

SUMMARY ON STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT OF KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK

The World Heritage Committee on the basis of examination of document WHC-12/36.COM/7B and recalling decision 35 COM 7B.14, adopted at the 35 Session in 2011 requested the State Party India vide decision 36 COM 7B.11 to submit to the World Heritage Centre. In this context, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including confirmation of the completion of the Govardhan Drain, the progress made in providing adequate water flows to the property, updated statistics on bird populations and the management of the threats of alien invasive species and development on the edge of the property has been submitted to UNESCO WHC for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014.

The State Party (India) has taken significant steps to replenish the water regime in the property's wetland systems through the decisions to release the required environmental water flows and has completed all water related projects to meet the water requirements on a sustainable basis. The Government of Rajasthan is committed to provide water to the park to maintain the OUVs of the property. The Govardhan Drain Project drawing envisaged about 350 mcft. water from Govardhan Drain over a period of 35 days and channeling the same into Keoladeo National Park. Under this project excess rain water was to be brought into the park during monsoons every year through a 17.1 km long dedicated underground pipe line. The fabrication work was to be done by Water Resources Department and then to be handed over to the park authorities for its running & maintenance. On 29/09/2012 this project was completed and park has started receiving water from this source. In 2013, starting from August, the park received 210 mcft of water from this pipeline. Thus the commitment of the State Party to complete this project has been fulfilled.

Ecological monitoring of avifaunal populations in Keoladeo National Park is being continuously undertaken. A total of 375 species of birds have been recorded in the park. Nesting populations of resident birds are being monitored regularly. All bird nesting trees are marked and monitored for nest success rate.

Water samples collected from different blocks of KNP have been analysed for heavy metals and pesticides. No pesticide residues were found in the water samples analysed. Water samples for toxic metals and salt content were analysed in the laboratory of Wildlife Institute of India and results indicated that salt content of water inside the Park was found to be higher and this may be due to high level of evapo-transpiration as Park has more hydrophytes. Level of heavy metals was below maximum permissible limits. Findings have been published in an international peer reviewed journal.

The local communities are involved by farming Eco Development Committees (EDCs) in the protection, preservation and propagation of wildlife of Keoladeo National Park. In the process, institutional capacities have been build at village level to ensure sharing of benefits and rights to usufructs subject to successful protection and compliance of conditions laid by the park management. EDCs are also involved in the removal of invasive species *Prosopis juliflora*.
