

Project Update: January 2005

The conservation of the rhino is the epitome of the wildlife conservation initiative in Assam which harbours about 1,700 great Indian One Horned Rhino in three protected areas. Kaziranga National Park in Assam harbours about 1,552 rhino as per the census carried out in 1999. The Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary is only 16 sq km, but provides shelter to the highest density of Great Indian One Horned rhino in the world. Currently Pabitora WLS has a population of about 76 rhino.

During the preliminary field study, it was observed that the rhinos from Pabitora WLS, developed the tendency of migration from the WLS during the month of November till March towards Moirabari area (Marigaon), Kurua (Kamrup), Bhuragaon (Marigaon), Chawlkhowa Chapori (near Mangaldoi), Nangoli Char, Nepali Char, Kajia Char, Ganeshbari Char, Kayamari Char, Puthimari Char, etc.

The proposed project on rhino straying out of the Pabitora WLS has been designed to learn more about the problem to find out appropriate solution. The study will be conducted for next one year and at the end of the study, the causes of such straying out and appropriate conservation action plan will be recommended.