**Table 2**. **Disturbance levels in study sites**

(0 = no disturbance; 1 = low; 2 = medium; 3 = high disturbance level)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Disturbance** | **Andhari SF** | **Dedungri SF** | **Gugarpat SG** | **Medha SF** | **Papanga SF** |
| Temple Impact |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Site encroachment for temple and community hallconstruction | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 1. Width of road to temple | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Visitor impact |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Vehicle parking | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 1. Cooking | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 1. Festival attendance | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 1. Path clearance for festivals | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 1. Picnic | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 1. Plastic disposal | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Resource removal |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Timber | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 1. Firewood | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 1. NTFPs | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 1. Soil | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Invasive/exotic plant species | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Grazing | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Trails | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| **Total score** | **18** | **30** | **7** | **40** | **25** |

***Scoring Criteria***

**Temple Impact**

**Site encroachment:** 0 = only idols with symbols on bare ground, 1 = idols without temple building in a small area, 2= temple with small area of concrete structure, 3= temple with large area of concrete structures.

**Width of the road**: 0 = No road, 1 = < 5 feet, 2 = 5-10 feet, 3 = < 10 feet road width.

**Visitor Impact**

**Vehicle parking:** 0 = No parking area, 1= small parking area on edge of the forest, 2= large parking area on the edge of the forest, 3 = Parking area constructed with interior forest clearance.

**Cooking:** 0 = No cooking within forest area, 1 = Cooking only during festival for worship purpose only, 2 = Occasional cooking inside forest using forest firewood for devotees; 3 = Frequent, large-scale cooking inside forest using forest firewood for devotees.

**Festival attendance**: 0 = no visitors to festivals, 1 = low number of festival visitors, 2 = medium number of festival visitor, 3 = very high number of festival visitors.

**Path clearance for festivals**: 0= No forest clearance, 1 = clearance of only edge species, 2 = clearance of edge species and interior species (only herbs and shrubs), 3 = Clearance of edge and interior species including trees.

**Picnic**: 0= No picnics held, 1= Very rare, 2 = Occasional, 3 = Frequently.

**Plastic disposal:** 0 = No plastic use/disposal, 1= Plastic disposal only in forest edges during festival, 2= Plastic disposal both in edge and interior area during festival, 3 = Plastic disposal in both edge and interior during festival as well as in other days during picnic.

**Resource removal (timber, firewood, NTFPs, soil** – based on both observations in the forest and conversations with community members**):** 0 = No removal, 1= Rare, 2= Occasional, 3 = Frequent

**Exotic and/or invasive plant species:** 0 = Absent, 1 = Present in herbaceous layer (< 1000/ha), 2= Present in in herbaceous layer (> 1000/ha), 3 = Present in both herbaceous and shrub layer.

**Grazing** = 0 = No grazing, 1 = occasional on edge, 2 = Regular on edges, 3= Regular on both edge and interior of the forest.

**Trails** = 0 = No trails in forest, 1 = under three trails, 2 = moderate number of trails, 3 = Many trails.