



State of Conservation Report of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N338)

RESPONSE TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE DECISION 38 COM 7B.11



FIELD DIRECTOR, MANAS TIGER PROJECT,
BARPETA ROAD, ASSAM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party	India
State, Province or Region	Assam, Bodoland Territorial Areas District (Baksa)
Name of Property	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
Criteria under which property inominated	<p>Criterion-vii: <i>To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;</i></p> <p>Criterion-ix: <i>to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes;</i></p> <p>Criterion-x: <i>To 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.</i></p>
Response to the Committee Decision 39COM 7B.11	<p>The World Heritage Committee vide its decision no 39COM 7B.11 in 2015 has sought a few clarifications from the State Party with regards to the annual update on the OUVs of the Property that was taken out of the World Heritage in Danger List in 2011.</p> <p>The Executive Summary of the detailed response is as mentioned below-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Manas National Park is recently added with an area of 350 Sq Km. in the west (District -Chirang, BTAD) . The present area of the National Park is now 850 Sq Km. Copy of the Notification along with a Map is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE-1 & 2. This is also in concurrence with the proposed W.H.C. suggestion on three -stage extension of the Property vide 35 COM 7A.13 of 2011</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Property will be getting more fund compared to last few years. Besides NTCA, the Park authority is getting fund from Biosphere Reserve, Project Tiger, under 13 Finance Commission, Project Elephant, CORPUS Fund, APFBC etc. The Manas Tiger Conservation Foundation also received about Rs.73.69007 Lakhs during 20115-16 which will be used by the Park as and when any amount is required and also as a stop gap arrangement during the fund channelization process. 2) The Poaching of Rhinos in Manas National Park is currently under control with the implementation of SMART patrolling, increase in forest frontline staff and number of functional anti-poaching camps. This is complemented with an enhanced intelligence network that has led to increase in number of seizures related to wildlife crime in the year 2013-14. 3) Swamp Deer translocation has been undertaken as per protocol and schedule. 19 swamp deer were translocated

	<p>from Kaziranga to Manas on 28th December' 2014. The population of Swamp Deer is found to increase from 41 to 83 during a counting exercise carried out during this year.</p> <p>4) Similarly, the Population of Wild Buffalo is also found to increase from 200 to 411 (2016)</p> <p>5) The encroachment at Bhuyanpara is currently under control with no new clearing of forests for cultivation. The eviction shall be carried out during last week of November/1st week of December, 2016 followed by boundary demarcation and bringing in the Army led Eco-Task Force for protection and habitat restoration activities.</p> <p>6) The overall law and order situation in the region has been stable at the time of writing this report. Regular Patrolling is carried out by Para-Military forces. Besides their assigned duties, they help Park authorities as and when requested</p> <p>7) So far 18 Eco-development committees have been formed with the forest fringe villages. Thirty percent of the Manas Tiger Conservation Foundation funds are also earmarked for support to the local community by participation, preparation of micro-plan and stakeholder-ship in the conservation planning.</p> <p>8) Transboundary cooperation with Royal Manas National Park (which is on the tentative World Heritage Site list) has been formalized and collaborative surveys on research and monitoring of flagship species such as tigers have been carried out.</p> <p>In conclusion, the property has complied with all recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee and the State Party has been able to maintain the OUVs of the property. World Heritage Committee is requested kindly to recognize Manas National Park (500 Sq.Km) to be the Property as part of the three -stage extension. This is also in concurrence with the proposed W.H.C. suggestion on three -stage extension of the Property vide 35 COM 7A.13 of 2011</p>
<p>Name and contact information of official local institution/agency</p>	<p>Organization: Assam Forest Department</p> <p>Address: Field Director, Manas Tiger Project, Barpeta Road. Assam. India781315</p> <p>Tel: +91-3666-261413(O) Res:+91-3666-260251 Mobile +91-9435111172</p> <p>Email : fd.manastp@gmail.com</p>

PARA 3- WELCOMES THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE STATE PARTY, PARTICULARLY TO SECURE THE PROPERTY AND TO ADDRESS CIVIL STRIFE IN THE AREA, SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH LEVEL SECURITY COMMITTEE, ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND INCREASED PATROLLING, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF SMART (SPATIAL MONITORING AND REPORTING TOOL) PATROLLING, AND NOTES WITH APPRECIATION THAT THESE ACTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE RESULTED IN A DECREASE OF POACHING IN 2014

The Park authority will like to state that due to the whole-hearted effort there was no poaching in 2015. But unfortunately, during 2016 in early part taking the advantage of prevailing law & order situation when entire Civil & Police Administration were busy during the election to Assam Legislative Assembly, two rhinos were killed by poacher. One sub-adult was killed in Bhuyanpara Range and other one was killed near Sidhajhar Camp area of Kahitama Beat under Bansbari Range.

Since last February special training of staff has been arranged in collaboration with internationally acclaimed NGOs at Bhuyanpara Range for the staff of the Range and it has increased efficiency of staff to a great extent. A report in this regard is annexed herewith (ANNEXURE-1). During next financial year, efforts are on to start such specialized training in Panbari Range which is presently outside the Property

PARA 4- NOTES WITH CONCERN THE REPORT BY THE IUCN CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP INDICATING A HIGH RISK OF LOCAL EXTINCTION OF RHINO WITHIN 30 YEARS IF POACHING IS NOT ERADICATED, AND ENCOURAGES THE STATE PARTY TO CONTINUE INCREASING ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT POACHING IN ORDER TO SECURE THE PROPERTY AND ITS RECOVERING OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV) IN PARTICULAR THE REINTRODUCED RHINO AND EASTERN SWAMP DEER POPULATIONS INCLUDING BY:

- I. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FRONTLINE STAFF AT THE PROPERTY,
- II. TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BOOST THE FOREST STAFF MORALE AND,
- III. ENSURING ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT OF FOREST STAFF TO PROTECT THE PROPERTY FROM HEAVILY ARMED POACHERS AND INSURGENT GROUP

(i) The Present deployment of Frontline staff is given below:-

Sl. No.	Category of post	Originally Sanctioned Strength	Allotted by BTC in 2011	Man in Position	Vacant	Transfer vacant	Excess
1	2	3		5	6	7	8
1	Deputy Ranger	4		1	3		
2	Forester -I	31	2	19	2	12	
3	Forester -II	2	10	14			2
4	Forest Guard	165	15	143	10	27	
5	Mahut	22		15	7		
6	Game Watcher	44		27	2	16	
7	Driver	8		5	3		
8	Handiman	3		1	2		
9	Grass Cutter	23		19	4		
	TOTAL	302	27	244	33	55	2

To meet the shortfall, the park authority engaged Armed Home Guard, Casual Laborer and Service Providers as below. Some more will be engaged once the eviction operation completed to strengthen the staff strength of some camps.

Category		Bansbari Range	Bhuyanpara Range	Panbari Range	H. Q. Beat	Total
Armed Home Guard	Under CSS Project Tiger	60	-	-	-	60
	WAD&WT	6	14	-	-	20
Casual Labourer	Under CSS Project Tiger	44	20	2	19	85
	BTC	25	1	2	1	29
Armed AFPF Jawans		38	8	-	-	46
Service Provider/NGO		61	63	28	-	152

(ii) To boost up the moral of staff number following steps have been taken:-

- a) Training programme have been arranged since February/2016 for the staff of Bhuyanpara with the collaboration of some well-known NGO like AARANYAK, PANTHERA etc. in different phases which include General Patrolling, Combat, Ambush, Map reading, use of GPS, etc. and it as helped in a great way to enhance efficiency and moral of staff.
- b) For use of staff, ten number of Motorbike has been provided by AARANYAK with IUCN-KfW funding this year. In addition, five nos. of Motorbikes have been received from Assam Area Project on Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC)
- c) In addition to above, two nos. of Gypsy, four nos. of Bolero Camper, One no. of Bolero Thar Jeep, One no. of Excavator and one no. of Dumper (Tripper) have been received this year . These vehicles have increased the mobility of staff to a great extent.
- d) Next year, the Training programme will be started for the staff of Panbari Range also with the collaboration of AARANYAK, PANTHERA etc.
- e) Twenty-eight staff were send for an exposure visit to nearby Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal to get an idea about management practices there.
- f) More such short duration exposure visit will be arranged during this financial year (2016-17)

(iii) Assam government has already started procurement procedure for sophisticated arms for all Protected areas of Assam. Once it is completed the Staff of Manas also will be able to use sophisticated arms and this will definitely help to face the problem of poaching.

Besides above the Park Authority has decided to purchase some more wireless sets with the fund earmarked in AOP under CSS Project Tiger during current year.

Wildlife Conservation Trust of India also provided many items recently for use of Anti-Poaching Staff to increase their moral, mobility and living condition.

PARA 5- REQUEST THE STATE PARTY TO CONFIRM THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED SHORT TERM ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ENCROACHMENT AT BHUYANPARA RANGE AND TO REPORT ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN REVERSING CURRENT AND PREVENTING FURTHER ENCROACHMENT THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LONG TERM MEASURES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND GARNER THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PROPERTY

Combating encroachment in Bhuyanpara (Short-term Plan)

- As planned earlier, the eviction operation could not be taken up during January, 2015 due to ensuing election of Assam Assembly. As the rainy season is over, we have planned to carry out the operation during the last week of November/1st week of December, 2016 and accordingly necessary preparation have been made.
- Eviction notice has already been served to the encroachers
- Immediately after eviction, for the purpose of area domination we have planned to engage some more Armed Home Guard and casual laborer
- The camps at Khoirbari, Agrang, Panda, Betbari, Maozi and Tangunmara would accordingly be strengthened with the additional forces to meet the challenges
- We are also going to deploy one section of Eco-Task force (Indian Territorial Army) at Betbari area. They will start immediately the habitat restoration work
- Side by side the Park authority will start erection of new boundary pillar. In some places, trenches will be dug out to demarcate the Park Boundary to check further encroachment.
- New Roads, installation of fencing will also be carried out with the fund to be received under various schemes.

Combating encroachment in Bhuyanpara (Long-term Plan)

- It has been reported earlier that the encroachment is not of a permanent nature and the people from at least 30 villages from nearby areas participate in clearing and cultivating small portions of grassland. Such encroachment was often backed and controlled by armed miscreants who have been identified and the information shared with intelligence authorities. A reconciliatory attempt to talk to the encroachers and come up with an amicable solution was also attempted by the Park authorities in 2011 with support of the local NGOs.
- An IUCN supported Lively hood support Programme has already been started in the fringe areas which will help Park Authority to garner cooperation and support of villagers residing nearby:
- Altogether eighteen (18) nos. of Eco-Development Committees have been formed in the fringe areas of Bansbari and Bhuyanpara Range. Funds will be provided by APFBC and Govt. of India to start development activities in the area.

PARA 6- ALSO REQUEST THE STATE PARTY TO UNDERTAKE A DETAILED STUDY ON THE USE OF FIRE AS A TOOL FOR GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ITS APPLICATION DOES NOT RESULT IN THE FURTHER SPREAD OF SOME INVASIVE SPECIES, AND TO ALLOCATE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO CONTROL THE LONG-STANDING THREAT OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE PROPERTY

In this regard fund, has been provided in the CMap for Biosphere Reserve and CSS-Project Tiger. Burning, manual uprooting will be started from the first week of December, 2016

Demand for fund for Grass land Management is also submitted under Assam Project for Forest & Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) this year and it has been assured that the fund will be released by the Project Management Unit shortly.

PARA 7- ALSO NOTES WITH CONCERN THAT DESPITE THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF MANAS TIGER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, THE PROPERTY REMAINS INADEQUATELY FUNDED, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE SLOW RELEASE OF FUND BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT REPORTED BY THE STATE PARTY AND STRONGLY URGES THE STATE PARTY TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO THE PROPERTY AS THIS IS CRUCIAL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ACTIONS AND TO SIGNIFICANTLY ADDRESS THE THREATS TO THE PROPERTY.

During the last year like all other departments of State of Assam, Forest Department also suffered badly due to fund crunch. However the position has improved a lot . The detailed provision of fund released during last few years along with fund sanctioned during the current year is mentioned below: -

Table-1:- Disbursement of fund received from Central and State Government to Manas National Park in the last four year:-

Sl. No.	Item	Year	Amount sanctioned (INR Lakhs or in Million USD*)and Date	Amount released from Assam state Government (lakhs) and date received by Park authority	Remarks
1	National Tiger Conservation Authority, Government of India	2011-12	INR 553.04 (USD0.886633728) on 30/09/2011	a) INR 479.62 (USD0.768926784) Dtd. 14/3/2013 b) INR 73.42 (USD 0.117706944) Dtd. 21/03/2012	
		2012-13	INR273.176 (USD0.437955763) on 17/08/2012	a) INR 273.176 (USD 0.437955763) dtd. 15/03/2013 b) INR 8.65 (USD 0.001388226) dtd. 26/03/2013	a) Received from DC, Chirang (b) received from State
		2013-14	INR 496.85 (USD0.79654992) on19/09/2013	a) INR 372.9185 (USD0.597862939) Dtd. 13/11/2013 b) INR 24.855 (USD 0.003988945)	a) Received from DC, Chirang

				Dtd. 21/12/2013 c) INR 99.07650 (USD 0.015900654) Dtd.04/03/14	
		2014-15	INR 396.46 (USD0.635604672) on 16/06/2014	a) INR 140.00 (USD 0.022468411) Dtd. 18/02/2015 b) INR 183.144 (USD 0.029392534) Dtd. 20/03/2015	
		2015-16	INR 339.80 (USD0.545340452) On 28/08/2015	a) INR 54.5706 (USD 0.008181499) Dt. 30/03/2016 b) INR 205.289 (USD 0.030777961) Dt. 25/07/2016	
		2016-17	INR 718.944 (Sanctioned on 04/11/2016	In the process of release	
2	Project Elephant, Govt. of India	2011-12	INR 3.43 (USD 0.005498976)	a) INR 3.43 (USD0.000550476) Dtd. 31/03/2012	a) Received from DFO, Kaziranga
		2012-13	INR 11.17 (USD 0.017907744) on 30/03/2013	a) INR 11.17 (USD0.017907744) Dtd. 31/08/2013	(b) Received from DFO, Zoo Guwahati
		2013-14	Nil	-	-
		2014-15	Nil	-	-
		2015-16	Nil	-	-
		2016-17	INR 11.80	in the process of release	
3	Biosphere Reserve, Govt. of India	2011-12	Nil		
		2012-13	INR 60.46 (USD0.096929472) on 8/10/2012	INR 60.46 (USD0.096929472) Dtd. 02/11/2012	2 nd installment of 2008-09
		2013-14	Nil		
		2014-15	Nil		
		2015-16	Nil		
		2016-17	INR 88.7008 Lakhs	in the process of release	
4	Govt. of BTC	2011-12	INR 547.812 (USD 0.878252198)	Released time to time during the financial year	
		2012-13	INR 1214.28864 (USD 1.946747548)	-Do-	
		2013-14	INR 508.25819 (USD 0.81483953)	-Do-	
		2014-15	INR 90.99461 (USD 0.145882559)	-Do-	
		2015-16	INR 1075.69 (USD 0.161272863)	-Do-	
		2016-17	1,01,00,000.00	Released	
5	Manas Tiger Conservation	2011-12	INR 17.21086 (USD0.027592451)	Available with Park Authority	Funds being utilized as a

	Foundation	2012-13	INR 28.34533 Lakhs (USD0.045443233)		sanction/loana mount for management of the Property
		2013-14	INR 66.33024 lakhs (USD0.106340641)		
		2014-15	INR 15.15341 (USD0.024293947) As on 31.12.2014		
		2015-16	INR 73.69007 Lakhs (USD 0.015)		
		2016-17	INR 11.61782 Lakhs (USD 0.015)		
6	13 Finance Commission	2016-17	INR 432.00 Lakhs	In the process of release	
7	CORPUS fund	2016-17	INR 14.61 Lakhs (USD 0.015)	Released	For payment of compensation against damage caused by wild animal
8	APFBC	2015-16	INR 4.62 Lakhs (USD 0.015) (14/12/15 & 9/2/16)	Released	
		2016-17	INR. 15.01 Lakhs (USD 0.015) (4/5/16 & 24/5/16) INR 1427.40 Lakhs (17/9/16)	Released In the process of release	

PARA 8- REITERATES ITS REQUEST TO THE STATE PARTY OF BHUTAN TO SUBMIT A COPY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THE MANGDECHHU HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT AS PER DECISIONS. 36 COM 7B.10 AND 38 COM 7B.65, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING KURISHU DAM IN CONFORMITY WITH IUCN's WORLD HERITAGE ADVICE NOTE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Bhutan Government will furnish reply in this matter

PARA 9- FURTHER REQUESTS THE STATE PARTY TO SUBMIT TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE BY 1ST DECEMBER, 2016 AN UPDATED REPORT, INCLUDING A 1-PAGE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, ON THE PROPERTY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE, FOR EXAMINATION BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 41ST SESSION IN 2017

Table-2:- Population status of translocated Rhino in Manas National Park:-

Sl. No.	Year	Rhino Population (Translocated)	Birth	Death	Total
1	2006	3	0	0	3
2	2007	3	0	0	3
3	2008	3+2= 5	0	0	5
4	2009	5	0	0	5

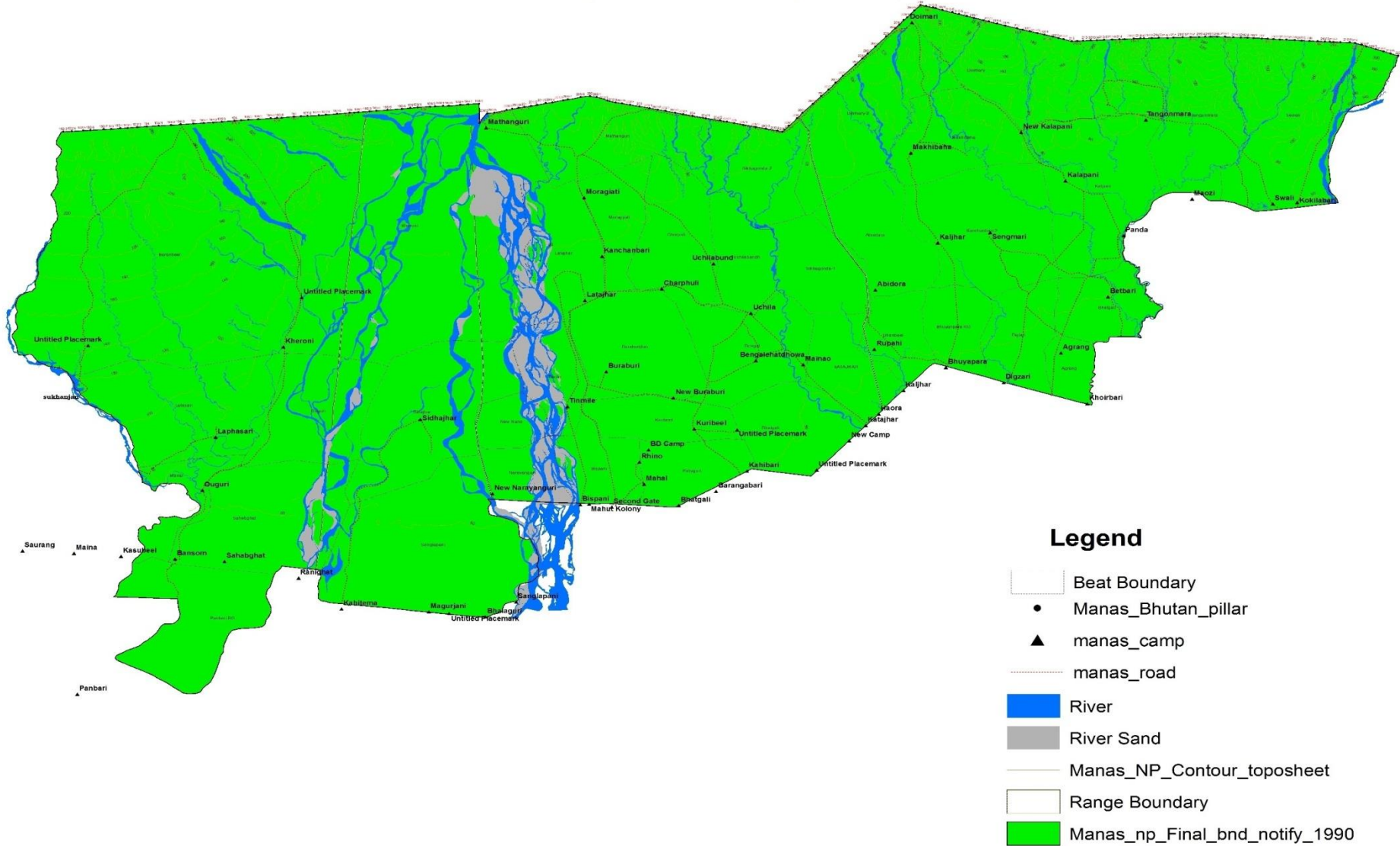
5	2010	5+2= 7	0	0	7
6	2011	7+4= 11	0	(-) 1	11-1= 10
7	2012	10+12= 22	1+22= 23	(-) 1	23-1= 22
8	2013	22+1= 23	10+23= 33	(-) 5	33-5= 28
9	2014	28+3= 31	0	(-) 1	31-1= 30
10	2015	30	3+30= 33	(-) 1	33-1= 32
11	2016	32	0	(-) 4	32-4= 28
				Total =	28 nos.

Table-3:- Tourist/ visitor records for Manas National Park for last ten years:-

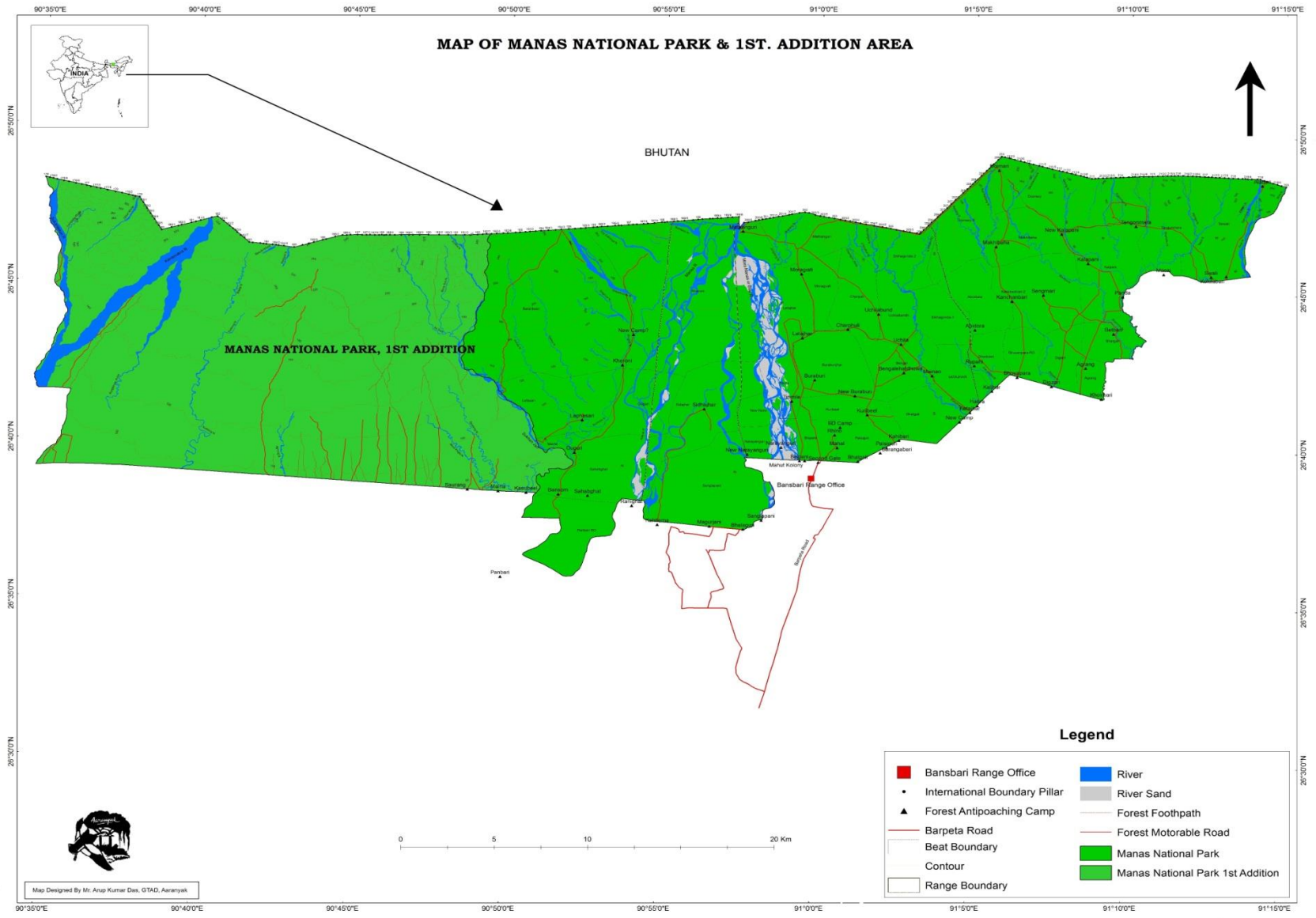
Years	Number of Visitors		Total	Revenue in Rs.
	Foreign	India		
2006-07	69	1689	11829	14,21,879.00
2007-08	239	2127	9785	7,43,890.00
2008-09	139	9597	17913	13,18,435.00
2009-10	503	503	10237	16,25,266.00
2010-11	129	4793	16996	1,59,177.00
2011-12	177	13167	24207	23,74,655.00
2012-13	91	5214	18419	17,18,890.00
2013-14	211	20527	20738	30,93,075.00
2014-15	475	9786	10261	33,47,583.00
2015-16	614	40559	41173	73,69,007.00

Map-1:- Map of Manas National Park:-

MAP OF MANAS NATIONAL PARK (AREA=500 Sq . kM.)



Map-2:- Map of Manas National Park showing recently added area:-



পঞ্জীভুক্ত নম্বৰ - ৭৬৮/৯৭

Registered No.-768/97



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্বৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY

নং 276 দিশপুৰ, শুক্ৰবাৰ, 12 আগষ্ট, 2016, 21 শাওণ, 1938 (শক)
No. 276 Dispur, Friday, 12th August, 2016, 21st Sravana, 1938 (S.E.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 1st August, 2016

No. FRS 86/2015/215.- In exercise of the power conferred under Section 35 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended up to date) the Governor of Assam is pleased to declare the land described in the schedule below as the National Park with effect from the date of publication in the official Gazette.

Schedule - A

District:	Chirang (BTAD)
Sub-Division:	Bijni
Revenue Circle:	Bijni
Name of the Division:	Chirang Division
Area of the land:	350 sq km
Name of the Forest:	First addition to Manas National Park

Schedule – B

The proposed “First addition to Manas National Park” is the eastern part of the Monas Reserved Forest (RF) notified vide Govt. notification No. 1886R dated 11th July, 1927, adjacent to the Manas NP (copy enclosed as *Annexure – I*).

Boundary description: The northern boundary of the proposed “First addition to Manas National Park” is the International boundary of Bhutan and India. Where as the eastern side of the proposed NP is the western boundary of Manas NP notified vide Govt. notification No. FRW. 55/86/64 dated 7th September, 1990.

Reference point of the proposed NP is the International Boundary Pillar No. 176 (Latitude 26° 48' 0.9.9 " N, Longitude 90° 35' 22.3" E) located on the right bank of Sukanteklai rive on the Indo Bhutan border. Thence the boundary of the proposed NP runs eastwards along the international boundary as –

North:

Boundary Pillar		Boundary Pillar		
No.	Lat	Long		No.
176	26° 48' 0.9.9 " N	90° 35' 22.3" E		177
177	26° 47' 59.05" N	90° 36' 21.60" E	to	178
178	26° 47' 48.38" N	90° 37' 16.34" E	to	179
179	26° 47' 38.69" N	90° 38' 00.75" E	to	180
180	26° 46' 36.83" N	90° 38' 46.24" E	to	181
181	26° 46' 50.54 "N	90° 39' 43.90" E	to	182
182	26° 47' 02.60" N	90° 40' 35.59" E	to	183
183	26° 46' 14.91" N	90° 41' 37.50" E	to	184
184	26° 46' 10.10" N	90° 42' 14.51" E	to	185
185	26° 46' 06.60" N	90° 43' 01.36" E	to	186
186	26° 46' 21.00" N	90° 43' 55.57" E	to	187
187	26° 46' 29.41" N	90° 45' 01.93" E	to	188
188	26° 46' 33.79" N	90° 45' 34.47" E	to	189
189	26° 46' 36.50" N	90° 46' 23.77" E	to	190
190	26° 46' 37.04" N	90° 47' 22.99" E	to	191
191	26° 46' 38.18" N	90° 48' 11.47" E	to	192
192	26° 46' 38.72" N	90° 48' 46.23" E	to	192/3
192/3	26° 46' 40.87" N	90° 49' 30.25" E	N-west corner of Manas NP	

East: The eastern boundary runs from the International BP No. 192/3 (Lat 26° 46' 40.87" N, Long 90° 49' 30.25" E) southwards along the left bank of Sukanjan river, i.e. the western boundary of Manas NP notified during 1990 (as mentioned above). Thence the boundary of the proposed NP runs southwards along the western boundary of Manas NP till it meets BP No. 1 (Lat 26° 38' 29.56" N, Long 90° 51'

02.33" E) of proposed first addition to Manas NP located on the left bank of Sukanjan river on Manas road. Thence the boundary runs along the Manas road towards west as follows -

South: From the BP No. 1 of the proposed NP the boundary runs as follow -

No.	Boundary Pillar		To	Boundary Pillar No.
	Lat	Long		
1	26° 38' 29.56" N	90° 51' 02.33" E	to	2
2	26° 38' 30.66" N	90° 50' 39.47" E	to	3
3	26° 38' 33.70" N	90° 49' 46.06" E	to	4
4	26° 38' 38.22" N	90° 48' 46.29" E	to	5
5	26° 38' 43.34" N	90° 47' 22.34" E	to	6
6	26° 38' 44.89" N	90° 47' 00.67" E	to	7
7	26° 38' 45.61" N	90° 46' 39.24" E	to	8
8	26° 38' 49.06" N	90° 45' 44.22" E	to	9
9	26° 38' 51.92" N	90° 45' 14.57" E	to	10
10	26° 38' 51.92" N	90° 44' 41.11" E	to	11
11	26° 38' 52.04" N	90° 44' 22.66" E	to	12
12	26° 38' 53.11" N	90° 43' 51.10" E	to	13
13	26° 38' 53.46" N	90° 43' 45.39" E	to	14
14	26° 38' 54.18" N	90° 43' 33.24" E	to	15
15	26° 38' 55.85" N	90° 43' 16.69" E	to	16
16	26° 38' 56.92" N	90° 42' 53.83" E	to	17
17	26° 38' 57.39" N	90° 42' 38.47" E	to	18
18	26° 38' 57.39" N	90° 42' 27.63" E	to	19
19	26° 38' 57.87" N	90° 42' 16.91" E	to	20
20	26° 39' 00.13" N	90° 41' 55.72" E	to	21
21	26° 39' 01.80" N	90° 41' 14.88" E	to	22
22	26° 39' 03.70" N	90° 40' 43.32" E	to	23
23	26° 39' 03.94" N	90° 40' 27.01" E	to	24
24	26° 39' 04.18" N	90° 40' 18.08" E	to	25
25	26° 39' 05.13" N	90° 39' 55.09" E	to	26
26	26° 39' 06.20" N	90° 39' 32.47" E	to	27
27	26° 39' 07.99" N	90° 39' 07.94" E	to	28
28	26° 39' 08.47" N	90° 38' 16.74" E	to	29
29	26° 39' 09.54" N	90° 37' 48.40" E	to	30
30	26° 39' 09.54" N	90° 37' 13.63" E	to	31

31	26° 39' 10.25" N	90° 36' 45.29" E	to	32
32	26° 39' 10.97" N	90° 36' 18.85" E	to	33
33	26° 39' 10.49" N	90° 36' 02.90" E	to	34
34	26° 39' 12.39" N	90° 35' 48.85" E	to	35
35	26° 39' 12.00" N	90° 35' 39.76" E	to	36
36	26° 39' 12.00" N	90° 35' 33.85" E	to	37
37	26° 39' 11.18" N	90° 35' 27.90" E	to	38
38	26° 39' 11.07" N	90° 35' 12.97" E	to	39
39	26° 39' 12.00" N	90° 34' 55.78" E	SW corner of proposed NP	

West: The western boundary runs from southwestern corner of the proposed NP from BP No. 39 as follows –

No.	Boundary Pillar		To	Boundary Pillar No.
	Lat	Long		
39	26° 39' 12.00" N	90° 34' 55.78" E	to	40
40	26° 39' 36.35" N	90° 35' 07.35" E	to	41
41	26° 39' 44.44" N	90° 35' 13.86" E	to	42
42	26° 39' 49.74" N	90° 35' 16.66" E	to	43
43	26° 39' 57.12" N	90° 35' 22.60" E	to	44
44	26° 40' 10.08" N	90° 35' 30.77" E	to	45
45	26° 40' 14.81" N	90° 35' 32.34" E	to	46
46	26° 40' 20.18" N	90° 35' 35.06" E	to	47
47	26° 40' 35.72" N	90° 35' 40.94" E	to	48
48	26° 40' 48.54" N	90° 35' 45.16" E	to	49
49	26° 40' 58.85" N	90° 35' 48.24" E	to	50
50	26° 41' 32.65" N	90° 36' 00.28" E	to	51
51	26° 41' 34.37" N	90° 35' 47.81" E	to	52
52	26° 41' 35.23" N	90° 35' 25.18" E	to	53
53	26° 41' 35.44" N	90° 35' 19.88" E	to	54
54	26° 41' 36.09" N	90° 35' 08.06" E	to	55
55	26° 41' 35.94" N	90° 34' 54.24" E	to	56
56	26° 41' 35.30" N	90° 34' 51.09" E	to	57

57	26° 41' 54.99" N	90° 34' 45.57" E	to	58
58	26° 42' 51.71" N	90° 35' 16.16" E	to	59
59	26° 43' 21.65" N	90° 35' 25.90" E	to	60
60	26° 43' 41.99" N	90° 35' 37.86" E	to	61
61	26° 44' 08.91" N	90° 35' 43.30" E	to	62
62	26° 44' 52.67" N	90° 35' 20.38" E	to	63
63	26° 46' 13.27" N	90° 35' 27.74" E	to	64
64	26° 46' 30.37" N	90° 35' 17.75" E	to	65
65	26° 48' 10.75" N	90° 35' 16.54" E	to	176, i.e. the international BP, Lat - 26° 48' 0.9.9 " N, Long- 90° 35' 22.3" E

S. KUMAR,

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department.

ABSTRACT ON REINTRODUCED RHINO'S AT MANAS NATIONAL PARK (AS ON NOVEMBER, 2016)

The Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 is a joint program of the Assam Forest Department, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and International Rhino Foundation (IRF) formulated by the “Task Force for Translocation of Rhinos within Assam” in November 2005. Under the IRV-2020 program, 18 rhinos were translocated (10 rhinos from Pobitora Wild Life Sanctuary and 8 from Kaziranga National Park) to Manas from the year 2008 to 2012. The government of Assam and Wild Life Trust of India (WTI) translocated 10 rhinos from CWRC (Central Wild Life Rescue Centre, Kaziranga Assam) to Manas under the rescue and rehabilitated program from the period 2006 to 2013.

It is more than 10 years since the inception of the rhino reintroduction program in Manas. The program started by improving the security infrastructure in Manas that initiated the process of revival of the park and through such efforts, the Park has got back its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011. Today, (until October 2016) Manas has 28 numbers of wild populations with 12 newborn calves. Newly established rhino population of Manas NP has 0.8% of global population, 1% of India’s rhino population whereas 1.18% of Assam’s greater one horned rhinoceros wild population.

Reintroduced rhinos are adapted well and started breeding. During this period 14 newborn calves born and which clearly indicated reintroduced rhinos adaptation in a new environment. Despite many efforts, Manas is yet to be free from global poaching crisis (Fig.1). Since 2012 poachers killed 10 introduced rhinos including all adult males. This is affecting the lot on population growth pattern of rhinos. In this period 3 rhinos also died for a natural cause. Rhino monitoring team of Manas National Park has been doing much effort to monitor present rhino movement and protection. At present 60% of rhino’s population concentrated at Bansbari range (Central Range) of Manas and rest 40% population used Bhuyanpara range (Eastern range of Manas). There is no information on rhino movement from Western Bank of the river Beki to Panbari range of Manas NP.

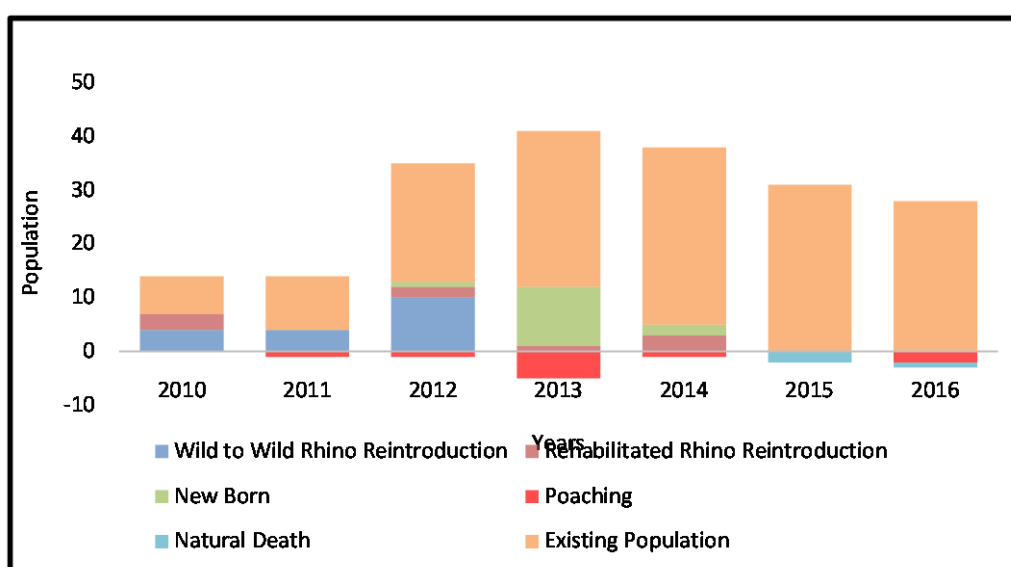


Fig. Manas Rhino Population pattern from the year 2010 to 2016

Eastern Swamp Deer Conservation in Manas National Park 2015-2016

The Eastern Swamp Deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii ranjitsinhi*) is a sub-species of the endemic swamp deer in India. During the 19th century, the eastern swamp deer were known to be distributed all over the Brahmaputra flood plains and the Terai foot hills of the Eastern Himalayas. However, the rapid seizure of grasslands for agricultural uses and excessive hunting for trophy caused heavy declines in the population, bringing the sub-species to a verge of extinction. The last major population of the deer (about 1000 individuals) now resides as a single isolated population in Kaziranga National Park of Assam.

Status and History of Eastern Swamp Deer in Manas National Park

Early colonial hunters and biologists reported 'hundreds of deer' in the grasslands of Manas and its nearby areas (**Pollock, 1879; Pollock & Thom, 1990**). However, the civil unrest during 1990s in Manas National Park resulted in a period of unchecked hunting which caused severe decline in the park's deer population with only a few individuals reportedly left in the park. Recent survey by **Das et al. (2009)** estimated a population of less than 20 individuals in the park. Also, during the rhino patrolling exercise and tiger estimations through camera trappings, multiple sightings of the deer in various areas of Manas National Park were reported (**Sharma et al., 2012**). It was considered that Manas still contains a small population of Eastern Swamp Deer despite the onslaught of hunters during the period of unrest.

Translocation of Eastern Swamp Deer to Manas National Park

As a part of the recovery of Eastern Swamp Deer population in Manas National Park, a translocation programme was developed on recommendation from UNESCO by Assam Forest Department with collaboration with Wildlife Trust of India (NGO). Under this programme, 19 eastern swamp deer were successfully translocated from Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park on 28th December, 2016 following a strict swamp deer translocation protocol. The translocated deer were kept in a predator proof enclosure for the first few months for acclimatization of the deer to the new environment. After the acclimatization phase the deer were released into the wild in Manas National Park.

Status of Translocated Eastern Swamp Deer in Manas National Park

After the translocation, the deer were continuously monitored in the release enclosure in Manas National Park for seven months. Measures were undertaken to provide security to the deer from predators and to provide adequate foraging ground for the deer to survive inside the enclosure. The deer showed promising improvement in captivity during this period, with positive signs of acclimatization in the newly introduced environment. The deer which were pregnant during translocation gave birth to the five fawns during the seven months of stay inside the enclosure. One new-born fawn and two females died inside the enclosure during the acclimatization period due to disease.

After, seven months of captivity, the herd of 21 deer (17 translocated deer and 4 fawns) were finally released into the wild on 4th August, 2015. Henceforth, the deer were monitored intensively in the wild with the help of captive elephants and camera traps. Post-release monitoring revealed that the deer herd split into two groups. One large herd of 12 deer established themselves in Kuribeel grassland while other smaller herd of 9 deer was located near Bhatghali camp area of Bansbari range of Manas National Park. Subsequent monitoring revealed that few deer of the herd were predated in wild but most of the deer rapidly stabilized in the grassland of Manas.

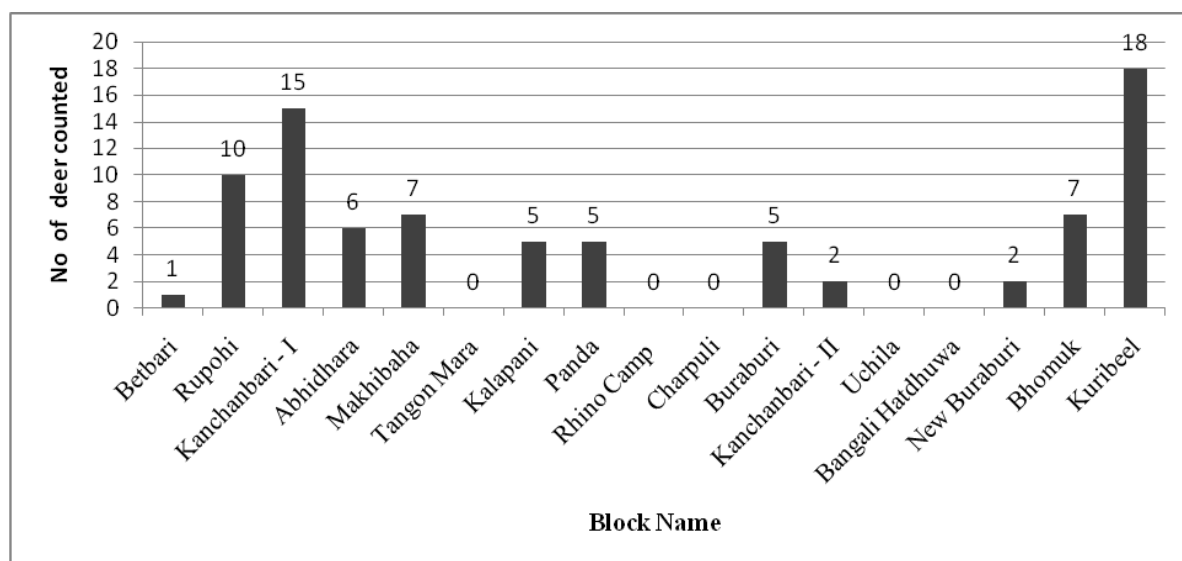
Table : Status of Translocated Swamp Deer in Manas National Park

Age/Sex	Translocated from Kaziranga NP	Died in enclosure	Released in Manas NP
Adult Male	3	0	3
Adult Female	6	2	4
Unsexed Sub-adults	10	0	10
Total Translocated	19	-2	17
Fawns (Born in Manas)	5	1	4
Total =	24	-3	21

Current Population and distribution of Eastern Swamp Deer in Manas National Park

Manas Park authority with support from Wildlife Trust of India (NGO) conducted a park-wide eastern swamp deer population estimation exercise on 18th March, 2016 to record the status of the translocated deer as well as the wild population of Manas National Park. The population estimation was conducted following the “Block Count” method. The exercise was carried out in Bansbari and Bhuyanpara Range of Manas National Park. Seventeen areas/ blocks were selected in the two different ranges of Manas where the swamp deer are most likely to be found. In each of these blocks, swamp deer were counted from elephant backs and on foot by multiple observers simultaneously.

The one day count recorded a total of **83** individual deer in two ranges of Manas National Park. The eastern swamp deer being a grassland dwelling species is found mostly in the southern grasslands of Manas National Park. Major herd of deer are found in **Kuribeel - New Buraburi Area** of Bansbari Range and **Rupohi - Abhidhara - Kanchanbari area** of Bhuyanpara Range. The largest number of deer was recorded in Kuribeel area of Bansbari range which also contains the herd of the translocated deer from Kaziranga National Park. The age-sex categorization of estimated data shows about **67.74%** of the population comprising of females while the male comprises **24.10%**. The rest of the population is formed of unsexed fawns (**8.43%**). The overall male to female sex ratio is **1:3**. The adult female to fawn ratio is **1:8**.



Block wise distribution of Eastern Swamp Deer in Manas National Park

Awareness Activities:

The success of the whole translocation exercise of Eastern Swamp Deer and their subsequent survival in Manas National Park largely depends upon on positive support of these local communities to play a proactive role in conservation activities related to wildlife of Manas National Park.

The Manas Park Authority with support of Wildlife Trust of India (NGO) organized a series of awareness activities to bring out the local people into the conservation fold and encourage them to participate in the protection and promotion of wildlife of Manas National Park. The priority was given to the local students to enhance the level of awareness and enthusiasm towards wildlife conservation. Awareness programmes and exposure trips for students, local villagers and media groups helped in further strengthening the people's support for the conservation of the deer sub-species.

Future Plans and Initiatives:

The successful acclimatization of the deer in its new habitat in Manas National Park and positive support from local stakeholders in the conservation efforts encouraged for development of next translocation programme. The following activities are planned in coming years related to Eastern Swamp Deer conservation in Manas National Park:

- [A]** Translocate 20 individuals of Eastern swamp deer from Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park following the "*Eastern Swamp Deer Translocation Protocol*" to support the existing deer population in Manas.
- [B]** Monitor the survival, dispersion and ecology of the translocated eastern swamp deer in Manas National Park through various approaches.
- [C]** Monitor the wild populations of Eastern swamp deer in Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park.
- [D]** Enlist support of local communities of Manas National Park by conducting awareness programmes and community based conservation activities in the Manas Landscape.



Location of translocated herd of Eastern Swamp Deer in Bansbari Range of Manas National Park



Translocated Eastern Swamp Deer inside the stocking enclosure Fawn born to translocated female in Manas National Park



Translocated swamp deer near Bhatghali Camp of Manas NP Translocated Swamp Deer in Kuribeel grassland of Manas NP

ANNEXURE-IV

The Park Authority in collaboration with its partners organized a biodiversity Conservation Coordination meeting of Transboundary stakeholders during 21-22 June,2016 in Guwahati. Transboundary cooperation between Manas and Royal Manas National Park is established long back and this is continuing . Annual meeting was held in June,2016 as mentioned and ext meeting is planned in December, 2016. Minutes of the Meeting of the last TraMCA meeting is annexed herewith

Minutes of Biodiversity Conservation Coordination Meeting on TraMCA 21-22 June,2-16, Guwahati, Assam

1. Background

For the 10th time since 2008, the delegates representing the Governments of Bhutan and India along with conservation NGOs in the region met in Guwahati, Assam. The landmark meeting was held for two days from 21-22nd June 2016 to discuss Conservation of Biodiversity- Issues and Opportunities in the large Transboundary Landscape between India and Bhutan across the International Boundary The principal objective of the Biodiversity Conservation Coordination meeting is to build close coordination of larger group of TraMCA stakeholders and to ensure that the information is shared and best practices are taken home for better conservation and management approaches. This meeting is also follow up of the resolution of the Indo-Bhutan coordination meeting on TraMCA held at Gelephu from February 26-27,2016.

2. Opening session of the meeting

The opening session was graced by Shri Anindya Swargowari, Council Head of the Department, Forest and Environment, Bodoland Territorial Council started the session by welcoming the participants from both Bhutan and India and stressing on the importance of Indo-Bhutan transboundary coordination for biodiversity conservation in the region. He expressed that the TraMCA concept that gained momentum during the last six years is moving in right direction due to the effort of all the stakeholders and urge everyone to continue the same spirit.

The key note address was delivered by Mr. D. Mathur IFS, PCCF & HOFF, Govt. of Assam, who appreciated the effort of the Indian and Bhutanese in bringing the group together which is now well recognized internationally. He has also assured all support to see its progress further.

Mr. Amit Sharma from WWF India briefly narrated how TraMCA evolved and series of meetings that between two countries on transboundary biodiversity conservation and then urging all the stakeholders to further strengthening the relationship.

The delegation from Bhutan, led by Tenzin Wangchuk, Park Manager, Royal Manas National Park has expressed concerns with current and proposed developments in the landscape and emphasized on further strengthening the collaboration of the TraMCA partners to achieve its long term goals.

The meeting also saw the release of a report on joint monitoring of tigers Mr D. Mathur. The report presents the finding of joint monitoring of tigers in both Manas National Park, India and Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan. The study identified 21 individual tigers in the study area that covered approx. 600 sq km of India and Bhutan Manas in TraMCA. The study also found four individual tigers that are common to Bhutan and India Manas, indicating that the connectivity is crucial in the TraMCA region to protect tiger as well as other biodiversity of the area. A previous study in the

TraMCA in 2011-12 reported 14 individual tigers. The study was carried out during February-May 2015 simultaneously in India and Bhutan across the boundary by Forest officials and researchers from Aaranyak and WWF.

3. Session 1. Review and Progress made in the landscape

This session was aimed at reviewing the minutes from the last transboundary meeting held in Gelephu, Bhutan and check on the progress being made and also to look at some of the emerging challenges coming up in TraMCA related to biodiversity conservation.

Mr. Phurba Lhendup from WWF Bhutan took the lead in reviewing the last minute of the meetings. The action points supposed to be delivered has been discussed to see if those have been achieved and if not, then possible reasons for not achieving those actions. The discussion indicated that around 50% of the actions has been completed and various reasons which in many cases are valid were given for not achieving the rest.

This was followed by discussion facilitated by Mr. Joydeep Bose from WWF India to identify some of the emerging challenges and issues in TraMCA related to conservation. A synopsis from the discussion which require effort to address is presented below:

- i. Death of a number of Elephant calves in Manas NP (due to diseases);and in Bhutan one calf death due to accident (irrigation channel)
- ii. Forest degradation
 - a. Encroachment by people -rehabilitation
 - b. Skill development for local communities (support from NGOs)
 - c. Booming tea gardens-altering wildlife habitat (BNS)-Floriant habitat destruction
 - d. Unregulated tourism (BNS)
- iii. Scarcity of water
 - a. Creation of grassland and water holes in vacant areas
 - b. Leads to HEC –compete for water (Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary)
- iv. Mapping of animal corridors in TraMCA
- v. Habitat protection of Vultures-location of breeding area
- vi. Road construction in Indo-Bhutan border
- vii. Degradation of grassland- invasive species
- viii. Electrocutation of Elephants – illegal connection
- ix. SSB camps hampering the movement of wildlife- need to choose strategic location
- x. Research on endemic and threatened species- needs coordination
- xi. Re-introduction of species (Hog deer) in MNP
- xii. Species monitoring (Leopard & water buffalo)
- xiii. Strengthening enforcement (joint enforcement)

4. Session 2. [Research and Monitoring](#)

This session aimed at sharing result and experience from the research being conducted both in Bhutan and India and how it could be further strengthened and more importantly to explore transboundary monitoring of species. The session included four presentations

- i. Mr.HK Sharma, the Field Director of Manas National Park presented the conservation history and species research being conducted in Manas National Park. The research so far has recorded 61 species of mammals, over 450 birds, over 42 reptiles, 9 amphibians, 79 fishes, 250 butterflies and 100 species of invertebrates.
- ii. Mrs. Singye Wangmo from Royal Manas National Park and Mr Dipankar Lahkar from Aaranyak presented the recent joint transboundary tiger monitoring research. The joint research has identified 21 individual tigers in the study area that covered approx. 600 sq km of India and Bhutan Manas in TraMCA. The study also found four individual tigers that are common to Bhutan and India Manas, indicating that the connectivity is crucial in the TraMCA region to protect tiger as well as other biodiversity of the area. A previous study in the TraMCA in 2011-12 reported 14 individual tigers. The study was carried out during February-May 2015 simultaneously in India and Bhutan across the boundary by Forest officials and researchers from Aaranyak and WWF. The main threats underlined were poaching, illegal logging, infrastructure development, human tiger conflict and climate change. The floor recommended that there should be strong focus on protection using SMART patrolling) and community around these tiger habitats should be benefited and involved in tiger conservation.
- iii. Mr. Sonam Wangdi from Wildlife Conservation Division, Department of Forest and Park Services, Bhutan shared the results from the Elephant conservation and monitoring program in Bhutan. 5 elephants were GPS collared and are being monitored to understand migration and habitat utilization and national elephant survey is under way to understand the population in Bhutan and their habitat status using dung samples collection for Genetic CMR and camera trapping method. A preliminary route identified to be used by elephants though satellite monitoring indicated and animals are transboundary. The recommendation from the floor included the joint monitoring of elephants by India and Bhutan authorities by collaring more elephants aiming to gather additional information beyond movement, formalization of human elephant conflict management protocol, and initiate joint transboundary monitoring of elephants. The session also discussed about revival of the Indo-Bhutan green belt proposed by the Balipara foundation,
- iv. The last presentation for this this session was from Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar from Aaryank and Mrs. Singye Wangmo from Royal Manas National Park on the grassland habitat management in MNP and RMNP. The habitat management research in MNP included base line data collection, mapping, implementation of control measures and institutionalization of monitoring protocol in the management practice. RMNP presented the scientific management of grassland which assessed the biodiversity of the grassland and provide scientific information on biodiversity for developing scientific grassland management regime

5. [Session 3: New initiatives and way forward](#)

This session is aimed at sharing new initiatives and way forward plan by different actors in TraMCA, so that there is general consensus among all on what has been plan and how to seek collaboration. The session included four presentations followed by discussion.

- i. Mr. Robin Eastmen, Balipara Foundation made a presentation on Indo Bhutan Green Belt project, it is project for integrated approach on a cooperative and bilateral basis to create a forest corridor comprising of a 1Km green belt on both sides of the Indo-Bhutan border which will immensely benefit wildlife. This is the first time that the foundation is participating in the TraMCA meeting and hence and there was an indication that the foundation is interested in supporting any kinds of joint initiative between India and Bhutan within the purview of their project. Since the deforestation is increasing in Sarpang(Bhutan) and Ripu-Chirang(India) - green belt was felt very necessary by the participants and at the same time concerns were expressed that the foundation should have clear plan of action in tune with the ground realities, so that initiatives can be mainstreamed into TraMCA goals and objectives.
- ii. Mr. Phuntsho Gyeltshen, Tourism Council of Bhutan presented the overview of tourism in Bhutan and some of the initiatives being implemented in the Royal Manas National Park. A scope of transboundary tourism especially between RMNP and MNP has also being briefly discussed. The floor recommended that there should be a tourism packages developed for TraMCA as a whole- cutting across border and local capacity in tourism and hospitality has to be initiated or enhanced.
- iii. On behalf of Bhutan, Mr. Phurba Lhendup from WWF Bhutan presented the future plan for the Bhutan part of TraMCA including goal, objectives and strategies. The five broad strategies include:
 - a. Enhance scientific management and protection of wildlife habitats
 - b. Improve scientific research and monitoring
 - c. Manage and minimize human wildlife conflict
 - d. Continue and improve transboundary coordination specially for improved enforcement and conservation actions
 - e. Securing biological corridors

The floor urged that the plan has to be aligned with the TraMCA action plan goal and also include some PES initiatives which has been not done so far on both sides despite the fact that this has been prioritized in the action plan.

- iv. On behalf of India, Dr. Firoz Ahmed from Aaryank presented their plan for Indian part of TraMCA. The overall objective is to achieve 50% increase in tiger population in the project area in the next 10 years by reducing human disturbances in the habitat and thus increasing the tiger and prey population. The participants urged to adequately include the local communities and try to address their need to win their support in achieving the goals.

6. [Session 4. Concluding session](#)

The last session of the meeting is aimed at taking stock of the two days meeting and finalize the resolution and also update the TraMCA action plan. There are four objectives and the participants

were divided into groups of four, each groups were assigned with one objectives and were being asked on amend the objectives and their outcomes based on the current scenarios. Each groups presented their revised version of the objectives and outcomes and were being discussed among other groups. Feedbacks were incorporated and amended. The revised objectives and outcomes from the groups were presented at the end of this document.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

Some of the common consensus form the meeting are as follows:

1. The proposed road construction in the Indo-Bhutan border which will dissect TraMCA and would have severe ecological consequences requires greater attention from both India and Bhutan. This should be stopped in best possible ways. The meeting urged all the stakeholders to take responsibilities.
2. Protection of the breeding areas of Vulture and reintroduction of Hog deer in Manas National Park has been suggested.
3. The mapping of wildlife corridors in TraMCA was found crucial and both India and Bhutan agreed to map the wildlife corridors in the landscape.
4. Some of the SSB camps are currently located in the wildlife corridors and core area and it has been urged that the Government officials to discuss with SSB and relocate those to some strategic locations.
5. To strengthened law enforcement, a joint patrolling between stakeholders in India and Bhutan border areas was deemed necessary. It has been discussed that respective DFO's and Park Directors will coordinate among themselves to conduct at least two joint patrolling annually.
6. Both India and Bhutan agreed to conduct a joint monitoring of elephants by collaring more elephants aiming to gather additional information beyond movement, formalization of human elephant conflict management protocol, and initiate joint transboundary monitoring of elephants. A separate discussion to formalize this should be organized and finalized in the next meeting of the TraMCA.
7. The Balipara foundation has been requested to share their clear plan of action in tune with the ground realities, so that initiatives it be mainstreamed into TraMCA goals and objectives.
8. An Indo-Bhutan tourism package covering TraMCA area has been seen very crucial in benefiting the local communities in TraMCA who in turn will help protect the biodiversity. To start with it has been urged that Royal Manas National Park and Manas National Park to start the pilot initiative.
9. Considering Transboundary Monitoring of Tiger as a model, the two countries shall initiate joint monitoring of other key species in TraMCA to assess their population, which is crucial to management. A joint core group shall explore the possibility, methodology and resource required for the same.

10. To expand the tiger and prey monitoring exercise beyond Manas and Royal Manas National Park, the two parties also agreed to initiate joint monitoring of tiger and prey animals in Phipsu-Chirang area and Barnadi WLS-Jomotshankha WLS starting from 2016-17. The DFO's for respective areas shall prepare detailed plan for such exercise jointly.
11. In the way forward, the participants urged both the all the stakeholders to atleast start one PES scheme that can be replicated in the future.
12. The next meeting to be held after 6 months from now in Bhutan (December/January)
13. Mr. D.P. Bankhwal, I.G.F, NTCAhas kindly consented to follow up with status of TraMCA MoU with India

The table below shows the revision of the TraMCA action plan by the groups

Objective 1: By 2020, halt all wildlife habitat loss and degradation in TraMCA			
Outcome 1	Outcome 1	Outcome 1	Outcome 1
Policies for land-use planning and zonation promoted for sustainable development in TraMCA.	PES and benefit sharing mechanisms promoted at multiple levels.	Alternative livelihoods developed in key TraMCA areas, through skills and energy options, to eliminate subsistence hunting and dependency on natural resources.	Alternative livelihoods developed in key TraMCA areas, through skills and energy options, to eliminate subsistence hunting and dependency on natural resources ¹ .
1. Zones Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core and No Development zone • Buffer Zone • Multiple use Eco-friendly zone 2. Legal up gradation of existing forest patches in notifies Tiger Reserve 3. Mapping of notified forest	No changes suggested for outcome 2	No changes suggested for outcome 3	No changes suggested for outcome 4

<p>villages and encroachments for preparing land use plan for the future including relocation of villagers voluntarily from the buffer zone.</p> <p>4. Notified corridors and new delinked habitats be connected through creating forest patches.</p> <p>5. Integrated collaboration among inter-government agencies for improved land-use plan with endorsement.</p> <p>6. Organic tea cultivation to be promoted among small tea growers</p>			
<p>Objective 2: By 2020, wild populations of priority species are stable or growing across TraMCA</p>			
<p>Outcome 1 Strengthen Enforcement mechanisms strengthened in/outside PAs in TraMCA to prevent poaching, illegal logging, grazing, encroachment, and forest fires.</p>	<p>Outcome 2 Management of Priority Species Management of priority species of wildlife and their habitats is improved in TraMCA.</p>	<p>Outcome 3 Management of Habitat Implementation of science-based habitat management and restoration enhanced/strengthened for key wildlife species in TraMCA.</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Documentation and Monitoring of biodiversity in TraMCA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p>			
<p>No changes suggested for outcome 3</p>	<p>1. Facilitate re-establishment of rhino population in the Manas National Park under the IRV 2020 programme including</p>	<p>No changes suggested for outcome 3</p>	<p>1. Monitor priority wildlife populations in TraMCA, including: Elephant, rhino, tiger, pygmy hog, golden langur,</p>

	<p>further translocation, strengthening protection and establishing a mechanism for long term sustainability.</p> <p>2. Re-introduction of Pigmy Hog in TraMCA and restocking of Hog deer in TraMCA</p> <p>3. Identify potential relocation site for rhinos in Bhutan.</p> <p>4. Share lessons and experiences within TraMCA on species management.</p>		<p>swamp deer, prey species, Vultures, WBH, Asiatic Water buffalo and leopard</p> <p>2. Identify and build capacity of a corps of conservation volunteers and forest staff in monitoring priority wildlife populations and their habitat.</p> <p>3. Institutionalize monitoring mechanism for tigers, co-predators and prey in the Manas Tiger Reserve, India and assist the Forest Dept. in implementing a Tiger Conservation Plan for the Reserve.</p> <p>4. Document information on other lesser known species in TraMCA (baseline).</p>
Objective 3: To have effective management systems in place to reduce Human Wildlife Conflicts			
Outcome 1: Assessment of the scale of HWC in Manas Tiger Reserve and adjacent areas within TraMCA	Outcome 2: Promote agricultural systems that reduce HWC in vulnerable areas .	Outcome 3: Efficient and effective mechanisms (eg. insurance) developed to compensate for wildlife damage	Outcome 4: Community based management of HWC developed in key conflict areas in TraMCA.
Activities			
Added that HWC in whole TraMCA region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Select Pilot site for experimentation. Change the Outcome title to 'Farming Patterns and Explore Markets' 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Can community-based insurance schemes / mechanisms in selected sites to compensate for loss of property and life as a result of HWC- Cross check if it can be implemented in India? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Low cost and effective low tech. mechanism for Conflict Management. Experience exchange between Bhutan

		2. Simplify application process in India	and India.
Objective 4: By 2017, local and state governments buy- into TraMCA vision and endorse TraMCA Action Plan and MoU			
No changes suggested for objective four.			

List of participants

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Manas Tiger Conservation Programme Livelihood Component Activities update:

The Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP) - led by Aaranyak and being implemented in partnership with Forest Department BTC, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Panthera and Awely, is actively supporting the BTC Forest Department towards improvement of protection and conservation in Manas National Park.

The Livelihood team along with the Conservation Education team of the MTCP has carried out inception activities and entry point activities through Focused Group Discussion in all the villages under the six clusters - Bhuyanpara Cluster, Koklabari Cluster, Bansbari Cluster, Kahitama cluster, Borpathar Cluster and Kochubil cluster. During the Focus Group Discussion the project team had informed about the aims, objectives and scope of the project and also had given a background based on our baseline study about the impact on the marginalized resource users and their impact through project interventions. From the Focus Group Discussion a list of tentative beneficiaries had been prepared and based on this list House Hold surveys were carried out for verification and detail house hold information of each of the beneficiaries. The team had completed House Hold surveys of all the beneficiaries in the all the above mentioned six clusters. Community consultation programme had been successfully carried out in all the villages of all the six clusters with identified beneficiaries for knowing their views on access restriction and its mitigation measures. At the same time the teams have also carried out a perception study about knowledge and attitude about Manas in the fringe villages and schools around the park. The data is being analyzed.

At this moment, the list of beneficiaries were prepared by the livelihood team (based on community consultations and Household surveys) and based on their interest and willingness trainings were being conducted on different trades and livelihood interventions. In order to ensure sustainability and government leverages into the livelihood activities, the team is also meeting government officials to discuss potential future collaboration as well as support to the selected beneficiaries from government departments in the project area. A veterinarian is also constantly visiting the fringe villages to identify potential cows to introduce and encourage artificial insemination in order to help fringe villagers to get a better breed of cattle in consecutive generations. Further, we are planning to encourage stall feeding and reduce number of free ranging cattle in order to reduce grazing in the park. More than 1000 cows were vaccinated in September month around Bhuyanpara area on againts FMD, Swine fever and other diseases. From September weekly veterinary clinic was initiated in Majrabari area to provide the community veterinary services and treat their animals against various diseases. Beside treatment and vaccination attained consultation programme in Panbari Cluster Convey the message about AI and about weekly veterinary clinic.

Till now we have completed two capacity building trainings on Boiling and Dyeing of yarns and cloths, two training on Skilling and Capacity building on modern looms, one training on Skilling & Capacity Building on Product Development, two training on Pig Farming and two trainings on Mushroom Farming and Management.

Boiling and Dyeing Training:

Number of Trainings conducted	2
Number of participants per programme	30
Duration of the Training (including Theory and Practical)	5 days

Training on Skilling and Capacity building on modern looms

Number of Trainings	2
Number of participants per programme	30
Duration of the Training	7 days

Skilling & Capacity Building on Product Development

Number of Training	1
Number of participants	60
Duration of the Training	7 days

Pig Farming Training

Number of Trainings	2
Number of participants	70
Duration of the Training	5 days

Mushroom Farming Training

Number of Trainings	2
Number of participants	80
Duration of the Training	2 days



Dyeing Training



Dyeing training participants



Skill Development and Capacity Building
Training on Modern Looms for weaver
of Manas Traditions
under SFURTI Scheme of MSME
Date - 13-08-16 (Thursday) 14-08-16 (Wednesday)
Time - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Venue - Weaving Centre

Weaving Training

List of EDC in Manas National Park:-

EDC Registration No.	Name of EDC	Name of Division/Range	Revenue Village	State of Moproplan	Source of Funding
1	2	3	4	5	6
MTP/EDC/01, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Barengabari EDC	Bansbari Range	Barengabri	Under preparation by COPELO	Fund will be provided for preparation of Micro Plan by APFBC
MTP/EDC/02, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Madlijhara EDC	Bansbari Range	Madlijhara		
MTP/EDC/03, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Lahoripara- Langdangpara EDC	Bansbari Range	Palsiguri		
MTP/EDC/04, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Bithorai EDC	Bansbari Range	Kashibari		
MTP/EDC/05, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Khantalguri EDC	Bansbari Range	Kamalabari	Under preparation by ATREE	
MTP/EDC/06, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Rajabil EDC	Bansbari Range	Rajabil		
MTP/EDC/07, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Katajhar EDC	Bansbari Range	Gohaivita		
MTP/EDC/08, Dtd. 10 th April 2016	Daoraibari EDC	Bansbari Range	Gohaivita		
MTP/EDC/09, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Kokilabari EDC	Bhuyanpara Range	Kokilabari	Under preparation by FDTP Office	Provision of fund for preparation of Microplan has been made in the revalidated cMAP-Biosphere Reserve
MTP/EDC/10, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Betbari EDC	Bhuyanpara Range	Betbari		
MTP/EDC/11, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Bhuyanpara EDC	Bhuyanpara Range	Kumguri		
MTP/EDC/12, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Mazrabari EDC	Bhuyanpara Range	Mazrabari		
MTP/EDC/13, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Manas Elephant EDC	Kahitama Beat	Oxigurigaon pather		
MTP/EDC/14, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Manas Rhino Labdanguri EDC	Kahitam Beat	Labdanguri		

1	2	3	4	5	6
MTP/EDC/15, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Manas Tiger EDC	Kahitam Beat	Kahitamagaon		
MTP/EDC/16, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Panbari EDC	Panbari Range	Kachubil	Under preparation by FDTP Office	Provision of fund for preparation of Microplan has been made in the revalidated cMAP- Biosphere Reserve
MTP/EDC/17, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Manas Khwina EDC	Panbari Range	2 No. Borpathar		
MTP/EDC/18, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Nandini EDC	Panbari Range	Panbari		
MTP/EDC/19, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Himalaya EDC	Panbari Range	Panbari	Not prepared	APFBC will be requested for fund for preparation of Micro Plan
MTP/EDC/20, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Rajagarh EDC	Dhansiri Division	2 no. Rajagarh	Under preparation by DFO, Dhansiri Division	Fund will be provided for preparation of Micro Plan by APFBC
MTP/EDC/21, Dtd. 1 st March 2016	Barengajuli EDC	Dhansiri Division	Barengajuli		



Govt. of Assam

BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE FIELD DIRECTOR, MANAS TIGER PROJECT
Barpeta Road- 781315, Assam.

E-mail : fd.manastp@gmail.com

No. FD/TP/WHS/3339-48

Dated, Barpeta Road, the 23rd Dec' 2016

To,

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife,
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam
Basistha, Guwahati- 29.

Sub: Eviction at Betbari and Dihira under Bhuyanpara Range- updates Manas SOC

Ref: This office letter No. FD/WHS/2032, dtd. 23/11/2016.

Sir,

With reference to above, I would like to inform you that we have conducted an eviction operation yesterday at Betbari, Khoirbari and Dihira-Panda area & cleared an area of about 16.00 Sq.Km from encroachment.

In this regard, I would like to inform you that we have received excellent cooperation from specially DC, Baksa and SP, Baksa. About 350 personnel from Baksa Police, CRPF, and Assam Police Battalion were there besides our Staff of Manas, N.K. Division, Barpeta SF Division & Kokrajhar Wildlife Division and Magistrates. We have also engaged number of Excavator, good number of tractors & some departmental elephant to carry out the operation during which we have damaged around 550 hutments.

As we have served notices earlier, the people left their houses with their belongings, therefore we could carry out operation peacefully without any resistance and that to within a day.

You are also requested kindly to forward this report to **Dr. S.K. Khanduri, IFS, IGF, MoEF & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi-110003** and **Mr. Rakesh Adlkha, First Secretary, Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, 7, Place Defontenoy, 75352, Paris 07SPFRANCE** in continuation to our report in response to the WHC decision-38 COM 7B11.

Yours faithfully

(H.K. Sarma, IFS)

Field Director, Manas Tiger Project
Barpeta Road, Assam.

Copy to:-

1. The Member Secretary, NTCA, GOI, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, Project Tiger Division, B-1 Wing, 7th Floor, Parayanvaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 for favour of his kind information.
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests cum CHD, Forests for favour of his kind information.
3. The Inspector General of Forest, NTCA, Assam, 4th Floor, Housefed Building, Rukminigaon (Near PIBCO), GS Road, Guwahati- 781006 for favour of his kind information.
4. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment & Forests Department, Dispur, Guwahati- 6 for favour of his kind information and necessary action.
5. Dr. S.K. Khanduri, IFS, IGF, MoEF & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi-110003 for favour of his kind information (**Email-igfwl-mef@nic.in**).
6. The Secretary, Forest, BTC, Kokrajhar for favour of his kind information.
7. Mr. Rakesh Adlkha, First Secretary, Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, 7, Place Defontenoy, 75352, Paris 07SPFRANCE for favour of his kind information (**email- r.adlakha.in@unesco-delegations.org**).
8. The DC, Baksa District, Mushalpur for favour of his kind information.
9. The SP, Baksa District, Mushalpur for favour of his kind information.

Field Director, Manas Tiger Project
Barpeta Road, Assam.