

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK (ASSAM)



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Location

Kaziranga National Park is a National Park in the Golaghat and Nagaon district of the state of Assam , India



KAZIRANGA

(Not to Scale)



Location and Climate

Location of Kaziranga National Park: Tucked in Golaghat district of Assam, the park lies along the main highway between Jorhat and the Guwahati. The park is flanked by the Bodo hills to the west.

Climate of Kaziranga National Park: Summer months are moderate (35° C: 95° F) while winter nights are cold (minimum of 7° C; 45° F). Very heavy monsoon rainfall in summer (2300mm; 90 inch).

When to go (Kaziranga National Park) : A favorable time for the traveler is from November to March. Closed during monsoon season, mid-April to mid-October.

Topography

- The Park is 40km long by 13km wide. It lies in the flood plain of the Brahmaputra River, sloping very gradually from east to west against a backdrop of the foothills and snow-covered peaks of the eastern Himalayas.
- The riverine habitat consists primarily of dense tall grassland interspersed with open forests, interconnecting streams and numerous small flood-formed lakes or bheels which cover some 5% of its area.
- The whole park is occasionally flooded for 5-10 days, and three-quarters of the western, Baguri, area is annually submerged. The soils are alluvial. The wetlands are described by Scott.

Cultural heritage, tribes, and visitors

- Mikir tribesmen live in the neighbouring Karbi-Anglang hills to the south.
- There are no villages inside the national park but it is densely bordered on three sides by human settlements and tea plantations.
- There are 39 villages within a 10km radius of the park, with an estimated population of 22,300 people, most of them very poor subsistence farmers tempted by poverty to fish and poach wildlife in the Park

Visitors

- The interior of the Park is accessible outside the flood season (May to October), mostly on elephant-back, by 4WD vehicles or seen from watchtowers.
- Guides are mandatory and foot safaris are banned. There are seven tourist lodges in the Park. In 2003 an Elephant Festival was held

To reach kaziranga park

Air : The two most convenient bases for getting to Kaziranga are Jorhat and Guwahati. Jorhat, 97 km from the sanctuary, is the nearest airport, but Guwahati's Borjhar Airport, 239 km from Kaziranga, is connected by more flights

Rail : The nearest railhead is Furkating, situated 75-km away from Kaziranga National Park.

Road : The main gate for Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary, at Kohora on the NH-37, consists of a handful of cafes and a small local market. ASTC and private buses stop here on their way to and from Guwahati, Tezpur and Upper Assam.



VIEW OF THE KAZIRANGA FROM SOUTH
SHOWING BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER



HISTORY

- Etyomology
- 1904 Lord and Lady Curzon
- On January 28, 1913, the area of reserved forest was expanded and Kaziranga was declared a "Game Sanctuary" on November 10, 1938
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- However, in 1950 the name was changed to "wildlife sanctuary" as the word "game" connotated animals for hunting.
- On February 11, 1974. It was declared "Kaziranga National Park. It was listed a world heritage site in 1985



Entrance gate Kaziranga National Park



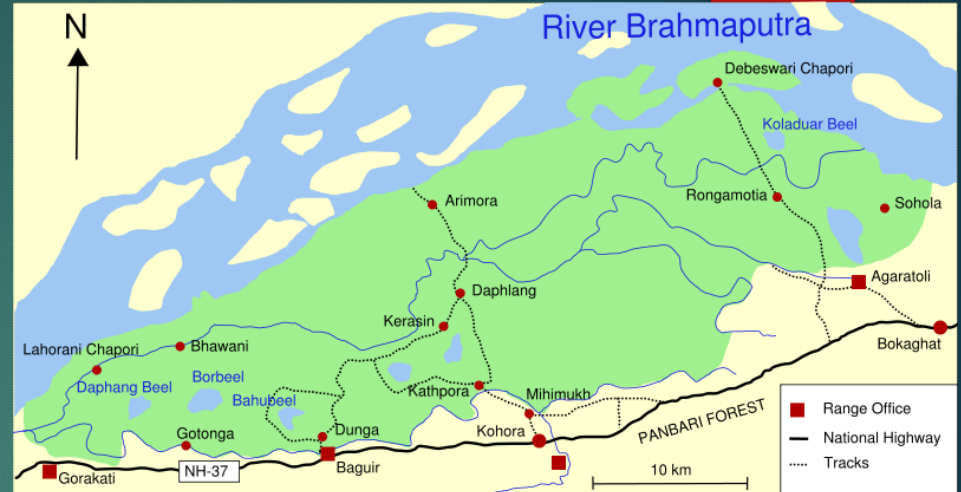
Why is it a part of world heritage?

- UNESCO has 10 criteria, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.
- The criteria that makes Kaziranga to the heritage list.
 - contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity
 - to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

- Kaziranga National Park in Assam India, is best-known as the home of the Indian Rhinoceros, declared a World Heritage Site, by UNESCO in 1985,
- Spread over an area of 430 sq km, the park is bounded by the mighty Brahmaputra on the north and verdant, hills of Karbi Anglong on the south

The park has no boundary wall and a rough oval shape. its south side boundary follows (for the most part) the Mori Diffaloo river is close and to National Highway No. 37, the main arterial highway in Assam.



Of the world natural heritage sites, seven such sites are in India. Out of these seven, two such sites are in Assam. They are the Kaziranga National Park and the Manas Tiger Project, for the protection of tigers



The world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceros (70 per cent). Wild buffalo (50 per cent) and swamp deer (65 per cent) are in the Kaziranga National Park.

There were 1164 Indian one-horned rhinoceros and 1034 Asiatic wild buffalo in the park. The figure of the rhino was of 1200. The number of elephant was 982 and tigers 804 in 1997. There were 526 swamp deer.

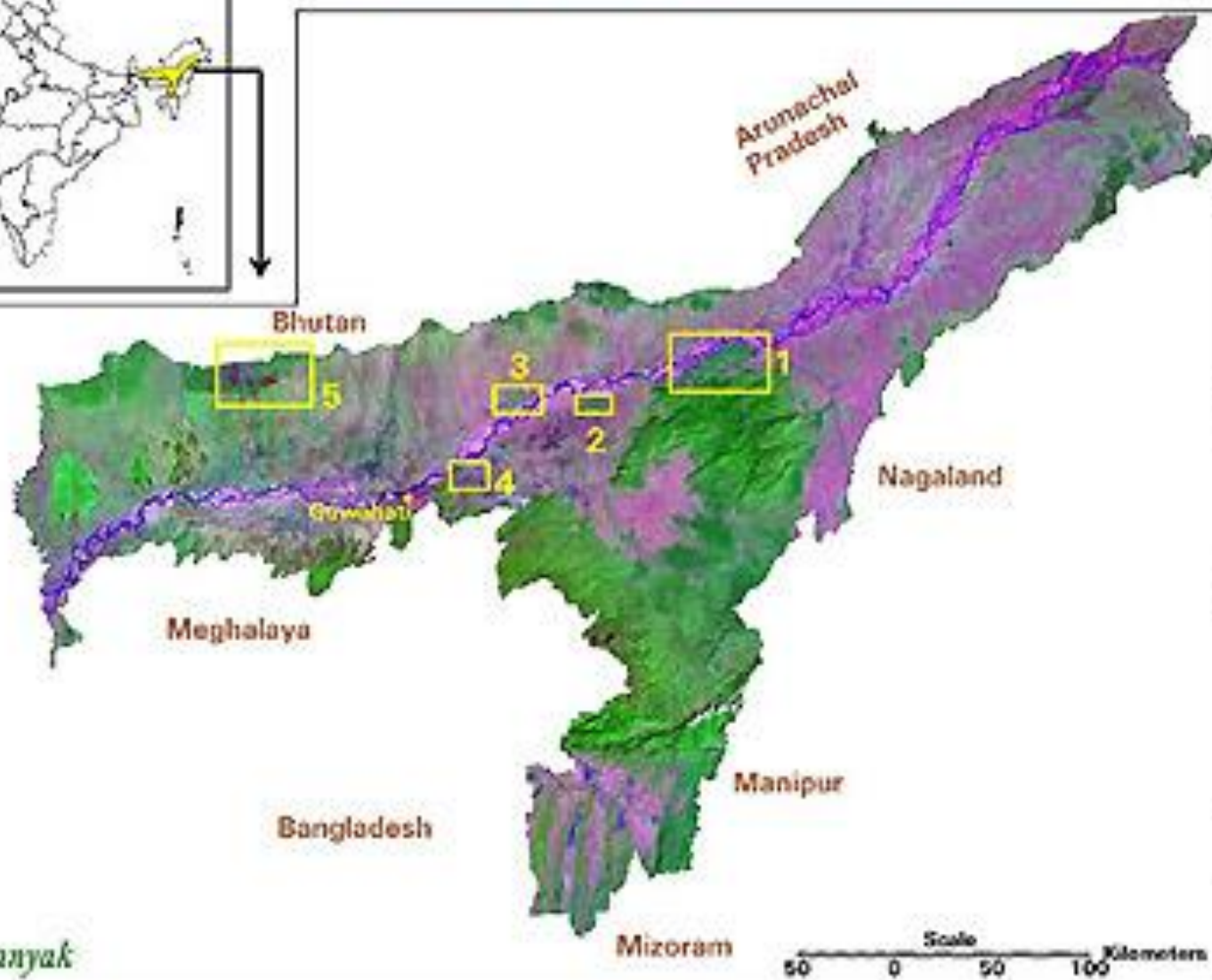


VEGETATION TYPES

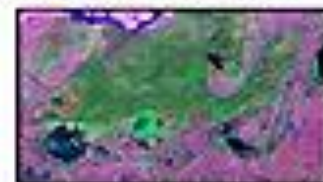
- There are four types of vegetation:
 - Tropical wet evergreen forest
 - Tropical deciduous forest
 - Grasslands
 - Swamp areas(beel)
 - (Tall grasses 41%, short grasses 11%, open jungle 29%, rivers and water bodies 8%, sand 6% and swamps 4%)



Rhino Bearing Areas of Assam



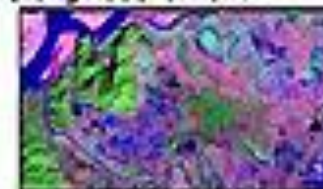
1. Kaziranga National Park



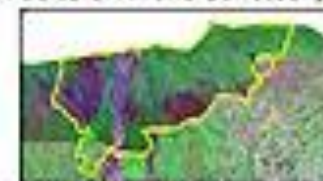
2. Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary



3. Orang National Park



4. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary



5. Manas National Park



VIEW SHOWING ELEPHANTS AT KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



Sitamari
Khuti

Bokakhat

to Jorhat

Brahmaputra

Dipholu

ITDC Forest
Lodge

Baguri

to Gawhati

not to scale

By Road
By Train



Prolific birdlife - Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park protects as many as 325 avian species. Often the solitude of the forest is interrupted by the musical notes of the Hill Myna in the distant valleys and hills. Resident birds include Bengal Florican and the Adjutant Stork, while other prominent species are the Fishing and Crested Eagle, Sultan Tit, Collared Bush Chat, White-capped Redstart, Yellow and Pied Wagtail, Indian Lorikeet, Red-Breasted Parakeet, Spotted Forktail and Blue Thrush. Among the many water birds are large Cormorant, Lesser Whistling Teal, Bar-headed Goose, Merganser and Comb Duck.



Haven for herbivores - Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga is a vast wildlife refuge, and sustains large numbers of herbivores. One species is the Asiatic Wild Buffalo, or Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). The latter species is quite temperamental and often charges unprovoked. There are around 40 Indian Bison and many species of the deer family, including Hog Deer, Sambhar and Chital (Spotted Deer). **The Soft ground Barasingha is one of Kaziranga's most highly endangered deer species** (it is also present in Dudhwa National Park and the park's monsoon-fed waterlogged terrain proves a most suitable habitat since its hooves are specially adapted to this environment. The elusive Mouse Deer is another species.



Finally, nearly 50 Bengal Tiger and a reasonable population of Leopard (Panther) survive in Kaziranga's jungles. Visitors who are patient are sure to have a chance at seeing Tiger in the forests.



INDIAN RHINO



RHINOSORUS OF THE PARK

- The white and black Rhinos are live in Africa, while Indian, Javan and Sumatran are Asian Rhinos, found in North Pakistan, Assam in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh
- The usual weight of an Indian Rhino is 2,000 kg. The one way to distinguish between a an Indian Rhino and an African Rhino is the single horn. Both white and black African Rhinos have two horns. Another distinguishing feature of the Indian Rhinoceros is its skin, which is knobbly and falls into deep folds at its joints, giving a look like the Rhino is wearing a coat of armour.
- All the Rhinos are vegetarian and Indian Rhinos mostly eat grass, fruits, leaves and crops. Their well developed upper lip helps them to eat out tall elephant grasses, which they like the best. It also helps them to pull out aquatic plants by the roots. Indian Rhinos usually prefer to roam around in the morning and evening hours to avoid the heat of the day and live for about 40 years.

RHINOS BEING KILLED FOR GAMES AND SKIN

- Despite the increase in numbers, during the past century more than 700 rhinos have been killed by poachers in Kaziranga.
- It's only in the past decade that poaching has really been brought under control (from 40 rhinos killed per year in 1995 to just seven in 2005).
- Kaziranga's rhino population was probably at an all-time low of about a dozen individuals in 1905. The first proper census was carried out in 1966, when there were estimated to be 366. The numbers have increased five-fold since then to 1,855 - a major achievement
- In 1970 there were an estimated 70,000 rhinos. Today, that number has fallen to an estimated 10-12,000, a staggering 85% decrease.
- Recent unrest in Nepal has probably reduced rhino numbers from 800 to between 400/500 animals.
- India holds the remaining estimated population of 2,084 with approximately 1,855 in Kaziranga National Park, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's entire population.

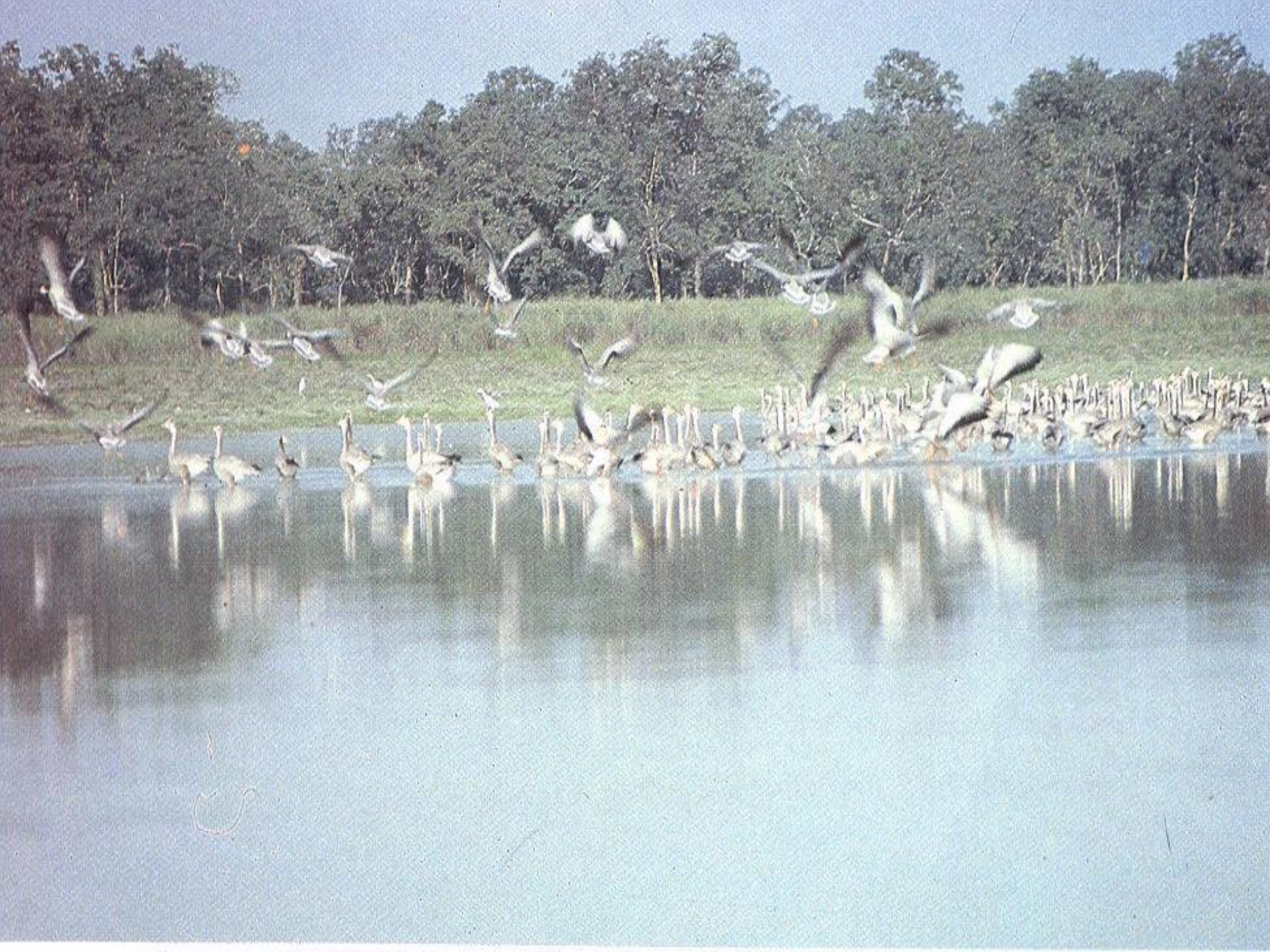
BIRDS AND AQUATICS

Kaziranga National Park has more than **483 species of the birds**. 18 of them are globally threatened species. Because of the varied habitat types that the Park comprises off as also of the strict protection accorded to them, birding is very special in Kaziranga.

The Eastern range is very special for water birds such as **Falcated Teals, White Eyed Pochard and Spot billed pelican**. For Grass land birds the Western range is ideal. The **Bengal Florican** can be seen during the Elephant ride in this range.



The nearby Panbari Reserved Forest is good for primates such as **Hoollock Gibbon and Capped Langur** and also woodland birds such as **Yellow-vented Warbler, Great Hornbill, Dark necked Tailorbird, Grey-bellied and Slaty-bellied Tesias**.



OTHER SPECIES AT PARK

- Apart from being the home of the one-horned rhino, Kaziranga is also the natural habitat of wild buffaloes, Asiatic Elephant, Indian Bison, wild boars, barasingha (Eastern swamp deer), leopards, tigers, Jackal, hoollock gibbons, capped langur, rock python, and monitor lizards. Although tigers inhabit this park, it is quite difficult to sight one.





THANK YOU