Conservation Assured Tiger Standards

A Multifunctional Protected Area Management Tool to Aid Implementation of International Conventions, Multilateral Treaties, Global Initiatives & National Action

CATS

Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards

A step forward in Protected Area Management to ensure Tiger Conservation and Protection

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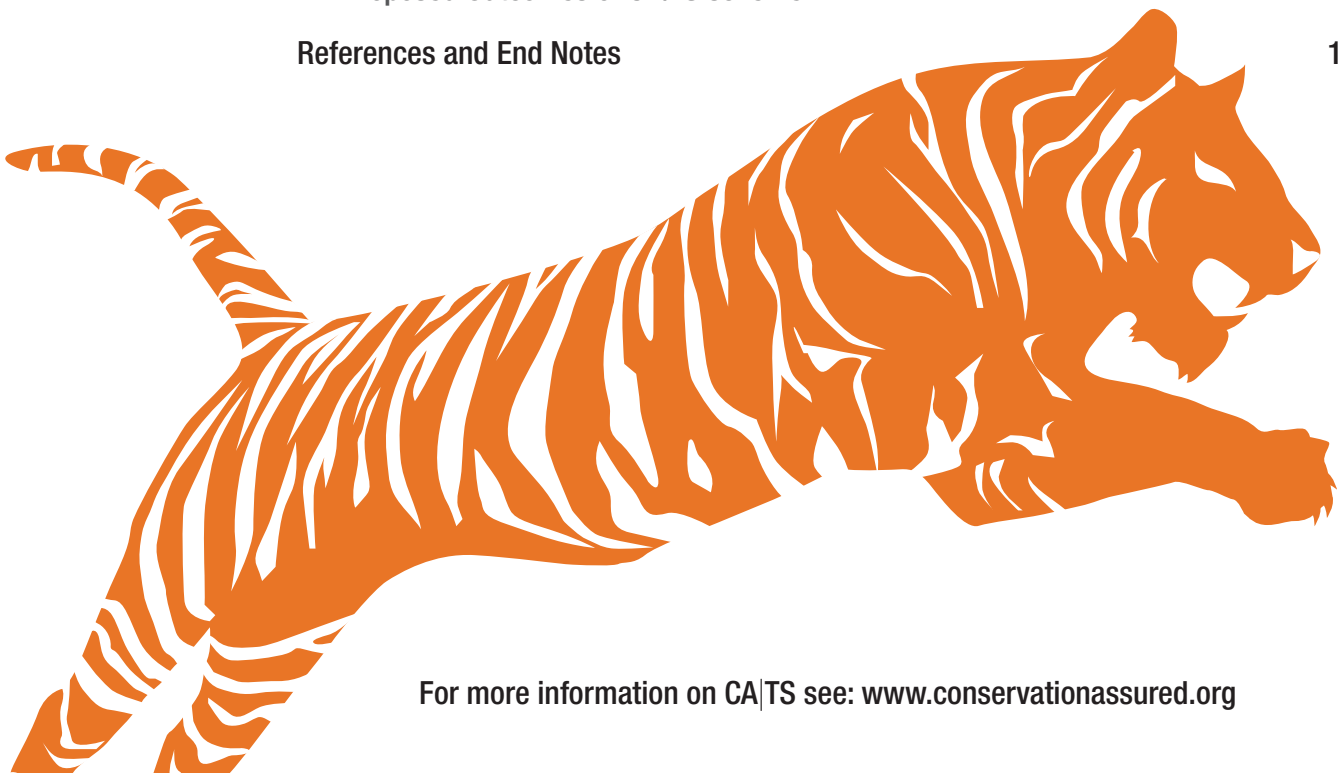

For more information on CA|TS see: www.conservationassured.org

Chapter 1 Background and Introduction

There is the need to have a comprehensive tool in place, providing a reference point for the evaluation of the existing management practices

The tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) population is dwindling at an alarming rate. There are only 13[1] countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam) known as Tiger Range Countries (TRC) which have free ranging wild tiger populations. Although, there are no accurate estimates of the global tiger population, numbers are thought to have fallen by over 95% since the turn of the 20th century – down from perhaps 100,000 to the current estimate of as fewer than 3,500[2]. Additionally, tigers have lost over 93% of their historic range[2,3] .

There have been numerous efforts worldwide to protect and conserve tigers. Although the number of protected areas (PAs) has increased, it is important them maintain high standards for the effective management to ensure the commensurate increase in tiger populations. The main reasons for diminishing tiger numbers are poaching, illegal trade in tiger parts and their derivatives and population and habitat fragmentation due to pressures of development as well as deforestation or degradation of forests leading to a decreasing prey base.

The prevalence of these threats indicates improvements to the management of PAs can still be made to enhance tiger conservation. As such, there is the need to have a comprehensive tool in place, providing a reference point for the evaluation of the existing management practices on tiger protection and conservation. The ultimate goal of such a system will be to ensure that benefits from such efforts are optimised. CA|TS aims to be that universal tool, setting minimum standards for effective management of tiger protection areas or conservation reserves.

Chapter 2 Why are Assessments and Management Standards needed?

Box 1: **Management effectiveness evaluation**

Management effectiveness evaluation is defined by IUCN WCPA as the assessment of how well the protected area is being managed – primarily the extent to which it is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives. The term management effectiveness reflects three main themes:

- Design issues relating to both individual areas and protected area systems;
- Adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes;
- Delivery of protected area objectives including conservation of values (Hockings et al, 2006).

As has been stated above, an increase in PA size is not leading to enhanced conservation of tigers, thus restraining any significant increase in their populations. This calls for a detailed assessment of the functioning of these PAs *vis* a *vis* recommended optimal conditions for tiger protection and conservation.

Assessment and management standards are needed to evaluate the status of a protected area from a species-specific focus, and is required in order to ensure that everything is in place; beneficial law and policy, its implementation, man power capacity, infrastructure, ecological conditions etc.

Over the last twenty years, country specific evaluation frameworks based upon principles developed by the *IUCN World Commission for Protected Areas* (IUCN-WPCA), have been developed and applied to assess the management effectiveness of protected areas. However there is no standardised framework across the tiger range countries to assess management effectiveness of protected areas from a species (i.e. tiger) specific point of view.

IUCN's framework on '*Evaluating Effectiveness - A framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas*'[4] defines evaluation as the assessment of how well protected areas are being managed – primarily the extent to which management is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives. The term management effectiveness reflects three main 'themes' in protected area management:

- Design issues relating to both individual sites and protected area systems
- Adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes
- Delivery of protected area objectives including conservation of values

Evaluation of management effectiveness is recognised as a vital component of responsive, pro-active protected area management. As well as being an essential tool at local, regional and national levels, evaluation also has an increasingly important international context. Nations are agreeing to report on progress in conservation to their peers through institutions such as the World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. As per the framework prepared by IUCN, four major purposes drive evaluation of management effectiveness. It can:

- Lead to better management in a changing environment
- Assist in effective resource allocation
- Promote accountability and transparency
- Help involve the community, build constituencies and promote protected area values

Chapter 3 What is CA|TS?

Conservation Assured I Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is a new management tool which sets basic criteria or minimum standards for effective management of tiger conservation reserves or other conservation reserves and protected areas which have tiger population in them.

A voluntary, independent scheme for any site involved in tiger conservation, providing them an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to and success with protecting tigers

It is a voluntary, independent scheme for any site involved in tiger conservation and provides them an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment and success to protecting tigers by being CA|TS standards compliant. CA|TS is not a new management effectiveness system for ranking tiger reserves but rather, provides the means to tell if a particular site attains the minimum standards needed to conserve tigers. Tiger reserves taking part in the system will be recorded as either registered (but standard not yet attained) or as achieving the standards. Excellence would be expressed in terms of highlighting specific best practices in a reserve and the effectiveness of a protected area in providing conditions conducive for long-term sustainability of tigers. CA|TS cover all aspects of protected area management: from the size and ecological integrity of the habitat, to laws and the capacity of wildlife staff to implement these laws effectively. It also acknowledges and recognises the fact that protected areas might include areas which hold social, cultural, spiritual and economic value to people residing in the forest or other nearby landscapes. The ecosystem services being rendered by the forests of the protected area, or the potential of these forests to earn revenue for the area from schemes like REDD+ (which are likely to become a reality when the new climate regime comes in to force post 2020,) are also taken in to account by these standards.

This tool combines all possible elements together in one place and builds a set of comprehensive standards covering all aspects of the protected area that require effective management for the results of wildlife conservation to be optimised and synergised with other sectorial goals.

Chapter 4 What constitutes CA|TS?

The seven ‘pillars‘ and 17 elements cover different management issues. These pillars are subdivided into those that are applicable to protected area management in general (although with a species specific focus) and represent the Conservation Assured (CA) aspect of CA|TS, and the two final pillars which focus specifically on management issues related to tiger conservation – the Tiger Standards (TS). Each element assessed comprises of a number of more specific standards and criteria.

Chapter 5 Development of CA|TS: A consultative process

CA|TS has been developed after undertaking an exhaustive stakeholders' consultation including specific inputs from wildlife experts all over the world, protected area management staff in different tiger range countries and tiger conservation experts.

Country specific workshops in this regard were conducted in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Malaysia. This first iteration of CA|TS has been extensively field-tested and subjected to expert peer review. It is expected that the CA|TS will be reviewed every few years as best practice standards evolve and are refined.

The CA|TS Standards and Pillars

CONSERVATION ASSURED

The Pillars	The Standards
IMPORTANCE AND STATUS	Social, cultural and biological significance
	Protected area design
	Legal status, regulation and compliance
MANAGEMENT	Management planning
	Management plan/system implementation
	Management process
	Staffing - full and part time
	Infrastructure, equipment and facilities
	Sustainability of financial resources
	Adaptive management - feedback loop
COMMUNITY	Human wildlife conflict
	Community relations
	Stakeholder relations
TOURISM (optional)	Tourism and interpretation
PROTECTION	Protection and enforcement needs
HABITAT MANAGEMENT	Habitat and prey management
TIGER POPULATIONS	Tiger population management

TIGER STANDARDS

Chapter 6 CA|TS Goal

The primary goal for CA|TS is to contribute meaningfully to the aim of doubling the number of the global Tiger population by 2022 (known as TX2) as was committed to by the 13 Tiger Range Countries; to be accomplished by providing of a mechanism and a universal tool for monitoring, demonstrating and guaranteeing effectiveness of the system of tiger reserves across the TRCs.

It also provides incentive for improving effectiveness of protected areas by constantly updating and reviewing CA|TS with a view to potentially incorporating emerging best practices from all TRCs in to the CA|TS standards.

Chapter 7 CA|TS Aims and Objectives

- For a national protected areas system: to help set a baseline and facilitate adaptive management and continual improvement of performance in tiger reserves
- For tiger conservation: to set a minimum standard for tiger conservation within protected areas and provide an objective measurement of effectiveness
- For a protected area manager or a national protected area department: to demonstrate the importance and role of protected areas in the global effort to double the number of tigers and to help mobilise the support needed to provide necessary resources and capacity to be effective in tiger conservation
- For protected area rangers: to provide a clear indication of high professional standards, improve career prospects and boost morale
- For the government of a tiger range state: to demonstrate commitment to global tiger conservation efforts and to provide verified information for reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other similar regional and global agreements
- For the global conservation community: to recognise the protected areas of importance for tiger conservation and identify and monitor the level of management and support for these protected areas
- For the donor community: to assess the seriousness and professionalism of the management within a protected area or protected area system in order to help improve dissemination of funds and target those conservation strategies most likely to succeed
- For the local community: to receive benefits through such ecologically secured areas which will eventually aid in preventing negative environmental impacts and provide opportunities for alternative income generation / livelihood through tourism and other linked activities

Chapter 8 CAITS: A MULTIFUNCTIONAL PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT TOOL TO AID IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, MULTILATERAL TREATIES, GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND NATIONAL ACTION

8.1 CAITS and Aichi Targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity Conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity

The New Strategic Plan for conservation of global biodiversity adopted by the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) at their 10th Meeting (CoP-10) held in Japan (2010), includes 20 ambitious but achievable global biodiversity targets known as Aichi Targets which constitute the key elements of Plan for the 2011-2020 period (CoP Decision X/2)[6].

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity together with the Aichi Targets emphasises assigning values to ecosystem services and biodiversity, and integrating those values into national accounting systems. Its global mission is to "*take effective measures to halt biodiversity loss, to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient*"[6]. The Aichi Targets provide an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related treaties but for the entire United Nations system.

The Aichi Targets are organised under five strategic goals. The goals and targets comprise the aspirations for achievement at the global level, with a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. Parties are invited to set their own targets within this flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind their national contributions to the achievement of the global targets.

CA|TS is expected to play an active complementary role in achieving certain Global Aichi Targets, in particular Aichi Target 11 & 12 which states that:

> *"Target 11:By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.*
>
> *Target 12: By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained."*[6]

The application of CA|TS would assist in the realization of Target 11 by providing a universal platform of standards to ensure effective and equitable management of PAs across all TRCs. Various components of a standard framework (e.g. on management planning of PAs to be undertaken with stakeholders participation etc.) ensures that aspects relating to equity and effectiveness are adequately addressed and embedded in the design of these standards. A consortium has also been created, known as "Friends of Target 12". This is a partnership of organisations and institutions, which will bring their forces together to support countries in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. Of the seven pillars that form the backbone of CA|TS, the last three (Protection, Habitat & prey management and Tiger populations) form a direct linkage to Target 12. Criteria, verifiers and indicators of these three pillars under the CA|TS process provide an opportunity for monitoring and the eventual attainment of Target 12.

In addition to being an aid for the realisation of Aichi Target 11 and 12, CA|TS also has the potential to contribute in the advancement of the Aichi Targets listed in the Box below:

BOX: 1: CAITS and other complementing Aichi Targets

- By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. **Target 12**
- At least halve, and where feasible bring close to zero, the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests. **Target 5**
- Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. **Target 7**
- Through conservation and restoration, restore at least 15 percent of degraded areas. **Target 15**

CA|TS being a scientific tool for PA strengthening and management will also provide an opportunity to advance action on *Strategic Goal E (enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building)*. More specifically Target 19 which states that, "*by 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.*"[6]

In order to fulfil the obligations under CBD which includes protection and conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, it is important that existing biodiversity is protected and conserved.

CA|TS provides a comprehensive, universal tool to help protected area managers understand and evaluate their management effectiveness. This provides them with necessary insight to ensure that protected areas are managed effectively on all accounts which also would result in enhanced protection of general biodiversity within these areas.

8.2 CA|TS and CBD's Program of Work on Protected Areas

The CBD's Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) Phase III (2009-2015) represents the most comprehensive and specific protected area commitments ever made by the international community. It is pertinent to note that CBD recognises PAs as cornerstones for biodiversity conservation.

The overall objective of PoWPA is to establish and maintain a "*comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative system of protected areas that collectively, will significantly reduce the loss of global biodiversity*"[7].

CA|TS, being a comprehensive management assessment tool has the potential to play a key role in the achievement of PoWPA. The strategies for strengthening implementation of decisions adopted by CBD in its CoP collectively mandate an enhanced quality of protected area management: to look at all relevant aspects including biodiversity, interests of people residing in these areas and equitable and sustainable use all available resources within such protected areas.

CA|TS would aid authorities in achieving all these objectives by providing a universal platform to gauge their processes and mechanisms against global minimum standards in this regard. It would also help parties to the CBD fulfill criteria relating to reporting mechanisms; those that monitor success against all indicators and objectives agreed upon in their recent CoP meetings.

8.3 CA|TS aiding The Global Tiger Recovery Program as per the St. Petersburg Declaration onTiger Conservation

The St. Petersburg Declaration on the Tiger Conservation agreed upon by the 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) affirms the commitment to take urgent and effective measures to double the number of wild tigers by 2022 across their range by taking a number of measures including:

> *"Increasing the effectiveness of tiger and habitat management, basing it on:*
> *a. The application of modern and innovative science, standards, and technologies*
> *b. Regular monitoring of tigers, their prey, and habitat*
> *c. Adaptive management practices*
> *d. Building capacity of institutions involved in science and training and creating a platform for interactive knowledge exchange at all levels"*

A standardised framework such as CA|TS, which focuses on tiger conservation by holistically looking at many aspects from numerous perspectives, is required for tigers to thrive and their habitat. It would support their populations in a sustainable manner, and would also complement and supplement actions being taken for enhancing management effectiveness of protected areas by all TRC.

CA|TS would provide a universal tool which could enrich the high-level meetings to be conducted on a regular basis (as per the St. Petersburg declaration) for reviewing the progress of NTRPs and the GTRP and to help ensure continued high levels of political commitment to tiger recovery.

8.4 CA|TS and IUCN Green Listing

A new global initiative is the process of development (2012-2014) and will take the form of IUCN Green List of Well-Managed Protected Areas that recognises successfully and effectively managed PAs so other PAs can also reach such benchmarks. The new initiative is aiming to be launched at at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia.

The Green Listing processes will see IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme and IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas partner with protected area agencies and other responsible management bodies to assess candidate sites. Interested countries will work with IUCN and WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas) to establish a programme to identify candidate sites and prepare documentation. Nominated protected areas will need to meet a full suite of minimum standards prior to being listed: conservation objectives, legitimate establishment, management effectiveness, governance and visitor experience.

CA|TS as a PA management and assessment tool will aid the PAs in meeting the required standards as per the IUCN Green Listing and is in fact analogous to the minimum standards requirement under the Green Listing Program. CA|TS was launched at the First Asian Park Congress (APC) in Sendai, Japan (2013), where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as signed between the IUCN Green List and CA|TS. Nepal has been the first country to implement CA|TS and Chitwan National Park is the first site that has been assessed against the standards.

The rapid growth of interest in, and application of, protected area management effectiveness assessments, demonstrates the importance of such activity to governments, donors and other NGOs. This further provides a firm basis for the adoption of CA|TS.

8.5 CA|TS and International Treaties & Global Funding Institutions (GEF,Kfw,World Bank...)

CA|TS approved sites will also result in furthering the cause of treaties on climate change (Article 17 of Koyoto Protocol for example)[8], protection and conservation of forests (the mandate for which is spread across many treaties), protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitat, and the conservation of biological diversity (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)[9].

Once habitat fragmentation and degradation is adequately addressed, it will result in healthy consolidated forested areas, which in turn will result in better carbon sequestration by these forests. Such large healthy forests will be very effective sinks for carbon dioxide, the biggest GHG, and help us better mitigate the impacts of global warming and climate change.

Many of the World Heritage sites are also critical tiger habitats. CA|TS can definitely facilitate the World Heritage site reporting and do similarly for the other conventions and sites e.g. RAMSAR, MAB etc. In other words, CA|TS can serve as a generic tool to facilitate such reporting processes.

Habitat fragmentation is one of the most important reasons for dwindling tiger populations, and CA|TS will ensure that tiger habitats are consolidated. One large piece of habitat or landscape will definitely provide tigers a better chance at survival and also at the same time improve the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the habitat. This in turn can result in a better prey base for tigers and also reduced interruption in ecosystem services. Fulfilment of these standards will serve to arrest forest degradation and hopefully reverse the damage; this will likely have a positive impact on overall biodiversity both in terms of quality and quantity/numbers of the concerned area.

The community pillar of CA|TS is associated with the standards related to stakeholders consultation, community participation in the conservation programme and the mandate to ensure that the social, cultural, spiritual and economic interests of the community residing in the protected areas are adequately addressed, and any relocation done with their prior, free, informed consent. This will also enable the countries to fulfil similar obligations *vis* a *vis* tribal and indigenous communities in the "*Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention*"[10] which among other things specifically casts an obligation on the concerned governments to protect the social, cultural and economic rights of these people.

CA|TS standards have mandated that in order to optimise the ecosystem services, values and benefits, they need to be ascertained and then aligned with the objectives of tiger conservation, with active community participation and consent occurring throughout. The community has to be kept in the loop regarding the importance and relevance of tiger conservation in relation to ecosystem services, values, benefits, biodiversity benefit and other economic, social, cultural and spiritual benefits. This will enable them to understand the conservation measures and also realise the potential importance of any relocation plans, thus making them stakeholders in the conservation regime in the true sense of the word. This will further have positive impact on law enforcement in these areas and also in reducing human-wildlife conflict.

More importantly, it will help to strengthen and reinforce the objectives of CITES.

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) is an integral part of CA|TS and is very much embedded within the framework of CA|TS; this is covered in detail under of the seven pillars the Protection. Through SMART patrolling rangers collect and record not only information on signs of poaching activity that can be used both as intelligence but also evidence of protected species and their prey which can be used to gauge wildlife distribution for patrol and management purposes. SMART thus incorporates an array of field-based information vital for effective wildlife enforcement and protection of habitat and species.

Today one of the greatest challenge for PAs, and in particular the Tiger areas, is to have a robust auditing system. Security audits have to be based on standard prescribed principles as an indicator of conservation & enforcement efforts. These will help to assess the gaps that exist and magnitude of resources and manpower required for effective protection of Tigers. Annual performance based reviews drawing on prescribed standards as indicators of conservation and enforcement efforts, will be required to be put in place. One of the existing tools for this is CA|TS. While this scheme focuses on Tigers, the framework it draws from exists, and is put in practice by WCPA. This has been developed with scientific rigor and could be applied to other endangered species; particularly those that are highly dependent on conservation and are currently battling to survive.

CA|TS standards therefore, are likely to result in better, more incisive and focused laws, better law enforcement and better capacity both in terms of human resources, infrastructure and facilities to enforce these laws. Better acknowledgement of the law at all levels will enhance and further strengthen the objectives of CITES. Illegal poaching and thus trade in tiger products or other contraband items shall be adversely impacted in CA|TS approved sites, which will be required to have certain minimum standards always maintained to keep their CA|TS designation.

As a project performance / auditing tool for Global Funding Institutions

All GEF projects require a pre- and post- site evaluation of their project sites. Presently they use different MEET tools for reporting the progress of the financed projects. CA|TS can provide a generic framework for this and serve a general auditing tool and a yardstick to gauge the implementation success of these projects and sites, especially for the Tiger Range countries and sites that have tigers as flagship species. Similarly, other financial institutions (e.g. KfW, World Bank, etc) providing grants to TRCs will be able to make a fair assessment of their investments.

Thus CA|TS can serve as a common generic tool for these agencies (for at least the Tiger areas/sites/countries) by:

- Allowing the inter-agency comparison of the results, on a same scale, of the projects supported through different financial schemes
- Providing a common yard stick for measuring the success of the funding through a monitoring & evaluation mechanism that ultimately will provide sound logic to the long term financial support for the sustenance of global biodiversity (at least across tiger range landscapes)

CA|TS can be linked to the three key messages of the recently published GEF report "*Delivering Global Environmental Benefits for Sustainable Development*" tabled at the Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) hosted by the Government of Mexico in Cancun during the last week of May, 2014.

- Scientifically robust. Linked to STAP message*: Environmental degradation must be tackled in a more integrated and holistic way*
- With elements of community and biodiversity monitoring & enhancement providing long term security to the species & ecosystems. Linked to STAP message*: Sustainable development should be at the core of GEF interventions*
- Innovative, and beneficial for the financial investors engaged in this sector for reviewing the success of their investments and make decisions for future investments / re-investments. Linked to STAP message*: The GEF should continue to be catalytic and innovative while actively seeking to effect permanent and transformational change*

Chapter 9 Existing Protected Area Management Tools and CA|TS: Its relevancy and efficacy

Various tiger range countries are following national level management effectiveness tracking tools/systems to assess the status of tiger reserves and follow parameters developed by them e.g. MEETR- (Management Effectiveness evaluation Of Tiger Reserves) in India. The management effectiveness systems developed for protected areas is based upon six elements beginning with understanding the context of existing values and threats, progresses through planning, and allocation of resources (inputs), and as a result of management actions (processes), eventually produces products and services (outputs), that result in impacts or outcomes[11]. CA|TS aims at universalising a standardisation process across tiger range countries to enable protected area managers to make informed decisions about their protected area. The tools presently being followed in the tiger range countries can be subsumed in the CA|TS scheme to make it more effective and uniform.

For example if the tiger protection/conservation area has been categorically marked, and the wildlife law in terms of access and entry into the area is being successfully implemented (but the interests of the people residing in the area have not been adequately taken care of, or the biodiversity of the area has been put completely out of bounds for people whose survial was dependent on it) then the conservation efforts of the government are not going to deliver the expected results. This example brings to the fore that all aspects related to tiger protection/conservation areas have to be adequately managed before we can expect results in terms of visible numbers to come in and conservation efforts bear results. Such efforts will surely bring in commensurate results if every other aspect related to that area is addressed fairly and an acceptable and reasonable solution is provided to optimise the benefits in a given set of circumstances.

CA|TS will be a unique reference point in this regard as it is looking at management of protected, conservation areas from all aspects that need looking into, and has set up standards for all those aspects across the countries.

Chapter 10 Who will use CA|TS and why?

Any site (e.g. government managed protected area, community conservation area or private protected area) that would like to demonstrate how they are providing effective protection to a population of wild tigers or would like to seek assistance in understanding and improving the needs for effective management and protection of wild tigers can apply for CA|TS registration and standards approval.

The need of tiger conservation reserve or tiger protection sites to ensure that the objectives of the area are being achieved optimally in terms of protection and conservation of target flora and fauna shall motivate them to apply and get CATS approved. This tool will enable the sites to improve upon their existing management practices to attain the minimum prescribed standards in this regard which in turn will help these sites to improve their performance in terms of protection and conservation of tigers.

Chapter 11 Proposed Outcomes of CA|TS scheme

CA|TS scheme will enable all tiger conservation reserves or protected areas for tigers in TRCs an opportunity to evaluate their management effectiveness through a scientific comprehensive reference point and will also fix minimum standards that the management of these conservation and protection areas will aspire for. Since these standards would be periodically revised based upon evolving best practices and field-based experience they will provide a dynamic and ever evolving set of standards. They will take in to account any significant change on the ground which might have a bearing upon the effectiveness of these protected areas' management. The ultimate objective is to be able to protect and conserve tigers and register a rise in their population.

The discussion above clearly reflects the multifunctional role of CA|TS, demonstrating its functionality for and strengthening the PA network & assessing and measuring overall conservation actions required for long-term sustenance of tigers and co-existing species across the range, thus contributing to and enhancing the biodiversity value of sites through CA|TS.

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