



# Strategic Environmental Assessment of the India Ecodevelopment Project

*A review of prospects and challenges for biodiversity conservation*

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# Project features



## Objectives

- Improve PA management by strengthening institutional capacity
- Reduce negative impacts of local people by increasing their participation in conservation efforts
- Strengthen policy framework and management effectiveness
- Prepare future biodiversity projects

## Project implementation in seven Protected Areas

### Project components

- Improved PA management
- Village eco-development
- Environmental education and awareness

### Key agencies

- The World Bank
- MoE&F, Government of India
- PA management, conservation groups, local people & practitioners

Time line: 1997 - 2002

Finance plan: US\$ 20 million GEF grant  
US\$ 28 million IDA credit



# Strategies and activities proposed under IEP



## Key assumptions for IEP

- The impact of local people and the traditional practices are the most significant threats to biodiversity

## IEP strategy

- Reduce the impact of local people on the PAs and the impact of PAs on local people for improving biodiversity conservation prospects in each site

## Activities proposed under IEP

### Improvement of PA management

- Habitat manipulation, improvement and restoration
- Development of soil and water conservation measures
- Improvement of PA infrastructure
- Refinement in protection measures

### Village eco-development activities

- Promoting biomass substitution
- Improved productivity of pastureland and fodder plots
- Promotion of non-PA dependent resource substitutes
- Livelihood alternatives for augmenting income

### Environmental education and awareness

- Training and skill development
- Improve awareness, motivation and commitment of local communities for conservation

# SEA framework for environmental review of IEP

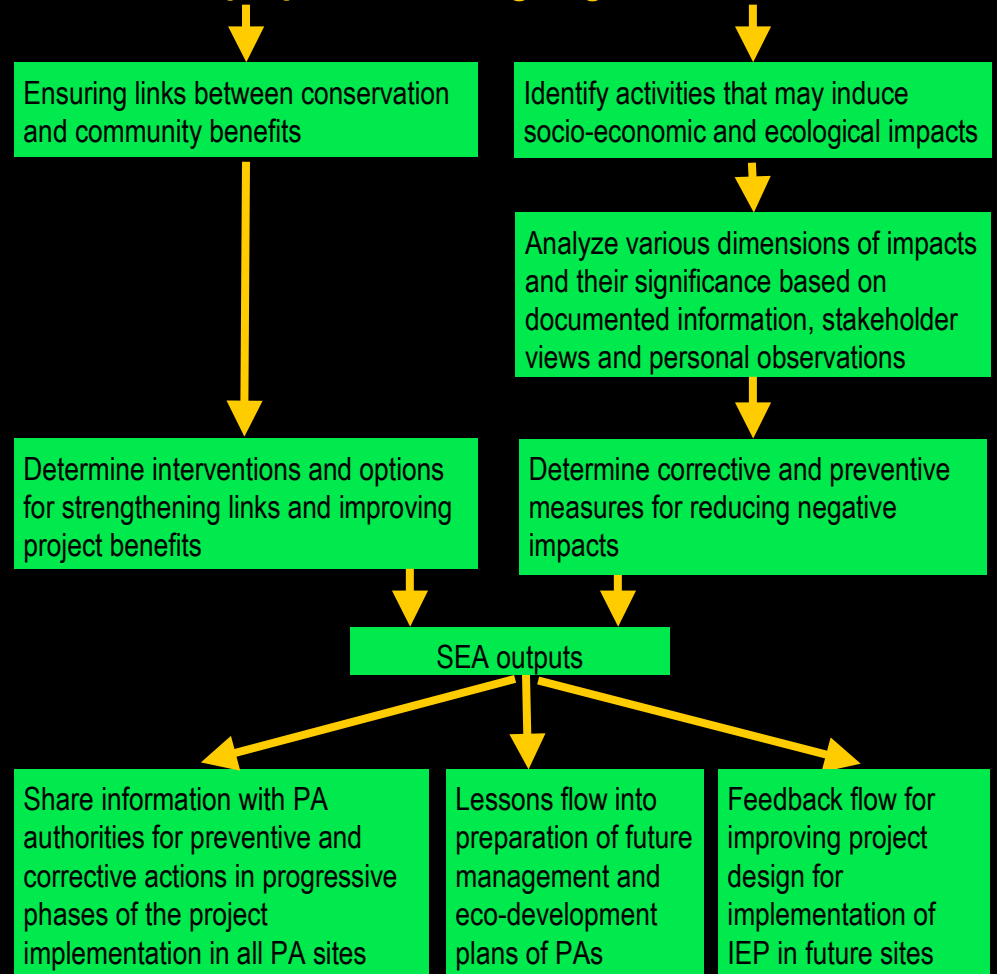


## Objectives of SEA

*Review the success of enabling strategies and investments under the IEP project in effectively addressing biodiversity conservation and optimizing benefits to local communities*

**Serve as a “sounding board” and corrective tool**

## Review of proposed and ongoing activities under IEP



## SEA output and lessons learnt



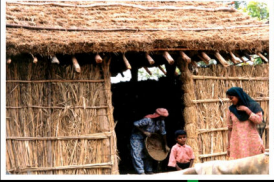
- **Activities under IEP have steered biodiversity conservation by reducing dependence of local people on PAs' resources**
- **Conservation strategies that yield intangible benefits to local communities remained under valued**
- **The success of incentive driven approaches to reduce dependence on PA needs sustained interest of the community and institutional structure**
- **The SEA process appropriately captured the key strengths and weaknesses of the project**
- **The key to success for future IEPs would be in initiating SEA in the earliest phase of the project**



## The greatest merit of SEA was the identification of the major flaw in IEP

**IEP failed to consider external factors that compounded the threats to biodiversity in all the PAs**

Protected Areas	BTR	GIR	PATR	PETR	PYTR	NAGTR	RTR	Threat indicators
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>External threats</p> </div>	√		√	√	√	√		Interstate boundaries
	√							International boundaries
					√			Power lines and highways
	√	√	√			√	√	Mineral industry
			√	√	√			Hydropower schemes
	√							Irrigation canals
	√		√					Sawmills and veneer mills
			√			√	√	Hotels and resorts
	√					√	√	Tea and rubber estate
Highways and rail line	√	√	√	√			√	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Internal threats</p> </div>
Pilgrimage sites within PA		√			√		√	
Village settlements in and around PA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Reservoirs under past hydropower schemes		√		√	√			
Livestock population in and around PA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Fishing				√	√			
Extraction of non-wood products	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	



*Thank you....*