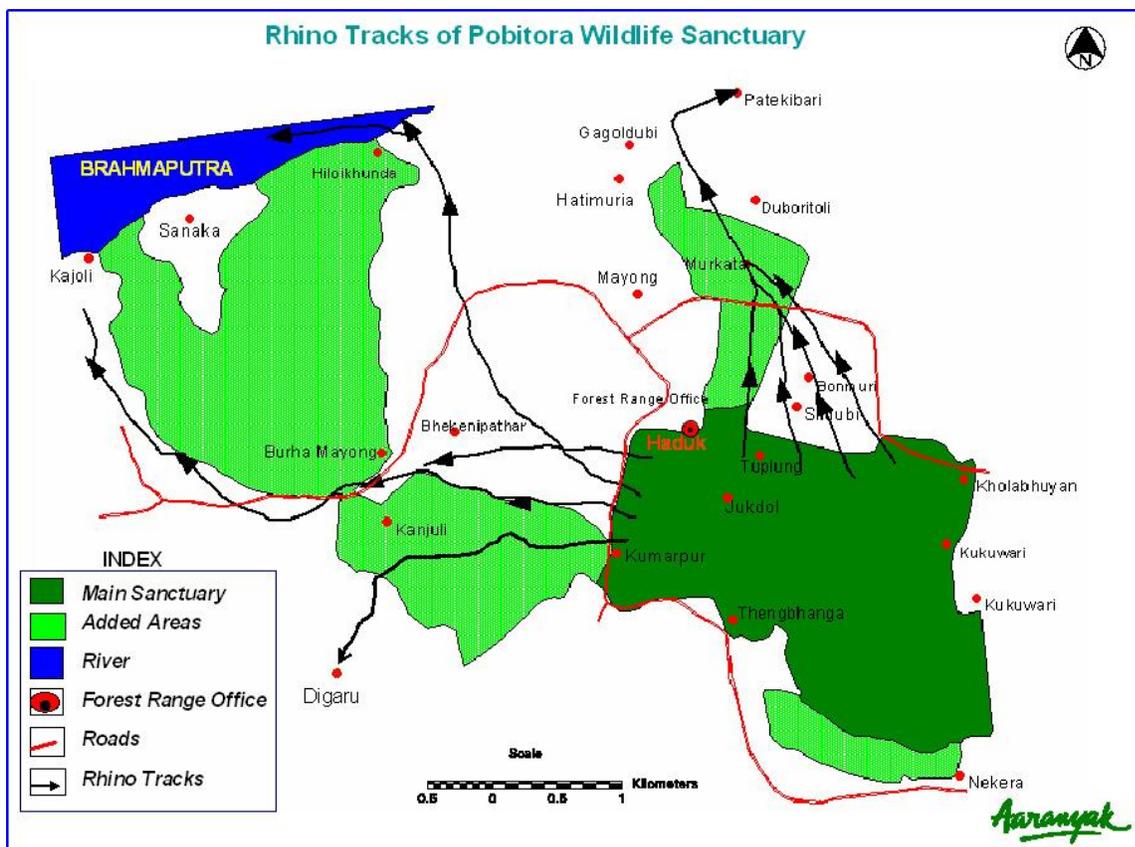


Project Update: March 2006

The project entitled **Conservation of Great Indian One Horned Rhino in Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India** has been completed successfully by the Rufford Small Grant Awardees, Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar of Aaranyak. Under this project a series of community orientation was made around Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam that harbours the highest density of Greater One Horned Rhinos in its distribution range in India and Nepal. Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) was only 16 sq km where in 1999 about 76 rhinos were recorded that revealed a rhino density of about 4.75 per sq km, as against 3.60 per sq km in Kaziranga National Park and 1.15 per sq km in Orang National Park of Assam where rhinos are found.

A GIS based map has been produced out of the project work that pin points the straying route of rhinos outside of the Pabitora WLS which was one of the major output expected from this project. The map has been made based on intense field visit and interactions with the local villagers and forest staff. The output has been verified and the final version of the map has been prepared as shown below. The map is now assisting the forest staff to deploy their guard outside the WLS to stop any poaching chances. The map has become a useful tool to the forest managers.



The study found couple of information of rhino moving from Pabitora WLS to Orang National Park. Based on the information received from the field survey, the following map has been produced. This mapping was done in October-November 2005.

