



मयपेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

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Date: 1st December 2017

F. No. 4-38/2016/WL

The Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Paris, France

Sub: Response to the World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 7B.87
in respect of State of Conservation Report of Keoladeo National Park
(India) (N 340) – reg.

Sir/Madam,

Reference is invited to the above subject. In this regard, the undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the State of Conservation Report of Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340) in response to the World Heritage Committee Decision 40 COM 7B. 87 for your kind perusal.

Yours faithfully,

(Roy P. Thomas)
Joint Director (WL)
Telfax: 011-24695397
Email: jd-wl@nic.in

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

1. The Director (World Heritage) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), New Delhi
2. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Rajasthan
3. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun



Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India

State of Conservation Report of Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

RESPONSE TO THE WORLD HERITAGE
COMMITTEE DECISION 40 COM 7B.87

Submitted by
State Party: India

to
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris
December, 2017

Response to queries raised regarding the State of Conservation of Keoladeo National Park World Heritage Site

Background

The World Heritage Committee on the basis of examination of document WHC/16/40.COM/7B and recalling decision 38 COM 7B.66, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), requested the State Party India vide decision 40 COM 7B.87 (Annexure-I) to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1st December, 2017, A report on the state of conservation of the property, including the progress made on stakeholder consultation process before the final notification of Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ), was also requested. The State Party was also advised to ensure the supply of minimum water requirement for the property as recommended by the 2008 mission to sustain the property's wetland; to provide clear and accurate data and analyses of bird counts, including detailed information on methodologies used, in order to demonstrate the sustained recovery of bird populations; to develop an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy, including for Water Hyacinth and *Prosopis juliflora* to be integrated into the revised management plan and to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

Accordingly, the response of the State Party to decision 40 COM 7B.87 (Para 3-7 is given below:

Para 3: The progress made on stakeholder consultation process before the final notification of ESZ

The Draft Eco-sensitive Zone notification was published in the Indian Gazette on 13th October 2015. As per the due process of notifying ESZ consultation with the various stakeholders have been carried out. The formal notification of ESZ of KNP will be issued shortly.

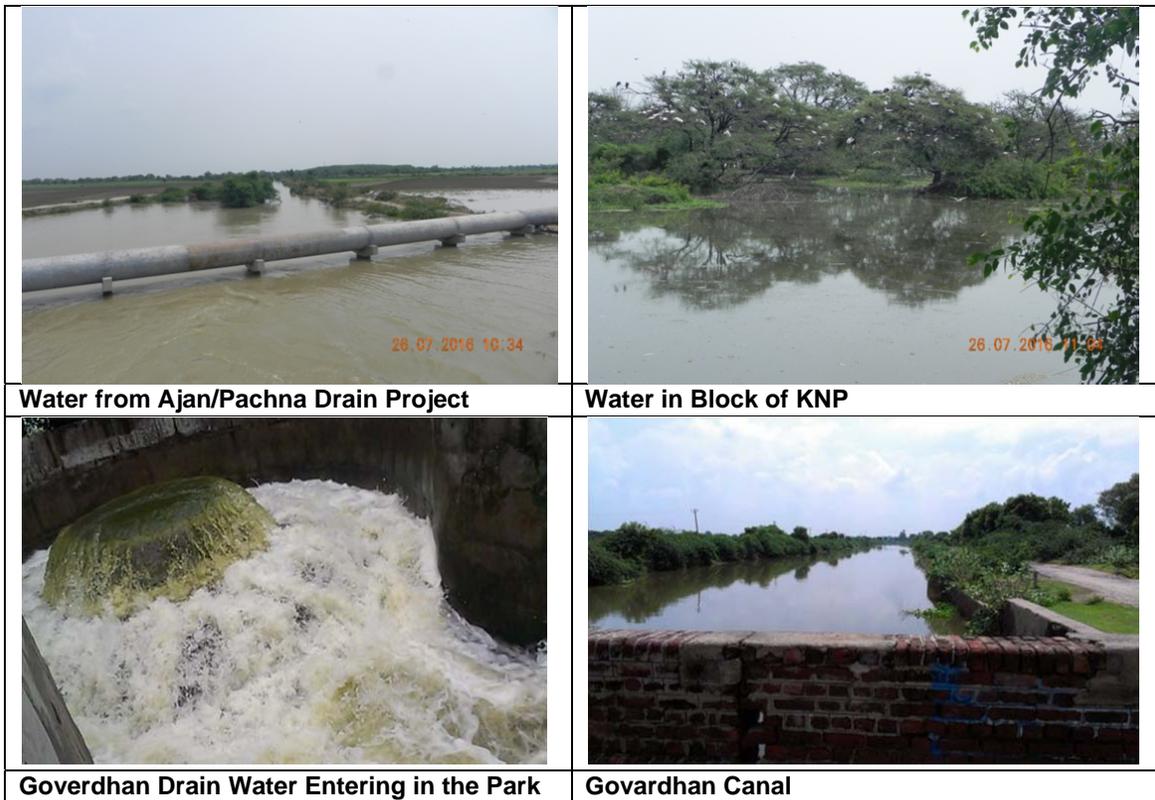
Para 4: Notes with utmost concern that the provision of water to the property remains insufficient to guarantee adequate water flows

Time series data of water released for Keoladeo National Park is indicates that the State Government has put all efforts to provide the required quantity of water to KNP to maintain the OUVs of the property. As indicated in table, Keoladeo N P had received 457.56 mcft water, from Pachna Dam 35 mcft from Chambal Pipeline Project and 137 mcft water from Goverdhan drain in 2016. Total 629.81, mcft water released for Keoladeo National Park, in 2016 to fulfil its minimum water requirement (i.e. 550 mcft) of the park.

Time series Data of Water Released for Keoladeo National Park (2010-2015)*					
S.No.	Year	Sources of Water			Total water received in Million Cubic feet (MCFT)
		Ajan/Pachna Dam (MCFT)	Chambal Pipeline Project (MCFT)	Govardhan Drain Project (MCFT)	
1	2010	216.00	0.00	0.00	216.00
2	2011	14.11	297.00	0.00	311.11
3	2012	234.00	310.00	8.00	552.00
4	2013	411.75	81.00	186.00	678.75
5	2014	0	188.00	3.00	191.00
6	2015	0	100.00	290.00	390.00
7	2016	457.56	35.00	137.25	629.81

Data Source: Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, 2017

Plate 1: Release of water for Keoladeo National Park



Para 5: Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide clear and accurate data and analyses of bird counts, including detailed information on methodologies used, in order to demonstrate the sustained recovery of bird populations

Monitoring of bird species with particular focus on water bird populations is being carried out through systematic surveys using established methods. Nesting populations and heronry formations have been monitored regularly by the Site Management and Rajasthan Forest Department with technical assistance from the research community and civil society organizations.

Methodology

The bird count was carried out following the framework of Asian Water bird Census. Complete census is more practical when targeted at large and conspicuous species such as Ducks and Storks and Cranes. This kind of approach is also encouraged for periodic census of swans by organisations such as Wetlands International/IUCN/SSC Swan Specialist Group at the regional level (e.g., Worden et al. 2006). The census was carried out in the month of January/February. The goal was to count all water birds present in the satellite wetlands around Keoladeo National Park and heronry birds present within the KNP. For achieving this goal, wetland area of Keoladeo NP was divided into smaller units and surveyed by multiple field personnel at the same time. Experienced counters estimate 10, 20, 50, 100 or more birds instantaneously, and scan through flocks counting in these units with a tally counter. The survey team identified species using Grimmett et. al. (2016) and Ali (1990, 1996), Ali and Ripley (1986) and field of equipment used were Spotting Scopes, Binoculars and Global Positioning System – GPS.

Table-1: No. of Birds Recorded in Keoladeo National Park, Heronry

S.No.	KNP Block	Species of Birds	No. of Birds*
01	D	ASIAN OPEN BILL	1238
02	D	INDIAN CORMORANT	6150
03	D	LITTLE CORMORANT	1048
04	D	DARTER	110
05	D	BLACK – HEADED IBIS	370
06	D	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	312
07	D	GREAT - EGRET	210
08	D	INTERMEDIATE EGRET	204
09	D	CATTLE EGRET	1662
10	D	LITTLE EGRET	170
11	D	GREY HERON	188
12	D	PURPLE HERON	120
13	D	EURASIAN SPOONBILL	166
14	B	PAINTED STORK Month Oct-16	5434
	D	PAINTED STORK Month Oct-16	3378
Total			20760

* Data Source: Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, 2017

Table-2: No. of Water Birds Recorded in Satellite Wetlands around Keoladeo National Park (2015-2016), Bharatpur, Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of Wetland	No. of Birds*
1	Abua Nangla	459
2	Babula	0
3	Bandh Baretha	1869
4	Bhandor	0
5	Ghumna	0
6	Giriraj Canal	453
7	Indrolia	205
8	Jagartal	0
9	Jalsen	0
10	Jamwa Ramgarh	175
11	Jasora	0
12	Kalakoh	0
13	Kot	243
14	Lalpur Bandh	35
15	Mansarovar	430
16	Pachna	78
17	Parvati dam	918
18	Patharpura	89
19	Ramsagar	1097
20	Redia Bandh	846
21	Rupvas Bandh	0
22	Sagartal	172
23	Sainthal	888
24	Talab-e-shae	1364
25	Urmila Sagar	572

** Data Source: Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, 2017*

Plate 2. Heronry in Keoladeo National Park in 2016



Para 6: Requests the State Party to develop an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy, including for Water Hyacinth and *Prosopis juliflora* to be integrated into the revised management plan

At present, *Prosopis juliflora*, Water Hyacinth and African Cat Fish (*Clarias gariepinus*) are being removed from the property on participatory management basis. To execute the operation, groups are created including the forest staff, Rickshaw pullers and members of local NGO. In 2016, the operation was successful in removing over 9000 Cat Fishes.

Operation Mangur-2016							
S. No	Blocks Name	Size Afrian Catfish (Mangur)					Total
		0-1 Ft	1-2Ft	2-3Ft	3-4Ft	4-5Ft	
0	L	20	65				85
1	B	45	290	60			395
2	L	16	50				66
3	N	30	26				56
4	B	15	279				294
5	L	60	158	10			228
6	L	85	381	154			620
7	L (SAPANMORI)	0	1017	185			1202

8	L (SAPANMORI)	85	180	116			381
9	K (SAPANMORI)	0	120	276	6		402
10	L (SAPANMORI)	0	17	5	1		23
11	Main Cenal Temple, sapan mori	21					21
12	Main Cenal Temple, Aghapur	0	12	57	10		79
13	Main Cenal Aghapur to sapanmori	205	0	16	10		231
14	E (Near Temple)	1	0	226			227
15	E (Near Temple)			423			423
16	E (Near Temple)			29			29
17	D (Dabri Kuaa)	0	6	5			11
18	D (New Diggee) Mansarower	1	2	65	23		91
19	D (New Diggee) Mansarower		4	8			12
20	D Near Mansarower		3	3			6
21	D Near Mansarower		2	6			8
22	D Near Mansarower		52	600	1		653
23	D (New Diggee) Mansarower	0	333	1192	2		1527
24	D (New Diggee) Mansarower		12	15			27
25	D Near Mansarower		3	13			16
26	D Near Mansarower		17				17
27	D Near Mansarower				2		2
28	D (Big diggee) Mansarower			1163			1163
29	D (Big diggee) Mansarower			556			556
30	D (Big diggee) Mansarower	2	14				16
31	A (Nursery diggee)	16	93	82	11		202
32	A (Shitaram Temple diggee)		30	139	39		208
	Total						9277



Eradication of African Cat Fish from one of the Block of Keoladeo National Park.

Para 7: Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN

The current Management Plan of Keoladeo National Park was for the period 2010-2014. The State Government of Rajasthan has extended the period of the current Management Plan under provision of Section 33 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 up to 30 September, 2017 vide office order No. F (4) Dev/CWLW/2016-17/1461-1466 dated 23/03/2017 (Copy enclosed, Annexure II).

The current management has the strategies for the protection, maintenance and improvement of the unique ecological characteristics of Keoladeo National Park whereby the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) of the can be protect.

State Forests Department is working on revised management plan which will be completed soon and the copies, as advised by WHC, would be made available in hard and soft formats.

References

- Ali, S. and S.D. Ripley (1986). *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan: Fifth Volume*. London, Oxford University Press.
- Ali, S. (1990). *The Book of Indian Birds*. Oxford University Press.
- Ali, S. (1996). *The Book of Indian Birds*. Bombay Natural History Society, Oxford University Press, Mumbai.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C and Inskipp. (2016). *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives*. Bloomsbury India. 448pp.
- Worden, J., Cranswick, P.A, Crowe, O., Mcelwaine, G. & Rees, E.C. (2006) Numbers and distribution of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianusbewickii* wintering in Britain and Ireland: results of international censuses, January 1995, 2000 and 2005. *Wildfowl*. 56: 3-22 (also available at www.wwt.org.uk/research/pdf/worden_et_al_2006.pdf).

Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Decision: 40 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the issuance of a draft notification declaring a 500 metre strip of eco-sensitivie zone around the property boundary in order to regulate developments in the immediate vicinity of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that a full stakeholder consultation process is held prior to finalizing the notification, and during the development of the Zonal Master Plan that is expected to follow the publication in the Official Gazette of the final notification;
4. Notes with utmost concern that the provision of water to the property remains insufficient to guarantee adequate water flows, recalling that at least 550 million cubic feet (mcft) was recommended by the 2008 mission to sustain the property's wetland values, and strongly urges the State Party to increase the water flow through the Govardhan Drain and to ensure annual releases of water from Panchana Dam in order to augment the water supply to the property;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide clear and accurate data and analyses of bird counts, including detailed information on methodologies used, in order to demonstrate the sustained recovery of bird populations;
6. Appreciates the operation undertaken to remove invasive African sharptooth catfish from selected areas of the property, and also requests the State Party to develop an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy, including for Water Hyacinth and Prosopis juliflora to be integrated into the revised management plan;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

**Office of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wild Life Warden,
Rajasthan, Jaipur.**

No. F. (4)/Dev/CWLW/2016-17/

Dated:

OFFICE ORDER

In pursuance of the powers conferred under Sec. 33 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and consequent upon the recommendation of Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Bharatpur, the undersigned hereby extends the period of present Management Plan (2010-2014) of Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur [Sanctioned by office order F/Dev/CWLW/4069 dated 26.07.2010] upto 30 September 2017 so as to carry out remaining necessary activities, and to prepare a new management plan.


(G.V. Reddy)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan, Jaipur

No. F. (4)/Dev/CWLW/2016-17/ 1461-66

Dated: 23/03/2017

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Addl. DGF. (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryawaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110003
2. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun.
3. Secretary Forests, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Rajasthan, Jaipur.
5. Chief Conservator of Forest (WL), Bharatpur.
6. Dy. Conservator of Forests (WL) Bharatpur.


Chief Conservator of Forests
(Wildlife) Jaipur