



INDEPENDENT MONITORING

OF

TIGER RESERVES

**An Initiative of the Project Tiger
Directorate**

V.B. Sawarkar



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TIGER RESERVES

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**Member, Expert Committee on Evaluation and Monitoring of Tiger Reserves and Former
Director Wildlife Institute of India**



Appointment of Independent Monitors

- In order to have independent evaluation of Tiger Reserves, Project Tiger Directorate appointed independent monitors in July 2004.
- Experts were selected for professional background, relevant experience, and absence of conflicting interests in terms of MoEF guidelines.
- Supreme court has endorsed the selection of experts.





Monitoring of Tiger Reserves

- **Parameters to assess management effectiveness were adapted to Indian context from World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN) framework.**
- **45 parameters are used to assess planning , input, process and output.**
- **Scoring Criteria on each parameter are furnished in the methodology to reduce subjectivity.**





TOR for the Independent Monitors

- **Experts allotted to different regions (North, South, Central , Eastern & Western).**
- **Committee to make field visits and submit report & assessment in the prescribed criteria based Proforma.**





Monitoring of Tiger reserves

- **14 tiger reserves monitored out of 28 so far.**
- **Remaining 14 reserves to be completed by 30th April 2005.**
- **Final appraisal to be peer reviewed by IUCN, and then submitted to the Parliament. Thereafter it will be placed before the Steering Committee.**





Elements of Evaluation

Evaluation elements	Planning	Inputs	Process	Output
Weightage	16%	15%	50%	19%
Criteria	5	9	21	10
Focus of evaluation	Appropriateness	Resources	Efficiency	Effectiveness



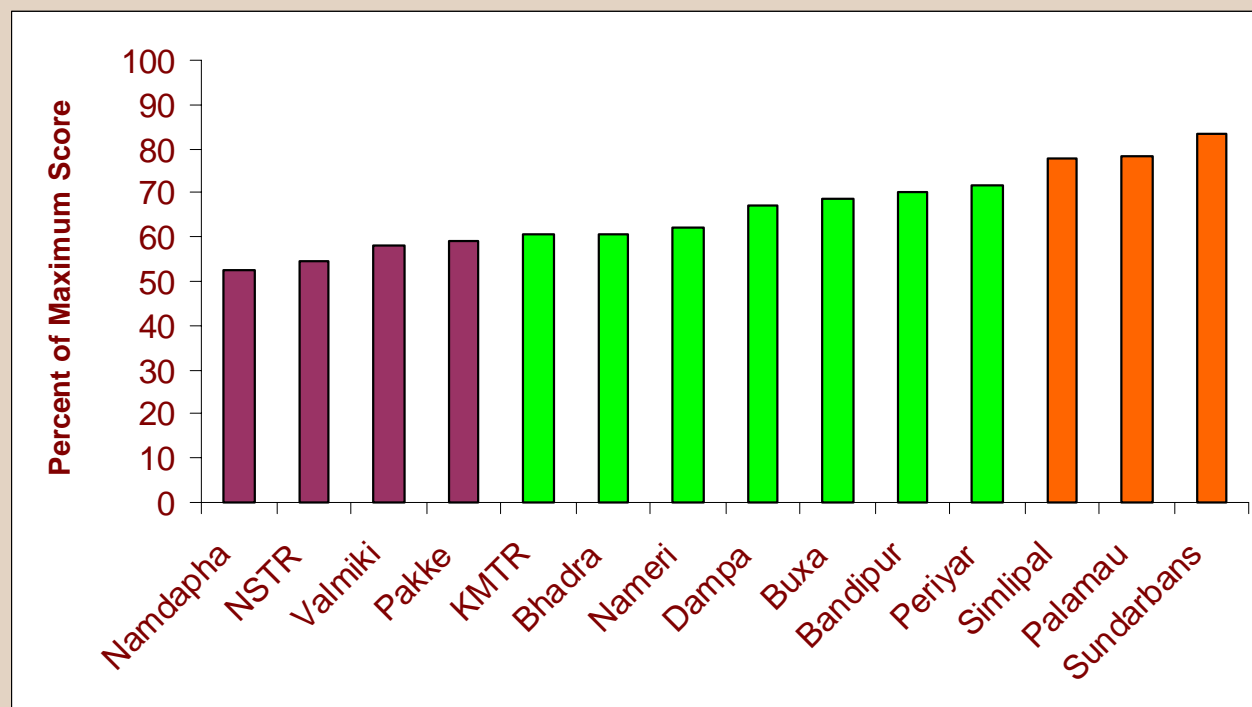
Elements of Evaluation

Example: Pakke Tiger Reserve

Elements	Criteria	Maximum Score	Current Score	Comments
Legal Status	Completion of Legal Procedure	3	3	
	Delineation of Buffer Zone	3	0	No Buffer Zone has been Identified
	Unified Control of Buffer	3	0	Not Applicable



Grading the Tiger Reserves



Very good Score >135 (>75%) Maximum Score = 180

Good Score 108 – 134 (>60 - <75 %)

Satisfactory Score 72 – 107 (40 - <60 %)

Poor Score <72 (<40 %)



Concerns Arising from the Evaluation so Far

- Late release of Central Assistance from states to the Reserves, inability of some states to provide matching grants.
- The Buffer Zones: dual control by park and territorial divisions, encroachment, livestock grazing, NTFP collection and fires, poaching of ungulates and birds.
- Reduced Manpower: ban on recruitment resulting in vacancies and increasing average age of staff.





Concerns Arising from the Evaluation so Far

- Equipment and vehicles:aging vehicles and inadequate logistics.
- Basic amenities for field staff not adequate such as sustaining interior camps, medical care, mobility and non payment of project allowance.
- Insurgency in Palamau, Indravati, Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam, and Manas Tiger Reserves.





Concerns Arising from the Evaluation so Far

- The loss of connectivity and fragmentation in areas surrounding tiger reserves.
- Unsustainable pilgrimage





Tourism as a Bane



Uncontrolled Tourism



Ecotourism Tourism to win Community Support



Livelihood Options





Positive Signs

- Professionally prepared Management Plans implemented with little deviation.
- Anti-poaching camps and daily monitoring.
- Professional thinking, direction and management experimentation.
- Firm resolve among leadership & motivated field personnel.
- Efficient networking with police, district administration and other agencies.
- Concerted efforts at addressing people related issues.





Thank You....