshment centre.
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		Pers. Comm DFD	River ecosystem is occasionally assessed by the state govt. Recent study by Gharial Conservation Alliance.
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		Appendix 4 of information and data provided. Building register. Stores Register. Pers. Com. With FD.	Inventory of all assets available. The state has no system of keeping maintenance schedules. Adequate funds are provided by the state for maintenance of assets as and when needed.
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 2007/08-2016/17. Information and data provided for MEE. Report referred in 5.3	Population of Gharial has been declining (only one gharial as of now) despite repeated restocking. Populations of terrestrial species is stable and have improved.
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 been 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		Information and data provided for MEE	Threats of grazing, fires, poaching, encroachments
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			still exist but have abated to some extent.
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		Pers. Com. With visitors.	All visitors talked to were happy with the facilities and tariffs.
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		Visit to village Dhongawa.	People complain about inability to sell land in case of need, tree felling etc etc.
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	17.5	69.16%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	70	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	30	
4.	Process	05	10	50	37.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	30	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	22.5	
Total		30		300	207.5	

5. BAGDARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH MEE YEAR (2016-17)

Management Strengths

1. Impressive biodiversity values
2. Adjoining Kaimur Sanctuary and Son Gharial Sanctuary
3. Villagers supportive of the management of the PA
4. After a gap of about five years, the presence of the Tiger was recorded during a census exercise conducted in January 2001. This was confirmed by a kill (Dr. A.P. Dwivedi, 2007, unpublished).

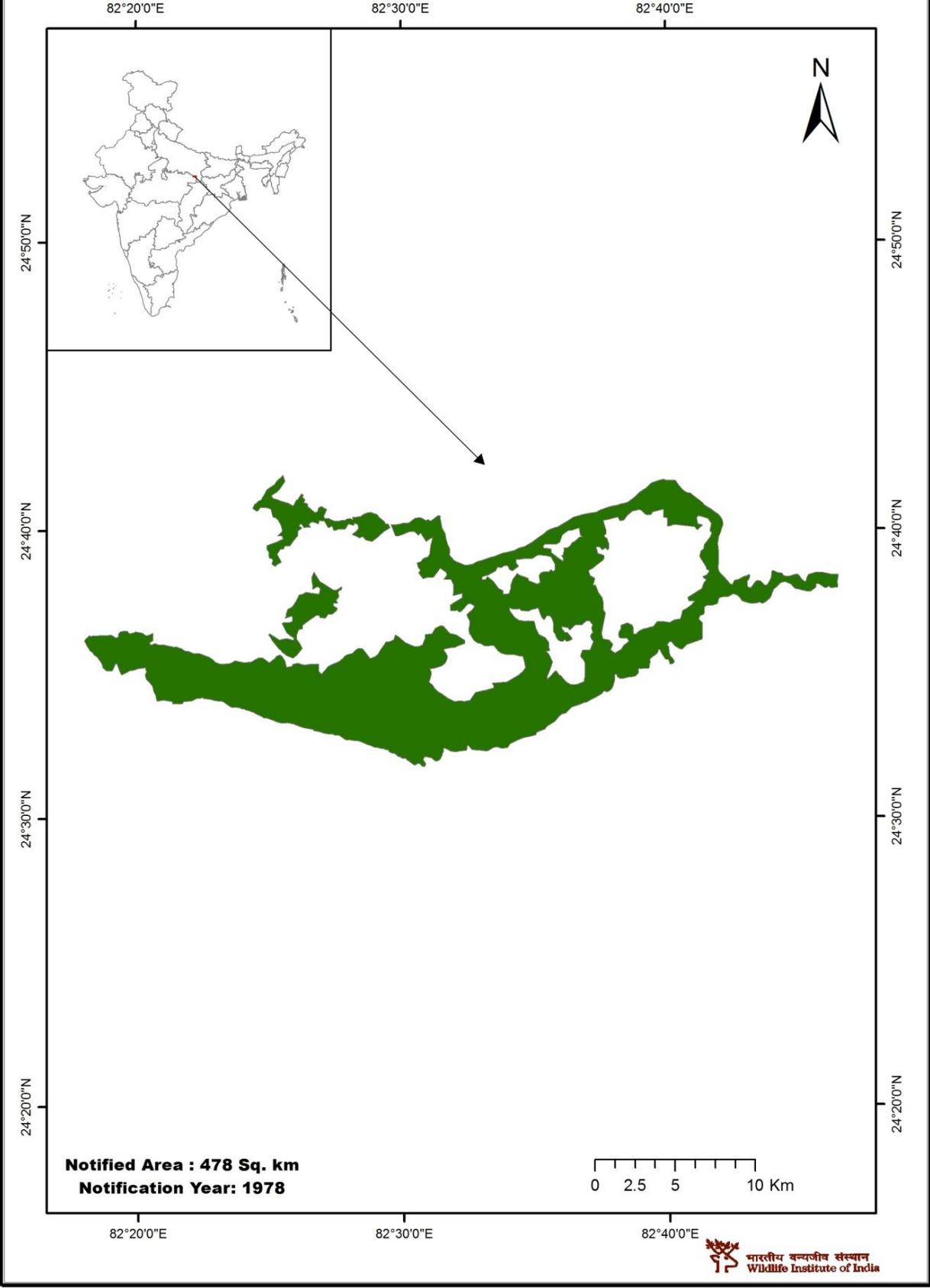
Management Weaknesses

1. 53 % of posts vacant
2. Poor funding and delayed release of funds
3. Lack of rapport with some villages
4. Lack of trained staff
5. Very bad roads
6. Habitat degradation
7. 106 km of open electric line within the sanctuary poses a threat of electrocution for animals
8. Threats include illicit felling and collection of firewood, overgrazing, forest fires, encroachment, invasive weeds, poaching, electrocution and illegal mining
9. Boundary disputes with the revenue department in certain areas
10. The condition of the roads and buildings is very bad owing to the lack of a maintenance budget. The Blackbuck is stated to be the iconic species of the sanctuary but its population is going down. There are reports of fawn predation by the ever-increasing population of village dogs. Besides, the sanctuary has Wolves in good numbers. Leopards have been sighted occasionally, but their number seems to have gone down.

Actionable Points

1. Improve relationship with villagers.
2. Revive lost habitats in partnership with villagers.
3. Train staff in crime investigation, reading signs and evidence, population estimation, conservation awareness and eco-development.
4. Fill up vacant posts and provide additional staff members for protection.
5. Allocate sufficient funds for protection, eco-development and maintenance.
6. Control the population of village dogs.

Bagdara 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 2002-03 to 2011-2012	The values of the WLS are indentified and include blackbuck, stone age rock paintings, Kaimure hills and being the catchment of Rivers Son and Belan.
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 2002-03 to 2011-2012	The threats to the WLS have been listed in the management plan and include illicit felling and firewood collection, overgrazing, forest fires, encroachments, invasion of weeds, poaching. and illegal mining.
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	✓	Management Plan 2002-03 to 2011-2012, Field visit	The WLS has 246.95 sq. km revenue land and 231.05 as PF. The WLS has 64 villages inside of which 6 are without habitation. The human population in these villages is 40,000 and livestock population is 25,000. The livestock population includes cattle, sheep and goats. Almost entire WLS is under heavy human and biotic interference. During field visit extensive signs of grazing and lopping were observed.
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		Management Plan 2002-03 to 2011-2012	Bagdara is a notified WLS although the settlement of rights is yet to be done and final notification is yet to be issued. The WLS has identified core, buffer, riparian and tourism zones.
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 2002-03 to 2011-2012	The existing management plan (2002-03 to 2011-12) has been extended and the new management plan is under preparation. The existing management plan is based on 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?

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No process in place for systematic review and update of Management Plan.	Poor		Management Plan 2002-03 to 2011-2012, Information for MEE	The existing management plan (2002-03 to 2011-12) has been extended. There are no provisions for routine review in the plan. The new management plan is under preparation.
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
Site does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Management Plan 2002-03 to 2011-2012	The plan have provisions for mitigating the indentified threats. But the question 2.4 is confusing as it asks about the 'site' and not the 'management plan'.
Site 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

2.7 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 2002-03 to 2011-2012, Pers Comm Shri R N Choudhary, Sanctuary Suprintendent	The existing management plan did not have any participation of local people . Microplanning for the EDC has commenced and will be carried out with the participation of local people
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	✓	Management Plan 2002-03 to 2011-2012, Information for MEE	Habitat restoration is included in the existing management plan and some work has been done. There is no systematic monitoring of the works.
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		Management Plan 2002-03 to 2011-2012, Information for MEE	The WLS has 9 patrolling camps and 14 forest guard Nakas. The Bagdara WLS staff conducts patrolling with Son Gharial WLS staff and also interacts and shares information with Kaimur WLS in UP. Of the sanctioned 34 field staff posts, only 16 are filled. Terrain is difficult mainly because of very bad condition of roads. There is no coordination with other departments.
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? (THIS Question SHOULD NOT BE IN PLANNING)

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Information for MEE	The number of human-wildlife conflicts have decreased from 5 to 1 in last three years. The staff is not trained or equipped to rescue operations. Sanjay TR rescue team helps the Bagdara staff whenever needed. Though the staff is not aware, villagers of Bagdara informed that their livestock is under threat from Wolves that are common in the area.
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? (THIS Question SHOULD NOT BE IN PLANNING)

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Information for MEE pers Comm Dr. Dilip Kumar, FD-STR, Field visit.	Bagdara WLS is connected with Kaimur WLS in UP and with Sanjay TR through Kaimur hill range. Furthermore, the site is also connected with Son Gharial WLS. Through Samja TR, Bagdara WLS is also connected with Palamu tiger reserve and therefore forms part of a larger landscape. Though no attempt has been made to study the current status of these corridors. The last tiger kill was reported in the year-- ----???
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 2002-03 to 2011-2012, Information for MEE	Of the sanctioned 34 field staff posts, only 16 are filled. There are 6 motorcycle and 2 4-wheel vehicles on hire basis. There are 9 patrolling camps and 14 Nakas, each manned by a beat guard and a chowkidar. Though there is about 53% vacancy in staff strength, the all available staff is allocated to achieve the management objective.
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 for MEE	There are 6 motorcycle and 2 4-wheel vehicles on hire basis. Though there are 43 buildings for staff, 14 of these need major repair and also addition of some basic amenities. All the resources that are available with the WLS are linked to the management objective. But the resources are not 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		Information for MEE Presentation by the FD-STR	The staff is linked to management objectives. The financial allocation is much less than the proposed Annual plan of operation. It varied from 22% to 50% of the amount actually proposed in the APOs over last 3 years. The release of first installment of funds from the MoEF were also delayed by 3 to 5 months.
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		Pers comm. FD STR.	WCT has provided camp equipment for the staff. Another NGO National Ecosolutions has supported alternative energy solutions. A plan is developed for WCT to enhance capacity of the staff and 6 staff has been trained in last two years.
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		Pers Comm FD STR	The staff strength is inadequate and the funds also much less than the required. But staff of Son Gharial WLS is used in joint patrolling. For HWC, staff of Sanjay TR provides supports.
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 for MEE Pers Comm FD STR Field Visit- interaction with staff	None of the official or field staff is formally trained in wildlife management. Some field staff have been trained in wildlife crime investigation and wildlife laws through short-term training courses organized by Sanjay tiger reserve..
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		Information for MEE Pers comm. FD STR	One forest guard has received Basawan Mama award of Rs. 1 Lakhs from the CM for outstanding work in conservation of wildlife. Staff performance is linked with the management objective.
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		Information for MEE Field Visit- interaction with staff and communities of Bichi, Gopla & Bagdara villages	The locals participate in fire protection, population estimation and water management. 6 students were given awards during wildlife week in 2016.
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		Information for MEE Pers comm. FD STR	A system for registering and investigating the complaints is in place. For CM Online and RTI complaints the Range is the nodal office. The complaints have
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	Very good			

system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.				to be addressed within 7 days. In last three years 14 complaints were received and addressed
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* 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 address 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		Information for MEE, Pers Comm FD STR	The WLS involves local communities in fire protection and patrolling. Ponds have been constructed to improve the water facilities for agriculture and 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 ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		www.sanjaytigerreserve.in	Only archival information is available as this web site is no longer managed and updated. The Field director Sanjay Tiger reserve informed that updated information will soon be made available on the Forest department's Web site.
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	✓	Information for MEE.	On an average Bagdara WLS has received about 2500 visitor in last 3 years. There are one watch tower each at Singhi and Bichhi. FRH is available for the tourists. There are no other facilities for tourism and interpretation. Tourism is in nascent stage here and therefore, it does not truly fall in the criteria mentioned here.
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 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	✓	Presentation by the FD-STR	Just one research on Black buck was conducted in 2001. No other scientific input has gone into monitoring various aspects of management. Even annual population estimates are not based on any recognized methodology.
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		Pers comm. FD STR	Though there are plans for maintenance of roads, fire line and building , funds are inadequate.
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	✓	Information for MEE, Field visit	Population of most of the threatened species has declined over the years. During the field visit, one large herd of Nilgai and another solitary nilgai, as well as droppings of black buck at 4 spots were sighted. As the extreme biotic pressures have severely degraded the habitats there is little scope for the growth of wildlife. From our interaction with the staff, we learned that over the years, the population of the village dogs has increased in and these dogs prey upon the fawns of blackbuck. At present, the management has taken no measure to mitigate or remove this threat.
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	✓	Field visit. Pers comm. Sanctuary Superintendent Staff and villagers interaction	The intensity of the threats has increased due to biotic pressures and inadequate mitigation measures over the years. The staff and villagers informed that poachers from UP pose a threat.
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	✓	Field Visit	There is no visitor feedback mechanism at present as the tourism is in a nascent stage and unorganized therefore, question 6.3 is not truly applicable here.
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		Field visit – interaction with Bichhi, Gopla and Badgara village communities. Pers comm. Sanctuary Superintendent	Most of the village communities are supportive of the PA management. About 6 village communities are aggressive and hostile to 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	12.5	47.5%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	45	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	25	
4.	Process	05	10	50	30	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	15	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	15	
Total		30		300	142.5	

6. GHATIGAON GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH, MEE Year (2016-17)

Management Strengths

1. Ghatigaon Sanctuary was constituted in 1981 with the objective of conserving the endangered Great Indian Bustard and other animals of the area along with their habitats.
2. The interest shown by the DFO and CCFs in the management of Ghatigaon is sufficient.
3. The field staffs are responding to the current initiatives.
4. The people were consulted before habitat restoration work was taken up, and the strained relationships have thawed a bit.
5. Good rapport between the police and the administration has helped contain illicit mining.
6. The Bustard has been reported from areas nearby.
7. The latest initiatives to take the villagers into confidence have thawed the ice in some hostile villages.
8. There is an opportunity to make Section 20 ineffective by finally notifying the sanctuary under Section 26A.
9. The rampant illicit mining has been controlled effectively. Now about four compartments in Ghatigaon Range are prone to mining. It takes 80% of the energy and the time of the staff to keep the pressure on to contain the mining. As these vulnerable compartments are located on the south western boundary of the sanctuary, these compartments may be denotified and the sanctuary boundary fenced.

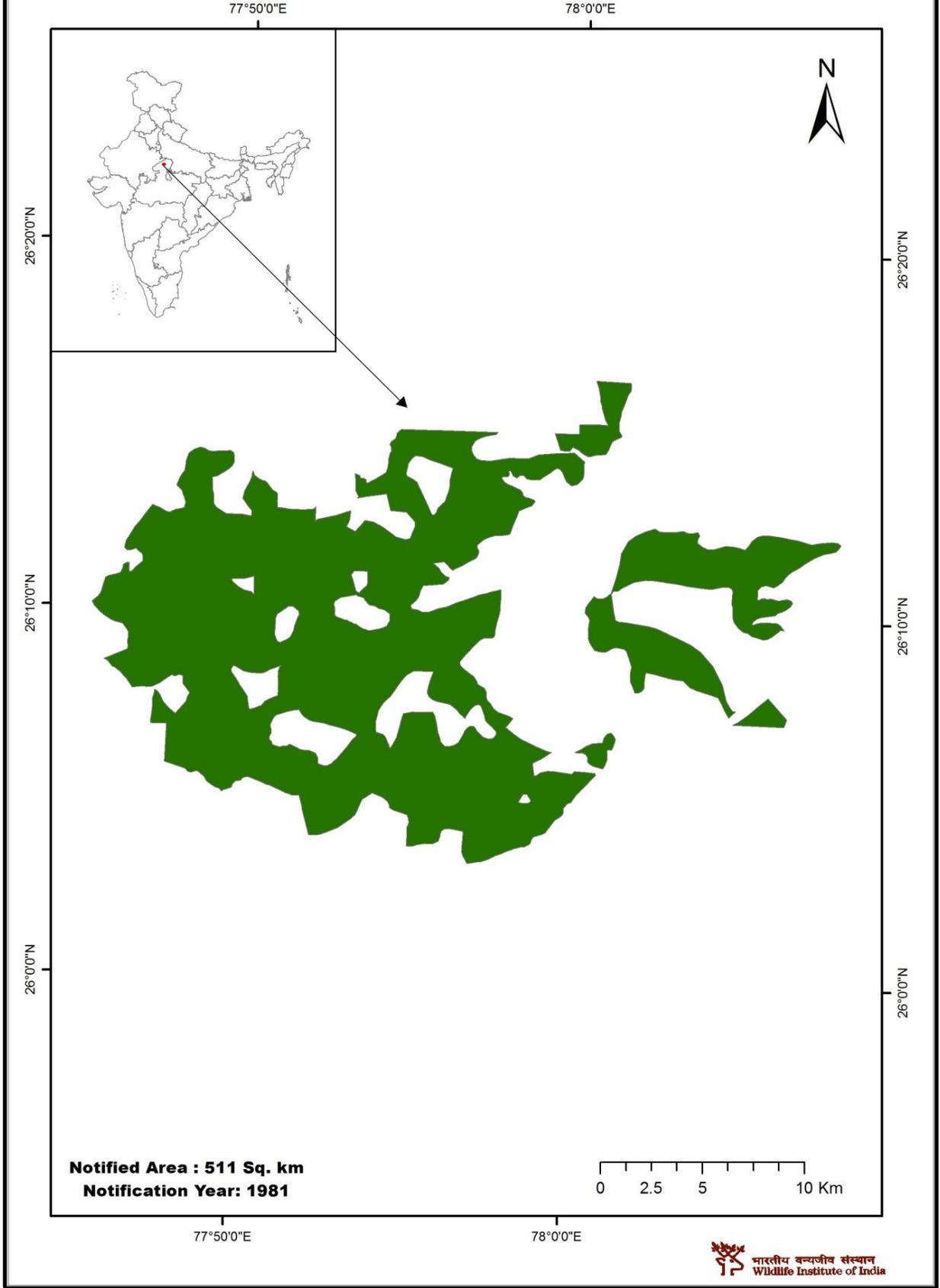
Management Weaknesses

1. Untrained staff
2. Key posts vacant
3. Inadequate budget
4. Strained relationship with locals in certain villages
5. Lack of livelihood opportunities for villagers except mining
6. Threats: mining, grazing, illicit felling of trees for firewood, poaching (the presence of 42 Mongia families, belonging to a traditional hunting tribe, in Danda Kidak adds to the problem), encroachment, girdling of *Boswellia* trees for tapping resin, hostility of villagers due to the impact of Section 20, loss of livelihoods, armed forces wanting control of grassbeds (recent development)
7. The habitat is under severe biotic pressure. The habitats of the animals—the *kardhai-khair* and *Boswellia* forests—have been reduced to scrub in a large part of the sanctuary as there is tremendous pressure from firewood collectors who sell firewood to the *dhabas* on the Agra–Bombay highway and in Gwalior city.
8. The last of the Bustards was seen in 2011. There is no authentic information on the presence of the Bustard within or outside the sanctuary limits since then. The causes of the decline and elimination of the Bustard population from the sanctuary are mainly anthropogenic, but the continuous neglect of the sanctuary till 2014 also played a critical role.
9. In Ghatigaon the Great Indian Bustard habitat consists mostly of around 5000 hectares of grassbeds scattered across three sites within the sanctuary. The largest is the military grassbed (notified as an RF) with an extent of 4100 hectares near Barai village. Till the beginning of 2014, all these grasslands were under severe stress due to overgrazing by livestock.

Actionable Points

1. An inventory of the grasses and the wild and cultivated legumes and lentils needs to be prepared for each enclosure. Wild and cultivated legumes and lentils identified as being suitable for the Bustards should be introduced. The number of *Zizyphus* shrubs within the enclosures is sufficient. The spread of *Zizyphus* may be managed. Building too many water sources within the enclosures should be avoided.
2. In Ghatigaon the bustard's breeding season begins in March and ends by July. The height of the grass in the first enclosure in the military grass bed may deter bustards from using this habitat. Therefore, the grasses need to be cut as soon as possible. Cow dung may also be bought from the villagers and scattered within the enclosures before March.
3. The process of settlement of the people has been completed. Hence the management should get the final notification for the sanctuary under Section 26A. This step will make Section 20 ineffective.
4. Today the threat of mining is present in only four compartments in Ghatigaon Range. It takes 80% of the energy and time of the staff to contain the mining. As these vulnerable compartments are located on the south-western boundary of the sanctuary, these compartments may be denotified and the sanctuary boundary may be fenced.
5. The sanctuary staff should provide technical guidance to the villagers regarding rotational fencing so that grass regenerates. The staff should also provide guidance regarding plantation activities as the villagers are interested in taking up such measures.
6. The panchayats may be permitted to take up the road repair work demanded by the villagers, or the forest department may take up this activity. This step will build trust.
7. The ecotourism activities organised by the EDC at Tighra need support and hand-holding for some more time.
8. *Prosopis juliflora* should never be planted in any forest area.

Ghatigaon 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 201718	The management plan generally mentions that 2 rivers – Sankh and Aasan, pass through this PA making it a part of the catchment for the Ganga basin as these rivers flow into Chambal and later into Yamuna river. There is no other landscape significance identified in the 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		Management plan Information for MEE Field visit	Most of the threat have been identified and stated in detail. Data on the extent of threats has been submitted. While talking to the villagers we gathered that the gradual decline of the GIB from maximum 23 individual in 1991 to zero in 2012 was a result of people's perception that if GIB stays they will be ousted. People are also severely affected as they cannot sell their land to anyone else at the time of dire need for funds.
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	✓	Management plan and Field visit	The WLS has 22 villages and 11 hamlets inside, besides, 22 villages are partially inside the boundary. In addition there are 34 villages within 5 km from the periphery of the WLS. Laborers and locals involved in illegal mining and the grazing by livestock cause major interference to the WLS. Firewood is collected for self use and also for selling to Dhabas along the highway and in Gwalior city As the Gwalior city is adjacent to the boundary of the sanctuary there has been a spurt in encroachment on sanctuary land in the earlier days; now the encroachments have been contained by erecting a fence along the affected perimeter. During field visit grazing signs were seen all across the WLS except inside the 400 ha enclosures. Evidence of tree cutting and girdling of <i>Boswellia</i> trees were also observed.
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		Management plan	The Ghatigoan WLS was identified for conservation of Great Indian Bustard(GIB). Though the area is not designated into objective based zonation, the management plan does mention certain sites for ecotourism, and areas to be managed for bustards
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	The management plan is for a period of 5 years and is not based on WII guidelines. The planning process did not include stakeholder consultation.
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	The WLS was created in 1981, and the current management plan is the second one. The first management plan of 2000-05 was extended till 2013. There is no process for systematic review and improvement of the management plan.
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		Management plan Field visit	The efforts over three years show that systematic management actions have been taken to conserve and safeguard GIB habitats. 400 ha of degraded GIB habitats have been protected and improved over the last 2 years (2013-14 and 2014-15). The fences are still intact and human disturbance is nil. Another 450 ha of GIB habitat have been identified for protection and improvement. The management is now proactively seeking local people support for safeguarding PAs biodiversity by regular interactions and reciprocal actions.
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	✓	Management plan	The management planning exercise did not have any participation of stakeholders. The management plan is not in public domain.
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		Management plan	In the current management plan provisions have been made for conservation of wildlife habitats, including water management. While, till now, 400 ha have been enclosed to improve habitat for GIB, no systematic work was done earlier.
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		Management plan Field visit	The management plan provides details about interventions to tackle various threats, while during field visit, it was observed that many of the threats such as grazing are rampant and tree cutting also occurs. This is largely due to inadequate training, mobility and fund availability. At present 5 four-wheel vehicles and 1 motorcycle is available with the field personnel. The WLS does not have patrolling camp system and the beat guards reside in adjoining village. There are 2 Van Chowkis (at Danda Khidak and Lakhanpura) where beat guards of 6-7 beats stay together along with their supervisors (foresters) and 2 labourers and patrol together. Two or more armed Ex-service men are also deployed at each chowki. This system has been developed in response to the physical threat to staff from the organized illicit miners. Besides a contingent of the Special Armed Force of the police, on deputation to the forest department, is stationed at Ghatigaon. The support of territorial staff is fully available. Whole-hearted support of police is not available at the later stages of investigation.
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		Information for MEE	The MEE team has the impression that the human wildlife conflict is not a serious issue in the WLS. The WLS faced 11 Human: leopard conflicts and 1 human sloth bear and 1 human : wolf conflicts in the past 3 years. The compensation to the victims has been paid promptly. There is no rescue squad in the division despite instructions from the state headquarters. The WLS has limited capacity of trained staff and equipments to mitigate HWC.
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 Gwalior Circle map	The WLS is a part of Sheopur- Shivpuri- Gwalior-Datia forests. The recent case of a tiger from Ranthambhore that used this corridor to reach sewda forests in Datia district to the east of Ghatigaon sanctuary well beyond Ghatigaon and Gwalior town , indicates that tiger movement through this corridor is still taking place.
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 for MEE	The WLS was sanctioned a total of 14 executive staff and 2 clerks and 1 orderly. The executive staff included 1 superintendent, 1 range officer, 2 foresters and 10 forest guards . But over the years the WLS has received 28 additional executive staff from the territorial division thereby making staff strength to 45. The staff has been deployed for protection of the WLS. About 56 % of the staff is above 40 years of age . Considering the present status of heavy grazing, illicit tree felling for firewood, illicit resin tapping and illegal mining, there is need to deploy more staff.
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 for MEE	There are 5 four-wheel vehicles (out of which 4 vehicles are on hire basis) and 1 motorcycle allocated to only one beat guard. The four wheel vehicles are assigned to 2 forest protection Chowkis, Sanctuary Superintendent and Range officers. The WLS does not have patrolling camp system and the beat guards reside in adjoining villages. There are 2 Van Chowkis (at Danda Khedak and Lakhanpura) where beat guards of 6-7 beats and their supervisor forester stay together and patrol together according to a roster, Each chowki has two or more armed ex-service men. Besides, a contingent of the special armed force from the police department is stationed at Ghatigaon to tackle organized crime like illicit mining. The WLS has 26 GPS and compass each, 80 fire beaters, 15 camera traps and range finders each. The WLS has protection and monitoring equipment but no rescue equipments.
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 anddesirable 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 scorecategories. 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		APOs of last three years, sanction orders and Utilization certificates.	While the WLS received less amount than the amount proposed in the APO, it couldn't spend the entire released funds. There has been an improvement in fund utilization in the last 2 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 MoEFand their utilization by site in the last 3 years andindicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with funds and theirmitigation.

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			There is one NGO- Geological Education Foundation and 8 individuals who provide support in environment education activities by organizing awareness and bird watching camps for school children from Gwalior .
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	✓	Pers. comm. Shri Vikram Parihar CF (Gwalior Circle) Ghatigaon WLS	The human and financial resources are not sufficient for effective management of the WLS. The manpower is about 30-40% short. Funds for most habitat management interventions are not available. APO for central assistance is submitted on time but the first installment is usually received in July or later. The sanction issued by the MoEF is usually less than what is proposed in the APOs.
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		Pers comm. Superintendent Shri Parakash Srivastava	The CF (in -charge of Gwalior division and the sanctuary) is trained in Wildlife Management Diploma course Most of the other staff is not trained formally, but have undergone certain class room sessions on crime investigation and wildlife laws
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		Pers Comm, Shri Vikram Parihar CF, Gwalior Circle	Staff performance management is linked to the objectives of management. None of the staff has received any appreciation or award from any agency in last three years.
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 Meeting with Barai communities	There are 19 EDC in and around the WLS. Public support is available for fire-fighting. Locals have been consulted in fencing certain areas for GIB. In
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			reciprocation, the management has repaired and also built some ponds for villagers and their livestock. Certain defunct EDCs have been revived.
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* 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		RTI documents Complaint registers	The PA receives complaints at RFO and division levels. There is a complaint register maintained at divisional level and complaints have been redressed timely. The system for addressing RTI exists.
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 address 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		Field visit.	Locals, including women are involved in habitat management interventions. The management could not provide data on this. Women were seen engaged in clearing fire lines inside the enclosures during field visit.
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		http://www.mpforest.gov.in/HO_0uter/Visit_NP.aspx	The WLS does not have a website. The website of the forest department has a map that shows its location
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		Field visit and discussion with EDC member	Tourism is sporadic and unorganized. The only tourist facility available is at Tighra Dam. The EDC Tighra conducts boating, trekking and wildlife watching tours. Little basic amenities are available for tourists.
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 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		Management plan	No research has been conducted so far, however, research inputs for GIB habitat improvement have been provided by Prof. Murutkar from Maharashtra.
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		Information for MEE	There is no schedule for maintenance of infrastructure and assets. Repair and maintenance depends on the budget availability. There is no maintenance register, but inventory register exists.
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 Information for MEE Field visit	The flagship species of the WLS is GIB that has critically declined in past and from 2012 bustards have not been sighted within the sanctuary limits. But there are unauthenticated reports of GIB sightings in 2015 and 2016 from beyond and within the sanctuary. This information was shared by people during field visit. Based on signs encountered during field visits, (we encountered only one dung pile of Nilgai, some of chinkara droppings during the 2 day field trip, jackals were seen at three occasions) the MEE team has an impression that the population of herbivores is poor; the population estimation reports of last three years also supports this impression, but while interacting with the DFO, staff and some newspaper personnel the team was informed that there is a healthy population of Nilgai and chinkara.
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 Information for MEE Field visit.	The threats from illegal mining, cutting, encroachment and hunting seem to have been effectively controlled as per the data provided. During the field visit felled trees of <i>Boswellia</i> were observed. The extreme low populations of wildlife indicate that hunting pressures may still be existing.
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		Visitor book	Visitor feedback is recorded in the notebook kept at Tighra EDC. Visitors' feedbacks are positive and contain constructive suggestions.
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		Interaction with Barai Village community	Interaction with Barai village community indicated some amount of support to PA management. But they also appear quite sensitive to and aggrieved of the resource use restrictions . They are also adversely affected by the operation of Section 20 of the Wildlife (Protection)Act which prohibits them from selling their own land. The relationship at present may be described as fragile. There have been clashes of Danda Khidak chowki with certain villages towards controlling illegal mining in recent past. Recent gestures from the management to accommodate their genuine needs such as creating new ponds or repairing old ones and consulting villagers before enclosing areas for habitat improvement has improved relationship with some villages.
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 localelements/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	51.66%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	47.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	25	
4.	Process	05	10	50	32.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	15	
Total		30		300	155	

RAJASTHAN

8. DESERT NATIONAL PARK, RAJASTHAN

MEE Year 2006-2009

A. Management Strengths

1. The values have been assessed thoroughly.
2. There is a management plan.
3. The linkages with other important areas are tenuous, but satellite enclosures and areas such as Aakal Fossil Park do provide opportunities for linkages.
4. The establishment and maintenance of enclosures have significantly contributed to conservation of flagship species such as the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), Chinkara, Desert Fox, Vultures and other desert animals. Rigorous scientific monitoring with public participation is suggested.
5. Although there is not much documentation on the status of the biological communities, there are several studies being conducted, for example on the Spiny-Tailed Lizard and GIB, and recognition as an important bird area (IBA) reinforces the view that the status of the biological communities in the Desert National Park (DNP) is good.
6. The cultural heritage, enshrining the wildlife conservation values and ethos of the local population, offers tremendous possibilities.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. The unique features of the Thar Desert ecosystem face anthropogenic pressures. The human population of the site is greater than 39,000 and the number of domestic livestock is more than 3, 90,000, which creates problem like, grazing, fire, development, illegal tree felling, poaching, new roads and mining etc.
2. The site is identified correctly but has not been categorized.
3. There is a management plan, but it is not comprehensive.
4. There are many stakeholder villages and *dhanies* within and outside the protected area, but the plans lack a strategy to minimize their impacts.
5. Very few planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.
6. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy.

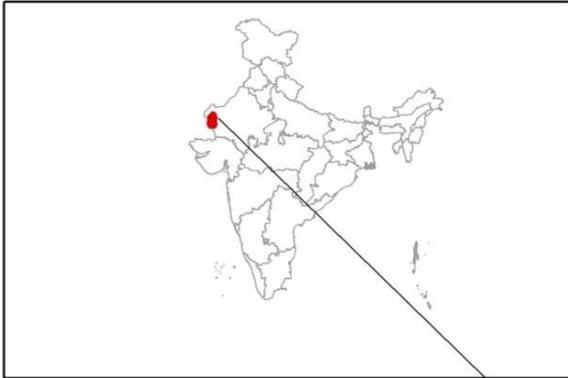
C. Actionable Points

1. Adequate attention needs to be given to control grazing and fire prevention. Consolidation of the boundary has been provided, but the basic issue of settlement by the competent authority deserves greater attention.
2. The threats posed by habitations and excessive numbers of tourists have not been recognized fully. Decisions on the future of enclaves need be given the highest priority.
3. The site needs proper categorization into zones and an effective protection strategy is required.
4. Immediate steps need to be taken for preparation of a science-based comprehensive management plan of the site.
5. Establishment of permanent vegetation monitoring plots within enclosures and outside is recommended for habitat restoration. In the absence of an adequate number of staff members for monitoring, linkages or collaborations with institutions such as ICFRE, CAZRI, BSI and ZSI are strongly recommended.

6. A key post such as that of the Deputy Conservator of Forests remaining vacant intermittently is a matter of worry. The basic training of the field staff is adequate, but they need special skills for carrying out scientific wildlife management and eco-development in participatory manner.
7. Resource allocations are meagre and hardly cover the major areas of concern.
8. Minimal information is provided to tourists and outreach is insignificant. An independent website is needed to cater the tourists.
9. Services providing access to popular places such as Sudarsi and Khuri for wildlife sighting are limited. There is a need to put in place more interpretation centres, signage, etc. Attempts should be made to train local youth as guides, and the potential of public-private partnership should be explored.
10. Attempts have been made in the past to use remote sensing tools to describe the basic spatial attributes of the park. These should be revived and extensively used for monitoring the habitat and assess the impacts of management. Institutions such as CAZRI, JN University, Rajasthan State Remote Sensing Application Centre, Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre and Arid Forest Research Institute can be involved.
11. Moulding visitor expectations has a lot of scope for improvement. An emphasis could be laid on nature interpretation and education.

77°15'0"E

Desert National Park Rajasthan



28°30'0"N

28°30'0"N



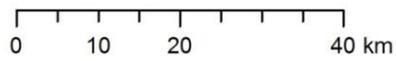
28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 3162.00 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1992

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		Values have been assessed thoroughly.
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		Prevention of the unique features of Desert (Thar) ecosystem has inherent pressures from grazing; “development” like improved and settled agriculture with irrigation (Indira Gandhi canal’s tributary), new roads, mining are additional threats that have been duly recognized.
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		Major threats are of anthropogenic origin (population > 39,000 people and domestic livestock of > 3,90,000 within the site) and include grazing/ fire/ illegal tree felling/ poaching (in that order) and has been recognized. [Forest Settlement Officers, Barmer and Jaisalmers reports dated 7/7/1999]
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		<p>The PA represents the typical attributes of Thar Desert (that includes human population and its domestic herbivores as well) ecosystem and is thus, not based on land use wherein legal rights have been settled which put severe constraints in establishing a traditional Sanctuary/ National Park. Despite the settlement officer's award, there is ambiguity on the extent of land and its revised boundaries in the Management Plan document.</p> <p>For effective habitat protection, rationalization of boundaries and consolidation and exclusion of problematic areas as a part of settlement deserves higher priority. As provided in the award, resettlement/ acquisition of rights can be initiated under the CSS on priority.</p>
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		<p>From the records made available, it is the third format written plan that covers a decade beginning year 2001. Prescriptions are too sketchy and rationale for prescriptions are not clear.</p>
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		<p>Plan does not provide for specific area for core/ buffer/ tourism zones. Existing pattern of exclusion plots within and around designated PA are de facto "core" zone and is considered appropriate.</p>

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		Present plan was delayed by five years after expiry of present plan period is for ten years earlier plan. Present process of revision should start soon.
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		Threats by habitations [legal or otherwise] and excessive tourist visitation are not recognized fully. Decision on future of enclaves need be addressed on higher priority.
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		Stakeholders villages and “dhanies” within and outside are many but plans lack strategy to minimize their impacts. However, considering special features of the PA this cannot be a serious shortcoming. Baseline socio economic surveys are recommended for assessing dependency on natural resources.
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		Establishment of permanent vegetation monitoring plots in the enclosures and outside is recommended. In the absence of adequate number of staff for monitoring, linkages/ collaborations with institution like ICFRE/ CAZRI/ BSI/ ZSI etc are strongly recommended.
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		This aspect has been not given a serious thought.
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		Adequate attention to grazing control, fire prevention is required; boundary consolidation is provided for, but basic issue of settlement by the competent authority deserves greater 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		Follow up on District collectors enquiry report on acquisition of rights is key element. Settlements that have legal sanctity or otherwise in the sensitive areas need to be enquired into and in consultation with the CWLW & with long term perspective, either be relocated or measures taken to contain possible adverse impact by suitable mitigation measures. The proposed canal is likely to bisect the PA and jeopardize ecological integrity and thus remedial measures are required.

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		Despite long boundary, enclaves within conflicts are limited and have been reckoned within the planning processes.
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		Linkages with other important areas are tenuous but satellite enclosures and areas such as Aakal fossil park do provide opportunities for linkages.
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		Park is being headed by a Chief Conservator of Forests, a very senior officer. This is a unique feature but overall strength of field and support staff [66] assigned is sub-optimal considering the extent of PA, terrain and mobility constraints, etc; Sanctioned strength of key elements like RFOs [2/3]/ Forest guards [28/38] are not manned fully. Check posts are grossly inadequate. No provision for Ecodevelopment/ interpretation and education/ extension, monitoring and research.
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		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Funds allocation (in lakhs)</th> <th>Utilization (in lakhs)</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2004-5</td> <td>45.19</td> <td>33.35</td> <td>Only one installment released</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005-6</td> <td>23.68</td> <td>21.51</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006-7</td> <td>21.95</td> <td>15.72</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007-8</td> <td>23.75</td> <td>19.00</td> <td>2nd Installment not released</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008-9</td> <td>34.49</td> <td></td> <td>Figures not available</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>When compared with financial forecasts made in the plan, demand & release of grants are generally rather low; only one installment has been availed every year during last four years; actual utilization is sub optimal.</p> <p>Mobility by way of motor cycles/ four wheel vehicles needs priority.</p> <p>Convergence with other sources of funding like NREGS, is insignificant. Provisions for mitigating hardships to staff/ work charge establishment need be introduced (on the lines of Project Tiger).</p>	Year	Funds allocation (in lakhs)	Utilization (in lakhs)	Remarks	2004-5	45.19	33.35	Only one installment released	2005-6	23.68	21.51		2006-7	21.95	15.72		2007-8	23.75	19.00	2nd Installment not released	2008-9	34.49		Figures not available
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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		<p>Allocations are meager and hardly cover the major areas of concern. Boundary consolidation/ resettlement deserve demand for higher allocations.</p>
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		Resources for Environmental education and Populations estimation need to be provided and private/ NGO agencies encouraged. A lot of scope of linkages with academic institutions and outsourcing of work in the sphere of research/ monitoring/ orientation and capacity building of field staff exists should be made use of.
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		Inputs in terms of personnel, resources are wanting.
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		Key posts like Dy. C.F. remaining vacant intermittently is a matter of worry. Basic training of field staff is adequate but need special skills for scientific wildlife management and eco development in participatory manner.
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		

4.3 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		Performance generally linked to priorities as perceived by the manager.
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		Mandatory advisory committees are not in place and thus quick action at policy level is called for. FDA funds are being utilized which provides institutional mechanism for consultations with stakeholders.
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 a number of checks and balances that include departmental audit/ AG audit/ Public Accounts Committees/ Lokayukta/ LAQs, etc. There is no provision for independent audit.
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		With a presence of >70 villages each within and outside the PA, is a matter of concern. Present level of ecodevelopment inputs and processes adopted therefore, leaves wide scope for improvement. Therefore, greater thrust on ecodevelopment and ecotourism is imperative.
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		Very minimal information and insignificant outreach; independent web site to cater to tourists is needed.
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		Services are limited to providing access to popular places, such as Sudarsi and Khuri for wildlife sighting. There is a need to put in place more interpretation centre(s)/ signage's etc. attempts be made to train local youth as guides, potential of public-private partnership should 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		

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		There have been attempts to use remote sensing tools to describe basic spatial attributes of the park in the past. These should be revived and extensively used for monitoring the habitat and also assess the management impacts. Institutions such as CAZRI, JNV University, Rajasthan State Remote Sensing Application Centre, Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Arid Forest Research Institute and others can be involved.
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		Maintenance schedules are not backed by resources 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 threatened/ endangered species populations stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		The establishment and maintenance of enclosures have significantly contributed to the conservation of flagship species such as Great Indian Bustard, Chinkara, Desert Fox, Vultures and other desert fauna, Rigorous scientific monitoring with public participation is suggested.
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		Although there is not much documentation on status of biological communities, there are several ongoing studies such as on the Spiny tailed lizards, GIB and recognition as an important bird area (IBA), reinforces the view that the status of biological communities in DNP is good.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threats to the site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Minimization of threats accomplished to limited scale.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile.	Poor		Molding visitor expectations has a lot of scope for improvement that could be augmented with an emphasis on nature interpretation education.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>

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 enshrining wildlife conservation values and ethos of local population has a tremendous scope.
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	53%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	50	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	25	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	37.5	
Total		33		330*	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 320.8 or 53.5%

9. KUMBHALGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

MEE Year (2006-09)

A. Management Strengths

1. The area has been assessed thoroughly at the bio-geographical and state levels. The protected area (PA) plays a crucial hydrological role, being part of the upper catchments of rivers feeding the arid zone.
2. All threats have been systematically identified and assessed.
3. The site has no human and biotic interference.
4. The site has been identified correctly, systematically and categorized with proper zonation plans.
5. The site has a comprehensive management plan.
6. All complaints are systematically logged in a coordinated system and timely response is provided, with minimal repeats of complaints.
7. All the biological communities are likely to be able to sustain native biodiversity.
8. Most of the neighbours, local communities are supportive of the management of the PA.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. A small number of planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.
2. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy.
3. Nearly one-third of the posts are vacant is a matter of worry.
4. There is minimal information provided to tourists and there are no outreach activities.
5. The populations of some threatened and endangered species are increasing, most other populations are stable.
6. Threats have been reduced to a limited extent.
7. Only key neighbours and communities are supportive to PA management.

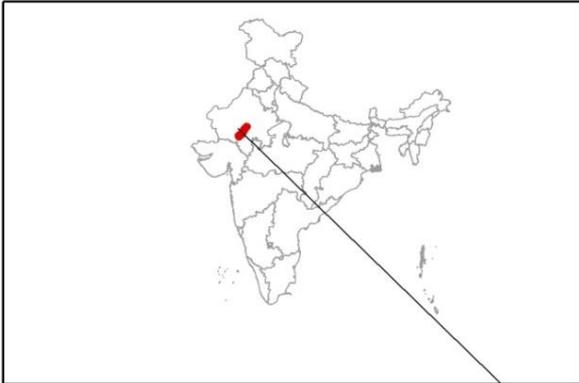
C. Actionable Points

1. There are no arrangements in place for habitat restoration and this need to be addressed. Dr. Changani's group has done some work in the past, and the outputs of such initiatives need to be taken on board. Linkages and collaborations with institutions such as ICFRE, CAZRI and ZSI are recommended.
2. The site needs an effective protection strategy for long-term conservation.
3. The basic training provided to the field staff is adequate, but need special skills for carrying out scientific wildlife management and eco-development in a participatory manner.
4. Immediate steps need to be taken to fill out the vacant posts for PA management.
5. Resources need to be provided for environmental education and population estimation by private agencies or NGOs. There is considerable scope for linkages with academic institutions and outsourcing work in the spheres of research, monitoring, orientation and building the capacity of the field staff.
6. That there are over 125 villages present within the zone of influence and 24 habitations within the PA is a matter of concern. Therefore, a greater thrust needs to be provided to eco-development and eco-tourism. Decisions on the future of enclaves need be given high priority.

7. There is a need to obtain information on the forest cover from agencies involved in remote sensing, such as the FSI, at the national level, and state-level institutions, to monitor changes and relate them to the inputs provided.
8. Key species such as antelopes and the Wolf are declining. A scientific approach and rigorous monitoring with the participation of the public are suggested.
9. Expectations of visitors are met, but considering the scope and opportunities, more needs to be done.

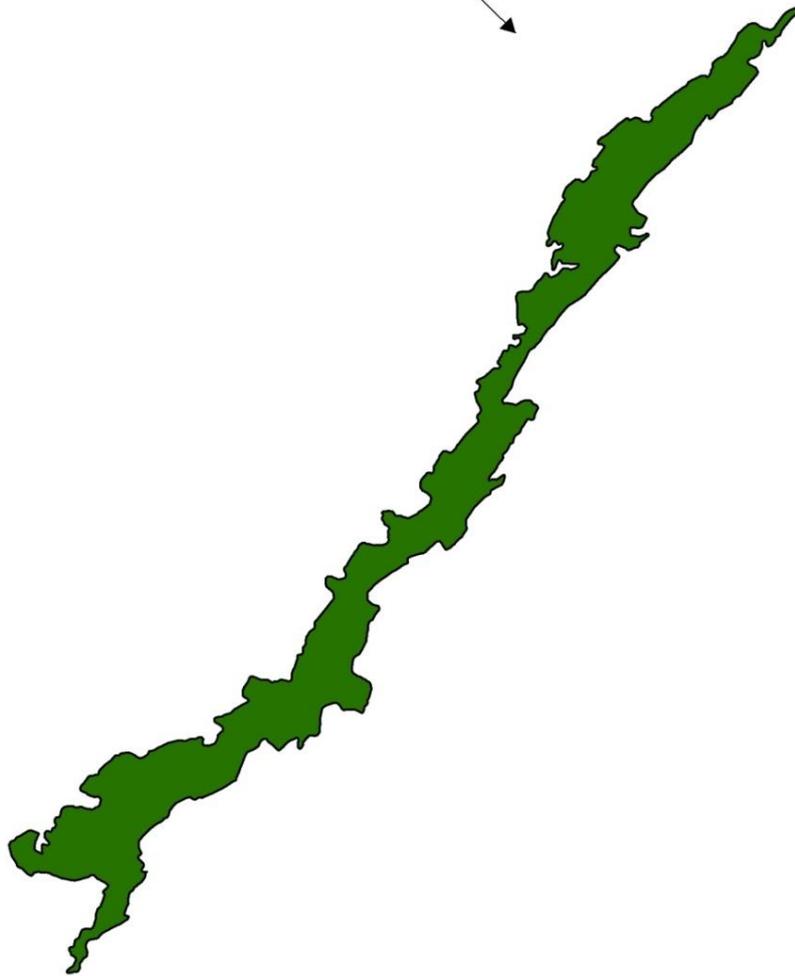
77°15'0"E

Kumalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary Rajasthan



28°30'0"N

28°30'0"N



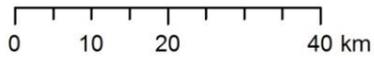
28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 608.58 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1971

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		Area assessed thoroughly at bio-geographical and state levels. The PA plays very crucial hydrological role being part of upper catchments of rivers feeding the arid zone.
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		Steep slopes, erratic and low rain fall, leads to water shortage but is a part of climatic condition that gives PA its special features. Surrounding area is typical semiarid rural landscape with limited scope for industrialization or urbanization.
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		Major threats that are of anthropogenic origin and include grazing/ fire/illegal tree felling/ poaching [in that order] have been recognized.
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		Total geographical area is 610.528 km ² extended falling in three revenue districts. viz. Udaipur, Pali and Rajsamand. Considering historical back ground of resource management, location of the PA is appropriate and is surrounded by Reserve Forests in some places. There are number of enclaves with (Kumbhalgarh fort/ Jail pilgrimage sites/ Parshuram Mahadeo, Revenue village Roop nagar, etc) and burgeoning Resorts/ Safari lodges, etc. which do need specific strategy to minimize their long term impacts.
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		From the records made available, it is the first format written plan that covers decade beginning year 2002); this document is in consonance with the WII-Gol guidelines for drafting the management plan but is rather sketchy. Reported to have been approved by the competent authority. Plan does provide for notional zoning into core and buffer [but no tourism]; considering the geographical features, enclaves of historical and religious important places and shape of the PA, lack of formal core/ buffer zones is not considered as a major short coming. Portion that includes Parshuram Mahadeo & Tandi Beri/ Sumer etc. which have tourism potential, may be designated at tourism zone.
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		Present plan is for ten years and at this point is nearly halfway through; PA manager seems to be serious about its 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 ✓)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Threats by habitations [legal or otherwise] and excessive tourist visitation to historical/ religious spots are not recognized fully. Decision on future of enclaves need be addressed on higher priority.
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		Religious and historic place tourism potential needs to be integrated with conservation imperatives and be harnessed (may be by way of entry fee as approaches to such areas are through the sanctuary).

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		Stakeholders (24 settlements within and 138 villages in zone of influence) duly recognized and strategy to minimize impact has been suggested; increasing tourism industry and their clients need be considered as stake holder and their social responsibility to support conservation need be integrated (during plan revision).
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		Having recognized need to monitor detailed prescriptions arrangements are for, not in place and need to be addressed (during revision). Dr. Changani's group has done some work in past and out puts of such initiatives need to taken on board. Linkages/ collaborations with institutions like ICFRE/ CAZRI/ ZSI etc. is recommended.
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		This aspect has not been given serious thought, more over, consolidation phase is still 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		Adequate attention to grazing control, fire prevention and; boundary consolidation provided for but basic issue of settlement by the competent authority particularly the protected forests deserves greater attention. Settlements that have legal sanctity or otherwise need to be enquired into and in consultation with the CWLW and with long term perspective either be relocated or measures taken to contain possible adverse impact by suitable mitigation measures.
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		Despite long boundary, conflicts are limited and have been reckoned within the planning processes.
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		Linkages with other important areas are tenuous.
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		Overall strength of persons assigned is sub-optimal considering terrain and mobility constraints, etc. sanctioned strength of key personnel like RFOs Foresters Forest Guards are not fully manned.
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		No provision for Ecodevelopment/ interpretation and education/ extension, monitoring and research.
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		When compared with financial forecasts made in the plan, demand and release of grants are generally rather low and actual utilization is sub optimal. Mobility by way of motor cycles/ four wheeled vehicles is a priority. Convergence with other sources of funding like NREGS, is a welcome feature
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		Allocations are meager but are covering the major areas of concern.
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		Resources for environmental education and population estimation need to be provided and private/ NGO agencies should be encouraged. A lot of scope for linkages with academic institutions and outsourcing work in the sphere of research/ monitoring/ orientation and capacity building of field staff exists and should be made use of.
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		Inputs in terms of personnel and resources are wanting;
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		With one third posts being vacant it is a matter of worry. Basic training to field staff is adequate but need special skills for scientific wildlife management and eco-development in participatory manner.
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		Performance generally linked to priorities as perceived by the manager.
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		Mandatory advisory committee is not in place and thus quick action at policy level is called for. FDA funds are being utilized which provides institutional mechanism for consultations with stakeholders.
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 a number of checks and balances that include Departmental Audit/ AG audit/ Public Accounts Committees/ Lokayukta/ LAQs etc. but there is no provision for independent audit.
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		With a presence of over 125 villages within zone of influence and 24 habitations within the PA, it is a matter of concern. Therefore, greater thrust on ecodevelopment and ecotourism is mandatory.
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		Very minimal information and no outreach
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		Limited to providing access to pilgrimage sites and eco-trails such as Thandi Beri. There is a needs to put in place an interpretation center(s)/ signage's etc. past attempts to train local youth as guides, need be revived and linked to a potential public-private partnership.
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		There is a need to access information from agencies involved in remote sensing such as FSI at the national level and state level institutions, on forest cover to monitor changes in forest cover and relate it to input provided.
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		Maintenance schedules are not backed by resources 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 threatened/ endangered species populations stable or increasing?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Ecological status of key species like Antelopes/ Wolves are on decline. Scientific approach and rigorous monitoring with public participation is suggested.
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		Despite scarcity like conditions, considerable under growth and water availability was noticed and is considered as positive impact of soil and moisture conservation efforts. Forest fires were under control.
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		Minimization of threats has been accomplished to limited scale.
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		Visitor expectations are met with but considering scope and opportunities more needs to be done.
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		There is considerable scope to improve the situation.
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 site protection is positive.
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	25	59.1%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	60	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	25	
4.	Process	05	10	50	30	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	35	
Total		33		330*	195	

* 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 361.7 or 60.3%

10. SITAMATA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

MEE YEAR (2009–2010)

A. Management Strengths

1. Most of the values and threats have been systematically monitored and assessed.
2. The site has a comprehensive management plan.
3. Eco-development committees (EDCs) are functional in this protected area (PA).
4. Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.
5. The level of human–wildlife conflict is low. There is a little crop damage caused by Neelgai, which is tolerated by the local people.
6. The PA staffs are well trained.
7. Livelihood issues are addressed by EDCs, which are able to provide some livelihood resources for the local people.
8. Complaints arise during the Sitamata cultural *mela* only. The number of complaints has increased after the Tribal Act was passed. The complaints are duly recorded and systematic rapid responses to complaints have been attempted.
9. There are several information boards at strategic locations.
10. Facilities for wildlife tourists are present in the form of a guest house and camping sites. The management of the *mela* crowd management is adequate.
11. The populations of some threatened and endangered species are increasing, and most others are stable. Flying Squirrels are being monitored.
12. Most threats to the site have been reduced.
13. Very few visitors come to the PA, those who visit are satisfied.
14. A planned approach to management is being developed and deterioration of assets is being redressed. Cleaning and water management are practiced for the Sitamata temple.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. The site has some biotic interference.
2. There is no categorization into zones.
3. There is no process in place for systematically reviewing and updating the management plan.
4. Execution of habitat restoration programmes remains a problem due to a lack of funds. Staff and fund shortages are a serious management issue for protection of the PA. The available resources are insufficient for most of the tasks. The buildings and equipment are adequate, but the vehicles are inadequate.
5. NGOs do not contribute to the management of the site. The NGOs are related to tribal welfare and are not proactive in PA management and wildlife conservation.
6. There is no interpretation centre that will serve both the local people and visitors about the values of the PA.
7. The management of the *mela* crowd is adequate, but there are problems due to solid waste and plastics. The *mela* attracts 25,000 people each day for 5 days.
8. There is little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of management-related trends due to the lack of staff.
9. Flying Squirrels are being monitored, but documentation is not regular except during censuses.

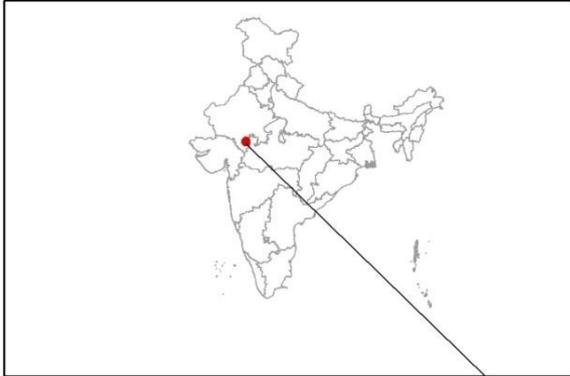
10. Some biological communities are likely to be able to sustain the native biodiversity. No studies are being carried out.
11. In response to the Tribal Act, several tribal communities have become increasingly non-supportive of the PA management.

C. Actionable Points

1. The biotic pressure on the site needs to be minimized on an immediate basis.
2. The site needs proper categorization into zones.
3. The management plan should be updated routinely and in a timely manner.
4. Resource allocation and timely release of adequate funds require attention. The resources allocated for management of the site, both human and financial, need to be enhanced. The PA requires a mini truck for patrolling.
5. The site requires contributions of NGOs for long-term management of the site.
6. Immediate actions need to be taken to develop a nature interpretation centre.
7. The annual *mela* needs to be controlled so that there is no pollution.
8. A proper and systematic study of management-related trends needs to be carried out on a priority basis.
9. The tribal community dependent on the site need to be involved in the management of the PA.

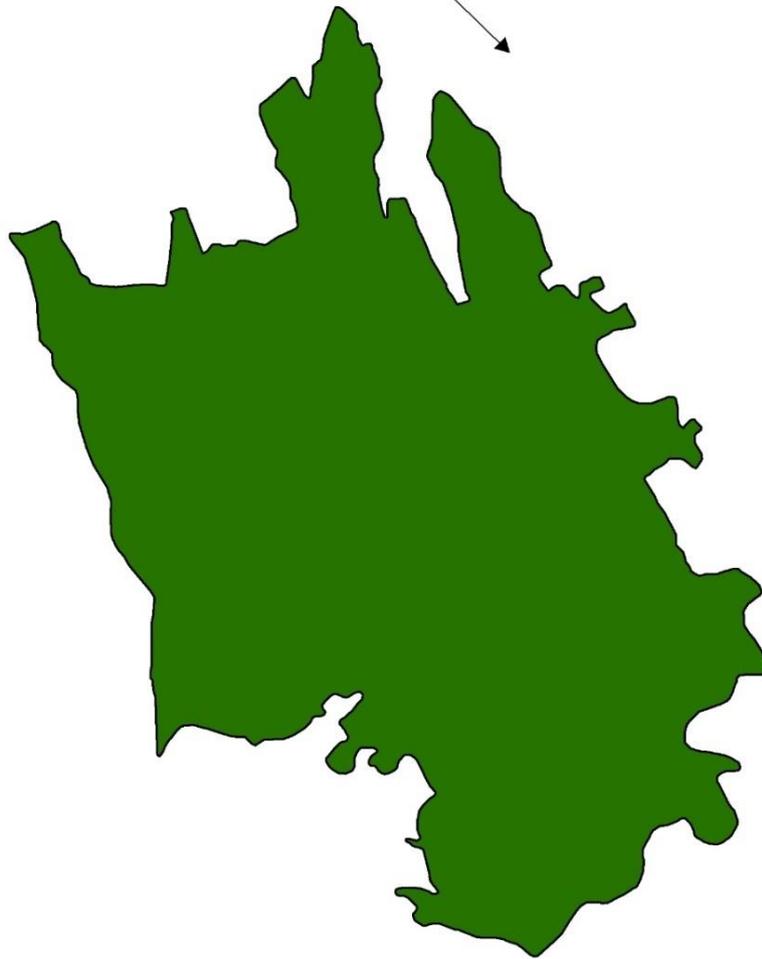
77°15'0"E

Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary Rajasthan



28°30'0"N

28°30'0"N



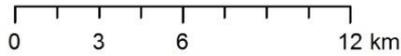
28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 422.94 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1979

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		
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		
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		
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		
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		
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	✓	
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		
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		

2.9 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	✓	Eco development committees are functional (EDCs) in the Protected Area. This was not present when the current plan was written. However the Protected Area Director reports that execution of operations in the Protected Areas is done in consultation with the committees.
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		Execution remains a problem due to lack of funds.
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 programs for rare or endangered flora or fauna.
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		Staff and fund shortages are a serious management issue.
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		Human-wildlife conflict is low. One person was killed by a leopard and compensation of 1 lakh paid in last 3 years. There is a very little crop damage by Neelgai which is tolerated by local people.
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		Strong positive interaction with the local adjacent Territorial Division and its Officer is present leading to help for each other, through frequent interactions.
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		
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		Buildings and equipment is adequate but vehicles are inadequate. The Protected Area requires a mini truck 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		

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		However there is a problem of inadequate funds.
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	✓	NGOs are related to tribal welfare and are not proactive to Protected Area management and wildlife conservation.
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 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		PA manager is trained at Wildlife Institute of India way back in 1995 – Diploma in Wildlife Management. All other staff are experienced through practical knowledge only.
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		Habitat manipulation is being tried. APO includes habitat management for grassland management in the PA.
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		EDC has led to 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 come during the mela. Complaints have increased after Tribal Act was passed. There is a file of complaints and a systematic rapid response to complaints is attempted.
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		EDCs are able to provide some livelihood resources for local people.
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		After RTI Act all information can be made available on any issues. There are several information boards in strategic locations. However there is no Interpretation Center which would serve both local people and visitors on the values of the PA.
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		Facilities for wildlife tourists are present in the form of guest house and camping sites. Mela crowd management is adequate but causes problems due solid waste and plastic. Mela attracts 25 thousand people per day for five days.
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	✓	This is not done routinely due to lack of trained staff.
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		
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		Flying squirrels are being monitored but not documented regularly except during census.
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		No studies are carried out.
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		
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		Very few visitors come to the PA thus those who come are 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		In response to the Tribal Act several tribal communities have become increasingly non – supportive. There is a general belief in the local people that if their wish is answered by the gods they must light a forest fire to appease and thank the gods.
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		Clean up activities and water management is done for the Sitamata temple.
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	58.3%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	55	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	27.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	30	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	22.5	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	37.5	
Total		33		330*	192	

* 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 -----%

11. MOUNT ABU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

MEE Year (2012-13)

A. Management Strengths

1. The unique geomorphological features, oldest mountain of the Indian subcontinent, landscape level ecological significance, biodiversity-rich potential, cultural heritage, limited accessibility and difficult terrain are positive factors deriving from the location of the protected area (PA).
2. With the notification in 2008 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and declaration of areas in and the hill station as an eco-sensitive zone under EPA 1986, the site became effectively insulated.
3. There have been formal wildlife management plans only for recent periods. A comprehensive and legally enforceable plan is in place.
4. Most of the values have been recognized (listing of birds, estimation of populations of animals, etc.), and the prescriptions of the plan are generally commensurate with the needs of protection and integrity of the habitat.
5. Tourism has created employment opportunities, and livelihood is not a major issue in the villages around the hill station and in the upper region.

B. Management Weaknesses

1. Though the threats posed to the habitat by fires, grazing and infestations of weeds and exotic tree species have been recognized, documented and well understood, the provisions for restoration and remedial measures are found to be inadequate on the ground.
2. The participation of the people in the planning process is not evident. An advisory committee, a statutory requirement, is not in place. There is scope for improving the participation of stakeholders in management, co-development and tourism. There is scope for improvement. There are six EDCs in the region. A total of 48 villages need to be covered by EDCs. Local institutions/NGOs are not involved in a significant manner in supporting conservation initiatives.
3. The site has become popular more as a "hill station", and thus the values of the PA have been diluted. Opportunities to showcase the unique biodiversity have not been harnessed fully. The movements of visitors are limited to the plateau (walking trails, vehicular paths, etc.).
4. Dedicated staffs are needed for regulating the tourist traffic and for carrying out nature interpretation and education activities to sensitize tourists.

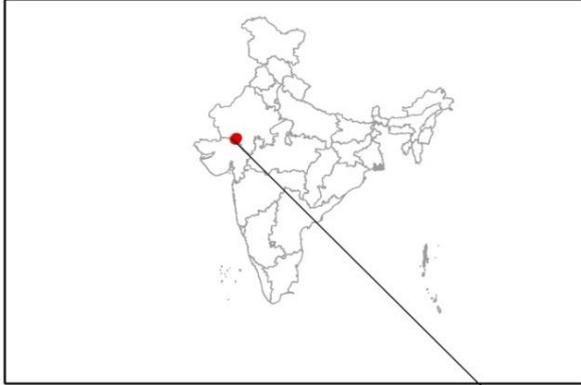
C. Actionable Points

1. The PA was a part of a well connected wider landscape including present-day Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, etc., but this landscape is now fragmented. A focused study needs to be conducted to revive possible links across the larger landscape.
2. The weed eradication measures need to be based on proven technology through a MoEF-supported initiative (suggested contact, Dr. C.R. Babu, University of Delhi).
3. Exposure through short orientation workshops and exposure visits to places such as Aravali Biodiversity Park, in Delhi, is indicated for carrying out science-based biodiversity conservation and management activity.

4. Involvement of stakeholders in planning and management, as provided under (the amended) Wildlife Protection Act 2003, is required. An advisory committee needs to be framed, and an Honorary Warden needs to be appointed.
5. Creating a nature Interpretation centre exclusively for the park is desirable.
6. EDCs need to be developed in the fringe villages. They need to engage in eco-tourism.

77°15'0"E

Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary Rajasthan



28°30'0"N

28°30'0"N



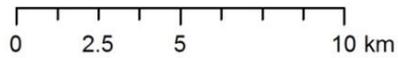
28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

IT and RS & GIS Cell - 2014



Notified Area: 112.98 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1960

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		Para 1.3 Statement of significance /Chapters 2 & 3 - Mt. Abu sanctuary Management Plan – Verma , G. K. 2010 -11 to 2020 -21	Area is endowed with unique geo morphological features [oldest mountain of Indian subcontinent] / ecological significance / biodiversity rich potentials /cultural heritage e.g Jain temples /Bhramaha Kumari , Guru Shikhar etc and has been under Wild life centric management over a century. Park values recognized at regional scale.
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		Para 3.6 Forest protection	Limited accessibility and difficult terrain are positive factors but severe threats to eco system due to excessive tourist pressures hill station being centre point ; cattle grazing / illicit felling trespass etc are threats to PA. Tourist impact assessment called for.
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		Annexure III	Mt Abu town comprising of seven villages i.e. Shanigaon / Machgaon / Dhundai / Hetmaji / Torana / Delwara / Goagaon and eight villages encircled by PA i.e. Jawai / Salgaon / Oriya / Achalgarh / Arna / Uteraj / Shergaon and Akhe as also 48 villages in its surround have impact on the PA. Urbanization of Abu town has its own impact on the habitat integrity and protection issues. Existing villages within and outside PA, have impact that has not been thoroughly documented. Opportunities of participatory mode of management not assessed fully.
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		Mt. Abu sanctuary Management Plan – Verma , G. K. 2010 -11 to 2020 -21 and previous plans	With 2008 notification under WL (P) Act, 1972 and declaration of eco-sensitive zone under EP Act, in and around Hill station in place; site identification is comprehensive and legally insulated. But land disputes around Hill station / tenability of prevailing rights and concessions need be examined in details.
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		Comprehensive plan	Scope for improving data base on past history, possibly compartment histories of RFs/ stake holders /floral attributes /
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	Area has long history of wild life conservation centric forest management since 1890, but formal wild life management plans are seen only for recent period / plan has been updated and inbuilt provision for revision exists. (Need to bring on record efforts made and its results during pre independence period)
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 demarcation/ protection.	Most of the values have been recognized (List of Birds* / Population estimation of Animals etc) and plan prescriptions generally commensurate with protection and habitat integrity needs. Leaves scope for widening scope to reintroduce species / focused attempts to enhance ecological status of additional species; grazing regulations in tune with carrying capacity / sustainable use/ prioritization to wild herbivores'.
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	✓	Stake holder's participation	People's participation in planning process is not evident; Sanctuary advisory committee, a statutory requirement not in place but comprehensive and legally enforceable plan in place.
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		Chapter V - Habitat improvement 5.5 Weed eradication page 41 & 42	Threats to habitat by Fires / grazing /weed infestations and exotic tree species have been recognized documented and well conceived provisions for restoration provided for. Weed eradication be based on proven technology (Dr. C. R. Babu, University of Delhi under MoEF supported initiative.)
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		Protection strategy	Protection exists but lack of participation of stake holders in management / Eco development / eco tourism
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		Mitigation of Human Wild life conflicts [para 5.8]	There no major man animal conflicts / eco-restoration, fencing etc have been prescribed and being implemented
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	As per the version of the Hon Wild life warden, PA was a part of well connected wider landscape including present MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat etc but is now fragmented. Focused study to revive possible link not seen.
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 Staff strength	As per (thumb rule) norms, for an area of approx 329 km ² , sanctioned staff, headed by DFO & supported by ACF / three Range forest officers, etc is adequate; but managing sanctuary located close to a major hill station with heavy tourist traffic is a challenge. Need to have staff dedicated for regulating tourist traffic / nature interpretation/ education to sensitize tourist
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 X of MP and information given by staff	Going by funds available and its use in past resource are available from varied sources.
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			Scope for better planning / fund release and its use
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			Army, Air force, CRPF etc are providing support as and when required but no NGOs is active in this area & involved and thus leaves 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			Uncertainty 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		Information provided by PA manager	Exposure through short reorientation workshops / exposure visits to places i.e. Aravali Biodiversity Park 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			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			On the lines of involvement of stake holders in planning and management of Conservation and Community Reserves under amended WLP Act 2003, advisory committee need be established.
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			Sign boards indicating contact numbers in case of fire /poaching etc exists.
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			[Excessive] tourism has created employment opportunities and livelihood is not a major issue in the Hill station villages as also other villages in upper region but scope exists for improvement in the 48 villages in the surround, six EDCs being established in this region.
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	✓	Field observations.	PA management related information is decimated; 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			Tourism office has museum / interpretation center for Mt Abu which cater to part of Park needs. However, Nature Interpretation centre exclusively for the Park will be desirable. EDC need be developed in the fringe villages and engaged in ecotourism.
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			Population estimation being done regularly and traits show existence of varied fauna but conclusive statement on increase or decrease can not be made.
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	Sloth bear / Wolf /Blue bull /Gray jungle fowl etc if considered as key species, trend is positive	
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			Visitors mainly casual and 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			There is good response as vouched by the Hon Wild Life warden
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	17.5	60.83%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	57.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	32.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	22.5	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	27.5	
Total		30		300	182.50	

12. BHENSROD GARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

MEE Year (2008-09)

Management Strengths

1. The sanctuary is connected to a number of other PAs (Jawaharsagar-Darrah and Bundi) in the vicinity, including the newly declared Mukundara Tiger Reserve.
2. The Forest Guards are mostly young, energetic, newly recruited, well educated and eager to learn.
3. The rapport with the local people and district administration is largely good.
4. Conservation awareness programmes are conducted regularly for students.

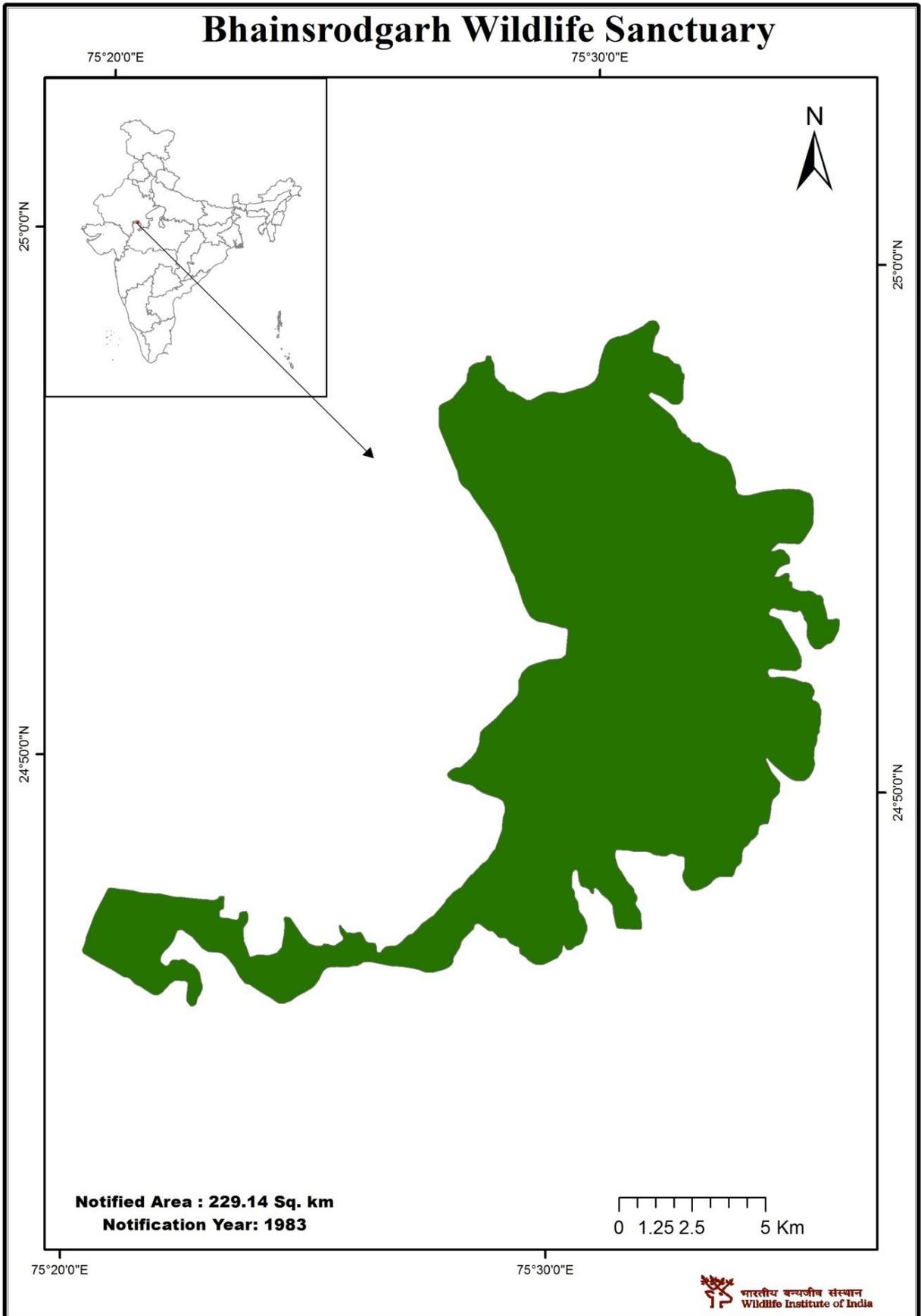
5. A very young, educated and energetic team of guards was made available to the sanctuary a few months back. These youngsters can be trained in various skills required for wildlife management.
6. In our interactions with villagers we did not experience any animosity. On the contrary, they, in general, are supportive despite the issue of Section 20 and resource use restrictions. A well-planned ecodevelopment initiative focused on reducing firewood use and alternative livelihood training, especially for goatherds, may help the forests recover around the villages.
7. The process of settlement of the rights of the people was completed long ago by the Collector, but a final notification under Section 26 A or a formal order by the state government accepting the order of the Collector is yet to be issued. If either is issued immediately, the provisions of Section 20 will cease to operate, and this particular action will bring respite to the villagers. The availability of suitable habitats and support from local villagers provide an opportunity to reintroduce Chital and Sambar. An enclosure was fenced earlier, and this needs to be reinforced to make it predator-proof to soft-release the animals.
8. There are many sites in the WLS that could become tourist attractions. At present most of the tourism is for pilgrimage. The location of the WLS near Rawatbhata and Kota and its in close proximity to a nation highway should be exploited to increase tourism.

Management Weaknesses

1. The demarcation of the boundary of the sanctuary is defective.
2. Inadequate staff
3. Loss of two ungulate species (Chital and Sambar), reducing the importance of the WLS
4. Inadequate funds
5. Lack of training of the staff in crucial areas of wildlife management, such as crime detection and investigation, identification of signs and evidence, habitat evaluation and management, and ecodevelopment
6. Poor infrastructure and lack of equipment
7. Hostility of a few villages
8. The biodiversity of this rich sanctuary has still not been explored.
9. Deficiency of water sources on the plateau
10. The major threats are poor demarcation of the boundary, illicit lopping, firewood collection, grazing, and encroachment, illicit collection of NWFP, fire and poaching.

Actionable Points

1. A well-planned training programme in protection, wildlife laws, wildlife crime investigation, reading signs and evidence, and ecodevelopment should be started at once. The help of NGOs such as WWF-India, WCT and WTI should be requested for organizing such training.
2. A systematic study of the biodiversity within the gorges may be carried out with the help local universities, BSI and ZSI.
3. The discrepancies in the demarcation of the boundary with Jawaharlal Sanctuary should be resolved as soon as possible. The management plan prescribes reintroducing Chital and Sambar, and the management of the sanctuary has already created a 300 ha enclosure with a mesh-wire chain-link fence. But the height of the fence is inadequate, and it is not predator proof. In order to ensure that Leopards, Pythons, Wild Cats, Wolves and other opportunist predators such as Jackals and Hyenas do not enter the enclosure, it will be necessary to fence the area with a combination fence consisting of solar-powered lower strands and plain upper strands. The height of the fence should be at least 8 feet. All the trees close to the fence or those with branches overhanging the fence must be trimmed or removed if necessary to prevent the entry of Leopards.



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 Bhainsraodgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	The significance of the WLS are documented and include geographical (numerous gorges), biological (medicinal plants, crocodile), catchment area of Chambal and Brahmini rivers and religious (ancient caves and temples)
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 Bhainsraodgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	Hunting, grazing, fire, firewood collection, encroachment, NWFP collection have been listed as threats and pressures on the WLS, but the magnitude (number, nature and extent) of these threats/pressures has not been assessed. The PA has 27 villages inside the WLS.
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		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023) Field Visit	The PA has 27 villages inside the WLS. Though the number of villages are large for the area of the WLS, during field visit it was observed that the pressures of grazing and lopping/cutting are restricted mainly to the areas around the villages. Though, the management plan as well as the documents provided for MEE do not reveal data on the human and livestock population, our field inquiry suggests that the human population should be around 25000 and the livestock population around 35000 to 40000. About 54 hectares of land has been diverted to claimants under FRA and several claims are still to be inquired into under the FR Act.
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		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	The site is a duly notified WLS. The management plan provides map of core zone and buffer zone but these are not described in the management plan and therefore specific management prescriptions for these zones are not available. Tourism zone has been described. Corridors have been mentioned.
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		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	The management plan has been developed based on WII guidelines, but it is not comprehensive The management plan mentions about the need of the local communities and ecodevelopment.
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		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	The current management plan is the second one for the WLS. The first plan (2003-2004 to 2012-2013) was prepared when the WLS was under Chittorgarh forest division. The current management plan mentions a mid-term review.
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
Site does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor			The management plan has provisions for protection of the biodiversity values and also for habitat improvement. But at present the populations of most of the wildlife is very low. Two of the major herbivores-chital and sambar are already locally extinct.
Site 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 Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	The management plan was not prepared following a participatory process. But the village microplans were prepared for 10 EDC with the participation of villagers. EDC are involved in most of the management works as the funds are routed through the EDCs. The management plan is not placed in public domain.
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		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023) Field visit.	Habitat restoration plans have been included and budget requirements have been provided in the management plan. But the management interventions are entirely based on the availability of funds which is inadequate at present. Some interventions for habitat restoration such as assisted natural regeneration by gap planting of indigenous species, protection of habitat by erecting loose-boulder as well as masonry fences and water resource development have been undertaken in the WLS, as observed during field visits.. Monitoring of the restoration has been proposed in the plan but it is yet to be undertaken.
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		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023) Pers. Comm Sanctuary superintendent, Anurag Bhatnagar Field visit.	Construction of pucca and loose boulder walls, at Agra, Lothiana, Luharia, Rawatbhata and Ganeshpura; barrier at Kotra Balagi temple and Jawda is proposed in the management plan.. During field visits we could see several kms of such walls, but the locals have damaged these walls at several places to facilitate grazing by their livestock. Patrolling is prescribed in the plan and the beat guards do patrol in groups their designated territories and file their patrolling report in 'rojnamcha'. The sanctuary still does not have a beat system therefore beat maps are not available. There is one flying squad but without a separate team, the existing forest guards are deployed in the flying squad as and when need
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			

				arises. There is just one Bolero vehicle in the sanctuary which is used by the RFO as well as for mobile patrols and as the flying squad vehicle. As reported the relationship with the police and administration is good.
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* 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? (THIS Question SHOULD NOT BE IN PLANNING)

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Management plan for Bhainsroadgar h Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023) Field village.	Prescriptions for management of the Human- Wildlife conflict is not included in the management plan. The conflict mitigation is mainly restricted to occasional rescue operations for crocodiles and snakes from human habitations and very rarely of leopard.. Crop raiding by nilgai and wild pig is not very serious, may be because of their number is small, therefore, people never complain about crop damage.. Leopards sometime kill livestock but people don't report as they don't get any compensation for dead animals that are killed inside the sanctuary. There is no provision for crop damage compensation in the state. The PA is equipped to rescue crocodile and, snakes but a fully equipped rescue team is lacking.
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? (THIS Question SHOULD NOT BE IN PLANNING)

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Management plan for Bhainsroadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (2013-14 to 2022-2023)	Bhainsroadgarh WLS is connected with Jawahar Sagar WLS (Mukundra Tiger reserve) in north and with Chittorgarh Forest division in south. These corridors have been mentioned in the management plan.
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 for MEE Pers. Comm. Sanctuary Superintendent Shri Shailendra RFO Shri Anurag Bhatnagar	Since March 2016, PA has all the sanctioned staff of 23 – except the ACF who holds the post of the sanctuary superintendent as an additional charge. The post of forester is not sanctioned for the PA. Most of the staff is new and young and is yet to be trained in wildlife management aspects. Guards stay at 4 check posts and 2 chowkies (Nalli and bridge-side). The superintendent has done the 3 month Wildlife Management Certificate Course from WII.
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 for MEE Pers. Comm. Sanctuary Superintendent Shri Shailendra RFO Shri Anurag Bhatnagar	The PA has 1 four wheel vehicle, 1 tranquilizing gun, some snake handling equipment, 1 cage to capture animals, 2 GPS, 1 camera and 2 binoculars. Most of the check-posts and chowkies are old and need urgent repair/renovation. Staff is provided with mobile sim cards and are paid for phone calls. Wireless sets are installed but are not working condition.
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		Information for MEE Pers. Comm. Sanctuary Superintendent Shri Shailendra RFO Shri Anurag Bhatnagar	The PA has received about 50% of the requested funds. The funds are received between July and November. The PA has been utilizing almost entire amount received. The PA needs at least 4 posts of forester, there is none at present.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria*</i>				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		Information for MEE Pers Comm DFO Shri Rakesh Sharma Kota Forest Division RFO Anurag Bhatnagar	WWF has provided jackets and copies of WLPA to the staff of WLS in 2015. Some local individuals provide support in rescue of snakes and in awareness activities.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Pers. Comm. Sanctuary Suprintendent Shri Shailendra	The manpower and financial resources are not sufficient for effective management of the PA. The 4 posts of foresters need to be sanctioned. The funds received are about 50% and not sufficient for many 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?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	Information for MEE	At present the ACF in additional charge is the only trained personnel. Rest of the staff needs to be trained in most aspects of 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		Information for MEE	A forest guard of the rescue team of the PA received award at district level. Smt. Prem Kanwar, forest guard received award from SDM in 2015. Earlier, the rescue team has received awards.
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		Field Visit Interaction with Agra villages personnel and and EDC Nalli kheda	Occasionally, the locals participate in fire fighting operations, and provide information on illegal activities. The PA management conducts awareness programmes for students in and around the PA and also for Kota city (during wildlife week). Microplan for 10 EDC have been prepared and most of the works are routed through the EDCs.
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		Pers Comm DCF	The complaints are handled through Sampark portal of Govt. of Rajasthan that has a system of monitoring the redressal of complaints. A system to handle RTI exists as per the RTI Act. A register is maintained for RTI.
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 address 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		Information for MEE	The local communities are provided livelihood through SMC, fire protection and NAREGA. All the works are being got done through EDCs. In the FY 2016-17, 13576 person days of work were provided to locals. Of these, 4071, i.e.30% were women.
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	✓	Nil	The PA does not have a web site.
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		Information for MEE	The tourist inflow is very small in the PA. About 750-1000 visitors prefer Saddle dam, bridge-side picnic spots and the Padajhar mahadeo temple and water fall located at different spots within the PA. For visitors there are 5 watch towers and 1 incomplete interpretation centre. Visitors also go to the "relocation area" – a 300 hectare patch of forest along the Chambal River, enclosed with mess-wire fence for the purpose of soft-release of sambar that is now locally extinct and the management plan proposes reintroduction of this species. In this area visitors receive guided tour. Garbage disposal bins and toilets have been constructed at these sites, but at Padajhar Mahadeo temple and water fall which is a biodiversity rich site and the most visited area of the sanctuary we found good amount of garbage. Interpretation centre is very basic. No other facilities and capabilities exist. Visitor feedback register has been maintained. Most of the remarks contain positive feedback about 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 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		Information for MEE	No research and systematic monitoring has been conducted so far. Annual population estimation is conducted using water hole count method. Though, the Management Plan proposes monitoring of habitats and animal populations, habitat
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			monitoring is not being done. Immunization of cattle is irregular.
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* 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		Management plan Information for MEE	Though the management plans includes details of budget required for maintenance of roads, buildings, fire lines and vehicles,. adequate funds are not being made to undertake the required maintenance and repair.
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	✓	Management plan Information for MEE	The area seems to have a good density of leopard as we found pug marks at 4 different areas and scat at one site within our 2 day field visits. Fresh water crocodile population has risen and they are almost ubiquitous in the nalas, pools and Chambal river. The populations of some of the critical herbivore species such as chital and sambar that were reportedly abundant 50 years
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			

Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			back continued to decline and today sambar and chital have gone locally extinct. Reportedly chinkara is present in small number at some locations but we could neither see chinkara nor its droppings. Nilgai droppings were seen at several locations. One of the major reason for gradual decline of smabar and chital population may be the fact that the best habitats for these species came under submergence when the Maharna Pratap Sagar dam came into being. The animals on the plateau were further disturbed with the expansion of human habitation owing to the establishment of the dam as well as , the atomic power station. Besides, the herbivores had to compete with livestock when relocatees from the submergence area were rehabilitated on the plateau. The small populations might have also suffered poaching pressure leading to their extinction.
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 Information for MEE Field visit	The wildlife crime data provided to us indicates that there is no poaching pressure at present .The management plan states that hunting has reduced (not reported recently). The availability of additional 14 young newly recruited forest guards since March 2016 has helped in reducing the threats. During field visit it was observed that grazing, lopping, cutting are not rampant.
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		Visitor Feedback register and Saidal Dam	All the visitors are day visitors. Based on the visitors' feedback register at Saddle dam camp, it is inferred that the visitors are generally satisfied.
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		Field visit Interaction with Nalli EDC members and some villagers from Agra village and field personnel	During interactions with the locals it was pleasantly observed that people support the management in fire control and in mitigating illegal activities. It was observed that in some areas where the management has done assisted natural regeneration works as well as at some other patches of the sanctuary locals are providing all support in protecting these sites.
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	56%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	57.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	25	
4.	Process	05	10	50	32,5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	17.5	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	20	
Total		30		300	167.5	