

Issue	Criteria	Score	Comments	Next steps
1. Legal status	The protected area is not gazetted		Lo Go Xa Mat was gazetted as a national park in 2002 by government decision.	Raise awareness of existence and purpose of national park amongst stakeholders at all levels.
Does the park have legal status?	The government has agreed that the protected area should be gazetted but has done nothing about it as yet			
	The protected area is in the process of being gazetted but the process is still incomplete			
Context	The protected area has been legally gazetted (or in the case of private reserves is owned by a trust or similar)	3		
2. Protected area regulations	Mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area are not in place		There is land-use and encroachment on forest land inside the park by some households. Illegal cutting, hunting, and NTFPs collection are not controlled effectively.	Develop specific regulations for Lo Go Xa Mat National Park; strengthen law and regulation enforcement; coordinate with local communities and authorities on land-use planning.
Are inappropriate land uses and activities (e.g. poaching) controlled?	Mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist but there are major problems in implementing them effectively	1		
	Mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist but there are some problems in effectively implementing them			
Context	Mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist and are being effectively implemented			
3. Law enforcement	The staff have no effective capacity to enforce protected area legislation and regulations		The capacity of the national park's staff is considered too low to implement effectively law enforcement (e.g. lack of skills, low patrolling capacities, inadequate equipment).	Train park staff, and provide them with essential equipment.
Can staff enforce protected area rules well enough?	There are major deficiencies in staff capacity to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, low patrol capacity)	1		
	The staff have acceptable capacity to enforce protected area legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain			
Context	The staff have excellent capacity to enforce protected area legislation and regulations			

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4. Protected area objectives Have objectives been agreed? <i>Planning</i>	No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area		There were/are clear objectives for the establishment and management of the national park, but these were agreed to only by specific key persons, not by a wide range of stakeholders.	Give local communities the opportunity for input into the integrated objectives of the national park, through village meetings and awareness-raising programmes.
	There are some objectives, but these are out-dated and bear little resemblance to the way that the site is managed			
	There are clear objectives for the establishment and management of the protected area, but these were set by a few professionals	2		
	The protected area has clear objectives agreed by a wide range of stakeholders			
5. Protected area boundary design Does the protected area need enlarging, corridors etc to meet its objectives? <i>Planning</i>	Inadequacies in boundary design mean that achievement of major objectives of the protected area is impossible		The boundary of the national park covers all key habitats and species of conservation concern. However, there are 12 families living inside the Strict Protection Zone who are involved in illegal cross-border trade. The management board of the national park has submitted a plan to relocate those families to MARD.	Speed up relocation of the 12 families, and promote coordination with Cambodia authorities on the protection of the forest resources of the national park.
	Inadequacies in boundary design mean that achievement of major objectives of the protected area are constrained to some extent			
	Boundary design is not constraining achievement of major objectives of the protected area			
	Reserve design features are significantly aiding achievement of major objectives of the protected area	3		
6. Protected area boundary demarcation Is the boundary known and demarcated? <i>Context</i>	The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents		The boundary of the national park is demarcated on the ground, but about eight km of the boundary is not clear on the ground. Local people know, however, where the boundary of the park is.	Secure funding for boundary demarcation of the remaining eight km.
	The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents			
	The boundary of the protected area is known by both the management authority and local residents but is not fully demarcated	2		
	The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority and local residents and is fully demarcated			

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7. Management plan	There is no management plan for the protected area		An Operational Management Plan for the national park is currently under preparation.	Finalise the Operational Management Plan in consultation with key stakeholders, introduce it to all national park staff, and begin implementation.
Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented	1		
	An approved management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems			
	An approved management plan exists and is being implemented			
<i>Planning</i>				
Additional points	The planning process allows adequate opportunity for adjacent stakeholders to influence the plan	1	Local stakeholders are fully engaged in the Operational Management Planning process.	Initiate a process to periodically review and revise the Operational Management Plan.
	There is an established schedule and process for periodic review of the management plan			
8. Annual work plan	No annual work plan exists		An annual work plan has been developed on the basis of national 661 Programme funding, and funds are allocated by the province.	Development work plan base on funding sources from Government, Vietnam Conservation Fund and other sources.
Is there an annual work plan?	An annual work plan and actions but activities are not monitored against this			
	An annual work plan exists and actions are monitored against this, but many activities are not completed	2		
	An annual work plan exists, and actions are monitored against this and most or all prescribed activities are completed			
<i>Planning/Outputs</i>				

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9. Resource inventory	There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species, and cultural values of the protected area		Staff of the park have a low capacity for carrying out surveys and improving information on habitats and species. The existing surveys and information on habitats and species were provided by BirdLife International in 1999 and 2001, HCMC National University, and the Vietnam-Russia Tropical Centre in 2002.	Provide training to staff on surveying, research, and analysis of information on habitats and species. Provide technical and scientific support for future management planning. Establish a long-term monitoring programme for wetland habitats.
Do you have enough information to manage the area?	Information on the critical habitats, species, and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient to support planning and decision making	1		
Context	Information on the critical habitats, species, and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient for key areas of planning/decision making but the necessary survey work is not being maintained			
	Information concerning on the critical habitats, species, and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient to support planning and decision making and is being maintained			
10. Research	There is no survey of research work		Some surveys and research have been undertaken by HCMC National University, but not enough to help effectively for making plan of research programme.	Undertake research on wetlands management (priority).
Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	There is some <i>ad hoc</i> survey and research work	1		
Inputs	There is considerable survey and research work but no overall programme			
	There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work			
11. Resource management	Requirements for active management of critical ecosystems, species and cultural values have not been assessed		There is a lack of funding and staff for effective management and protection. Management of the park is, however, improving over time, and illegal activities are reducing.	Increase funding and staffing, to ensure active management of key habitats and species in the park.
Is the protected area adequately managed (e.g. for fire, invasive	Requirements for active management of critical ecosystems, species and cultural values are known but are not being addressed			
	Requirements for active management of critical ecosystems, species and cultural values are only being partially addressed	2		

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species, poaching)? <i>Process</i>	Requirements for active management of critical ecosystems, species and cultural values are being substantially or fully addressed			

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12. Staff numbers	There are no staff		Staff numbers are too low. Only 20 staff out of a requisite 37 have been assigned to the national park.	Recruit more staff, with suitable qualifications for addressing the management objectives of the park.
Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	Staff numbers are so inadequate that they seriously hamper site management	1		
	Staff numbers are below optimum level			
	Staff numbers, are in tune with the management needs of the site			
<i>Inputs</i>				
13. Staff training	Staff are untrained		Two staff are currently undergoing training on general biodiversity survey work.	Provide training for staff in different fields to help for conservation work (high priority).
Is there enough training for staff?	Staff training and skills are inadequate for the needs of the protected area	1		
	Staff training and skills are acceptable, but could be further improved to fully achieve the goals/objectives of management			
	Staff training and skills are perfectly in tune with the management needs of the site			
<i>Inputs/Process</i>				
14. Current budget	There is no budget for the protected area		The available budget is inadequate, and limited to staff salaries and forest protection contracts.	Secure outside funding (e.g. from the government, donors, international NGOs) to address the conservation objectives of the park.
Is the current budget sufficient?	The available budget is inadequate and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage	1		
	The available budget is acceptable, but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management			
	The available budget is sufficient and meets the management needs of the site			
<i>Inputs</i>				

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15. Security of budget	There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside funding		Most of the budget is from the 661 Programme, while staff salaries are covered by the provincial budget. The Cat Tien NP Conservation Project is funding for \$25,540 for supporting wetland conservation management.	Secure more funding from outside (e.g. from the government, donors, international agencies) for addressing conservation objectives.
Is the budget secure?	There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding	1		
<i>Inputs</i>	There is a reasonably secure core budget for the protected area but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding			
	There is a secure budget for the protected area and its management needs			
16. Management of budget	Budget management is very bad and significantly undermines effectiveness		The current budget from the 661 Programme is managed very effectively.	Increase the budget management capacity, in order to prepare the national park for managing larger budgets and donor-funded projects.
Is the budget managed well enough?	Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness			
	Budget management is adequate but could be improved			
	Budget management is excellent and aids effectiveness	3		
<i>Process</i>				
17. Maintenance	No maintenance of equipment/facilities is undertaken		No budget is available for maintaining equipment.	Allocate a budget for equipment maintenance.
Is equipment adequately maintained?	Maintenance is undertaken only on an <i>ad hoc</i> or emergency basis	1		
<i>Process</i>	Most equipment/facilities are regularly maintained			
	All equipment/facilities are regularly maintained			

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18. Personnel management	Problems with personnel management significantly constrain management effectiveness		The national park has only recently been established, and many management staff are newly-assigned. More time is required to develop personnel management procedures.	Provide training to national park management staff in personnel and organisational management.
Is the staff managed well enough?	Problems with personnel management partially constrain management effectiveness			
	Personnel management is adequate but could be improved	2		
	Personnel management is excellent and aids effectiveness			
<i>Process</i>				
19. Communication and outreach	There is little or no communication between managers and stakeholders involved in the protected area		There is <i>ad hoc</i> consultation between the national park and local stakeholders (for example, during the Operational Management Planning process).	Develop a specific communications strategy.
Is there a planned communication and outreach programme?	There is communication between managers and stakeholders but this is <i>ad hoc</i> and not part of a planned communication programme	1		
	There is a planned communication programme that is being used to build support for the protected area amongst relevant stakeholders but implementation is limited			
	There is a planned communication programme that is being used to build support for the protected area amongst relevant stakeholders			
<i>Process</i>				
20. State and commercial neighbours	There is no contact between managers and neighboring official or corporate land users		Cooperation with land users in the buffer zone is quite good, but some difficulties are caused by land uses that have existed for a long time.	Increase cooperation with district and provincial authorities to solve problems of incompatible land uses in the buffer zone and core zone.
Is there co-operation with adjacent land users?	There is limited contact between managers and neighboring official or corporate land users			
	There is regular contact between managers and neighboring official or corporate land users, but only limited co-operation	2		
	There is regular contact between managers and neighboring official or corporate land users, and substantial cooperation on management			
<i>Process</i>				

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21. Indigenous people	Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to its management	0	There has been no consultation with indigenous Khmer minority people living in the Rehabilitation Area.	Involve Khmer people in forest protection activities (priority). Provide Khmer language training to selected national park staff.
Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the PA have input to management decisions?	Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to its management but no direct involvement in decisions			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some decisions relating to its management			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to all decisions relating to its management			
<i>Process</i>				
22. Local communities	Local communities have no input into decisions relating to its management		There are some inputs by key persons from two communes into management decisions, but not by a wide range of local communities.	Encourage involvement of a wide range of local communities in management of the park.
Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	Local communities have some input into discussions relating to its management but no direct involvement in the resulting decisions	1		
	Local communities directly contribute to some decisions relating to its management			
	Local communities directly contribute to most decisions relating to its management			
<i>Process</i>				
Additional points	There is open communication and trust between local stakeholders and protected area managers	0	Management board is newly established year ago, communication with local stakeholders has been started at a few activity only.	To build on the open communication and trust between local stakeholders and protected area managers.
<i>Outputs</i>	Programmes to enhance local community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	0		

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23. Visitor facilities Are visitor facilities (for tourists, pilgrims etc) good enough? <i>Outputs</i>	There are no visitor facilities and services	0	At the moment, there is no tourism infrastructure in the national park, and no visitors.	Develop strong mechanisms for involving local communities in conservation and strengthening the enforcement of management regulations (immediate priority). Tourism development should not be developed at the expense of conservation.
	Visitor facilities and services are inadequate for current levels of visitation			
	Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation			
	Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation			
24. Commercial tourism Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management? <i>Process</i>	There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area		Not applicable.	
	There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters			
	There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and protect park values			
	There is excellent co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and protect park values			
25. Tourism fees Does the protected area charge fees for tourists? <i>Outputs</i>	There is no fee for visiting the protected area		Not applicable.	
	There is a fee for visiting the protected area, but it goes straight to central government and is not returned to the park or its environs			
	There is a fee for visiting the protected area, that ends up with the local authority			
	There is a fee for visiting the protected area that helps to support this or other protected areas			

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26. Condition assessment	Many of the most important biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being severely degraded		A few years ago, valuable timber species within the park were logged by local communities and Cambodians. Currently, this activity is much reduced. Wetlands still provide suitable habitat for large waterbirds.	In accordance with the Operational Management Plan, and with adequate funding and staffing, maintain the biodiversity and ecological value of the park.
Is the protected area being managed consistent to its objectives?	Some of the most important biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being severely degraded			
<i>Outcomes</i>	Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted	2		
	Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact			
27. Access assessment	Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) are ineffective in controlling access or use of the reserve in accordance with designated objectives		Protection systems are moderately effective. However, access to the national park by people involved in illegal activities is still easy and frequent.	Strengthen the enforcement of regulations, and increase cooperation with local communities.
Are the available management mechanisms working to control access or use?	Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access or use of the reserve in accordance with designated objectives			
<i>Outcomes</i>	Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access or use of the reserve in accordance with designated objectives	2		
	Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access or use of the reserve in accordance with designated objectives			

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28. Economic benefit assessment	There is little or no flow of economic benefits to local communities from the existence of the protected area.		A small benefit from the national park derives to local people from forest protection contracts. There is no economic benefit from tourist services, because the national park has no tourist programme so far.	Maximise opportunities from the 661 Programme to bring benefits to local communities, while involving them in forest protection.
Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities?	There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities from the existence of the protected area but this is of minor significance to the regional economy	1		
	There is a flow of economic benefits to local communities from the existence of the protected area and this is of moderate or greater significance to the regional economy but most of this benefit accrues from activities outside the park boundary (e.g. spending by visitors getting to the park)			
	There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from the existence of the protected area and a significant proportion of this derives from activities on the park (e.g. employment of locals, locally operated commercial tours, etc.)			
Outcomes				
29. Monitoring and evaluation	There is no attempt at monitoring and evaluation in the protected area		A simple evaluation and reviewing of the annual work plan occurs every six months.	Develop a plan for monitoring and evaluation of workplans, with reviews every six months for annual workplans, and every year for 5-year workplans.
Planning/Process	There is some <i>ad hoc</i> monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results	1		
	There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results are not systematically used for management			
	A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management			
TOTAL SCORE (MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE 91)		40	only 27 out of 29 questions applied => weighted score = 43	