

Orang National Park is a small NP (around 72km²), located on the northern banks of the Brahmaputra, to the West of the Kaziranga NP. The rhino population currently ranges around 68 Indian rhinos. This is the third largest population of Indian Rhinos in India. Tiger and other rare species live in this NP as well. Orang NP is directly surrounded by communities to the North, West and East. In the past, there have been insufficient infrastructure and security systems, which led to high poaching activities (between 1995 – 2000, 64 rhinos were poached). The rangers did not have the means to go on daily patrols, neither during the dry, nor during the rainy season. Being located in a very beautiful natural setting, the Orang NP has the potential to become a very attractive tourist side and to raise an income through ecotourism. However this field has never been developed because of the proximity of the well known Kaziranga NP. Within IRV 2020, the Orang NP has received special attention as the population of rhinos live in a very good area but need strong protection. The Orang NP is one of the seven NPs in Assam that help to carry a sustainable Indian rhino population in the near future and, through its location, it also carries the potential to become a corridor area between Kaziranga and the northern part of Assam in the future.

The main threats for wildlife within the Orang NP are currently: Poaching, Shortage of manpower, Open river fronts, Lack of infrastructure, Lack of Community participation.

In the last year, the following issues were discussed and started:

- Motivation of field staff was strengthened by improving housing facilities, by providing basic field kits and by arranging annual medical camps for the staff and their families.

- More scouts were employed and replaced those who were sick and could no longer go on duty. Each scout received special training on land, riverside and in boats for the rainy season.
- More camps were build which allow for a better control. In addition the roads were cleared properly, wireless communication was optimized, a 4x4 vehicle as well as motorcycles and bicycles were purchased.
- Communities were approached and several awareness campaigns raised.

Basel zoo has assumed the sponsorship of the Orang NP on a long-term base to ensure the protection of Indian rhinos and to assist in the development of the Orang NP for the future.

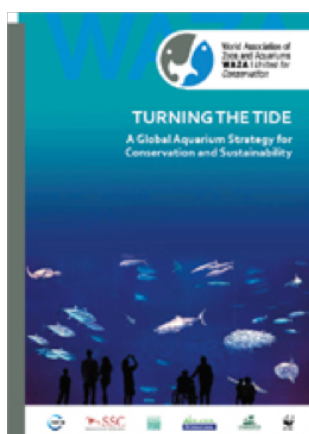
WAZA Conservation Project 08008 is implemented by WWF India, the Government of Assam, and IRF (International Rhino Foundation), and is supported by Basel Zoo (Switzerland), and the IRV 2020 is supported by: IRF, USFWS, and the EAZA rhino campaign.

Once again : *Western zoos don't have to be the only institutions which support such projects...considering the importance of conservation of wildlife and wild place, of there are numerous commercial companies in every country (both international and domestic) which are very well off and could easily contribute significant support to in situ conservation projects. One very good way to do this would also be to become Commercial WAZA member, but donations alone for specific project would be welcome and well-used. Get someone interested in this and have them write to WAZA Secretariat secretariat@waza.org.*

Some of WAZA's Strategic Documents



Building a Future for Wildlife: The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy
Published in 2005



Turning the Tide: A Global Aquarium Strategy for Conservation and Sustainability
Published in 2009



Understanding Animals and Protecting Them: About the World Zoo and Aquarium Strategy
Published in 2006



The WAZA Biodiversity Book: Building a Future for Wildlife. Stories of WAZA's in situ conservation programme.
Published in 2010