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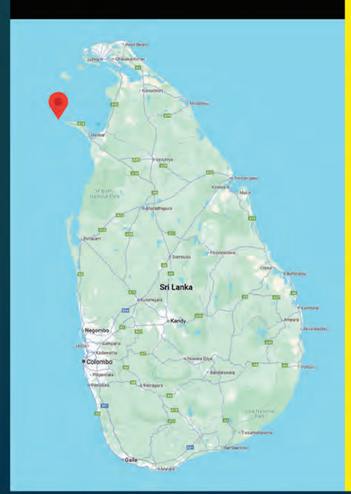
A MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF ADAM'S BRIDGE NATIONAL PARK

Mannar, Northwest coast

What does it protect?



Adam's Bridge National Park, located in northern Sri Lanka, protects a unique array of coastal and marine ecosystems.

The park is a critical habitat for shorebirds, such as the Brown Noddy and various species of terns, providing important breeding grounds for these birds. It also shelters nesting sites for sea turtles, including the Olive Ridley and Hawksbill turtles, and serves as a breeding ground for the endangered dugong.

The park's ecosystems include seagrass beds, coral reefs, sand dunes, sandbars, mangroves, and saltmarshes, all contributing to its rich biodiversity.

Designated as a Marine National Park in June 2015, under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469).

189.9 km²

Review of Protected Area Management Effectiveness

Once a protected area has been designated, it is important to understand how well it is being managed. Various methods can be used to evaluate management effectiveness. One of the most common methods used is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4). This involves answering 38 questions based around five management themes:

PLANNING
Assessment of protected area legislation, design and planning.

INPUTS
Assessment of resources: staff, budget, equipment, and facilities.

PROCESS
Assessment of the way in which management is conducted.

OUTPUTS
Assessment of the implementation of management actions; delivery of products / services.

OUTCOMES
Assessment of the outcomes and the extent to which they achieved the protected areas objectives.

What we did

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme and Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) assessed the management of Adam's Bridge National Park by reviewing available evidence and using DWC Ranger expert opinion on 22 January 2024. We have identified what is working well and key actions that could help to improve management.

Stakeholders

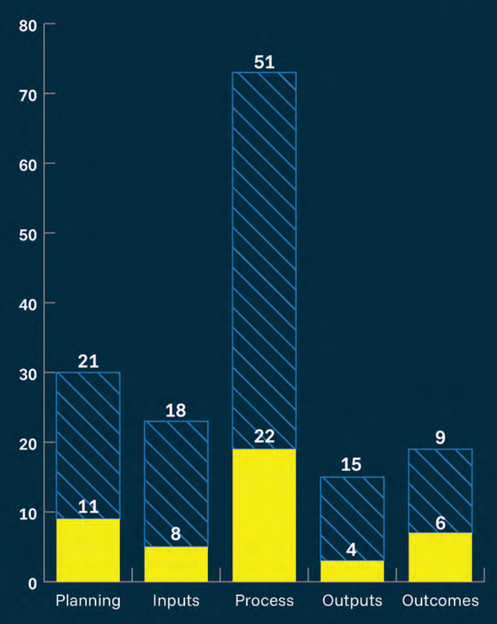
Sectors involved in the review:

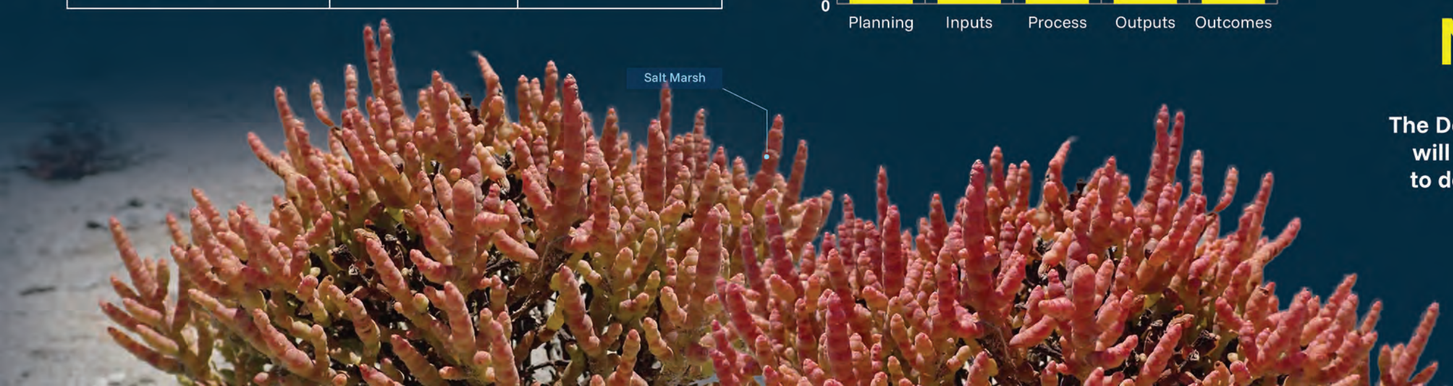
Government

Habitat / Species	Condition	Trend
Migratory birds (feeding and nesting grounds)	Fair	Unknown
Marine ecosystem habitats (seagrass, coral reef, mangroves, sand dunes, limestone shoals)	Fair	Unknown
Threatened species (dugongs & turtles)	Fair	Unknown

METT score per management element

43 — Total assessment element score
117 — Total maximum element score





Identified threats

- Illegal poaching
- Climate change
- Illegal Fishing
- Bycatch of turtles and dugongs
- Sediment erosion
- Pollution
- Invasive plants (*Prosopis juliflora*)
- Local infrastructure (roads, powerlines and shipping lanes)
- Land rights and illegal settlements
- Non-natives (dogs and cattle)

Key successes

1. Sri Lanka's only transboundary protected area allowing for ecosystem-wide protection of the habitats and species, in Sri Lanka and India.
2. The National Park is legally designated under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance.
3. Education programmes are in place for school children, general public and government.
4. Some research occuring focused on the migratory bird species, with hopes this will help get the site listed as a RAMSAR site.
5. Some activities managed through DWC annual work plan for protected areas, which identifies specific actions for the protected areas each year.
6. DWC working with other Sri Lankan government departments and Indian counterparts to support understanding and management of the National Park.

Key actions to improve management

- Develop, with stakeholder input, a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) management plan with clear objectives to protect the values of the National Park.
- Develop objectives for marine habitats and species within the National Park to allow conservation and management of threats.
- Ensure there is a DWC ranger for the National Park and consider if a permanent base in the area is necessary for management.
- Develop a compliance and enforcement strategy for key threats.
- Explore collaborative relationships with other Sri Lankan government departments, NGOs and local communities to support the monitoring, management and research needed for the National Park.

Next Steps

The Department of Wildlife Conservation will use the results of this evaluation to determine priorities for the future.