



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK (INDIA) (N 340)

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)	
Response to the Committee Decision 44 COM 7B.92	<p>Keoladeo National Park is located in Eastern Rajasthan on the edge of the Gangetic plains two km south-east of Bharatpur town and 50 km west of Agra. Formerly known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, the Keoladeo National Park is recognized as one of the world's most important bird breeding and feeding sites. Keoladeo National Park World Heritage Site was inscribed as World Heirtage Site in 1985 under Criteria on X.</p> <p>The park is efficiently being managed by Rajasthan Forest Department through conservation-oriented management practices that fully meet World Heritage Operational Guidelines.</p> <p>Park management, local administration and forest department is dealing with the major challenges i.e. supply of water to the park in timely manner, invasive species management. This collaborative process is based on the participation of local community, individuals and groups that have a stake in the management framework.</p> <p>Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone for Keoladeo National Park has been notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in 2019. For the better protection and management, the boundaries of Eco-sensitive Zone for Keoladeo National Park have been extended upto 1.5 km in the southern direction which mainly consist, of upstream areas.</p> <p>The park management is committed to protect its natural Outstanding Universal Values, and continuously preparing and updating long term conservation plan for monitoring of avian populations.</p> <p>Revision of the Park's Management Plan has completed with incorporation of suggestions made by WHC time to time.</p>
Other current conservation issues	None
Any potential major alterations, restorations, construction, etc	None.
Public access	Yes
Signature of authority	<p>Deputy Conservator of Forest, Keoladeo National Park, District- Bharatpur, Rajasthan (INDIA)</p> <p>Tel: +91-5644-222777(O) Email: dirkeoladeo@gmail.com ,</p>

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

Background

The World Heritage Committee on the basis of examination of document **WHC/21/44.COM/7B** and recalling decision **42 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018) requested the State Party India vide decision **44 COM 7B.92** (Fuzhou, 2021) to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1st December, 2022 'A report on the state of conservation of the property, including to identify and implement solutions to sustain adequate and reliable long-term water supply to the property, stringent water quality monitoring mechanism, formalizing the eco-sensitive zone as World Heritage buffer zone, develop an adaptive invasive species control and eradication strategy for the property and systematic monitoring of bird populations *for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session*'. Accordingly, the response of the State Party to decision **44 COM 7B.92** (Para 3-9) is given below.

PARA 3: INVITE IUCN REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION

A process of inviting IUCN reactive monitoring mission has been started. State party has received a communication through PDI to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for confirmation of dates for the mission.

PARA 4: RESOLVE ISSUE OF INSUFFICIENT WATER THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AND RELIABLE SOLUTION TO SECURE AND SUSTAIN MINIMUM WATER FLOW TO THE PROPERTY

As reported in the previous State of Conservation Reports, Keoladeo National Park is receiving water from Chambal Pipeline Project, Goverdhan Drain Pipeline and Pachna Dam. It may be noted that the region where the property is located has received good rainfall during previous years therefore park has received its minimum requirement of water for the wetland blocks. The Park management is continuously searching for solutions to sustain adequate long term water supply to Keoladeo National Park. Water is also received in park through rain.



Goverdhan Drain Water



Goverdhan Drain project

Table- 1 THE WATER RECEIVED IN THE PARK FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

Water supply in the park in last five years is given below.

S.No.	Year	Total (mcft)	Panchna /Ajan Dam	Chambal Project	Govardhan Project
1	2018	710.95	10.0	5.00	695.00
2	2019	375.00	0	25.00	350.00
3	2020	589.28	0	64.00	525.28
4	2021	500.00	225	25.00	250.00
5	2022*	315.81	132	18.02	165.785

* Data till October 2022

PARA 5: ENSURE STRINGENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING MACHENISM BEFORE RELESEING TREATED EFFLUENT FROM SEWAGE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO THE PROPERTY

State Forest Department is fully committed to protect Park's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). After receiving good rainfall in previous years and availability of water from other existing water sources i.e. Chambal Drinking Water Pipeline Project, Goverdhan Drain Pipeline Project and Pachna Dam etc. the water supply from Sewage Water Treatment Plant from Bharatpur city is still under consideration. Park administration understand the issues raised by WHC and would ensure stringent monitoring system.

It may be noted that Park has not received water from sewage treatment plant yet.

PARA 6: CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ZONAL MASTER PLAN AND CONSIDRATION OF ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE AS A WORLD HERITAGE BUFFER ZONE BY SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL FOR A MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

State Forest Department is in due consultation with higher authorities regarding preparation of Zonal Master Plan.

PARA 7: ADAPTIVE INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL AND ERADICATION STRATEGY FOR THE PROPERTY AND TO INTEGRATE THIS STRATEGY INTO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN

State Forest Department is continuously working for the management of invasive species. Park has allotted a dedicated budget of Rs 20.0 lakh for the removal of *Prosopis Juliflora*. Removal of African Cat Fish is continuous process it is being implemented with help of local community (Rickshaw Pullers) and also through other methods. State gov.& also sanctioned budget is Removal of *Prosopis Juliflora* from different blocks is carried out through park management annual plan of operation (APO).

This year a dedicated budget has been allotted in the Park's Annual Plan of Operations to remove *Prosopis juliflora* from the park. Further, by engagement of manual labour, returning invasive species in these areas will be removed every year.

Management of the property for next ten years has been approved and being implemented by the state forest department. Dedicated chapter on strategy to remove invasive species is incorporated as suggested by UNESCO WHC time to time.



Plate -1 Removal of *Prosopis Juliflora*

Following Invasive Species in the park is continuously being eradicate from the park.

Invasive species :-

- *Prosopis juliflora*
- Water Hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*)
- *Paspalum distichum*
- African catfish (*Clarias fuscus*)
- *Vetiveria zizanioides*

PARA 8: RECENT BIRD CENSUS DATA INCLUDING POPULATION TRENDS FOR BOTH HERONRY AND WATERFOWL. SYSTEMATIC MONITORING OF BIRD POPULATIONS IN THE PROPERTY BASED ON A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED LONG TERM APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

Every Year Thousands of Migratory and Resident birds visit to Keoladeo National Park. Park authorities conducts systematic monitoring of both the heronry birds and waterfowl population inside the park. Ecological monitoring of avifaunal population provides an important information which help park administration in better management of bird's habitat.

Heronry Estimate: Heronry formation starts with the arrival of Openbill Storks in the month of June-July every year. Major Heronry blocks are B and D. Study of Nest count done periodically by following established scientific methods.

Waterfowl Census: Keoladeo National Park is famous wintering ground for many migratory birds including waterfowl. The population estimation of waterfowl done through scientific method. Total count of all the water birds species is done by walking along dykes or boundary of each blocks. Waterfowl census exercise involve volunteers from local college, nature guides and RickshwaPullers and local NGOs. This helps in generate awareness among the local community about conservation birds especially migratory birds/waterfowl. The exercise of monitoring of bird populations in the property and nearby area is planned and followed by bird estimations and analysis will be integrated and documented in management plan as suggested.

PARA 9: CLARIFICATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THE REPORTED DISPOSAL OF CATTLE CARCASSES NEAR THE PROPERTY TO BE SUBMITTED BY 1 DECEMBER, 2018

As suggested by WHC in the previous decision, Disposal of Carcasses nearby the Park has been banned by the civil administration, Bharatpur Rajasthan. Park authorities has taken full measure to resolve the issue and continuously monitoring the dumping ground for any kind of fresh disposal of carcasses.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

Response : None

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

Response: None.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

Response: Yes

6. Signature of the Authority


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