

# WHV – Cross-Continental Conservation Collaboration for Heritage Champions

## Kaziranga National Park, India

Natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1985)

## PROJECT DATES

01 - 15 November 2024

**THE SITE** - Kaziranga National Park represents one of the last unmodified natural areas in the north-eastern region of India. Covering 42,996 ha, and located in the State of Assam it is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain. The fluctuations of the Brahmaputra River result in spectacular examples of riverine and fluvial processes in this vast area of wet alluvial tall grassland interspersed with numerous broad shallow pools fringed with reeds and patches of deciduous to semi-evergreen woodlands. Kaziranga is regarded as one of the finest wildlife refuges in the world. The park's contribution in saving the Indian one-horned rhinoceros from the brink of extinction at the turn of the 20th century to harbouring the single largest population of this species is a spectacular conservation achievement. The property also harbours significant populations of other threatened species including tigers, elephants, wild water buffalo and bears as well as aquatic species including the Ganges River dolphin. It is an important area for migratory birds.

**OBJECTIVES** - The Kaziranga National Park management authority will join the Initiative for the first time, with a programme aimed at ensuring the efficient protection of the park's diverse flora and fauna. The project represents a unique example of cross-continental conservation collaboration, with a partnership involving the Okavango Delta World Heritage site in Botswana and bringing together Heritage Champions (Site managers, heritage practitioners, NGOs, researchers, local community, and youth) from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

**ACTIVITIES** - Volunteers will participate in educational initiatives, guided tours, and heritage interpretation workshops enhancing awareness regarding the critical importance of biodiversity conservation and the preservation of Kaziranga's exceptional heritage.

**PARTNERS** - Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam; Department of Tourism, Government of Assam; IUCN India; UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage training and capacity building at Wildlife Institute of India; WWF India; Aaranyak India; Wildlife Trust of India; Corbett Foundation; IORA Hotels & Resort; Medini Homestay; Mandu Resort.

**Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve**

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