

Guidelines for persons undertaking field visits to National Parks and Sanctuaries

A. Things to do/have before starting on the visit

1. Ensure that you have identified your cluster correctly and worked out the most efficient travel plan, for visiting all the parks/sanctuaries in the cluster in terms of the distance to be travelled, the time to be spent and convenience of bus/train connections.
2. Ensure that you have with you the following:
 - a) A blank copy of Questionnaire I of the All India Survey of National Parks and Sanctuaries (56 numbered pages). Only for reference; not to be filled in.
 - 2.1 A zerox copy of the map of each of the parks/sanctuaries to be visited, where such maps are available.
 - 2.2 A copy of the information sheet for each park/sanctuary to be visited.
 - 2.3 Blank notebooks for recording your findings.
 - 2.4 A copy of the query sheet for each of the parks/sanctuaries to be visited.

B. Things to be done while visiting the parks/sanctuaries

1. Your primary tasks are to:

- 1.1 Observe the general condition of the area and of the eco-system, the quality of management and the relationship of the people of the area with the park/sanctuary ecosystem and with the wildlife authorities.
- 1.2 To get authentic information (by visual observation, conversations with villagers and forest guards, etc.) about certain crucial aspects of the park/sanctuary management and status, as listed below:

<u>Aspects</u>	<u>Page of Quest. I</u>	<u>Q.No.</u>
i) Existence and details of illegal occupation or use of park	3 4	6.3 9
ii) Existence and nature of use by other agencies/dept., other than the wildlife dept., of park	5	10
iii) Existence and nature of rights and leases in the park	6	11
iv) Whether entry is regulated into the park?	7 14	12 4.2 to 4.2.2
v) Whether arms are registered and crop protection guns surrendered, where relevant?	7	13
vi) Whether shooting permits are issued?	7	14
vii) What are the major offences committed and recorded, who commits them and what action is taken? Is there evidence of unrecorded offences?	8	15
viii) What are the major natural threats to the eco-system?	14-16 31	4.5 to 4.8.2 2.4(i)
ix) What are the major epidemics or overpopulation problems which threaten the flora and fauna of the eco-system?	17-18	4.12 to 4.15
x) What are the species of fauna and flora <u>locally</u> threatened?	19	4.6 to 4.7
xi) What forest activities are taking place? (v. IMPORTANT)	20	5.
xii) What plantation activities are taking place?	21	5.2

<u>Aspects</u>	<u>Page of Ques. 1</u>	<u>Q.No.</u>
xiii) Is fodder allowed to be cut/extracted? If so details.	22	5.5. to 5.5.8
xiv) Existence and dimensions of legal and illegal grazing (V.IMPORTANT)	23	5.6 to 5.6.3
xv) Is the tourism taking place detrimental to the local ecology, who has control over it and how much tourism is there?	24-25	5.10 to 5.13
xvi) Evaluate the convenience, adequacy and quality of accommodation available. Existence of places of historical/cultural interest.	26	5.22 5.21
xvii) Existence and if possible numbers of water resources available in Park. Evaluate, if there is adequate water for the fauna and flora (V. IMPORTANT)	31	2.5
xviii) Get, if you can, a list of free and other plant species found in the Park	32	3.1
xix) Have any species of fauna or flora been introduced/re-introduced into the Park?	33 36	3.4 4.4 to 4.6
xx) Have any efforts been made to breed fauna species in captivity with the purpose of releasing them finally in the wild?	34	4.1
xxi) Get a complete list of Schedule I mammals, reptiles, and birds found in the Park. Also try to get a fuller list of all fauna, including insects, fishes and amphibia.	35	4.3

4.

xxii)	Is the Park area encroached upon, and do these encroachers seem genuinely to have no other alternative sites for habitation? (V. IMPORTANT)	37	5.1
xxiii)	How densely is the park/ surrounding area populated?	38-39	5.2
xxiv)	Has any serious and/or successful effort been made to relocate villages? (ask villagers)	39	5.3
xxv)	Has any serious and/or successful effort been made to provide to the Park or neighbouring villagers alternatives for fuel and fodder? (ask villagers)	41	5.5
xxvi)	Existence of & if possible details of livestock/ human/crop loss due to wild animals, and clashes between villagers & WL authorities. What is the perception of the park or neighbouring villagers towards the park and its authorities? (V. IMPORTANT)	42-4	5.6 to 5.15
xxvii)	What facilities and educational materials exist for a visitor/ researcher?	48 49	21 2.2 to 2.4 2.12 to 2.14
xxviii)	Do villagers ever get approached by park authorities for extension/ education/ programmes? (ask villagers)	49	2.5 - 2.11
2.	Find out the local names, if any, for the park/sanctuary and note down the reference numbers of the Survey of India topo sheets which cover the area of the Park.		

3. Also, try and take photographs of the area, especially of the typical habitats, in a way in which their extent and quality are clear. Photographs of major forest activities and uses, (legal and illegal), and of the typical flora and fauna species would also be useful.

C. Things to do on your return

1. Make sure all your notes are complete and neatly written. PLEASE WRITE COMMENTS PERTAINING TO EACH PAGE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON A SEPERATE PAGE OF YOUR NOTE BOOK as these pages will then be attached to the relevant pages of the questionnaire.
2. Prepare a narrative report of the park/sanctuary visited under the following heads
 - a) Introduction and background to the park/sanctuary;
 - b) Management of the Park;
 - c) Condition of the eco-system;
 - d) Interaction with, and perceptions of, the surrounding villages.
 - e) Miscellaneous.
3. Also feel free to write special notes on any interesting fact or experience that you might have observed or had.