

MEE Team-wise Report

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ASSAM

1. DIBRU-SAIKHOWA NATIONAL PARK, ASSAM MEE Year (2009–10)

A. Management Strengths

1. Threats and values have been identified in the management plan.
2. The site has a well defined core and buffer areas, for which specific prescriptions have been listed in the management plan. Within the core zone, sub-zones based on habitat type have been identified, for which management interventions have been proposed in the management plan.
3. The latest management plan (2011–2012 to 2015–2016) has been submitted to the state government after corrections and awaits approval. It is comprehensive in its prescriptions, which are based on prevailing field realities.
4. Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.
5. Three wild buffaloes from Kaziranga National Park (NP) were rehabilitated in Dibru–Saikhowa NP. The entire process was monitored by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), an NGO, and logistics support was provided by the park authorities.
6. The site is surrounded from all sides by the River Brahmaputra; hence there is very little scope for human–wildlife conflict.
7. The site is an island, and hence there is limited scope for integration with forest areas nearby. However, the aquatic fauna, especially dolphins, are integrated with the entire Brahmaputra river system.
8. The personnel are inadequate in number, but all of them are explicitly engaged for protection and achievement of specific management objectives.
9. All the resources, viz., vehicles, boats, equipments, buildings, etc., are explicitly allocated only for achievement of specific management objectives.
10. NGO support is being taken in mitigating conflict and monitoring the three wild buffaloes from Kaziranga NP that were rehabilitated.
11. The DFO has received training in wildlife management under WII's Diploma Programme.
12. The land use patterns are quite rigid in the buffer areas. Fishing, being a way of life for most of the local people, is hard to give up and few are interested in alternative livelihoods.
13. The site has published brochures in English and the Assamese language that give general information relating to the site. A book on birds has also been published by the local forest authority for providing information to the public.
14. A new visitor centre, in Guijan Range and an interpretation cum learning centre, at the Divisional Headquarters, is coming up, these will enhance the visitor knowledge. Good private resorts serving local food have come up just outside the southern border of the site.
15. An elephant census is carried out on every two years or so.
16. The protected area (PA) is a specialist ecotourism destination, especially for bird watchers and the expectations of many of the visitors are met.

17. The local communities apparently do not support the PA management, except for providing some casual labourers when required.

B. Management Weaknesses

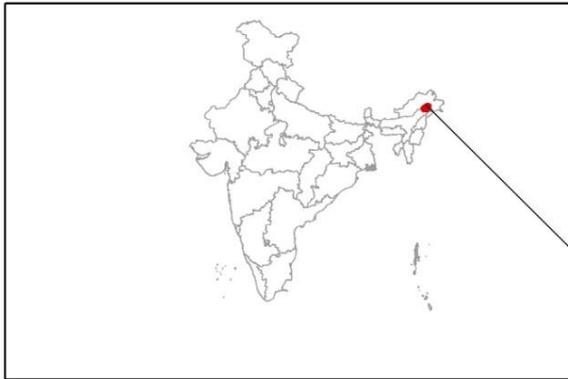
1. Systematic assessment and monitoring of the values are yet to be taken up.
2. Some threats have been systematically analysed using satellite imagery from NRSC, Hyderabad, but a systematic assessment of other threats has not been carried out.
3. The site is subject to extensive human and biotic interference. There are two old forest villages viz, Dadhia and Lika, which were established inside the PA during the 1950s. The human populations of these villages and the numbers of cattle have increased and have been reducing the overall habitat availability greatly. Efforts to shift the same from the site have not been successful. Consequently the site is burdened with tremendous human and biotic pressures apart from illicit felling of trees and illegal fishing. The threats to the site have increased.
4. Due to the extreme paucity of staff members in the Wildlife Division, enforcement is very poor and safeguarding the threatened values has become extremely difficult.
5. A small number of planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration. The staffs are busy engaged in protection work, because of which they have not been able to focus sufficiently on habitat management.
6. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy. There are very few options available to the park manager as there is a severe paucity of staff members in this division. At any point of time just 20 to 25 frontline staff members are available for protection of a 340 km² area.
7. The resources, both human and financial, allocated for management of the site were found to be inadequate.
8. Except the DFO, who is a PGD in Wildlife Management from WII, no staff members are trained in wildlife.
9. Complaints that are received are normally investigated, but there is no systematic approach to investigation and redressal.
10. There is no systematic schedule for maintenance and management of infrastructure/assets, which always depends on the availability of funds.
11. There is no systematic or routine study of management-related trends, except an elephant census, which is carried out every two years or so.
12. Populations of threatened/ endangered species are declining. Exercises conducted to estimate the numbers of elephants and tigers in the site have shown that there is a declining trend. Severe biotic interference has been continually causing degradation of habitats in the site.
13. Unless the severe biotic pressures are removed, the biological communities are unlikely to be able to sustain the native biodiversity.
14. The paucity of staff members, erratic availability of funds and ever-increasing human and livestock populations in the core, pose severe threats to the cultural heritage.

C. Actionable Points

1. The values of the site need to be monitored and assessed.
2. The identification and assessment of threat need to be studied systematically.
3. The tremendous pressure posed by the presence of humans and cattle needs to be mitigated immediately. Relocation of the two villages, Dadhia and Lika, illicit felling of trees, illegal fishing and cattle grazing need the attention of PA management urgently.
4. The severe paucity of staff members has hampered many activities of the PA, such as habitat restoration, site protection and safeguarding the threatened biodiversity values. Resource allocation both human and financial and timely release of adequate funds are needed for management of the site.
5. As the DFO is the only trained officer posted at the site, more officers need to be trained for managing the site.
6. A systematic approach to investigating and redressing the complaints received is needed.
7. The management-related trends other than the population of the elephants need to be systematically evaluated. A systematic study of the flora and fauna of the site needs to be carried out on a priority basis.
8. Urgent actions need to be taken to determine the cause of the declining trend of elephants and tigers at the site. Reducing the biotic pressure will increase the availability and suitability of the habitat for the populations of threatened/endangered species.
9. The paucity of staff, erratic availability of funds and ever-increasing human and livestock populations in the core zone pose severe threats to the cultural heritage and strong actions are needed to resolve them.

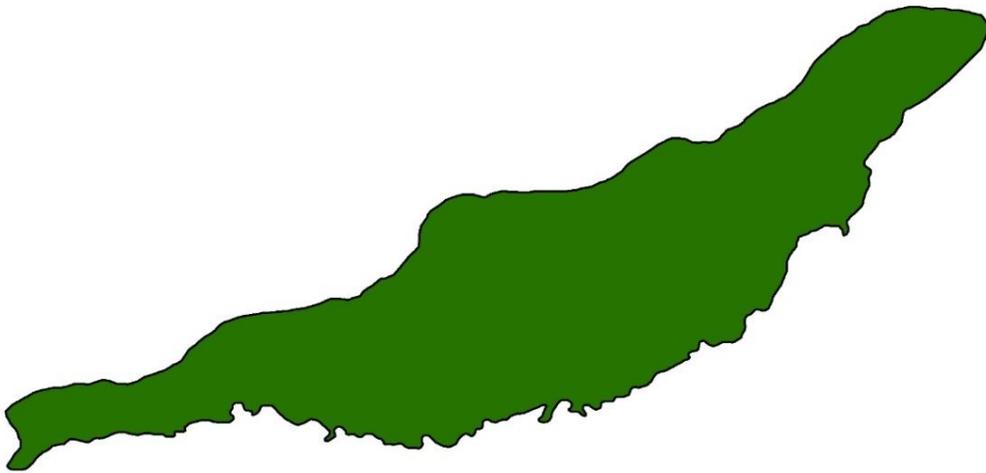
77°15'0"E

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Assam



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

0 5 10 20 km

Notified Area: 340.00 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1999

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 identified in the Management Plan, but systematic assessment and monitoring of the values are yet to be taken up. However assessment of most of the flora and fauna has been done. Universities, BSI,ZSI and other NGOs
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 have been identified in the Management Plan, some threats have been systematically analyzed using satellite imagery procured from NRSC, Hyderabad, but systematic study for assessing other threats is lacking.
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	✓	There are two old Forest Villages established inside the site during the fifties of the last century, where the populations of human as well as cattle have increased to a great extent. Efforts to shift the same from the site have not yet become successful . Consequently the site is burdened with tremendous human and biotic pressure in addition to illicit felling of trees and illegal fishing.
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 has a well-defined core and buffer area for which specific prescriptions have been listed in the management plan. Within the core zone, sub zones based on habitat type have been identified for which management interventions have been proposed in the management plan
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair		
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good		
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good	✓	

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		The latest management plan (2011-12 to 2015-16) has been submitted to the state government after corrections and awaits approval. It is comprehensive in its prescriptions which are based on prevailing field realities.
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		The activities under the new management plan is in operation and as reported it will be updated as and when required.
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	✓	Due to the extreme paucity of staff in the Wildlife Division, enforcement is very poor because of which safeguarding of the threatened values has become extremely difficult.
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		Since the site is also a Biosphere Reserve, Proposals for the Biosphere reserve are first reviewed in a local level committee meeting which includes all stakeholders. The process of execution of beneficiary oriented activities is again hampered by paucity of staff.
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		The latest management plan proposes specific habitat management interventions which are again hindered by the paucity of staff in the Division. Staff is busy engaged in protection works because of which sufficient focus on habitat management has not become possible.
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		3 wild buffaloes have been rehabilitated from Kaziranga NP to Dibru Saikhowa NP. The entire monitoring was done by an NGO, Wildlife Trust of India and logistics support was provided by park authority
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		There are very limited options available to the park manager as there is a severe paucity of staff at this Division. At any point of time there are just 20 to 25 frontline staff available for protection of 340 sq km area.
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		The site is surrounded in all sides by River Brahmaputra, hence there is very little scope for human-wildlife conflict.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Being an island, there is limited scope for integration with nearby forest areas. However, in respect of aquatic fauna, esp. Dolphins, it is integrated with entire Brahmaputra river system.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		All the personnel, though inadequate in number, are explicitly engaged for protection and achievement of specific management objectives only.
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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		All the resources, viz, vehicles, boats, equipments, buildings etc. are explicitly allocated for achievement of specific management objectives only.
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		Though salaries of the staff are paid regularly in time, funds for the developmental activities are released quite late. The 2nd installments are even released at the fag end of the financial year or sometimes not even released within the year, for which the activities suffer.
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		Professional group NGO's like WTI are playing a major role in mitigating conflict. Barring them there is very little support.
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, whether human or financial, allocated for management of the site is found to be inadequate.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good		
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good		

4. Process

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

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	Except the Divisional Forest Officer who is a PGD (honours) holder in Wildlife Management from WII, no other staff is trained in wildlife. Of course some basic knowledge is always imparted to them in their normal in-service training course.
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		Assessment of the staff is done on the basis of their performance only, though not systematically.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair		
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good	✓	
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good		

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		There is limited public participation in the PA management, as the public around the site is found mostly antagonistic.
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 received are normally investigated, but there is no systematic approach for investigation and redressing.
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		Land use patterns are quite rigid in the buffer areas. Fishing, being a way of life for most, is hard to let go off. So few are interested in alternative livelihoods.
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		The site has published brochures in English and Assamese language giving the general information relating to the site. A book on birds has also been published by the local Forest authority.
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		A new visitor centre at Guijan Range, an interpretation cum learning centre at Division Headquarter are coming up which shall enhance visitor experience. For accommodation, good private resorts with local cuisines have come up just outside the southern border of the site.
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 no systematic or routine study of management related trends, except the elephant census, which is carried out almost in every two years. However, any special development, whenever noticed, is always reported to the authority.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓	
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good		
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Very good		

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

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		There is no systematic schedule for maintenance and management of infrastructure/assets, which always depends on availability of funds only.
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	✓	Exercises for estimation of elephants and tigers in the site have shown a declining trend. Severe biotic interferences have been continually causing habitat degradation in the site. Further, constant expansions by the two recognized forest villages, viz, Dadhia and Lika within the site, have also been reducing the overall habitat availability within the site to a great extent.
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	✓	Unless the severe biotic pressures are removed, biological communities are unlikely to be able to sustain native biodiversity. However, the native biodiversity can easily recover owing to the fluvial nature of the ecosystem
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	✓	Rehabilitation of the 2 villages has become a very difficult task and their relocation is uncertain.
Some threats to the site have been abated.	Fair		
Most threats to the site have been abated.	Good		
All threats to the site have been abated.	Very good		

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		The PA is a specialist eco tourist destination especially for bird watchers and the expectations of many of such visitors are met.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair	✓	
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good		
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good		

6.5 Are neighbours and adjacent communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria			
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Remarks
Neighbours/adjacent communities are hostile.	Poor	✓	Support from the adjacent communities to the PA management is reportedly lacking, except for providing the required casual labourers.
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		Paucity of staff, erratic availability of funds and an ever increasing human and livestock population in the core pose a severe threat to the cultural assets
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	15	52.27%
2.	Planning	10	10	100	65	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	27.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	06	10	60	20	
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 -----%

2. HOLLONGAPAR (GIBBON) WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM MEE YEAR (2012–13)

A. Management Strengths

1. Most of the values the site and threats to it have been systematically assessed and monitored.
2. The site has been properly identified and categorized. The core zone includes the entire protected area (PA) (20.98 km²). The management has prescribed the creation of a buffer zone outside the PA, along with an administrative zone and a restoration zone.
3. The current management plan is for the period from 2011–2012 to 2016–2017. The management plans of previous periods were successively revised.
4. Most of the threatened biodiversity values are secured well by the compact size of the PA, the good strength of the protection staff and active measures such as the creation of canopy bridges for primates.
5. There are habitat restoration programmes. A nursery is maintained for tall seedlings for planting in degraded areas. Water holes have been created for ensuring availability of water in dry areas. Canopy bridging through artificial regeneration is planned to establish habitat connectivity for primates.
6. The site has a comprehensive and effective protection strategy. The strength of the forest staff and the number of camps are good given the size of the PA. The camps are distributed all over the PA, and foot and mobile patrolling are feasible on account of the accessible nature of the terrain. There is coordination with the local police.
7. The primary human–wildlife conflict involves Elephants. The management of the PA has paid compensation regularly for human injuries/deaths and property/crop damage. A forest staff team has been constituted to check depredation by wildlife.
8. The number of personnel is reasonably adequate for the size of the site.
9. There is a responsive system for redressing complaints. Field-level complaints are pursued at the range and division levels. A record of the RTI queries of the last 3 years is being maintained.
10. There services provided for visitors are good. These include accommodation, park visits on foot trails and skilled forest guards for tracking wildlife.
11. There are good populations of key primate species in suitable habitats. Census reports show increasing trends.
12. The expectations of most visitors are met due to the availability of basic services, guidance by a skilled staff and the convenient size of the PA. The entry of tourists and feedback received from visitors are recorded.

B. Management Weaknesses

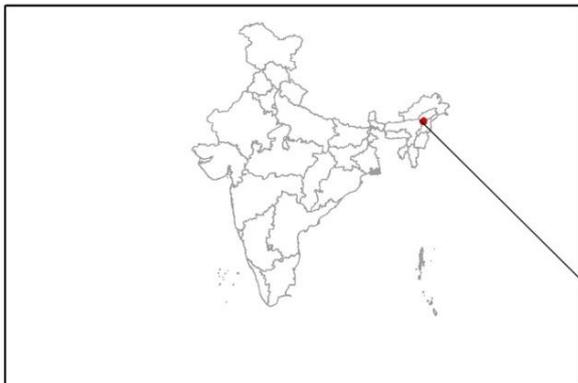
1. The site is surrounded by villages and tea gardens. There is some fodder collection and grazing along the boundary areas. An area of 879 acres of the PA was leased to the military in 1965, when camps were established. An active rail track runs through the site. It has fragmented the habitat and is the cause of wildlife casualties.
2. The PA is an island, not integrated with the wider ecological landscape. There was an old Elephant corridor connecting Dissoi Valley and reserved forests. But now there is a substantial human population there.
3. Funds are not appropriately allocated according to the management plan.
4. The staffs have not undergone any advanced wildlife management training. The general forest staffs are carrying out protection activities and have habitat improvement and tourism duties.
5. The participation of the public in the management of the PA is only opportunistic.
6. Few livelihood issues are addressed by the management of the PA. Eco-development committees have been formed, but no activities have been undertaken yet.

C. Actionable Points

1. Official talks between the forest department and the defence authorities are required to reclaim the unused part of the leased land held by the latter. (Military infrastructure has been constructed on part of the leased land, and about half of the total area remains unused.)
2. The rail track passing through the PA needs to be realigned or the rail traffic regulated to prevent habitat fragmentation and wildlife casualties.
3. The forest staffs need to be provided explicit training related to wildlife management issues.
4. Active engagement of the communities living around the PA in the management planning process and eco-development activities is required.

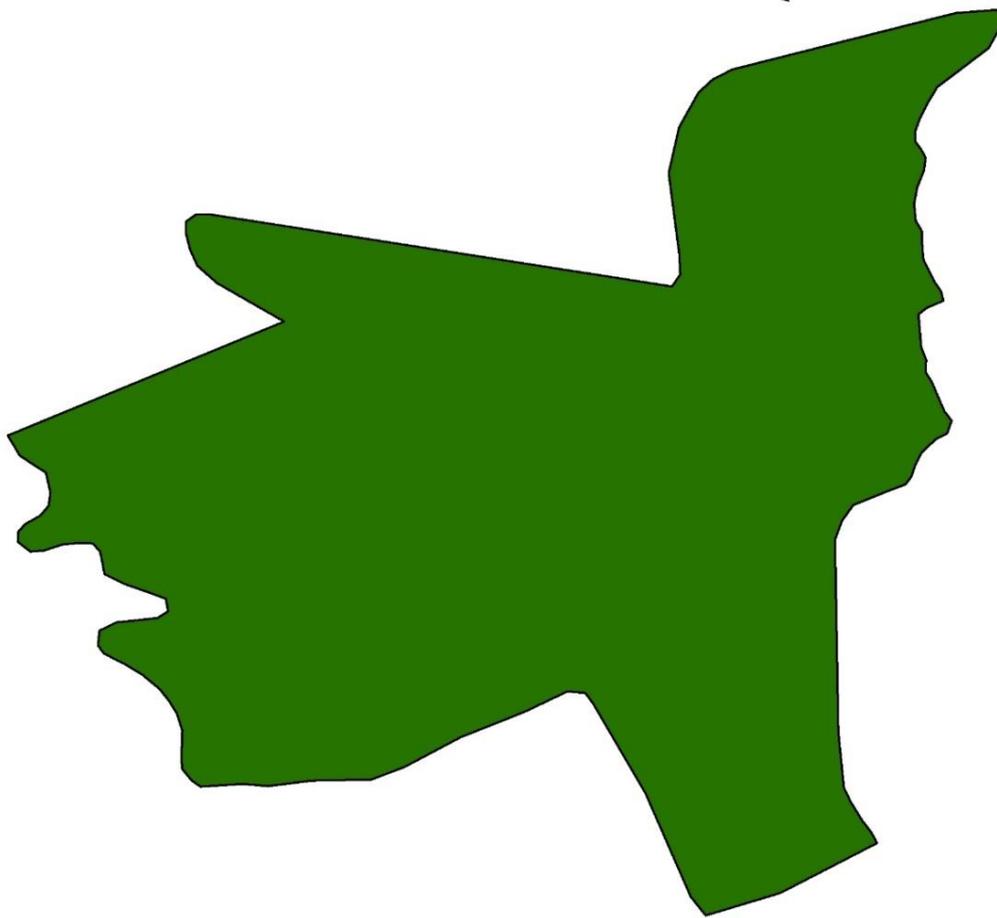
77°15'0"E

Hollongapar-Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary Assam



28°30'0"N

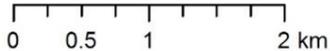
28°30'0"N



28°25'0"N

28°25'0"N

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



Notified Area: 20.98 Sq. km
Notification Year: 1997

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	Hollongapar WLS is located in the Assam plains semi-evergreen forests with undisturbed floral composition. Only PA with 7 primate species and other endangered and endemic species. It has considerable research, education and recreation values.
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair			
Most values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Good			
All values systematically identified and assessed and monitored.	Very good	✓		

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor		Management Plan	Threats have been clearly outlined in terms of ecology, biotic and genetic threats. Major threats include island effect of PA without adjacent forests, rail track fragmentation of habitat, human-elephant conflict, tea garden pollution, genetic threat to primates due to habitat fragmentation. Also some roads passing through the PA is also a cause of concern.
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 no settlements or cultivation inside the PA. But the site is surrounded by villages and tea gardens with some fodder collection and grazing along the boundary areas. An area of 879 acres of the PA was leased to the military in 1965 where camps have been established.
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 whole PA with 20.98 sq. km. area falls under core zone. There is buffer zone management prescriptions outside the PA, along with administrative zone and restoration zone.
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good			
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good	✓		

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

2.2 Does the site have a comprehensive Management Plan?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No relevant Management Plan in place.	Poor		Management Plan	Current MP is for period 2011-12 to 2016-17. The draft has been accepted by government but not yet formally approved.
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	MP has been revised successively from previous periods.
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	Most values are well secured by the compact size of the PA, good strength of protection staff, active measures such as creating canopy bridging for primates.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

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

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Management Plan	Eco-Development Committees have been formed in fringe areas and activities included in Management Plan after discussion. Stakeholder consultations were held for finalization of eco-sensitive zone proposal.
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	Tall seedlings nursery is maintained for plantation in degraded area. Water holes have been created for ensuring distribution in dry areas. Canopy bridging is planned through artificial regeneration for habitat connectivity for primates.
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	Remarks

			document(s)	
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Management Plan	There is good strength of forest staff and camps relative to the PA size. Camps are distributed for covering all sides of the PA and foot and mobile patrolling is conducive due to accessible terrain. There is coordination with the local police.
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; Information note provided by park authority.	Primary issue of human-elephant conflict. In last 3 years, 17 human deaths and 31 injury cases have been recorded. Compensation for human (Rs. 12,69,350) and property/crop damage (Rs. 63,24,350) has been paid. A forest staff team is constituted for wildlife depredation duty to check wildlife depredation.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good			
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good	√		

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Management Plan	For primate species, the PA is an island without wider connectivity. There is existing old elephant corridor connecting to Dissoi Valley and Dissoi Reserve Forests. However, there is now substantial human habitation and a challenge for integrated landscape.
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; Information note provided by park authority.	Reasonably adequate personnel for the size of the site with strength of 22 staff out of 25 sanctioned posts. These include forester-I and II, forest guards, game watcher and fixed pay workers.
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; Information note provided by park authority.	There are 2 motorcycles and 12 buildings (including camps). 4-wheel vehicle is sometimes used from division headquarters. Wireless, searchlight and binoculars have been provided by NGO.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		Management Plan; Information note provided by park authority.	CSS funds received during last three years: 2009-10: Rs.400,000; 2010-11: Rs.600,000; 2011-12: Rs.25,63,000. There is issue of funds not being adequate or allotted / per approved Management Plan.
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		Information note provided by park authority	NGO Aaranyak has provided Motorcycle (1 no.), wireless (1 no.), searchlight (3 nos.) and binocular (4 nos.).
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		Personal communication; Information note provided by park authority.	Human resources are adequate to some extent while financial resources and infrastructure are considered as shortfall.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair	✓		
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Management Plan; Information note provided by park authority	13 out of 25 staff (nearly 50% of frontline staff have received routine forester training in the state. No advanced wildlife management training undergone by staff.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Management Plan	General staff are carrying out protection activities, habitat improvement and tourism duties.
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; Information note provided by park authority	Public participate in conservation awareness programme esp. during Wildlife Week. Public and forest personnel jointly conduct anti-depredation duty. Adjacent villagers are engaged for development activities on daily wage basis. Eco-development Committees have been formed for fringe villages.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair			
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Management Plan; Information note provided by park authority	Complaints are pursued at Range and Division level. RTI cases in last 3 years are as follows: 2010 (nil); 2011 (1 no.): scheme and expenditure incurred; 2012 (3 nos.): development activities and expenditure incurred, elephant rescue and wildlife killing, tourist information.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good	✓		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Management Plan	Eco-development Committees have been formed but no activities undertaken yet. Proposal has been included in Management Plan for biogas plant, energy-efficient chulha, vermiform post, plantation, etc.
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		Management Plan	The site is highlighted on Assam Forest Department website and Gibbon Conservation Centre website. The site maintains good signage displaying relevant information and also published a brochure.
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor		Management Plan	For accommodation, one rest house with 2 rooms is available and another tourist cottage is nearing completion. Visitors are allowed on foot trail with armed forest guards. Some staff are well trained to track and identify primate groups and other species. Tourist numbers show 1974 (domestic) and 129 (foreign) in 2009-10; 2410 and 153 resp. in 2010-11; 5339 and 194 resp. in 2011-12. There is no interpretation 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		Management Plan	The PA attracts researchers for study due to convenient access and manageable terrain. An NGO created Gibbon Conservation Centre is based at the site and undertakes research and training activities. There are 10 research projects in last 5 years.
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.

5.3 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		Management Plan	Improvement and maintenance of various park infrastructure is undertaken but funds are not timely or adequately 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		Management Plan	Good population of key primate species in appropriate habitat. Census reports enumerating gibbon population status and number of troops have shown increasing number from 67 nos. of 22 troops in 2005 to 101 nos. of 25 troops in 2008.
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	Most threats have been brought under control and some are being addressed. Rail track running through the site remains a challenge and canopy bridging is being proposed.
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		Direct observation	Basic visitor facilities and PA access are available. Tourist entry register is maintained and select visitor comments are recorded in rest house register. Due to skilled staff, the visitor experience is usually met as the sightings of hoolock gibbon are almost sure.
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		Direct observation	No major antagonism is seen except for some disturbing elements. Direct support from EDC is yet lacking.
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	25	75.00 %
2.	Planning	09	10	90	72.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	32.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	35	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	30	
6.	Outcomes	04	10	40	30	
Total		30		300	225	

3. AMCHANG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

MEE Year (2015-16)

Management Strengths

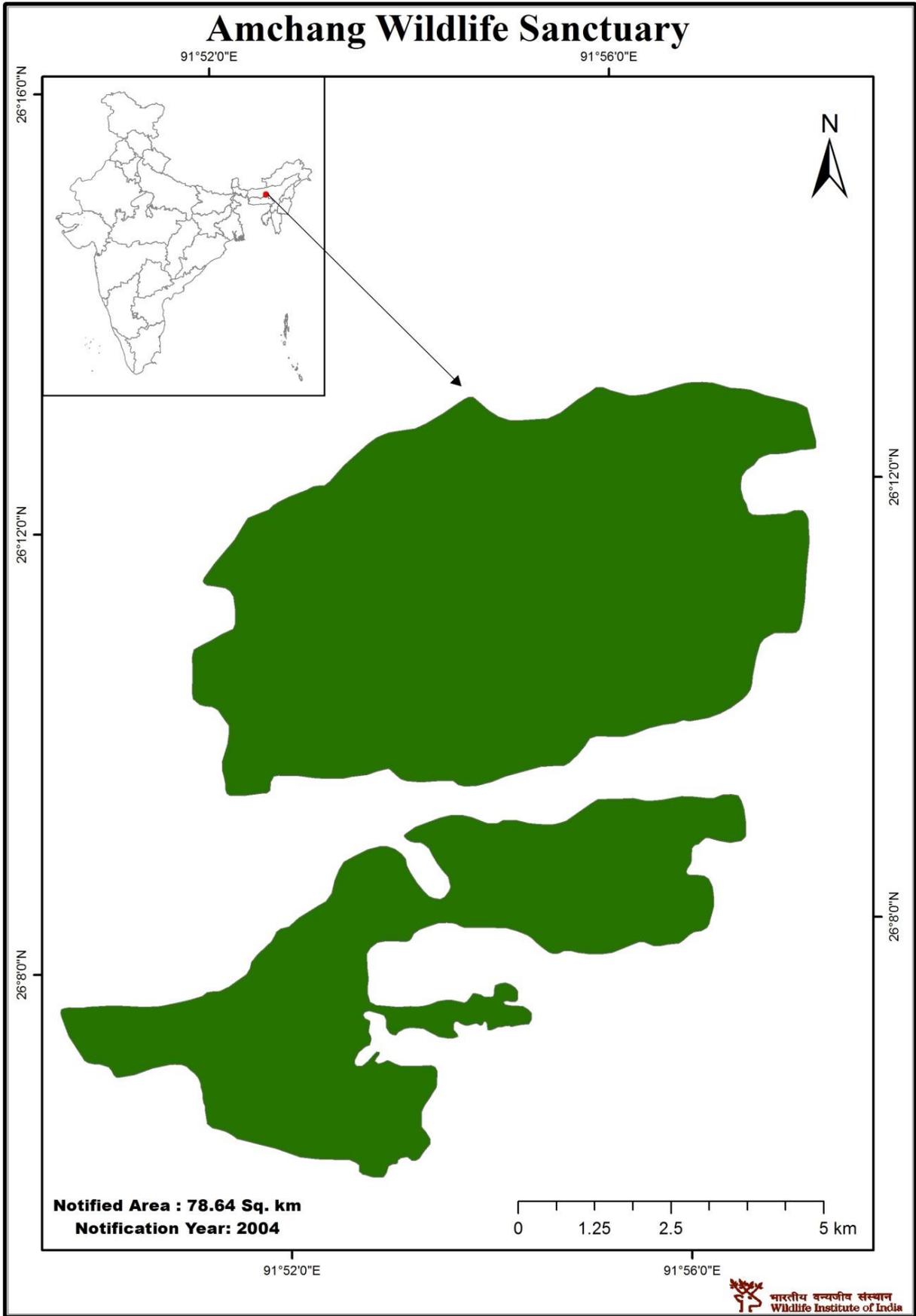
1. The forest area is compact.
2. The number of perennial water bodies is adequate.
3. The PA acts as a green lung for Guwahati.

Management Weaknesses

1. The number of infrastructure projects around the PA is increasing.
2. The land use pattern around the PA is changing fast.
3. The availability of trained manpower is inadequate.
4. A railway track passes adjacent to the northern and eastern boundaries.
5. National Highway 37 passes adjacent to the southern boundary.
6. Coke industries, brick kilns and cement processing industries operate very close to the PA.
7. There is encroachment of land, particularly in the western part of the sanctuary.
8. The release of funds is inadequate and delayed.
9. The infrastructure, such as staff quarters, vehicles, anti-poaching camps and boundary pillars, is inadequate.

Actionable Points

1. The management plan must be approved quickly.
2. Encroachments are to be removed.
3. The eco-sensitive zone must be notified.
4. Land use changes in the surrounding area that are detrimental to the sanctuary and will block the movements of animals, such as the construction of resorts, big institutions and housing complexes, must be banned.
5. Industries that are listed as banned activities in eco-sensitive zones must be immediately closed.
6. The staff are to be trained in wildlife monitoring and law enforcement.
7. A sufficient number of boundary pillars must be erected to make the boundary of the PA visible.



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		Draft 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		Draft management plan	
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			Based on field observation
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/ livelihooddependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the abovementioned 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		Draft management plan	
Site identified correctly but not categorized.	Fair			
Site identified correctly but not systematically categorized.	Good	✓		
Site identified correctly and systematically categorized with proper zonation plans.	Very good			

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	✓		Draft management plan is ready but yet approved
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			Only draft management plan available so this parameter cannot be assessed.
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			Based on site visit. Separate wildlife division is controlling this PA which is further assisted by two dedicated ranges
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			As there has not been any approved plan, stakeholder participation in planning has not been in place. Not assessed.
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			Site visit observation. Measures to make water available throughout the year by making earthen check dams has been put in place.
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			Site visit observation and interaction with staff.
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			Conflict is due to elephant only. However the PA management is very effective in driving the elephants to neighboring forests.
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	✓		There was opportunity to link this PA with other forests but due to various developmental activities coming in the way, now the opportunity is very limited.
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			Field visit observation
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			Site visit observation
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	✓	Last three years financial report	
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

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

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓		No NGO participation as probably, the site is not as well known as Kaziranga or Manas.
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	✓		
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	✓		Only the DFO is trained in Wildlife Management.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor	✓		There is a scheme at state level but most awards go to the staff posted in Rhino bearing areas
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			Limited to driving of elephants during crop raiding seasons
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*

Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor			No complaint has been received by PA managers pertaining to management issues so far. Not assessed.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

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

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

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor	✓		Resource dependent communities are mostly encroachers.
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	✓		
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues for most PAs or groups of PAs.	Good			
Comprehensive reports are routinely provided on management and condition of public assets in all PAs or groups of PAs.	Very good			

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

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

<i>Assessment criteria</i>

Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities are at odds with relevant PA category and/or threaten PA values.	Poor			Except bird watchers no other tourists visit this sanctuary. Not assessed.
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	✓		Till now no one conducted research to monitor the trends.
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair			
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

* Not all sites attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the site's 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	✓		Maintenance Schedule and is not maintained as funds have not been provided even when requested for funds.
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			Populations not monitored so far. Not assessed.
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			Large scale developmental activities going on in the surrounds of the PA which will lead to isolation of this PA and increase biotic pressure.
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			The School students and birdwatchers are by and large satisfied as they are able to see a lot of birds early in the mornings.
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			Those who encroach the forests are very hostile to PA management. There are some who are supportive.
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	46%
2.	Planning	07	10	70	42.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	20	
4.	Process	04	10	40	12.5	
5.	Outputs	03	10	30	7.5	
6.	Outcomes	03	10	30	17.5	
Total		25		250	115	

4. DEEPOR BEEL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

MEE Year (2015-16)

Management Strengths

1. This PA is a good representative of a wetland of international importance having the characteristics of the region.
2. It has an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable and endangered species of flora and fauna or an appreciable number of individuals of any one or more of these species. It also has a special value for its endemic plant, animal species and community.
3. The WLS is ecologically an integral part of Rani–Garbhanga Reserved Forest, situated adjoining it to the south.
4. It is situated in the southern periphery of Guwahati City and is very close to educational institutes such as Guwahati University, Assam Engineering College and Assam Ayurvedic Medical College.
5. It is a part of the Deepor Beel Ramsar site.
6. A full-fledged range, namely Deepor Beel Wildlife Range, has been created through government notification no. FRW.11/2004/62, dated 17 February 2011, with two anti-poaching camps under its wing.

Management Weaknesses

1. The railway line between Kamakhya railway station and Azara railway station passes through the site, which will impact the WLS adversely.
2. The long stretch of the PWD Road from Khanapara Road to Rani Gate fragments the contiguous landscape between Deepor Beel and Rani–Garbhanga Reserve Forest.
3. The artificial drainage system of the built-up area of the city is directly or indirectly connected to Deepor Beel.
4. The municipal solid waste dumping site of Guwahati Municipal Corporation is situated at a distance of only about 300 m from the periphery of the WLS.
5. The officers (ACF downwards) and the frontline staff are not trained in wildlife management.
6. There is heavy fishing pressure along the fringes of the PA.

Actionable Points

1. The management plan, which is under preparation, needs to be completed immediately and approval obtained.
2. Training needs to be imparted to officers below the rank of ACF and to the frontline staff in wildlife and wetland management in the correct manner.
3. The sanctuary suffers from an inadequate staff strength and inadequate infrastructure for the staff. This should be addressed by the state government in a phased manner.
4. The infrastructure and other facilities available for tourists are very insufficient. This needs to be improved immediately.
5. The rapid change of land use- conversion of agricultural lands to industrial use must be stopped immediately by the state government.
6. The municipal solid waste deposition site is situated very close to the WLS. It should be shifted, and there should be a proper disposal plan. Further, the other pollutant, in the form of sewage, needs to be treated properly before it is released into the wetland. This will reduce the degradation of this wetland ecosystem.
7. The fishing along the boundary needs to be regulated through the formation of EDCs in the 11 peripheral villages, and alternative livelihood options need to be provided.
8. The issues relating to the declaration of an ecosensitive zone around the PA must be resolved on priority basis so that other developments in the immediate vicinity of the wetland that would be detrimental can be stopped.
9. Baseline information on the different habitats and the bird species is very important for monitoring and for understanding the significance of this PA, as it is part of a larger wetland, which is a Ramsar site.
10. Monitoring-cum-patrolling camps/towers must be established.

Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary

91°40'0"E

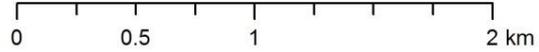


26°8'0"N

26°8'0"N



Notified Area : 4.14 Sq. km
Notification Year:



91°40'0"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			Ramsar site was identified based on studies done by the Guahati University. However, the sanctuary is a smaller part of the wetland landscape.
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			Treats related to Pollution is monitored by PCB.
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		Notification that notifies the range (Annexure 4 of the document compiled)	There are no villages or human settlements within the notified area. further a full-fledged range is set up for the sanctuary and has two anti-poaching camps have set up within the range / at the site
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		Wetland (Protection and Conservation) Rules 2010	Whole sanctuary is core area and is part of the larger Ramsar Site and the wetland landscape. Since it is a wetland different from other PAs. Since the site was handed over to the Forest Department only in 2014, they are in the process of demarcating the ESZ..
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		Draft Management Plan	The Management Plan is under preparation, however the management is being carried out based on APO
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			Since possession of the WLS has been handed over to Forest Department by Revenue Department only in 2014, it not being assessed
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		PCB Reports, Water Hyacinth removal - APO	PCB monitoring pollution, Protection two anti-poaching camps inside, and removal of weeds – Water Hyacinth
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

2.7 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			Since within the PA there are no villages or settlement (stakeholders) they have not been involved, but in the large landscape issues like elephant movement ((stakeholders – railway department and local people are involved in protection and regulating the movement of trains) route to the wetland and the declaration of ESZ local villager are being involved like public hearing.
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		PCB reports	Water pollution monitored by PCB, Water Hyacinth, and other weeds are removed regularly check siltation and habitat degradation
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			Creation of range and two anti-poaching camps for an area of 4.1 km ² and regular patrolling by the forest staff is being done.
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		Compensation register	As such there is no human animal conflict inside the PA, but in the larger landscape it has been effective in mitigating Human- Wildlife conflicts. The District Administration,
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			

				PWD, Railways and local people are involved as a result for the past two years there has not been any conflict. This is evident from no compensation paid for any sort of conflict.
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* Judgment needs to consider staff training, capabilities, equipment, logistics, local attitude and politics (negatively aided and/or abetted), assistance of relevant agencies (e.g. police, Local administration, Local people themselves) PR, follow-up actions and monitoring. Details of compensation paid for human injury/ death and property damage in the last 3 year may be collected.

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Discussion with the park manager and CWLW Assam.	The PA is already integrated / is part of the larger wetland landscape, which is Ramsar Site. Further, the catchment which falls in the Rani and Garbhanga RFs, which is under territorial division are also included in the landscape, where the elephant movement aspect is being taken care off.
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			However there are nine staff who are involved in the two anti- poaching camps, generally the personal posted in the PA is inadequate.
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		Document given by DFO and discussion with Forest Department	There is no Range quarters and office on site, which is immediate needs. Presently only one motor bike, three bicycles and four country boats are available. There is need for one light vehicle, binoculars, night vision scope, spotting scope, and others – as said by the DFO
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria

Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor	✓	Discussion with DFO and APO document given for reference	Funds does not come on time and whatever is given is very inadequate
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			ARANYAK – provide research inputs on Hydrology, Gauwati University – Floral and faunal studies, WTI – involved in Human-Elephant conflict issues in the peripheral areas.
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	✓		Insufficient. No armed force provided, vacancies are not filled
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	✓		Only the Park Manger (DFO) is trained in Wildlife Mangement.
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			However the staff are fully carrying out their jobs in achievement of the management objective, no award or appreciation was received by the staff. One staff received a certificate of appreciation for his supreme involvement for protection elephants from speeding trains in the fringe areas.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair			
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good	✓		
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

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

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor			Public / NCOs participation in the form of periodic involvement (Bird census, awareness programs, etc.)
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor			Since the Pas was handed over to the Forest department only in 2014, however the FD are in the process of setting up Eco-development committees (10 villages in the immediate surrounding of the PA) , which is planned to have 50% of opportunities for 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?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor		Booklet published on (statistics) general information and biodiversity 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			

* 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			Watch Tower to view the wetland and birds, Drinking water and toilet facilities are available, but as of now visitors are allowed as plans are being strategized presently and Forest department is involved in settling the administrative issues
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			Since the PA was handed over to the Forest Department only in 2014, there are no systematic evaluation of the trends. Except for PCB monitoring
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		APOs of last three years	Systematic inventories for the needs of the PA are brought to the notice of higher authorities but fund released are neither adequate nor timely.
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 based on the discussion with DFO	Since the PA was handed over to FD only in 2014, only one year counts of birds have been done, which would be the base but it is planned to carry out systematic monitoring of birds every year – Not rated
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			Although there is no threats to the core area the threats in the surrounding areas have increased. Threats that apparently have increased are in the form of commercial constructions, increase of train traffic, vehicular movement Not rated.
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	✓		Miss use of the areas in the periphery of the PA as picnic spots is planned to be banned
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	✓		However there are no villages inside the PA, the declaration of ESZ and prohibition of fishing in the ESZ, the people are hostile and are objecting.
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	22.5	62.7%
2.	Planning	08	10	80	67.5*	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	22.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	30	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	22.5	
6.	Outcomes	02	10	20	5**	
Total		27		270	170	

*2.3 - not evaluated as none of the options were applicable

**6.1 & 6.2 - not evaluated as none of the options were applicable

5. BORAIL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

MEE Year (2016-17)

Management Strengths

1. All the stakeholders are supportive of the PA management.
2. There is scope for integrating the site with the nearby reserved forest areas.
3. There are no encroachments or biotic interference within the PA.
4. The habitat supports eight primate species, making it unique as such richness in primates is found in very few PAs in India.

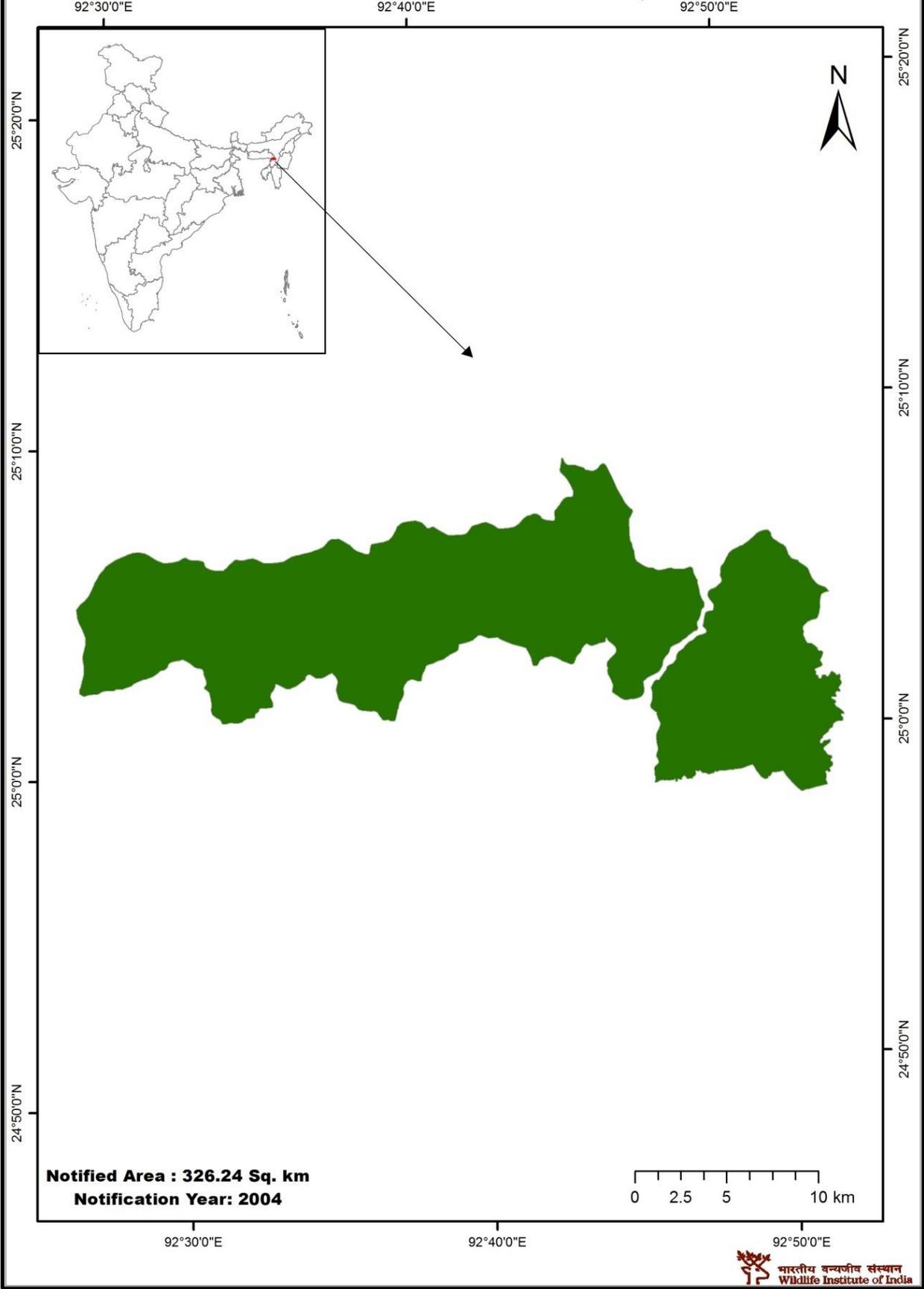
Management Weaknesses

1. The PA is managed in two parts: the eastern part, managed by the Cachar Hills Division and the western part, managed by the Karimganj Division. These are territorial divisions, and wildlife management is combined with territorial works.
2. The first management plan, which has presently been submitted for approval, is not according to the norms of the WII, with major aspects of protection strategies, habitat improvement and involvement of stakeholders in planning missing.
3. The presence of extremists and ultra groups in the close proximity of the sanctuary hinders the management of the PA as the staff feel insecure.
4. Systematic assessment and monitoring of the site values and threats are yet to be taken up.
5. The site is subject to biotic interference along the fringes from the 42 villages present there.
6. There is no separate wildlife staff dedicated to this PA. All the staff members involved in the protection and management of the PA are members of the territorial division staff. Therefore, their orientation towards wildlife conservation is weak.
7. None of the frontline field staff are trained in wildlife management. The ACF and DCF are also not trained in wildlife management.
8. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy due to the paucity of staff members. There are very few options available to the park manager because of this.
9. The resources, both human and financial, allocated for management of the site were found to be inadequate. No dedicated funds were released during the last 3 years.
10. Complaints that are received are normally investigated, but there is no systematic approach to investigation and redressal.
11. There is no systematic schedule for maintenance and management of the minimal infrastructure and assets. Maintenance and management are always dependent on the availability of funds.
12. No systematic or regular census or monitoring is done by the PA management, and no wildlife-related research or studies have been conducted.
13. No resources (vehicles, equipments, buildings, etc.) have been specifically allotted for the PA.

Actionable Points

1. The possibility of the PA being managed by a single division or by a newly created wildlife division should be given priority and explored immediately. The PA should have two ranges, east and west, for better management. Presently this PA is under two different territorial divisions.
2. The management plan needs a major revision on the lines of the WII guidelines, with strategies for zonation, protection, habitat improvement and management, with the proper involvement of the stakeholders at different levels of planning, which should be done immediately.
3. The values and threats of the site need to be monitored and assessed immediately.
4. The pressure along the fringes is to be mitigated as early as possible.
5. The paucity of staff has hampered many activities of the PA, such as habitat restoration, site protection and safeguarding the threatened biodiversity values, and so the vacant positions need to be filled up early.
6. Adequate resource allocation and timely release of funds are needed for managing the PA better.
7. All the frontline staff, including officers, should be trained in wildlife management in a phased manner to develop the latest skills and to use technology in managing the PA.
8. The management-related wildlife population trends need to be evaluated systematically, specifically for the eight species of primate and other threatened and endemic plants and animals.
9. A systematic study of the flora and fauna of the site needs to be carried out on a priority basis.
10. An effort needs to be initiated towards integrating the management goals into the working plan of the adjoining forest.

Borail 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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21 - Section 1.3 & Page 2	All primates found in Assam are present in this WLS
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		Discussion with the Park Manager and Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21 Section 5.3, page 26	No villages inside in the east block , (Cachar) hills while five villages are in the west block (Karimganj) of the sanctuary. However there are 42 villages located along the periphery. No encroachment felling / poaching inside the PA
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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21 Section 4.1.2 page 23 & discussion with Park Mangers	Five settled villages are in the west block of the sanctuary, but no further encroachment / cultivations.
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	✓	Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21	
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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21	The Management Plan exists but not comprehensive. The draft plan that is newly prepared is not according to the 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	✓	Discussion with Park Manger & Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21	After the final notification in 2004 The present draft plan is the first management plan, and there is no process in place for systematic updating
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good			
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

2.4 Does the site safeguards the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria*

Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Sites does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor	✓	Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21 & Site visit	Though anti-poaching camps (four in East) are present there is no system of anti-poaching routes and plans. The main problem of protection is however , the presence of ultras who kidnap forest staff and hinder all protection and management activities
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	✓	Discussion with Park Managers	No participation of Public 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	✓	Discussion with Park Manager & the APOs of 2014, 2015, 2016	The management do not have any prescription on habitat restoration. During the last three years, no funds were received. .
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	✓	Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21 & Site visit	Even though anti-poaching camps (four in East) are present there is no system of anti-poaching routes and plans. The main problem is the presence of ultras who kidnap forest staff and hinder all protection and management activities
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		Discussion with PA manager.	No human-animal conflict has been reported after the notification of the PA, hence it is not rated . Only wild pigs are reported to cause some problems but people tolerate it.
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 west block has forest contiguity with Saipung and Nurpuh RFs in Meghalaya State and Arrang PRF and USF in the north east side. The east block has Unclassed State Forest on the east and southern side. There are no working plans for the adjoining RFs.
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	✓	Discussion with PA manager and Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 20-21 - Sanctioned staff strength given on page 52-53	No separate Forest Guards are appointed for the PA, these Guards take care of the territorial and PA. Present status: Forest Range - 2 posts / 2 posted, Deputy ranger - 2 / 2, Forester 22/11 posted, Forest Guard 39/26
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	✓		No equipment, vehicle and building etc. specific to the PA.
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	✓		
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

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

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓	Discussion with PA Mangers	No contribution from any NGO.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Discussion with PA Manager	No funds have been released for the last three years.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	Discussion with PA managers	None of the Officers and staff are trained in Wildlife Management. Permanent staff have undergone only induction training.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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	✓		No such system exists presently
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair			
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

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

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor	✓	Discussion with PA Manager	
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	✓	Discussion with PA Manager	It is only on the State Forest Department Website
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			No visitors come to this PA so not Rated
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			
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* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor 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?

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor	✓	Discussion with PA Managers	No dedicated staff so no system of even documenting the animals, the local University does take up research activities but it is only adhoc
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair			
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

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

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

<i>Assessment criteria</i>				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor	✓	Discussion with PA managers	There are no systematic inventory or maintenance schedule, but the main problem for all this is lack of funds
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			No information available and no system exists so Not Rated
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Discussion with PA Manager and Site Visit	In general all threats like poaching and felling, etc were frequent before it was notified as PA, which has reduced now.
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			Since no visitors come to this PA it is Not Rated
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	Remarks

			document(s)	
Local communities are hostile.	Poor		Discussion with PA Managers	According to the PA Manager the local people are very supportive 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	15	31.7%
2.	Planning	08	10	80	22.5	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	12.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	12.5	
5.	Outputs	03	10	30	7.5	
6.	Outcomes	02	10	20	12.5	
Total		26		260	82.5	

6. DEHING PATKAI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

MEE Year (2016-17)

Management Strengths

1. Threats and values were identified in the last management plan, and the present management plan is under process.
2. There was proposal to define the site into core and buffer areas in the last management plan, but these were not defined in the field with identification lines in the map of the PA; however, efforts are being made to identify them. The necessary prescriptions will be incorporated in the next management plan to manage such defined areas.
3. The latest management plan (2011–2012 to 2015–2016) was approved, and its period ended on 31.03.2016. It was a comprehensive management plan, and efforts are being made to make the current one more field oriented, effective and comprehensive so that the strategic goals can be attained.
4. All the stakeholders participated in most of the planning processes of the management plan.
5. There is scope for integration of the site with the reserved forest areas nearby.
6. The number of personnel of this PA is inadequate, but all the personnel are explicitly engaged for protection and for achievement the specific management objectives.
7. NGO and members of EDCs are being engaged to build awareness among the local people regarding conservation of wildlife, and the man–animal conflicts are mitigated by management of the PA using funds provided by government organisations, NGOs, public sector units, etc.
8. The site has published brochures in English and the Assamese language that give general information relating to the PA. Some leaflets have also been published by the local forest authority for providing information to the public.

Management Weaknesses

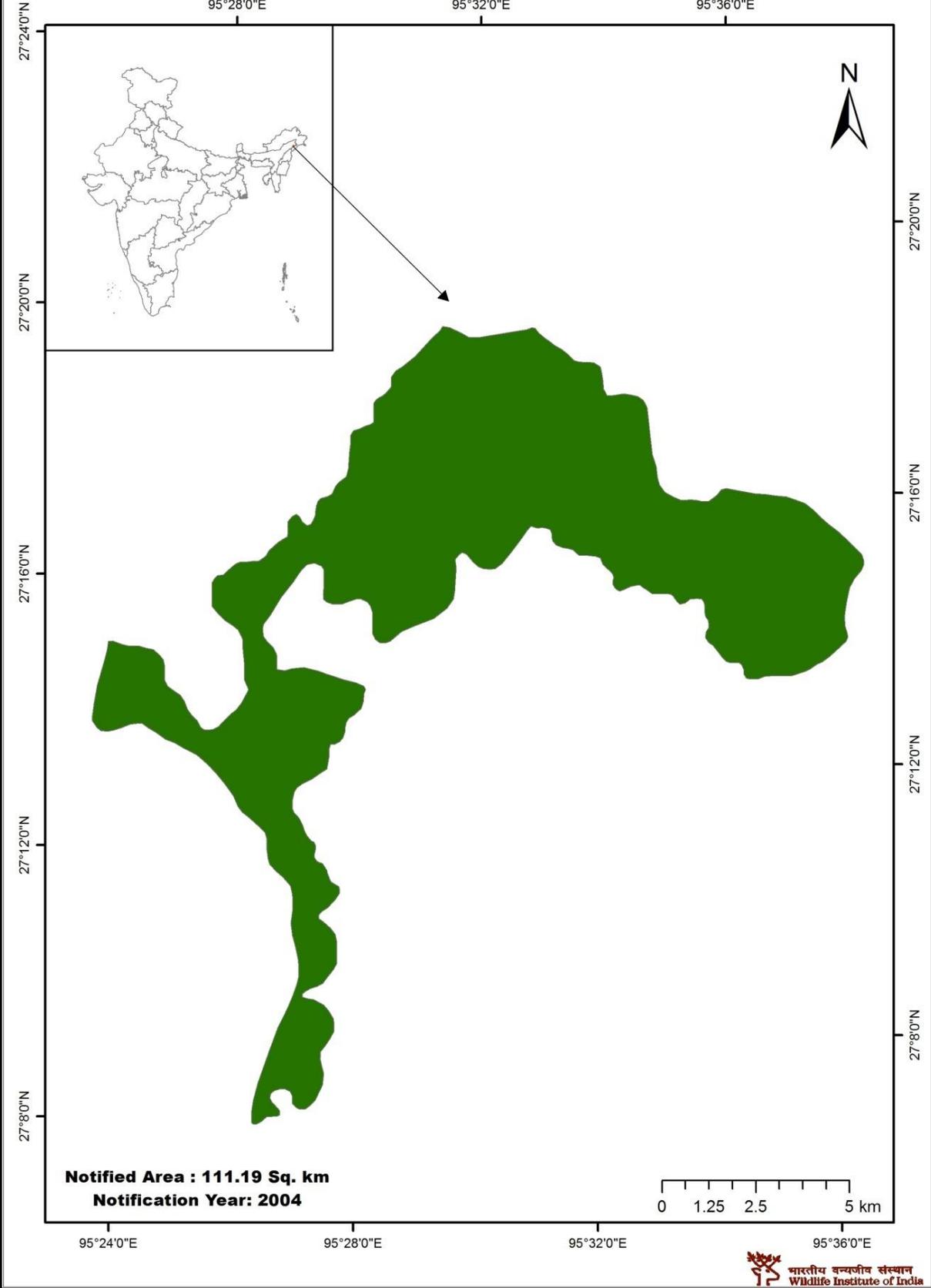
1. The PA is divided by the river Buridehing into two parts: the northern part, managed by the Digboi Division, and the southern part, managed by the Dibrugarh Division. These are territorial divisions, and wildlife management is combined with territorial works.
2. Systematic assessment and monitoring of the site values are yet to be taken up.
3. Some threats have been assessed on the basis of field verification and patrolling, but a systematic assessment of other threats has not yet been carried out.
4. The site is subject to biotic interference from the seven villages nearby.
5. Due to the extreme insufficiency of staff members in this PA, the enforcement is very poor, and safeguarding the threatened values has become extremely difficult.
6. The site has an ad hoc protection strategy due to the poor staff strength. There are very few options available to the park manager because of this.
7. The resources, both human and financial, allocated for management of the site were found to be inadequate.
8. Complaints that are received are normally investigated, but there is no systematic approach to investigation and redressal.
9. There is no systematic schedule for maintenance and management of infrastructure/assets, which are always dependent on the availability of funds.
10. No systematic/regular wildlife-related research/studies are being conducted.
11. The biotic pressure on the PA from the villages on the fringes needs to be controlled to conserve the existing biodiversity.
12. There is no specific allotment of resources (vehicles, boats, equipment, buildings, etc.). All the resources that are allotted to the ranges of this PA are generally used.
13. The PA is being managed by two territorial divisions, which may invite a conflict of interests.
14. It appears that the buffer zone is being targeted for oil exploration as well as for developing a road to bypass Digboi city. This is bound to affect elephant movements in the area, which are already leading to man–elephant conflicts.

Actionable Points

1. The values of the site need to be monitored and assessed.
2. The threats need to be identified and assessed systematically.
3. The pressure posed by the presence of cattle needs to be mitigated as early as possible.
4. The paucity of staff members has hampered many activities of the PA, such as habitat restoration, site protection and safeguarding the threatened biodiversity values. The vacant positions need to be filled up early.
5. Adequate resource allocation and timely release of funds are needed for better management of the PA.
6. The frontline staff, including the officers, should be trained in a phased manner in the use of technology and to develop the latest skills to manage the PA.
7. A systematic approach to investigating and redressing the complaints received is needed.

8. The management-related trends of estimation of population of wildlife need to be systematically evaluated. A systematic study of the flora and fauna of the site needs to be carried out on a priority basis.
9. The area under Dibrugarh Forest Division needs to be expanded as the PA is slender and linear in this division.
10. The targeting of areas for oil exploration and the bypass needs to be reconsidered dispassionately as these areas harbour rich wildlife and have a migratory route of elephants.
11. The possibility of the PA being managed by a single division or by a newly created wildlife division needs to be considered urgently.

Dehing Patkai 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		Section 1.3 and Page 4 - Management Plan 2011-12 to 15-16	The values are there in the objectives of the management, but not systematically assessed and monitored.
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		Offence reports by the forest department & Discussion with Forest Officials	Digboi part Illegal felling of trees - sporadic and according to Forest Department there is no impact to the population of the key species. Five cases in last three years and is in the court. No offence has been recorded for the past three years in Jeypore Range,
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		Discussion with the Forest Department officials	Livestock grazing prevails along the periphery of the PA and little human disturbance in the form of sporadic felling of trees.
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 section 6.2 & 6.3 in Pages 30 – 31	Mentioned and described in the Management Plan but not demarcated on map or on ground
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	✓	Discussion with Forest Department Officials	The approved Management Plan has ended in March 2016. The preparation of new management plan is in process
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 2010-11 to 2015-16	This PA falls under two territorial divisions (Digboi and Dibrugarh)., There is no process in place for systematic review and update
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 2010-11 to 2015-16	The area harbours, Hoolock Gibbon, Elephant, Clouded Leopard, Marbled Cat, King Cobra, Great Pied Hornbill, Rufous necked Hornbill and others
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	✓	Discussion with the Forest Department Officials	There has not been any involvement of stakeholders 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	✓	Management Plan 2010-11 to 2015-16 - Section 6.4 pages 33-37	Nothing is done towards habitat improvement, but a very general plan has been clearly mentioned in the recently expired management plan
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	✓	Discussion with Forest Officials. Staff position record.	The main reason for not having a effective protection strategies is mainly due to lack of staff. Whatever staff are there are used for both territorial and wildlife work. Digboi part Forester 1- Sanctioned 14 in position 4 nos (all age above 50 yrs) Forest Guard Sanctioned 22 in position 7 nos. (all age above 50 years).
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		Human - Elephant conflict data	The main problem is crop raiding by elephants (crop loss) and human killing (one 2016-17 & two 2015-16) in the Digboi side Cases pending in the court. while on the Dibrugarh side there is no such conflict
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		Working plan of the Digboi & Dibrugarh divisions	Working Plan is being renewed, Areas at landscape level extend towards Arunachal side harbouring .undisturbed forests
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		Discussion with the Forest Department Officials	In the Digboi side Saraipung Range of the PA has personnel explicitly allocated for management. In the Dibrugarh side there are six staff deployed specifically for the PA and their salary is being funded by Wildlife Area Welfare and Development Trust , Assam
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Discussion with the Forest Officials	The resources are not adequate for the Digboi part and whatever is allocated are not for the specific needs of the PA. Presently the territorial division assets are being used. In the case of Dibrugarh part Forest quarters constructed under the French Project (Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBCS)),. The resources are not adequate and whatever is allocated are not for the specific needs of the PA..
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	✓	Financial data of wildlife works 2015-16 & the CSS funds	In the Digboi part CSS funds have been received for the years 13-14. (3.7 lac) and 14-15(12 lacs). Presently only state funds are being utilized for management of PA . In the Dibrugarh part presently only state funds that are provided for the territorial division is being utilized for management of PA
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

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

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		Discussion with Forest Officials and the recorded on what was given.	Local NGOs like AARANYAK in 2015-16, have provided shoes, raincoats, training on use of GIS, GPS, Wildlife Crime & Forest Acts and exposure trip to other PAs for the staff of Digboi part . In the Dibrugarh part under the French Project, the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBCS), had constructed new quarters.
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	✓		
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor		Discussion with Forest Department Officials	25% of the staff involved in Wildlife in Digboi part have been trained on wildlife management in Kaziranga NP, Gibbon WLS and Dibru Saikhowa NP. It includes Forest Guards and Foresters. In the Dibrugarh part no staff has been trained in Wildlife management.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor	✓	Discussion with the Forest Department Officials	No awards / Appreciation for staff is in practice.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair			
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

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

4.3 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Discussion with Forest Department	In the Digboi part the EDC members actively participate in management work of Forest Department subject to availability of funds. On the Dibrugarh side there is no 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			

* 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		Register of complaints and their disposal	RTI Complaints have been addressed on time
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good	✓		
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Discussion with Forest Department Officials	On the Digboi side livelihood enhancement - training on Driving vehicle, tailoring, mobile repair and food processing was given to the EDC members that include both men and women. No livelihood issues of local communities addressed on the Dibrugarh side
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	✓	Discussion with Forest Department Officials	Information available in the general on the Forest Department website but nothing specific to 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			

* 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		Discussion with Forest Officials and the Visitors register	On the Digboi side, an Interpretation Center has been set up in Saraipung Range of the PA. Increased trend in f visitors. 14-15 :144 visitors, 15-16 :163 visitors, 16-17: 230 visitors. Nothing is done towards this aspect on the Dibrugarh side.
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	✓	Discussion with Forest Department Officials	Research has been done by individuals and NGOs, but the results were not shared with the PA managers. Forest department also does not carry out systematic evaluation or routine reporting for trends
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		Inventory Statement of the Division	On the Digboi side, systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance, but on the Dibrugarh side maintenance was done whenever fund was 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			Not Rated - No census was conducted by the department, however from the research conducted by the NGOs and comments of the visitors, the population in general appear to be increasing
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair			
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Discussion with Forest Department Officials	At present the only threat the Forest managers see on both sides, is the sporadic felling of trees
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			In the Digboi side the visitors are accompanied by the Forest Guards during the trek inside, and on some occasions vehicle is also provided, so generally the visitors are happy. On the Dibrugarh side no visitor facilities are available,
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 are no villages inside the PA, while there are 13 villages located along the periphery. There are two EDC (one each) formed in two of the villages. Generally most of the locals are supportive of PA management
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

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

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	20	47.41%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	40	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	20	
4.	Process	05	10	50	25	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	15	
6.	Outcomes	03	10	30	17.5*	
Total		29		290	137.5	

*One question not rated

7. SONAI RUPAI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

Management Strengths

1. The areas that have not been encroached upon are well protected and have an adequate number of patrolling camps.
2. The sanctuary is contiguous with Orang Wildlife Sanctuary and Nameri Tiger Reserve, in Assam, forming part of a larger conservation landscape.
3. It is one of the Pygmy Hog reintroduction sites.
4. The undisturbed part of the PA has been notified as a Satellite Core Tiger Conservation Area.
5. The presence of an Assam Rifles camp 3 km northwest of Kamengbari Patrol Camp helps ward off further encroachments in addition to providing security to the field staff of the forest department.

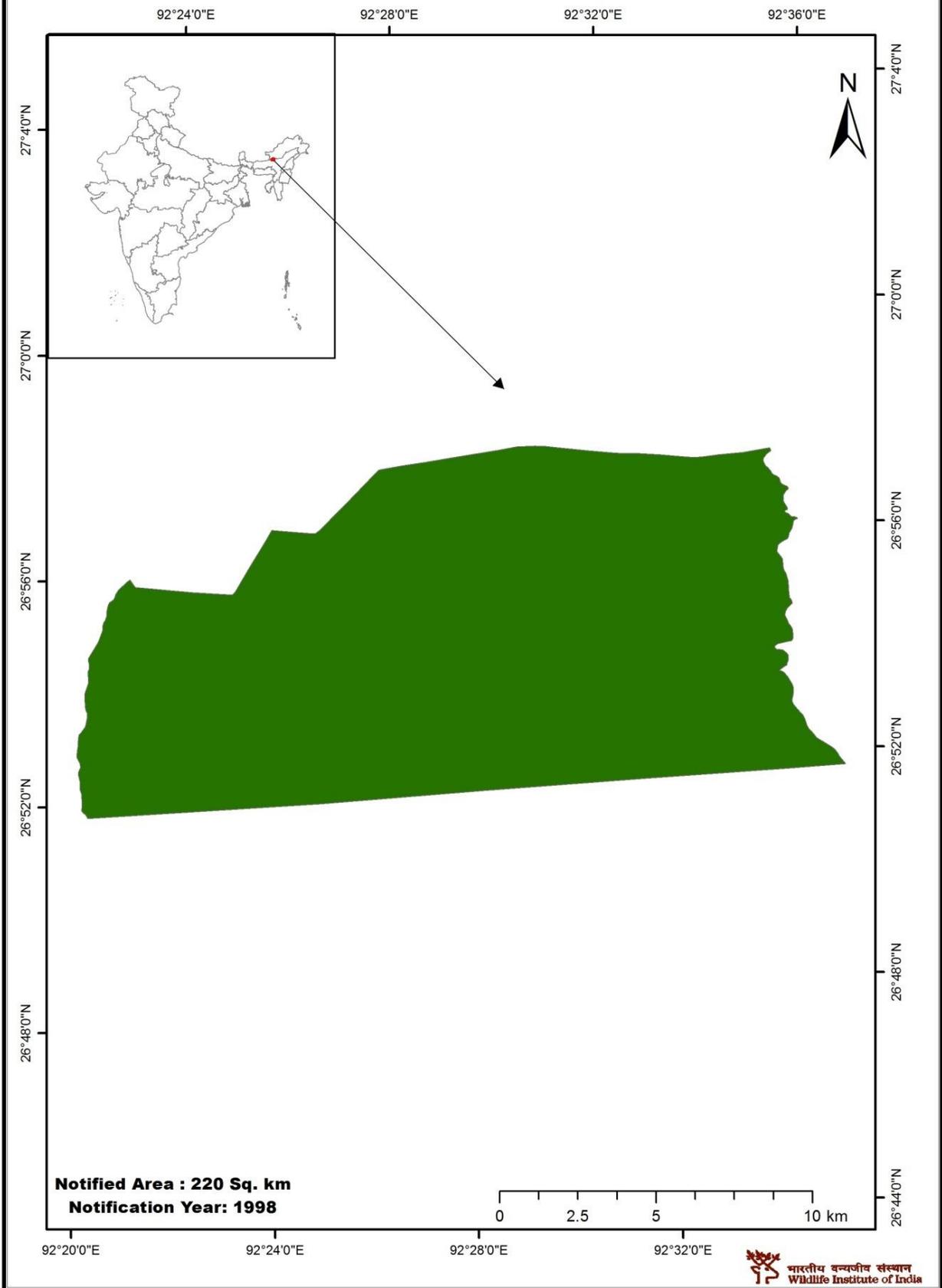
Management Weaknesses

1. There is no management plan in place. Only one management plan was made and that for the period 2003–2008.
2. Nearly 50% (85 km²) of the PA has been encroached upon by the local people.
3. The human–animal conflict has intensified.
4. There is no involvement of the stakeholders in the planning process.
5. There is no public information system.
6. The law-and-order problem of the area is hindering the management of the PA.
7. A school has been constructed in the wildlife sanctuary (in the encroached area), and other infrastructure, including roads, has been built by the PWD.
8. The site values are not done assessed or are not available.
9. As most of the staff members are engaged in protection, they are not able to engage in restoration of the habitat and other management efforts.

Actionable Points

1. A management plan is to be prepared immediately.
2. The zones are to be identified and demarcated on the basis of the objectives of the management.
3. Settlement of the encroached area of the wildlife sanctuary is of high priority.
4. Intensive grassland management in the form removal of weeds, saplings and shrubs that have invaded the grasslands is to be taken up immediately in grassland patches for improvement of the habitat for the Pygmy Hog and other wildlife.
5. The diversity of butterflies, which are pollinators, is good. A butterfly conservation area/park is to be developed by identifying and restoring their host plants.
6. Year-round monitoring of the elephant populations and movements and preparation of a photo identification register of individual elephants/groups will be of use in managing the park as well as in reducing the human–elephant conflict.
7. Weeds and invasive species are to be eradicated in parts of the PA as a part of the habitat improvement and management activities.
8. The frontline staff need to be trained through experienced wildlife NGOs.
9. Research inputs on the habitat, species and overall biodiversity are needed immediately.
10. A small part of the PA (from Kalamati to Gelgeli) needs to be opened for visitors as soon as possible in the undisturbed area with the minimum required infrastructure and a system needs to be developed along with the Army so that the entry of visitors is smooth.

Sonai Rupai 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 2003 -2007-2008 (para 1.3)	Management plan has not been updated, but now as it has been identified as satellite core of Nameri Tiger Reserve, a tiger conservation plan has been planned to be developed.
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		Records of human-elephant conflict issues with Territorial Division)	The threats are systematically identified. Mainly encroachment of people of nearly 50% of the PA. Presently only 120 km ² is protected. Increase in man-elephant conflict (Records with Territorial Division)
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	✓	Documents were provided on the extent of encroachments in the PA	Extensive human encroachment. 85km ² has been encroached 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			The site has been identified as Satellite core of the Nameri Tiger Reserve.
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	✓	Minutes of meeting with PCCF, Wildlife, Assam	There is a old Management plan 2003-2008, but has not been updated after that, however the Park Manager has been directed to initiate the preparation of Tiger Conservation Plan by the higher Authorities.
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		Annual Plan of Operation	Old management plan has not been updated
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			Since nearly half of the area is encroached, no management could be done, while the remaining part is well protected where the threatened biodiversity values are safeguarded.
Sites safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair	✓		
Sites safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
Sites safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

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

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	Nameri Tiger Conservation Foundation Rules	Since it has been identified as Satellite core of Nameri Tiger Reserve, the foundation formed will have NGOs and locals as executive members so there will be an opportunity for stakeholder participation
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		APOs	Plans for Grassland Management, and patrolling for protecting habitat, Weed eradication and desiltation needs to be done
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat restoration.	Fair	✓		
Habitat restoration programmes are generally well planned and monitored.	Good			
Habitat restoration programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good			

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

2.7 Does the site has an effective protection strategy?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Site has no protection strategy.	Poor		Note on eviction details given (eviction notices)	There are fair weather roads connecting the patrolling camps that helps in protection. There is coordination between other departments and is fairly effective.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are rampant.	Poor		Record of logistic support to staff	There are attempts to reduce the Human-wildlife conflict, but due to very high encroachment in the area, it has become difficult to manage this issue
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		Integrated map of Orang, Nameri and Sonai Rupai WLS	There are opportunities on the landscape scale that exist between Orang and Nameri Tiger Reserve and Sonai Rupai WLS. -Satellite Core Tiger Conservation Area.
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		Discussion with DFO	They have a staff position documents (vacancy positions) at Division level but not specific to this PA. Even at the Division level also we see that staff are inadequate.
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		Document on Statement of Resources	The document on statement though available is mostly done on ad hoc basis. Not specific.
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		Statement on fund requirement and fund allocation	It is observed that the release / sanction is not adequate / disproportional to the needs of the PA. CAMPA Fund and Corpus fund given by PCCFs office.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

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

3.4 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor	✓		No NGO involvement mainly due to Law and Order problem in the area.
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		Statement on fund required and fund allocation	In view of inadequate funds provided the Park Manager may prioritize the need.
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	✓		There is an acute need for training of frontline PA staff. None of the staff trained in WL 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			There is a committee to which DFOs write or recommend for awards of their staff and after verification in every wildlife Week celebration they are given 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		Discussion with DFO and Range Officers	Public participation is found on special occasions like World Environment day, Plantation Drives, Wildlife Week Celebration, etc.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		RTIs application and their response / replies	RTIs are replied in a specified time frame.
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		Daily Wages (muster roll) register	Every household of the revenue village have been involved in the Forest management work engaging them on daily wages, but not specifically 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?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no information on PA management publicly available.	Poor	✓		No specific information specific for Sonai Rupai, Just available on Forest Department website and information is mainly general in nature
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? (Not rated)

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			There is a proposal to open the park for visitors by 2017, by the Forest Department and also requests are coming from various stakeholders (Not rated)
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? (Not Rated)

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor			Due to Law and Order no researchers or organizations are coming for carrying out any research. (Not rated)
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		Non Plan Fund Allocation document	
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			The data is available for the year 2011 when the elephant census was done first and now they are to do it in 2017. Based on the field staff reports and discussion on sightings and the animals signs leopard, elephants and other animals appear to have increased
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		Notification of Satellite Core of Tiger Reserve	Since nearly 50% of the area is encroached it is disturbed but the remaining more than 50% (120km ²) are well protected and threats have reduced.
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? Not rated

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor			Not rated*
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		RTIs requesting for information on the encroachers	People who are settled are supportive of the 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	15	50%
2.	Planning	09	10	90	45	
3.	Inputs	05	10	50	22.5	
4.	Process	05	10	50	27.5	
5.	Outputs	02	10	20	10**	
6.	Outcomes	03	10	30	15*	
Total		27		270	135	

8. BHERJAN-BORAJAN-PADUMONI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM (2017-18)

Management Strengths

1. The biodiversity of the area is rich, with 115 species of trees, 37 species of shrubs, 8 species of climbers, 24 species of mammals and 200 species of birds. The sanctuary is home to six species of primates, including the endangered hoolock gibbon and slow loris.
2. The smallness, compactness and easy accessibility of the area make for better management and protection of the Sanctuary.
3. The local communities are extremely supportive of the management of the Protected Area and participate in conservation initiatives.

Management Weaknesses

1. Both the middle-level staff and the frontline staff are inadequate. The Sanctuary does not have any ACF or Range Forest Officer.
2. The Sanctuary is experiencing a shortage of funds for executing any major conservation initiative.
3. Regular census of important wildlife species of the Sanctuary not carried out
4. No systematic wildlife monitoring protocol in place
5. Lack of trained man power for wildlife management
6. The Sanctuary comprises three isolated patches surrounded by tea gardens and human habitations.

Immediate Actionable Points

1. The vacancies at the levels of ACF and RFOs need to be filled up at the earliest to help the Park Director with the better management.
2. The Wildlife Sanctuary needs to carry out regular census/estimate exercises for the major wildlife species of the area.
3. Population monitoring of major mammalian species needs to be done using transect surveys and other methods as mentioned in the Management Plan.
4. The staff of the Sanctuary at all levels needs to be trained in wildlife and Protected Area management to enable them to understand the conservation related issues.
5. Adequate funds to be released on time for effective management and implementation of various conservation programmes.
6. Since the Sanctuary comprises three isolated patches surrounded by tea estates and villages, it is important to fence the Sanctuary boundary at strategic locations to prevent any further encroachment.
7. Local communities to be involved in ecotourism and their capacity built up to enhance the livelihood options for them

BHERJAN-BORJAN-PADUMONI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

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 2012-13 to 2017-18	The values of the sanctuary have been mostly and systemically identified. The Sanctuary is home to seven primate species and 84 bird species. Species like hoolock gibbon are found in this area.
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 2012-13 to 2017-18	Threats have been mostly identified and assessed. The details have been appropriately mentioned in the management plan.
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 2012-13 to 2017-18	There is one forest village inside the Borajan patch and 11 villages around the other two patches. These patches do experience grazing, fire wood collection. There are also six tea gardens in the zone of influence.
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 2012-13 to 2017-18	The WLS has been classified into five zones namely Intact zone (56 ha, 30 ha and 126 ha in Bherjaan, Borajan and Padumoni patches respectively), Rehabilitation zone, tourism zone, eco development zone, administrative zone. However these zones have not been mapped.
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 2012-13 – 2017-18	Site has an approved wildlife management plan. The Management plan does discuss the key wildlife management issues faced by the sanctuary.
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 2003-04 to 2007-08, F. Rahman AFS, Dibugarh division	The WLS's first management plan was prepared in year 2001 and has been updated in year 2012. The revision of the 2 nd management is now due and as informed by DFO shall be initiated 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		Management plan 2012-13-2017-28	

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor			The management plan prescribes, five influence zones, protection themes to safeguard the threatened biodiversity values of the WLS.
The plan safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
The plan safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
The plan safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

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

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Management Plan 2012-13 to 2017-18	Stake holders are given an opportunity in planning process through participation of EDC's.
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 2012-13 to 2017-18	The management plan does prescribe the restoration of upto 250 ha in ten-year period of implementation. With specific focus on Borajan patch. However due to paucity of funds only up to 40 ha of area has been restored with plantation activities. The area also experiences weed invasion due to rains.
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		Pers comm, DFO WLS	Three are six patrolling camps in the WLS with two camps in each of the patches. There is a fixed schedule of patrolling during day and night. Intelligence gathering is also done to obtain critical information on wildlife related threats. As reported by DFO no poaching cases have been reported in last five years. The patches being smaller in size and good accessibility permits surveillance and patrolling very effectively.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not integrate the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor			The three patches are isolated from each other and surrounded by tea estates and villages. There is limited scope for some primates to move from Bherjaan to nearby areas. Dibru-Saikhowa NP is the closest protected area from the Padumoni
The plan makes some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair	✓		
The plan integrates the site generally quite well into a network/ landscape.	Good			
The plan fully integrates the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

				patch of the WL sanctuary. The sanctuary was declared to protect these isolated patches of forest for some of the key primate species. Despite having poor connectivity the areas need special protection.
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* Assessment needs to consider the scope of opportunities on the landscape scale that exist. Consider whether any attempts have been made and what are these? Have all the important corridors been identified? What actions are planned/implemented for their security? Have the Forest Working Plans and Forest Development Corporation Plans within the identified landscapes taken cognizance of such new requirement? What kind of relationship exists with the District Administration and other Line Departments? Does the Site get any funds from these agencies?

3. Inputs

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Pers comm DFO	The WLS does not have any specific sanctioned strength. The Sanctuary has been carved out of two forest division namely Dibrugarh and Tinsukia forest division. The WLS is part of larger Tinsukhiya wildlife division. There are a total of three forester and three forest guards, and five casual daily labors being engaged. ACF and two FRO post are still lying vacant. The total sanctioned posts are 70 for the entire division of which 63 are filled. However the park director stated that at least 200 Forest guards are needed to effectively manage the area.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor			The park does not have formally trained staff on wildlife. But organizations like WWF, WTI and ARANAYAK keep conducting training programs for field staff on wildlife related issues.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair	✓		
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor			The WLS has sufficient number of vehicles, but does not have enough equipment like cameras, GPS, computer and peripherals, wildlife health related equipment's. the buildings are under renovation. The money for vehicle and building have come from French project under Assam Project on Forest and biodiversity conservation
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good	✓		
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor	✓	Last three years of APO's.	In the financial year 2015-16, 51.02 lac was demanded from CSS and no amount was released by central government.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			In the year financial year 2016-17, 57.376 lac was demanded from CSS and 29.61 released by Central government. State government gave 6.62 lacs
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			In the year financial year 2017-18, 20 lac demanded from CSS and nil amount released by the Central Government.
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			In the last three years' funds from CSS have been released only once. The state funds have largely come under the non-plan for the entire wildlife division. The Sanctuary requires special attention regarding fund disbursement as it is home to some of the rare and endangered primate species.

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

3.5 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		Pers comm, DFO.	WTI has been providing support on wildlife veterinary services. They have a center here in the sanctuary. WWF and ARANAYAK has also been providing support as and when needed especially in their area of wildlife census and camera trapping. Local NGO's also participate in the park management from time to time.
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Pers comm, DFO	Most of the resources are insufficient as stated by the Park director.
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor	✓	Pers. Comm, park director	None of the staff has received any award and appreciation 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?

4.2 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			There are a total of 3 EDC's established for each of the patches of the WLS. Routine meetings are conducted by park directors with the villagers and their views are being sought on PA Management. Locals also help in intelligence gathering.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair			
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good	✓		
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		RTI records	Complaints are received and also dealt with but right now there is not complaint received and disposal register in place. Under RTI no complaint has been received in last three years with respect to the WLS.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor			Through EDC's several training have been conducted on Piggery framing, 24 piglets were also distributed to the women. Employment is also generated through ecotourism and other forest related works from time to time. Pagla basti is the only village in the sanctuary area with 36 families.
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			The WLS does not have any dedicated web site, but information regarding WLS is available on the Assam Forest department website. However during wildlife week pamphlets and brochures are printed and distributed among school and college students.
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			Very limited number of tourist come to the sanctuary area. Padumoni and Bherjan areas do not experience visitors however Borajaan area does have visitors. Most of the visitor coming to Borajan stay at Dibru Saikhowa National park where there are a couple of lodges and house boats. However, Assam state tourism corporation is taking up a project to enhance the tourism in the area. Right now
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			

				the WLS does not have any infrastructure with regards to tourism in the area. In all the three patches work regarding creation of infrastructure is going on with the help of EDC's. The infrastructure being developed is sufficient for the size and category of the PA.
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* Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, site related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by site), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor 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			There has been some research being done in the area in past and the management plan mentions the research being carried out in past in the sanctuary
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair	✓		
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor			The maintenance schedules are adhoc in nature and are dependent on the availability of funds through Non plan budget as and when it is 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			There is no specific information available on the population of threatened species. No census has been carried out after 2009. However verbal communication with park director and local Lodge owner did indicate that there has been increase in frequency of sightings.
Some threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Fair	✓		
Most threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others stable.	Good			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threats to the Site have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor		Discussions with park director	Fencing has been done in few parts of the sanctuary, trenches have been dug in few areas. Routine patrolling and surveillance has resulted in abating most of the threats.
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 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			Human wildlife cases not reported from WLS. No compensation has been paid for either human injury /death /property or crop damage. Leopard and snake related issues are reported and WLS has a response system and they have been able to resolve them effectively. The last record of human injury exists only in 2010.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

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

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor			The WLS has a well maintained visitor register. Examination of visitor register indicates that visitors were happy after their visit to the sanctuary and positive feedbacks have been given.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good	✓		
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

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

6.5 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

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

All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good	✓		management and WLS enjoys a good relationship with Local people. There have been no instance of any local resistance by the community for the WLS.
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* There could be many reasons for disenchantment. It could be real because of managerial neglect or the managerial efforts could be appropriate but there could be local elements/organizations who would like to keep the dis-affectation simmering for their own ulterior motives. Likewise success could be entirely because of the efforts of managers or they might be fortunate in striking partnerships with credible NGOs. Assessment may take the prevailing causes into account.

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	22.5	62.5 %
2.	Planning	08	10	80	52.5	
3.	Inputs	06	10	60	32,5	
4.	Process	04	10	40	22,5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	05	10	50	37.5	
Total		30		300	187.5	

9. CHAKRASILA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM MEE YEAR (2017-18)

Management Strengths

1. The Wildlife Sanctuary has been specifically created for the conservation of the golden langur.
2. Population of golden langur has shown a steady and healthy growth.
3. The Protected Area has full-time veterinary support from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) to take care of health- and rescue-related issues.
4. The extent of 45.8 km² of the Protected Area is reasonable for its effective management.
5. The area is appropriately positioned in a large landscape that provides opportunities for the survival of golden langur populations in the future.
6. Most of the frontline staff are young, and they work proactively for the protection of the Sanctuary.
8. There is a continuity of management plans so as to avoid any gap in management interventions.
9. The Sanctuary enjoys the support of the local communities and several NGOs.

Management Weaknesses

1. Absence of middle-level management staff. No ACFs and RFOs.
2. The entire staff is untrained on issues related to wildlife management and Eco-development.
3. Inadequate funds, equipment and infrastructure. The DFO operates from the office of the territorial DFO.
4. Delay in approval of the second management plan.
5. Lack of coordination with other departments.
6. Lack of information about the Protected Area in the public domain and lack of publicity.
7. Inadequate research inputs and for improving the management of the Protected Area.

Immediate Actionable Points

1. Staff vacancies at the level of ACFs and Range Officers should be filled immediately.
2. A driver needs to be appointed immediately as the DFO does not have one.
3. Majority of staff have no formal training on wildlife conservation and Protected Area management. Training and capacity building need to be done for them immediately.
4. The current draft management plan (2016–2017 to 2020–2021) needs to be approved immediately.
5. The Sanctuary requires immediate attention in terms of building infrastructure such as an office and improved residential facilities for the staff.
6. Adequate funds must be made available on time to meet the expenses of the Protected Area.
8. Protected Area management needs to effectively build alliances with other line departments for implementation of common government schemes especially pertaining to livelihood issues and improving ecotourism in the area.
9. The management of the Protected Area must encourage relevant research, especially on species of conservation significance, and include the findings in the management planning process.
10. The scope of extending the Protected Area into a wider network also needs to be reflected in the adjoining territorial Working Plan.

CHAKRASHILA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	The values are mostly identified and assessed. Golden langur is the species of conservation significance and its population is also monitored.
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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	Most of the threats are systematically identified and assessed. Threats to golden langur are also identified, assessed and monitored.
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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 2021-22. Discussion with park manager	There is a certain level of cattle grazing from the villages located outside the sanctuary area. There are about 31 villages outside the PA
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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	The zones are identified but there is a need to demarcate them properly on the ground and also on map.
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		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	The first Management Plan was prepared for 2011-2016 which was subsequently approved. The draft Management Plan for 2015-16 to 2021-22 has been prepared and submitted for approval.
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 Plans	The first Management Plan was prepared in 2011-2016 and subsequently approved. The second draft Management Plan for 2015-16 to 2021-22 has been prepared and submitted for approval.
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good	✓		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Draft Management Plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	In the strategy section of management plan, all important threats to biodiversity values identified and means to safeguard them are also mentioned.
The plan safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair			
The plan safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good	✓		
The plan safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

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

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor		Discussion with Park Manager	Local communities have been consulted during the planning process. Routine dialogues were held with villages to understand their concerns and needs.
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			Few works have been done for building check dams to prevent erosion. Some silvi-pastoral works done. Reielevant species were planted
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		Discussion with Park manager	Routine patrolling is carried out periodically. There is a system of intelligence gathering. Villagers are also used to help patrolling of the area.
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not integrate the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Field visit and discussion with Park Manager	The Sanctuary is well connected to the surrounding landscape and is also the part of proposed ecosensitive zone. The sanctuary
The plan makes some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			

The plan integrates the site generally quite well into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓		has contiguity with Nayekgaon Proposed RF, Nadangiri Hill Reserve in the north and Ramguri PRF in NE and Katrighacha RF on western side.
The plan fully integrates the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

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

3. Inputs

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	✓	Discussion with Park Manager	There is no post of ACF. There are no Forest Rangers and Deputy Rangers posts for the sanctuary. There is a need to strengthen the manpower requirement for the park.
Some personnel explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair			
Some personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate personnel explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	Discussion with Park Manager.	None of the staff is trained in wildlife, ecotourism or eco development. There is a serious need for providing training to all the staff of the sanctuary.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		Draft Management Plan	There is a need to provide more resources that can be directly linked with achievement of PA objectives.
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

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

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

3.5 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor			There are not too many resources provided by NGO. WTI has provided some field jackets for staff and had provided funds for golden langurs in
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			2016. There is one Veterinary Doctor provided by the WTI
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*Details of contributions (cash/kind) made by the NGOs in the last 3 years may be collected.

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor		Pers. Comm Park Manager	The PA manager felt that they need more 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 Is PA staff performance management linked to achievement of management objectives?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor		Discussion with Park Manager	The assessment of the staff is done on the basis of their performance with respect to management priorities of the sanctuary. Nominations are also sent for awards by Park 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			

*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			As and when the staff and Park Manager visit villages, discussions are held with the local people. Local people also participate in the census operation and forest fire control. Local colleges have been approached by the Park Manager for their help in PA Management.
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic approach to handling complaints.	Poor		Discussion with the Park Manager	There are no established systems of receiving and handling complaints but RTI issues are handled by the State Public Information Officer. The information currently is not compiled in any register but files are maintained.
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and limited follow up provided.	Fair	✓		
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor			There is adequate representation of women in EDCs. The park related works are usually done by local people and wages paid by the park management
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		Pers comm. Park Manager	The scant information on the park is available on Forest Department and other government websites and some of the travel portals.
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			There are limited tourism and no interpretation facilities at the moment. During an annual festival Baukhungri more than one lakh visitors enter the park and cause extensive littering in the park.
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 Park manager	Scattered research is being carried out by university students but findings are not shared with the park management. Whenever information is available, they are used for the management.
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			There is no systematic maintenance schedule in place and works are done on ad hoc basis as and when 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		Draft Management plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	The population of golden langur the keystone species of the area has shown healthy increase over last few years.
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			The collection of firewood has and tree lopping has reduced. However, the cattle grazing continues. Forest fires have been reduced and is controlled to a large extent.
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 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		Draft Management plan 2016-17 to 2021-22.	The site does not have any significant human wildlife conflict issues and all possible cases are handled effectively.
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

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

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor		Discussion with Park Manager	Visitor record is not maintained properly and currently the system of recording visitor feedback does not exist. There is a need to maintain such information's in organized manner. However Park Manager said that verbally people have expressed their satisfaction after the park visit.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair	✓		
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good			
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

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

6.5 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor			Most of the local people have been supportive of the PA management. There have been very few cases of protests by the local people. Golden langur is largely respected as a part of local culture and tradition.
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	22.5	59.16 %
2.	Planning	08	10	80	52.5	
3.	Inputs	06	10	60	25	
4.	Process	04	10	40	22.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	20	
6.	Outcomes	05	10	50	35	
Total		30		300	177.5	

10. EAST KARBI ANGLONG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM MEE YEAR (2017-18)

Management Strengths

1. Ecological contiguity of the Sanctuary with Kaziranga National Park within the Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong Landscape.
2. Negligible anthropogenic pressure considering the vastness of the landscape and biotic interferences.
3. Local communities are supportive of the management of the Protected Area.
4. The Sanctuary, being surrounded by a mosaic of proposed Reserved Forests and Unclassed State Forests, provides a buffer for the park.
5. The diversity of habitats (extensive lentic and lotic waterbodies and semi-evergreen forest) indicates great biological diversity, much of which are yet to be evaluated.
6. Some charismatic endangered species, such as the Himalayan black bear, gaur, hoolock gibbon and slow loris, are found in the area, and these can become the focal points of conservation in the area.
7. The Protected Area provides the much-needed connectivity for elephants and is also part of the Kaziranga Karbi Anglong elephant reserve.

Management Weaknesses

1. The territorial division has been given the charge of managing the sanctuary, which appears to be just an addition to the normal duties of the territorial division.
2. None of the staff members have been exposed to wildlife management and training.
3. The Protected Area lacks the infrastructure and resources needed to manage the Sanctuary.
4. The Protected Area has not conducted any proper census to get estimates of the wildlife population.
5. The Protected Area does not have any dedicated field staff for day-to-day management of the Wildlife Sanctuary.
6. The Protected Area has not been divided into any zonation and mapped properly.
8. Lack of information about the Protected Area in the public domain and lack of publicity.

Immediate Actionable Points

1. A proper wildlife division is to be created in the area to address the wildlife-related issues.
2. The field staff need to be formally trained in wildlife management.
3. Proper zonation and boundary demarcation need to be done as quickly as possible.
4. A census and survey should be carried out to gather data on wildlife populations in the area.

EAST KARBI ANGLONG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

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 2017-2022	Large area 221 sq.km. Extensive bamboo forests high forests Himalayan black bear,slow loris,hoolock gibbon abound
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 2017-2022	Discussion with PA Managers. Threats identified but not systematically assessed
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 2017-2022	Jhum cultivation practiced in a limited area. Piggery is main livestock. Bamboo shoots, Thysanolena collection, edible herb collection etc.
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 2017-2022	Only sanctuary boundary is demarcated. No core and buffer demarcation. No tourism zone and there are no prescription for zonation.
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 2017-2022	This is a draft management plan of the area pending approval. The earlier management plan has expired
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 2012-2016 and Management Plan 2017-22	The present plan is the second plan to have been submitted
Management Plan sometimes updated in adhoc manner.	Fair			
Management Plan routinely and systematically updated.	Good	✓		
Management Plan routinely, systematically and scientifically updated through a participatory process.	Very good			

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Management Plan 2017-22	Management plan talks about listing threatened biodiversity values of the area but lacks specific plan to deal with them.
The plan safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair	✓		
The plan safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
The plan safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

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

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	Discussion with DFO	Stakeholders are not consulted while preparing the plan.
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 2017- 22 And discussion with PA managers	No specific habitat management programmes
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 2017- 22 and discussion with PA managers	Three antipoaching camps. One watch tower. Protection strategy involves taking local people into confidence
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair	✓		
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good			
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not integrate the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Management Plan 2017- 22	It is a part of Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Landscape. On the north is KNP, east is Kalyani. USF connectivity envisaged with other PAs. Part of Elephant Reserve
The plan makes some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
The plan integrates the site generally quite well into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓		
The plan fully integrates the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

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

3. Inputs

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	NOT RATED	Discussion with Park Manager	No staff specifically allocated for Wildlife Management. Presentably PA managed by
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			Territorial staff.
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* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓	Discussion with Park Manager	There is not even a single staff trained in Wildlife Management.
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		APO	Under integrated development of Wildlife Habitats they were allocated 7 lakhs (Under CSS)
Some resources explicitly allocated for PA management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair	✓		
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Good			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific management objectives.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor	✓	APOs Sanction letters Discussion with DFO	In last three years a total of eleven lakhs sixty seven thousand rupees have come through CSS as against demand amount of 20 lakhs rupees per year.
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

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

3.5 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor		Discussion with Park Manager	One Motorcycle provided by WWF Few trainings by NGOs on legal aspects in Wildlife and wildlife monitoring Torch, jackets etc provided from time to time
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Discussion with Park Manager	Resources are 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 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		NOT RATED	PA does not have dedicated wildlife staff
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair			
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

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

4.2 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no public participation in PA management.	Poor		Discussion with DFO	Four EDC have been proposed but not registered. Found cooperation of villagers in wildlife conservation on our field visit
Opportunistic public participation in some aspects of PA management.	Fair	✓		
Systematic public participation in most aspects of PA management.	Good			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important aspects of PA management.	Very good			

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Photographic Records	Distribution of piglets, improved chullahs. Revenue from tourism is used for community development and wages for the local people. During 2016-17, more than Rs. 1.00 lakh realised as revenue from public from tourism area .
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			Signage's and posters
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	✓	Discussion with PA Manager	
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	✓	Discussion with Manager	No systematic documentation. Few researches done but no reports were sent
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			
Inventory maintenance is adhoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair	✓		
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good			

6. Outcomes

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Threatened/ endangered species populations declining.	Poor		Discussion with Park Manager	In the entire Karbi Anglong council area the elephant population recorded an increasing. Relatively high density of hoolock gibbon population.
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			A positive trend in wildlife population is suggestive of minimizing threats
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 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		Discussion with Park Manager and villagers	No conflict reported so far
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

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

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

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

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

6.5 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor			Local communities are supportive and accommodative to conservation
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	49.07%
2.	Planning	08	10	80	40	
3.	Inputs	06	10	50	17.5	
4.	Process	04	10	30	12.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	15	
6.	Outcomes	05	10	40	30	
Total		30			132.5	
				We assessed 270 out of 300		

11. GARAMPANI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

MEE YEAR (2017-18)

Management Strengths

1. A well-known Wildlife Sanctuary and a popular tourist destination.
2. A small Sanctuary that is nested within a larger contiguously forested landscape.
3. The Protected Area acts as an important corridor for wild elephants in the Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong Landscape.
4. A unique geological setting that includes a number of Sulphur hot springs gives a distinct signature to the Protected Area.
5. Rich biodiversity notable for plants (especially orchids) and birdlife.
6. Biotic interference within sanctuary found to be insignificant.

Management Weaknesses

1. Busy national highway likely to have direct and indirect negative impacts on the Protected Area.
2. An increase in the number of human settlements in the fringe areas may have an adverse impact on the Protected Area.
3. The Sanctuary is currently managed by the territorial staff, who have undergone no formal training in wildlife management.
4. The Protected Area lacks the infrastructure and resources needed for managing the Sanctuary.
5. The limited staff have to look after the large wildlife area, which falls in two wildlife sanctuaries and one Reserve Forest.
7. No proper mapping of forest and consolidation of boundaries. These are likely to hinder the management of the Protected Area.

Immediate Actionable Points

1. Ecological studies need to be conducted on the biodiversity assessment and the threats faced by it.
2. The ecological integrity of this small Sanctuary should be maintained by emphasizing connectivity with adjoining Protected Areas and forested landscapes.
3. The Sanctuary should be brought under the administrative control of a separate Wildlife Division.
4. The staff should be trained in wildlife monitoring and Protected Area management.
5. A periodic estimation of the wildlife population may be conducted to understand population trends.
6. The tourism zone of the Protected Area may be used for interpreting wildlife and nature for tourists and spreading awareness amongst them. Special attention needs to be given to the natural Sulphur springs and their protection.
8. Presently entry to the Sulphur springs is free. Some entry fee needs to be levied for regulation, and unruly behaviour/creation of worship areas in the area should not be allowed.
9. Research needs to be conducted on the hot springs and distribution of wildlife to gain a better understanding of these unique ecological settings.

GARAMPANI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

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 2017-22	Submitted, not yet approved
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair	✓		
Most values systematically identified, 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 2017-22	
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 2017-22	Free from both human and biotic interference. No villages in the PA and it is surrounded by RF and PA such as Nambor WLS, and Nambor RF
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 2017-22.	In the year 2000 Garampani WLS was handed over to Karbi Anglong from Golaghat Forest Division. Proper zonation has not been done
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 2017-22	Not comprehensive enough. More details need to be filled in
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 documents	The first management plan was written for 2011-16
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			The Second Management Plan has been submitted to the CWLW for approval for the years 2017-22

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor		Management Plan	The plan envisages protection and networking to a larger landscape which will safeguard threatened biodiversity values
The plan safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair	✓		
The plan safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good			
The plan safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good			

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

2.5 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor	✓	Management Plan and discussion with Park Manager	No plan for stakeholder participation 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	✓	Management Plan	The Management Plan needs to be relooked to encompass this particular aspect of habitat restoration
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		Discussion with RFO	Apart from the regular staff, there is additional force by way of Forest Protection Battalion staff who assist in patrolling
Site has an adhoc protection strategy.	Fair			
Site has a comprehensive protection strategy but is not very effective.	Good	✓		
Site has a comprehensive and very effective protection strategy.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
The plan does not integrate the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor		Management Plan	Opportunities exist for expansion of the PA on a landscape level as it is surrounded by Nambor RF and Nambor WLS
The plan makes some limited attempts to integrate the site into a network/ landscape.	Fair			
The plan integrates the site generally quite well into a network/ landscape.	Good	✓		
The plan fully integrates the site into a wider network/ landscape.	Very good			

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

3. Inputs

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, personnel explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor	Not Rated		No dedicated staff for Sanctuary. Presently the management is being overseen by Territorial staff who have to look
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			after the WLS also
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* This assessment should *inter-alia* be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of PA objectives at the Range , Round, Beat and Patrolling camps levels or as relevant to the needs (sanctioned posts *vis- a- vis* existing personnel and needs beyond the sanctioned strengths. It is possible that posts have last been sanctioned several years back that do not now account for the current needs)

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Very few trained officers and frontline staff in the site.	Poor	✓		No trained staff
Few trained officers and frontline staff, who are posted in the site.	Fair			
A large number of trained officers and frontline staff are posted in the site.	Good			
All trained managers and frontline staff posted in the site.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for PA management.	Poor		RFO	Two vehicles in place are in a bad condition. One motor cycle donated by the WWF is in a working condition. Buildings are not adequate and not 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.

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resource allocation is adhoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor		Discussions with RFO and Annual Plan of Operations	Paucity of funds from both CSS and State Plan . Funds when available are also not released on time Three years approx 27 lakhs from CSS
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair	✓		
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good			

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

3.5 What level of resources is provided by NGOs?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition*	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
NGOs contribute nothing for the management of the site.	Poor			Motor cycle provided by WWF. Limited tie up on rehabilitation of rescued animals with WTI
NGOs make some contribution to management of the site but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair	✓		
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some site level activities.	Good			
NGOs contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many site level activities.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Resources insufficient for most tasks.	Poor	✓	Discussion with Range Forest Officer/	Funds not adequate for WL management
Resources sufficient for some tasks.	Fair			
Resources sufficient for most tasks.	Good			
Resources are in excess for most tasks.	Very good			

4. Process

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

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No linkage between staff performance management and management objectives.	Poor	Not Rated		No dedicated staff for WL management. All territorial staff also does WL work.
Some linkage between staff performance management and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair			
Performance management for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good			
Performance management of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good			

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

4.2 Is there effective public participation in PA management?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by PA management.	Poor		Discussion with PA manager	Piglets are distributed to the local community to promote piggery in the area.
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		Discussion with Park manager	Information available only on Forest Department website
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		Annual Plan of Operation	Proposal given for Interpretation Center. Daily 100-150 people come to see the hot spring. A small washroom available for visitors
Visitor services and facilities generally accord with relevant PA category and don't threaten PA values.	Fair	✓		
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and most enhance PA values.	Good			
All visitor services and facilities accord with relevant PA category and enhance PA values.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor	✓		Research/monitoring of wildlife not done
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair			
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good			

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

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

Assessment criteria				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor		Discussion with RFO	No funds available for maintenance
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	Not rated		The PA does not have any population data of key and threatened species.
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			Picnics were a menace earlier have been banned and enforced.. No villages inside, Connected to a larger landscape
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 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			Elephant conflict mitigation done. Staff immediately does inspection and assessment of damage and recommends compensation which is implemented via DM's office
Site has been able to mitigate few human-wildlife conflicts.	Fair			
Site has been able to mitigate many human-wildlife conflicts.	Good	✓		
Site has been able effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good			

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

6.4 Are the expectations of visitors generally met or exceeded?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category*	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Expectations of visitors generally not met.	Poor			Based on the visitors' register it was evident that all visitors expressed their happiness to have visited the area.
Expectations of many visitors are met.	Fair			
Expectations of most visitors are met.	Good	✓		
Good expectations of most visitors are met.	Very good			

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

6.5 Are local communities supportive of PA management?

Assessment criteria*				
Condition	Category	(Tick ✓)	Reference document(s)	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor			Rules and regulations of the Department followed by people. Poaching/encroachment not noted in the PA
Some are supportive.	Fair			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good	✓		
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good			

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

MEE Score Card

Framework Element Number	Framework Element Name	Number of Questions (a)	Maximum Mark per question (b)	Total (a x b)	Marks obtained for the Element	Overall Score
1.	Context	03	10	30	17.5	51.85%
2.	Planning	08	10	80	42.5	
3.	Inputs	06	10	50	20	
4.	Process	04	10	30	12.5	
5.	Outputs	04	10	40	17.5	
6.	Outcomes	05	10	40	30	
Total		30		270	140	