



MEETR

Management Effectiveness Evaluation

of Tiger Reserves
in India

Technical Manual 2026

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Preface

Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) is an important tool for assessing how effectively Tiger Reserves are being managed and the extent to which management interventions are contributing to the conservation of tigers, their habitats and associated biodiversity. It provides a structured approach to understanding management performance, identifying strengths and gaps, and assessing whether management actions are appropriately aligned with the conservation objectives and requirements of individual Tiger Reserves.

The Technical Manual for Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves in India provides a common framework and methodology for undertaking MEE in a systematic, consistent, objective and evidence-based manner across the Tiger Reserve network. The Manual is based on the internationally recognised IUCN-WCPA Framework for Assessing Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas and has been adapted to reflect the ecological characteristics, management priorities and institutional context of Tiger Reserves in India. It provides a standardised basis for assessment while allowing sufficient consideration of the site-specific ecological, social, landscape and management context of individual Tiger Reserves.

The MEE framework examines management effectiveness across the different stages of the management cycle, beginning with an understanding of the context and conservation values of the Tiger Reserve, followed by assessment of planning, inputs, management processes, outputs and outcomes. This approach enables the assessment to move beyond simply documenting management activities or expenditure and, wherever possible, to examine the extent to which these interventions are translating into measurable conservation results.

The Manual is intended primarily to guide independent assessment teams in undertaking a credible and consistent evaluation of management effectiveness. At the same time, it serves as a practical reference for Tiger Reserve managers by providing a structured basis for understanding management strengths, identifying gaps and challenges, and prioritising areas requiring attention. MEE is envisaged not merely as a scoring or ranking exercise, but as a mechanism for learning, reflection and adaptive management. The findings should help Tiger Reserve managers and other stakeholders understand what is working, where improvements are required, and how management strategies can be refined in response to changing ecological conditions, emerging threats and conservation needs. The process can also support more informed prioritisation of resources, strengthening of management systems, and continuous improvement in the effectiveness of conservation interventions.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of experts, technical institutions, Tiger Reserve managers, frontline personnel and other stakeholders who have contributed to the evolution and strengthening of the MEE process in India.

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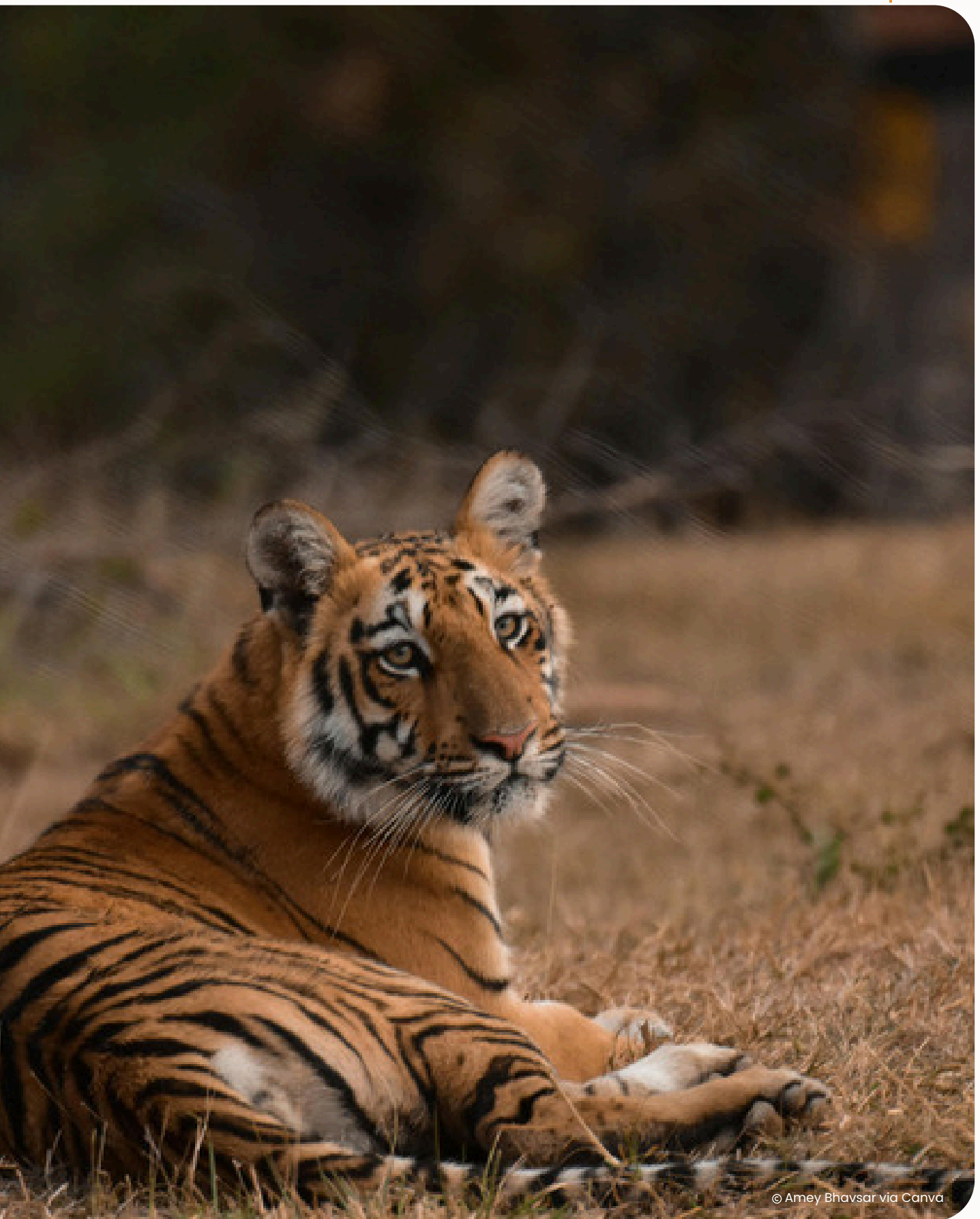
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Introduction

1.1 Background and Evolution of Management Effectiveness Evaluation

Tiger Reserves constitute a critical component of India's conservation landscape and are established primarily to secure viable tiger populations and conserve their habitats and associated biodiversity. Their management extends beyond protection of individual species to maintaining ecological processes, prey populations, habitat quality, landscape connectivity, and the ecological integrity of the larger landscapes in which they occur.

Tiger Reserves face diverse and interacting pressures, including habitat alteration, infrastructure development, wildlife crime, fire, invasive species, resource use, human-wildlife interactions, climate variability, and wider ecological and socio-economic changes. Management agencies also operate under varying levels of human, financial, technical, and institutional capacity. Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) is therefore an important mechanism for determining whether management systems and interventions are appropriate, adequately supported, effectively implemented, and contributing to conservation objectives.

MEE of Tiger Reserves was initiated in India in 2006, based on the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Framework for Assessing Management Effectiveness. Since then, successive assessment cycles have refined the methodology in response to implementation experience and changing conservation requirements. The five completed cycles were undertaken in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022, covering 28, 39,

43, 50, and 51 Tiger Reserves, respectively. The 6th Cycle of MEE (MEE 2026) builds on this established national system while strengthening assessment of management processes, evidence, outputs, and conservation outcomes. It also responds to emerging management challenges and the increasing availability of quantitative, spatial, monitoring, and digital information. The objective is to retain continuity and comparability with earlier cycles while providing a stronger basis for management improvement.

1.2 Management Effectiveness

Management effectiveness refers to how well a protected area is managed, particularly whether its conservation values are being protected and its agreed goals and objectives are being achieved. In a Tiger Reserve, this includes the extent to which management understands and responds to the ecological and management context, addresses threats, establishes appropriate objectives and strategies, maintains adequate resources and institutional capacity, implements interventions effectively, delivers planned outputs, monitors ecological and management conditions, and contributes to desired conservation outcomes.

Management effectiveness is not equated with management effort or expenditure alone. The existence of plans, programmes, infrastructure, staff, or financial allocations does not by itself demonstrate effective management. The assessment also considers whether interventions are appropriately targeted, effectively implemented, monitored, and contributing to identified management and

conservation objectives. MEE consequently serves both accountability, through systematic assessment, and management improvement, through identification of strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and priority actions.

1.3 Context-Specific and Evidence-Based Assessment

Tiger Reserves differ in their ecological characteristics, geographical setting, threat profile, management requirements, and institutional circumstances. MEE applies a common national framework while interpreting management performance in the context of individual Tiger Reserves.

The assessment is based on available and verifiable evidence. Depending on the criterion, evidence may include Management Plans and annual plans, financial and administrative records, staff deployment and capacity records, protection and patrol records, M-STriPES and other digital systems, wildlife and prey monitoring data, habitat assessments, fire and invasive species records, wildlife crime and intelligence records, wildlife health information, GIS and remote-sensing data, human-wildlife conflict records, tourism records, research and monitoring reports, field observations, and consultations with relevant personnel and stakeholders. Professional judgement remains an important component of MEE, supported by available evidence and clearly recorded.

1.4 Outcome Orientation

A central principle of MEE 2026 is the distinction between management effort, outputs, and outcomes. Wherever adequate evidence is available, the assessment examines the relationship between conservation objectives, management strategies, resources and capacity, interventions, outputs, and conservation responses.

MEE does not require every intervention to demonstrate an immediate ecological outcome. Conservation outcomes may be influenced by multiple factors and may take several years to become measurable. The assessment therefore considers the contribution of management to conservation outcomes rather than attributing every ecological change to a particular intervention.

1.5 Objectives and Scope of MEE TR

The MEE is intended to strengthen the ability of the assessment system to identify management gaps and provide actionable information for improving conservation effectiveness. Its objectives are to:

1. assess management effectiveness in relation to the conservation objectives of Tiger Reserves;
2. assess the adequacy and appropriateness of management planning, institutional arrangements, and resources;
3. assess the implementation and effectiveness of management interventions;
4. assess management outputs and, where supported by reliable evidence, conservation outcomes;
5. identify management strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and priority interventions;
6. assess capacity to identify, monitor, and respond to existing and emerging threats;
7. support evidence-based prioritisation of management interventions and resources;
8. promote adaptive management, learning, and continuous improvement; and
9. provide a consistent basis for strengthening management effectiveness across the Tiger Reserve network.

The scope of MEE covers the six **WCPA elements: Context, Planning, Inputs, Process, Outputs, and Outcomes**. These encompass issues relevant to tiger conservation and management, including protection, habitat management, tiger and prey conservation, ecological monitoring, wildlife crime and intelligence, wildlife health, human-wildlife coexistence, landscape connectivity, fire and disaster management, climate-related risks, community engagement, and achievement of Management Plan objectives.

1.6 Principles Guiding MEE TR

MEE is guided by the principles of objectivity, independence, consistency, context sensitivity, evidence-based assessment, outcome orientation, transparency, learning and improvement, adaptive management, and proportionality. Assessments are based on evidence and reasoned professional judgement; undertaken independently of routine management; applied through a common national framework; and interpreted with due consideration of the ecological, geographical, socio-economic, and administrative context of each Reserve. Findings and scores are supported by appropriate evidence, clearly documented, and used to inform subsequent planning, implementation, monitoring, and management improvement.

1.7 Use of MEE Results

The principal value of MEE lies in the management response that follows the assessment. The findings of the exercise are used to maintain management strengths, address critical weaknesses, prioritise interventions and resource requirements, strengthen protection and habitat management, improve institutional and technical capacity, identify monitoring and research requirements, address emerging threats, strengthen landscape-level responses, and support future

management planning and policy.

Accordingly, the assessment provides more than an overall score or grade. It establishes a clear basis for identifying what is being done well, what requires improvement, what should be prioritised, and what action is required. Where an issue cannot be addressed effectively at the Tiger Reserve level, the assessment identifies the need for intervention at the appropriate State, NTCA, MoEFCC, inter-departmental, or landscape level.

1.8 WCPA Framework for management evaluation

The Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves in India is based on the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Framework for Assessing Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas.

The WCPA Framework provides a general structure for assessing management effectiveness in protected areas, while MEE applies this framework specifically to the ecological, institutional, and management requirements of Tiger Reserves in India. Accordingly, the assessment framework retains the six WCPA elements while incorporating Tiger Reserve-specific management concerns, including tiger and prey conservation, habitat management, protection and law enforcement, wildlife crime and intelligence, ecological monitoring, wildlife health, human-wildlife coexistence, landscape connectivity, fire and disaster management, climate-related risks, and achievement of Management Plan objectives.

CONTEXT

Context establishes the current situation of the Tiger Reserve.

It includes an assessment of:

- conservation values;
- their status and condition;
- threats and pressures;
- vulnerability of important values; and
- relevant ecological, social, landscape and policy context.

For Tiger Reserves, this includes consideration of tiger and prey populations, habitats, biodiversity, ecological processes, important corridors and other factors relevant to conservation objectives.

Key question:

What are we trying to conserve, what is its current status, and what are the key threats?

PLANNING

Planning establishes the desired future condition and the strategies required to achieve it.

It includes:

- conservation objectives;
- management strategies;
- zoning;
- priority areas;
- management programmes;
- threat mitigation strategies; and
- monitoring and research requirements.

Key question:

What do we want to achieve, and how do we intend to achieve it?

INPUTS

Inputs are the resources required to implement management.

These include:

- human resources;
- financial resources;
- infrastructure;
- equipment;
- technology;
- technical expertise; and
- institutional support.

Inputs should be considered in relation to the Tiger Reserve's management requirements and conservation priorities.

Key question:

What resources and capacity are required for effective management?

PROCESS

Process concerns how management is implemented. It includes the systems and actions through which the Tiger Reserve addresses its conservation objectives and identified threats.

Depending on the Tiger Reserve, these may include:

- protection and law enforcement;
- habitat and wildlife management;
- ecological monitoring;
- fire management;
- wildlife health;
- wildlife crime management;
- human-wildlife conflict management;
- community engagement;
- tourism management; and
- landscape-level coordination.

Key question:

How effectively are management strategies being implemented?

OUTPUTS

Outputs are the immediate products or services delivered through management interventions.

Examples include:

- protection and patrol effort;
- habitat management interventions;
- monitoring programmes;
- infrastructure and equipment provided;
- personnel trained;
- wildlife crime investigations;
- conflict-response measures; and
- community and outreach programmes.

Key question:

What outputs has management delivered?

OUTCOMES

Outcomes represent the results of management in relation to conservation objectives.

For Tiger Reserves, these may include:

- maintenance or improvement of tiger populations;
- adequate prey populations;
- improved habitat condition;
- reduction in identified threats;
- protection of important biodiversity values;
- maintenance of ecological connectivity; and
- achievement of Tiger Conservation Plan objectives.

Outcomes provide the strongest indication of whether management is achieving its intended conservation purpose.

Key question:

What conservation results have been achieved?

1.9 Assessment Process and Institutional Arrangements

The MEE TR is conducted as an independent, systematic, and evidence-based assessment using the approved Assessment Framework and Criteria. The 6th Cycle of MEE will cover 58 Tiger Reserves organised into 14 landscape clusters to facilitate coordination, field deployment, standardisation, and consolidation of findings. An independent assessment team comprising four members will be constituted for each cluster. The NTCA and Wildlife Institute of India will provide overall coordination, including dissemination of the assessment framework, coordination with States and Tiger Reserve authorities, facilitation of assessment schedules and logistics, and consolidation of results. Independent expert teams will undertake document review, field assessment, evidence verification, scoring, and reporting.

Before the field assessment, the assessment team will undertake a preliminary review of relevant plans, reports, monitoring information, protection and wildlife crime records, financial and administrative records, spatial information, and other prescribed documents. This review will help identify key issues requiring field verification and clarification. The field assessment will cover representative locations relevant to the management context of each Tiger Reserve, including core and buffer areas, protection and patrolling areas, important habitats, management intervention sites, monitoring locations, infrastructure, tourism areas, human-wildlife conflict hotspots, community interfaces, corridors, and areas associated with major threats. Site selection will be based on the characteristics and management issues of the Reserve and will remain evidence-oriented rather than being limited to easily accessible or showcase locations.

Following the field assessment, the assessment team will interact with the Field Director and Tiger Reserve management to discuss observations, seek clarification, obtain additional evidence, understand the context of identified management gaps, and resolve factual discrepancies. The final assessment will remain the responsibility of the independent assessment team. Each criterion will be assessed using the prescribed assessment question, explanatory note, performance descriptors, and supporting matrix, as applicable. Scores will be based on the overall evidence and will consider whether a management intervention is planned, implemented, functional, monitored, and contributing to the intended management objective.

The MEE process may also include additional questions or information requirements relating to emerging conservation and management issues that are important to Tiger Reserves but do not form part of the formal MEE score. Such issues will be clearly identified in the approved framework, including their status in relation to scoring, so that they can inform future planning and management responses without altering the core assessment structure.

Following completion of all assessments, the MEE results will be consolidated across the Tiger Reserve network. The consolidated assessment will examine element-wise performance, recurring management weaknesses, common and emerging threats, persistent gaps across assessment cycles, areas of improvement, follow-up actions, and requirements for technical, institutional, or financial support. The findings will be used to identify site-specific management gaps, actionable measures, common and recurring issues to inform policy, capacity building, technical support, and resource prioritisation.

1. CONTEXT

Context establishes the baseline understanding of a Tiger Reserve by documenting its conservation values, their significance, present status and condition, and the key factors that influence or threaten their conservation. It provides the foundation for the subsequent phases of the MEE by assessing the Reserve's key conservation values, including tiger and prey populations, habitats, biodiversity, ecological processes, corridors and other important ecological features, together with the threats, pressures and vulnerabilities affecting them. The assessment of Context is important because management effectiveness can only be meaningfully evaluated in relation to the ecological, social, landscape, institutional and policy setting of the Tiger Reserve. It also provides the basis for assessing whether the Reserve's conservation objectives and management responses are appropriately aligned with its conservation values, prevailing conditions, threats and emerging challenges.



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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Values not systematically documented, assessed and monitored.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Values generally identified but not systematically assessed and monitored.	Fair (Score 5)			
Most values systematically identified, assessed and monitored.	Good (Score 7.5)			
All values systematically identified, assessed and monitored.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: This assessment will take into account biological, ecological, economic and socio-cultural-spiritual values of the TR in respect of their identification, documentation, assessment and monitoring.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Scientific information (through research publications/ popular articles/ reports) on biodiversity values; 2. Copy of TCP and paragraph showing values; 3. Details of website where values have been mentioned; 4. Any other document including photographs etc to show ecological, morphological, geological, historical, cultural attributes; 5. PowerPoint presentation on brief overview of the Tiger Reserve				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing compliance point scores on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Features*	Details Of Attributes And Features Alongwith Reference Documents	Attributes				Points (Yes =1; No =0)
		Identified	Documented	Assessed	Monitored	
Ecological Value		Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	
Biological Value		Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	
Social, Historical, Cultural & Spiritual Value		Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	
Economic Value		Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	Yes/ No	
TOTAL POINTS						

The Total/ Maximum points = 16.

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor= 0-4; Fair= 5-8; Good= 9-12; Very Good= 13-16

*** Ecological value:** ecological continuum and wildlife corridor, diverse habitats, and life support for adjoining areas

Biological value: floral – faunal diversity, healthy wildlife populations

Economic value: water harvested from TR supporting nearby agriculture, ecotourism, forest resources support livelihood generation for local tribal/non-tribal communities

Social value: model for peaceful co-existence of people and wildlife, offers research opportunities

Cultural value: dependence of tribal communities on the forest, part of heritage site/Important Bird Area (IBA) etc

Spiritual value: Intangible benefits – natural beauty aids psychological well-being (aesthetic appeal), Sacred groves

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Threats not systematically documented or assessed.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Threats generally identified but not systematically assessed.	Fair (Score 5)			
Most threats systematically identified and assessed.	Good (Score 7.5)			
All threats systematically identified and assessed.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: This assessment should be based on the number, nature and extent of all threats as per standard protocols (similar to Security Audit Protocols followed by GTF in assessment of Tiger Reserves) and their documentation. Threats will include current threats (immediate threat to the valuable asset of the TR, e.g., poaching, habitat destruction, fire, grazing, illicit felling, mining, encroachment, etc.), near-future threats (possible threats in the next 2-3 years, e.g. a road/highway coming up in/near the TR) and future threats (possible threats in next 4-5 years, e.g., industrial growth, and human resources of the TR, etc.).

Indicative reference documents:

1. TCP, Security Audit, and any other document showing standard protocol for threat assessment
2. Details of staff trainings in threat assessment
3. Year-wise Threat Assessment report of last 4 years on number, nature and extent of threat
4. List of Key Biological resources with priority threat assessment
5. Any major cases of disease-outbreak or threats to wildlife populations noticed in last 4 years.
6. Number of villages/ human settlements and households in core zone of TR
7. Report on biotic interference in terms of livestock grazing, cultivation, fires, area of encroachment, grazing, etc in core by in and around local communities
8. If highways and roads are crossing in the area, provide the copy of Heavy Vehicle Movement Register
9. Resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities
10. Documentation of all data/ information related to threats, prioritisation, offences and their management.

Matrix in tabular form for assessing compliance point scores on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Criteria	Compliance Details Alongwith Reference Documents	Compliance Yes=1/ No=0	Points
1. Threat assessment adequately presented in TCP & Security Audit			
2. Field staff participated through some consultative workshop for identification and assessment			
3. Identification of nature of all threats (current or immediate and future) with their listing			
4. Assessment of each threat in terms of extent, distribution & trend			
5. Threat-wise assessment of source /offenders, area of occurrence, reasons or motivation for offence			
6. Ranking and prioritization of threats			
7. Preparation of map with distribution of threats			
8. Proper documentation of all data/ information related to threats, offences and their management			
TOTAL POINTS			

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor= 0-2; Fair= 3-4; Good= 5-6; Very Good= 7-8

1.3 Is the 'Core Area' of TR free from human and biotic interference and the "Buffer Area" under unified Control?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
The 'Core Area' has extensive human and biotic interference.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
The 'Core Area' has some human and biotic interference.	Fair (Score 5)			
The 'Core Area' has little human and biotic interference.	Good (Score 7.5)			
The 'Core Area' has no human and biotic interference.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: This assessment should be based on existence and the efforts made by TR management to address issues related to human settlements/ villages inside the core area; livestock grazing, cultivation, fires, encroachments etc., resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities and should reflect the overall interference due to all the above factors. The issue of 'Unified Control' of the 'Core' and 'Buffer' zone under the Field Director would also be taken into account.

Indicative reference documents:

1. Number of villages/ human settlements in the core zone
2. Report on biotic interference in terms of human settlements/ villages inside the core area; livestock grazing, cultivation, encroachments, resource extraction/ livelihood dependence of local communities, rail/road network, public passage, feral dogs, other interferences
3. Management efforts to reduce the biotic interference
4. Copies of the minutes of the meeting with neighbouring Territorial Division for coordination of Tiger Reserve management
5. Copies of Unified control of core and buffer under the Field Director of the TR
6. Detailed SWOT analysis if done for the tiger reserve by the management

Matrix in tabular form for assessing compliance point scores on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

A. Details Of Interferences and Efforts To Address along with Reference Documents	Degree Of Interference / Efforts To Address And Points	Point Score* (1 – 4)
1. Human Settlements/ Villages Inside The Core Area		
Interference:	Extensive=1/ Some=2/ Little=3 / Nil=4	
Efforts To Address:	No Efforts=1/ Partially Addressed=2/ Mostly Addressed=3/ Fully Addressed=4	
2. Livestock Grazing		
Interference:	Extensive=1/ Some=2/ Little=3 / Nil=4	
Efforts To Address:	No Efforts=1/ Partially Addressed=2/ Mostly Addressed=3/ Fully Addressed=4	
3. Encroachment And Cultivation		
Interference:	Extensive=1/ Some=2/ Little=3 / Nil=4	
Efforts To Address:	No Efforts=1/ Partially Addressed=2/ Mostly Addressed=3/ Fully Addressed=4	
4. Resource Extraction/ Livelihood Dependence Of Local Communities		
Interference:	Extensive=1/ Some=2/ Little=3 / Nil=4	
Efforts To Address:	No Efforts=1/ Partially Addressed=2/ Mostly Addressed=3/ Fully Addressed=4	
5. Rail/ Road Network And Public Passage		
Interference:	Extensive=1/ Some=2/ Little=3 / Nil=4	
Efforts To Address:	No Efforts=1/ Partially Addressed=2/ Mostly Addressed=3/ Fully Addressed=4	

A. Details Of Interferences and Efforts To Address along with Reference Documents	Degree Of Interference / Efforts To Address And Points	Point Score* (1 – 4)
6. Other Interferences, If Any Relevant In The TR		
Interference:	Extensive=1/ Some=2/ Little=3 / Nil=4	
Efforts To Address:	No Efforts=1/ Partially Addressed=2/ Mostly Addressed=3/ Fully Addressed=4	
B. Detailed Status Of Unified Control Of Core And Buffer Zone With Reference Documents	Degree Of Control & Points	Point Score* (1 – 4)
Unified Control of Core and Buffer	Not Done=1/ Done In Small Portion=2/ Done In Major Portion=3/ Full Control=4	
S = Total Points Scored For All Items In (A) & (B):		
M = Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number Of Criteria, Evaluated In A & B X 4 (Maximum Value Of A Criterion)		52
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (Rounded To Whole Number):		

NOTE: All the items may not be applicable for a TR. The items not relevant may be marked as “NOT APPLICABLE” in score column. Similarly, any interferences not included in item 1 to 5, but relevant to TR should be added as “6. Other Interferences” and be evaluated. Only relevant items to be evaluated and percent point score to be calculated on the basis of relevant items.

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor= 0-2; Fair= 3-4; Good= 5-6; Very Good= 7-8

1.4 Has the TR complied with the four Statutory Requirements (SR) along with Tripartite MoU and all (eight) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
None of the four SR, no compliance of Tripartite MoU and eight SoPs	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Two of the four SR, 50% conditions of the Tripartite MoU and SOPs complied	Fair (Score 5)			
Three of the four SR, 75% conditions of the Tripartite MoU and SOPs complied	Good (Score 7.5)			
All four SR, 100% conditions of the Tripartite MoU and SOPs complied	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: Statutory requirements are (1) Legal delineation and notification of Core and Buffer Areas; (2) Establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation; (3) Development of a Tiger Conservation Plan; and (4) Constitution of a State-level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. TA refers agreement between Field Director, State Government and NTCA. The 8 SOPs are on (i) Straying of Tiger in human dominated landscape, (ii) Tiger Mortality and (iii) Disposal of Carcasses, (iv) Dealing with orphaned/abandoned tiger cubs and old injured/tigers, (v) Active Management towards rehabilitation of tigers from source areas at the landscape level, (vi) Dealing with tiger depredation on livestock (vii) Dealing with stray /feral dogs in tiger reserves and (viii) Interstate Coordination for Interstate TR. All SOPs may not be applicable to all tiger reserves and the team needs to assess accordingly.

Indicative reference documents:

1. Legal delineation and notification of Core and Buffer Areas
2. Establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation
3. Copy of Approved Tiger Conservation Plan
4. Constitution of a State-level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister and number of meetings held in last 4 years. Agenda Notes and Minutes of the meeting may be seen by the team.
5. Tripartite MoU between Field Director, State Government and NTCA
6. The applicability of 8 SOPs mentioned above
7. Cases booked under 8 SOP

Matrix in tabular form for assessing compliance point scores on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

#	Item	Compliance (Yes=1/ No=0 or Nos.)	Points
1	Tiger Conservation Foundation constituted	Yes/No	1 or 0
2	Steering Committee constituted	Yes/No	1 or 0
3	Local Advisory Committee constituted	Yes/No	1 or 0
4	No. of Steering Committee meetings held vs. mandated in the period	___ / ___	1 or 0
5	No. of Local Advisory Committee meetings held vs. mandated in the period	___ / ___	1 or 0
6	No. of Tiger Conservation Foundation (Executive Committee) meetings held vs. mandated	___ / ___	1 or 0
7	Minutes of meetings documented and available on record	Yes/No	1 or 0
8	Action Taken Report on previous meeting decisions available	Yes/No	1 or 0
S = Total points scored for all items in 1 to 8:			
M = Maximum Points Awardable: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria, evaluated in 1 to 8 (maximum value of a criterion)			8
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):			

NOTE: Points for each attribute = “1” for “Yes” / meeting quota met, “0” for “No” / not met. The Total/Maximum points = 8.

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

1.5 Have the Action Points of Previous MEE Cycles (1 to V) been Addressed Substantially?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
None of the action points of previous MEE addressed substantially	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Few of the action points of previous MEE addressed substantially	Fair (Score 5)			
Many action points of previous MEE addressed substantially	Good (Score 7.5)			
All action points of previous MEE addressed substantially	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: In case of new tiger reserves or where earlier MEE recommendations are not available any other report/document may be taken into account which is suggestive in nature, such as recommendation of a committee or any assessment in the area.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Action Points recommended in 2024 MEE report - "Bridging the Gap: Unveiling Effectiveness of India's Tiger Reserve Management" 2. Compliance of Action Points recommended in the 2024 report 3. Any other report/ document				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing compliance point scores on the basis of explanatory note and criteria (List of all the compliances to be prepared by respective Tiger Reserves):

Sl. No.	Action Points recommended in 2024 report (Bridging the Gap)/ in any other report or committee or assessment in absence of MEE report	Action Taken to address (Provide Supporting documents)	Status of Action (none/ partial/ substantial)

2. PLANNING

Planning translates the conservation values, challenges and threats identified under Context into a clear framework for achieving the desired future condition of the Tiger Reserve. It defines the conservation objectives, management strategies, zoning, priority areas, management programmes, threat mitigation measures, and monitoring and research requirements necessary to achieve these objectives. The assessment of Planning is important because effective management requires not only adequate resources and implementation capacity, but also a clear, scientifically sound and context-specific management framework that is responsive to the conservation needs of the Tiger Reserve and emerging threats. The assessment therefore examines whether key planning instruments, including the Tiger Conservation Plan, habitat and species management programmes, protection and security plans, stakeholder participation mechanisms, ecological connectivity considerations, and strategies for addressing human-wildlife conflict and climate-related challenges, are adequately integrated into the overall management framework. In essence, the Planning phase assesses whether the Tiger Reserve has a clear, relevant and practical roadmap for achieving its conservation objectives, and whether this roadmap adequately addresses the conservation values, threats and management challenges identified under Context.



2.1 Status of Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP)?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
No TCP in place.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
TCP is under preparation	Fair (Score 5)			
TCP prepared and under review at NTCA/Under submission	Good (Score 7.5)			
TR has a comprehensive and relevant TCP, duly approved by the NTCA	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: The scientific content, management prescriptions and the participatory processes used in preparation of the TCP will be taken into account in assessing the quality of TCP.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Details of TCP preparation and approval process 2. Adherence to guidelines of NTCA issued in technical document for preparing TCP in terms of protection strategy, strategy for buffer on mainstreaming wildlife concerns, Core/Buffer area plan 3. Copy of final TCP and approved letter 4. Copies of the Minutes of meeting of consultation with local communities and other stakeholders while preparing TCP. 5. ESZ Notification 6. Any other relevant document				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

PREPARATION OF TCP:
1.Details on preparation and approval of TCP:

PREPARATION OF TCP:

1.Details on preparation and approval of TCP:

ADHERENCE TO GUIDELINES OF NTCA ISSUED IN TECHNICAL DOCUMENT: NTCA /01/07:

2.Incorporation of Protection Strategy as per guidelines (brief description):

3.Incorporation of strategy for buffer on mainstreaming wildlife concerns in various production landscapes (summary of provisions):

4.Core Area Plan- Following of templates in the guideline as well as covering of all chapters and sections along with details as to their comprehensiveness:

5.Buffer Area Plan- Following of templates in the guideline as well as covering of all chapters and sections along with details as to their comprehensiveness:

6.Indicative Plan for adjoining corridors providing connectivity/ Corridors- Following of templates in the guideline as well as covering of all chapters and sections along with details as to their comprehensiveness:

7. Details on preparation of year-wise Budget/ Financial forecast along with schedule of activities for the plan period and their comprehensiveness:

2.2 Does the TR safeguard the threatened biodiversity values?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
TR does not safeguard the threatened biodiversity values.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
TR safeguards a few threatened biodiversity values.	Fair (Score 5)			
TR safeguards a large number of threatened biodiversity values.	Good (Score 7.5)			
TR safeguards all threatened biodiversity values.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Remarks need to elaborate on the kind of safeguards and how they work or are intended to work; efforts taken to identify and protect unique biodiversity				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Types of all safeguards made for preserving threatened biodiversity values 2. Name of all identified key species and species wise details of scientific population estimation 3. Species wise details about assessment of habitat, food chains/ prey base of key species 4. Habitat Conservation and Development measures in respect of key species 5. Details of Poaching/ Illicit removal (NTFPs) control measures 6. Details of identification of unique biodiversity (like wetlands, mangroves, unique vegetation) in TR and efforts to protect them 7. Details of major landscape fragmentation/ degradation threats (like territorial isolation, linear projects, settlements and encroachments etc.), and measures to mitigate				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of biodiversity values evaluated*	Category	Point Score
A. GENETIC DIVERSITY:		
1) Name of all identified key species and species wise details of scientific population estimation:	a) None = 0 b) Ad-hoc way = 1 c) A few scientifically = 2 d) Mostly estimated scientifically = 3 e) All estimated scientifically = 4	
2) Species wise details about assessment of habitat, food chains/ prey base of key species:	a) None = 0 b) Ad-hoc way = 1 c) A few scientifically = 2 d) Most assessment are scientific = 3 e) All assessment scientific = 4	
3) Habitat Conservation and Development measures in respect of key species:	a) None = 0 b) Ad-hoc way = 1 c) Effective for a few = 2 d) Effective for most = 3 e) Effective for all = 4	
4) Details of Poaching/ Illicit removal control measures:	a) Details not available= 0 b) Poor= 1 c) Somewhat effective= 2 d) Largely effective= 3 e) Very effective= 4	
B. LANDSCAPE THREATS:		
5) Details of land degradation threats in the TR and measures to address:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Partially assessed = 1 c) Assessed but ad-hoc measures to address = 2 d) Mostly addressed = 3 e) Fully addressed = 4	
6) Details of major landscape fragmentation threats (like territorial isolation, linear projects, settlements and encroachments etc.) and measures to mitigate:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Partially identified = 1 c) Assessed but ad-hoc mitigation measures = 2 d) Mostly addressed = 3 e) Fully addressed = 4	

***give details of findings elaborating safeguard measures, working or intended to work with Supporting documents**

Items of biodiversity values evaluated*	Category	Point Score
C. EFFORTS TO PROTECT UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY:		
7) Details of identification of unique biodiversity (like wetlands, mangroves, unique vegetations) in TR and efforts to protect them:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Partially identified = 1 c) Identified/ inadequate protection efforts = 2 d) Largely adequate protection efforts = 3 e) Adequate efforts for full protection = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items in A, B & C:		
M = Awardable Maximum Points =Total Number of criteria, evaluated on point scale (1 to 4) in A, B & C X 4 (maximum value of a criteria):		28
POINT SCORE PERCENT = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

***give details of findings elaborating safeguard measures, working or intended to work with Supporting documents**

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.3 Are stakeholders given an opportunity to participate in planning process?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Little, if any opportunity for stakeholder participation in planning.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Stakeholders participate in some planning.	Fair (Score 5)			
Stakeholders participate in most planning processes.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Stakeholders routinely and systematically participate in all planning processes.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: The assessment should be based on identification of stakeholders to be associated with different planning processes and the opportunity offered to them. The result of participation must show in the field and not merely reported as a routine exercise (Functioning of LAC, micro planning of villages, working of EDC, etc. to be taken into account).				
Indicative reference documents: 1. List of all stakeholders and copies of Stakeholder committee if any 2. Minutes of the meeting with various stakeholders conducted for TR issues 3. Copies of notifications on district level coordination committees, its role and responsibility. 4. Details of provisions for identified stakeholders to participate in different consultative processes of preparation of TCP and actual participation 5. Status of constitution and working of LAC and EDC 6. Details of participation and functioning of village micro planning 7. Details of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises conducted				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of evaluation for stakeholders opportunity to participate in planning process (with Supporting documents)	Category	Point score
A. Identification of stakeholders:		
1) Planning process wise details of stakeholders identified for participation: Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Ad-hoc = 1 c) Identified for a few processes = 2 d) Identified for most processes = 3 e) Identified for all required processes = 4	
B. Opportunities and participation:		
2) Details of provisions for identified stakeholders to participate in different consultative processes of preparation of TCP and actual participation: Supporting Documents:	a) No participation =1 b) Very limited =1 c) Participation in some relevant processes= 2 d) Participation in major processes =3 e) Full participation in all required processes =4	
3) Status of constitution and working of LAC: Supporting Documents:	a) Not formed = 0 b) Formed but not functional = 1 b) Formed and functional in some aspects =2 c) Formed and functional in most aspects =3 d) Formed and functional in all aspects =4	
4) Status of constitution and working of EDC: Supporting Documents:	a) None/ negligible = 0 b) Existing but non-functional = 1 c) Formed and functional in some areas = 2 d) Formed and functional in most areas =3 e) formed and functional In all areas =4	

Items of evaluation for stake holders opportunity to participate in planning process (with Supporting documents)	Category	Point score
5) Details of participation and functioning of village micro planning: Supporting Documents:	a) None/ negligible = 0 b) Some efforts but limited = 1 c) Micro planning exists but not systematic = 2 d) Systematic micro-planning implemented and functioning in many villages = 3 d) Systemic micro planning implemented and functioning in all villages = 4	
6) Details and number of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) exercises conducted Supporting Documents: (provide details of the number of PRA exercises conducted, villages/locations covered, dates, stakeholder groups/participants involved, key findings and how these findings were incorporated into planning/management.)	a) None conducted = 0 b) Conducted in a few fringe villages, findings not used = 1 c) Conducted in some fringe villages, with limited or inconsistent use of findings = 2 d) Conducted in most fringe villages, with findings partly incorporated into planning = 3 e) Conducted systematically across all fringe villages, with findings fully incorporated into TCP/planning = 4	
S =total points scored for all items in 1 to 6:		
M = Awardable Maximum Points =total number of criteria evaluated x 4 (maximum value of a criterion):		24
Point score percent = S/M x 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.4 Are habitat management programmes systematically planned, relevant and monitored, and contribute effectively to Tiger and other endangered species conservation?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Habitat management programmes are entirely ad-hoc.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Limited planning and monitoring programmes are in place for habitat management.	Fair (Score 5)			
Habitat management programmes are generally planned and monitored.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Habitat management programmes are thoroughly planned and monitored.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: 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. Habitat structure, composition, unique patches of vegetation, micro-habitats and sensitive sites, sources of water and their distribution are integral. Corridors within buffer zone are critically important. For example, all riparian habitats, management of Avian faunal diversity, grasslands identified/mapped and being managed scientifically etc. Have these been addressed? Is there a planning process in place? The management practices dealing with invasive species such as *Lantana*, *Mikania* etc. would be examined for their effectiveness. Are the wetlands identified/mapped, management prescription in place, aquatic flora and fauna inventorised, distribution of waterholes planned/mapped, refilling system in place? Water conservation measures (viz, check dams/ anicuts) adopted, soil moisture conservation works, etc.

Indicative reference documents:

1. List of important habitats and their management strategies with maps
2. Letters and reports on habitat management issues
3. Details of habitat management plan on Tiger, other threatened species, unique patches, invasive species, Grassland, Wetland, ESZ, Corridors, water resource conservation.

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. SENSITIVE SPECIES: (Details on habitat management programmes on aspects of their thoroughness of planning and monitoring measures; including species-based needs for breeding, rearing, shelter, food and water etc. have to be provided on respective species)		
1) Tiger (Details of Habitat Management Plan on aforesaid aspects): Supporting Documents:	a) None = 0 b) Ad-hoc plan =1 c) Limited Planning and monitoring = 2 d) Plans for most aspects with monitoring = 3 e) All aspects thoroughly planned and monitored = 4	
2) Threatened Species other than tiger (IUCN categories, Schedule I species as per WPA 1972) Supporting Documents:	a) None = 0 b) Ad-hoc plan = 1 c) Limited Planning and monitoring = 2 d) Plans for most aspects with monitoring = 3 e) All aspects thoroughly planned and monitored = 4	
3) Herpetofauna: (Details on status, diversity, distribution and habitat requirements of herpetofauna, including threatened/endangered species, with their conservation and management measures. Supporting Documents:	a) Not assessed/document = 0 b) Identified & documented to a limited extent = 1 c) Partially assessed/documentated; limited management measures = 2 d) Most species/diversity assessed and management measures in place = 3 e) Comprehensive assessment, monitoring and effective management measures in place = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
4) Floral diversity and endemism (floral): (Details on floral diversity, endemic/rare/threatened plant species, their distribution, status and conservation measures.) Supporting Documents:	a) Not assessed/documented = 0 b) Basic inventory available = 1 c) Limited assessment of endemic/threatened flora = 2 d) Good assessment of floral diversity and endemism with conservation measures = 3 e) Comprehensive assessment, mapping/monitoring and effective conservation measures = 4	
5) Conservation and Management of avifaunal diversity: Supporting Documents:	a) None = 0 b) Ad-hoc plan =1 c) Limited Planning and monitoring=2 d) Plans for most aspects with monitoring =3 e) All aspects thoroughly planned and monitored =4	
B. SPECIAL AND ECOSENSITIVE SITE MANAGEMENT: (Details on identification and mapping of such sites; habitat management programmes on aspects of scientific planning and monitoring measures related to the protection and conservation of unique habitat structure and composition as well as mitigation measures have to be provided)		
6) Unique patches of vegetation and micro-habitats: Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified/mapped = 0 b) Identified, but no planning/monitoring = 1 c) Identified, Limited Planning/monitoring=2 d) Mapped, plans on most aspects and monitored =3 e) Comprehensive plans on all aspects and monitored =4	
7) Ecosensitive Zone Conservation: Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified/mapped = 0 b) Identified, but no planning/monitoring = 1 c) Identified, Limited Planning/monitoring=2 d) Mapped, plans on most aspects and monitored =3 e) Comprehensive plans on all aspects and monitored =4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
8) Wetlands (In addition to afore said aspects status on inventorisation of aquatic flora and fauna to be provided to evaluate comprehensive planning) Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified/mapped = 0 b) Identified, but no planning/monitoring = 1 c) Identified, Limited Planning/monitoring=2 d) Mapped, plans on most aspects and monitored =3 e) Comprehensive plans on all aspects and monitored =4	
9) Addressing needs of conservation of corridors and sensitive habitats in Buffer Zone: Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified/mapped = 0 b) Identified, but no planning/monitoring = 1 c) Identified, Limited Planning/monitoring=2 d) Mapped, plans on most aspects and monitored =3 e) Comprehensive plans on all aspects and monitored =4	
10) Grasslands: Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified/mapped = 0 b) Identified, but no planning/monitoring = 1 c) Identified, Limited Planning/monitoring=2 d) Mapped, plans on most aspects and monitored =3 e) Comprehensive plans on all aspects and monitored =4	
C. OTHER HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES:		
11) Management of invasive species (<i>Lantana</i>, <i>Prosopis</i>, <i>Mikania</i> etc.): Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Survey is general nature, not mapped/monitored =1 c) Partly survey-mapped, ad-hoc plan and monitoring=2 d)Largely mapped, satisfactory plan and monitoring =3 e) Comprehensively mapped, planned and monitored =4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
12) Water resources conservation and development: (Details on plans encompassing mapping of sources of water, and planning for water conservation structures as check dams /anicut etc. and waterholes management to be outlined) Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Survey is general nature, not mapped/monitored =1 c) Partly survey-mapped, ad-hoc plan and monitoring=2 d)Largely mapped, satisfactory plan and monitoring =3 e) Comprehensively mapped, planned and monitored =4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items in A, B & C:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria, evaluated in A, B & C X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		48
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

NOTE: All the Items may not be applicable for a TR. The items not relevant may be marked as “NOT APPLICABLE” in score column. Only relevant items to be evaluated and percent point score to be calculated on the basis of relevant items.

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.5 Does the TR have an effective Protection Strategy (PS) and Security Plan and Security Audit (SA) in place?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s) / Photos	Remarks
TR has little or no PS and SA.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
TR has an ad-hoc PS and SA.	Fair (Score 5)			
TR has a generally relevant PS and SA but is not very effective.	Good (Score 7.5)			
TR has a comprehensive and very effective PS and SA.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: This assessment takes 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. The constitution and functioning of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), Number of offences reported, arrests made, prosecution initiated and conviction achieved will be taken into account.

Indicative reference documents:

1. Protection Plan and Protection Strategy, Security Plan and Security and Fire Audits
2. List of base camps, patrolling efforts (foot/ mobile), check posts, watch towers, strike forces, secret services
3. List and copies of all registers and M-STripes patrolling reports and action taken thereof on these reports
4. Maps showing the location of patrolling / anti-poaching camps and strategies for these efforts.
5. List of Equipments/ tools available and desirable other than vehicle and buildings (GPS, Torch, Mosquito nets, solar lights, compass, guns, pistols, fire blowers, boats, other field gears, computers, sniffer dogs and metal detectors, etc.)
6. Constitution and functioning of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), Rapid Response Team (RRT), Effectiveness of Law Enforcement
7. Number of offences reported, arrests made, prosecution initiated and conviction achieved in last four years .
8. Intelligence network and system of information flow/ communication system.

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. SECURITY PLAN (SP):		
1) Security plan (SP): (Details to be given on the extent of comprehensiveness in the SP in dealing with the 5 cornerstones (Evaluation of area, Preparation-Resource mapping, Prevention, Detection and Response) provided in NTCA Generic guidelines) Supporting Documents:	a) No SP =0 b) SP available, but not specified = 1 c) SP incorporates a few features of guidelines =2 d) SP broadly conforms to NTCA guidelines =3 e) SP conforms to all NTCA guidelines =4	
B. EFFECTIVE PROTECTION STRATEGY (PS):		
2) Planning Protection strategy: (Details on its comprehensiveness on the basis of guidelines issued by NTCA for preparing TCP) Supporting Documents:	a) Not planned =0 b) Poorly planned =1 c) Ad-hoc plan/strategy =2 d) Broadly in light of the SP & guidelines =3 e) Comprehensive plan/strategy based on SP and TCP guidelines =4	
3) Patrolling camps and check posts: (Details of beat/ range wise numbers and their effectiveness in area coverage, especially in vulnerable sites to mitigate different nature of threats) Supporting Documents:	a) No coverage =0 b) Negligible coverage =1 c) Covers small amount of strategic area = 2 d) Covers most of strategic area and effective = 3 e) Covers all area and very effective = 4	
4) Effective foot and mobile patrolling: (Details on strategy of coverage of accessible area and patrol hours, rules of patrol planning and deployment in different levels along with protocols for reporting, monitoring, mapping and feedback; Analysis and use of M-STriPES data may be especially looked into to ascertain the efficacy of patrolling measures. Supporting Documents:	a) No strategy =0 b) Ad-hoc strategy =1 c) General strategy; a few aspects properly dealt =2 d) Systematic strategy in major aspects =3 e) Comprehensive, systematic & effective =4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
5) Amenities and equipment for patrolling: (Details on existence of proper yardsticks for basic amenities camps, personal kits and patrol equipment, sniffer dogs and metal detectors etc. and their provisioning and supervision) Supporting Documents:	a) No norm and no provisioning = 0 b) Norm existing but poor provisioning = 1 c) Norms for a few items & limited provisioning = 2 d) Norms for most items & most staff equipped = 3 e) Well laid out norms & all staff well equipped = 4	
6) Communication and information network for patrolling: (Details on the efficiency and functionality of information-communication systems, including wireless/RT networks, and the operationalisation of intelligence-based enforcement patrolling.) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil operations = 0 b) Ad-hoc operations without any protocol = 1 c) Some guidelines and partially effective = 2 d) Largely efficient strategy serving to needs = 3 e) Efficient, well-equipped strategy and protocols = 4	
7) Equipping of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs): (Details on availability, adequacy and functionality of essential equipment with RRTs, including rescue vehicles, cages, camera traps, tranquilising kits, PPE, rescue tools and other equipment as per prescribed guidelines.) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil operations = 0 b) Ad-hoc operation = 1 c) A few teams, not well organised or equipped = 2 d) Many teams, relevant protocols & equipped = 3 e) Teams for all area and operate effectively under due control & protocol = 4	
8) Effectiveness of Law Enforcement Strategy: (Details on number of offences reported, arrests made, prosecution initiated and conviction achieved in last 4 years and reasoning in support of categorisation) Supporting Documents:	a) No Law Enforcement = 0 b) Poor Law Enforcement = 1 c) Partially effective Law Enforcement = 2 d) Largely effective Law Enforcement = 3 e) Very effective Law Enforcement = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
9) Constitution and functioning of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF): (Details of the constitution, organisational features, operational protocols, deployment, achievement in last 4 years and effectiveness of its functioning. For TRs with no STPF "Not applicable" should be ticked and excluded from items of evaluation) Supporting Documents:	a) Not Sanctioned = 0 b) Sanctioned but not formed = 1 c) Sanctioned & Formation at an advance stage = 2 d) Constituted, not in full strength, somewhat effective = 3 e) In almost full strength, proper operational protocols & very effective = 4 OR NOT APPLICABLE	
C. SECURITY AUDIT (SA):		
10) Security Audit: (Details on Security Audit protocol, auditing agency-external or self, intervals of audit, findings or scores awarded, if any and extent of remedial measures) Supporting Documents:	a) No SA = 0 b) SA done, in an ad-hoc manner = 1 c) SA done but without established protocol = 2 d) SA as per established protocol, not repeated = 3 e) Regular SA as per protocol by external team and remedial measures = 4	
11) Tiger mortality SOP compliance — adherence to the NTCA Standard Operating Procedure for tiger mortality: immediate reporting, post-mortem within the prescribed time, forensic sampling, cause-of-death classification. "Not applicable" should be ticked and excluded from items of evaluation) Supporting Documents:	a) SOP not followed at all = 0 b) SOP partially followed; investigations delayed/incomplete = 1 c) SOP partially followed; delays in post-mortem/reporting but complete information revealed = 2 d) SOP followed for most cases; largely timely = 3 e) SOP followed in full for all cases = 4 OR: Not Applicable (no tiger mortality during the assessment period-4 years)	
S =Total Points Scored for all items in A, B & C:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated in A, B & C X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		44
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

NOTE: All the Items may not be applicable for a TR. The items not relevant may be marked as "NOT APPLICABLE" in score column.

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.6 Has the TR been effective in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs)?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Human-wildlife conflicts are significant but poorly addressed.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
TR has been able to mitigate few human- wildlife conflicts.	Fair (Score 5)			
TR has been able to mitigate many human- wildlife conflicts.	Good (Score 7.5)			
TR has been effective in mitigating all human-wildlife conflicts.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: The assessment will take into account the number of incidents reported and payment of <i>ex-gratia</i> made and its timelines. Hotspots identified, readiness/ preparedness to effectively manage human-wildlife interaction (availability of rescue vehicles, cages as per standards, rescue and rehabilitation center etc.). Other aspects to factor in are; is the staff adequately trained and well equipped to handle emergency responses. What is the adherence to SOPs/ Protocol, flying squads, Rapid response Team, response time to a crisis? (Is the rescue team enough in number to cover the areas of the park)				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Details of last 4 years human-wildlife conflict cases, number of incidences of human death, injury, crop raiding and <i>ex gratia</i> paid. Number of tiger capture/immobilization operations carried out in last 4 years. 2. Identification of HWC hotspots and adherence to protocols for abatement and preparedness 3. Preventive / proactive measures to address HWC such as preparedness, Rapid Response Team, Rescue and Rehabilitation, control of crop raiding				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. HWC INCIDENTS AND EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS: (Year wise details should be given separately for each type of cases, viz., human loss, human injury, cattle kill and crop/ property loss)		
1) Number of different types of HWC cases and trend: (Year-wise details & trend of HWC cases for the last 4 years, with verification of documented cases against actual field records and comparison with NTCA records) Supporting Documents:	a) Records not available = 0 b) Records unavailable/ inconsistent with field verification and NTCA records = 1 c) Records available and show an increasing trend = 2 d) Records largely consistent and show a decreasing trend = 3 e) Comprehensive and accurate records & negligible number of cases = 4	
2) Ex-gratia payments vis-à-vis Documentation: (Year-wise details on ex-gratia payment for different types of cases depicting- no. of cases, amount due, cases disposed, amounts paid, average time for disposal. In addition, information on the amount of ex-gratia for different cases and timeline fixed for payments should be given with verification against field records.) Supporting Documents:	a) No payment = 0 b) Very delayed payment/ cumbersome procedure = 1 c) Delayed payment / no immediate relief on death or injury = 2 d) Reasonable delay and immediate relief on death or injury = 3 e) Speedy disposal, good protocol & immediate relief on death or injury = 4	
B. PREVENTIVE / PROACTIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS STRAYING:		
3) Identification of hotspots and adherence to protocols: (Details on follow up of relevant instructions for identification of hotspots, analysing reasons of straying, their monitoring and adherence to SOPs/ protocols) Supporting Documents:	a) Not identified = 0 b) Identified but SOPs not followed = 1 c) Some identified / no analysis / SOPs followed partially = 2 d) Mostly identified, analysed and SOPs followed = 3 e) All spots mapped, analysed and strict adherence to SOPs = 4	
4) Preparedness in managing HWC: (Details on operation of Rapid Response Teams (RRT), availability of rescue	a) No team, no equipment = 0 b) Ad-hoc team poorly equipped = 1	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
vehicles, camera traps, wireless, cages, tranquilizing kits and other essential equipment as per standards in guidelines) Supporting Documents:	c) RRT formed but low preparedness = 2 d) RRT formed, mostly equipped, better prepared = 3 e) RRT formed and all teams fully equipped = 4	
5) RRT for entire TR, proper training and response time: (Details on the number of teams, appropriate staffing, hands-on training, adequacy of coverage across the TR with respect to identified HWC conflict hotspots, deployment of RRTs, and response time to incidents to ensure timely and effective response.) Supporting Documents:	a) No Team = 0 b) A few teams, not trained or staffed properly or poor response time = 1 c) A few teams, with a few trained staff with proper response time = 2 d) Properly staffed, trained teams; covers all hotspotse & good response time = 3 e) Fully staffed, well trained teams for whole TR and fast response time = 4	
6) Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre: (Details on the establishment and operation of rescue and rehabilitation centre in TR) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 1 b) Under construction = 1 c) Ad-hoc arrangements = 2 d) Centre established, some trained staff, essential facilities and operational = 3 e) Well established centre, trained staff equipped with facilities as per guidelines = 4	
C. CROP RAIDING:		
7) Prevention and control of crop raiding by wild animals: (Details of crop raiding and measures like flying squads, monitoring teams, early warnings and crop protection measures etc. and their effectiveness) Supporting Documents:	a) No measures = 0 b) Insignificant measures = 1 c) Some measures, a few squads not effective = 2 d) Flying squads, monitoring team, crop protection helps etc., largely effective = 3 e) All desired measures, good surveillance, monitoring; very effective = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items in A, B & C:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated in A, B & C X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		28
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.7 Is the TR integrated into a wider ecological network/ landscape following the principles of the ecosystem approach?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s) / Photos	Remarks
TR not integrated into a wider network/ landscape.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some limited attempts to integrate the TR into a network/ landscape.	Fair (Score 5)			
TR is generally quite well integrated into a network/ landscape.	Good (Score 7.5)			
TR is fully integrated into a wider network/ landscape including TRs with no major linear infrastructure.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: 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? These should have been reflected in TCPs. Is there any effort to rationalize land use around TR? Is any effort being made to plan and use 'Smart Green Infrastructure'?				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Documentation on the linkages with neighbouring forest divisions and forest Development Corporation's working 2. Report on corridor identification 3. Minutes of the meeting for management of corridor 4. Planning for Connectivity / Corridor Security (Corridor Plan of TCP) 5. Attempts for rationalisation of land use around the TR 6. Report on any Smart Green Infrastructure in and around TR				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Efforts on Tiger Conservation (TC) in landscape scale: (Details on recognition of the scope of opportunities that exists in landscape scale and efforts made to realise it- like adding or securing other PAs/areas where opportunity exists for integration of TC) Supporting Documents:	a) No effort = 0 b) Broadly recognised landscape, no effort to add or secure areas for TC = 1 c) Broadly recognized landscape, some efforts to add or secure areas for TC = 2 d) Entire potent land-scape identified, efforts are to add or secure more area/ PA = 3 e) Entire potential landscape mapped & more area or PA added & secured = 3	
2. Delineation of Corridors and connectivity: (Details on status of scientific identification, mapping, demarcation and notification of corridors) Supporting Documents:	a) No efforts made/ Not done = 0 b) Done but indistinct = 1 c) Broadly identified, not mapped/ = 2 d) All corridors/ connectivity identified & mapped= 3 e) All corridors mapped, notified and demarcated on ground = 4	
3. Planning for Connectivity / Corridor Security: (Details on comprehensiveness of plan prepared for adjoining connectivity / corridor areas adhering to the guidelines of NTCA for TCP preparation) Supporting Documents:	a) No plan = 0 b) Preparation initiated = 1 c) Under preparation, in advance stage = 2 d) Plan part of TCP, mostly as per the guidelines = 3 e) Comprehensive corridor plan as per guidelines = 4	
4. Incorporation of Tiger conservation in Working Plans (WP) of adjacent Forest Division / Corporation: (Details on inclusion of prescriptions of Corridor/ connectivity plans in respective working plans) Supporting Documents:	a) Not included in WP / no executive order = 0 b) Not included in WP/executive order in place =1 c) Not included in WP but some ad-hoc measures = 2 d) Included in some WP/ others are in process = 3 e) Completely incorporated in WPs of divisions = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
5. Attempts for rationalisation of land use around the TR: (Details on formulation and co-ordination for development of integrated land use approach for tiger conservation and co-existence agenda) Supporting Documents:	a) No attempts = 0 b) Process for rationalization chalked out = 1 c) Some restrictions in ad-hoc manner = 2 d) Ecosensitive zone under process, efforts on for integrated land use = 3 e) Ecosensitive zone notified and works on for land use rationalisation = 4	
6. Smart Green Infrastructure: (Details on efforts being made to plan and use smart green infrastructure in the landscape, especially road, railway, canals, mining, power transmission lines, aerial ropeways hydel & construction projects; for TRs with no such linear infrastructure, provide details confirming the same.) Supporting Documents:	a) No such infrastructure = 0 b) Infrastructure available but not used = 1 c) Used partly in a few projects = 2 d) Used in many projects for tiger conservation-friendly infrastructure = 3 e) Standard practice to use it widely in planning and implementation process = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		24
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.8 Is the TR being consciously managed to prevent carbon loss and to encourage further carbon capture/ climate change mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to increase its resilience?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
There have been no efforts to consider carbon storage, carbon capture and adaptation to climate change in management of the TR and DRR to increase its resilience.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some initial thought has taken place about carbon storage, carbon capture and likely impacts of climate change and DRR, but this has yet to be translated into management plans.	Fair (Score 5)			
Detailed plans have been drawn up to reduce carbon loss from TR, to increase carbon dioxide capture and about how to adapt management to predicted climate change and DRR, but these have yet to be translated into active management.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Detailed plans have been drawn up to reduce carbon loss from TR, to increase carbon dioxide capture and about how to adapt management to predicted climate change and DRR to increase its resilience, and these are already being implemented.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: To ensure climate change mitigation, parameters that act as carbon sinks viz. wetlands identified/ mapped, management prescriptions in place, aquatic flora and fauna inventorised, distribution of waterholes planned/mapped, refilling system in place to be considered. Are water conservation measures (viz. check dams/anicuts) adopted/ Any other methods attributed to climate change adaptation/mitigation/ carbon sequestration, (eg. Prevention of forest fires including management of firelines etc.) adopted? The evaluator should also look at the mechanism of adaptation to avoid fire, flood, disaster etc.

Indicative reference documents:

1. Description of the site in State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC)
2. Integration of Climate Action Plan with TCP
3. Details on initiatives for assessment and to reduce carbon storage, carbon capture and carbon loss for management actions in TR
4. List of innovative activities adapting to Climate Change and DRR
5. Any other relevant document
6. ISFR 2021 report (Chapter 4)

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. CARBON CAPTURE, LOSS AND STORAGE:		
1. Carbon storage, capture and loss assessment: (Details on initiatives to consider assessment of carbon storage, carbon capture and carbon loss for management actions in TR, including any trend analysis conducted to assess the forest cover loss/gain and change in the cover of different forest types) Supporting Documents:	a) No effort = 0 b) Some thoughts but no action plan = 1 c) Action Plan under preparation = 2 d) Detailed plans drawn up but not yet implemented = 3 e) Action plans are being implemented = 4	
2. Reduction in carbon loss and increase of carbon capture: (Details of initiatives to reduce carbon loss through mitigating impacts of anthropogenic activities inter alia mining, encroachment, illegal felling, livestock over-grazing, etc. and increase carbon capture in the TR by addressing such issues) Supporting Documents:	a) No effort = 0 b) Some thoughts but no action plan = 1 c) Action Plan under preparation = 2 d) Detailed plans drawn up but not yet implemented = 3 e) Plans well implemented, work on estimating carbon gains by addressing the issues= 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
B. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION / MITIGATION:		
3. Impacts of climate change and adaptation (Details on initiatives in planning for predicting impacts of climate change in TR and how to adapt management to it) Supporting Documents:	a) No effort = 0 b) Some thoughts but no action plan = 1 c) Action Plan under preparation = 2 d) Detailed plans drawn up but not yet implemented = 3 e) Plans are already being implemented = 4	
4. Wetland as carbon sink: (Details on status of wetlands/riverine areas, which act as carbon sink, in respect of identification, mapping, inventorisation of aquatic flora and fauna and comprehensiveness of management prescriptions as well as on adoption of water conservation measures, viz. check dams /anicut etc.) Supporting Documents:	a) No mapping/ no inventorisation = 0 b) Mapping & inventorisation initiated = 1 c) Mapped, inventorised, some unplanned works = 2 d) Mapped, inventorised, comprehensive plans & some structures = 3 e) Comprehensive plans well implemented commensurate with objectives = 4	
5. Other adaptation/ mitigation measures: (Details on efforts of taking other adaptive/ mitigative measures on Climate change) Supporting Documents:	a) No other measures = 0 b) A few ad-hoc measures = 1 c) Several ad-hoc measures = 2 d) Planned measures = 3 e) Well planned innovative works = 4	
C. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION		
6. Preventive measures for risk reduction (Assessment and prevention of prevailing risks such as flood and erosion, spread of invasive plants/insects, fire, etc., adoption of preemptive measures to address risks, training to frontline staff for disaster response) Supporting Documents:	a) No effort = 0 b) Some thoughts but no action plan = 1 c) Action Plan under preparation = 2 d) Detailed plans drawn up but not yet implemented = 3 e) Plans are already being implemented = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
7. Post-disaster restoration measures (Restoration measures with respect to past disasters, such as forest fires, wetland restoration, invasives removal, etc.) Supporting Documents:	a) No effort = 0 b) Some thoughts but no action plan = 1 c) Action Plan under preparation = 2 d) Detailed plans drawn up but not yet implemented = 3 e) Plans are already being implemented = 4	
S = Total Points Scored for all items in A, B & C:		
M = Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated in A, B & C X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		28
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

2.9 Is waste management within the Tiger Reserve adequate and effective, including management of biomedical waste generated from rescue & rehabilitation centres?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Waste management within the Tiger Reserve is inadequate, with widespread improper collection, disposal, open dumping/burning and/or significant untreated biomedical waste.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Waste management systems are in place but have significant gaps in collection, segregation transportation, treatment and disposal, including biomedical waste.	Fair (Score 5)			
Waste is generally collected, segregated, treated and disposed of appropriately, with only minor gaps in implementation and monitoring.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Comprehensive and effective waste management system with proper collection, segregation, transportation, treatment and disposal, with no significant instances of littering, open dumping or burning.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: This assessment should include collection, segregation, storage, transportation, treatment and final disposal of solid, plastic and other forms of waste generated by staff, visitors, tourism facilities, camps, offices, field establishments and other activities. Particular attention should be given to prevention of littering and dumping in wildlife habitats, water bodies, drainage channels, roads and tourist areas; measures to prevent wildlife access to waste; and the efforts made by the Tiger Reserve management to minimise, recover, recycle and scientifically dispose of waste especially by restaurants, hotels and eating places.				

The assessment should also consider the management of biomedical waste generated from rescue & rehabilitation centres, veterinary facilities, animal treatment units and other wildlife healthcare facilities, including proper segregation at source, colour-coded storage, safe handling, transportation, treatment and disposal through authorised agencies/facilities, as applicable.

Indicative reference documents:

1. Waste Management Plan/SOP of the Tiger Reserve
2. Details of Cleanliness drives conducted by forest department
3. Details of waste generation and disposal
4. Details of waste collection, segregation and disposal arrangements especially in the Tourism Zones
5. Records and photographs showing waste disposal sites, collection points and recycling arrangements.
6. Details of biomedical waste generated from rescue & rehabilitation centres, veterinary facilities and animal treatment units
7. Biomedical waste management records
8. Agreements with authorised biomedical waste treatment facilities or Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs)

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. WASTE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION & TRANSPORTATION:		
1. Plastic and Solid Waste (Details of waste collection and segregation, on-ground implementation in core and buffer areas, adequate amenities for waste collection, segregation and transportation, efforts towards implementation of Govt. schemes for Waste Collection, Segregation & Transport from Tourist facilities, camps etc.) Supporting Documents:	a) No arrangements = 0 b) Limited arrangements or effort = 1 c) Some arrangements/ efforts, but inadequate or not systematic = 2 d) Detailed waste management plan and infrastructure in place, but partly implemented = 3 e) Systematic collection, segregation and transportation arrangements effectively implemented = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
2. Biomedical Waste generated from Wildlife Rescue facilities and treatment centers (Details of segregation, collection, storage, transportation and disposal of biomedical waste generated from wildlife rescue facilities and treatment centres, including compliance with prescribed procedures and maintenance of records.) Supporting Documents:	a) No arrangements = 0 b) Limited arrangements for biomedical waste management = 1 c) Some arrangements, but inadequate or not systematic = 2 d) Appropriate system established with partial implementation and record keeping = 3 e) Comprehensive biomedical waste management system effectively implemented with proper records and authorised disposal = 4	
B. TREATMENT & DISPOSAL:		
3. Plastic and Solid Waste (Details of treatment, recycling, reuse and environmentally sound disposal of plastic and solid waste generated within the Tiger Reserve, including tourist facilities, camps and other operational areas.) Supporting Documents:	a) No arrangements = 0 b) Limited treatment or disposal arrangements = 1 c) Some disposal arrangements, but inadequate or not systematic = 2 d) Appropriate treatment/disposal system established and partly implemented = 3 e) Systematic treatment, recycling/reuse and environmentally sound disposal effectively implemented = 4	
4. Biomedical Waste generated from Wildlife Rescue facilities and treatment centers Supporting Documents:	a) No arrangements = 0 b) Limited treatment or disposal system = 1 c) Some disposal arrangements, but irregular or inadequate = 2 d) Appropriate treatment and disposal system in place with regular documentation = 3 e) Comprehensive and compliant treatment/disposal system effectively implemented with complete records = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items in A, B & C:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated in A, B & C X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		16
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

3. INPUT

Inputs refer to the human, financial, physical and institutional resources required to translate management plans and strategies into effective action on the ground. These include adequate and appropriately deployed personnel, financial resources, infrastructure, equipment, technology, technical expertise and institutional support. The assessment of Inputs is important because the ability of a Tiger Reserve to implement its management programmes and respond effectively to conservation challenges depends substantially on the availability, adequacy, timely access and effective utilisation of these resources. The assessment therefore considers not only whether resources are available, but also whether they are appropriately organised, allocated and accessible in relation to the Reserve's conservation priorities and management requirements. It also considers, where relevant, the availability of resources from sources beyond regular government allocations. The evaluation of Inputs thus helps establish whether the Tiger Reserve has the necessary resource base and institutional capacity to effectively implement its management objectives.



3.1 Are personnel adequate, well organized and deployed with access to adequate resources in the Tiger Reserve (TR) ?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Few personnel explicitly allocated but poorly supported for TR management.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some personnel explicitly allocated for TR management but not adequately supported and systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair (Score 5)			
Some personnel with fair support explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific TR management objectives.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Adequate personnel appropriately supported and explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific TR management objectives.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: This assessment should inter alia be based on number of personnel allocated for attainment of TR 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). Are staff welfare schemes in place such as insurance policies, distribution of ration, uniforms (Winter and Summer sets), providing gadgets/equipment, camp conditions etc.? Area per beat guard to be considered to assess deployment of staff rationally; registration under e-shram portal and Ayushman Yojna extended to all casual workers?

Indicative reference documents:

1. Statement showing list of staff positions, i.e. sanctioned, working and vacant
2. The qualifications and age of staff.
3. Engagement of casual staff and their welfare through different schemes such as e-Shram and Ayushman Yojana
4. Details on staff welfare schemes such as, summer and winter uniforms, project allowance-PA, kits for regulars and casuals, free ration/ration allowance and other amenities in camp and insurance coverage
5. Details of patrolling equipment and gadgets
6. Details of camp conditions

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Field personnel in position: (Details of cadre wise total occupancy against the sanctioned strength; vacancy% in field units:-patrolling camp, beat, section/round & range; % of field staff > 50 years) Supporting Documents:	a) >75% vacancy in frontline & field units or severe shortage of field staff = 0 b) >50% vacancy in frontline & field units; staff predominantly aged = 1 c) 15–50% vacancy in frontline & field units; staff predominantly aged = 2 d) <15% vacancy in both; many young staff = 3 e) All posts (almost) filled; field staff mostly young = 4	
2. Personnel requirement: (Details on current size of beats; actual need of regular field staff at different levels beyond sanction strength as per norms; and efforts on making objective based revision plans, obtaining sanctions and filling up of posts) Supporting Documents:	a) Very large beats; outdated sanction; no revision proposal = 0 b) Large beats; old sanction; no revision proposal = 1 c) Large beats; old proposal not relevant or not pursued = 2 d) Moderately large beats; need-based cadre revision pursued = 3 e) Adequate staff as per needs, or recruitment underway to fill need-based revised strength = 4	
3. Managing shortfall of frontline staff: (Details on number of casual/ hired staff deployed in field level and their percentage to total field staff and degree to which essential functions are managed through them; percent and no. of foot patrol teams with <4 members) Supporting Documents:	a) Severely inadequate = 0 b) Inadequate; essential field functions are badly affected = 1 c) Some hiring, but many small patrol teams and field units = 2 d) Hiring of casual staff is effective; size of patrol teams mostly normal = 3 e) Required numbers are hired to effectively manage patrols and fill other field staff vacancies = 4	
4. Staff welfare: (Details on staff welfare schemes such as, summer and winter uniforms, project allowance-PA, kits for regulars and casuals, free ration/ration allowance and other amenities in camp and insurance coverage)	a) No provision =0 b) Some provisions to only a few staff =1 c) Some uniforms, PE, insurance and kits for regular staff only; no camp amenities/rations =2 d) Uniforms, PE, kits and insurance for regular staff and most casual staff; partial rations in camps =3	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
Supporting Documents:		
5. Patrolling equipment and gadgets: (Details on supply of equipment, such as wireless device, back pack, tent, mosquito-net, water bottle, knife, matchets, torch, binoculars, night vision, camera, first-aid-kit, GPS/compass, map etc.) Supporting Documents:	a) No or negligible = 0 b) A small number of staff supplied with a few gadgets only = 1 c) Many field staff supplied with some gadgets = 2 d) Staff/patrol teams equipped with most required equipment = 3 e) All patrolling and field staff are fully equipped with required equipment = 4	
6. Camp condition: (Details on physical condition and cleanliness, electricity/lighting, toilets and potable water in all field offices/ camps from range to patrolling camp/ check-post) Supporting Documents:	a) Very poor condition; little or no facilities = 0 b) Poor condition and limited facilities in a large number of camps = 1 c) Limited facilities; many camps without electricity/lighting or toilets = 2 d) Most camps have essential facilities and are in good condition = 3 e) All units/camps are in good condition and have all essential facilities = 4	
7. e-shram and Auyshman yojana for casual workers: (Details on inclusion of all casual workers of TR in e-shram and Ayushman yojana) Supporting Documents:	a) No casual workers included = 0 b) No or very few casual workers included = 1 c) Some casual workers included = 2 d) Many casual workers included = 3 e) Registration extended to all casual workers = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		28
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Few, if any, resources explicitly allocated for TR management.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some resources explicitly allocated for TR management but not systematically linked to management objectives.	Fair (Score 5)			
Some resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific TR management objectives.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Adequate resources explicitly allocated towards achievement of specific TR management objectives.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: 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. Veterinary facilities and related infrastructure such as rescue cages, specialized vans, medical equipment etc. to be taken into account.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. The list of vehicles/ field equipments/ buildings etc. 2. List of Equipments/ tools available and desirable other than vehicle and buildings (GPS, Torch, Mosquito nets, solar lights, compass, guns, pistols, fire blowers, boats, other field gears, computers, etc.) 3. Weblinks where details of all public assets available 4. Details on availability of veterinary facilities and related infrastructure, such as rescue cages, specialised vans, tranquilising guns and medical equipment etc.				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Buildings: (Details on total requirement of buildings indicating essential ones that includes need for field units-range to patrolling camps/check-posts; existing numbers for both categories; number of field staff without staff quarters) Supporting Documents:	a) Large shortage of buildings, including essential ones = 0 b) Many essential buildings yet to be constructed = 1 c) Good number of essential buildings; efforts ongoing for more = 2 d) Adequate buildings; beats, camps and posts in good condition = 3 e) Adequate and well-maintained buildings; beats, camps and posts in good condition = 4	
2. Vehicles: (Details on number of different types of vehicles of TR in running condition and hired; number of frontline staff, mobile patrol, RRT, flying squads without dedicated vehicle) Supporting Documents:	a) Inadequate vehicles; not properly deployed = 0 b) Vehicle shortage for many essential functions/duties = 1 c) Vehicles properly deployed for all essential functions = 2 d) Adequate, good vehicles properly deployed to meet all TR needs = 3 e) Adequate, well-maintained vehicles effectively deployed for all TR needs = 4	
3. Equipment other than personal patrol amenities: (Details on need of number of essential equipment, such as night vision device, Smart patrols devices, laptops, GPS, camera traps, metal detectors etc., required to effectively manage the TR and the number actually available) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/insignificant = 0 b) Some equipment; insufficient for essential needs = 1 c) Essential equipment available; meets basic requirements = 2 d) All required equipment available to meet needs = 3 e) All required equipment available, adequate and effectively deployed = 4	
4. Arms and ammunitions: (Details on different types of fire arms and ammunitions available in working condition and their status of supply to different field staff) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/insignificant = 0 b) Some arms; insufficient for essential needs = 1 c) Good number of arms; meets essential protection needs = 2 d) Adequate arms; properly distributed for effective protection = 3 e) Adequate arms; properly distributed, maintained and readily available for effective protection = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
5. Veterinary facilities: (Details on availability of veterinary facilities and related infrastructure, such as rescue cages, specialized vans, tranquilizing guns and medical equipment etc.) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/insignificant = 0 b) Small facilities = 1 c) Essential facilities exist = 2 d) All required facilities in place = 3 e) All required facilities in place and fully functional = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		20
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

3.3 Are financial resources other than those of the State linked to priority actions and are funds adequate, released timely and utilized?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Resource allocation is ad-hoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair (Score 5)			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally, funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Obtain details of funds released by NTCA and their utilization by TR in the last 4 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with fund allocations and their utilization.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. The details of funds released by NTCA and their utilization for the last 4 years and the actual date of receipt of funds at field level along with list of schemes 2. Details of Funds of Tiger Conservation Foundation along with utilisation for different activities for last 4 years 3. Details on comprehensive planning for identification of priority actions (activities), estimation of funds to meet them and get the desired allotments. In addition, provide adequacy of allotments in respect of the estimate (enclose item-wise statement showing requirements and allocations on different items of priority activities for each year) 4. Problems associated with fund allocations and their utilization				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Year wise and scheme wise total allotment and utilisation of funds for last 4 years from different central assistance including Project Tiger and other non-state Govt. resources (such as CAMPA etc) in tabular form (enclose copies of scheme wise allotment documents):

2. Scheme wise information showing- the amount and date of submission of APO; date of sanction and release of instalments (initial and final) by central government; dates and amount of release of instalments by state government; and then by HOD/ CWLW to FD; amount of each instalment utilised and the date of submission of UC (Utilisation Certificate) should be provided in tabular form for every year (last 4 years). Reasons of delay in release and utilisation as well as for non-utilisation should also be provided in a remark column (enclose copy of UC):

3. Details on comprehensive planning for identification of priority actions (activities), estimation of funds to meet them and get the desired allotments. In addition, provide adequacy of allotments in respect of the estimate (enclose item wise statement showing requirements and allocations on different items of priority activities for each year):

4. Problems associated with fund allocations and their utilization:

3.4 Are financial resources from the State linked to priority action and funds adequate, timely released and utilized for the management of Tiger Reserve?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Resource allocation is ad-hoc, funds are inadequate and seldom released in time and not utilized.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some specific allocation for management of priority action. Funds are inadequate and there is some delay in release, partially utilized.	Fair (Score 5)			
Comprehensive planning and allocation that meets the most important objectives. Generally funds released with not much delay and mostly utilized.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Comprehensive planning and allocation of resources for attainment of most objectives. Funds generally released on-time and are fully utilized.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Obtain details of funds released by State and their utilization by TR in the last 4 years and indicate them under 'Remarks'. Also comment on the problems associated with fund allocation and their utilization.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. The details of funds released by state and other sources and their utilization for the last 4 years and the actual date of receipt of funds at field level 2. Details of all revenue generated from tourism activities and other activities in last 4 years 3. Details on comprehensive planning for identification of priority actions (activities), estimation of funds to meet them and get the desired allotments. In addition, provide adequacy of allotments in respect of the estimate (enclose item wise statement showing requirements and allocations on different items of priority activities for each year) 4. Problems associated with fund allocations and their utilization				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Year wise and scheme wise total allotment and utilisation of funds for last 4 years from different state government financial sources (state plan, nonplan, local bodies, authorities and districts, as well as state shares of central sponsored schemes) in tabular form (enclose copies of scheme wise allotment documents):

2. Scheme wise information showing- the amount and date of sanction and release of instalments (initial and final) by state government; by HOD/ CWLW to FD; amount utilised in tabular form for every year (last 4 years). Reasons of delay in release and utilisation as well as for non-utilisation should also be provided in a remark column:

3. Details on comprehensive planning for identification of priority actions (activities), estimation of funds to meet them and get the desired allotments. In addition, provide information on adequacy of allotments vis-à-vis requirements with item wise statement showing requirements and allocations received from state and central sources separately on different items of priority activities for each year (enclose Supporting documents):

4. Problems associated with fund allocations and their utilization:

3.5 What level of resources are provided by Donors other than government sources?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s) / Photos	Remarks
Donors contribute nothing for the management of the TR.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Donors make some contribution to management of the TR but opportunities for collaboration are not systematically explored.	Fair (Score 5)			
Contributions from donors are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of some TR level activities.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Donors contributions are systematically sought and negotiated for the management of many TR level activities.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Quantify and compare with last 4 years status; Status of earnings by TCF in last 4 years.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. The information on details of Donors/ NGOs working in the area and type of support they have provided over the last 4 years 2. Year wise list of all equipment donated by Donors/ NGO. 3. Details on efforts to explore available opportunities of cooperation and negotiation with different donors for agreement on different fields of cooperation (enclose Supporting documents on modes of exploration and efforts made for agreement) 4. Details of earnings by TCF in last 4 years 5. List of Externally Funded Projects under implementation, if any in the TR in the last 4 years				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Year wise donors' contribution for last 4 years:

Donor Name	Items	Year-1		Year-2		Year-3		No. of years for which commitment is made
		Qty.	Amount	Qty.	Amount	Qty.	Amount	

2. Details on efforts to explore available opportunities of cooperation and negotiation with different donors for agreement on different fields of cooperation (enclose Supporting documents on modes of exploration and efforts made for agreement:

3.Details of earnings by TCF in last 4 years:

4. PROCESS

Process concerns how available resources and management strategies are translated into action and how effectively management systems function on the ground. It encompasses the implementation of core management activities and processes such as protection and law enforcement, habitat and wildlife management, ecological monitoring, fire and wildlife health management, wildlife crime control, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, community engagement, tourism management and landscape-level coordination. The assessment of Process is important because adequate resources and well-designed plans do not, by themselves, ensure effective conservation; their effectiveness depends on the quality, consistency and responsiveness of management processes and their implementation. The assessment therefore examines whether established management systems and procedures are functioning effectively, whether staff have the necessary skills and institutional support, whether management processes are aligned with management objectives, and whether appropriate mechanisms exist for participation, grievance redressal, community engagement and adaptive management. It also considers how effectively the Reserve responds to emerging management challenges and applies established processes to translate management plans and strategies into action.



4.1 Does the TR have manpower resources trained in wildlife conservation for effective TR management?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s) / Photos	Remarks
No trained officers and frontline staff in the TR.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some trained officers and few trained frontline staff, posted in the TR.	Fair (Score 5)			
All trained officers and fair number of trained frontline staff posted in the TR.	Good (Score 7.5)			
All trained officers and most of the trained frontline staff are posted in the TR.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Indicate % of trained staff in various categories. The number and thematic areas of the 'Internal Training' programmes organized in the TR in the last 4 years may be taken into account. Has the TR prepared a 'Staff Development Plan'? Is it being implemented?				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Number of staff with Wildlife Management Diploma/Certificate awarded by the Wildlife Institute of India 2. Details of specialised courses or trainings organized in the TR in the last 4 years 3. Details of special thematic training modules for internal training in TR 4. Staff development plan				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Status of training in wildlife conservation: (Details on total number and percentage of officers and frontline staff trained in forest & wildlife as part of induction courses after recruitment) Supporting Documents:	a) None except managers = 0 b) Some officers and few frontline staff trained = 1 c) All officers and a fair number of frontline staff trained = 2 d) All officers and most frontline staff trained = 3 e) All officers and frontline staff adequately trained = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
2. Specialised courses or trainings: (Details on total number & percentage of officers and frontline staff have undergone special wildlife conservation courses or trainings) Supporting Documents:	a) None except managers = 0 b) Some officers and few frontline staff trained = 1 c) All officers and a fair number of frontline staff trained = 2 d) All officers and most frontline staff trained = 3 e) All officers and frontline staff adequately trained = 4	
3. Special thematic training modules for internal training in TR: (Details on developing training modules for protection and enforcement including weapons handling and firearm training; number and percentage of anti-poaching staff trained in each of the modules in last 4 years) Supporting Documents:	a) No module; few ad-hoc trainings = 0 b) A few modules; some staff trained = 1 c) Many training modules; fair number of staff trained = 2 d) Large number of modules; most staff trained = 3 e) Comprehensive modules; most/all relevant staff trained = 4	
4. Record of training: (Details on status of maintaining training records for each employee as well as module/ training-wise personnel trained; status on issue of certificates) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/only in-service records = 0 b) No proper records except recent trainings = 1 c) Proper records for most staff and trainings = 2 d) Updated records of all staff and trainings = 3 e) Complete and regularly updated training records for all staff = 4	
5. Staff Development plan: (Details of preparation of a staff development plan for individual skill and career development of staff and achievement of TR goals; status of implementation) Supporting Documents:	a) No plan = 0 b) Plan preparation in progress = 1 c) Plan exists/in final stage = 2 d) Plan under implementation = 3 e) Plan fully implemented = 4	
S = Total Points Scored for all items:		
M = Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s) / Photos	Remarks
No linkage between staff management performance and management objectives.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some linkage between staff management performance and management objectives, but not consistently or systematically assessed.	Fair (Score 5)			
Management performance for most staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Management performance of all staff is directly linked to achievement of relevant management objectives.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Performance linked to awards and promotion should be looked at.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. The details of staff working in the Tiger Reserve for a long period and have received their next promotion with information on whether promotions are linked with the performance of the staff. 2. List of awards, rewards based on performance of the staff given 3. Any Staff development plan or Staff welfare plan of the TR 4. Methods of performance appraisal of staff followed in the TR				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Methods of performance appraisal of staff followed in the TR- In Staff management performance Appraisal staff are assessed on the basis of goal setting, communicating and monitoring by seniors and periodic feedbacks. In annual appraisal process judging of past performance is made at year end and not measured on the basis of clear and agreed objectives. Mostly in Government systems the annual appraisal system, called ACR (Annual Character Roll) is followed. The system followed in different ranks need to be mentioned (copies of CR forms being used for different ranks should be enclosed):
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2. Details on the basis of mode of promotions adopted for different ranks (name ranks in which merit promotion is adopted and the ranks in which promotion is on the basis of seniority subjected to fitness, judged on the basis of CR, vigilance clearance, disciplinary actions etc.):

3. Details of rewards/ awards given to staff including the NTCA scheme of awarding Rs. 1.0 lakh to frontline staff for extraordinary performance in field as per NTCA guidelines issued vide OM no. F. No. 15-24/2019-NTCA New Delhi, dated August 16, 2019 (Details of nominations given by the State, category-wise representation of nominations, adequate documentation of work undertaken, and year-wise trend of nominations sent to NTCA from the TR during the last 4 years; enclose Supporting documents):

4.3 Is there effective public participation in TR management and does it show in making a difference?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Little or no public participation in TR management.	Poor (Score 2.5)	✓		
Opportunistic public participation in some of the relevant aspects of TR management.	Fair (Score 5)			
Systematic public participation in most of the relevant aspects of TR management.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Comprehensive and systematic public participation in all important and relevant aspects of TR management.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: The involvement of NGOs/ NGLs in population estimation may be taken into account. Are public awareness and education programmes being taken up?				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Report on public participation in TR management (list of management activities identified for public participation) 2. List of stakeholders involved in Tiger Reserve Management 3. List of EDCs and their activities conducted and funds released in last 4 years. 4. Details on involvement of NGOs/ NGLs/ individuals in All India Tiger Estimation & Phase-IV monitoring; the degree of involvement and help rendered				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Management activities identified for public participation: (Details on identification of relevant management activities for seeking public participation to effectively manage TR) Supporting Documents:	a) None = 0 b) A few activities; ad-hoc; no systematic identification = 1 c) Many activities; areas and target groups identified = 2 d) All relevant activities, areas and target groups identified = 3 e) All relevant activities systematically identified with defined areas and target groups = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
2. Implementation of participatory programs: (Details on status of public participation in different relevant programs; such as eco-tourism eco-development, anti-poaching, fire protection, pilgrim management, plastic waste disposal Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises etc.; the positive achievements for attaining TR objectives) Supporting Documents:	a) Little/negligible = 0 b) Opportunistic public participation in some programmes = 1 c) Systematic public participation in most programmes = 2 d) Systematic involvement of all targeted people in relevant programmes with good impact = 3 e) Sustained participation of all targeted groups with demonstrable impact = 4	
3. Participation in public awareness programs: (Details of public awareness and education programs run by groups/ institutions/ villages in last 4 years; public participation and program effectiveness) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 0 b) A few programmes with little impact = 1 c) Many effective programmes benefiting a fair number of people = 2 d) Large number of programmes creating broad public awareness = 3 e) Extensive programmes creating sustained and widespread public awareness = 4	
4. Involvement of NGOs/ NGIs in Tiger estimation: (Details on involvement of NGOs/ NGIs/ individuals in All India Tiger Estimation & phase-IV monitoring; the degree of involvement and help rendered) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 0 b) Some participation; not as per objectives = 1 c) Good participation; supports the process = 2 d) Meaningful and active participation; objectives achieved = 3 e) Meaningful and sustained participation; objectives fully achieved = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		16
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Ad-hoc approach to handling complaints.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Complaints handling system operational but not responsive to individual issues and with limited follow up.	Fair (Score 5)			
Coordinated system logs and responds effectively to most complaints.	Good (Score 7.5)			
All complaints systematically logged in coordinated system and timely response provided with minimal repeat complaints.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Does the TR maintain 'Suggestions Register' /Box / Web Portal? What actions are taken to deal with suggestions?				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Mode of registration of public complaints and keeping of logs 2. Details of system in place to monitor complaint/ grievance redressal and their disposal system 3. Copy of Complaint Handling Register or Complaint box				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1.Mode of registration of public complaints and keeping of logs including RTIs/VIP references (Details of RTIs/VIP references received, response/action taken by the State/TR and status of disposal; enclose Supporting documents): systems adopted for keeping logs of online modes like web portals and e-mails etc. as well as offline modes- complaint box (installed places, mode and interval of opening), complaint by post and in person etc. (enclose the relevant documents issued for accessing, opening, registering and submission to responsible authorities)

2. Details on complaint handling and disposal system (enclose the relevant orders and copy of records/ documents):

3. Details of system in place to monitor complaint/ grievance redressal. Provide year wise number of complaints received in different modes, numbers disposed and numbers pending in last 4 years. Provide details of pendency showing the period and the level; also provide mechanisms for periodical status reporting and reviewing adopted (furnish documents in support):

4. Details of system in place to inform the complainant or aggrieved person. Provide the number of complaints disposed vis-a-vis number of complainants informed in last 4 years (furnish documents in support):

5. Details of Suggestion Registers in public places and system in place to act on them. Provide details of places where such registers have been kept, the persons entrusted to scrutinise suggestions and report to the higher level; the number of suggestions accepted and implemented in last 4 years (furnish documents in support).

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
No livelihood issues are addressed by TR management.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Few livelihood issues are addressed by TR management.	Fair (Score 5)			
Substantial livelihood issues are addressed by TR management.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Livelihood issues of resource dependent communities especially of women are addressed effectively by TR managers.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: The number of man-days generated in the last 4 years may be taken into account. Are funds received from District Agencies and other sources? Provide details of funds received in the last 4 years. Livelihood options provided through EDCs to local people.

Indicative reference documents:

1. The information/ documentation on work done to address livelihood issues of resource dependent communities– eco-development/ Eco-tourism works.
2. Constitution and functioning of EDCs and SHGs
3. The number of mandays generated in the last 4 years by the TR management.
4. Are funds received from District Agencies and other sources like VB-G RAM G scheme etc.? Provide details of funds received in last 4 years.
5. Status of Forest Rights Act implementation including formation of committees like FRC, SDLC, DLC receipt and disposal of claims with respect to Tiger Reserve.

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS THROUGH EDC (INCLUDING VFCs etc.) :		
1. Constitution of EDC: (Details on number of EDCs constituted, number of villages covered and yet to be covered; statutory provisions; numbers with more than one meeting annually) Supporting Documents:	a) None/negligible = 0 b) Large number of villages left out = 1 c) Many statutory EDCs actively working = 2 d) Almost all villages have statutory EDCs and are active = 3 e) All/near-all villages have active statutory EDCs = 4	
2. Procedural support extended by TR in functioning of EDCs: (Details on earmarking of designated staff to attend and help in functioning of EDCs and the status of actual participation in meetings and EDC related works) Supporting Documents:	a) Little/negligible support = 0 b) Limited presence/support = 1 c) Present at most meetings and provides good support = 2 d) Very good staff support; guidance in all activities = 3 e) Consistent staff support and guidance across all activities = 4	
3. Functioning of EDCs for IGA: (Details of functioning of EDCs in implementing various IGA programs; amount of works & quantum of income generation; spectacular achievements, if any) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) A few programmes with little impact = 1 c) Many effective IGAs supporting many beneficiaries = 2 d) Good number of successful IGAs benefiting many people = 3 e) Well-established and successful IGAs benefiting a large number of people = 4	
4. Functioning of Self Help Groups (SHGs): (Details on creation and functioning of SHGs, especially by women and performance in supporting alternate livelihood options) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) A few groups = 1 c) Fair number of women SHGs supporting many beneficiaries = 2 d) Large number of well-functioning SHGs, mostly benefiting women = 3 e) Large number of well-functioning SHGs with broad and sustained benefits to women = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
B. ECO TOURISM:		
5. Livelihood options from Eco-tourism: (Details on eco-tourism activities directly supporting local beneficiaries- food, lodgings, park visits, guides and other works by individuals / SHGs/ EDCs) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) Small number of beneficiaries = 1 c) Many activities benefiting many beneficiaries = 2 d) Large number of TR initiatives benefiting many beneficiaries = 3 e) Large number of TR initiatives with broad and sustained benefits = 4	
C. FUNDS ADDRESSING LIVELIHOOD ISSUES:		
6. Funds from district agencies and other sources: (Details on funds received in last 4 years from district agencies & other sources for addressing livelihood issues -source and purpose; how they are integrated into RD programmes) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) Small, ad-hoc amounts; no integration with RD programmes = 1 c) Some funds received; no integration with RD programmes = 2 d) Regular funds received and integrated with RD programmes = 3 e) Regular and adequate funds, fully integrated with RD programmes = 4	
7. Labor employment by TR: (Details on labor employments by the TR for various protection, management and developmental activities in form of mandays for last 4 years) Supporting Documents:	a) Insignificant = 0 b) Some employment = 1 c) Many employment opportunities = 2 d) Good number of employment opportunities = 3 e) Large number of employment opportunities = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		28
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:
Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

4.6 Has the TR planned and implemented creation of inviolate zone by means of voluntary Village Relocation and phasing out of tourism from the Core/ Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
No planning and no implementation	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Plans have been made but no implementation	Fair (Score 5)			
Plans have been made and some implementation is in progress	Good (Score 7.5)			
Plans have been made and are being actively implemented/ no human habitation in the CTH	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Assessment will look into the village relocation planning process including availability of manpower, financial resources and NGO support, if any. Is there a mechanism to address the complaints received in respect of relocation process? Effort must be made to assess post-relocation success or otherwise. If the core zone is inviolate, rating will be highest.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Number of villages/ human settlements and households in core zone of TR 2. Has any village been relocated from the core area? If yes, the details of the planning and other aspects may be provided, like Village Relocation Plan and Post-relocation plan and financial implications and NGO support for relocation				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Settlements inside CTH: (Details on number of settlements, families, persons inside Core- on date of creation and at present; numbers relocated to outside TR) Supporting Documents:	a) 0 villages relocated = 0 b) 1–25% of villages relocated = 1 c) 26–50% of villages relocated = 2 d) 51–75% of villages relocated = 3 e) 76–100% of villages relocated = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
2. Mitigation of Anthropogenic Disturbances Due to Villages Located within the Core Area Supporting Documents:	a) No measures = 0 b) Measures planned, but implementation not commenced = 1 c) Comprehensive planning; implementation commenced = 2 d) Measures implemented with effective mitigation = 3 e) Measures fully implemented with sustained and effective mitigation = 4	
3. Preparation of village relocation plan for remaining villages: (Details on status of preparation of relocation plan- numbers submitted, completed, under preparation and not started- as per NTCA guidelines) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 0 b) Preparation of a few plans recently started = 1 c) Many plans prepared; some sanctioned, others in process = 2 d) Most plans implemented or under implementation = 3 e) All plans implemented or under implementation = 4	
4. Implementation Process: (Details of adherence to guidelines, especially related to eligibility, voluntary consent, package determination, money transfer, beneficiary's say, monitoring committees, deploying special staff, complaint redressal & post relocation success) Supporting Documents:	a) No relocation = 0 b) Loosely followed = 1 c) Mostly followed = 2 d) Strictly adhered to = 3 e) Strictly adhered to with successful implementation = 4	
5. Habitat management initiatives post relocation of villages (Details of habitat restoration measures undertaken in relocated areas) Supporting Documents:	a) No measures = 0 b) Measures planned, but implementation not commenced = 1 c) Comprehensive planning; implementation commenced = 2 d) Measures successfully implemented = 3 e) Measures fully implemented and effective = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
6. Phasing out of tourism from Core/ CTH: (Details on efforts made to phase out tourism facilities like night stay and eateries etc. from core as per recent guidelines reiterated on 11/10/19) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 0 b) LAC meeting held; no action on ground = 1 c) Phase-out schedule decided; low-impact practices; eateries closed/managed by TCF = 2 d) Phase-out as per schedule; low-impact practices; eateries closed/run by TCF = 3 e) Phase-out completed as scheduled; low-impact practices ensured; eateries effectively managed by TCF = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		24
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

5. OUTPUT

Outputs are the immediate products, services and management interventions delivered as a result of management actions. They provide evidence of what the Tiger Reserve has actually implemented, such as protection and patrol efforts, habitat management interventions, monitoring and research programmes, infrastructure and equipment provision, personnel training, wildlife crime investigations, human-wildlife conflict response measures, and community outreach initiatives. The assessment of Outputs is important because it helps determine whether planned activities are being translated into measurable and verifiable management deliverables. It also provides an indication of the extent, quality and consistency of implementation and helps identify gaps between planned interventions and those actually delivered. The assessment of Outputs therefore provides an important link between the resources and management processes assessed in the preceding stages and the conservation results expected from them. It also considers whether management performance and implementation information is adequately documented and accessible, whether findings from research and monitoring are being used to inform management, and whether systems are in place for the maintenance and continued functionality of management infrastructure.



5.1 Is adequate information on TR management publicly available?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Little or no information on TR management publicly available.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Publicly available information is general and has limited relevance to management accountability and the condition of public assets.	Fair (Score 5)			
Publicly available information provides detailed insight into major management issues and condition of public assets.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Comprehensive reports are routinely available in public domain on management and condition of public assets.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Information such as SOPs in vernacular language, MOU, fund flow, estimation, tourism and booking, etc. data can be included.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Copies of brochures, pamphlets, booklets, awareness raising materials etc. 2. Availability of information in public domain on TR management, financial aspects, population estimation, wildlife crime, tourism etc. 3. Copies of the coverage of the tiger reserve and its various initiatives in local press if any. 4. Social Media Accounts and activity of TRs				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Management-related information in public domain: (Details on status of availability of management-related documents, such as SOPs etc. in public domain along with the documents in vernacular language; public domain includes designated website, newsletters and press) Supporting Documents:	a) Not in public domain = 0 b) Few SOPs; limited information on website = 1 c) TCP and SOPs in public domain; partly available in vernacular = 2 d) TCP, SOPs and related information in public domain and vernacular = 3 e) TCP, SOPs and related information readily accessible in public domain and vernacular = 4	
2. Financial information in public domain: (Details on availability of financial information in public domain, such as fund flows & MOU etc.; compliance of displaying cost and work details on worksite) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) No information except limited display of costs/work details = 1 c) Display at all worksites; some financial details made public = 2 d) Display at all worksites; fund flow and MOU in public domain = 3 e) Comprehensive disclosure of works, costs, fund flow and MOU in public domain = 4	
3. Population estimation information in public domain: (Details on availability of periodic population estimates of key threatened/endangered species, including All India Tiger Estimation-AITE and status of prey and predators related to TR in public domain) Supporting Documents:	a) No TR-related information = 0 b) Only AITE data available on NTCA website/documents = 1 c) AITE data and census information for several species = 2 d) Periodic census data of major species and relevant Phase-IV information available = 3 e) Comprehensive and updated species data, including relevant Phase-IV information, available = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
4. Wildlife crime information in public domain: (Details on availability of information related to wildlife crime in public domain) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 0 b) Few general information = 1 c) Some information in public domain = 2 d) Comprehensive information = 3 e) Comprehensive and regularly updated information = 4	
5. Tourism information in public domain: (Details on availability of information to public related to tourism, such as tourist inflow, places to visit, facilities, guided tours, tariffs and online bookings, etc.) Supporting Documents:	a) Sketchy information; no website or online booking = 0 b) Some general website information; no online booking = 1 c) Relevant website information and online booking = 2 d) Comprehensive website information and online booking = 3 e) Comprehensive, regularly updated information and online booking = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		20
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

5.2 Are visitor services and facilities appropriate and adequate?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Visitor services and facilities do not exist.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Visitor services and facilities are very basic.	Fair (Score 5)			
Visitor services and facilities are monitored from time to time and are fairly effective.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Visitor services and facilities are conscientiously maintained, regularly upgraded and monitored for visitor satisfaction	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Include the existence and quality of visitor and interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, TR related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by TR), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feedback on the quality of wilderness experience.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Details of facilities provided to the visitors in terms of interpretation centers, including skills and capabilities of personnel manning these, TR related publications, films, videos; arrangements of stay (including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by TR), watch towers and hides including safety factors, vehicles assigned for visitors including riding elephants, if any and their deployment, drinking water, rest rooms, garbage disposal, attended and self guided services in the field, visitor feedback on the quality of wilderness experience. 2. Is visitor feedback taken, analysed and acted upon by the TR Management 3. Visitor's book maintained at important rest houses / interpretation centers. Visitation data of last 4 years. 4. Skills and capabilities of staff in managing services				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
1. Presence and quality of visitor services: (Details on various visitor services, such as reception & interpretation; common public amenities, like drinking water, toilets, rest rooms, parking, canteen, souvenir shops etc.; eco-tourism including stays, tours, treks and nature trails etc. present in the TR; number of visitors and the quality of services)) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) Limited/basic services for small number of visitors = 1 c) Good services for moderate number of visitors; monitored = 2 d) Appropriate, adequate and good-quality services for large number of visitors; monitored and upgraded = 3 e) High-quality, adequate services for visitor demand; regularly monitored and upgraded = 4	
2. Interpretation centers: (Details of interpretation centers, their quality, upkeep, physical conditions and effectiveness in achieving objectives on environmental education & awareness) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil = 0 b) Centre not effective = 1 c) Centres properly and purposefully organised; effective = 2 d) Adequate number of centres; good displays/themes; well maintained and managed = 3 e) Adequate, well-managed centres with quality displays/themes, good upkeep and high visitor engagement = 4	
3. Skills and capabilities of staff managing services: (Details on skills and capabilities of staff managing various visitor services including interpretation; no. of special staff or staff who have undergone special training) Supporting Documents:	a) No special skills = 0 b) A few skilled staff = 1 c) Some skilled staff = 2 d) Adequate skilled and capable staff for required services = 3 e) Adequate and well-distributed skilled staff with capacity to deliver all required services = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
4. TR related publications, films and videos: (Details on availability of TR-related publications, including brochures for visitors' information, films and videos; their quality and availability to visitors) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/insignificant = 0 b) Some general brochures = 1 c) Many good publications, films and videos; easily available = 2 d) Adequate, good-quality films, publications and videos; easily available to public = 3 e) Comprehensive, high-quality communication materials; regularly updated and readily accessible to the public = 4	
5. Arrangements of stay: (Details on arrangements of stay including places serving refreshments and food owned and managed by TR) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) Some stay facilities in TR; eateries privately managed = 1 c) Many stay facilities; low impact adherence; eateries managed by TR = 2 d) Good number of stay facilities, mostly outside core, and eateries managed by TR = 3 e) Adequate, well-managed stay facilities and eateries, with low-impact practices and good visitor management = 4	
6. Park visit services: (Details on assignment of vehicles and other means like elephants and boats etc., where available & their proper deployment; number & safety factor of watch towers and hides) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/negligible = 0 b) Small number; inadequate = 1 c) Fair number; safety measures in place and monitored = 2 d) Good number; properly deployed with safety measures and monitoring = 3 e) Adequate number; well-deployed, effective safety measures and regular monitoring = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
7. Attended and self-guided services in the field: (Details on attended and self-guided services in the field; public information on :- hiring of guides, cost details; types of self-guided tours/visits and contact person) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/meagre services = 0 b) Some guided tours; poorly organised; limited information = 1 c) Organised guided tours; useful information available online = 2 d) Organised guided tours; online booking; useful information for guided/self-guided visits = 3 e) Well-organised guided/self-guided visits; online booking and comprehensive visitor information = 4	
8. Garbage disposal: (Details on Garbage disposal including efforts to make TR plastic free) Supporting Documents:	a) Poor / plastic =1 b) Garbage disposal not efficient often plastics littered =2 c) Good garbage disposal; efforts to make it plastic free =3 d) Excellent garbage disposal involving locals; plastic free =4	
9. Visitors' feedback: (Details on number and nature of visitors' feedback on the quality of wildlife experience; system adopted by the TR to act on those feedbacks) Supporting Documents:	a) No/poor feedback = 0 b) Average feedback; no action taken = 1 c) Good feedback; system to act and improve = 2 d) Very good feedback; system to review and rectify = 3 e) Excellent feedback; systematic review and continuous improvement = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion)		36
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s) / Photos	Remarks
Little or no systematic evaluation or routine reporting of trends.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some evaluation and reporting undertaken but neither systematic nor routine.	Fair (Score 5)			
Systematic evaluation and routine reporting of management related trends undertaken.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Systematic evaluation and comprehensive reporting of trends undertaken and attempts made at course corrections as relevant.	Very good (Score 10)			

Explanatory note: Not all TRs attract projects and researchers and with exceptions, little research takes place on the TRs' own initiative 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.

Indicative reference documents:

1. Copies of research reports/publications by different individuals/organisations based on the studies done in the TR in the last 4 years.
2. Information on research and monitoring works in the Tiger Reserve (including the work done by researchers/ scholars).
3. The details on estimation of important wildlife population conducted by the Tiger Reserve Management (Trend/time series)
4. Planning and implementation of Phase-IV monitoring protocols and the success of implementation of M-STRIPES
5. 'Sykes and Horill' monitoring plots maintained and data analyzed
6. Year-wise report on population estimation of prey base and predators
7. Monitoring of biotic threats in the TR and monitoring of vegetation, wildlife health & offences
8. List of MSc/PhD thesis based on the work in TR in the last 4 years

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
A. RESEARCH IN TR:		
1. Research and research collaboration in TR by different organisations/institutions: (Details on research activities by external agencies and collaborations with colleges, Universities and other Institutes, including engagement of interns; observance of protocols, timely communication/reporting of findings and publications, and use of findings for improving management.) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil / no work undertaken = 0 b) Some works undertaken, but no follow-up = 1 c) Moderate number of projects/works undertaken, with limited follow-up = 2 d) Many projects/works undertaken, with protocol in place and timely reporting = 3 e) Many projects/works undertaken, with protocol in place, timely reporting, and findings used to improve management = 4	
2. Research in TR by own stream: (Details of research activities by own stream including laying out & maintenance of Sykes & Horill monitoring plots; analysis and reporting of findings; course correction mechanism) Supporting Documents:	a) Nil/no sample plots or research work = 0 b) Some sample plots; incomplete/no data collection or analysis = 1 c) Few research/sampling works; data collected and timely reported = 2 d) Several research/sampling works; findings reported and acted upon; Sykes and Horill plots maintained and analysed = 3 e) Well-established research/sampling programme; findings systematically used in management; Sykes and Horill plots maintained, analysed and trends incorporated = 4	
B. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF TRENDS IN THE TR ON CRITICAL ISSUES:		
3. Population of tiger, co-predator, and prey: (Details on monitoring of population with insights into their demography and distribution- by some opportunistic sampling, by sightings, signs and spatial distribution during assessment to collect extremely useful information for expert impression and as a pulse,	a) Not done / No proper record = 0 b) Some unsystematic data, not reliable = 1 c) Data collected with limited reliability = 2 d) Systematic data collection; limited analysis = 3 e) Systematic data collection and analysis = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
Details on planning and implementation of phase IV monitoring protocol; manner of reporting/ recording; analysis of trends and use in improving protection & management) Supporting Documents:		
4. Monitoring of biotic threats to habitat: (Details on monitoring/ evaluation of threats to habitat, such as grazing, fire, weeds, feral/stray dogs, poaching, encroachments, visitors' action etc.; manner of reporting/ recording; analysis of trends and use for improving management) Supporting Documents:	a) Little/no systematic evaluation or reporting = 0 b) Some evaluation/reporting, but not routine/systematic = 1 c) Systematic evaluation and routine trend reporting = 2 d) Systematic evaluation, comprehensive trend reporting and course correction = 3 e) Comprehensive evaluation, trend analysis and management improvement = 4	
5. Monitoring of vegetation and habitat: (Details on monitoring/ evaluation of regeneration, change of vegetation, weeds, water sources, micro-habitats and specialised ecological niches, including grassland plots, seed trials and associated habitat management interventions; manner of reporting/ recording; analysis of trends and use for improving management) Supporting Documents:	a) Little/no systematic evaluation or reporting = 0 b) Some evaluation and reporting, but not routine/systematic = 1 c) Systematic evaluation and routine trend reporting = 2 d) Systematic evaluation, comprehensive trend reporting and course correction = 3 e) Comprehensive evaluation, trend analysis and management course correction = 4	
6. Assessment of biodiversity and other priority taxa: (Details on assessment and monitoring of macro-fauna, including pollinators, lepidopterans, amphibians and reptiles; other endemic and priority species such as primates, small cats and flora; avifauna; and aquatic fauna, including their diversity, distribution, population status and trends.) Supporting Documents:	a) No systematic evaluation or routine reporting = 0 b) Some evaluation/reporting, but not routine/systematic = 1 c) Systematic evaluation and routine trend reporting = 2 d) Systematic evaluation, comprehensive trend reporting and course correction = 3 e) Comprehensive evaluation, trend analysis and management course correction = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
7. Wildlife disease surveillance and health monitoring — dedicated disease-surveillance protocol/SOP; availability of a trained veterinary officer/consultant; number of sample screenings conducted; coordination with State Animal Husbandry Dept./IVRI/NIHSAD or an equivalent diagnostic laboratory; outbreak-reporting mechanism to NTCA/State; immunization of fringe-area livestock Supporting Documents:	a) No surveillance protocol; disease/mortality not systematically monitored = 0 b) ad-hoc reporting; no dedicated protocol, trained staff or lab linkage = 1 c) Surveillance protocol in place; periodic sampling and lab coordination = 2 d) Standardized protocol operational; trained veterinary staff and regular sampling = 3 e) Standardized surveillance with regular sampling, lab linkage and real-time reporting to State/NTCA = 4	
8. Monitoring of offence cases: (Details on monitoring of offence cases and ex-gratia payment; manner of reporting & recording- routine or comprehensive; analysis/ evaluation of trends; use for improving management) Supporting Documents:	a) Little/no systematic evaluation or routine reporting = 0 b) Some evaluation and reporting, but not routine/systematic = 1 c) Systematic evaluation and routine trend reporting = 2 d) Systematic evaluation, comprehensive trend reporting and course correction = 3 e) Comprehensive evaluation, trend analysis and management course correction = 4	
9. Use of M-STrIPES: (Details on implementation / use of M-STrIPES; success in collection of data related to 3 modules- patrol, ecology and conflict; its use in improving management) Supporting Documents:	a) Not implemented = 0 b) Preparatory stage for switching from another system = 1 c) M-STrIPES largely implemented for useful data collection = 2 d) M-STrIPES successfully implemented; data used for management improvement = 3 e) M-STrIPES fully integrated; data routinely analysed and used for adaptive management = 4	

Items of Evaluation (with supporting documents)	Category	Point Score
10. Sociological parameters and aspirations: (Details on assessment of resource dependency, community perception, awareness and aspirations, and their trends and implications for TR management.) Supporting Documents:	a) No systematic evaluation or routine reporting = 0 b) Some evaluation/reporting, but not routine/systematic = 1 c) Systematic evaluation and routine trend reporting = 2 d) Systematic evaluation, comprehensive trend reporting and course correction = 3 e) Comprehensive evaluation, trend analysis and management course correction = 4	
S =Total Points Scored for all items:		
M= Maximum Awardable Points: (Calculation: Total Number of criteria evaluated X 4 (maximum value of a criterion))		40
Point Score Percent = S/M X 100 (rounded to whole number):		

On the basis of obtained points, the category will be as below:

Poor: 0–25%, Fair: 26–50%, Good: 51–75%, Very Good: 76–100%

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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
No systematic inventory or maintenance schedule.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Inventory maintenance is ad-hoc and so is the maintenance schedule.	Fair (Score 5)			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule but funds are inadequately made available.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Systematic inventory provides the basis for maintenance schedule and adequate funds are made available.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: The information on maintenance of infrastructure and other assets (store, building, road, vehicle, registers etc.). Building register/building maintenance register.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Asset register maintained in the TR 2. Details of maintenance schedule and orders/ instructions of the important assets 3. Present conditions of important infrastructure and assets				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Asset registers maintained in the TR. Provide type of asset registers such as, buildings, roads, vehicles, wireless towers, check dams, percolation ponds, watch towers, fire lines and other infrastructure/assets; also provide their quantum (furnish/name supported documents):

2. Details of maintenance schedule and orders/ instructions, if any for each type of assets. Asset wise details for every year on the quantity of asset, estimated amount required, fund allocated and source of funds for last 4 years (furnish supported documents):

3. Present conditions of important infrastructure and assets (furnish documents in support):

6. OUTCOME

Outcomes represent the conservation results and broader effects of management interventions in relation to the objectives of the Tiger Reserve. They reflect changes in the condition of key conservation values and in the threats affecting them, including trends in tiger and other threatened species populations, prey availability, habitat condition, biodiversity values, ecological connectivity and the effectiveness of threat mitigation. Outcomes may also encompass the extent to which management objectives are being achieved, visitor expectations are being met, and local communities are supportive of the management of the Tiger Reserve. The assessment of Outcomes is important because it provides the strongest indication of whether management is ultimately achieving its intended conservation purpose. While adequate inputs, effective processes and substantial outputs are necessary for effective management, they do not necessarily demonstrate that conservation objectives are being achieved. Outcome assessment therefore examines whether management interventions are contributing to desirable and sustained changes in conservation values and whether identified threats are being reduced, maintained or increasing. It also considers the extent to which observed changes can reasonably be associated with management interventions, while recognising the influence of broader ecological, social, climatic and landscape-level factors.



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

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Populations of key threatened/ endangered species are declining.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some threatened/ endangered species populations declining, some are increasing, most others are stable.	Fair (Score 5)			
Several threatened/ endangered species populations increasing, most others are stable.	Good (Score 7.5)			
All threatened/ endangered species populations either increasing or stable.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: 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.				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Comparative assessment report for last 4 years for populations estimation of threatened species (other flora, fauna, avifauna, and aquafauna)				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1.Details of population estimation of key threatened/ endangered species. Provide name of all key threatened / endangered species in the TR; the name of species and the year of the last 4 population estimations; methods deployed in their estimation.

2. Status of population of key threatened / endangered species:

Key threatened/ endangered species	Population in earlier estimation	Population in latest estimate	Increase/ decrease in number	Status on ecosystem potential basis (increase/ stable/ decline)	Explanation for justifying the status on ecosystem basis
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

6.2 Is the population of tigers showing a declining, stable or increasing trend?

Assessment criteria for Tiger Reserves with no active management	Assessment criteria for Tiger Reserves undertaking active management	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Population of tiger is showing a declining trend/no tiger but with no planning for action/active management		Poor (Score 2.5)			
Population of tiger is showing a declining trend and the reason is identified but action on-ground is lacking	Planning for reintroduction is in the infancy stages	Fair (Score 5)			
Population of tiger is showing a stable trend but below carrying capacity	Planning is completed and on-ground preparations are underway for release of tiger	Good (Score 7.5)			
Population of tiger is stable at carrying capacity or showing an increasing trend and surrounding landscape, core area addresses tiger dispersal appropriately	Tiger reintroduction/augmentation has started and is showing promising recovery	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: This assessment should be based in the context of available population estimate (2022) as baseline and the outcomes of the currently ongoing Phase-IV analyses.					
Indicative reference documents: - Details on determination of Carrying Capacity for population of tiger in the TR - Comparative assessment report of Tigers for last 4 years in the context of available population estimate of previous cycle (2010, 2014, 2018, 2022) and the outcomes of the currently ongoing Phase-IV analyses w.r.t. carrying capacity					

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1.Details on determination of Carrying Capacity for population of tiger in the TR (enclose Supporting documents):

2.Details of population estimation and trend (enclose Supporting documents):

AITE Estimate		Phase IV		Carrying Capacity (CC)	Phase-IV status w.r.t. 2022 estimate				
2018	2022	Year of recent exercise	Estimate		Decline	Stable below CC	Stable at CC	Increase below CC	Increase at CC

3. In case of declining trend, whether the reasons have been identified and options/ actions taken to reverse the trend. Provide details with Supporting documents:

4.The status of surrounding landscape and core area addressing tiger dispersal appropriately. Provide details on the pattern of dispersal in surrounding landscape and core and its appropriateness (enclose Supporting documents):

5. Details of tiger reintroduction/augmentation program (including the activities undertaken and trend of increase in tiger population)

6.3 Have the threats to the TR been reduced/ minimized? Or is there an increase?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Threats to the TR have not abated but have enhanced.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some threats to the TR have abated, others continue their presence	Fair (Score 5)			
Most threats to the TR have abated. The few remaining are vigorously being addressed	Good (Score 7.5)			
All threats to the TR have been effectively contained and an efficient system is in place to deal with any emerging situation	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Does the TR have a Disaster Risk Management Plan to deal with existing as well as emerging threats? Fire management plan?				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Year-wise threat assessment report including list of threats (past and present), extent, measures and change from last 4 years (Year-wise threat assessment report for the last 4 years, covering major threats such as forest fire, poaching, encroachment, floods/erosion, pest and disease outbreaks, feral/stray dogs and other site-specific threats, along with their extent, impact, trend and management measures undertaken). 2. Disaster Risk Management Plan 3. Status of TR having a Fire Management Plan				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Status of Threats (enclose Supporting documents):

List of Threats	Extent of Threats earlier	Measures being taken for abatement	Extent of Threats at present	Status of change (Abated/ Being pursued/Enhanced)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

2. Status on the TR having a Disaster Risk Management Plan to deal with existing as well as emerging threats (enclose Supporting documents):

3. Status of TR having a Fire Management Plan (enclose Supporting documents):

6.4 Is visitor management appropriate?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Tourism management is entirely ad-hoc.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Tourism management and monitoring programmes are described in plan but poorly implemented.	Fair (Score 5)			
Tourism management plan is good and well monitored.	Good (Score 7.5)			
Tourism management plan is good and well monitored with innovative ways of engaging and educating tourists.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: Visitor management follows NTCA guidelines of evaluation of carrying capacity for tourism				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Tourist visitation data and trends of last 4 years 2. Visitor's book maintained at important rest houses/ interpretation centers 3. Details of various eco-tourism programmes run by the TR and annual participation of visitors for last 4 years 4. Tourist feedback registers and its analysis by TR management 5. Engagement on Social Media 6. Details on compliance status of Supreme Court/ NTCA guidelines on eco-tourism in TR				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Status (number) of Visitors/ Tourist visiting the TR annually in last 4 years (with Supporting documents):

2. Details of various eco-tourism programmes run by the TR and annual participation of visitors for last 4 years (enclose Supporting documents):

3. Details on mechanism in place for recording feedbacks from tourists visiting the park and to act upon good suggestions in incorporating them to practices/management activities. Provide details on such actions. Also provide details on scrutiny of feed backs as to satisfaction of visitors' expectations and mention the outcome (enclose supporting documents):

4. Details on compliance status of Supreme Court/ NTCA guidelines on eco-tourism in TR (Details on compliance with prescribed eco-tourism guidelines, including measures to monitor and regulate tourist vehicular movement within the Tiger Reserve through vehicle tracking/GPS, designated routes and time slots, speed monitoring, entry–exit records, vehicle permits and enforcement mechanisms.) enclose Supporting documents:

6.5 Are local communities Supporting of PA management?

Assessment criteria	Rating/ Score	Tick ✓	Reference document(s)/ Photos	Remarks
Local communities are hostile.	Poor (Score 2.5)			
Some are supportive.	Fair (Score 5)			
Most locals are supportive of PA management.	Good (Score 7.5)			
All local communities supportive of PA management.	Very good (Score 10)			
Explanatory note: 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 disaffection 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. Social surveys can be looked into to validate the point. What is the TR admin doing to engage?				
Indicative reference documents: 1. Details of support of local communities 2. Details of reasons of disenchantment of local communities, if any 3. Details on any social survey conducted to assess the support and underlying issues and outcome from such survey 4. Results of eco-development activities and other initiatives undertaken by the management for assisting the local communities				

Matrix in tabular form for assessing category on the basis of explanatory note and criteria:

1. Details of support of local communities (with Supporting documents):

2. Details of reasons of disenchantment of local communities, if any, and the local elements/organizations who would like to keep the disaffection simmering for their own ulterior motives- what are the motives?. Provide details of actions TR is taking to engage them. Also mention any help received from credible NGOs (enclose supporting documents):

3. Details on any social survey conducted to assess the support and underlying issues and outcome from such survey (enclose Supporting documents):

4. Funds allocated to EDCs from TCF (Details of the percentage of funds allocated from the Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) to EDCs, including year-wise allocation, transfer and utilisation of funds).

5. Local employment generated by the Tiger Reserve (Details of locals engaged by the Tiger Reserve as daily-wage workers, nature guides, contractual staff, protection staff or in any other employment, including the total number and category-wise details of such engagement). :

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	5	10	50		
2	Planning	9	10	90		
3	Inputs	5	10	50		
4	Process	6	10	60		
5	Outputs	4	10	40		
6	Outcomes	5	10	50		
Total		34		340		

Efforts will be made by the NTCA-WII-MEE Team to address the issue of assigning 'differential' weightages to the 34 Assessment Criteria including 'normalization'.

MEE TR 2026 Clusters

MEE 2026 will cover 58 tiger reserves, grouped into 14 clusters. Each tiger reserve will be evaluated by a four-member team comprising a Chairperson, two Expert Members, and a scientist from the Wildlife Institute of India

Cluster	Tiger Reserve
1	Nagarjunsagar Srisaillam
	Amrabad
	Kawal
2	Ranthambhore
	Sariska
	Mukundara
	Ramgarh Vishdhari
	Dholpur-Karauli
3	Sanjay Dubri
	Bandhavgarh
	Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla
	Palamau
	Panna
4	Pench (MH)
	Pench (MP)
	Bor
	Nawegaon-Nagzira
	Tadoba Andhari

Cluster	Tiger Reserve
5	Satpura
	Melghat
	Ratapani
	Veerangana Durgavati
6	Similipal
	Valmiki
	Satkosia
	Buxa
7	Manas
	Orang
	Nameri
	Kaziranga
8	Dudhwa
	Pilibhit
	Corbett
	Rajaji
	Ranipur
9	Mudumalai
	Bandipur
	Nagarhole

Cluster	Tiger Reserve
10	Kali
	Bhadra
	Sahyadri
	Sundarbans
11	Parambikulam
	Anamalai
	Madhav
	Sathyamangalam
12	BRT
	Periyar
	Kalakkad Mundanthurai
	Srivilliputhur Meghamalai

Cluster	Tiger Reserve
13	Pakke
	Dampa
	Namdapha
	Kamlang
14	Kanha
	Udanti-Sitanadi
	Indravati
	Achanakmar



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