



KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Administration

- Director, Kaziranga National Park
- Conservator of Forests
- Divisional Forest Officer
- Assistant Conservator of Forests
- Range Officers
- Frontline Forest Staff

Park Ranges

- Kohora (Central) Range
- Bagori (Western) Range
- Ghorakati (Burapahar) Range
- Agaratoli (Eastern) Range
- Biswanathghat (Northern) Range

Contact Details

Director, Kaziranga National Park
P.O. Bokakhat – 785 612
District Golaghat
Assam

Tel: +91 3776 268095
Fax: +91 3776 268095
E-mail: dir.kaziranganp@gmail.com

Travel

Road: Tezpur (75 km), Jorhat (90 km), Guwahati (220 km)
Rail: Guwahati Railway Station
Air: LGB International Airport, Guwahati

Accommodation

Inspection Bungalows: Forest Department
Tourist Lodges: Tourism Department
Resorts, Hotels, Lodges, Inns, Paying Guest : Private owners

Season to Visit

November to April

Conservation Milestones

- Reserved Forest (Proposed), 1905
- Reserved Forest, 1908
- Game Sanctuary, 1916
- Wildlife Sanctuary, 1950
- National Park, 1974
- Six additions to Kaziranga notified, 1985-1999
- World Heritage Site, 1985
- Tiger Reserve (Core), 2006

Kaziranga National Park, located in the State of Assam in North East India, a biodiversity hotspot, is the single largest undivided and representative area of the Brahmaputra valley floodplain grasslands and forests with associated biodiversity. The park, represents one of the last unmodified natural areas in the North Eastern region of India. It is a vast wet alluvial tall grassland, interspersed with numerous water bodies (bheels) and patches of deciduous to semi-evergreen woodlands. The fluctuations of River Brahmaputra result in spectacular examples of riverine and fluvial processes. Kaziranga is regarded as one of the finest wildlife refuges in the world and is a veritable storehouse of biodiversity.

Excerpt from Adoption of Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value at the 35th Session of World Heritage Committee, Paris, 2011.

This publication is produced under the ATREE-UNESCO Project, 2012
Website: www.assamforest.gov.in; www.worldheritagekaziranga.org

Front and Back Cover Photograph : SANDESH KADUR



Kaziranga fulfills the following 'Natural criteria' for assessment of its 'Outstanding Universal Value' under the World Heritage Convention:

Criteria (ix):...be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

Criteria (x):...contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Area: 429.93 sq. km. (World Heritage Site and National Park)
859.42 sq. km. (includes Six Additions to Kaziranga National Park)
883 sq.km. (includes Kukurakata and Panbari Reserve Forests)

Coordinates: 26°34'N to 26°46'N and 93°08'E to 93°36'E

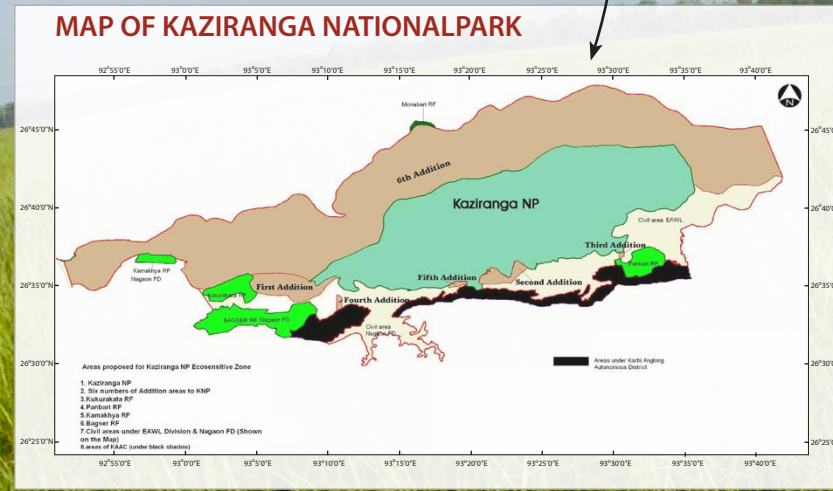
Location: Nagaon, Golaghat and Sonitpur Districts, Assam

Altitude: 67 to 80 m AMSL

Climate: Sub-tropical Monsoon Climatic Zone

Rainfall: > 2000 mm

Temperature: 7°C – 35°C



Map Source: O/A Director, Kaziranga National Park



Forest anti-poaching camp



Forest guards on boat patrol

The Greater One-horned Rhinoceros is the flagship species of the site, which incidentally is also a home to two-thirds of its global population. The park was singularly responsible for initiating the recovery of the rhino from the brink of extinction at the turn of the 20th century.

Encompassing a mosaic of varied habitat types, the site is structured and maintained by a combination of the ecological process of flooding and the management practice of burning. As per Champion and Seth (1968), the forest types and biomes found in Kaziranga include:

- Eastern Wet Alluvial Grasslands
- Assam Alluvial Grasslands
- Assam Alluvial Plains
- Semi-evergreen Forest
- Tropical Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest
- Eastern Dillenia Swamp Forest
- Wetlands and 'chaurs'



Short grassland



Tall grassland



Fallen Flowers of Slow Match Tree *Careya arborea*



Woodland



Wetland

The diverse habitat types found in Kaziranga support over 440 species of plants. Grasslands dominate the area covering over two-thirds of it. Short grasses such as *Cynodon dactylon*, *Chrysopogon aciculatus* and *Andropogon spp* are common around shallow water bodies or 'bheels' while species such as *Erianthus ravennae*, *Saccharum elephantinus* and *Imperata cylindrica* grow up to 5 meters tall and cover large areas of the site. A common species in marshy areas is *Arundo donax* with water loving plants such as *Ipomoea*. Amongst trees, prominent colonizers include *Ziziphus mauritiana* and *Bombax ceiba*, commonly seen scattered across the grasslands.



Amorphophallus balbifer



Fungus spp.



Calanthe triplicata



Asiatic Wild Buffalo *Bubalus arnee*



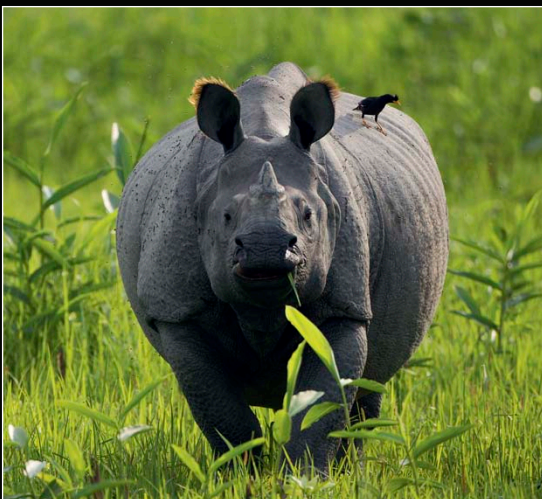
Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*



Rucervus duvaucelii ranjitsinhi



Hog Deer *Axis porcinus*



Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*

Located in the Indo-Malayan bio-geographic realm, the site is home to about 35 species of mammals of which 15 are threatened and listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Vast stretches of grasslands support a diversity of large herbivores and their predators. Amongst these, the 'Big Five' draw immense attention. These include the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros, Asian Elephant, Wild Buffalo, Swamp Deer and the Bengal Tiger.

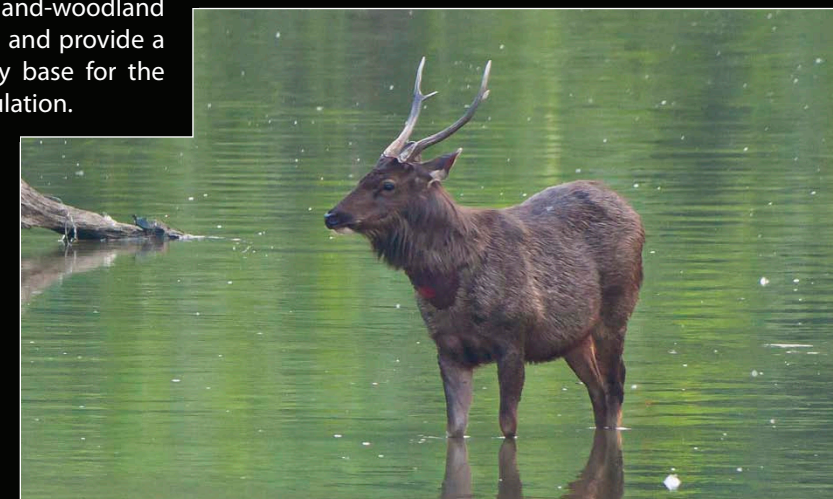


Bengal Tiger *Panthera tigris*

A variety of deer species such as the rare Swamp Deer, Hog Deer, Barking Deer and Sambar thrive in the grassland-woodland habitat mosaic and provide a significant prey base for the carnivore population.



Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjak*



Sambar *Rusa unicolor*



Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclendii*

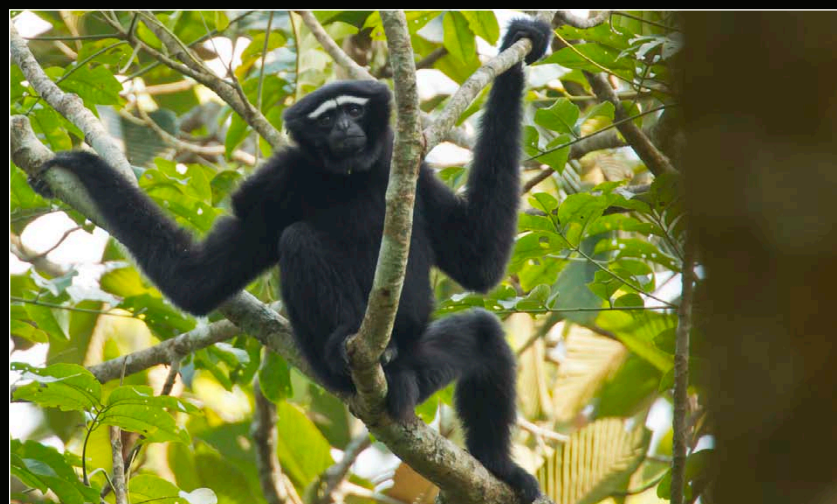
In the small pockets of forested areas, five species of primates are found. These include the rare Slow Loris, Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur and the relatively more abundant Assamese macaque and Rhesus Macaques.

High densities of mega herbivores found at the site, support one of the highest densities of tigers in the world. Other large carnivores such as the Leopard, Sloth Bear, and Hog Badger are also found in this area.

A diversity of smaller, elusive carnivores complements the larger species. These include several species of viverrids and mustelids along with some rare small cats such as the Fishing Cat.



Capped Langur *Trachypithecus pileatus*



Western Hoolock Gibbon *Hoolock hoolock*



Fishing Cat *Prionailurus viverrinus*



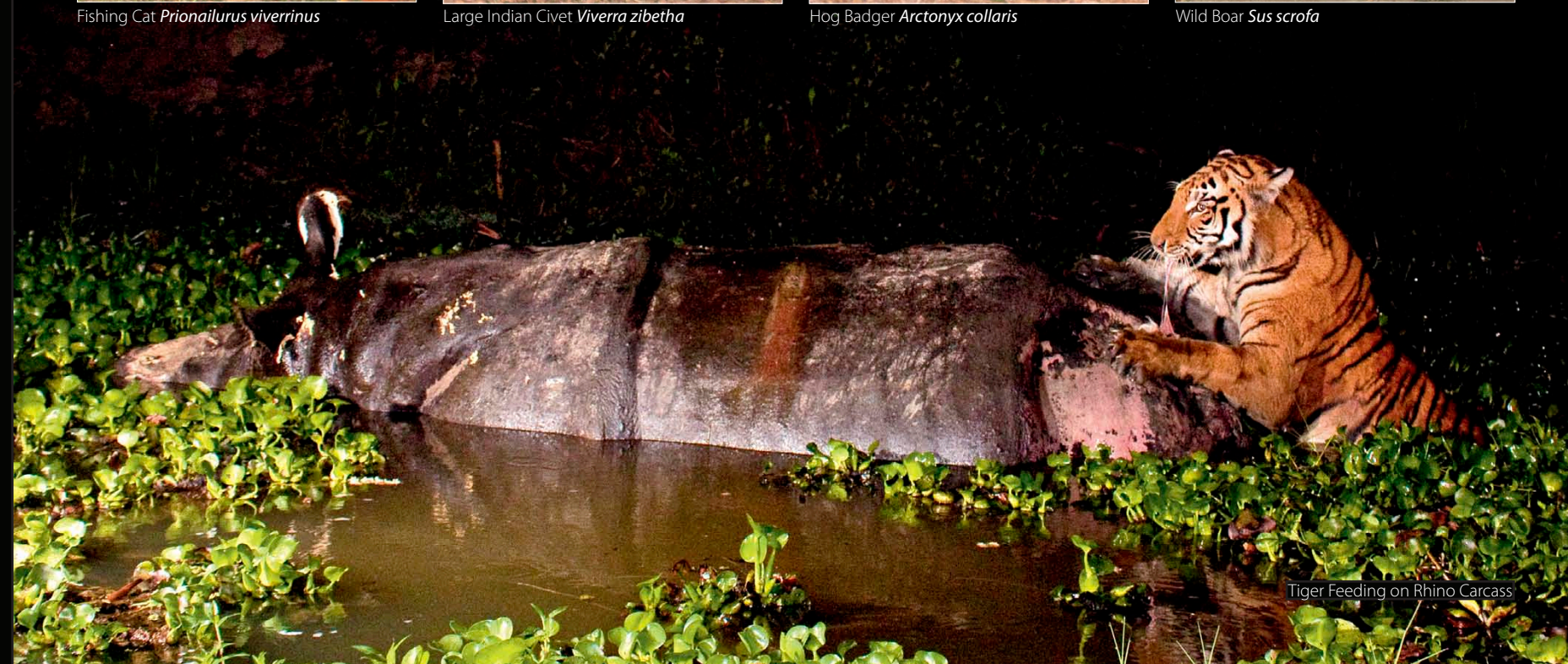
Large Indian Civet *Viverra zibetha*



Hog Badger *Arctonyx collaris*



Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*



Tiger Feeding on Rhino Carcass

Located at the junction of the Australasia and Indo-Asia flyways, Kaziranga exhibits considerable diversity in avifauna and is recognised by BirdLife International as an 'Important Bird Area'. Over 500 species of birds have been recorded here of which 24 are globally threatened. Known for its large aggregations of water birds, it is also a home to rare species such as Greater and Lesser Adjutant, the Oriental White-backed Vulture, and a grassland specialist, the Bengal Florican.



Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*



Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*



Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*



Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*



Horsfield's Khaleej Pheasant
Lophura leucomelanos lathami



Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*



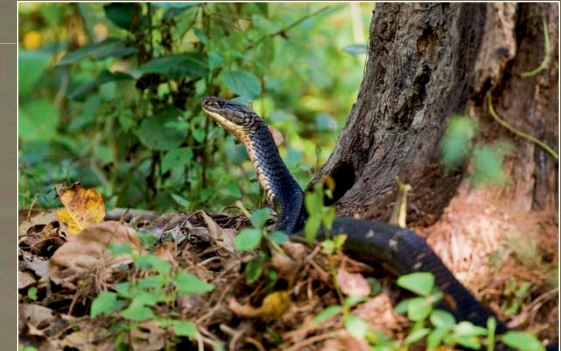
Bengal Florican *Haubaropsis bengalensis*



Common Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*



Burmese Python *Python molurus bivittatus*



King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah*

Photo: Bhubhan Gogoi



The unique biodiversity of Kaziranga is further augmented by around 100 species of herpetofauna and a large number of inadequately studied invertebrates. The amphibian diversity of the site is represented by 24 species belonging to 14 genera while the 74 species of reptiles found in the area include 17 species of turtles, 35 of snakes and 21 of lizards along with 1 crocodilian species.

Assam Roofed Turtles *Pangshura sylhetensis*

Photo: Seth Patterson

Along the fringe areas of the southern boundary of the park are located 150 revenue villages. These villages comprise of Assamese, Mishing, Karbi, Nepali, tea tribes and Muslim communities. The ethnic population is mainly dependent on marginal agriculture, livestock rearing and tea plantation along with minor daily wage activities for their livelihood. A smaller section of other settled populations with urban access are also engaged in government jobs and local business.



Karbi community in ethnic attire



Weekly village market for local produce



Mishing community traditional stilt house



A tourist's paradise, Kaziranga is amongst the most popular wildlife viewing sites in the country. It allows vehicle safaris and elephant rides inside the park, while offering a variety of accommodation facilities and convenient travel logistics for visitors.



Photo: Bhubhan Gogoi



The UNF/UNFIP approved project, "Building Partnerships to Support UNESCO's World Heritage Programme: India" was envisaged for the promotion of long term management and conservation of natural World Heritage Sites (WHS) in India. Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) coordinated the implementation of the project at Manas National Park and Kaziranga National Park, in association with the Department of Environment and Forests, Govt. of Assam. The project was implemented over a four-year period (2008 – 2012) and was supported by the Ford Foundation, the Sehgal Foundation and the United Nations Foundation.

The principle objectives of the project were to:

- increase the capacity of site staff for effective conservation, management and protection;
- enhance the stake and the involvement of local communities in the parks;
- increase the connectivity at the larger landscape scale;
- restore lost attributes of existing World Heritage Sites;
- incorporate principal concepts of modern ecological and social science in management and monitoring;
- raise the profile of the sites through communication and advocacy;
- reform policies and governance to enable effective response to contemporary challenges to the conservation of biodiversity.



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