

F2: CA|TS Dossier assessment form (Amended 2025)

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
A. Importance and status	1. Social, cultural and biological significance	Standard 1.1: Tiger conservation is an important target and value for the site.	Criteria 1.1.1: The conservation / protected area management plan includes tiger conservation as a major target (see also Standards 4.1, 4.3 and 16.2).					
			Criteria 1.1.2: Conservation areas (e.g. protected areas, buffer zones, conservation corridors, forest area etc.) which are considered important in terms of value for tigers are defined by one or more of the following: • The conservation area is large enough to sustain a viable population of tigers (see guidance note A). • There is a significant tiger population (see guidance note B) of a size to support recruitment.					

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural recovery through range expansion or reintroduction is feasible and planned/in progress where current tiger populations are not viable, not significant or not present (see guidance note C). • In some areas (e.g. Russia) tiger density in conservation areas will be naturally very low, but as part of a large landscape these populations will add up to a significant or viable population (see guidance note D). 					
		Standard 1.2: The ecological, biological, social, cultural and economic values and benefits of the site have	Criteria 1.2.1: Possible values and benefits of ecosystem services (including REDD+ and areas of high conservation value) have been identified.					

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		been identified and aligned with tigers as a major conservation target.	Criteria 1.2.2: If potential ecosystem values and/or benefits are identified, plans are in place to realize the most feasible of these values and/or benefits within the timeframe of the current management plan (see also Standard 4.1) and are aligned with tigers as a conservation target (see also Standard 1.1).					
			Criteria 1.2.3: Ecosystem service values and/or benefits are interpreted and shared with communities and other stakeholders.					
			Criteria 1.2.4: Biodiversity values of the conservation area have been identified.					
			Criteria 1.2.5: Potential values and/or benefits of biodiversity have been evaluated and assessed against, and aligned with, tiger conservation (see also					

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			Standards 1.1, 4.3 and 16.2).					
			Criteria 1.2.6: Biodiversity values and/or benefits and their relationship with tiger conservation are interpreted and shared with communities and stakeholders.					
			Criteria 1.2.7: Social, cultural and spiritual values and/or benefits of the conservation area have been identified.					
			Criteria 1.2.8: The impacts (e.g. requirements for access to sacred sites within core areas) and implications (e.g. where tigers are identified as national icons) of social, cultural and spiritual values and/or benefits are considered in management planning (see also Standard 4.1), in particular where					

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			they contribute to tiger conservation.					
			Criteria 1.2.9: Social, cultural and spiritual values and/or benefits and their relationship with tiger conservation are interpreted and shared with communities and stakeholders.					
			Criteria 1.2.10: Direct and indirect economic values and/or benefits (e.g. non-timber forest products, ecotourism) generated by the conservation area have been identified where possible.					
			Criteria 1.2.11: If potential economic values and/or benefits are identified, plans are in place to realize the most feasible of these values and/or benefits within the					

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			timeframe of the current management plan (see also Standard 4.1) and are aligned with tigers as a conservation target (see also Standard 1.1).					
			Criteria 1.2.12: Economic values and/or benefits and their relationship with tiger conservation are interpreted and shared with communities and stakeholders.					
	2. Area design	Standard 2.1: Core tiger areas are recognized, acknowledged, managed and maintained.	Criteria 2.1.1: Core areas are defined, mapped and gazetted (where appropriate) (see also Standard 3.1 and guidance note E).					
Criteria 2.1.2: Integrity of core areas should be managed and maintained both in the planning process and operationally (see also Standard 4.1).								
Standard 2.2: Buffer zones with tiger presence are		Criteria 2.2.1: Buffer zones are defined, mapped and gazetted (where appropriate)						

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		recognized, acknowledged, managed and maintained.	(see also Standard 3.1 and guidance note F).					
			Criteria 2.2.2: The buffer zone is managed and maintained to prevent the existence of hard edges (e.g. boundaries where a forested protected area meets agricultural fields immediately outside the boundary) in core areas (see also Standard 4.1).					
		Standard 2.3: Other management zones are recognized, acknowledged, managed and maintained.	Criteria 2.3.1: Other management zones (e.g. multiple use zones, community use zones, tourism zones etc.) are defined, mapped and gazetted where necessary.					
			Criteria 2.3.2: Management objectives designed and maintained for these zones are aligned and compatible with tiger conservation, and ensure the integrity of					

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			the core areas and buffer zones (see also Standards 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 4 and 16.2).					
		Standard 2.4: Areas critical to tigers outside the protected area are identified and opportunities to engage in tiger conservation are maximized.	Criteria 2.4.1: Relevant agencies and stakeholders are identified and engaged in landscape-scale planning (e.g. develop suitable and/or potential corridors or other areas conducive to tiger conservation) (see also Standards 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5).					
			Criteria 2.4.2: Where important and applicable unprotected tiger habitats and corridors adjacent to the conservation / protected area have been identified, efforts are under way to include them in the conservation / protected area.					
			Criteria 2.4.3: Infrastructure development that could impact the tiger					

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			conservation area has been assessed and all possible mitigation actions planned (see guidance note G).					
		Standard 2.5: Transboundary connectivity opportunities are maximized for tiger conservation.	Criteria 2.5.1: Relevant agencies and stakeholders are identified and engaged to develop transboundary (i.e. political boundaries with neighbouring states or countries) agreements conducive to tiger conservation (see also Standard 4.5).					
			Criteria 2.5.2: Opportunities to develop local agreements on joint management actions have been explored (see also Standard 4.5).					
			Criteria 2.5.3: Local agreements on joint management, where identified, are implemented, monitored, assessed and adapted (see also Standard 4.5).					

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	3. Legal status, regulation and compliance	Standard 3.1: The site has legal status and is gazetted.	Criteria 3.1.1: The site has legal status that enables effective tiger conservation.					
			Criteria 3.1.2: The physical boundaries of the site are defined, mapped and gazetted (see also Standards 2.1 and 2.2).					
			Criteria 3.1.3: Tenure and legal boundary disputes related to the site have been resolved or mitigated to a level where there is no impediment to effective management.					
		Standard 3.2: Legal frameworks and regulations meet the requirements of management.	Criteria 3.2.1: Legal frameworks supporting the area are effective in dealing with current levels of illegal activity.					
			Criteria 3.2.2: Tigers and their prey are specifically protected by law (note: this does not discount activities such as hunting where these are managed sustainably and fall within the legal framework).					

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			Criteria 3.2.3: Legal protection frameworks are robust and the area is not threatened by pressures such as road, rail, mining or other infrastructure projects.					
		Standard 3.3: The site has a system of law enforcement which ensures legal compliance.	Criteria 3.3.1: Staff have a sound knowledge of relevant national and international legal instruments (see also Standard 3.2).					
			Criteria 3.3.2: Legal instruments empower staff to take legal action, e.g. make arrests (see also Standard 3.2).					
			Criteria 3.3.3: Where necessary, staff take action to mitigate lack of effective legal instruments (e.g. where community actions need to be modified to protect tigers and ensure minimal HWC, but no					

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			legal instrument is suitable).					
			Criteria 3.3.4: The site has access to legal expertise.					
B. Management	4. Management planning	Standard 4.1: Up-to-date management plans/systems are in place.	Criteria 4.1.1: The conservation / protected area has an up-to-date management plan/system (i.e. a 5-10 year strategic plan for managing the area) (see also Standard 1.1 and guidance note H).					
			Criteria 4.1.2: Management plan is aligned to national action plans and with business plan, where business plan exists (see also Standards 9.4).					
		Standard 4.2: Management planning is developed with community and stakeholder involvement.	Criteria 4.2.1: Communities and other stakeholders including all relevant staff have been identified (see also Standards 12.4 and 13).					

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			Criteria 4.2.2: Community and stakeholder involvement in management planning, and management effectiveness assessment, is planned, implemented, monitored, assessed and adapted (see also Standards 4.2, 6.3 and 12.4).					
		Standard 4.3: A tiger conservation plan exists.	Criteria 4.3.1: Specific requirements and management needs of tigers have been considered in the management planning process (see also Standards 1.1 and 16.2), e.g. increased security (see also Standard 15); specialized monitoring (see also Standard 17); safety of people in and around the area (see also Standard 11).					
		Standard 4.4: Systems for assessing management	Criteria 4.4.1: Management plan/system includes details of planned					

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		effectiveness are in place.	assessments, e.g. timing, frequency (e.g. 1-3 years), methodology and implementation of findings (see also Standards 4.1 and 10).					
			Criteria 4.4.2: Management effectiveness assessment results are fed back into management planning (see also Standard 4.1 and 10).					
		Standard 4.5: Management plan/systems are integrated with neighbouring protected areas.	Criteria 4.5.1: Conservation / protected areas which include significant administrative boundaries (national or international) have integrated their plans where possible, e.g. to ensure sharing of appropriate intelligence and cooperating on enforcement actions, synchronized monitoring, landscape planning including ecological connectivity,					

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			etc. (see also Standard 2.5).					
		Standard 4.6: Management plan/systems are integrated with other relevant plans.	Criteria 4.6.1: Other relevant plans (e.g. specific plans for NGO-funded projects, regional/district development plans, national tourism plans etc.) are known and integrated with, or where this is not possible do not impede, management (see also Standard 2.4).					
	5. Management plan / system implementation	Standard 5.1: The management plan/system forms the basis for implementation of conservation activities.	Criteria 5.1.1: The management plan/system should set realistic priorities, strategies and actions that facilitate management, annual operational planning (see also Standard 6.1) and allocation of resources (see also Standard 6.2).					

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			Criteria 5.1.2: All plans concerned with management are integrated (e.g. HWC plan, management plan, annual operational plan, tourism plan, monitoring plan, tiger conservation plan, species action plan etc.).					
		Standard 5.2: The physical boundaries of the site are managed.	Criteria 5.2.1: The physical boundaries (see also Standard 2) of the conservation area are managed (see guidance note I).					
			Criteria 5.2.2: Boundary encroachment is monitored (using a law enforcement monitoring system such as SMART, MIST etc.) and managed (see also Standards 15.1 and 15.2).					
	6. Management processes	Standard 6.1: Annual operational plans are in place.	Criteria 6.1.1: Annual operational plans linked to the management plan/system (see also					

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			Standard 4) are planned, implemented, monitored, assessed and adapted (see guidance note J).					
		Standard 6.2: Budget and financial disbursement systems are in place.	Criteria 6.2.1: Accurate, effective, planned budgeting systems are linked to the management plan and annual operational plan (see also Standards 4.1 and 6.1).					
			Criteria 6.2.2: Efficient systems for receiving and utilizing funds are in place and monitored (e.g. funding from governments, donors etc.).					
		Standard 6.3: Management is transparent and accountable.	Criteria 6.3.1: Systems are in place to ensure timely dissemination of information on management decisions and actions to local communities and other stakeholders (see also Standard 4.2).					
			Criteria 6.3.2: Governance structures responsible for management planning					

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			and implementation are acknowledged and known (i.e. who is responsible for the different elements of management).					
			Criteria 6.3.3: Managers demonstrate leadership qualities which support a best practice approach to management, are held accountable for deliverables within the management plan, and inspire and encourage staff (see Standard 10.2).					
			Criteria 6.3.4: Gender equity in management is recognized and encouraged.					
			Criteria 6.3.5: A human rights approach to management is recognized and encouraged.					

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			Criteria 6.3.6: A code of conduct for rangers, or equivalent, is in place and follows, or is equivalent to, the “Ranger Code of conduct” developed by the International Ranger Federation					
		Standard 6.4: Administrative systems are in place.	Criteria 6.4.1: Administration systems include all of the following: Human resources management; Health and safety systems; Operational controls; Financial management ; Stock control and asset management; Green management policies and pollution control (see also Standard 8.1).					
		Standard 6.5: Complaint procedures are in place.	Criteria 6.5.1: Transparent and equitable systems are in place for handling complaints and comments about management from all stakeholders.					

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	7. Staffing (full-time and part-time)	Standard 7.1: Staff are employed to operationalize the annual operational plan/management plan.	Criteria 7.1.1: Staffing needs are assessed according to the strategies and actions laid out in the management plan (see also Standard 4.1).					
			Criteria 7.1.2: Staff are in place to meet the needs assessed for effective management.					
			Criteria 7.1.3: Staffing structure is clearly defined (e.g. reporting hierarchies, decision-making responsibilities).					
			Criteria 7.1.4: Terms of reference (TORs)/job descriptions are in place for all full-time and part-time positions.					
			Criteria 7.1.5: Processes are in place to ensure staff are familiar with the management plan (see also Standard 5.1).					
		Standard 7.2: Trained staff are in place to	Criteria 7.2.1: Management positions are filled with staff					

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		facilitate management.	with appropriate capacity.					
			Criteria 7.2.2: Annual capacity development programmes are a regular feature of staff development (e.g. training opportunities) (see Standard 15.5).					
			Criteria 7.2.3: Staff are aware of new and progressive techniques/technology and encouraged to use these in work activities.					
		Standard 7.3: Staff insurance /ex-gratia and remuneration systems are in place.	Criteria 7.3.1: All staff (including part-time staff and staff not on contract) are adequately covered by insurances (e.g. health insurance, life insurance, or ex-gratia scheme from within/outside agencies).					
			Criteria 7.3.2: Staff pay recognizes qualifications, expertise, working hours and conditions.					

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			Criteria 7.3.3: Systems are in place to recognize staff excellence (e.g. certificates, awards, study leave).					
	8. Infrastructure, equipment and facilities	Standard 8.1: Management infrastructure is in place and operational.	Criteria 8.1.1: Infrastructure (e.g. roads for management and tourism, trails, boat landings, bridges, energy sources, staff headquarters, guard frontline staff posts, check gates etc.) is adequate (in terms of quantity and quality) and strategically located, or plans are in place to develop infrastructure, to ensure effective implementation of the management plan.					
Criteria 8.1.2: Investment in infrastructure is prioritized according to management/operational plan implementation.								

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		<p>Standard 8.2: Infrastructure is constructed and maintained to avoid and/or mitigate conservation impact.</p>	<p>Criteria 8.2.1: Infrastructure for management and other purposes (e.g. tourism) should: Avoid ecologically sensitive habitats; Limit visual impacts; Ensure building policies are in line with other CA TS standards (e.g. re invasive species etc.) (Standard 16.4); Include environmentally friendly concepts such as ecological footprint, waste and pollution management, green infrastructure (see guidance note K).</p>					
		<p>Standard 8.3: Staff facilities are in place and operational.</p>	<p>Criteria 8.3.1: Facilities for staff (head quarters and field staff) should include: Medical facilities; Mental health assessments and redressal mechanisms (if relevant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hostels/quarters/Anti-poaching camps- 					

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			including separate facilities for women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to rations • Kitchens with appropriate facilities (e.g. alternative energy) • Safe drinking water • Toilet facilities-if relevant, gender sensitive and with proper sanitation support • Bedding facilities • Storage facilities • Solar/grid electricity connections • Proper ventilation • Room heating/cooling facilities • Mobile power/chargers. • Safety systems for guarding against wildlife/wildlife criminals e.g. elephant proof trenches, electric fence etc. • Knowledge and Entertainment facilities 					

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff family support mechanism e.g. as in police lines • Utility tools 					
		Standard 8.4: Equipment and services are in place.	Criteria 8.4.1: Equipment investment is prioritized according to the management/operational plan; basic equipment and services include: Equipment: vehicles (cars, motorcycles, bicycles, boats, etc.); computers; medical equipment; field gear (e.g. compass, backpack, boots, map, GPS, cameras, firearms); wildlife forensics/sample collection kits and surveillance equipment; Services: Power; internet access, communications (radios, walkie talkies, mobile phones etc.).					

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			Criteria 8.4.2: An evacuation plan exists for injured field staff, visitors etc.					
		Standard 8.5: Infrastructure, facilities and equipment are maintained.	Criteria 8.5.1: Infrastructure, facilities and equipment are regularly and well maintained, and replaced when necessary.					
	9. Sustainability of financial resources	Standard 9.1: Finances are sustainable.	Criteria 9.1.1: Government funding is adequate and sustainable to allow basic implementation of the annual operational plan.					
Criteria 9.1.2: If additional funding (e.g. NGO, donor funding etc.) cash/kind is required for full implementation of the annual operational plan, adequacy and sustainability of funding capacity is secured.								
Standard 9.2: Budget is linked to management priorities.		Criteria 9.2.1: Budgets are linked to management plan/annual						

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			operational plan priorities and include contingency planning for emergency situations (Standard 6.1).					
		Standard 9.3: Additional revenue streams are maximized.	Criteria 9.3.1: Ability to leverage income from, and collaborate closely With, other sources (e.g. NGOs, other donors, payment for ecosystem services, additional activities (e.g. tourism), other government departments, species conservation programmes etc.) is well developed.					
		Standard 9.4: Business plans are developed and implemented where necessary.	Criteria 9.4.1: A business plan is developed, implemented, monitored, assessed and adapted where necessary (e.g. where large ecotourism developments are in place or planned) (see also Standard 4.1).					

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	10. Adaptive management	Standard 10.1: Management is adaptive.	Criteria 10.1.1: Management plans/systems are flexible enough to implement the findings of management effectiveness assessments (see also Standards 4.1 and 4.5), local and indigenous knowledge, monitoring and research results, including impacts of climate change, and consideration of climate-change vulnerability assessments including considered historical changes and future projections in social, ecological and climate conditions (see also Standards 16 and 17), and any changes in decision making processes (e.g. changes in legislation).					
		Standard 10.2: Best practices are recorded.	Criteria 10.2.1: Best practices are documented and disseminated (e.g. video interviews, news					

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			stories, the IUCN Panorama website etc.).					
C. Community	11. Human-wildlife conflict	Standard 11.1: Effective mechanisms for dealing with human-wildlife conflict (HWC) are in place.	Criteria 11.1.1: Appropriate management strategies (including policy, prevention, mitigation, responses and understanding the conflict) are planned and implemented including with external partners (if relevant) (see guidance note L).					
			Criteria 11.1.2: Monitoring and assessment of HWC management strategies is ongoing and strategies are adapted according to monitoring results.					
			Criteria 11.1.3: Adequate, consistent, timely, transparent and sustainable compensation/ interim relief schemes (e.g. compensation measures or insurances) are in place and					

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			communicated with targeted local residents (e.g. those experiencing the worst HWC) (see also Standard 2.2).					
			Criteria 11.1.4: Community involvement occurs at all stages in the development and implementation of HWC strategies and compensation schemes and is monitored to assess community satisfaction (ideally with gender-disaggregated results) of strategies and compensation schemes.					
	12. Community relations	Standard 12.1: Conflicts or tensions related to the site are acknowledged and addressed.	Criteria 12.1.1: If relevant, conflict (e.g. number of complaints, anti-social behaviour linked to discontent related to the protected area, physical clashes per year between local people and protected area staff, civil society					

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			demonstrations or incidents of unrest targeted at the protected area, tension related to tenure and resource use, relocation – see also Standard 12.3) is recognized and understood (e.g. root causes, who is involved, what are the key issues etc.) and recorded.					
			Criteria 12.1.2: Processes for managing conflict are in place (e.g. visits, meetings, dialogue, compensation mechanisms, protocol for dealing with complaints).					
			Criteria 12.1.3: Monitoring of conflict resolution measures is in place, and measures are adapted if necessary as the result of monitoring and assessment.					

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		Standard 12.2: Relocation processes are voluntary, equitable and monitored.	Criteria 12.2.1: Any relocation should be undertaken only with: Free (i.e. voluntary), prior, informed consent; Full representation at community level to ensure equity in decision making; Fair compensation packages (e.g. in kind or financial); The rationale for relocation being clearly stated and communicated to local communities (see also Standard 12.3).					
			Criteria 12.2.2: Ongoing monitoring (e.g. up to five years after relocation) of commitments to relocated communities is in place.					
		Standard 12.3: Conservation impacts on the evacuated area are identified,	Criteria 12.3.1: Biological rationale for relocation needs to be clearly stated and communicated to local communities.					

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		managed and monitored.	Criteria 12.3.2: Restoration plans for the evacuated area are developed, implemented and monitored (e.g. re-growth, re-use by tigers and prey).					
		Standard 12.4: Involvement and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in governance.	Criteria 12.4.1: The site's local governance structures and mechanisms recognise the legitimate rights of Indigenous Peoples					
			Criteria 12.4.2: The site's local governance structures and mechanisms recognise the legitimate rights of local communities.					
			Criteria 12.4.3: Community consultation and involvement in the management of the tiger conservation area/buffer zone is appropriate, clearly planned, implemented, monitored, assessed and documented					

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			(see also Standard 4.2).					
			Criteria 12.4.4: Comprehensive safeguarding systems are in place					
		Standard 12.5: Benefit-sharing/alternative livelihood mechanisms are in place and monitored.	Criteria 12.5.1: If in place, government policy on benefit sharing /alternative livelihoods is implemented, monitored and assessed by the conservation area.					
			Criteria 12.5.2: Approaches undertaken by the conservation / protected area for sharing benefits/alternative livelihoods with communities (e.g. tourism revenue generated and shared) are clearly planned, implemented, monitored, assessed, adapted and					

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			documented (see also Standard 4.2).					
		Standard 12.6: Cultural identity is not compromised.	Criteria 12.6.1: Cultural values (e.g. local traditions, traditional rights and laws, cultural and religious uses of sites etc.) are respected in protected area management wherever possible (e.g. when not in contradiction with national laws) (see guidance note M).					
			Criteria 12.6.2: Management activities restrict threats and enable protection of cultural values (e.g. access to sacred sites, trees, temples, springs etc.) (see also Standard 1.2) where possible.					

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		Standard 12.7: Outreach and awareness programmes are in place and monitored.	Criteria 12.7.1: Outreach activities (e.g. community visits to protected area, environmental clubs, local events, school visits, leaflets, videos) are planned and include a focus on tiger conservation (see also Standard 4.1).					
			Criteria 12.7.2: Conservation outcomes for community projects are defined and monitored.					
	13. Stakeholder relationships	Standard 13.1: Processes are in place to coordinate and cooperate with communities and other stakeholders who may impact site management.	Criteria 13.1.1: Agreements are in place to protect the ecological, biological, social, cultural and economic values from impacts of research activity in the conservation area (e.g. to protect from biopiracy, maintain dignity of communities in developmental research and activities etc.) (see also Standard 2).					

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			<p>Criteria 13.1.2: Coordination and cooperation with communities and other stakeholders (e.g. researchers, NGOs, service providers etc.) includes consultation meetings; shared work programmes; cooperation in management planning; cooperative working relationships (e.g. sharing activities, work programming, resource allocation) (see also Standards 4.2 and 12.4).</p>					
		<p>Standard 13.2: Resource use in the area is managed to balance conservation objectives and local users needs.</p>	<p>Criteria 13.2.1: The needs of resource users are known and management respects this need insofar as this is compatible with the achievement of areas objectives.</p>					
			<p>Criteria 13.2.2: The types and levels of permitted activities are clearly described and uses and access are managed to minimise</p>					

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			harm to the major site values, for example through permits, zoning etc.					
D. Tourism	14. Tourism and interpretation	Standard 14.1: Tourism facilities are in place where appropriate.	Criteria 14.1.1: Tourism facilities (e.g. number of guides and organized activities, safaris, canoe trips etc.; and physical facilities such as parking, toilets, accommodation/hotels , walking trails etc.) are designed to have minimal impact on habitat and wildlife.					
		Standard 14.2: Interpretation facilities are in place where appropriate.	Criteria 14.2.1: Interpretation needs are understood (e.g. the needs of difference audiences, age groups etc.) (see guidance note N).					
			Criteria 14.2.2: Relevant, up-to-date and well-maintained interpretation facilities are at a scale appropriate to the number and type of visitors.					

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			Criteria 14.2.3: Good quality information and interpretation of the area should be available via a number of mediums as appropriate, e.g. dedicated website, visitor guide books, site interpretation boards etc.					
			Criteria 14.2.4: Interpretation includes explanation of the wider cultural and spiritual values associated with the tiger.					
			Criteria 14.2.5: Interpretation includes an explanation of the need for responsible tourism.					
		Standard 14.3: Communities are involved in tourism operations where appropriate.	Criteria 14.3.1: Employment opportunities for local communities in conservation / protected area tourism exist.					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			conservation / protected area tourism plans.					
E. Protection	15. Protection	Standard 15.1: A protection strategy is included in the management plan/system and is implemented according to the annual operation plan.	Criteria 15.1.1: A suitable protection strategy is planned (see also guidance note P and Standard 4.1) and considers <u>all</u> of the following: Analysis of threats (see also Standard 15.2); Communications needs of the patrol (see also Standard 8.4); Infrastructure needs for protection (Standard 8.1); Transport needs for protection(see also Standard 8.1); Training needs and annual training calendars (see also Standard 7.2 and 15.2); Law enforcement monitoring system e.g. SMART, MIST , MSTRIPES etc. (see guidance note P); Equipment needs (see also Standard 8.4); Community					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			involvement in protection (see also Standard 12.4); Legal background (see also Standard 3.2 and 3.3); Engagement with other enforcement agencies e.g. wildlife crime bureau, judiciary etc; Coordinated crime database/s capable of identifying repeat offenders; Tactical approaches and protocols; Intelligence gathering and use protocols; Mechanism or staff safeguards are in place					
			Criteria 15.1.2: Management staff are effectively trained and able to implement the protection strategy (see also Standard 7.2).					
			Criteria 15.1.3: The protection strategy is implemented in line with the annual operation plan (Standard 6.1) and is assessed and if necessary adapted.					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
		Standard 15.2: Legal infringement (threats) are known, understood and monitored.	Criteria 15.2.1: Threats (level, volume and nature of legal infractions) are assessed monthly based on intelligence and patrol data (see guidance note Q).					
			Criteria 15.2.2: Threats are monitored using a law enforcement monitoring system (e.g. MIST, SMART, MSTRIPES) (see standard 15.1 and 15.10).					
		Standard 15.3: Protection staff are sufficient in number for tiger protection.	Criteria 15.3.1: Requirements for the number of protection staff have been assessed (see also Standard 7.1).					
			Criteria 15.3.2: Staff recruited meet the required number of protection staff identified with appropriate consideration for gender equity and representation of Indigenous Peoples					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			and local communities wherever relevant (see also Standard 7.2 and guidance note R).					
		Standard 15.4: Infrastructure and equipment needs for tiger protection are in place.	Criteria 15.4.1: Infrastructure (e.g. roads, ranger stations/outposts, water availability) needs are known and assessed (see also Standard 8.1).					
			Criteria 15.4.2: Infrastructure is in place, used and adequately maintained (see also Standard 8.5).					
			Criteria 15.4.3: Equipment (e.g. vehicles, boots, GPS, handsets, weapons, backpacks, medical kits etc.) needs are known and assessed (see also Standard 8.4).					
			Criteria 15.4.4: Equipment is in place, used and adequately maintained (see also Standard 8.5).					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
		Standard 15.5: Protection field staff are trained.	Criteria 15.5.1: Patrolling skills should include all of the following (see also Standard 7.2 and guidance note S): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical skills • GPS use • Awareness of area • Local community/Indigenous Peoples engagement skills • Gathering local knowledge • Species identification and knowledge of species behaviour • Knowledge of relevant law, their interpretation and use (see also Standard 3.1) • Tracking skills • Firearm training including SOPs of maintenance and lawful and ethical/humane use (where applicable) • Communication skills 					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of patrol tactics (see also Standard 15.1) • Knowledge on data recording monitoring (e.g. law enforcement, species) (see also Standard 15.1) • Crime scene analysis • Collection of evidence, packaging and transport-chain of custody • Map reading • Guidance on use of force, Human Rights and gender sensitivity and equity, IP & LC rights and responsibilities 					
			<p>Criteria 15.5.2: Patrolling staff should be physically fit enough to carry out effective work.</p>					
		<p>Standard 15.6: Stations and outposts for protection field staff are in place and managed.</p>	<p>Criteria 15.6.1: Level of permanent field staff presence in stations and outposts is appropriate (e.g. considering patrol needs, habitat, provision of a “visible”</p>					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			presence in the protected area etc.) (see also Standard 8.1 and 15.1).					
			Criteria 15.6.2: Stations and outposts are well equipped and maintained (see also Standard 8.2 and guidance note T).					
		Standard 15.7: Patrols effectively cover the site.	Criteria 15.7.1: Patrol planning is designed to achieve total coverage of the area (see also Standard 15.1 and guidance note U).					
		Standard 15.8: Number of patrol days per ranger per month is planned and implemented.	Criteria 15.8.1: Patrol targets in terms of coverage and specific objectives for tiger protection should be intelligence driven. Patrols should be planned and implemented on a monthly basis. Foot patrols should be prioritized but other types (e.g. boat, elephant, vehicle etc.) also included as required (see also Standard 15.3).					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			Criteria 15.8.2: Minimum number of patrol days to be defined. Patrol days for protection field staff to be considered “working days” (see guidance note V).					
		Standard 15.9: Conservation area staff are aware of, and able to implement, legal instruments.	Criteria 15.9.1: Knowledge and ability of to apply legal instruments is current and effective (see also Standard 3.3).					
		Standard 15.10: Local people and legal professionals are aware of the relevant wildlife laws.	Criteria 15.10.1: Relevant legal professionals are assisted with training and development in legislation pertaining to species conservation and protection (see also Standard 3.3).					
			Criteria 15.10.2: Processes are in place to create awareness and involve local people, where appropriate, in protection strategies (e.g. intelligence-					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			gathering networks) (see also Standard 3.3).					
			Criteria 15.10.3: Prosecutors and staff have regular briefings on ongoing cases (see also Standard 3.3).					
		Standard 15.11: Law enforcement monitoring systems are in place.	Criteria 15.11.1: Software-based law enforcement monitoring systems such as SMART, MIST, MSTRiPES are understood and implemented (see also Standard 15.2 and guidance note P).					
			Criteria 15.11.2: Protection field staff are trained in data collection for monitoring system including use of equipment such as GPS or PDA (personal digital assistant) (see also Standard 7.2).					
			Criteria 15.11.3: Specific staff are trained for data input					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			and analysis (see also Standard 7.2).					
			Criteria 15.11.4: Regular (e.g. fortnightly or monthly) feedback from law enforcement monitoring results ensures adaptive tactical protection (see also Standard 15.12).					
			Criteria 15.11.5: Records of registered crime offences maintained and tracked, and follow-up mechanism in place.					
		Standard 15.12: Protection efforts are intelligence driven.	Criteria 15.12.1: Tactical approaches such as strike forces, sweeps, covert operations, reconnaissance patrols and intelligence-gathering patrols are in place (see also Standard 15.1).					
			Criteria 15.12.2: Areas of operational responsibility are defined (see also Standard 7.1).					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			<p>Criteria 15.12.3: Intelligence networks such as informant networks (information purchase, crime hotlines, interrogations etc.) is in place.</p>					
			<p>Criteria 15.12.4: Protection strategies and tactics are regularly adapted according to intelligence gathered (see also Standards 10.1 and 15.11).</p>					
			<p>Criteria 15.12.5: An intelligence verification system is in place to ensure accuracy of intelligence.</p>					
F. Habitat management	16. Habitat and prey management	Standard 16.1: All habitats capable, now or in the future (e.g. in the case of a recovering population), of supporting a viable or significant population are known.	<p>Criteria 16.1.1: Carrying capacity of tiger and prey is researched and clearly understood (see also Standard 17 and guidance note W).</p>					
			<p>Criteria 16.1.2: Threats to habitat, such as development, invasive species, natural disturbance and human encroachment,</p>					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			are clearly analysed and understood and mitigation planning/actions are undertaken as necessary (see also Standards 4.1, 8.2, 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3).					
		Standard 16.2: Tiger and prey habitat management systems are in place.	Criteria 16.2.1: Tiger and prey habitat management requirements are identified, including seasonal movements, prey utilization, connectivity and species composition (see also Standard 4.3).					
			Criteria 16.2.2: Habitats are mapped and monitored and trend and status data is known for these habitats (see also Standard 2 and guidance note X).					
			Criteria 16.2.3: Habitat is managed to ensure suitability for tiger conservation (see also Standard 4.3).					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
		Standard 16.3: Possible impacts of disturbance regimes, disasters and disease are monitored and managed.	Criteria 16.3.1: An analysis of potential disturbance regimes and disasters (e.g. fire, flood, drought, storm events or disease) has been conducted and mitigation plans developed (see guidance note Y).					
			Criteria 16.3.2: Impacts of disturbance regimes and disasters (e.g. fire, flood, drought, storm events or disease) are mapped, monitored and managed.					
			Criteria 16.3.3: Protocols are in place for mitigation of wildlife diseases and impacts are mapped, monitored and managed (see guidance note Y).					
			Criteria 16.3.4: In general, resilience/adaptation measures against impacts of climate change on wildlife and					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
			local communities and/or Indigenous Peoples (if relevant) are in place/being put in place/being planned.					
		Standard 16.4: Invasive species are monitored and managed.	Criteria 16.4.1: Invasive species are mapped.					
			Criteria 16.4.2: Distribution and impact on habitats are assessed.					
			Criteria 16.4.3: Control strategies are planned and implemented where necessary/possible.					
			Criteria 16.4.4: Wherever relevant, extracted invasives are provided to local communities.					
		Standard 16.5: Water sources are monitored and managed.	Criteria 16.5.1: Water sources (e.g. waterholes, rivers, streams etc.) are mapped, maintained, monitored and protected (see guidance note Z).					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
		Standard 16.6: Prey populations are adequate (now and/or in the future) to support viable or significant tiger populations.	Criteria 16.6.1: Monitoring and management focuses on the availability/sustainability of tiger prey species (see also Standards 4.3 and 17 and guidance note AA).					
G. Tiger populations	17. Tiger populations	Standard 17.1: Tiger monitoring systems are in place.	Criteria 17.1.1: Monitoring protocols are in place to ensure monitoring is scientifically rigorous and replicable (see guidance note BB).					
			Criteria 17.1.2: Monitoring protocols, field work and analysis is peer-reviewed.					
			Criteria 17.1.3: Monitoring reviews population size and breeding females (i.e. females with cubs) ideally annually.					
			Criteria 17.1.4: Monitoring is adaptive to new internationally accepted monitoring protocols but retains trend information.					

Pillar	Element	Standard	Criteria	Evidence details (Evidence base)	Evidence source/Reference URLs	Evidence value	Score	Observations of Reviewers
		Standard 17.2: Monitoring results are used to inform management.	Criteria 17.2.1: Monitoring results are reflected in decision making and adaptive management and in annual operational plans and management plans/systems (see also Standards 4.1, 4.3, 6.1 and 10).					
			Criteria 17.2.2: Monitoring results are shared appropriately, especially within networks of tiger conservation areas and across transboundary areas to prevent double counting.					

Name, designation and signature of Reviewer/s