

Achhabal Wildlife Sanctuary

INTRODUCTION

Nomenclature:

The sanctuary derives its name from the famous 'Achhabal Garden' built by the Mughal emperors falling on the North-West of the Sanctuary. The famous Achhabal Nallah emerges from the North-East of the Sanctuary and merges finally into River Jehlum of Kashmir Valley.

Situation:

The sanctuary is situated about 60km from Srinagar city and falls North-East of it and is 8km from Anantnag town as its district headquarter. The Sanctuary starts from famous Mughal Garden of Achhabal village to village Kachwan, comprising of 8 compartments viz. 1/RK to 8/RK. It is situated between gratitude of 33°38'30" to 33°41'30" N and 75°13'30" to 75°18'15" E.

Status:

Initially the area was notified as 'Achhabal Rakh' vide Cabinet Order No. 710-C of 1945, under Notification No. 2 dated 17.07.1945 and was accordingly upgraded with the status of Wildlife Sanctuary vide Govt. Order No. 128-FST of 1991 dated 13.05.1991.

Area:

The wildlife protected area of Achhabal Wildlife Sanctuary encompasses on an area of 11.92 square kilometers and is roughly rectangular in shape.

Villages:

The following villages fall along the periphery of the Sanctuary which are as Achhabal, Togrighund, Pingwan, khundroo, Sambrona, Nowgam, Pohlu, Kothar, Pushroo, Undoo and Kachwan.

Legal Status:

The Achhabal Wildlife Sanctuary has been taken over from the Forest Department on 01.01.2006. Now the administrative and technical control vests with the J&K Wildlife Protection Department and is under its divisional control head i.e. Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division (Bijbehara). The Wildlife Protection Department is empowered by the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act 1978 amended up to 2002, to carry out its obligations and responsibilities.

Status of Settlement of Rights:

Since the area has been recently taken over from the Forest Department the issue of the settlement of rights is under process and the process of rehabilitation will accordingly be settled.

Postal Address:

Range Officer Bringi Valley Range
Incharge Achhabal WLS
Achhabal, Anantnag J&K, India

(or)

C/O Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir
Bijbehara Anantnag, J&K India

Flora:

Due to variation in altitude, aspect and soil, a diversity of vegetation is discernible in the tract. Four different categories of forest types exist in the Sanctuary. They may be classified as:

I) Riverian Vegetation:

This type of vegetation is mainly confined to the side of tributaries of the Achhabal Nallah near the Achhabal area up to Kachwan. Some principally broad leaved genera such as *Aesculus indica*, *Juglanus regia*, *Rubinia*, *Morus*, *Quercus incana*, *Rhus succedanea*, *Celtis cavacasica*, *Prunus persica*, *Ulmus wallachiana*, *Corylus colourna*, *Padus cornuta* etc.

The shrubs dominating the ground cover include *Parrotiopsis jacquementiana*, *Rosa* species interspersed with *Viburnum*, *Berberies* species, *Rubus*, *Aesculus indicus*, *Lonicera* and *Indigofera* species, *Demodeum*, *Jasmine* and *Isodon* too are existing in the area.

II) Coniferous Forests:

It is an evergreen association of Kail (*Pinus griffithi*), a spruce (*Picea smithiana*) with other broad leaved species *Aesculus indica*, *Quercus incana* and fir (*Abies pindrow*) communities confined to the steeply slopes of the Sanctuary.

At heights, spruce (*Picea smithiana*) is found in association with *Pinus wallichiana*, *Heterantha* shrubs. In some places broad leaved species of Birch (*Betula utilis*) fairly mix up with Kail (*Pinus griffithi*) and spruce, besides *Soboriea tomentosa*, *Rosa* species, *Viburnum* species are found in association with them.

III) Alpine Pasture and Scrubs:

Unidentified grasses of glades, dotted at some places by spruce (*Picea smithiana*) with *Rhododendron*, *Companulatum*, *Rosa* and *Rubus* species, *Juniperus*, *Indigofera*, *Primula*, *Anemone*, *Myosotis* intercept at several places.

IV) Rock Faces:

The vegetation found in this area is confined mostly to the hilltops and gulleys called 'Nars' and is represented by coarse grasses, *Juniperous* species and *Rhododendron* species.

Fauna:

Achhabal Wildlife Sanctuary (Achhabal) is the home of many common, rear and endangered mammalian species which are listed as:

<u>S.#</u>	<u>Name of Animal</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
1)	Kashmiri Stag (Hangul)	<i>Cervus elaphus hangula</i>
2)	The Musk Deer	<i>Moschus moschiferus</i>
3)	The Serow	<i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>
4)	The Himalayan Marmot	<i>Marmot himalayana</i>

5)	The Himalayan Mouse-Hare	<i>Ochotona reyllii</i>
6)	The Kashmiri Flying Squirrel	<i>Hylepated fimbriatus</i>
7)	The Himalayan Yellow Throated Martin	<i>Martes flavigula</i>
8)	The Brown Bear	<i>Ursus isabellinus</i>
9)	The Himalayan Black Bear	<i>Selenaractos thibetanus</i>
10)	The Red Fox	<i>Vulpus montana</i>
11)	The Jackal	<i>Canis aurcus</i>
12)	The Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>
13)	The Leopard Cat	<i>Felis bengalensis</i>
14)	The Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
15)	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>
16)	The Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulata</i>
17)	Snow Leopard	<i>Panthera unica</i>
18)	Barking Deer	<i>Monchus montjiac</i>

Avi Fauna

1)	The Black Eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
2)	The Himalayan Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayansis</i>
3)	The White Backed Vulture	<i>Psedopus bengalensis</i>
4)	The Monal	<i>Lephphorus impeyanus</i>
5)	The Himalayan Snow Cock	<i>Tetragallus himalayansis</i>
6)	The Chuckor	<i>Alectoris chakur</i>
7)	The Koklas	<i>Pucrsia macrolopha</i>
8)	The Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
9)	The Himalayan Rufus Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
10)	The Ring Dove	<i>S. decaota</i>
11)	The Red Turtle Dove	<i>S. tranqubarica</i>
12)	The Asiatic Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus telephones</i>
13)	The Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba melba</i>
14)	The Kashmir Roller	<i>Crocias gasrullus semenwi</i>
15)	The European Hoopoe	<i>Upopa epops epops</i>
16)	The Kashmiri Woodpecker	<i>Trybatus himalaynasis</i>
17)	The Common Swallow	<i>Hirunda rustica</i>
18)	The Rufus Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius schack</i>
19)	The Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus. o. kunde</i>
20)	The Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
21)	The Himalayan Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhychos</i>
22)	The Large Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifrage muhipunctata</i>
23)	The White Checked Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenus</i>
24)	The Streaked Laughing Thrush	<i>Trocalopterus linnactum</i>
25)	The Kashmir Wren	<i>Troglodyles t. neglectus</i>
26)	The Grey Tit	<i>Parus major cahmiriensis</i>
27)	The Kashmir House Sparrow	<i>Passere domesticus</i>
28)	The Black and Yellow Gross-Beak	<i>Perrisospiza i. icteroides</i>
29)	The Pink-Browed Rose Finch	<i>Propasser rhodochrus vigros</i>
30)	The Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
31)	The Pine Bunting	<i>Embriza leucocephala</i>
32)	The White Checked Nuthatch	<i>Sitta leucopsis</i>
33)	The Black Throated Accentor	<i>Prunella atrogullaris</i>
34)	The Indian Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba javanica</i>

Management Objectives

- To create conditions congenial for upliftment of the area in order to ensure the balanced ecosystem, besides implementation of scientific conservation measures for wildlife habitat.
- To identify the importance of the area by identifying the flora and fauna of the sanctuary.
- To tabulate the records of all renewable and non-renewable resources of the area in order to monitor the population fluctuation trends from time to time of rare and endangered species of the area.
- To develop the area as a nucleus of faunal activity, to attract the attention of conservationists, naturalists, ecologists, ornithologists besides tourists. To develop it as wildlife rich areas so as to restock the buffer and fringe zones by normal migration.
- To eradicate all anthropogenic activities which had degraded or deteriorated the area in past and to keep a proper check for containing of these activities.
- To ensure proper drinking and irrigation facilities to the inhabitants living in and around sanctuary, through Achhabal Nallah.
- To ensure peoples' participation in wildlife conservation programmes and thereby develop environmental consciousness in the masses in general and among the school children in particular and to reduce the flood and soil erosion hazards occurring from time to time due to habitat degradation.
- To involve the participation of the local people, biologists and NGOs in various development works, which will help to protect and safeguard the sanctuary.

Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries

I) Demarcation of Boundaries / GIS Mapping:

Demarcation process can be properly done through GIS Mapping and with the help of National Remote Sensing Institute (NRSI) Hyderabad and with local Forest Department. All the protected areas were once part of the Forest, Parks and Gardens Department. They were handed over to J&K Wildlife Protection Department from time to time by notifying the areas as Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Conservation Reserves or Biosphere Reserves, till year 1987. The settlement of rights is yet to be processed in many areas. Therefore the delineation of boundaries is a grave issue, which need to be resolved at earliest through mutual efforts of Forest, Revenue and other authorities for the demarcation of the protected area boundaries. Demarcated protected areas will enable the department to check the magnitude of management practices beneficial for the survival of the wild animals and their dilapidated habitat. This will also help the department to eliminate the menace of encroachment, check free range movement of wild animals and confine Man-Animal Conflicts.

The process of delineation of protected area boundaries shall be made operational through GIS Mapping with joint efforts of Forest Department and NRSI, Hyderabad to update the demarcation records enabling the department to see the quantum of habitat shrinkage through encroachments.

Under this dispense the boundary demarcation will be carried out by erecting concrete cement pillars depicting name, date of demarcation, demarcation code, department emblem etc. by chain link mesh along the actual demarcated area of the protected areas, so that impact in terms of biotic interference and menace of grazing will be minimized and besides eradication of illegal encroachments will become easier. At certain places protected areas and their boundaries can be demarcated by raising barbed wire fencing on Rubenia fence post on temporary basis.

II) Habitat Restoration:

Wildlife protected areas are always under constant thrust through anthropogenic and natural calamities. Reclamation of wildlife protected areas, illegal harvesting of medicinal plants, tree felling, weed infestation, over grazing, diversion of water channels for agricultural practices, fire hazards are some exceptions, whereas natural vagaries in terms of floods, natural fires, soil erosion etc. engulf large chunk of wildlife habitat and take heavy toll of wild animals too.

The mitigative measures are to be ensured to provide a congenial habitat to these wild denizens where they can thrive in tranquility for their survival. Priority has been given to such schemes, which will protect their habitat from further degradation and will provide enumerable benefits like forage, water and protection from poachers etc.

The most vulnerable areas where wild animals can approach human settlements or become easy victims of poachers have been proposed to be fenced up by raising chain link fencing and by raising barriers with barbed wire fencing.

During pinch periods in early winter animals invade crop-fields and damage orchard trees, beehive shelves or inflict heavy injuries to the farmers and fall easy victims to human wrath. Proposal has been emphasized to develop the heavily denuded areas by way of fruit bearing plants, develop pasture nurseries and to adopt silvipasture practices in waste lands, so that wild animal movement can be restricted within the confines of the protected areas.

Over grazing renders area tree less and prone to soil erosion causing floods and soil loses its water retaining capacity. To stop the wastage of water and to retain the water for wild animals exclusively for land irrigation purpose and for drinking of the wild animals during pinch period, water harvesting structures and gully plugging in dry masonry has been given priority.

Sometimes unwanted herbs, shrubs do prevent other nutritious plant species from further growth and unwanted spread of such plant species are hazardous for the whole habitat, their deweeding must be ensured so that other endemic nutritious plant species will grow for wild animals.

Weather calamities perish many wild species or sometimes snowfall take heavy toll of wild animals. Under such circumstances, shelter sheds are very useful to provide relief to these wild animals. Sometimes field functionaries faces lot of difficulties due to inaccessible terrain, inside protected areas. Need is to create inspection paths enabling the field staff to perform their field duties, field biologists to conduct research work in inaccessible work areas and to help wild animals free range movement inside protected areas.

III) Ecotourism:

Tourism sector is the backbone of the state's economy and is inevitable to neglect, as it helps to boost up state's economy besides creating general awareness among the common masses regarding the bounties of nature including flora & fauna and its protection, preservation and propagation. But unfortunately tourism has been dealt from engineering point of view while creating the tourism related infrastructure which resulted in the loss of habitat by way of vegetative degradation due to mushrooming of concrete structures in the form of five star hotels, shopping malls and by creating a mess of metallic roads within the health resorts particularly in protected areas.

Now the concept of Ecotourism in the protected areas is a healthy sign which will not only provide the facilities to the tourists to boost up the tourism sector but will also protect the natural habitats from ecological degradations.

IV) Fire Protection Measures:

Induced fire is an essential wildlife management tool to enable new grasses and legumes to re-grow but accidental fires caused by lightning or burning of charcoal inside wildlife protected areas are engulfing large chunk of tree canopy and besides

taking heavy toll of wild animals. These fire incidents breakout due to the presence of dry grass and dead wood inside the protected areas, as the dry stuff receives fire very easily.

Maintenance of Fire-Lines at important places by removing dead stuff, coarse grasses and by making fire-lines will minimize the fire incidents. Timely preventive measure are possible only if deployment of skilled labours in the form of 'Fire Squads' are engaged during apprehensive periods those too from adjacent villages, so that before fire breakout, it could easily be detected and blown out accordingly. The Fire Squad is to be properly equipped with latest fire extinguishment tools like fire proof jackets, shovels, helmets, jigsaws etc.

Watch towers also play an important role for easily scanning a maximum area in a glimpse, detecting fire incidents, but on the other hand, they also help in observation of wild animals, anti-poaching, anti-grazing activities and help field biologists to monitor the activities of the wild animals.

V) Rescue, Rehabilitation and Health Care:

All protected areas of the valley exist in close proximity with the village hutments. Natural calamities like heavy snowfall, incessant rains, floods, heavy biotic interference or sometime scarcity of food and forage etc force the wild animals to approach the crop fields and invade human settlement. By doing so animals render heavy damage to their crop fields, orchards and livestock and inflict heavy injuries to the human beings too, who sometimes succumb due to injuries. In retaliation, the angry mobs also kill many animals and inflict heavy injuries to them. These animals are rescued by the department and rehabilitated accordingly. The animals that usually come under this category are Black Bears, Leopards, their cubs, Kashmiri Stag (Hangul), Porcupine, Serow and Musk Deer.

The department had launched a programme to establish Rescue and Rehabilitation Centers in each wildlife protected area so that animals will be treated by local veterinarians', field staff and shall accordingly be released in their respective protected areas. These animals are to be rescued from far off areas and that too in trauma conditions, their easy transportation without causing further concussions, is possible if a rescue van is available with the department. Priority has also been given to purchase a rescue van including its fuel emoluments.

It becomes very difficult for field staff to trap any injured animal manually without tools/devices as animals sometimes render heavy casualties to the field staff deployed for the job. To avert such incidents and without causing more distress to the wild animals, proper trapping/tranquilizing tools are essential in operations.

Animals rescued need rearing, carriage, treatment and engagement of additional, skilled Animal Keepers becomes essential constituent of Rescue and Rehabilitation Programme. These rescued animals are sometime rescued from far off areas and outside protected area need private transportation. Expenditure on this account has been emphasized in the action plan. Proper provision for vaccination, medicine, feed and due publicity regarding vaccination camps, animal handling, precautionary

measures to be taken needed to be, displayed through print and electronic media had been taken care in the Management Action Plan.

VI) Anti-Poaching Operations:

Wild animals are subjected to mass hunting for lust of elite classes but with the uproar to conserve the wildlife and their habitat for the survival of other species; a complete arrest has been forced on the killing and poaching of these wild creatures. People are still desirous to vivify the old trend of shooting wild animals. But with the inaction of the J&K Wildlife Protection Act 1978 amended up to 2002, a blanket ban has been imposed on the killing of wild animals.

The present turmoil of the valley had silenced the guns of trigger – happy people and the dedication of vigilant field staff had emasculated the clandestine designs of poachers and currently poaching incidents are reportedly ‘Nil’. However, precautionary measures are still to be adopted to eliminate the menace of wild animal killings.

The additional skilled informers are to be engaged in suspected areas, on whose tipoff precautionary measures would be taken in anticipation to curtail such acts.

Many poachers have been apprehended in the past, whose cases are pending at various courts for final outcome. Hiring of litigates to fight these cases on behalf of the department has been given priority in the MAP so that culprits are brought to the book.

The importance and value of wild animals and their wildlife heritage need proper dissemination through electronic and print media, so that the poaching incidents are minimized and a harmonial attitude is developed amongst general masses towards wildlife. Anti-poaching activities and Anti-grazing Camps needed to be organized in adjacent villages of protected area.

VII) Settlement of Man-Animal Conflicts, Compensation for Damage to Human Beings / Livestock / Crops:

Inclement weather conditions, incessant rains, floods, scarcity of food material, over grazing of wildlife habitats compel the wild animals to search new unsafe destinations and human settlements. They invade crop-fields, damage orchards, break open beehive shelves etc on one hand but on the other hand inflict heavy damages to human life that sometimes succumb to the injuries. They become also engaged to depredate heavily on their livestock renders irreparable loss to the villagers. People in retaliation kill these animals and sometimes animals sustain heavy injuries. If such menace of Man-Animal Conflicts escalates annually their survival will fall in jeopardy. A provision has been drafted to bring a congenial and harmonial relationship between the two communities so that crops, orchards, livestock and human killings and injuries to them will be mitigated properly.

Provision for awareness to prevent losses and to minimize the damage caused to the wild animals has been highlighted in the MAP.

Veterinary Health Camps in the adjacent pockets of the protected areas will be organized by involving all people having adjacent to sanctuary and from veterinary and animal husbandry department to check the diseased animals, vaccinate them properly and inoculation of valuable medicine to get rid both the animal communities from sporadic diseases. Mobile camps will also be organized inside the protected area, to vaccinate and treat the livestock accompanying the tribal people.

VIII) Strengthening of Infrastructure and Development:

The field staff deployed to exercise the anti-poaching, anti-grazing activities and to execute wildlife management practices inside and outside the protected areas are facing the hard crutches by withstanding with the hostile climatic conditions. They have to trek vast and inaccessible areas during the day time and to patrol the area during night hours also. The basic infrastructure facilities are wanting and demand has been highlighted in the MAP to overcome such problems of accommodation.

During summer months, field staff is proposed to render their duties in alpine areas under harsh conditions; provision for purchase of poly-fab barracks has been kept to accommodate them under hostile conditions. The existing infrastructure for the deployed staff is old and that too in dilapidated conditions, need immediate repair and furniture for old and new accommodations have been emphasized in the MAP. Field staff has to approach vast areas; provision for purchase of motor bikes has also been given preference to ease their day to day field duties.

Compilation of field data, preparation of Action Plans, census and survey reports and for day to day office work, provision for establishment of Computer Lab has been reflected in the MAP. The safety of the field functionaries has been emphasized in the MAP so that their health care and insurance schemes are covered properly.

IX) People Participation, Education Activities / Publicity and Awareness:

Wildlife management conservation efforts can not yield prolific results unless general masses, stake holders, people involved in better management programmes, Panchayat members, common folk, school going students are not properly educated about the importance of wildlife and their habitat and the interdependence of one another for the survival of both the communities is essential. Their values of aesthetic, recreation, medicinal and ecological for the human beings needed to be inculcated among the stake holders on priority. Setting up of a visitors center and nature shop each in the protected areas will help the visitors to get acquainted about the wildlife heritage of the area with the same Eco Clubs would be established to achieve prolific results in the wildlife conservation efforts.

The education and awareness is the only tool by which wildlife conservation messages can be imparted through celebration of conservation programmes, debates, quizzes, seminars, folk lore, dance programmes, conservation marches etc are essential to be organized for the same.

Many kinds of hoardings, signage, pamphlets and banners will be prepared to acquaint people about the ethos of wildlife and conservation. Audio-Visual aids

needed to be displayed in schools, community halls etc. Electronic and print media is to be completely involved in dissemination of wildlife conservation messages etc.

Documentary filming of the wildlife heritage of the protected area need to be prepared annually so that people become acquainted about the flora, fauna and conservation efforts in force inside the sanctuary.

X) Monitoring and Evaluation Jointly with Research Institutes and Reputed NGOs:

All the wildlife management practices will not yield any prolific results unless and until research impacts are not embedded in such practices. Research aspects on any issue will be conducted in consultation with experts of national and international repute. Enthusiastic and dedicated, volunteers and NGOs will also be involved in research activities to make it more accurate and result oriented.

The research programmes will be conducted to check the population fluctuation of flagship of wildlife species like Kashmir Stag (Hangul), Musk Deer, Barking Deer and Brown Bear etc who are at the verge of extinction. Their behavioral study, adaptation to the challenging environment, incursion of biotic interference and the root cause for population decline are some of the basic aspects to be ascertained through research programmes.

XI) Preparation of Management Action Plan and Annual Plan of Operations:

Inputs of various researches and survey programmes are supposed to be tabulated and updated so that basic wildlife management tools are implemented for better results. These facts and figures are compiled before any management plan is formulated. Comprehensive management plan is pivotal for any protected area so that knowledge gathered on ground and their redressal is accordingly dealt. Expenditure on preparation of management plan and action plan operations has been emphasized in the management plan.

XII) Census and Survey including Purchase of Survey Equipments:

The base line data of a particular animal in a particular wildlife habitat is obtained only after cohesive census and survey operations are carried out in and outside protective areas. The census figures of most important and highly endangered wild animals like Musk Deer, Black Bear, Brown Bear, Leopards etc would be obtained only after conducting frequent census and survey operations in and outside protected areas. These census figures will reveal population fluctuations and precautionary measures will accordingly be implemented to safeguard their survival.

Some other areas having potential to harbor wildlife will also be surveyed and included in the wildlife protected area network.

XIII) Office Contingency etc:

The protected areas are being monitored from the central office and to run such offices, meager allocation has been reflected in the Management Action Plan to meet their day to day office expenses, stationery, transportation, documentation etc.

Susceptible Injuries to Flora and Fauna

Poaching:

Hunting and illicit poaching had created major hazards in the last decade by depleting the existing wildlife population of the endemic species like the Kashmiri Hangul, Black & Brown Bears, Musk Deer, Barking Deer besides affecting the other pheasant species like the Chakour, Koklas and Monal. But the restrictions imposed naturally due to turmoil during the present decade had almost contained the movement of the hunters inside the sanctuary and a viable population is being observed within the sanctuary.

Grazing:

The area experiences heavy biotic pressure in terms of nomadic invasion especially through Gujjar and Bakerwals who occupies the upper most pasture glades and Alpine areas of Hapat Nar, Nagbal Nallah, Najmal Nallah during summer months. These nomads along with their livestock ruin the area by lopping, wood cutting, denuding the top soil by grazing, exposing the top soil for soil erosion. This soil erosion on the upper ridges pose flooding situations in the Achhabal Nallah, as rain water descends rushly and cause havoc in the lower ridges of the sanctuary.

However, maximum efforts are made by the dedicated field staff to evacuate these nomads outside the sanctuary. The sanctuary fringes had also been heavily deteriorated by the local villagers of Achhabal, Kachwan, Khundroo etc.

Forest Fires:

Leaving aside the manmade fire, natural fires exist sometimes. To control over it anticipatory measures are taken by allowing the local villagers to cut coarse grass species like *Echinolatus*, *Themeda anathera* etc during autumn in order to save the area from fire hazards. It has been observed that most of the herbivore wild animals are not consuming these species.

Diseases:

Wild animals aboding the area are susceptible to get diseases transmitted through domestic livestock. The transmission of diseases like Foot and Mouth diseases, Reinderpest, Anthrax from livestock cannot be ruled out, because the local people takes their livestock on uplands of the Sanctuary to feed them in close with the wild animals.

Encroachment:

Apprehensions of encroachment by the villagers, who dwell near the fringes of the Sanctuary, have posed a constant threat to the Sanctuary. In order to safeguard the Sanctuary from such illicit encroachment, deterrent field staff had always taken stringent measures to desist them from doing so and the pressure from the protected area had been reduced to a greater extent.

Census:

No census operation has been carried out in the protected area except some surveys which substantiate that the area is rich in harboring wildlife heritage. Since the area is under the control of wildlife census and survey programmes will be taken on priority.

Staff Position:

S. #	Designation	Achhabal WLS
01)	Forester	01 (I/C Range Officer)
02)	Deputy Foresters	Nil
03)	Guards	06
04)	Watchers	01
05)	Field Chowkidars	02
06)	Orderlies	01
07)	Helpers	02
Total		13

Wildlife Trained Staff:

S. #	Designation	No. of Staff
01)	Range Officer - I	Nil
02)	Range Officer - II	Nil
03)	Forester	01
04)	Guards	01
Total		02

Entry Fee Collected from last Five Years:

Name of the Area	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Achhabal WLS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of Tourists/Visitors : Nil

Shooting of Films : Nil

Funds Provided during last Five Years:

State Plan					Centrally Sponsored Scheme				
2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Nil	Nil	Nil	01.36 Lac	01.60 Lac	10.50 Lac	25.94 Lac	23.60 Lac	16.838 Lac	17.72 Lac

Funds provided for Sanctuary from other schemes : Nil

Status of Survey and Demarcation of the Boundaries:

The area was notified in the year 1945 as Wildlife Sanctuary. The area is being delineated naturally from forest land, revenue land and village land through alpine ridges, flowing

streams of Achhabal Nallah, glaciers and upland merges and metallic road leading to Kachwan from Anantnag Kashmir. However, demarcation of boundaries touching village land is underway. No incident of land encroachment has so far been reported about Achhabal Wildlife Sanctuary. No human habitation exist inside the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Fire Incidents (area in hectares):

<u>Name of WLS</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Achhabal WLS	11.65	Nil	Nil	02.95	0.875

Number of Weapons and how they are put to use:

**Long Range Projectile = 01 for immobilization of strayed wild animals.
(with accessories)**

Wireless Communication System:

The wireless system provided to the department of Wildlife Protection by sister concerned department i.e. J&K Forest Protection Force is now obsolete due to the coming up of Cellular Phones and are therefore defunct because the main operating system was under the control of Forest Protection Force which is defunct. Obviously the system is to be replaced by Cellular Phones.

Number of Ranges/Blocks/Beats:

- I) Ranges : 01 (Part of Bringi WLP Range)
- II) Blocks : 02
- III) Beats : 04

