A rapid assessment of management effectiveness against the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards

Safe Havens for Wild Tigers

Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) aims to help stabilise and rebuild tiger populations throughout their range by ensuring effective management. It is an accreditation system, where participating tiger conservation areas provide evidence demonstrating that they meet a range of agreed management standards, which together should ensure effective tiger conservation.

To gain a better understanding of the challenges that tiger range governments face in protecting wild tigers and to provide a baseline for CA|TS implementation, a rapid survey was undertaken of current management in 112 sites throughout the tiger range.

70%

Approximately 70% of the global wild tiger population in 29% (>200,000 km²) of the tiger range was included in the survey

All sites surveyed in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Russia and China have management plans… However several sites in Southeast Asia do not

The results are mixed. **Only 14 sites (12.5%)** surveyed are currently able to meet the full CA|TS criteria. However, half (**52.5%**) report fairly strong management although with further improvements needed. The remaining **35%** (the majority of which are in Southeast Asia) have relatively weak management or are sites still developing management systems.

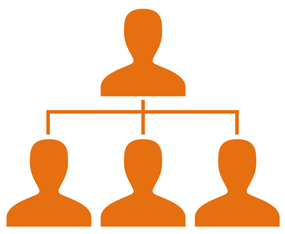
Positive findings include that tiger monitoring is being implemented in **87% of sites** and that all sites surveyed in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Russia have management plans; however several sites in Southeast Asia do not. **85% of sites** also report that they have systems for assessing management effectiveness.

Three-quarters of the sites surveyed however responded that they are **not sufficiently staffed** to fully implement planned management activities. Community issues related to management are weak across the whole tiger range, although **58% of the sites** surveyed have put in place benefit-sharing/alternative livelihood mechanisms.

Only 16 sites surveyed have intelligence driven anti-poaching processes in place, however **66 sites** are developing or planning to develop such systems, which reflects the focus on protection undertaken in many tiger conservation areas in recent years.

Managers across the tiger range are fully aware of these weaknesses in management. They reported many actions planned in response. Across the **20 sites** surveyed in Southeast Asia, **196 actions** were indicated as being in the planning stage; an average of nearly **10 actions** per site as opposed to an average of **four actions** per site in the rest of tiger range countries where management was assessed as more in line with the CA|TS criteria.

85% of tiger conservation areas surveyed do not have sufficient staff capacity to patrol sites effectively



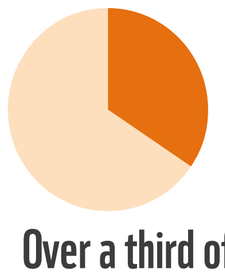
Three-quarters of sites lack adequate management infrastructure to support staff activities

Tiger monitoring is taking place in 87% of sites

Two recommendations can be drawn from the results

1. Government investment in tiger conservation areas is the only long-term solution to their management needs. While some countries are investing in their sites, most in Southeast Asia are lacking even fairly basic levels of government funding – a situation which needs to change. Furthermore, as tiger conservation areas are also important for many other aspects of natural, economic and social capital, such investments would have far-reaching benefits.

2. Good management in tiger conservation areas is the single most important action to halt and reverse decline of wild tigers. CA|TS should be implemented across the tiger range to strengthen effective management of tiger conservation areas.



Over a third of sites have major management deficiencies

58% of the sites surveyed have already put in place benefit-sharing/ alternative livelihood mechanisms

Community issues related to management are weak across the whole tiger range

For more information on CA|TS visit: www.conservationassured.org

Conversation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is a partnership between governments, NGOs and tiger conservation areas to define and implement these conservation standards. A CA|TS Partnership publication, February 2018