



Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Government of Assam

Report No. 3 of 2014

**Performance Audit
of
Kaziranga National Park – Issues and
Challenges**



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Table of Contents

	Paragraph	Page
<i>Preface</i>		iii
<i>Executive Summary</i>		v - vii
Chapter I Introduction		
<i>Brief About Kaziranga National Park</i>	1.1 – 1.9	1 – 4
<i>Audit Objectives</i>	2.1	4
<i>Scope and methodology of Audit</i>	3.1	5
<i>Organisational set up</i>	4.1	5 – 6
<i>Audit Criteria</i>	5.1	6
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	6.1 – 6.4	6 – 7
Chapter II Planning and Financials		
<i>Long term planning</i>	7.1 – 7.8	9 – 12
<i>Annual Plans of operation vis-à-vis fund management</i>	8.1 – 8.6.3	12 – 16
<i>Kaziranga Tiger Conservation Foundation</i>	8.7.1 – 8.9	16 – 17
<i>Recommendations – Planning and Financials</i>		17
Chapter III Human Resource Management		
<i>Introductory</i>	9.1	19
<i>Sanctioned strength and men-in-position</i>	9.2	19
<i>Deployment of manpower</i>	9.3.1 – 9.3.5	20 – 21
<i>Deployment of Assam Forest Protection Force</i>	9.4.1 – 9.4.3	21 – 22
<i>Training of staff/officers</i>	9.5.1 – 9.5.2	22 – 23
<i>Rewards for exceptional performance of staff</i>	9.6 – 9.7	23
<i>Compassionate appointments and lack of safety net</i>	9.8.1 – 9.9.1	23 – 24
<i>Allowances to staff</i>	9.10.1 – 9.10.4	24 – 25
<i>Deployment of casual labourers</i>	9.11.1 – 9.11.2	25 – 26
<i>Uniforms etc</i>	9.12.1	26
<i>Amenities for the staff</i>	9.13.1 – 9.13.4	26 – 28
<i>Recommendations – human resource management</i>		29
Chapter IV Anti-poaching action plan		
<i>Introductory</i>	10.1.1 – 10.1.3	31 – 32
<i>Anti-poaching camps</i>	10.2.1 – 10.2.8	32 – 36

	Paragraph	Page
<i>Intelligence gathering</i>	10.3.1 – 10.3.5	36 – 37
<i>Monitoring of poachers/linkmen</i>	10.4.1 – 10.4.4	37 – 38
<i>Availability of weaponry</i>	10.5.1 – 10.5.3	38 – 39
<i>Gadgetry</i>	10.6.1 – 10.6.2	39 – 40
<i>Database/tracking the activities of the poachers/villagers</i>	10.7.1 – 10.7.2	40
<i>Conviction of arrested poachers</i>	10.8.1 – 10.8.6	40 – 43
<i>Innovative approaches and other initiatives</i>	10.9.1 – 10.9.3	44 – 45
<i>Recommendations – anti-poaching action plan</i>		45
Chapter V Habitat management		
<i>Introductory</i>	11.1.1 – 11.1.2	47
<i>Funding</i>	11.2.1	47 – 48
<i>Management of wetlands</i>	11.3.1 – 11.3.2	48
<i>Management of grassland</i>	11.4.1 – 11.4.5	49 – 50
<i>Erosion by river Brahmaputra</i>	11.5.1 – 11.5.3	51 – 52
<i>Recommendations – Habitat management</i>		52
Chapter VI Notification of additional areas		
<i>Introductory</i>	12.1.1 – 12.1.2	53
<i>1st Addition</i>	12.2.1 – 12.2.4	54 – 55
<i>4th Addition</i>	12.3.1 – 12.3.3	55 – 56
<i>6th Addition</i>	12.4.1 – 12.4.3	56 – 57
<i>2nd, 3rd and 5th Additions</i>	12.5.1 – 12.5.10	57 – 60
<i>Recommendations – Additional areas</i>		61
Chapter VII Other Issues impacting conservation of wildlife		
<i>Eco-development activities</i>	13.1 – 13.3	63 – 64
<i>Recommendations – eco development activities</i>		65
<i>Biotic pressure vis-à-vis eco-sensitive zone</i>	14.1.1 – 14.2.11	65 – 71
<i>Recommendations – Biotic Pressure</i>		72
Chapter VIII Conclusions		
<i>Annexures 'A' to 'G'</i>		73 – 75
		77 – 106

Preface

This Report on Performance Audit of “Kaziranga National Park – Issues and Challenges” has been prepared for submission to the Governor of Assam under Article 151 of the Constitution of India.

The Performance Audit was conducted between March and July 2014 through

- scrutiny of records of the Environment and Forest Department in the Government of Assam, Offices of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest – Wildlife, Director – Kaziranga National Park, Divisional Forest Officer – Eastern Assam Wildlife Division.*
- The Offices of the Circle Officers, Bokakhat and Kaliabor were visited to gather data/information on land use pattern around the park.*
- The Presidents of the eco-development committees in the fringe villages were interviewed to understand the relationship between the wildlife authorities and the fringe villages.*
- Besides, other stakeholders were also interacted with to gather information/understanding the issues better.*
- The audit team has also visited 37 out of 165 anti-poaching camps to ascertain the level of preparedness of the wildlife guards and the amenities provided to them.*

The results of audit, recommendations and the response of the Department are incorporated in this Report. The Department has accepted all the recommendations.

The field work leading to this Report was carried out by an Audit team consisting of four members who were supervised by the Deputy Accountant General in –charge Revenue Sector Audit and the Accountant General (Audit), Assam. The NER wing of Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, New Delhi monitored the overall progress of the Performance Audit.

The audit has been conducted in conformity with Auditing Standards issued (March 2002) by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.





Executive Summary

Background

*The protected area concept for Biodiversity conservation has figured prominently around the world. KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK, legally notified as a National Park in the year 1974, is a name known worldwide for its success in the conservation history of one horned Indian Rhinoceros. It also provides a natural habitat for a number of rare, threatened and charismatic species. A symbol of dedication for the conservation of animals and their habitat, Kaziranga, with a National Park status represents the single largest protected area within the North-east Brahmaputra valley to provide long term viable conservation. The outstanding conservation values made Kaziranga National Park to get inscribed on the **World Heritage List** of "Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage" in the year 1985.*

However, sudden increase in poaching of Rhinos has attracted attention of the public, wildlife lovers, Government and other non-government organisations working on the field. Further, deaths of animals due to floods, biotic disturbance from human encroachments around the Park had been the matter of concern for the wildlife authorities of the State of Assam. Also, eminent citizens of the State expressed their concerns for protection of the Rhinos from the threats posed from poachers during the meeting of the Audit Advisory Board in December 2013. In view of the above, it was decided to take up this performance audit.

The Objectives of this Audit were to ascertain whether:

There was a long term perspective plan supported by annual action plans aligned to the former – for long term conservation, protection and development;

Funds allocated were adequate to manage the activities of the wildlife habitats and funds were made available to the wildlife managers in time;

Manpower available was sufficient and adequately trained to effectively face the challenges;

The protection measures undertaken by the authorities were adequate and effective in view of the present threats;

Efforts were made to continuously develop the wildlife habitat and notify additional areas to make it favourable for the wild animals and the existing territorial integrity of the park was intact; and

Efforts were made to reduce the biotic disturbance caused by human settlements and industrial activities around the Park.

The Performance Audit revealed the following:

Failure to review the management plan despite the need for deviations from the core objectives in view of poaching pressure rendered it partially redundant resulting in a disconnect with the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) which should otherwise flow from the management plan.

(Paragraph 7.1 to 7.7)

Against the financial outlay of ₹ 93.76 crore proposed in the original APOs for 2010-11 to 2012-13, the KNP authorities got only ₹ 17.37 crore which was about 19 per cent of the funds demanded.

(Paragraph 8.2.4 to 8.2.6)

The funds allocated by the State Government towards wildlife sector and KNP vis-à-vis total plan outlay of the State ranged between 0.03 to 0.07 per cent and 0.005 to 0.02 per cent respectively during the years 2008-09 to 2012-13.

(Paragraph 8.4.1)

Out of 100 freshly recruited forest guards and Foresters – 1 deployed in KNP, 73 were withdrawn within one year resulting in deployment of aged staff on frontline duties. Reasons for transferring out the fresh recruits out of KNP despite increase in poaching cases/arrests of poachers were not on record.

(Paragraph 9.3.1 to 9.3.3)

None of the wildlife guards of KNP were imparted any training during 2008-09 to 2012-13. Besides, these guards do not have firing practice as the fresher training module contains only theoretical training on arms and ammunition.

(Paragraph 9.5.1&9.5.2)

Though 83 personnel had laid down their lives while on duty, family members could only get casual jobs instead of compassionate appointment; besides, there is no adequate insurance on the life of the frontline staff. Further, the additional allowances paid to the frontline staff are not commensurate with the arduous nature of duties.

(Paragraph 9.6 to 9.8.3)

There is neither adequate number of anti-poaching camps on the periphery of the park nor a foolproof periphery protection plan which resulted in increased poaching instances mainly near the park boundaries.

(Paragraph 10.2.1 to 10.2.8)

Out of six additional areas preliminarily notified in 1984-85, the KNP authorities are yet to take over three additional areas though records available show that these areas had already been handed over to them by the civil administration in 2005. Survey conducted by Circle Officer in 2009 revealed that substantial area of Government land was under illegal encroachment.

(Paragraph 12.1.1 to 12.5.10)

33 eco-development committees had been formed in 2002, but not a single has started functioning even after 12 years.

(Paragraph 13.1 to 13.3)

Recommendations

On the basis of the audit findings, six sets of recommendations had been incorporated in this Report under various issues namely – planning and financials, human resource management, anti-poaching action plan, habitat management, management of additional areas, eco-development activities and biotic-pressure.

How this Report is organised

Chapter I contains the introductory. Chapters II to VII contain the audit findings relating to – planning and financials, human resource management, anti-poaching action plan, habitat management, notification of additional areas vis-à-vis encroachments and other issues impacting conservation of wildlife. The conclusions of this study are incorporated in Chapter VIII. The annexures referred to at various places of the Report are placed at the last part of the Report.

Response of the Department

The Department thanked the Indian Audit and Accounts Department for carrying out the Performance Audit on Kaziranga National Park and stated that a number of issues had been brought out which had hitherto remained unattended. They have accepted all the recommendations suggested through this Report and informed that the Department was working on these suggestions for better conservation and preservation of the endangered animals, especially the one-horned Indian Rhinoceros.





CHAPTER – I INTRODUCTION

Brief about Kaziranga National Park

1.1 India is a natural home to an amazing variety of fauna and flora. There are about 75,000 species of animals; of which, 340 species are mammals, 1,200 birds, 420 reptiles, 140 amphibians and some other species of vertebrates. Of these, about 190 species of mammals and more than 800 species and subspecies of birds are so far reported from Assam.

1.2 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are extremely important for conservation of biodiversity, and for ensuring the survival of floral and faunal components, not only for the present but also for future. For effective conservation and protection of wildlife in the country, forests are segregated into three distinct areas, namely (i) Wildlife Sanctuaries (**hereinafter referred as WS**), (ii) National Parks (**hereinafter referred as NP**) and (iii) Biosphere Reserve. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (**hereinafter referred as The Act**) provides for four types of protected areas namely (i) WSs, (ii) NPs, (iii) Conservation Reserves and (iv) Community



Grassland, water bodies, highlands with big trees – essence of wildlife conservation in Assam



Rhinoceros Unicornis (Rhinos) - pride of Assam



Panthera Tigris - Royal Bengal Tiger

Reserves. No human activity is allowed inside a NP while limited activities are permitted within the WS and Biosphere Reserves. The protected areas account for approx. 4.5 per cent of the country's geographical extent and include more than 500 WSs, 104 NPs and 18 biosphere reserves.

1.3 The Wildlife areas of the State house nearly 44 types of endangered and rare species and mammals and 14 types of reptiles and amphibian. There are nine species of primates in Assam, which also include the only ape of India, the Hollock Gibbon (*Hylobates Hoolock*). As many as eight cat species are found in the State. Moreover, Assam holds the entire known world population of Pygmy hog (*Sus salvanius*), 75 per cent of the world population of the Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and wild water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and a sizeable population of Asian elephant (*Elephus maximus*) and tigers (*Panthera Tigris*).



Factors placing Assam in the International map

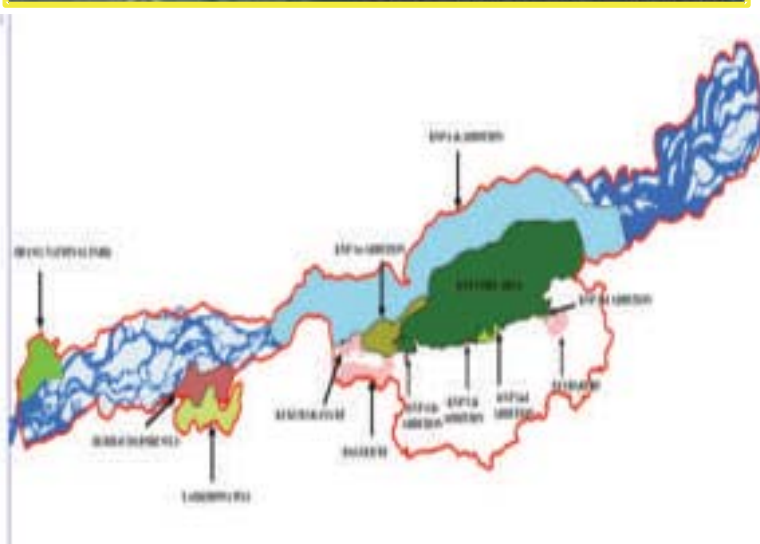
1.4 Assam – counted among the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, has been a biological frontier well into the 21st century. In Assam, there are 18 WSs¹ and five NPs² covering 1,840.14 sq km and 1,947.21 sq km area respectively besides two bio-sphere reserves namely Dibru-Saikhowa and Manas. The five NPs had been notified between 1974 and 1999. Of the NPs and WSs in the State, Kaziranga National Park (KNP) is the largest NP with 858.92 sq km³.

¹ Garampani, Laokhowa, Bornadi, Chakrasila, Bura chapori, Pani dihing, Hollongapar Gibbon, Pobitora, Sonai Rupai, Beherjan-Borajan Padumoni, East Karbi Anglong, Nambor, Morat Longri, Nambor Doigurung, Amchang, Dihing patkai, Borail and Deepor Beel.

² Dibru-Saikhowa, Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri and Orang.

³ Original area 429.93 sq km, 1st addition – 43.79 sq km, 4th addition – 0.89 sq km and 6th addition – 376 sq km. (2nd, 3rd and 5th addition areas involving 6.47, 0.69 and 1.15 sq km respectively are yet to be officially taken over by the KNP authorities).

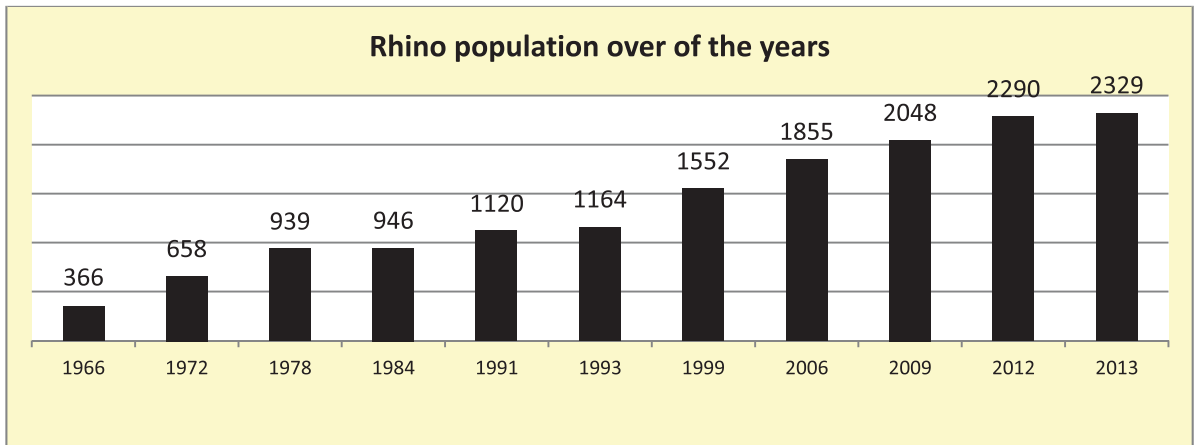
1.5 KNP lies between Latitudes 26°34' N to 26°46' N and Longitudes 93° 08' E to 93° 36' E. It is spread over the civil jurisdictions of Nagaon and Golaghat districts in Assam with mighty Brahmaputra river on the North and verdant Karbi Anglong hills on the South. The history of KNP dates back to 1st June 1908 when it was first declared as a Reserve Forest. It was subsequently upgraded to a Game Sanctuary in 1916, a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950 and finally a NP in 1974. Spread over an area of 429.93 Sq.Km in the flood plains of Brahmaputra, it harbours the World's largest population of one horned Rhinoceros, Wild Buffalo and the Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvauceli ranjitsinghi*). Since then, six areas have been added/



Satellite imagery of KNP (core area marked) and the map of KNP with additional areas

proposed to be added to the existing NP. These are- 1st Addition (43.79 Sq.Km., notified on 28-05-97), 2nd Addition (6.47 Sq.Km., preliminarily notified on 10-07-85), 3rd Addition (0.69 Sq.Km., preliminarily notified on 31-05-85), 4th Addition (0.89 Sq.Km., notified on 13-06-85), 5th Addition (1.15 Sq.Km., preliminarily notified on 13-06-85) and the 6th Addition (376 Sq.Km., notified on 07-08-99). Besides these, the reserved forests of Panbari (7.65 Sq.Km.) and Kukurakata (15.93 Sq.Km.) are also under the administration of KNP.

1.6 A symbol of dedication to the conservation of animals and their habitat, Kaziranga, with a NP status represents the single largest protected area within the North-east Brahmaputra valley Bio-geographical Province. On account of the outstanding conservation values KNP was inscribed on the World Heritage List of “Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage” under criteria N (ii) and N (iv) of the Natural Heritage notified in India by UNESCO in the year 1985. The statistics in the following table testifies the efforts made by the KNP authorities to increase the Rhino population over the years.



1.7 The Department stated (November 2014) that the public outcry against the Rhino poaching led to the Hon'ble High Court of Gauhati to take up a suo-motu Public Interest Litigation on the issue.

1.8 Since then the National Park has seen fluctuations in its population. While there has been an increase in Rhino population in recent years, there has also been immense pressure from the poachers due to demand of Rhino horns in the international market. This has emerged as a major threat to the safety of the endangered species attracting negative attention of the conservationists worldwide. The enormity of the poaching issue is such that the matter is being investigated by the premier investigation agency of the country. Besides, there are other challenges like biotic disturbance from human encroachment and industries around the NP.

1.9 In view of the emerging threats posed to the conservation of Rhinos in Assam as discussed above, this performance audit on the topic titled 'Kaziranga National Park - issues and challenges' has been planned.

Audit Objectives

2.1 The objective of this Performance Audit was to ascertain whether:

- there was a long term perspective plan supported by annual action plans aligned to the former - for long term conservation, protection and development;
- funds allocated were adequate to manage the activities of the wildlife habitats and funds were made available to the wildlife managers in time;
- manpower available was sufficient and adequately trained to effectively face the challenges;
- the protection measures undertaken by the authorities were adequate and effective in view of the present threats;
- efforts were made to continuously develop the wildlife habitat and notify additional areas to make it favourable for the wild animals and the existing territorial integrity of the park was intact; and

- efforts were made to reduce the biotic disturbance caused by human settlements and industrial activities around it.

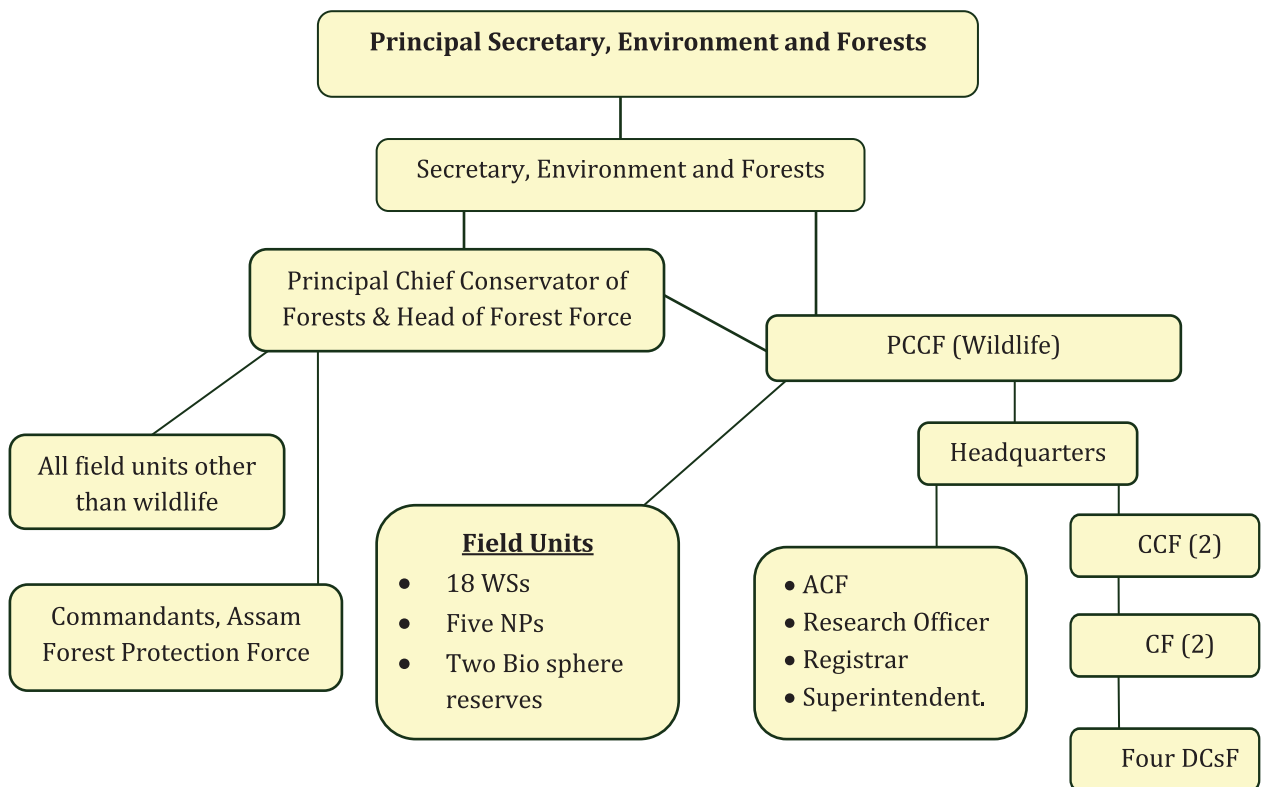
Scope and methodology of Audit

3.1 The records of the office of the Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam, Environment and Forests Department and Finance Department, Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife (PCCF, Wildlife), KNP, pertaining to the period 2008-09 to 2012-13 were test checked. Critical issues like poaching, human settlement and biotic pressure had, however, been covered upto the date of Audit. The field audit was carried out between March and mid-July 2014. Two sets of Questionnaires were issued to the PCCF, Wildlife and KNP for their response. Discussions were also held with the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)/Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACF)/Range Officers (RO) (**hereinafter referred as the Wildlife Officers**) on various issues and challenges and minutes of meetings were drawn. Joint physical verification and surveys along with KNP officials were conducted in and around the KNP. The Offices of the Circle Officers, Bokakhat and Kaliabor were also visited to collect the data/information on land use pattern around KNP alongwith the extent of encroachment in 2nd, 3rd and 5th additional areas. Besides, interviews with the Presidents of Eco-Development Committees (EDC) and other stake holders were held to understand the local issues better.

Organisational set up

4.1 At the State level, the Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests is in overall charge of the Department. The Directorate is headed by the PCCF, Wildlife who is also the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. He is assisted by a CCF, a CF, four Deputy CFs⁴. There is also one ACF, one Wildlife Research Officer reporting to the head of the Directorate. The NPs and WSs are governed by 10 Wildlife divisions in the State which are headed by Field Directors/Directors (Manas and Kaziranga) and DFOs. The following chart depicts the organisational structure of the Department, Directorate and the field formations.

⁴ (i) Sr. Wildlife warden, (ii) publicity, (iii) enforcement officer and (iv) attached to the CF, Wildlife.



Audit Criteria

5.1 The Audit objectives were benchmarked against the following sources of audit criteria:

- The Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972;
- Wildlife Conservation strategy, 2002;
- National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16;
- Instructions issued by the Government of India and State Government;
- Guidelines of the schemes in operation;
- Various Court verdicts including those issued by the Green Tribunal; and
- Monitoring mechanism prescribed.

Acknowledgement

6.1 Indian Audit and Accounts Department acknowledges the co-operation of the Environment and Forest Department in providing necessary records for Audit and facilitating interaction with the Park authorities and other Stakeholders.

6.2 Prior to commencement of the Audit, an entry conference was held (February 2014) wherein the Secretary to the Government of Assam represented the Environment and Forest Department, CCF (Wildlife) represented the Directorate while the Officer on Special Duty represented the Finance Department, Government of Assam.

6.3 The draft Performance Audit Report consisting of the audit findings and the recommendations was sent to the Department with copy to the Finance and the Directorate in August 2014.

6.4 The audit findings were discussed in an exit conference held in October 2014. The PCCF, Wildlife, Assam along with the Director, KNP represented the Directorate while the Joint Secretary, Environment and Forest Department and the Deputy Secretary, Finance Department represented the Government of Assam. The Officers of the Directorate and the Government thanked the Indian Audit and Accounts Department for taking up the topic and stated that the Performance Audit had brought out a number of issues which hitherto remained unattended. They also informed that all the recommendations are well taken and the Department was working on them. Response of the Department during the exit conference and replies furnished (November 2014) had been appropriately incorporated at various places in the Report.



CHAPTER – II

PLANNING AND FINANCIALS

Planning

Long term planning (Management Plans)

7.1 The long term planning sets out approaches and goals of an organisation together with the framework for decision making process. It clearly identifies the different components required to be undertaken during the plan period. From the long term perspective plans, annual plans of operations (APOs) are framed keeping in view availability of funds.

According to '**Guide to Planning Wildlife Management in Protected Areas (PA)**' brought out by The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun¹ in 1995 and updated in 2005 a management plan must realistically address all management issues and must maintain objectivity, quality and standards.

7.2 Audit observed that, the first management plan of the KNP was prepared (October 2002) for the period 2003-04 to 2012-13 and approved by the Ministry of Environment of Forests, Government of India. The original management plan prepared by the park authorities was very close to the guidelines issued by the WII. Issues needing attention during the plan period upto 2012-13 were also planned in detail including the threats, constraints and challenges. Based on these micro-plans, the objectives, goals to be achieved were set which were further divided into eleven theme plans to be executed during the plan period. The plan also discussed the physical and financial targets and schedule of operations to be achieved/carried out during each of the 10 year plan period. The details are in **Annexure – 'A'**. The plan mentioned that "***with the poaching incidents getting drastically reduced and the wildlife enjoying near wilderness conditions***, the need to explore the following other facets of the park had arisen." Hence, the plan focused on the following objectives, -

¹ The apex body for Wildlife management in the country.

- To maintain and wherever necessary restore the demographic features relating to the populations of all endangered, endemic, vulnerable, rare species of animals and plants with special focus on Rhino, Tiger and their habitat.
- To maintain and wherever necessary restore the physical integrity of the area with special considerations to the flooding pattern.
- To identify research priorities and implement such programs to establish mechanism and create opportunities for enhancing management capabilities and knowledge of wildlife science.
- To enhance the quality of educational, recreational and wilderness experience given to the general public.
- Consistent with the above four objectives, in the zone of influence with sensitivity to cultural and economical well being of the communities and reduce the dependence on forest based resources.

7.3 Thus, a glance of the objectives set by the park authorities in the management plan 2003-04 to 2012-13 would clearly show that the threat from poaching was not at all envisaged as a concern in the original plan. Yet, analysis of the data relating to poaching cases and arrests of alleged poachers made between 2005 and 2013 indicate increasing trend of poaching activities in the NP. As a result, major resources available with the park authorities had to be utilised to meet the emerging challenges. The following tables, charts and graphs corroborate the audit analysis.

Table and Chart showing the increase in poaching cases over the years 2005-06 to 2012-13

Year	Major species poached	No of poaching cases	No of persons arrested
2005	Rhino	7	23
2006		5	7
2007		16	22
2008		6	35
2009		6	13
2010		5	2
2011		3	5
2012		12	113
2013		27	65

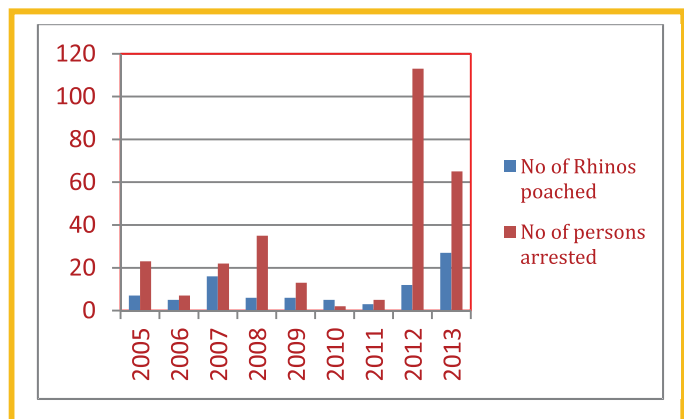
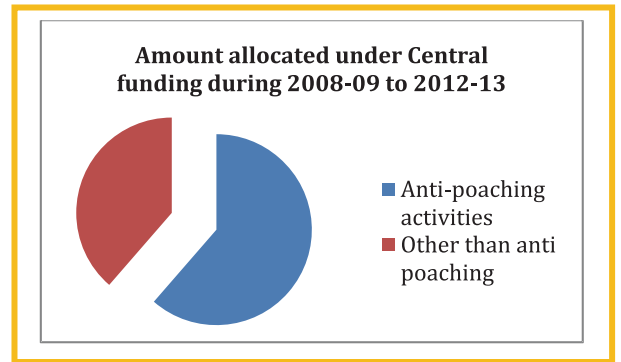
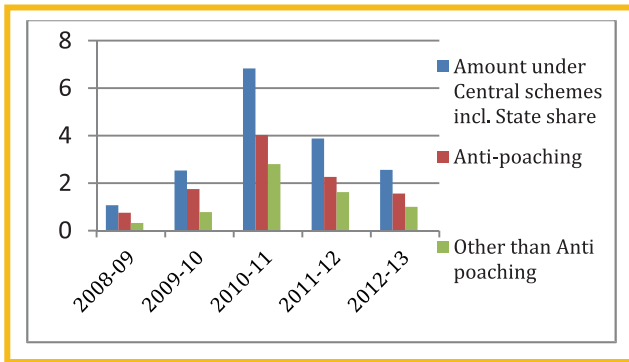


Table showing total expenditure during 2008-09 to 2012-13 vis-à-vis amount allocated towards anti-poaching and other activities

Year	Total expenditure	Amount under Central schemes incl. State share ²	Amount allocated towards anti-poaching	₹ in crore		
				Percentage col 3 to col 2	Amount allocated towards areas other than anti-poaching	Percentage of col 5 to col 2
2008-09	2.46	1.07	0.75	70.09	0.32	29.90
2009-10	3.12	2.53	1.75	69.17	0.78	30.83
2010-11	11.11	6.83 ³	4.03	59.00	2.80	40.99
2011-12	4.58	3.88	2.26	50.26	1.62	41.74
2012-13	2.99	2.56	1.56	60.94	0.99	38.76
Total	24.26	16.87	10.35	61.35	6.51	38.59



Graph and pie-chart showing total amount allocated vis-à-vis allocation to anti-poaching measures and others during 2008-09 to 2012-13

7.4 Thus, more than 60 per cent of the funds allocated were routed towards anti-poaching activities while the balance 40 per cent related to all other activities consisting of (i) habitat management, (ii) tiger allowances granted to the staff and officers (iii) tiger monitoring, (iv) flood management etc.

7.5 Audit scrutiny of the management plan, however, revealed that there existed a provision for mid-term review of the plan which was in line with the Guide issued by the WII. However, the park authorities did not revisit the management plan, mid-term, in accordance with the changing needs. This, besides rendering the management plan partially redundant resulted in a disconnect between the management plan vis-à-vis the actual plans of operation.

7.6 Further, the park authorities are yet to commence the preparation of the management plan for subsequent period beyond 2012-13 even though almost two years have elapsed after the original plan period had expired. As prescribed in the Guide to management planning issued by the WII, the time line prescribed for

² Heads under which major funds were allocated. Balance includes funds allocated by State under Plan schemes relating to development of national parks and sanctuaries, development of other wildlife areas, amenities to staff and labour etc which are nominal and hence not included.

³ In addition to ₹ 6.83 crore, another amount of ₹ 4.10 crore was allocated as one time capital expenditure on construction of buildings and installation of porcupine posts in the River Brahmaputra to contain erosion which has not been considered as it was special and one time allotment.

preparation of a plan till approval by the Government is 18 months. Thus, even if the park authorities commence the work of preparation of the subsequent plan now, it would atleast take till first part of 2016 to put the plan in operation. This would mean that the activities of the park during the intervening years 2013-14 to 2015-16 would continue on *ad-hoc* basis as a disparate *silo* without any linkage with the long term perspective plans of the NP.

7.7 It was further observed that the Directorate of Wildlife was yet to install a mechanism for centrally monitoring the currency of the management plans in respect of the PAs. Such a mechanism could have alerted the Directorate about the expiry of the plan and enabled them to initiate timely action to prepare and get approved the plan for the subsequent period.

7.8 *The Department stated that by 1998-99 poaching was reduced to near zero and thus, it was not listed as one of the priorities in the management plan. For non-reviewing the plan, mid-term, they stated that by 2008-09 the Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP) guidelines had to be prepared which attracted focus and attention of the Park authorities. As regards the renewal, it was stated that the management plan for the subsequent period 2014-15 to 2024-25 is under preparation and would be submitted to the GoI in December 2014.*

Annual Plans of Operations vis-à-vis fund management

8.1 The Guide to management planning issued by the WII prescribes that annual plans of operations (APO) should flow from the schedule of operations incorporated in the management plans. KNP's management plan laid down the items/activities to be carried out during the plan period of 10 years along with the physical and financial targets to be achieved, yearwise. The plan also provided scope for inflation/price rise through the years, though at a flat rate of five *per cent* per year.

8.2 Audit scrutiny of the APOs, allotment of funds *vis-à-vis* the management plan revealed the following.

8.2.1 The management plan envisaged eleven theme plans to be implemented through the 10 year period which included non-recurring and recurring elements namely – Recurring : protected area management, infrastructure and communication, eco-development, tourism management, information system, environmental education, research and monitoring, staff amenities, and Non-Recurring : establishment cost and maintenance cost.

8.2.2 Though the management plan had clearly prescribed the items of works to be carried out including financial/physical targets, the items/activities included in the APOs did not mention the reference to the corresponding item of management plan. There was also not any provision for portraying the physical and financial targets achieved before the period of APO and that projected during the year. Besides, the APOs did not contain the GPS locations of the places of works.

Year	Financial targets as per MP		Allotment and expenditure**	Percentage variation of col 4 vis-à-vis col 2/3
	As per MP*	As per actual inflation		
(₹ in crore)				
2008-09	9.24	10.25	2.46	27/24
2009-10	10.07	11.03	3.12	31/28
2010-11	10.15	11.61	11.10	110/96
2011-12	10.08	11.96	4.58	45/38
2012-13	10.27	12.48	2.99	29/24
Total	49.81	57.33	24.25	49/42

* - Considering five *per cent* annual increase as envisaged during preparation of management plan in 2002.
** - Includes State plan schemes.

8.2.3 The Guide issued by the WII as well as the management plan prescribed preparation of consolidated APOs flowing from the management plan. However, it was observed that instead of drawing up integrated APOs as per the components listed in the management plan, the park authorities were preparing separate APOs for each of the central as well as State schemes namely Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Integrated development of Wildlife habitats, Development of NPs and WSS Development of other wildlife areas etc. **System of integrated APOs could have enabled the State Government to strike off the activities funded by the GoI and provide funds for the remaining activities to ensure that the activities did not suffer because of want of funds.**

8.2.4 The deficiencies mentioned in the above paragraphs denied the park authorities the scope of using the information available in the APOs to use them as a tool for measuring the compliance/achievements made *vis-à-vis* the long term targets set and for informed decision making on the future course of planning/action.

8.2.5 Analysis of the financial targets as approved in the management plans for the years 2008-09 to 2012-13 *vis-à-vis* the allocation of funds revealed that there were substantial differences. Against the total financial targets of ₹ 57.33 crore⁴, an amount of ₹ 24.25 crore was allocated for the operations during the above years which was only 42 *per cent* of the targets set. Except 2010-11 when the amount allocated neared the financial targets, there were huge gaps between the financial targets and the amount allocated ranging between 24 and 38 *per cent*. Neither the KNP authorities nor the Directorate initiated efforts to take up the matter with the State Government as well as the GoI to ascertain the reasons for lower allocation of funds.

⁴ As worked out considering actual price rise/inflation during the years instead of flat rate of five *per cent* foreseen in the MP.

Year	Financial impact of APO	Actual allocation	Variation	Percentage of variation (in %)
	Project Tiger			
	₹ in crore)			
2008-09	Not available			
2009-10	Not available			
2010-11	26.57	10.93	15.64	41
2011-12	24.65	3.88	20.77	16
2012-13	42.54	2.56	39.98	6
Total	93.76	17.37	76.39	19

8.2.6 Further analysis of the APOs vis-à-vis the actual allocation for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13⁵ revealed that the park authorities had originally proposed for allocation of ₹ 26.57 crore, ₹ 24.65 crore and ₹ 42.54 crore totaling ₹ 93.76 crore

under the Central scheme – ‘Project Tiger’ which were submitted to the National Tiger Conservation Authority with a copy to the Directorate for onward action. However, against the above amounts, a total of ₹ 17.37 crore only was received by the park authorities being the Central as well as State share. The percentage of fund allocated against that proposed ranged between 6 – 41 per cent while the overall percentage worked out to 19 per cent on the total shortfall of ₹ 76.39 crore.

8.3 Lesser allocation of funds had compelled the KNP authorities to scale down⁶ the activities envisaged in the original APOs. Interestingly, as a result of lower allocation of funds, the original APOs were recast by scaling down the approved activities envisaged in the original APOs. Besides, due to increased instances of poaching, proportionately more funds were diverted to anti-poaching activities than to other planned activities such as habitat management, flood management, intelligence gathering etc.

The Wildlife Conservation strategy 2002 of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GoI prescribes – Wildlife and Forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.

8.4.1 Audit observed that the allocation of the State Government towards wildlife sector during 2008-09 to 2012-13 remained between 0.03 – 0.07 per cent of the total plan outlay while the amount allocated to the park ranged between 0.005 and 0.02 per cent of the plan outlay of the State for

Year	Allocation by State Government			Percentage	
	Total plan outlay	Wildlife Sector	KNP	% of col 3 to col 2	% of col 4 to col 2
	₹ in crore)				
2008-09	5,393.81	4.00	1.26	0.07	0.02
2009-10	6,717.89	3.00	0.54	0.04	0.008
2010-11	6,985.93	3.10	1.18	0.04	0.02
2011-12	8,919.10	2.25	1.19	0.03	0.01
2012-13	9,040.05	2.42	0.49	0.03	0.005
Total	37,056.78	14.77	4.66	0.04	0.01

those years. Further, the total plan outlay of the State increased from ₹ 5,393.81 crore in 2008-09 to ₹ 9,040.05 crore in 2012-13 which is about 60 per cent; whereas, the outlay on Wildlife Sector during the same period showed a declining trend (2008-09

⁵ Original APOs for 2008-09 and 2009-10 could not be made available to Audit by the park authorities.

⁶ Majority of the activities as per the management plan and original APOs were scaled down.

were ₹ 4 crore and ₹ 1.26 crore respectively allocated in 2008-09 came down to ₹ 2.42 crore and ₹ 0.49 crore respectively in 2012-13). The percentage decrease was about (-) 35 per cent and (-) 57 per cent respectively. **Thus, despite the MoEF, GoI declaring the Wildlife as a priority sector, the allocation of funds by the State Government continued to be at negligible rates and actually decreased.**

8.4.2 During the entry conference, however, the Department stated that there was no dearth of funds had the Directorate/park authorities submitted the requirements with proper justification. However, successive scaling down of the activities of the APOs due to lesser allocation of funds from the GoI should have alerted the Department to increase the funds allocated from the State Government in coordination with the Finance Department as the Wildlife Sector had been identified as priority sector.

8.4.3 While agreeing to the fact of skewed funding, the PCCF, Wildlife stated during the exit conference that the total funding towards Wildlife Sector even at National level is limited. It was also stated that the position in other States is better as the State Governments release the matching share; but in Assam, the activities largely depend on the funds released by the Central Government due to lower/inadequate release of funds by the State. As regards the referencing of MP in the APO, while agreeing with the audit observations they stated that the system had been introduced post-Audit.

8.4.4 Response of Audit: Funding towards Wildlife Sector needs to be prioritised by the Central as well as the State Governments in keeping with the National Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

8.5 Audit scrutiny revealed that there were considerable delays in submission of the APOs by the park authorities. Records in respect of the APOs for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13 indicated that these were submitted to the Government during August and November/December, i.e. after delays ranging

Year	Submission of APO	Date of sanction
2008-09	Original APOs for 2008-09 and 2009-10 were not available.	
2009-10		
2010-11	Nov & Dec/2010	Dec/2010
2011-12	Aug/2011	Oct/2011
2012-13	Aug/2012	Dec/2012

between five and eight/nine months of commencement of the year. **Belated submission of the APOs resulted in delays in allocation of funds from the Government which impacted the functioning of the park.**

8.6.1 Further Audit scrutiny revealed substantial delays in release of funds by the State Government, even in cases where funds were allocated by Central Government; delay ranging between two and five months. **Due to these undue delays, majority of the funds ultimately reached the park during February – March, i.e. the last two months of the financial years.**

Year	Scheme	Amount sanctioned (₹ in crore)	Date of		Delay (approx in months)
			sanction by Central Govt	release by State Govt	
2008-09	CSS (Project Tiger)	1.50	30-10-2008	7-2-2009	4
2009-10		1.65	26-8-2009	15-10-2009	2
		1.56	11-12-2009		
2010-11		2.73	29-9-2010	5-2-2011	5
		7.22	31-12-2010	30-3-2011	3
2011-12		3.81	10-10-2011	22-2-2012	4
2012-13	2.50	28-12-2012	26-3-2013	3	

Information relating to Project Tiger which is the major share of funding to the park could be obtained. For the remaining amounts, though minimal, information are yet to be received, against the requests made in July 2014.

8.6.2 On being requested, the park authorities while accepting the facts stated that non-availability of funds certainly has adverse impact on the functioning of the park while the expenditure related to wages to the casual staff, home guards etc and POL are met from loans taken from the Kaziranga Tiger Conservation Foundation (KTCF). The inordinate delay in submission of the APOs by the KNP authorities could have been avoided had there been a monitoring mechanism in the Directorate as well as in the Department.

8.6.3 *The Department stated that the delay in allocation of funds derails the entire chain as the works for the previous year had to be completed before planning the subsequent year. They however, assured submission of APOs on time and pursue the matter for early release of funds.*

Kaziranga Tiger Conservation Foundation

8.7.1 It was observed that the State Government has created the KTCF in August 2009⁷ which allows ploughing back of revenue generated into a fund to be spent to support the management for conservation of tiger and the bio-diversity and eco-development measures. No other sources of revenue such as voluntary donations by wildlife enthusiasts or International agencies involved in Environmental activities have been tapped.

8.7.2 Scrutiny of the bank pass book of the KTCF maintained in the Office of the Director, KNP revealed that in addition to the revenues generated during 2009-10 which was not readily available, an amount of ₹ 7.61 crore being the revenues pertaining to the period 2010-11 to 2013-14 were remitted into the fund. **However, though the notification of the State Government provide for maintenance of**

⁷ Under the guidelines issued by the Government of India in June 2007 under Section 38 X of the WL (P) Act, 1972.

monthly accounts and annual returns which are to be audited by a qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) as well as by Director of audit & Local Fund and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the authorities are yet to finalise the accounts. Thus, transactions relating to KTCF have remained unaudited till date.

8.7.3 *The Department stated that the accounts had since been finalised and certified by the CA. However, the accounts are yet to be submitted for audit by the CAG.*

8.8 In respect of a number of Central schemes, the Central Government has instituted a system of directly transferring the funds to the accounts of the project implementing agency to avoid delays in transmission of funds and to ensure smooth running of the projects. The management plan prepared by the park authorities also prescribed similar system while proposing for creation of KTCF. Though the Foundation has started functioning since August 2009 with a separate bank account, the direct funding and accountability mechanism is yet to stabilise. Such a system could have enabled the park authorities to get the Central assistance timely cutting short the delays caused at the State Government level.

8.9 From the above it is evident that the APOs prepared by the park authorities actually did not flow from the management plan. The APOs had to be scaled down due to non-availability of funds. The basis of allocation of fund was not found on records. The State Government has also not attempted to fill the gap between fund required and allocations made by the Central Government. Besides, there were inordinate delays on the part of the State Government to release funds received from the Central Government. As a result, there was a wide variation between the activities envisaged in the management plan, those included in the APOs and the works actually undertaken over the years. Thus, at present the park is being managed purely on *ad hoc* basis without any linkage with the long term perspective or planning.

Good practices in other States

- *In Karnataka, the PCCF discusses the APOs with the DFOs/Field Directors prior to commencement of the year and finalises the budget.*
- *In Uttar Pradesh, the following system is installed for optimum utilisation of finances and better management of parks:*
 - *Funds are allocated quarterly;*
 - *Timely release of funds is monitored by a Cell in CM's Office;*
 - *Quarterly submission of utilisation certificate is mandatory;*
 - *Expenditure made during the quarter is monitored by the Cell in CM's Office;*
 - *In case of failure to release/spend funds or deviations - explanations are sought from the concerned authorities.*

Recommendations (Planning and Financials)

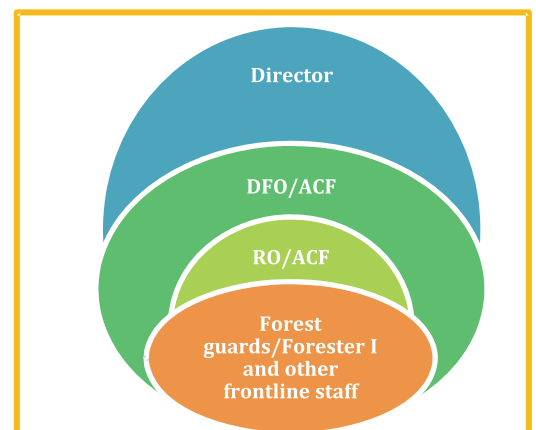
- *The APOs should be prepared maintaining synergy with the items of works envisaged in the management plan. For this, the APOs should be prepared in a consolidated manner and should contain the references of management plan, physical and financial progress achieved along with items planned during the current year.*
- *The Department/Directorate may consider ensuring that funds matching the amounts proposed in the consolidated APOs are made available with the wildlife managers by allocating the deficit amount (funds required minus funds sanctioned by GoI) from the State budget especially since the Department agrees that there is no dearth of funds for Kaziranga. Also, the percentage of allocation towards Wildlife Sector out of the total plan outlay needs to be increased in line with the prescription of the MoEF, GoI.*
- *Timelines for preparation of management plan, submission of APOs, release of funds and its proper and timely utilisation needs to be prescribed and strictly complied with, preferably by adopting the system being followed by other States where the cycle works on quarterly basis. Also, periodic reports/returns may be devised to monitor progress of the activities within the prescribed timeframe.*



CHAPTER – III HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Introductory

9.1 Effective functioning of an organisation largely depend on appropriate human resources and manpower management. The structure of human resources of the KNP is shown through the block diagram alongside. The overall control and supervision of the park is with the Director.



Sanctioned strength and men-in-position

9.2 Audit analysis of the sanctioned strength *vis-à-vis* men in position of the park as on 31 March 2014 revealed that against 562 posts there were 461 officials in position leaving a vacancy of 101. Of these, the sanctioned strength and the men-in-position relating to frontline staff were 506 and 431 respectively. Out of 101 vacancies, 75 were in the frontline categories¹ which is about 15 *per cent*. The audit findings relating to deployment of manpower are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Posts	Sanctioned strength	Men-in-position	Vacancy	% of vacancy
Dy Ranger	7	7	0	0
Forester I	45	31	14	31
Forest Guards	212	198	14	7
Mahut	34	27	7	21
Driver/tract or driver	17	7	10	59
Game watcher	58	52	6	10
Boatman	63	60	3	5
Others	70	49	21	30
Total	506	431	75	15

¹ Staff posted in the anti-poaching camps.

Deployment of manpower

9.3.1 Scrutiny of records revealed that 32 out of 461 persons at present working as frontline staff were physically incapable of discharging protection duties. Audit carried out an age analysis of the frontline staff posted in the anti-poaching camps. It was observed that out of 229 personnel in the category of Forest Guards and Forester – I which are the backbone of the park, 69 were above 50 years age, 47 pertained to the age group 46 – 49 years, 38 in the age group of 41-45 years while the remaining 75 were below 40 years of age. **This reveals that more than fifty per cent of the staff in frontline categories was more than 45 years of age.**

9.3.2 Audit observed that 100 freshly recruited frontline staff (66 Forests Guards and 34 Forester – I) were deployed to the park by the Government in December 2009. However, 73 of these personnel were transferred out of the park by the Government between June 2010 and April 2014. The transfer of the newly recruited personnel was the main contributing factor for the deployment of aged staff on anti-poaching duties. The table below reveals the age-profile of Forest Guards and Foresters after the recruitment in 2009 and that in 2014 after the transfers of the newly recruited staff.

Post	Age-group after recruitment of 2009				Age-group as on 31-3-2014			
	More than 50	Between 45-50	Between 40-45	Less than 40	More than 50	Between 45-50	Between 40-45	Less than 40
Forester – I	5	1	3	35	14	4	4	9
Forest Guard	26	33	48	105	55	43	34	66

9.3.3 Thus, while 140 personnel were below the age of 40 years after the recruitment in 2009 the same came down to 75 in 2014 after the newly recruits were transferred out of the park. This has also resulted in sharp increase in the number of staff more than 45 years of age from 65 personnel in 2009 to 116 in 2014. The transfers of the newly recruited staff between June 2010 till 2013 despite the increasing trend of Rhino poaching during these years raises serious doubts about the seriousness of the Department as well as the Directorate in dealing with such a heinous crime against wildlife. The park authorities failed to highlight the consequence of such transfers to the competent authorities.

9.3.4 During physical verification by Audit at the anti-poaching camps it was observed that out of 165 camps, 11 are manned by only 2 guards, 68 camps had more than 2 but less than 4 while the remaining 86 camps had 4 guards and above. The wildlife guards stated that with four guards in average, only one

The Wildlife Conservation strategy 2002 of MoEF, GoI prescribes - the vacant posts in the frontline staff shall be filled immediately and provided basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties. Also, it prescribes for hiring local people on voluntary or honorarium basis. Besides, the High Power Committee on Prevention of Poaching (instituted by State Government) suggested for deployment of eight wildlife guards per camp.

team with maximum of three members can move at a time as atleast one member has to stay back at the camp to ensure its security. The same team again performs duty in the evening after a break.

9.3.5 It was further noticed that although the Park was established in 1974, the sanctioned strength was reviewed only in 2011 when the park authorities had carried out a detailed study of the manpower requirement in view of the **increased poaching threat and to cater to the additional areas** according to which the **actual requirement of frontline staff was worked out as 1,092 against the available strength of 561**. However, though the proposal was submitted with detailed justification way back in September 2011; yet, no posts had been created till date though three years have elapsed.

Deployment of AFPP

9.4.1 For better protection and security of the Forests, Forest Produces and Wild Life in Assam, the Government of Assam in 1986 raised a Assam Forest Protection Force by an Act (AFPP Act) of the Legislature. Presently, 425 personnel of the 1st and 2nd Battalion of the AFPP are deployed at KNP. Audit scrutiny of the Act *vis-à-vis* physical verifications revealed the following:

- The AFPP Act provided for appointment of a CCF, Additional CCF, CF, Commandant, Deputy Commandant etc. The organisational set-up was worked out in a manner to ensure that the forest officers head the force who would understand the needs of the forestry and wildlife sector and manage the force accordingly. However, in reality the force is headed by only a Commandant and there is no Officer of Forest Department in the force.
- Though the AFPP jawans are posted in the anti-poaching camps under operational control of the concerned Range Officers, their administrative control is vested in the Commandant/Company Commander. Accordingly, the service books, APARs, leave account etc are maintained at the Commandants Office which is a separate establishment other than the park authorities. Audit had come across an instance where the DFO during his surprise visit to Burapahar Range found (16 January 2014) 35 out of 108 personnel absent; of which 14 only were on authorised leave. The concerned RO was not aware about the position of leave.
- Scrutiny of the training module of the AFPP jawans obtained from their headquarters revealed that it contains modules for indoor as well as outdoor subjects. Subjects ranging from physical training, drill, weapons training, crowd control and VIP duties, field craft and tactics, unarmed combat, commando, etc are included in the outdoor training while modern India, role and functions of Police, Police organisation and administration, Human behavior, police public relationship,

law, prominent law and order affairs, disaster management etc consists of indoor subjects. Thus, the force is neither trained in crucial subjects like strategies in wildlife, animal behavior nor habituated to life inside a wildlife habitat. This would indicate that the force had been rather groomed up more like a modern Police force than a Wildlife force. Had the force been headed by a CCF level officer as envisaged in the AFPF Act, these deficiencies in the training module could, perhaps, have been detected in time and rectified.

- Interaction with the ROs revealed that the AFPF jawans depend on the wildlife guards which include even casual labourers to lead them on regular patrolling as well as specific anti-poaching duties.

9.4.2 Thus, due to the absence of absolute jurisdiction, the services of the AFPF jawans could not be optimally utilised by the ROs and the force has become dependent on the wildlife personnel instead of being a re-enforcement to the existing protection mechanism.

9.4.3 Against an Audit query, the Directorate stated (July 2014) that feasibility study of deployment of AFPF and its impact on anti-poaching activities is yet to be carried out.

9.4.4 *In reply, the Department stated that though the area of the Park has nearly doubled over the years, the staff strength has remained almost static. It was further stated that the Department was working on formation of special force like Rhino Protection Force with more representation from the fringe villages. As regards the old staff, the Department stated that the role of old staff cannot be ruled out as they possess rich experience which is passed on to the newly recruited staff.*

9.4.5 **Response of Audit:** *The reply of the Department in respect of aged staff is not acceptable as the unplanned and arbitrary transfer of newly recruited staff from KNP had forced the park authorities to post aged staff in these camps.*

9.4.6 *Regarding the training module of the AFPF jawans, the Department agreed that sensitising the AFPF jawans about wildlife behavior and other facets of wildlife would surely be helpful in yielding their optimum services.*

Training of staff/Officers

9.5.1 The management plan of the park envisaged the need for imparting training and education on wildlife management and other related disciplines to its cadres for efficient management of the park. It also envisioned that staff should be made physically fit through carrying out regular training programmes on matter of wildlife protection including handling of modern arm/combat etc, conservation and

other related subjects of wildlife management in the field as well as reputed institutes of the country.

9.5.2 Audit scrutiny revealed that **no training programme was organised** by the park authorities for any of its wildlife guards during the period 2008-09 to 2012-13. Besides, the initial training of forest guards was of nine months duration, which at present had been reduced to 15 days only. It was observed that during the period under Audit, **none of the forest guards had ever undergone arms firing training.** While the forest guards/Forester-I were imparted theoretical training about the arms and ammunitions without any practical training on firing, the remaining staff in the posts of Boatman, mahut, game watchers, drivers etc posted as frontline staff in anti-poaching camps have never undergone any arms training.

Other Staff issues

Rewards for exceptional performance of staff

9.6 In order to boost the morale of the staff and officers, it is essential that the meritorious works are acknowledged through rewards/incentives.

9.7 Scrutiny revealed that the Government has arranged for appreciating the outstanding contribution of the staff/officers during Wildlife Week, *Vanya Prani Mitra* Award etc. It was observed that even persons serving as casual labourers in the anti-poaching camps were being selected for such awards. Verification also revealed that the park authorities had instituted a system of giving cash rewards to the wildlife personnel ranging between ₹ 17,000 and ₹ 20,000 in each case under which four teams were given cash award of ₹ 4.80 lakh between December 2013 and March 2014. The amount is being enhanced to ₹ 2 lakh per team and ₹ 25,000 for an individual. The expenditure is met from the Kaziranga Tiger Conservation Foundation. These rewards and cash awards have undoubtedly helped in boosting the morale of the staff.

Good practice

Compassionate appointments and lack of safety net

9.8.1 Verification of establishment records indicated that altogether 83 persons had died while in service due to (i) attack by wild animals, (ii) attack by poachers, (iii) road accident while on duty on NH 37 adjacent to the park, (iv) drowning in the flood waters. Scrutiny revealed that of the above deaths, family members in respect of 34 such deceased have applied for compassionate appointments as available in the records of the park authorities.

9.8.2 It was noticed that though the applications were pending for quite long time, compassionate appointment was not made in any case, though a number of posts were lying vacant as of date. Only casual jobs were given to one of the family members. This was despite the fact that the GoA had in March 2009 brought out the revised guidelines for appointment on compassionate ground which prescribed the modalities to be followed by the administrative departments in dealing with such cases and stressed upon timely processing of the applications to cut short undue delays at various stages.

9.8.3 Besides, for insuring the lives of the wildlife guards serving as frontline staff in the anti-poaching camps, there is only a scheme of insurance of ₹ 1 lakh arranged in association with a non-government organisation (NGO) which was felt to be insufficient.

9.9.1 Thus, despite extreme working conditions filled with life threats from poachers as well as wild animals, there is little security of the families of the wildlife guards in case of any mishap leading to their death/permanent disability.

9.9.2 In reply, the Department stated that the arrangement with the NGO for insurance coverage was an adhoc system and a Committee had been formed to look into insuring the lives of the wildlife guards. The Committee has firmed up a proposal for insurance coverage of ₹ 5 lakh per personnel. The scheme will be finalised and implemented shortly.

Allowances to staff

9.10.1 Analysis of the camp wise staff strength under five Ranges of KNP indicated that 11 out of 165 camps are manned by only two wildlife employees; 68 camps had 2-4 employees while the remaining camps had more than four employees. Further, in 21 out of 78 camps (*i.e.* 27 per cent) under Burapahar, Northern and Western Range there are no Forest Guards/Forester – I and the same are being manned/led by game watchers, boatmen, nayaks, mahuts and casual labourers.

9.10.2 It was, however, noticed that **no other allowance is paid to the wildlife guards except ration allowance of ₹ 500 and tiger allowance ranging between ₹ 350 - ₹ 450 per month.** During interactions of the Audit team at the camps, it came to light that each of the wildlife guards had to spend at least ₹ 1,000 per month on ration which is double the allowances given. Evidently, the tiger allowance granted was also being utilised to meet the ration expenses. It was further observed that the AFPF personnel, home guards, casual labourers and fixed pay workers did not get ration till 2012-13 and the same is being paid only from 2013-14 onwards.

9.10.3 Similarly, 'tiger allowance' under the 'Project Tiger' are disbursed among the wildlife guards posted in the camps; yet, the AFPP jawans posted in the same camps and carrying out similar duties are not getting these allowances.

9.10.4 Thus, grant of allowances uniformly to all categories of frontline personnel working in the anti-poaching camps, commensurate to the arduous nature of duties would certainly have served as a moral boost and in turn could have helped in optimising their output. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the DFO, Mangaldoi, in-charge Orang NP had proposed² for payment of additional allowances of 25 per cent to the wildlife personnel serving as frontline staff.

9.10.5 The Department stated that the ration allowance had been revised to ₹ 860 per month from July 2014. They further stated that requests had been made to the Govt for making provisions so that 'tiger allowance' can be paid to the AFPP jawans as well.

Deployment of Casual labourers

9.11.1 In order to mitigate the gap between the manpower required and that available, the park authorities had deployed casual labourers. It was observed that 96 persons are serving the anti-poaching camps as casual labourers. Each of these casual labourers are serving for periods more than six-seven years. In two of the camps, casual labourers were found to be leading the camps. As per the present rates, the casual labourers get remuneration of ₹ 169 per day. **Interaction with casual staff revealed that the payment of their remuneration is often delayed, sometimes for more than three months.** Considering the daily rates, the casual labourers get about ₹ 5,000 pm against the minimum salary of about ₹ 7,000 pm paid to the regular wildlife guards. Further, the regular staff are entitled to pension, gratuity and most importantly insurance and health care facilities which are not extended to the casual labourers. This was despite the fact that the casual labourers contribute equally in anti-poaching duties with the regular staff.



Appreciation certificate issued to a Casual Labourer

9.11.2 Incidentally, recruitment process of 2009 prescribed for priority to the candidates having experience in forest and wildlife areas and the casual staff working in the Department. However, during interactions with the staff in the anti-

² In his note in response to Gauhati High Court's directive on ways and means to improve the working of Wildlife division in Assam.

poaching camps it was observed that none of the casual labourers serving in KNP could secure permanent jobs through the aforesaid recruitment process.

9.11.3 *The Department stated that after formation of KTCF, regular payment of wages to the casual labourers could be secured by taking loan from the Foundation which is recouped upon receipt of funds.*

9.12.1 During interaction with the AFPF personnel as well as the wildlife guards, it was ascertained that the AFPF personnel were issued with a handbook of items depicting the scale and life of each articles and were receiving these articles accordingly. On the contrary, there is no such

Uniforms etc.



Some Wildlife guards reported borrowing used uniforms of their siblings serving in other forces.

system followed by the KNP authorities in respect of the wildlife guards under its jurisdiction. Further, it was observed that the allotment of uniform, shoes, rain coats etc. is irregular forcing the wildlife guards to arrange these articles from their own sources. Instances were also noticed of issuing winter garments during summer. Thus, though the AFPF as well as wildlife guards are staying in the same anti-poaching camps, they are guided by separate set of guidelines. This places the wildlife guards at a disadvantage *vis-à-vis* their AFPF colleagues.

9.12.2 *The Department stated that uniforms, shoes, raincoats etc is to be provided every alternate year. However, due to paucity of funds the same could not be ensured. From the current year, these are provided by taking loans from the KTCF.*

Amenities for the Staff

9.13.1 In order to ascertain the status of the anti-poaching camps *vis-à-vis* the frontline staff staying therein, a joint verification was conducted of 37 out of 165 camps (23 per cent) along with the concerned Range Officers/ACF. The findings are as follows:

9.13.2 Some of the camps are in dilapidated condition needing immediate repair. In one of such camps it was observed that the Director of the park during his visit (November 2013) had mentioned in the patrolling register to pool funds from the Tiger Foundation and repair the camp immediately which

Accommodation



Some of the camps have bamboo flooring



Some of the anti-poaching camps needing immediate repair.

may be recouped upon receipt of funds through APO. Yet, after seven months (June 2014 when the Audit team visited the camp), no development was found to have been made and the wildlife guards continue to stay in such inhuman conditions. Similar observations were noted in a number of camps with thatch walls, leaking roof, floor made of bamboo to count a few. Interaction with wildlife guards revealed that due to damaged ceiling, water seeps in during the rains making it difficult to take rest as the beds get wet. Besides, the wildlife guards are required to arrange for their own cots and bedding to stay in the camps. Resultantly, in case of transfers in and out of the camps, the guards have to make arrangements for shifting/arrange their beddings etc.

9.13.3 For drinking water, the wildlife guards generally depend on the hand pumps installed at the camps. It was observed that there is no proper arrangement for filtration of water, though the condition of water pumped through tube well is poor. On interaction, it was

Drinking water



Hand pumps are installed in the camps - strategically elevated so that guards don't have to come down

learnt that the guards in the Luit floating camp (under Northern Range) used to consume river water on board the floating camp.



Water is poor - yet some camps don't have filtration facilities

9.13.4 The sole source of power to the anti-poaching camps is solar powered panels. The power generated through the solar panels and stored in batteries are used in charging wireless sets, mobile handsets as well as electric lanterns for use at night. Interaction with the wildlife

guards revealed that the power supply of the solar panels is limited and in many camps it lasts maximum till 9 at night, beyond which they have to manage with candle light.

Power supply



Solar panels - sole source of power in the camps

Notably, due to the limited power source, even the wireless systems become inoperative and the wildlife guards have to use their personal mobile phones to interact with other units.

9.14.1 *The Department while accepting poor condition of the camps stated that renovating the camps at a time would entail huge requirement of funds. They also stated that the Ministry of Natural and Renewable Energy, GoI would be requested to help in equipping all the anti-poaching camps with solar power.*

9.14.2 Response of Audit: *The Department may work out a plan for renovating the camps in a phased manner.*

Recommendations (Human Resource management)

- *The vacancies in the staff strength, especially in the frontline cadre need to be filled up immediately and a staff monitoring mechanism prescribed.*
- *Compassionate appointment cases need to be dealt in time-bound manner in terms of extant Government policy and instructions so that the applications are not pending for years. Besides, adequate insurance coverage for the frontline staff may also be considered.*
- *Additional allowances commensurate to the arduous nature of duties need to be rolled out for the frontline staff; existing allowances need to be revised periodically to be at par with market rates and given uniformly to all types of personnel on frontline duties.*
- *The provisions of the recruitment policy may be complied with subject to fulfillment of other criteria relating to casual labourers.*
- *The anomalies in providing uniforms etc to the wildlife guards and the AFPF staff need to be removed. Other problems relating to basic amenities like accommodation, drinking water and minimum power requirement need to be attended to immediately and monitored periodically.*

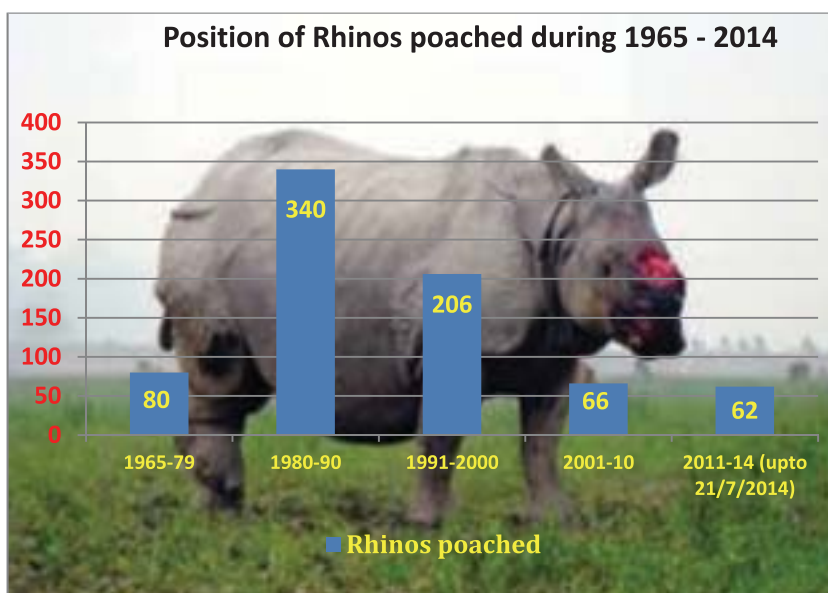


CHAPTER – IV ANTI-POACHING ACTION PLAN

Introductory

10.1.1 As discussed in some of the preceding paragraphs, the major challenge at present is the poaching of Rhinos. The decade-wise position on poaching of Rhinos *vis-a-vis* during 2008-14 are as discussed below:

	1965-79	1980-90	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-14 (upto 21/7/14)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (upto 21/7/14)
Rhinos poached (total)	80	340	206	66	62	06	06	05	03	11	27	21
Yearly average	5	34	20	7	18							



10.1.2 Thus, poaching of Rhinos is not an isolated problem of the recent past but infact it had a history of over 50 years, of which 1980-90 saw the worst phase

when over 340 Rhinos with annual average of over 34 Rhinos were killed. However, the position improved considerably during the next two decades registering annual average of 20 and 7 respectively. Again the trend is shooting upward during the past few years and during the last two years (till 21-7-2014) 48 Rhinos had been poached.

10.1.3 Audit had carried out a detailed analysis of the anti-poaching measures and attempted to identify the issues and challenges which are discussed in the following paragraphs:

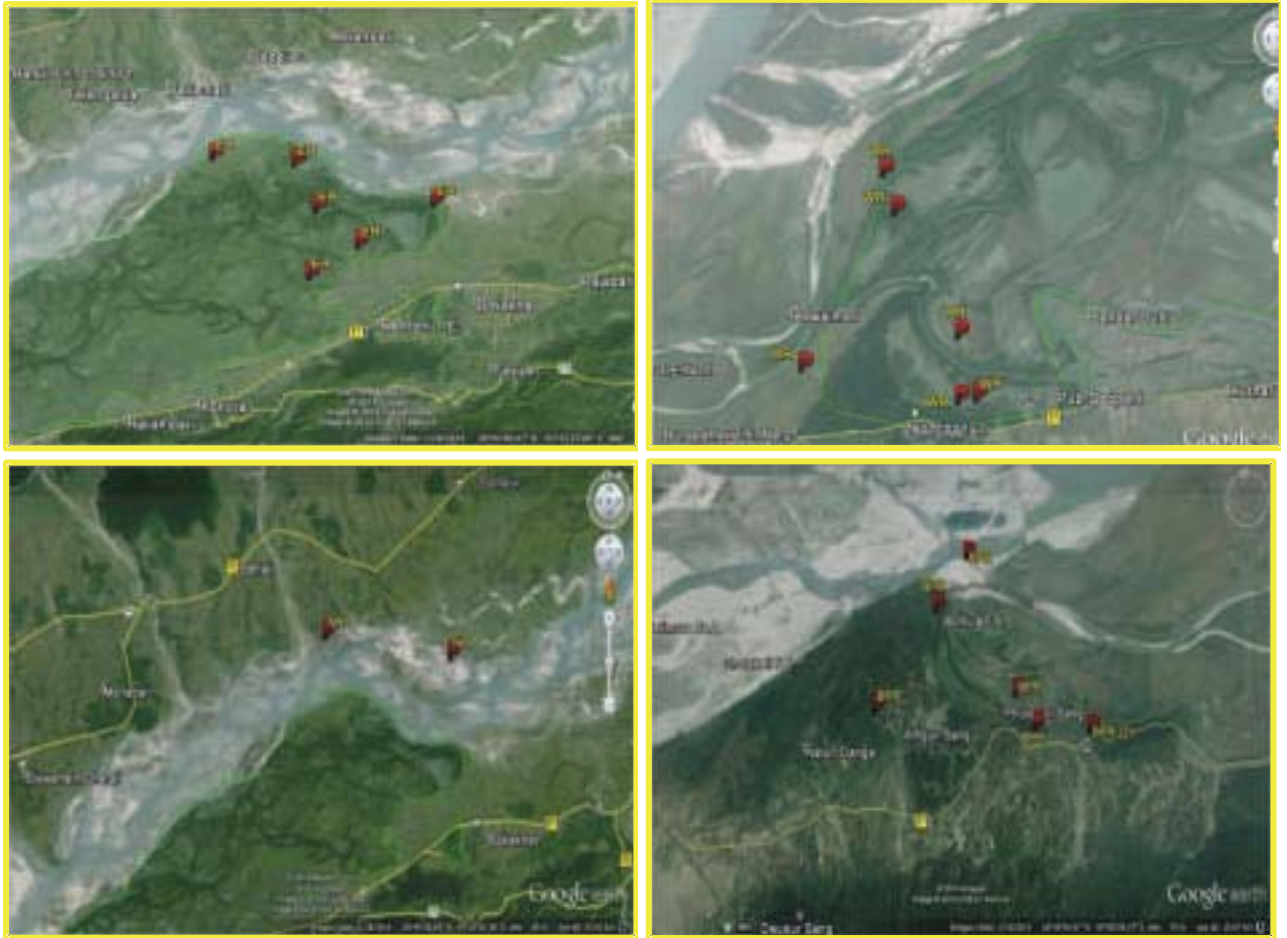
Anti-poaching camps

10.2.1 As of date, 165 anti-poaching camps had been established across the park for protection measures. The locations of these camps are depicted through a diagram enclosed as **Annexure B**.

10.2.2 While there are a number of camps inside the park, there has been real dearth of camp on the periphery of the park boundary. This is important as the park is surrounded by 110 villages with population of 2.60 lakh and there had been strong evidences that the poachers had taken shelter in these villages before striking. Audit had analysed the GPS locations of the 21 out of 27 Rhino poaching instances¹ **during 2013** which revealed that in most of the cases the poachers struck near the periphery of the park, either near NH 37 (Bagori and Burapahar Range) or across river Brahmaputra on north side of the park. The following table and the snapshot show the details.

Items	Name of the Ranges			
	Eastern	Western	Burapahar	Northern
Area covered (in sq km)	120	120	82	376
No of camps	37	37	19	22
Poaching incident	6	6	7	2

¹ As GPS co-ordinates in respect of 21 poaching cases were readily available.



Satellite imagery of location of 21 poaching cases during 2013 {six under Eastern Range (ER), six under Western Range (WR), seven under Burapahar Range (BPR) –(two Rhinos were killed on the same spot) and two under Northern Range (NR)}- the yellow line denotes NH 37 while the green line is the boundary of core area of KNP.

10.2.3 The snapshots would reveal that the poachers had struck more in the peripheries of Eastern, Western, Burapahar and Northern Ranges. Further, in cases of the poaching incidents under Western and Burapahar Ranges, the poachers had also used the river route through the Northern Range. Evidently, the poachers took advantage of the porous boundaries and lack of surveillance in the periphery of the park. Besides, interaction with the wildlife guards of camps located deep inside the park revealed that instances of encounters/poaching in those areas were rare.

10.2.4 The Audit Team had travelled more than 100 km on road² and 20 km on river³ along the periphery to physically gauge the threat. It was seen that the eastern boundary of Eastern Range, Southern boundary of Burapahar Range and the entire stretch of 120 km river front under Northern Range can be flagged as 'highly risky' as evident from the correspondences made by the park authorities. The reasons are – Eastern Range shares a long boundary with fringe villages which do not maintain 'good relations' with the wildlife authorities. The Burapahar Range has a long border of 20 km touching NH 37 and on the other side is Karbi Anglong hills which is infested with insurgents.



Villages near the boundary of Eastern Range



Glimpse of NH (Burapahar Range is on the right - hardly any periphery protection)

It was observed that there are only two anti-poaching camps on the NH while the other camps are about 1 km inside the park. During interaction with the RO, Burapahar it was ascertained that there are three villages across NH 37 with history of sheltering poachers and these villages never co-operate with the wildlife authorities. This makes it impossible to guard such a long and porous boundary that too with risky fringe villages.



A glimpse of a tongi erected by the Wildlife authorities

10.2.5 Audit also noticed that in view of the threat and past experiences, the park authorities had taken preventive measures which had proved to be beneficial. For example, under Western Range four poaching instances in

Measures taken by park authorities had been effective in preventing poaching.



Installation of power fencing near Burapahar Range has contained poaching

² The entire boundary of Eastern, Central, Western and Burapahar Range.

³ Under Northern Range.

2013 took place in Kanchanjuri area (adjacent to NH 37) where a *tongi*⁴ has been constructed and staff are posted at night to keep vigil on the large spread of grassland frequented by Rhinos. There has been no poaching in this area till date.

10.2.6 In Burapahar Range also there were four poaching cases near Deopani bridge where the Rhinos had come very close to the NH 37. The park authorities had installed power fencing along the area due to which Rhinos don't come close to the NH. There has been no poaching reported from this area ever since.

10.2.7 As regards Northern Range, it was noticed that while there are 143 anti-poaching camps manning the original core area of 429 sq km including the 1st and 4th additional areas, there are **only 22 camps in the sixth additional area which is about 376**



A glance of Riverfront under 6th addition area

sq km. Of these, there are only four floating camps covering more than 120 km stretch of mighty Brahmaputra while the other camps are located on both banks of the river. The risk and threat posed by the *chapories*, fishermen and fringe villagers in and around Northern Range has been discussed in the



Some of the camps under 6th addition area for which GPS coordinates are available

paragraph under sixth addition *infra*. Interaction with the wildlife guards revealed that though the Northern Range had been created in 2008, it was only in 2013-14 that the Range had initiated identifying the requirements and locations of new camps. A list of 20 such new proposed camps had been prepared, though the same had not been forwarded to the park authorities till date. On the issue being raised by Audit, the staff recalled preparing such a list which was collected by the Audit Team.

⁴ Temporary elevated structure.

10.2.8 Despite these threats and risks which highlight periphery security as the major concern, Audit scrutiny of the records revealed that except for some disparate efforts as pointed out above the park authorities are yet to come out with a fool proof action plan on periphery protection. Also, despite the increasing trend of Rhino poaching over last three years, neither the Directorate nor the Department had taken verifiable efforts in fulfilling the gaps regarding protection of Rhinos as discussed in subsequent paragraphs.

Intelligence gathering

10.3.1 In view of the porous boundaries and acute staff shortage as discussed in the preceding paragraphs, it is of prime importance that a strong intelligence gathering network is established to plug the gaps. The DFO, i/c KNP in his letter of May 2014 had also highlighted this fact and advised the range officers to chalk out their protection strategies based on intelligence inputs.

Year	Allocation of funds			Position of Rhino poaching		
	Funds allocated		Total funds allocated	Year	Rhino poached	Poacher arrested
	CSS	State				
2010-11	0.25	0.25	0.50	2010	5	2
2011-12	0.50	0.50	1.00	2011	3	5
2012-13	1.00	0	1.00	2012	12	113
Total	1.75	0.75	2.50	2013	27	65
				Total	47	185

₹ in lakh. Calculations shown separate as figures of poaching, poacher killed/arrested are maintained calendar year basis.

10.3.2 Audit scrutiny revealed that only ₹ 2.50 lakh was allocated for intelligence gathering to the park authorities during 2010-11 to 2012-13. This was despite the fact that there was an increase in poaching incidents as well as arrests of poachers during these three years as depicted in the table.

10.3.3 Interaction with the Wildlife Officers revealed that timely receipt of intelligence input enables the Wildlife authorities to kill or nab the poachers. Such inputs are also received from the fringe villagers having passion for wildlife conservation and protection. However, in maximum instances information are to be 'purchased'. It was also gathered that credible information at times cost ₹ 1 lakh each. This when read with the fund allocation *vis-à-vis* the numbers of Rhinos poached/poachers killed and arrested during 2010-2013 not only highlights the apathy on the part of the Directorate/Department in allocating sufficient funds for the purpose but also reveals that the park authorities had indeed achieved an uphill task with negligible financial support.

10.3.4 It was further observed that the Department had not put in place a system of suitably rewarding the informers in cases where the information leads to nabbing/killing of poachers. Neither has the Department instituted a system of securing the future of the informers in case they are targeted by poachers. Interaction with villagers including the presidents of the EDCs revealed that they are

scared of passing information about poachers because of life threat involved in the matter.

10.3.5 A system of suitably rewarding and ensuring financial security of the family members of the informers would have been definitely beneficial for the park authorities in receiving timely inputs about the movement of the poachers.

10.3.6 In reply, the Department admitted that the system of providing financial incentives to the informers is not institutionalised in the Department.

Monitoring of poachers/linkmen

Use of Information and Communication techniques (ICT)

10.4.1 Monitoring of poachers/linkmen could be done through (i) physical tracking, (ii) aerial tracking and (iii) intelligence gathering - inputs from the informers.

10.4.2 The park authorities had agreed that in view of the vastness of the territory of the park and the given manpower, it is not possible to guard each and every nook and corner of the park. Physical tracking of the movement of the poachers/linkmen is also difficult in view of the acute shortage of men in position which is not even sufficient to guard the park. The other option of tracking through intelligence inputs also largely depends on the informers as there is hardly any fund. Thus, the only viable option for the park authorities at present is aerial tracking.

10.4.3 Audit observed that KNP did not take any action to obtain call data records (CDR) of communication exchanges within and around the Park as part of its intelligence gathering efforts. Incidentally, the DFO, Mangaldoi in-charge of R G Orang National Park has exercised the provisions of Section 50 (7) & (8) of the Act and obtained the CDR and other information from the service providers based on which several poachers/ linkmen were apprehended.

10.4.4 In view of the above and the fact that the ROs/ACF in-charge of the Ranges are hard pressed with the protection duties and day to day functioning, a special cell needs to be put in place at the headquarters of the KNP with personnel drawn from intelligence agencies of the Centre/State, Police, Army and para-military forces specially trained in intelligence gathering from the public as well as use of ICT (CDR analysis and call tracking). The cell should have requisite mandates to gather intelligence as well as handle investigation of the cases having inter-State linkages.

Gujarat has constituted a 'Wildlife Crime Cell' to adeptly deal with wildlife crimes through intelligence gathering, exchange information with GoI, various central agencies etc and suggest measures to mitigate/curb wildlife crime. The Cell include personnel from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (GoI), state police, forest, coast guards and the customs departments.

The Cell collects details of suspects and provides inputs to the field units. It also follows up legal action in respect of ongoing wildlife crime cases, besides assisting the field units during the legal proceedings.

10.4.5 The Department appreciated the recommendation of Audit on obtaining the CDR and creation of a special cell. They stated that in addition to the CDRs, location based services would be more useful. They further stated that institution of the special cell for intelligence gathering and analysis would go a long way in strengthening the anti-poaching operations and averting the incident of poaching and nabbing the poachers. As regards the protection mechanism, they stated that the first unmanned aerial vehicle trial was done in KNP in April 2013 which could not be successful due to non-issuance of clearance by the Ministry of Defence. They further stated that the patrolling strategies are being overhauled and a fool proof periphery protection mechanism is being put in place. Regarding protecting the river route, they stated that two additional floating boats have been procured and a hand held thermal scanner provided to the Northern Range. It was also stated that there is a plan for construction of 30-40 permanent camps on Brahmaputra for effective monitoring of the North bank.

Availability of weaponry

10.5.1 During scrutiny of records it was observed that there are strong evidences of involvement of extremists in organised Rhino poaching. Various insurgent groups active in the Karbi hills and Sonitpur district are directly linked with this malady. Inputs received from credible sources in the police organisation obtained from the records of the park authorities also confirm that the criminal groups from the north eastern region having camps beyond the national borders had taken over the Rhino horn trade. The sources further added that the money made from sale of Rhino horns are used in buying arms and ammunitions by these criminal groups.

10.5.2 On the other hand, information furnished by the park authorities revealed that the present (30-5-2014) position of weaponry is : .315 - 193, .303 - 164, revolver - 10, DBBL - 41 and SBBL - 01 while 377 of the similar weapons are lying unserviceable. This reveals that the park authorities do not have sophisticated weaponry. Further the wildlife guards are not trained to handle these as has been discussed before. Also, the available arms (.303, .315) are not dependable as these are old and became defective prone to mis-fire. The position has slightly improved after deployment of AFPF jawans, as some of these jawans have been allotted with sophisticated weapons.



Glimpse of a defective pin and ejector

10.5.3 Interaction with the wildlife guards confirmed the fact that the poachers are armed with sophisticated weapons. However, with limited weaponry (.303, .315, double barrel guns) and lack of training, the wildlife guards often find it impossible to counter them. It was also observed from the records that there has been a practice of blank fire in response to the firing by poachers. This allows the poachers to identify the location of the forest guards and plan their exit routes accordingly. This also corroborates the inability of wildlife guards to face poachers carrying fire arms.

Gadgetry

10.6.1 State of the Art gadgetry is essential for mounting effective surveillance in the park having large grass fields and river front. An analysis of the available gadgets revealed that the park has nine binoculars and two night vision equipment. Further, it was observed that while distributing these, preference was given to the officers posted in the headquarters while none of the camps carrying out anti-poaching activities possesses any such surveillance gadgets. The absence of night vision/binoculars in the camps especially river camps which cater to more than 30 km renders large part of the river remaining out of surveillance at night. This allows enough scope for the poachers to sneak into the park without being spotted.

Item	Qty	Issued to	Stock in hq
Binocular	9	CCF - 1, ACF - 1, Research Officer 1, Burapahar RO 1, Northern Range RO 2, Western Range 1.	2
Night Vision	2	ACF (hq) and RO (Northern Range)	Nil

10.6.2 Audit scrutiny also revealed that in view of acute shortage of gadgetry, the park authorities requested (2007) the WWF for funds for procuring *inter-alia* 100 binoculars and eight night vision equipment. However, neither the WWF had released the funds sought for nor had the park authorities moved the Directorate/Department for providing funds for procurement of the gadgets- vital component of surveillance.

10.6.3 *The Department agreed that there is no way out without going for a full scale modernisation in respect of weaponry and gadgetry. They stated that a modernisation plan had been chalked out to equip the AFPF jawans with AK series rifles and INSAS rifles to frontline staff along with bullet proof (BP) jackets, BP helmets and vests etc. As regards gadgetry, they stated that there is acute shortage of funds for procuring the devices since each of the hand held thermal scanner cost around ₹3 lakh and as such scouting for funding mechanism is being explored. It is planned to equip all the camps with such sophisticated devices, gradually.*

Database/tracking the activities of the poachers/villagers

10.7.1 It was observed that the park authorities had prepared a database of poachers which contain electronic database relating to the poachers arrested during 2013 while the remaining database is maintained manually. However, the database contains only the names and the addresses of the poachers. Further, database does not contain the mobile/landline contacts. In view of acute shortage of manpower, it is quite unlikely that the movements of these known poachers could be monitored physically by the wildlife officers/guards. During verification of the records, it was also noticed that the arrests made by the wildlife authorities from the nearby villages are all following inputs from the informers. Therefore, it can be concluded that the response of the wildlife authorities towards poachers is reactive instead of being proactive.

10.7.2 Secondly, the park authorities are yet to initiate a database of contact numbers of the households in the fringe villages. Availability of the database of mobile/landline numbers of known poachers as well as the households in the fringe villages could have enabled the park authorities to effectively monitor the activities remotely with the help of CDR which is not being done at present.

10.7.3 *The Department stated that the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, GoI had designed an interactive wildlife crime database which is planned to be put into use.*

Conviction of arrested poachers

10.8.1 Conviction of the arrested poachers, linkmen, undoubtedly is one of the most effective deterrents which not only helps in confining the poachers in custody for sufficiently long durations but also sends a message to the others in the trade.

The Act with its amendments confers enormous power to the wildlife officers in dealing with the wildlife crimes and offences. Besides, the Government of Assam by an amendment had increased the minimum imprisonment from three to seven years and from seven to 10 years for subsequent offence.

10.8.2 As may be seen from the table, the Act, *inter-alia*, provides for recording statements by the wildlife officers and in case the same is recorded in the presence of the accused, the statement can be used as an evidence in the Court of law, which is not the case in respect of statements taken by Police Authorities. **This**

Sec of the Act	Recital/powers conferred on Wildlife Officers
50 (8) (a)	To issue a search warrant.
50 (8) (b)	To enforce the attendance of witness.
50 (8) (c)	To compel the discovery and production of documents and material objects.
50 (8) (d)	To receive and record evidence.
50 (9)	Any evidence recorded under clause (d) above shall be admissible in any subsequent trial before a Magistrate provided that it has been taken in presence of the accused person.

would mean that if a statement is properly taken to the satisfaction of the Court, there is every possibility that the offence cases can be converted into conviction leading to imprisonment of the accused for not less than seven years⁵.

10.8.3 It was, however, observed that there has been no conviction of poachers/linkmen till date in cases related to Rhino poaching. In all the cases, though the wildlife officers/guards had put their life into risk to nab poachers/linkmen/field-men, but in absence of conviction, these offenders often come out clean/on bail and indulge in similar anti-wildlife activities till detected and nabbed again. This has created a situation where the poachers/linkmen/field-men are roaming free posing threat and huge setback for the wildlife officers/guards.

The Wildlife Conservation strategy 2002 of MoEF, GoI prescribes – Law enforcing agencies must ensure quick and deterrent punishment to the poachers and the traders of wildlife articles, trophies etc.

10.8.4 The Audit team has held series of discussions with the key wildlife officers involved in anti-poaching activities and other stakeholders, sought replies of the park authorities against specific questionnaires which were corroborated with scrutiny of the records revealing the following deficiencies/issues.

- There is no register to show up-to-date position of the cases lying pending in various Courts depicting the numbers and names of accused, date of arrest/filing of case, police case reference numbers, number of hearings held till date, brief results of the hearings, whether bail granted to the accused and present status of the case.

⁵ As per amendments made to the Act by Government of Assam in October 2010.

Absence of such a system has denied the wildlife officers the tool to monitor the pending cases effectively. Further, monitoring the activities of known poachers had also hampered due to non-availability of the information on grant of bail to the accused.

- In absence of the above, Audit had to rely on the information furnished (November 2012) to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)⁶ of Assam by the park authorities which revealed that between 2002 - 2012 (upto November 2012) 74 Rhino poaching cases were registered against which 59 arrests were shown to have been made. Of these, final reports had

Year of offence	No. of cases	Charge sheeted	Under trial	Final Report
2002	4	2 (2005, 2012)		2
2003	3	1 (2003)		2
2004	4			4
2005	8			8
2006	5	1 (2006)	2	1*
2007	16			16
2008	7	1 (2008)		6
2009	6	1 (2010)	1	4
2010	6		1	5
2011	4		3	1
2012	11	2 (2012)	9	--
Total	74	8	16	50

* Records untraceable in one case.

been submitted in 50 (*i.e.* 68 per cent) cases and 16 cases dating back upto 2006 were under trial while only in eight cases (*i.e.* 11 per cent) charge sheet had been filed. The position puts forth an alarming situation where charge sheet could be filed only in 11 per cent cases while in 68 per cent cases investigation had been closed. Further, information furnished by the park authorities to Audit on arrests made during 2008-09 to 2012-13 *vis-à-vis* conviction revealed that 251 persons were arrested while not a single case could be convicted.

The GoI had established the National Green Tribunal in October 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forest and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal rights relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to person and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- The same staff and officers responsible with day to day protection duties, normal office works are carrying out wildlife crime investigations as well as attend the cases as and when hearing is held. Moreover, none of the Wildlife Officers had been trained in investigating techniques. Besides, there is no system of maintenance of case diaries in the Ranges. The absence of institutional memory makes it difficult to track cases which drag for years.

⁶ CID has been roped in to investigate the Rhino poaching cases.

Majority of the cases once detected by the wildlife officers were handed over to the Police authorities. This was despite the fact that the Act conferred more powers to the Wildlife personnel to effectively handle wildlife crimes. Besides, this has also increased the load on the Police Officers who are already overburdened with law and order and other

District	Period	No. of Rhino poaching cases regd	No. convicted	Remarks
Karbi-Anglong	2009-13	15	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 cases handed over to CID • Remaining pending.
Sonitpur		18	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 cases handed over to CID. • Remaining pending.
Golaghat		29	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 cases disposed off. • Remaining pending.
Nagaon		35	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cases handed over to CBI. • 12 cases not arrested. • Remaining pending.

administrative issues. Information obtained⁷ from the Superintendents of Police of four districts indicated that against 97 cases of Rhino poaching registered in various police stations during 2009-2013 under their jurisdiction, not a single case had been convicted. **In the absence of any conviction, the amendment made by the State Government in the Act to enhance the minimum imprisonment to seven and ten years remained on paper without being implemented in letter and spirit.**

10.8.5 Scrutiny also revealed that despite the above, neither the Department/Directorate nor the park authorities had ever attempted to analyse the reasons for low conviction.

10.8.6 From the above analysis, the following alternative solutions to handle the problem of low conviction emerge.

- *Special Courts may be set up to deal with wildlife crimes in the lines of NGT established by the GoI.*
- *In exercise of the powers conferred under the Act, amendments may be made in the Act so that the statement recorded under Section 50 (8) of the Act can be regarded as 'Evidence in chief' to be treated as final and to make Section 51 of the Act self contained.*
- *A high Power Committee may be set up to examine the legal hurdles/deficiencies in the existing provisions of the Statutes/training needs within the Department hindering conviction of the accused in wildlife offences. While firming up*

⁷ Information obtained by an RTI activist who had shared it with Audit on specific requests.

the proposal, the Committee may take into account the good practices prevalent in other States having major wildlife areas such as Gujarat, Rajasthan etc.

Till the above materialises, the following may be considered.

- Putting in place a check list of issues needing special attention by the wildlife officers while preparing seizure list and other evidential documents after consultation with legal experts.
- Making it mandatory for the wildlife Officers to deal with the Offence cases under the existing provisions of the Act instead of handing over the entire case to the Police authorities. Separate investigation⁸ may be made by the Police authorities in the cases registered under Arms Act.
- Special financial rewards may be rolled out for the wildlife Officers, public prosecutors involved in cases leading to conviction.
- A system of periodic monitoring of the pending cases including reasons for non-conviction may be installed. The reports may be prepared at the divisional level and submitted to the Department with specific remarks/inputs on the status/action being taken at the Directorate level.

10.8.7 The Department while agreeing that lack of conviction had been a major bottleneck stated that the situation is gradually improving. They also highlighted that in a recent case two accused had been convicted (August 2014) with jail term of five years which was the first of its kind in recent times. On being asked whether there is a system of obtaining legal opinion, the Department stated that the cases in Higher Courts are represented by legal representatives appointed by the State Government. However, they admitted that most of the cases on poaching are disposed off at the lower Courts where only the public prosecutors represent the Department.

Innovative approaches and other initiatives

10.9.1 Apart from the deficiencies discussed in the preceding paragraphs, a number of innovations as well as initiatives on the part of the park authorities/Department were noticed as discussed below.

10.9.2 The park authorities had installed electronic eye with thermal sensors around the park with its headquarters at the Central Range, Kohora. The system would sense presence of human movement within its range and send signals to the headquarters. The project is expected to be operational by December 2014.

10.9.3 The Government has from time to time taken a number of initiatives for betterment of the wildlife management in the State, namely

⁸ As directed by the Director General of Police vide letter dated 28 November 2013.

- Providing immunity to the wildlife guards from prosecution without prior sanction under relevant provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Amendment to the provisions of the Act to provide for harsher punishment fixing the minimum and maximum tenure of imprisonment for the first offence as seven years and 10 years instead of three years and seven years while in case of subsequent offence the minimum imprisonment had remained same and the maximum penalty has been increased to life imprisonment.

Recommendations (Anti-poaching action plan)

In addition to the recommendations at 10.8.6 supra, the following may be considered.

- *Anti-poaching camps and watch towers need to be installed at strategic locations along the boundary of the park. This may be backed up by a strong periphery protection network with constant patrolling by wildlife personnel and members of the Village Defence Parties, members of fringe villages to leave no scope for poachers sneaking into the park.*
- *The frontline staffing system needs to be revamped to inject able bodied personnel for protection duties. Setting up of KNP centric frontline cadre (with additional benefits/allowances) with fixation of upper age limit may be considered for deployment of dedicated staff. Training, specially designed for meeting the challenges, need to be imparted to these personnel.*
- *Sophisticated weaponry and gadgets need to be acquired and distributed among the frontline staff along with training.*
- *A database of licenced weapons around the park needs to be put in place in co-ordination with the district administration. Besides, extensive search and seizure of unlicenced weapons available in the fringe villages as well as the hills need to be carried out by forming joint parties from Army, para-military, police and wildlife personnel.*
- *The effectiveness of the AFPF personnel need to be increased by merging the force with wildlife wing and the control of the personnel deployed to KNP may be placed at the disposal of the park authorities.*
- *In view of the emerging threat, intelligence gathering may be given maximum emphasis while the Department need to ensure flow of required funds for the purpose.*
- *A dedicated intelligence cell with personnel drawn from the intelligence agencies of Centre/State, Police etc may be instituted at the KNP headquarters to handle the intelligence gathering and investigation of wildlife offence cases.*
- *IT techniques (analysis of CDR, mobile tracking etc) including the usage of location based services need to be put into extensive use by the intelligence cell as mentioned above.*





CHAPTER – V

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Introductory

11.1.1 Habitat management had been given adequate importance in the management plan of the park for 2003-04 to 2012-13. Out of 11 theme plans consisting activities to be carried out during the 10 year period, three items (about 27 per cent) namely management of wetland, management of grassland and control of erosion were flagged. Besides, research and monitoring were also planned as issues to be covered during the plan period.

11.1.2 Due to insufficient fund to manage the activities of the park and chanelising the majority of the funds towards anti-poaching activities which had been discussed in some of the preceding paragraphs, the habitat management has taken a back seat as evident from the following.

Funding

11.2.1 In order to fund the items under habitat management which formed 27 per cent of the overall activities planned, the management plan forecast a financial outlay of ₹ 4.24 crore (as of 2002) for the five year period 2008-09 to 2012-13. Besides, an amount of ₹ 90 lakh was also planned on research activities. An analysis of the financial outlay *vis-à-vis* actual allocation revealed that ₹ 1.08 crore was actually made

Year	As envisaged in management plan		Actual allocation	
	HM	Research	HM	Research
(₹ in lakh)				
2008-09	84.50	18.00	Nil	Nil
2009-10	85.50	18.00	15.00	Nil
2010-11	84.50	18.00	49.60	6.00
2011-12	85.50	18.00	43.00	Nil
2012-13	84.50	18.00	Nil	Nil
Total	424.50	90.00	107.60	6.00

HM – habitat management.
In addition, ₹ 2.10 crore was allocated as one time assistance for erosion control during 2010-11.

available for habitat management including desiltation of water bodies, ₹ 2.10 crore as a special assistance for erosion control and ₹ 6 lakh only was earmarked for research activities. The percentage of allocation *vis-à-vis* planned worked out to 25 per cent (habitat management including desiltation) and six per cent (research activities). As a result of such poor fund allocation, habitat management and research works which are amongst the vital components of conservation and

wildlife management had been largely affected. Some of the instances are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Management of wetland

11.3.1 In KNP, wetland consists of rivers and *beels*¹ cover about eight *per cent* of the park area which is the lifeline for the animals. The water bodies get filled up during the monsoons when the water of river Brahmaputra inundates the park, each year. However, the flood waters bring along silt which gets settled in the water bodies as the flood water recedes. This makes the *beels* shallow reducing the water holding capacity.



Animals enjoying water bodies

11.3.2 In view of the natural phenomenon and to ensure availability of water in the *beels* throughout the year, it is imperative that de-siltation is regularly carried out. The management plan proposed for allocating ₹ 73 lakh each year. It means that for the period 2008-09 to 2012-13 ₹ 3.65 crore was required to be earmarked for desiltation of water bodies. Scrutiny, however, revealed that ₹ 19.75 lakh or **five per cent** was only allocated for the purpose during the five year period. Of this, ₹ 5 lakh each was earmarked during 2009-10 and 2010-11 while ₹ 9.75 lakh was earmarked for 2011-12. Thus, there was deficiency in funding to the tune of ₹ 3.46 crore on this account, besides there was no allocation during the years 2008-09 and 2012-13. Thus, the provision of fund as prescribed in the management plan was not met resulting in drying up of water bodies during peak summer forcing the Rhinos and other animals to move towards rivers flowing through both flanks of the park which are exposed to human habitats prone to poaching.

¹ Local names for lakes.

11.3.3 The Department stated that desiltation of the water bodies is being planned during the current year provided that adequate funds are made available to the park authorities.

Management of grassland

11.4.1 Four main types of vegetation exist in the park namely alluvial inundated grassland, alluvial savanna woodland, tropical moist deciduous forests and tropical semi-ever green forests. An analysis of the area under different land cover types in the park² would reveal that more than 60 per cent of the area is covered

Land cover type	Area in sq km	% Area
Woodland	114.01	27.95
Short grass	12.30	3.01
Tall grass	248.85	61.01
Beels	24.32	5.96
Rivers	6.80	1.67
Sand	1.62	0.40
Total	407.90*	100

* Excluding eroded area.

by grassland - both tall and short grass. Of the species available, there are a few namely *ekora*, *Lokosa* etc³ which are preferred by the herbivores. Especially, *ekora*,



A glimpse of tall grass fields (*ekora* etc.)

lokosa are largely favoured by the Rhinos. Such tall grass not only provides shelter to all types of animals but also help them in breeding. These spreads are also liked by tigers.

11.4.2 Physical verification and interaction with the wildlife Officers/guards revealed that the cover of *ekora* etc is diminishing day by day. The major reasons, *inter-alia*, are rapid increase in the numbers of *simul* trees, attack from *Mimosa invisa* (a kind of herb which creeps on the grassland resulting in its damage) and increase in the population of wild buffaloes as briefly discussed below.

11.4.3 The *simul* seeds germinate very fast and even if the plants are removed it again gives rise to multiple saplings from the coppice. During field verification it was observed that large spread of grassland had been taken over by *simul* trees.

² based on visual interpretation of satellite imagery (kushwaha 1997).

³ Local names of types of tall grass. Scientific names *Saccharum ravennae* (*ekora*), *Paspalum longifolium* Roxb (*lokosa*).



Simul plants depleting grassland cover in KNP

11.4.4 *Mimosa* - (a shrubby herbaceous plant), the seeds are hard coated and can germinate even after five years. Concerted efforts by the park authorities to clear the herbs proved futile. It was only the devastating floods of 2012 which naturally cleared the herbs. However, some unorganised tea growers in Karbi Anglong Hills still use *Mimosa* for nitrogen fixation on the soil before the tea bushes are planted.



Mimosa invisa

These herbs then find their way into the park through the *nallahs*, rivulets *etc.* flowing through the hills and the park into the Brahmaputra.

11.4.5 Thirdly, wild buffaloes move in herds and can eat up large spread of *ekora* very fast. The increase in the number of buffaloes in the park had put further pressure on these vegetation. The park authorities had in the past planned for translocation of some of the buffaloes to other areas having less or no buffalo population which did not materialise.



Herd of wild buffaloes

11.4.6 The Department stated that efforts are being made to effectively manage the grassland by putting in place a well documented Habitat Improvement Plan. As regards the pressure of the animals, they also stated that the ecological carrying capacity of the park needs to be worked out at the earliest.

Erosion by River Brahmaputra

11.5.1 The KNP is situated in the flood plains of the Brahmaputra which flows through the eastern and northern part. The dynamic nature of the river Brahmaputra and constant erosion and creation of new *chapories* are common phenomenon. The maximum erosion of the river has been on the northern part of the core area of the park. This has serious implication as the core area of the park is landlocked between the Brahmaputra on its north and NH 37 with thickly populated villages on its south. **As per the conservative estimates, more than 84 sq km of the original 429 sq km has already been eroded by the river. However, till date no scientific approach had been made to arrest the erosion by river Brahmaputra.**



Erosion on the north bank of KNP by river Brahmaputra



Glimpse of erosion ridden Arimora area

11.5.2 During interaction with the wildlife guards at the Arimora beat which has seen worst erosion through the years; it was observed that the beat had to be shifted from its original location to a safer spot in the wake of constant erosion by the river. The historic and highly sought after Arimora IB, which was about 100 mtrs from river bank when it was constructed in 1956, went as close as 28 mtrs in April 2011. During the visit it was ascertained that the IB had been completely washed away on 15 July 2013.

11.5.3 It was observed that the Government had allocated ₹ 2.10 crore in 2010-11 for erection of porcupine posts⁴ along the bank of the river at this point. But, during

⁴ Reinforced Cement Concrete Posts are put together and made like (X) held with bolts and put in the water to divert the flow.

verification it was seen that even that initiative proved to be futile as the river had washed away/submerged all of these posts. Besides, no further reinforcement was arranged like putting stone barrier in addition to the porcupine posts. This not only resulted in washing away/ submerging the porcupine posts and continued erosion but also led to expenditure of ₹ 2.10 crore proving unfruitful. Besides, from the news clipping appearing in 'The Assam Tribune' dated 11 April 2011 it could be seen that the then Director of the park had stated that some concrete steps towards preventing further erosion would be taken soon. Copy of the news clip is enclosed as **Annexure 'C'**. Even after lapse of three more years, no concrete solution towards the perennial problem could be worked out while the mighty river keeps eroding the land mass silently and consistently.

11.5.4 *The Department stated that the issue of erosion control is very complex and probably cannot be solved with simplistic solutions. They further stated that discussions are being held with the Water Resource Department to find some way out to contain erosion.*

11.5.5 Response of Audit: *In view of the urgency and importance of the matter, timebound action plan needs to be put in place for addressing the issue.*

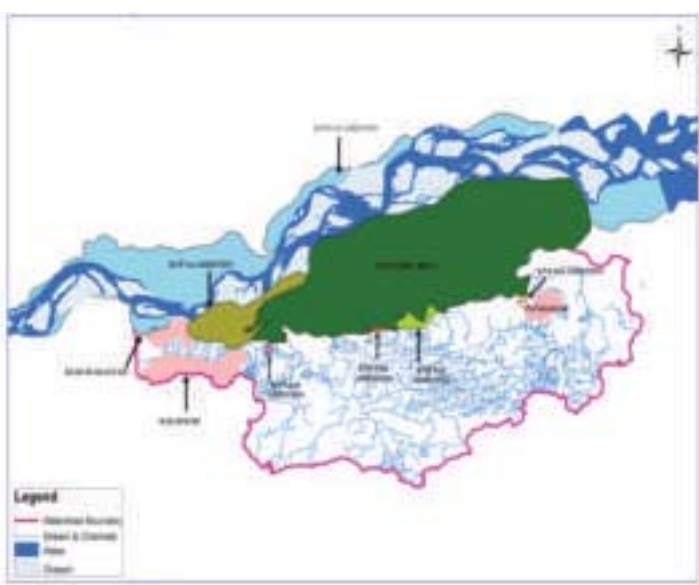
Recommendations (Habitat management)

- *Habitat management needs to be given special focus by deploying a dedicated team under the guidance of competent Officer.*
- *Specific long term goals need to be set, supported by short term action plan which is to be monitored closely.*
- *The Department may ensure sufficiency of funds for the items of works planned through the APOs under Habitat Management.*
- *Concerted and timebound action plan needs to be formulated immediately to contain the erosion by Brahmaputra.*



CHAPTER – VI
NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL AREAS

Introductory



Map depicting the six additional areas

12.1.1 The erosion of Brahmaputra river and change of course of the river, regular floods in the KNP area necessitated the authorities to look for additional areas. Six additional areas had been identified and preliminarily notified between 1984 and 1993 as mentioned below:

Name of addition	Area (in sq km)	Date of notification	
		Preliminary	Final
1 st	43.79	28-9-1984	28-5-1997
2 nd	6.47	10-7-1985	Pending
3 rd	0.69	31-5-1985	
4 th	0.89	13-6-1985	3-8-1988
5 th	1.15	13-6-1985	Pending
6 th	376	10-9-1985 & 1-9-1993	7-8-1999

12.1.2 Of the above six areas, 1st and 4th additional areas are in possession of the park authorities duly handed over by the civil administration. But, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th additional areas are yet to be formally taken over by the authorities. Results of scrutiny of the records and joint physical verification carried out by Audit Team along with Park Officials in the above additional areas are discussed separately in the following paragraphs.

The Wildlife Conservation strategy 2002 of MoEF, GoI prescribes – the settlement rights in NPs and WSS should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral part of the wildlife habitat.

1st Addition

12.2.1 Though the additional area was notified in 1997, the park authorities could take over the complete possession only in 2010. Scrutiny revealed that the civil as well as the park authorities had to carry out a number of eviction drives to make the area free from encroachment. It was observed from the records that **the entire population which was evicted from the 1st additional area in 2010 had settled just opposite NH 37 in Deosur chang adjacent to Deopani village.**



Glimpse of Deosur Chang - south of NH 37 opposite first addition area

12.2.2 From the letter of the Director, KNP to the Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon dated August 2006 it appeared that in

the past instances of harbouring poachers and recovery of wildlife products from that area are on record. Besides, the letter also highlights the fact that settlements were causing hindrance in migration of the endangered wild animals to a great extent especially during floods. Physical survey of the area by Audit revealed that the stretch where the evicted population had occupied (100 mtrs south of GPS location N 26° 34'13.3" and E 093° 07'06.6" from where photograph was taken) has clear signages of animal corridor. It was further noticed that the Public Works Department had constructed a permanent road under PMGSY scheme connecting NH 37 and the settlements.

12.2.3 During interaction with the President of the Eco-Development Committees (EDC) of villages adjacent to these settlements, it was learnt that there has been huge population growth in the past few years. **They have also stated that there is a constant inflow of fresh migrants in**



The signage of animal corridor on left side of NH 37 and the settlement of Deosur Chang on the right

that area. In view of the statement of the representatives of the EDCs, Audit had obtained the census data for the years 2001 and 2011 from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam. **Analysis revealed that the population of Deosur chang and Deopani had increased by 121 per cent and 73 per cent respectively between 2001 and 2011. The growth is abnormal when compared to the growth figures of Nagaon District (39 per cent) and that as the entire State of Assam (32 per cent).**

12.2.4 Despite such rapid increase in population just on the periphery of the park falling within the designated animal corridor, concerted efforts should have been taken by the park authorities in coordination with the civil administration to carry out further eviction drives and restrict migrants to free the area from illegal encroachment, which was not



Signage of PMGSY Road to Deosur Chang

done. The mushrooming growth in population in these settlements coupled with past instances of harbouring poachers had emerged as a great threat to the wild animals.

4th Addition

12.3.1 The fourth addition consists of 0.89 sq km which was historically used for tea cultivation. Initially notified in 1989, the park authorities ultimately took possession of the land in November 2010. The compensation for acquisition worked out as ₹ 1.77 crore and was deposited (October 2010) with the Sub-Divisional Officer, Kaliabor by the park authorities.



Fourth addition area carved out of area used as tea garden

12.3.2 Further scrutiny of the records revealed that the RO, western range informed (February 2011) the DFO that in view of tea gardens surrounding the fourth addition area, there is every risk of slow encroachment by the tea garden authorities in the long

run. In order to protect the integrity of the park area he proposed for erection of permanent boundary pillars along with plantation works in the area predominantly covered by tea bushes which were up-rooted at the time of taking over the area.

12.3.3 It was observed that no such boundary pillars were erected despite the fact that the area is surrounded by tea gardens and Kanchanjuri village which has registered a population growth of over 140 *per cent* in 2011 as compared to 2001. Since this addition area was taken over to provide shelter to the animals during floods, proper management of the habitat and undisturbed environment should have been ensured by the park authorities. However, due to the absence of grassland coupled with influence of creepers besides presence of ever increasing human settlements/mass movement of tea garden labourers, this additional area would undoubtedly not serve as the safe haven for wild animals during the floods.

6th Addition

12.4.1 The entire stretch of the Brahmaputra river on the north side of the KNP including the *chaporis*¹ of about 376 sq km had been notified as sixth addition. Initially notified in 1985 and re-notified in 1993, the final notification was issued in 1999.

12.4.2 It was observed that despite the final notification of 1999 and creation of a separate range named 'Northern Range' in 2008 to administer over the area, the park authorities are yet to obtain the formal possession from the district administration, even after 15 years. Audit



Khutis (settlements) on the 6th addition area

scrutiny revealed that the sixth addition has been marred with tricky problems like largescale encroachments coupled with other problems like illegal fishing, cattle rearing etc which necessitated repeated eviction drives. These drives, however, remained largely ineffective due to the following.

(i) Protracted litigation due to cases filed by the encroachers in various Courts, some of them are still pending;

¹ River islands.

- (ii) Strong resistance from the encroachers assisted by poachers and criminal elements taking shelter in the encroached areas and *chaporis*.
- (iii) Indirect political interference during eviction drives.

The details are given in the **Annexure – ‘D’**.



Settlements and fishermen setting up nets inside the 6th addition area

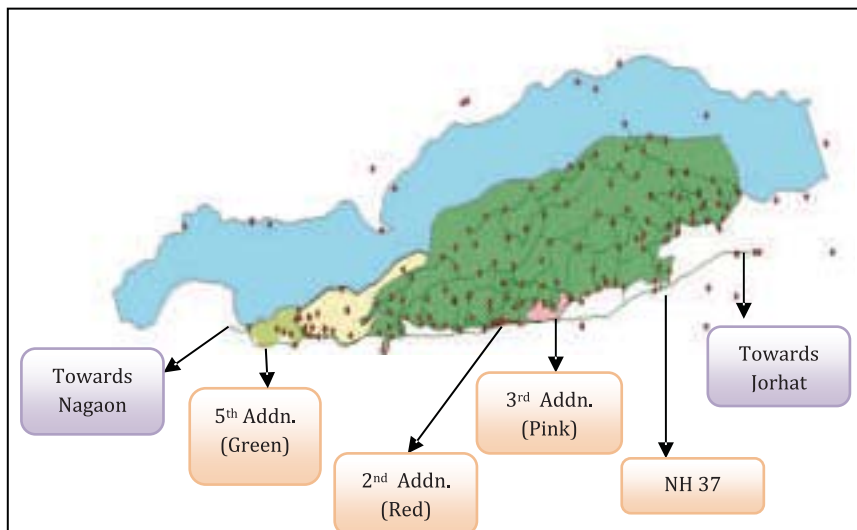
12.4.3 Further audit scrutiny revealed that the Gauhati High court in two separate cases upheld (4 and 12 June 2013) the eviction drives initiated by the KNP authorities. These Court orders were forwarded to the park authorities by the Directorate in August 2013. However, no further action was taken by them to expedite eviction operations to clear the area from illegal encroachment till date of Audit (July 2014). As a result, the encroachers continue to illegally occupy the land otherwise meant for wildlife conservation.

2nd, 3rd and 5th Additions

12.5.1 The 2nd, 3rd and 5th addition areas comprising 8.30 sq km² were preliminarily notified in 1985. These additions are strategic as they enjoin the core area of the park with NH 37 to facilitate free movement of animals towards higher land during flood as shown in the map.

² 2nd Addition = 6.46 sq km, 3rd Addition = 0.69 sq km and 5th Addition = 1.15 sq km.

12.5.2 Audit scrutiny revealed that ₹ 39.33 lakh³ was to be paid to the affected land holders as worked out by the Collector. The amount was deposited by the park authorities with the civil administration on various dates between June 1996 and January 1999. Records revealed that the amount of



₹ 39.33 lakh is still lying with the civil administration till date as the settlers are not ready to accept the compensation for some reason or the other. **As per the present status put forth by the park authorities, possession of the land falling under 2nd, 3rd and 5th addition areas are yet to be taken over by them.** It was observed that while calculating the compensation amount, land belonging to permanent *pattadars* as well as the annual *pattadars* was considered.

12.5.3 Audit had collected the detailed break-up of the land of the above additional areas which revealed that out of 8.30 sq km area, 3770 Bighas 17 Kathas and 75 Lechas⁴ were Government land, 511 Bighas 7 Kathas and 56 Lechas were annual *patta* (AP) land and 407 Bighas 9 Kathas and 44 Lechas

Addition	PP land			AP land			Govt land		
	B	K	L	B	K	L	B	K	L
2 nd	123	5	25	158	3	18	3287	12	56
3 rd	247	4	17	85	1	23	210	1	18
5 th	37	0	2	268	3	15	273	4	1
Total	407	9	44	511	7	56	3770	17	75

B - Bigha, K - Katha, L - Lecha
144 sq ft = 1 Lecha; 2,880 sq ft = 1 katha and 5 kathas = 1 Bigha

were permanent *patta* (PP) land. In this context, reference is drawn to Section 1.1 (2) (c) of Rules under the Land and Revenue Regulation (Assam) which clearly lays down that an '**annual *patta***' means a lease granted for one year only and confers no rights to the soil beyond a right of use for the year for which it is given. It confers no right of inheritance beyond the year of issue. It confers no right of transfer or of subletting and shall be liable to cancellation for any transfer or sub-letting even during the year of issue. **Thus, only permanent *pattadars* having land measuring about 408 Bigha were entitled to compensation as per the land and revenue regulation of Assam.**

12.5.4 Cross verification of records of the Circle Officer, Bokakhat, however, revealed that 3,407 out of 4,955 Bighas in 2nd addition, 101 out of 543 Bighas in

³ 2nd Addition = ₹12.14 lakh, 3rd Addition = ₹ 13.28 lakh and 5th Addition = ₹ 13.91 lakh.

⁴ 1 Lecha = 144 sq ft; 20 Lecha = 1 Katha and 5 Katha = 14,400 sq ft or 1 Bigha.

3rd Addition and 273 out of 578 Bighas in 5th addition area had already been handed over to the park authorities. Accordingly, some of the land records had been corrected in favour of the park authorities. The **'handing over - taking over'** certificate dated July 2005 available in the records of the KNP confirms the fact. However, it was observed that the KNP authorities had denied having possession of any land in these additional areas. Due to the above confusion, there has been steady increase in encroachment as discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

12.5.5 During interaction with the Circle Officer, Bokakhat, it was ascertained that they have carried out a survey of the land falling under the additional areas in 2009 which revealed that Government land measuring 1,573 Bighas (which were yet to be handed over to the park authorities as per their records) **had been entirely encroached. However, the survey left out the portion of Government land which were shown to have been handed over to the park authorities.** Copy of survey report enclosed as **Annexure - 'E'**.



12.5.6 Audit had carried out physical verification of the area which revealed that **at present** the entire area including the Government land (both handed over and yet to be handed over) is under encroachment, either by construction of houses or by way of cultivation. Thus, due to inaction by the park authorities to protect the territorial integrity of the land already taken over in 2005, failure of the civil administration to process the acquisition of the remaining stretch of 408 Bighas land owned by permanent *pattadars* coupled with the prevailing confusion in both the departments regarding the handing over - taking over, majority of these three additional areas had been encroached by illegal settlers.



Human settlements in the additional areas

12.5.7 Incidentally, it was noticed from the records of the park authorities that the PCCF, Wildlife had in October 2012 requested all the divisions to intimate the position of encroachment. During verification of records in the PCCF, Wildlife office it was observed that none of the divisions, including the KNP had reported the position.

12.5.8 During verification of records as well as interaction with the presidents of EDCs/heads of villages falling under these additional areas, it was observed that the present occupants (both cultivators and dwellers), including the illegal ones, now demand huge compensation much above the approved Government rates. Besides, field verification revealed that the State Electricity Board has also extended electricity connection under Rajiv Gandhi *Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana* (RGGVY) to some of these villages set up on the land of additional areas.



Electrification under RGGVY inside 2nd addition area

12.5.9 Needless to mention here, the three additional areas are strategically important as these form part of the vital animals corridors. Besides, in the wake of steady erosion of land by the river Brahmaputra on the north side of the core area, these additional tracts of land could have helped the park authorities to ensure some recoupment of land lost.

12.5.10 In view of the above observations, Audit is of the considered opinion that the possession of these three additional areas is fast going beyond a point of retrieval and reduced land mass would not only be detrimental for the well being of the animals but also would lead to more man animal conflict as the both continue to struggle for their share of the land.

The Wildlife Conservation strategy 2002 of MoEF, GoI prescribes – removal of encroachments and illegal activities from within forest land and protected areas.

12.5.11 *The Department admitted that due to negligence of the Revenue as well as the Forest Departments the areas falling under 2nd, 3rd and 5th additions could not be taken over resulting in rampant encroachments. They also accepted audit findings that constant construction activities, parking lots, erection of dhabas etc had led to blocking of most of the designated animal corridors. As regards the boundary demarcation, they stated that a new type of boundary pillar is being proposed to be established after proper survey of the boundaries.*

12.5.12 It was also stated that as per the latest report submitted by the Circle officer in September 2014, all the Government land in the periphery of the KNP falling under the Kaliabor Circle stand encroached.

Recommendations (additional areas)

- Distinct boundary pillars need to be installed and GPS mapping ensured at/of strategic locations of the additional areas which had been taken over from civil administration.
- PW Department may be coordinated to ascertain the rationale behind construction of road under PMGSY in Deosur chang which pre-dominantly is an encroached area. Besides, the executing Departments like PW, State Electricity Boards may be impressed upon to plan road constructions and other services in and around KNP only after discussion with the park authorities to ensure that the encroachers are not given any undue advantage in future.
- **1st additional area:** The illegal settlers in the Deosur chang and other adjacent areas need to be evicted immediately in a timebound manner. Alternatively, efforts may be made to classify the Deosur Chang area as another additional area to the Park.
- **6th additional area:** Immediate arrangements need to be made to take over the area from the civil administration and the illegal settlers evicted within a fixed timeframe. If need be, orders from the competent Courts may also be obtained in favour of eviction. As regards the control of fishing in the river, help from the district administration may be obtained for law enforcement at strategic points of the river.
- **2nd, 3rd and 5th additional areas:** Timebound action need to be taken in co-ordination with the civil administration to free these areas of occupation, both legal and illegal by (i) paying compensation to the permanent pattadars and (ii) evicting the encroachers to ensure direct control of the park authorities over the land and camps erected at strategic locations.



CHAPTER – VII

OTHER ISSUES IMPACTING CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

Eco-development

13.1 The formation of Eco-Development Committees (EDC) is aimed at providing sustainable development to the fringe villagers to improve their basic economic condition and level of sustenance thereby decreasing their dependence on the forest resources. It also aims at bringing awareness among the villagers about the necessities of the forest and forest resources which will motivate them to stand for the protection of Kaziranga.

13.2 The KNP has 110 villages with more than 2.60 lakh population surrounding it. Audit scrutiny revealed that the park authorities had formed 33 EDCs which had been registered in 2002 onwards, though none of these committees are functional even after 12 years had elapsed. Though micro-planning is pre-requisite for launching the EDCs, it was observed that all the plans are at nascent stage. In a meeting held in December 2013 between the Departmental Officers, park authorities and the members of the EDCs it was decided that micro plans of at least 10 out of 33 EDCs would be finalised by January 2014 with the help of Yes Bank who have come forward for the financial rescue. However, it was noticed that in June 2014 the status of micro-plans had not changed much.

13.3 In order to ascertain the level of awareness regarding sustainable development, the Audit team had, along with the representative of the KNP, visited the presidents of six such committees. The findings are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

- The reason for the committees remaining non-functional for over 12 years was the inability of the representatives of the KNP to devote time for the EDCs.
- The committees expressed their anguish over the growing gap between the EDCs and the park authorities over non-involvement of local stakeholders. Though a series of recruitments

In Kudremukh National Park, Karnataka, local youth are deployed in the forest camps to encourage participation of the fringe villagers in conservation and protection of wildlife.

were conducted for the park, none of the educated youth from the fringe villages are given priority. This was happening despite the fact that the local population was interested in helping the wildlife authorities in protection and other duties as stated by the committees.

- In the absence of conviction, the villagers are scared of providing inputs to the authorities which is fraught with the risk of their lives as the poachers return to the villages after getting bail.
- The Committees wanted the wildlife as well as the police authorities to probe the source of funds of a class of people in the fringe villages who are suddenly becoming rich – buying plots of land, commercial vehicles, tractors etc. involving huge money.
- There has been a rapid increase in the settlement of immigrants. While pointing towards the increase in new faces in the villages, the committees accepted their helplessness in containing the trend.
- The methodology of village survey conducted under EDC is faulty as it includes the migrants who do not have voting rights in the local constituency. The survey mechanism should be restructured and aligned with the genuine citizenry.
- In respect of the fish *mahals* in *beels*¹ adjacent to the KNP under Kuthuri Gram Panchayat, the fishermen go deep inside the KNP to catch fish at night which are then transported under the cover of fish *challans* issued by the *mahaldars*², against commission. These fishermen also provide inputs to the poachers about movement of Rhinos and forest officials.

It was observed that the Kuthuri Gram Panchayat³ has no system of calling back the used *challans* of fish transport from the fish *mahals*, neither the park authorities has installed such a system of obtaining the used *challans*. This could provide invaluable inputs and help in ascertaining the source of the fish.

- However, in one EDC, known to be a safe haven of poachers, a group of youth of the village had taken over the committee and impressed upon the households not to provide shelter to the poachers. They had also formed groups which assist the wildlife guards during night patrols.

EDCs reported instances where sympathisers of poachers were forced to surrender before the wildlife authorities.

13.4 *The Department stated that taking a cue from the Audit observation the survey of villages is being done with reference to the records of the Revenue Department to ensure that the illegal population is not included in the list prepared for eco-development measures. As regards the relations between the park authorities and the EDCs, they stated that several confidence building measures have been taken recently*

¹ Large water bodies.

² Contractors with whom fishery *mahals* are settled.

³ Visited by the Audit Team to ascertain the control mechanism.

to reduce the gap. Regarding tracking the properties of the poachers the Department stated that two key amendments had been proposed in the Act which had been agreed in principle by the Judicial and Legislative Departments. The Department mentioned a number of steps taken for addressing local employment issues and also informed that they were contemplating raising a special battalion for KNP drawing local youth from the fringe villages and a proposal in that regard had been sent to the GoI.

Recommendations (Eco-development activities)

- The formation of the EDCs in remaining villages and micro-plans of all EDCs may be finalised by deputing dedicated Officer and a team in a timebound manner by fixing targets/timelines and its achievement monitored closely.
- The survey of population in each of the villages covered under eco-development programmes need to be carried out to help identify genuine beneficiaries.
- In view of the threat to wildlife animals and overall conservation of the park, efforts need to be taken to establish a secured channel of recording allegations of the EDCs and their members which may be investigated by the park as well as the police authorities to garner confidence of the fringe villagers.

Biotic pressure vis-à-vis eco-sensitive zone

14.1.1 Background: The XXI meeting of the 'Indian Board for Wildlife' held on 21 January 2002 adopted a 'Wildlife Strategy 2002' wherein point 9 envisaged that 'land falling within 10 km of the boundaries of the National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as eco-fragile zones under section 3 (v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder'. **The GoI in February 2002 requested all the Chief Wildlife Wardens for listing out such areas within 10 km of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries and furnish detailed proposals for their notification as eco-sensitive areas.**

14.1.2 National Wildlife Action Plan – 2002-16 – indicates that “Areas outside the protected area network are often vital ecological corridor links and must be protected to prevent isolation of fragments of bio-diversity which will not survive in the long run. Land and water use policies will need to accept the imperative of strictly protecting ecologically fragile habitats and regulating use elsewhere”. The Action Plan also indicates that ‘All identified areas around Protected Areas and wildlife corridors to be declared as ecologically fragile under the Environment (Protection) Act’.

14.1.3 Purpose of declaring ESZ: The purpose of declaring ESZ around national parks and sanctuaries is to create some kind of 'shock absorber' for the Protected Areas. They would also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

14.1.4 Supreme Court's intervention : In view of failure of the State Governments to come up with the proposals, the Apex court in its verdict of December 2006 directed the GoI to give final opportunity to the States of four weeks to send their proposals to the GoI. It was also held by the Top Court that all cases where environmental clearances were granted where activities are within 10 km zone, be referred to Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

14.1.5 Present position reported by the park authorities: The Gauhati High Court sought (March 2011) information as to the status of ESZ against which the park authorities had in July 2012 informed that preparation of proposal for declaration of ESZ was in the final stage and would be submitted soon to the authority. The draft ESZ of the KNP was submitted to the PCCF in March 2013.

14.1.6 Other similar initiatives : Though the park authorities had failed to firm up the ESZ proposal since 2002 as discussed above, it was observed that the State Government had launched (2009) another effort towards the same goal, named - 'Kaziranga Bio-diversity Conservation and Development Committee' to be implemented through financial aid from the French Development Agency amounting to ₹ 450 crore. The project envisaged to restore and manage natural forest ecosystems and resources to enhance the forest dependent communities, livelihoods and ensure sustainable conservation of bio-diversity. A number of meetings were held by the Committee from November 2009 till date.

14.2 Audit findings :

14.2.1 Despite the decision of the National Board for Wildlife in 2002 about creation of the ESZ it took more than 11 years for the park authorities to draft the ESZ and forward it to the PCCF (Wildlife), Assam. **It was also observed that in view of non-submission of ESZ by the NPs/WSs, the GoI had been issuing reminders and in July 2013, the GoI informed the State Governments including Assam about its decision that "a default area of 10 km from the boundary will be the ESZ".** However, no concrete action was found to have been taken to comply with the GoI's directives till the date of Audit.

14.2.2 Meanwhile the 'Kaziranga Bio-diversity Conservation and Development Committee' recommended (October 2010) that (i) notices to encroachers on Government land should be issued with a bonafide interest, (ii) before permitting for

any construction related to hospitality sector NOC⁴ from the KNP authorities should be called for – which should be communicated within 15 days of receipt; otherwise, it will be presumed that he has no reservations/objection over the said construction; (iii) any unauthorised establishment coming up in the natural animal corridors should be stopped and action taken for its removal. Old constructions should be mapped and reviewed and best measure to overcome the problem of animal corridor obstruction should be worked out and action taken accordingly.

14.2.3 Scrutiny of records, interactions (June and July 2014) with the Circle Officers in-charge of the land falling under Bokakhat & Kaliabor Circles and physical verification of NH 37 revealed the following.

- The irregularities/encroachment of land falling under 2nd, 3rd and 5th Additional areas (falling under the Circle Officer, Bokakhat) had been discussed earlier. Besides, the information of status of land under these additional areas emanated from physical surveys conducted by the civil administration in 2009; after which no further survey was carried out though five years had elapsed.
- In Bokakhat Circle, 29 Resorts/dhabas have been running for periods ranging upto 40 years on land falling within 2-3 km of the KNP boundary majority of which belonged to Agricultural class. **Of these, in two cases (Ekora Resorts and Resort Borgos) the land pattern had already been changed as “Commercial Land” from “Agriculture Land”.** In five other cases of Resorts/dhabas namely Bonhobi Resorts, Wildgrass Resorts, Kaziranga Wilderness, Emerald Hotel and Resort and Maa Kamala Tourist Lodge – the applications for change in land use pattern are under process in the civil administration. **It was further noticed that the Dhansiri Eco Camp had been constructed over 19 Bighas 2 Katha and 10 Lechas of Government Land.** The Copy of the statement obtained from Circle Office, Bokakhat is enclosed as **Annexure – ‘F’.**



Resorts/hotels against which the land pattern had been/is being changed to commercial usage

⁴ The Committee also decided (October 2010) that in case of any purchase, the purchaser of land should submit an ‘Affidavit’ that land use would not be changed in future.

14.2.4 Thus, the conversion of land use pattern and further processing of applications for conversions are in stark contrast of the Affidavits obtained from the purchasers and also decisions/actions proposed as discussed above.

- In Kaliabor Circle, 71 resorts/dhabas/commercial establishments had been running (as of 2014). In none of the cases NOC from park authorities had been obtained while in a number of cases **licences were found to have been issued by the Kuthuri and Amguri Gram**



G L Resorts - partially encroached Govt. land

Panchayats. It was noticed that **62 of the above units were functioning within 1 km** of the boundary of the park while the remaining 9 were within 3 km. Despite existence of clear guidelines that no permission for change in land use would be issued, the action of the aforesaid *Gram Panchayats* was highly irregular and questionable. However, the park authorities remained unaware about such irregular issuance of licences by the *Gram Panchayats* as the survey report accessed by Audit is yet to be collected by them. Further verification of the report revealed that in **four cases Government land had been encroached by the dhabas/hotels, one resort namely Wildlife Reach Eco Resort had been established purely on Government land while in three cases (Grassland, Diphlu River Lodge and GL Resorts) Government land had been encroached⁵ to set up the resorts.** Statements obtained from the Circle Officer, Kaliabor is enclosed as **Annexure - 'G'**.

- As regards the position of the land adjacent to NH 37 falling under both the Circle Offices, it was observed that the Offices did not have a ready database to show the position of patta land, Government land and the extent of encroachment. On being requested by Audit, the Circle Officer, Kaliabor assured (11 July 2014) that the survey would be carried out within a month. The officials of Circle Office, Bokakhat stated that it may take considerable time.

14.2.5 It was further observed that the park authorities had in 2013 carried out a survey of the resorts, dhabas etc which contained information like name of the hotel, owner, location, GPS co-ordinate, rooms available, rent structure etc. However, important information available in the statement prepared by the Circle Officers like the source of licence/permission/NOC and most importantly whether the units had obtained permission of the park authorities were not incorporated in the Report. Thus, neither the park authorities collected the statements prepared by the Circle

⁵ United 21 Grassland Resort (encroacher Lio Resort & Hotel Pvt Ltd), Diphlu River Lodge (encroacher Shri Ashish Phukan) and GL Resorts (encroacher Shri GIRRISLAL AGARWALA).

Officers nor did their statements contain the required information and the reports were therefore highly deficient.

14.2.6 There are four designated animal corridors over NH 37 which are used by the animals. These are Panbari Corridor (377-380 km post⁶), Haldhibari Corridor (359 - 361 km posts), Kanchanjuri corridor (344 - 348 km posts) and Burapahar corridor (330 - 337 km posts).

14.2.7 Joint physical verification⁷ alongwith KNP Officials carried out by Audit revealed that-

- there has been largescale construction of dwelling houses, resorts/ dhabas with substantial spare land retained with guard wall, parking lots etc on the entire stretch of the NH.
- The portions of animal corridors on the NH being highland are also used by the animals for shelter during floods. Majority of the highland had been used for construction of houses, resorts/ dhabas.
- Hundreds of trucks were found parked in the parking lots/dhabas day and night.
- During the course of field verification, continuous construction efforts were also noticed on both the sides of NH 37.
- There are a number of crushers and brick kilns within 10 km of the boundary while some are within 1-2 kms. Some of the crushers and brick kilns were found located right on the animal corridors (Panbari animal corridor has a number of stone crushers and brick kilns). Interaction with the villagers near Panbari corridor revealed that due to running of the crushers, herds of



Map showing the points 1 and 2 between which physical verification was conducted while the red marks denote the animal corridors respectively from right Panbari, Haldhibari, Kanchanjuri and Burapahar corridors.

⁶ In absence of GPS co-ordination, the park authorities had used the km posts located along the northern side of the highway which denotes the distance to Pancharatna (the starting point of NH 37).

⁷ Of the entire stretch of 60 km from Burapahar to Bokakhat of NH 37 from point 1 to point 2 bearing GPS locations N 26° 34' 06.7" E 093° 02' 27.6" to N 26° 38' 27.6" E 093° 35' 39.7"

elephants which otherwise use the corridor, had stopped coming that way, of late.

14.2.8 The following are the on-field photographs taken during the field verification.



Serially from left to right - (1) Parking of trucks on the animal corridor. (2) Human Settlement in additional areas. (3) New construction of dhaba just adjacent to Park boundary found during field visit. (4) Resort on Animal Corridor. (5) Parking lot on north side of NH37 adjacent to the Park. (6) & (7) Construction of wall along NH 37 blocking animal corridor and (8) & (9) continuous construction can be seen on both sides of the NH 37 (especially under Kaliabor Circle under Nagaon District).

14.2.9 It was also observed that the Director, KNP in his letter of May 2014 to the Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon had also highlighted the above issue and stated that “it is seen on the ground that disproportionate land use change has taken place between Jakhalabandha and district boundary of Nagaon near Bagori in the form of commercial establishments, resorts, dhabas, parking slots for heavy vehicles etc. resulting into severe barrier effect between floodplains of Kaziranga and high grounds along NH 37 and hills in Nagaon and Karbi Anglong districts”.

14.2.10 Further verification by the Audit team and interactions with various stakeholders revealed that there is constant mining activity on the Karbi Anglong Hills adjacent to the NH 37. This disturbs the natural movement of elephants which frequent the Hills from KNP and *vice-versa*. The ever-decreasing forest cover due to mining of stone from the hills coupled with the sound pollution from the

machineries used in mining operations force the elephants to enter human settlements damaging crops and houses of the settlers. This in turn gives rise to the claims for compensation which the KNP authorities had to entertain and settle.



Glimpse of hill cutting in Karbi Anglong on the South of NH 37

14.2.11 From the results of the physical verification, interactions with wildlife authorities/ villagers and scrutiny of various correspondences, it would appear that uncontrolled and ever increasing construction/human settlements with urbanisation at places, commercial activities/mining had contributed to blocking majority of the stretch of NH 37 including the designated animal corridors (except some patches of Haldhibari and Burapahar). Non-declaration of the ESZ for such a long period of time had a direct bearing on such activities detrimental to the well being of the animals. The dangerous trend, if not checked immediately and permanently could lead to an irreversible impact on conservation and protection of wildlife with the potential threat that in case of a major flood, majority of the internationally acclaimed species – One horned Rhinos would be wiped out, forever.

14.2.12 *The Department stated that there are some grey areas in this subject which had to be taken care of before the ESZ is notified. For instance, they pointed out the fact of management of the ESZ. It was also clarified that the matter is being sorted out through discussion with the GoI. While highlighting the difficulties regarding management of the 10 sq km area to be declared as the ESZ which is yet to be clarified and checking migration, the Department stated that a body named Kaziranga*

Landscape Conservation and Development Authority had been proposed to be instituted which would have the mandate to deal with such issues.

Recommendations (Biotic pressure)

- *In view of the GoI directive of July 2013, a default area of 10 km from the park boundary may be declared as the eco-sensitive zone and action as per the points prescribed in the guidelines of GoI taken immediately.*
- *Construction of resorts/hotels without permission of the park authorities, change in the land use pattern of two Resorts by the Circle Office, Bokakhat and encroachment of Government land by resorts/hotels need to be investigated upon.*
- *The entire stretch of NH 37 from Burapahar to Bokakhat need to be freed from illegal encroachments and the dhabas, parking of trucks need to be cleared immediately. All constructions made on either sides of the NH along with validity of the people residing in these areas need to be examined in co-ordination with the Circle Offices Bokakhat and Kaliabor with reference to the land holdings, permissions etc and all illegal constructions/persons removed from the area within a fixed timeframe.*
- *Government orders banning parking of trucks, establishment of dhabas, construction without prior permission from KNP authorities along NH 37 from Burapahar to Bokakhat and mining activities in the Karbi Anglong Hills adjacent to NH 37 need to be issued immediately to prevent further urbanisation and disturbance to the wildlife habitat.*



CHAPTER – VIII

CONCLUSION

15.1 The rising human population and their growing demands for socio economic development have placed tremendous stress on forest areas both directly and indirectly. Thus, there is a need to strike a balance between development and conservation.

15.2 During the course of performance audit on 'KNP – Issues and Challenges', number of good practices as well as initiatives on the part of the Government to strengthen the existing mechanisms were noticed. However, the study also brought out a number of issues needing immediate attention ranging from planning, financing, manpower deployment, management of habitats as well as buffer areas and anti-poaching measures. These are discussed in the following paragraphs.

15.2.1 Despite preparation of a management plan encompassing all activities with costs involved, the KNP authorities did not review it mid-term; while the APOs had to be prepared in accordance with the emerging challenges putting thrust on anti-poaching measures which was not foreseen as a major concern in the management plan. Consequently, there was mis-match between the two and the activities planned through the APOs had to deviate from the long term strategies. Apathy on the part of the Department to install a mechanism for monitoring the allotment of funds as per the demands of the KNP resulted in tremendous financial crunch forcing the wildlife managers to cut short their annual plans hampering important functions like habitat management, intelligence gathering and protection measures.

*Management Plans
and financials*

15.2.2 There was shortage of manpower *vis-à-vis* sanctioned strength and the sanctioned strength was reviewed only in 2011 although the Park was established in 1974. Dearth of manpower coupled with lack of training certainly was one of the contributing factors for inability of the wildlife authorities in effectively tackling poaching problem. The weaponry available with the Park authorities were outdated while the numbers of gadgetry was grossly inadequate. Though the wildlife guards were involved in arduous nature of duties, there was no special allowance commensurate with the works involved, except tiger allowance. Even this allowance

*Human Resource
management*

had to be used for arranging ration as the ration allowance was very low in comparison with the prevailing market rates for food items. Besides, there were anomalies in granting allowances, uniforms etc to the wildlife guards, casual labourers, AFPF jawans. Family members of the wildlife guards dying in harness could only get casual jobs instead of appointments, neither was there adequate insurance for the lives of these guards. A number of anti-poaching camps were in dilapidated condition needing immediate repairs while there were other problems like drinking water, regular power supply etc.

15.2.3 There is dearth of anti-poaching camps on the boundary coupled with absence of a foolproof periphery protection plan. Arbitrary transfer of newly recruited staff from KNP has resulted in majority of the personnel manning the frontline workforce being above 45 years. Besides, the training needs needed more focus as none of the frontline staff had undergone any training during the five year period 2008-09 to 2012-13. Management of the AFPF personnel by a separate set up coupled with their training modules aligned to that of Police forces resulted in this force remaining as an additional force without being amalgamated with the wildlife protection system. Deficiencies in weaponry and gadgetry added to the constraints of the wildlife guards in effectively resisting the poaching attempts. In view of the above deficiencies, intelligence gathering was the only way out to prevent poaching; yet, enough funds were not allocated on the same. Neither was there a system of using information and communication techniques in monitoring the poachers/linkmen. The Department/Directorate did not initiate action to analyse the reasons behind zero conviction of poachers over the years.

*Anti-poaching
action plan*

15.2.4 Deficiencies in funding adversely affected the management of wetland/grassland. Due to inability of the authorities to contain the erosion of land mass by river Brahmaputra on the north side of KNP, about 30 sq km of the core area had since been washed away by the River. Negligence of the Revenue as well as the KNP authorities had hampered taking over of the possession of land falling under 2nd, 3rd and 5th additional areas. Taking benefit of this, largescale encroachment, both human settlements as well as cultivations, took place in these areas. The entire population evicted from the 1st additional area had re-settled illegally on the other side of NH 37. Though the 6th additional area is strategically important, protracted litigations and interferences from various quarters had resulted in continuing encroachments with criminal activities like poaching/abetting to poaching of Rhinos besides other crimes.

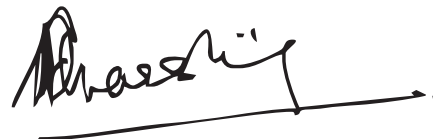
*Habitat management
and Additional areas*

15.2.5 Though 33 EDCs out of 110 villages around KNP were registered in 2002, none of these had started functioning formally even after 12 years. The formation and co-ordination between the EDC and the wildlife authorities were found to be unsatisfactory which largely hampered inflow of intelligence inputs. The ESZ could not be finalised and notified for more than 12 years; even the default notification of GoI dated July 2013 had not been acted upon. Consequently, there had been largescale construction of houses, multistoried buildings, resorts, dhabas, parking lots in the ESZ. These blocked designated animal corridors. In the wake of immense pressure on poaching, the most important aspect of wildlife management, *i.e.* management of habitats, took a back seat.

Other issues

Guwahati

Dated : 23 January 2015



(C H KHARSHIING)
Accountant General (Audit),
Assam

Countersigned



New Delhi

Dated : 3 February 2015

(SHASHI KANT SHARMA)
Comptroller and Auditor General of India



Annexure – 'A'

Physical and financial targets set in the management plan

Item / Activities		Distribution during plan period (Rs. In Lakh)																				TOTAL			
		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		4th Year		5th Year		6th Year		7th Year		8th Year		9th Year		10th Year					
		Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin				
NON-RECURRING/ CAPITAL		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
Boundary Survey and demarcation:																									
Erection of boundary pillars			3			5										3						3	19		
Control of poaching :																									
A. Anti-poaching Camp/ Watch Tower																									
i) New Construction- 80 Nos. @Rs.3.00 Lakhs		10	30	10	30	10	30	10	30	10	30	10	30	5	15	5	15	5	15	5	15	5	15	240	
B. Equipment Procurement																							0		
i) Arms		20	7	20	7	20	7	20	7	20	7	10	3.5	10	3.5	10	3.5	10	3.5	10	3.5	10	3.5	52.5	
ii) Wireless & Accessories			10		15																	10	15	50	
iii) Flash Lights			1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1	10	
iv) Binocular			0.5		0.5						1		1		1		1		1		1		1	4	
v) Night vision Binocular			3		3		3		3		3		3		3		3		3		3		3	18	
vi) Solar Light			2		2		2		2		2		2		2		2		2		2		2	12	
C. Mobility																								0	
Purchase of:-																								0	
i) Vehicles		6	35	5	35	4	25	4	25					6	35	4	25	4	25	4	25	4	25	230	
ii) Excavator & Dumper		1	25	2	20									1	25	2	20							90	
iii) Country boat		20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	30	
iv) Mechanised boat		1	2.5	2	5						2	5										2	5	17.5	
v) Speed boat		2	6							2	6										1	3	1	3	18
vi) O.B.M.		2	6	2	6	1	3	1	3	2	6										1	3	1	3	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Flood season measures																						0
A. Construction of Highland		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		300
B. Constrm. of Rumble Strips:		2		2						2				2				2				10
C. Constnction of Barriers:		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		5
Control of grazing and other biotic disturbances																						0
Cattle proof Fencing (10 Km)		2		2		2		2		2												10
Grassland management																						0
Demarcation of firelines		2		1		1		1							1					1		7
Control of ranging pattern of wildanimals outside managed habitat																						
Fencing including power fence at strategic location								20		20												40
Infrastructure & Communication:																						
A. Building Construction:																						
i) Director's Office								10		10		10										30
ii) Range Office - 5 Nos.		6		6		6		6		6												30
iii) Director'd Residence - 1 No.		5		5																		10
iv) DFO's Residence - 1 No.						5		5														10
v) ACF's Residence - 2 Nos.		6				6																12
vi) WLRO's Residence - 1 No.				6																		6
vii) Range Officer's Residenc -5 Nos		5		5		5		5		5												25
viii) Field Staff Quarter - 50 Nos.		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		200
ix) Office Asstt's Quarter - 10 Nos.		4		4		4		4		4		4		4		4		4		4		40
B. Roads:																						
i) Southern Boundary Roads(50 Km)																						
a) Survey & Estimation		2																				2
b) Construction			6	30	6	30	8	40	8	40	8	40	8	40	6	30						250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
C. Bridges:																					
New Construction- at Kanchanjun, Mori Dhansiri, Mihimukh, Holiapath, Bherbheri and replacing wooden bridges	100	5	5	100	100	100	2	50	2	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	600
D. Culverts Construction	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	29
E. Causeway Construction:	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
Animal health surveillance																					
Departmental Elephants:																					
Construction of Elephant Protection Shelter on platform	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
X. Livestock Immunization																					
i) Mobile Van							5														5
ii) Laboratory Equipment	1								1											1	3
Man-animal Coexistence																					
i) Erection of power fencing - 5 Km/Year for 5 years.	13	13	12.5	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	62.5
Research:																					
i) Building (Database Centre)				3		4		3													10
ii) Equipment	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
iii) Furniture	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8
Management Information System:																					
i) Consultancy	2											2									2
ii) Equipment																					6
* Computer with accessories	2	2	1					1				2				1					9
* Camera (Still/ Video)	2	2	2									2									8
* Photostat Machine	2	2						2													6
* Net-working				2	2	4	4	5	5	5	5					4					20
* GIS & Software including consultancy			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
iii) Website			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Tourism, interpretation and conservation education																						
Tourism:																						
Construction of elephant ridingpoint-2 and facilities	3			3		3	3	3								3	3			3		24
Interpretation:																						
i) New building				10		10	10	10		20												50
ii) development and execution of interpretation models and material	10			10		10	10	10		5		5		2		2				2		58
Staff amenities:																						
i) Transit camp for staff - 4 Nos.	4			4		4	4	4														16
ii) Accommodation for staff -100 Nos.	80			80		80	80	80		80												400
TOTAL	457			497.5		438	411	411		376		221		247		227		188		163		3225.5

DISTRIBUTION OF RECURRING EXPENDITURE DURING THE PLAN PERIOD(AT CURRENT RATES)

Item / Activities	Distribution during plan period (Rs. in Lakh)																						Total
	1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		4th Year		5th Year		6th Year		7th Year		8th Year		9th Year		10th Year				
	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
RECURRING																							
Boundary survey & Demarcation																							
A. External & Internal boundary survey & Monitoring	1			1						1						1					1	10	
B. Co-ordination meeting with other Departments	0.5			0.5						0.5						0.5					0.5	5	
Zone Plans																							
Eviction/Relocation of human and cattle population	5			5						5						5					5	26	
Habitat Restoration	5			5						5						5					5	50	
Legal matters in Courts	1			1						1						1					1	6	
High lands in corridors	5			5						5						5					5	50	
Control of Poaching:																							
A. Anti-poaching Camps:																							
i) Repairing of anti poaching camps and buildings	10			10						10						10					10	100	
B. Equipment																							
i) Repairing																							
* Arms	2			2						2						2					2	20	
* Wireless	3			3						3						3					3	30	
* Flash Light	0.5			0.5						0.5						0.5					0.5	5	
* Solar Light	2			2						2						2					2	20	
ii) Purchase																							
* Battery	2			2						2						2					2	20	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
C. Staffing																					
* Incremental Staff (Wages)	25			25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	250
D. Mobility																					
i) Maintenance of Vehicle	5			5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	46
ii) Purchase of POL	10			10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
iii) Country boat repairing	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
iv) Repairing of Mechanized boat	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
v) POL for Mechanized boat	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
vi) Repairing of Speed boat	3			2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	17
v) POL for Speed boat	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
E. Patrolling:																					
i) Patrolling path																					
* Maintenance/ New alignment of @Rs.1200/Km. (900 Km.)	10.8			10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	108
ii) Boatline Clearance	1.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	15
iii) Surveillance Platform / Bunker	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
iv) Logistic	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
* Kerosene	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
* Contingencies for camps	10			10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
F. Intelligence gathering																					
Purchase of Information/ Hiring of Vehicles/ Operational expenses etc. Flood season measures	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
A. Highland repairing	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
B. Rumble strip repairing	0.5			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
C. Barrier/signage repairing	0.5			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
D. Temporary camps on NH-37 & Vulnerable area	1.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
E. Wages for clearance of water hyacinth/ rescue etc.		3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
F. Meeting for public awareness		0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
G. Rewards to villagers for rescue		0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
H. Logistic support to additional staff on deputation		0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
I. Signboard etc.		2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
J. External Veterinary & other services(Hiring of Vehicles etc.)		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
K. Health check-up		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
L. Publicity materials		2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
Control of grazing and other biotic disturbances																						
C. Wages for temporary cattle watchers		3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
Grass land management																						
A. Annual Survey of firelines		0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
B. Uprooting of unwanted tree seedlings		2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
C. Vegetation mapping		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
D. Wages for creating/ Maintenance of fireline (1km x 1 km Grids)- Approx.900 Km. @Rs.2000/- Km. during 1st Year & then 1000/-Km.		18		9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Control of ranging pattern of wild animals outside managed habitat																						
A. Immobilization & capture	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
B. Wages for driving back animals	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
C. Hiring of vehicles	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5
Infrastructure & Communication:																						
A. Building																						
i) Office repairing	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	60
ii) Staff Quarter repairing	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	200
B. Roads																						
i) Repair/ annual maintenance of 50 km. Central roads @Rs 25000/-km.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	125
ii) Repair/ annual maintenance of fair weather roads 400 Kms. @3000/-Km.	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	120
C. Annual repairing of existing -18 Wooden Bridges and culverts.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
E. Annual repairing of causeway																						
Weed control																						
A. Annual survey	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2.25
B. Wages for eradication	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	61
C. Purchase of P.O.L.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
X. Wetland Management:																						
A. De-siltation (2 lakhs Cu.Mtp a)	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	600
B. Construction of bundh during winter	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
C. Removal of water hyacinth		5		5	5	5		5		5		5		5	5	5						50
D. Creation of ponds		5		5	5	5		5		5		5		5	5	5						50
E. Monitoring of water quality		1		1	1	1		1		1		1		1	1	1						10
XI. Erosion control:																						
A. Monitoring of bankline using satellite data/imageries		1		1	1	1		1		1		1		1	1	1						10
B. Co-ordination meeting with flood control & other departments		0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5						5
Animal health surveillance																						
Maintenance of Departmental elephants including feed, Veterinary care, Elephant gear, Trainin etc.:		25		25	25	25		25		25		25		25	25	25						250
Livestock Immunization including Logistic Support:		5		5	5	5		5		5		5		5	5	5						50
Man-Animal coexistence																						
A. Wages for crop protection		5		5	5	5		5		5		5		5	5	5						50
B. Logistic Support		2		2	2	2		2		2		2		2	2	2						20
C. Compensation and treatment of injured persons		10		10	10	10		10		10		10		10	10	10						100
D. Power fencing maintenance		2		2	2	2		2		2		2		2	2	2						20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Tourism, Interpretation and conservation Education																					
Tourism:																					
A. Tourist amenities	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
B. Training	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
C. Publicity	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
D. Monitoring	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
E. Development of eco-tourism sites	1			1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Interpretation:																					
A. Improvement of existing facilities	10			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	5	37
B. Consultancy	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
C. Equipment	0.5			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9.5
Education & Awareness-Eco-development:	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
A. Socio-economic Survey	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10
B. Micro Planning & Project formulation (Annual):	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
C. Execution of eco-development activity	60			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	600
Research and monitoring:																					
A. Laboratory Equipment	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
B. Books etc.	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
C. Project Cost- 10 Nos.	10			10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
D. Stationery, Logistic and writing of reports	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
IX. Management Information System:																					
A. Consultancy for Contractual staff	2			2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
B. Website and updating	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
C. Population dynamics- Census																						
Training																						
A. Local	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
B. Institution	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
C. Educational Tour & visit to other Protected Areas	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
Organisation and administration																						
Staff amenities:																						
A. Medical facilities	2			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20
B. Uniform	10			10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
C. Camp Equipment	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
D. Free Ration for field staff	25			25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	250
E. Office Maintenance	5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
TOTAL	528			509.3	508.3	508	504.8	498	503	494	494.3	494	494.3	494.3	494.3	494.3	494.3	494.3	494.3	494.3	494.3	5042.75
ABSTRACT																						
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year	6th Year	7th Year	8th Year	9th Year	10th Year												
NON RECURRING	457	497.5	438	411	376	221	247	227	188	163												
RECURRING	528	509.3	508	504.8	498	503	504	494	494.3	499.3												
TOTAL(AT PRESENT RATES)	985	1006.8	946	915.8	874	724	751	721	682.3	662.3												
PROJECTED TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT 5 PER CENT ANNUAL INCREASE ON PRESENT RATES	985	1057.1	1043	1060	1062	924	1007	1015	1008.1	1027.444677												

Annexure - 'C'

Erosion threatens historic Arimora IB

(The Assam Tribune)

KOHORA, April 11 – The historic Arimora Forest Inspection Bungalow (IB) near the bank of the Brahmaputra deep inside the KNP, which happens to be very popular with dignitaries coming to enjoy the scenic beauty of Kaziranga, is on the verge of extinction due to massive erosion caused by the mighty river, thanks to the indifferent attitude of both the Union as well as State governments.

Right from the Central Ministers under various regimes to the Chief Minister of Assam, everybody visited Arimora Forest IB only to express mere words of concern towards the problem caused by erosion which has in fact washed away a vast virgin grassland area of KNP (in Arimora) considered to be an ideal habitat of the wildlife including the rhino, elephant, tiger etc.

Erosion had washed away more than 30 sq km area of the National Park in Kaziranga. Arimora Forest IB which was 100 meters away earlier, is now almost on the bank with Brahmaputra flowing just 28 metres away from the inspection bungalow. On the other side of the IB there is a small Shiva temple constructed by the department for the forest guards to worship, which is now just on the edge of the bank . “Only the Shiva temple is somehow saving this IB,” said a forest guard to this correspondent while visiting Arimora.

“Arimora has already lost its past glory . So many VIPs used to come here only to give false assurances with regard to protection of Arimora,” said another forest staff. Last year the Union Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh too visited Arimora to note the situation.

Though the government has announced a scheme (amounting to Rs 177 crore and 56 lakhs) for protection against erosion in Kaziranga, practically nothing concrete can be seen on the ground in Arimora. The porcupines were erected earlier to divert the water current and thus control the erosion but more needs to be done . Sources said that though porcupines could be effective in terms of diverting the current of water thereby reducing the impact of the force created by the current, but the bank of the river Brahmaputra needs to be protected by stone barrier so that not much damage could be done on the soil surface on the bank.

The director of the KNP, Surajit Dutta said that something would be done soon to get rid of the problem. He said that he had already drawn the attention of the Union Government with regard to this situation in New Delhi and was quite hopeful that some measures would be adopted to solve it. Now time is simply running out. If the government is really serious about this problem, then Arimora must be given first priority in terms of sanctioning of funds and other resources.

Annexure 'D'
Extracts of Correspondences made by Park authorities

Initiator	Context	Fact mentioned in the letter
Director, KNP	Reply to Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court	<p>....Another eviction drive was initiated in Bholakata Chapori near Biswanathghat on 29-7-99 and 30-7-99 but had to be abandoned after demolition of 128 huts due to hue and cry raised by organized groups with vested interest. The aggrieved petitioners then filed writ petition in Gauhati High Court in June'99. In November'02, the Court ordered for de-novo determination of the rights of the petitioners.....pertinent to mention here that these cases were duly heard by the Collector and disposed off with no right or title found in favour of the petitioners.two more writ petitions were registered in 1999 & 2000 in which the Court had ordered to maintain status quo. The petitioners in this case were the same group whose objections were disposed off by the Collector finding no right, title or privilege in favour of the petitioners.</p> <p>It is also a fact that some of the poachers take shelter in the encroached areas of the sixth addition. Some criminals also take shelter in the chaporis after committing crime due to isolated location.</p> <p>....As of now – protracted litigation, inappropriate infrastructure and inadequate man-power together with perpetual fiscal deficit are the stumbling blocks in eliminating pressure of encroachment from the addition areas of Kaziranga.</p>
	Letter to CCF, WL on Court cases on sixth addition dated September 2006	<p>....The presence of these encroachers is not only source of harbouring poachers on occasion but transmission of contagious diseases from domestic cattle to wild animals cannot be ruled out, which will cause wide spread havoc and criticised nationally and internationally.....</p>
	Letter to CCF, WL on eviction drive in sixth addition dated January 2001	<p>I am of the strong opinion that our last attempt of eviction failed miserably due to indirect political interference.....inadequate arrangement to control gathering of miscreants/people from the adjoining areas and <i>chaporis</i> due to lack of river patrol etc and in case this year again we fail on some count, this area may go beyond retrieval subsequently due to one reason or the other.</p>
DFO, KNP	Responding to news item "40,000 illegal settlers in Kaziranga" dated January 2001	<p>....The eviction operation suffered a set-back as the joint party with Magistrate had to retreat when faced with stiff resistance from the encroachers. It is unfortunate that Hon'ble Minister.....who camped at Tezpur instigated the religious minority community to offer resistance to eviction operation. On 31-7-99, thousands of people gathered at Biswanath Ghat coming far off places like Moirabari, Hojai, Nagaon, Singri etc and joined hands with the encroachers in resisting eviction. In the evening the Hon'ble Minister addressed the gathering and expressed his pleasure in making the eviction operation a failure.</p> <p>.....Court also issued stay order in eviction. Taking advantage of stay order and strong political backing, thousands of people of suspected nationality have sneaked into the different <i>chaporis</i>.....</p> <p>It is also worth mention that the encroachers intentionally name the <i>chaporis</i> by the name of the adjacent revenue villages to confuse the Court to claim that forest department evicted people from revenue villages....</p> <p>I was given to understand that the <i>chaporis</i> have become safe haven for the criminals. The criminals take shelter in the <i>chaporis</i> after committing the crime to evade arrest.</p>

Annexure – 'E'

Report on survey carried out by Circle Officer, Bokakhat in 2009

PRESENT STATUS REPORT OF RELATING TO 2nd ADDITION TO KAZIRANGZ NATIONAL PARK.

Name of the Scheme	Land Acquired Village wise	Class wise land	Quantum of land Acquired	Quantum of land handed over to K.N.P.	Quantum of land to be handed over	Remarks
1	No. 1 Sildubi	A.P. Land	158B-3K-18Ls	109B-0K-0Ls	49B-3K-18Ls	Puttaders of 18B-1K-18Ls of land could not be found in 31B-2K-0Ls of the land could not be handed over to KNP as puttaders had refused to hand over the land
2 nd Addition to K.N.P. Vide L.A. Case No. 4/89-90	No. 1 Sildubi -do- -do-	P.P. Land Govt. Land	31B-3K-16Ls 126B-2K-8Ls	Nil 113B-4K-8Ls	31B-3K-16Ls 12B-3K-0Ls	Puttaders of 31B-3K-16Ls of the land could not be handed over to KNP as puttaders had refused. The puttaders are occupying the land by way of cultivation of seasonal crop. 12B-3K-0Ls are under encroachment by way of cultivation of seasonal crop.
		P.G.R. Land P.G.R. Land V.G.R. Land Total	630B-0K-12Ls 606B-2K-12Ls 146B-2K-0Ls 1383B-0K-10Ls	630B-0K-12Ls 606B-2K-12Ls 146B-2K-0Ls 1383B-0K-10Ls	Nil Nil Nil Nil	As per order of Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Higher Education Deptt. & Collector to the 2 nd Addition to the KNP vide his Memo No. JMC/HE/Enquiry /Forest/08/PH-III dtd. 29.7.2009 the Dag Nos. are 238(VGR), 386(PGR) and 410 (PGR) of No. 1 Sildubi gram of Kaziranga Mouza is corrected in the Chittha.
2 nd Addition to K.N.P. L.A. Case No. 5/89-90	No. 2 Sildubi K. rimza N. (Narake gram) Harikhili Bagicha Guan -do-	Govt. Land Govt. Land P.P. Land Ord-Govt Land	1395B-2K-17Ls 1388B-3K-18Ls 92B-2K-09Ls 378B-3K-13Ls	Nil 130B-0K-0Ls 92B-2K-09Ls 378B-3K-13Ls	1395B-2K-17Ls 58B-3K-18Ls Nil Nil	The entire 1395B-2K-17Ls is under encroachment by way of cultivation of seasonal crops by indigenous people belonging to Maching and TGL Ex. TGL community. This land is under encroachment by indigenous people from Maching community. Possession handed over to KNP and also corrected the record in remarks column of Chittha on 20-7-2004 Possession handed over to KNP dtd 5-7-2005 and also mentioned in Chittha record remarks column.
Total:			4955B-3K-9Ls	2407B-1R-0Ls	1548B-3K-18Ls	



Name of the scheme	Land Acquired Village wise	Quantum of land Acquired class wise	Quantum of land Handed over to Kaziranga National Park	Quantum of land yet to be handed over	Remarks
1 Vide L.A. Case No. 5/89-90	1 Hathibuli Bagicha Gaon -do- Kaziranga N.C. Villages	3 92B-2K-091s (P.P. Land) Ord. Govt. Land 378B-3K-131s Ord. Govt. Land 1388B-3K-181s	4 92B-2K-091s 378B-3K-131s 1330B-0K-01s	5 Nil Nil 58B-3K-181s	6 Possession handed over to K.N.P. -do- This land is under encroachment of indigenous people coming from Miching Community, as reported by L.R. Staff.
3 Addition to Kaziranga National Park. L.A. Case No. 1/91-92	Sijuri Gaon	322B-0K-091s (P. P. A.P. Land) 74B-0K-111s (A.P.) 287B-0K-171s (C.P.P.)	Nil	322B-0K-091s 11B-1K-111s 131B-1K-161s (Govt. Land) 79B-0K-021s (Govt. Land)	Notice were issued to the pattidars. But all the pattidar unitidaly take the decision of not to receive notices. Again in the matter of November/16 notices were served by hanging on the spot. Lastly Circle Officer, Bokakhat was directed to take step to hand over possession of the land to the KNP authority vide SDO's office letter No. BRQ 13/97-2007/40 dated 19-07-2007 due to their refusal to accept amount of compensation and notices thereof. The Pattidars are occupying the land by way of cultivation of seasonal crop and not by constructing dwelling houses. -do- There is encroachers belonging to T.G. L./S.T.G.L people as reported by L.R. staff concerned by cultivating seasonal crops. There are also some discrepancies observed in office records regarding status of the land. Matter is being enquired into the certain status. -do- Record not clear as to whether notices issued to pattidars or not. However fresh notice is being issued to concerned pattidars to collect compensation of land and to take possession of the concerned land. The possession of land has already been handed over to the requiring dept.
L.A. Case No. 2/91-92	Methodi Bagicha -do-	11B-1K-111s (P.P. Land) 131B-1K-161s (Govt. Land)	Nil 30B-1K-131s	11B-1K-111s 101B-0K-031s 7B-3K-011s	
5 Addition to Kaziranga National Park. Vide L.A. Case No. 3/88-89	Sijuri Gaon Hathibuli Gaon Hathiburi Gaon	305B-3K-171s (A.P. P.P. Land) 58B-0K-021s (A.P.) 275B-0K-011s (Govt. Land)	Nil 31B-2K-021s 233B-4K-011s	305B-3K-171s Nil	

Annexure – 'F'

Statement obtained from Circle Officer, Bokakhat

কাজিৰঙা মৌজাৰ হোটেল আৰু ৰিজৰ্ট, চাবা আদিৰ তালিকা ও বিৱৰণ, বোকখাত ৰাজহ চক্ৰ ।

ক্রমিক নং	পার্শ্ব নাম	ছাৰা/ৰিজৰ্ট/হোটেলৰ নাম	ছাৰা/ৰিজৰ্ট/হোটেলৰ নাম	ম্যাট্ৰী নং P.P.	পান কা নং	ফালি	শ্ৰেণী	কিমান খাৰা/ৰিজৰ্ট/হোটেল তালি আৰু	হৰণ বিৱৰণ	ম্যুচা
১	১	হাতীখুলি বাগিচা	৬	০	৬	৭	৮	১	১০	১১
২	২	১ নং শিলভূমি	৪ শ্ৰী মহী শ্ৰীকান্ত শৰ্মা	১৩	২৪/১২৩	২ কটা ১২ পোখা	৫	১ কৰ	পকি আৰু, চি.টি শক্তি হৰ শিলাখী হোটেল আছে ।	১১ ১২ ১৩ ১৪ ১৫ ১৬ ১৭ ১৮ ১৯ ২০ ২১ ২২ ২৩ ২৪ ২৫ ২৬ ২৭ ২৮ ২৯ ৩০ ৩১ ৩২ ৩৩ ৩৪ ৩৫ ৩৬ ৩৭ ৩৮ ৩৯ ৪০ ৪১ ৪২ ৪৩ ৪৪ ৪৫ ৪৬ ৪৭ ৪৮ ৪৯ ৫০ ৫১ ৫২ ৫৩ ৫৪ ৫৫ ৫৬ ৫৭ ৫৮ ৫৯ ৬০ ৬১ ৬২ ৬৩ ৬৪ ৬৫ ৬৬ ৬৭ ৬৮ ৬৯ ৭০ ৭১ ৭২ ৭৩ ৭৪ ৭৫ ৭৬ ৭৭ ৭৮ ৭৯ ৮০ ৮১ ৮২ ৮৩ ৮৪ ৮৫ ৮৬ ৮৭ ৮৮ ৮৯ ৯০ ৯১ ৯২ ৯৩ ৯৪ ৯৫ ৯৬ ৯৭ ৯৮ ৯৯ ১০০
৩	১ নং কইনা	বক্সাৰি ৰিজৰ্ট	শ্ৰী পৰ্শ্ব জোড়ি বৰুৱাই	১৪৮, ২০১, ১৬১	৩৪৪, ৩৪৭ আৰু, ৪০৮ আৰু	৩ কটা ৫ পোখা, ১ কটা/১১ ৩ কটা ৫ পোখা ২ কটা/১১ ৫ পোখা	৫ ৬ ৭ ৮ ৯ ১০ ১১ ১২ ১৩ ১৪ ১৫ ১৬ ১৭ ১৮ ১৯ ২০ ২১ ২২ ২৩ ২৪ ২৫ ২৬ ২৭ ২৮ ২৯ ৩০ ৩১ ৩২ ৩৩ ৩৪ ৩৫ ৩৬ ৩৭ ৩৮ ৩৯ ৪০ ৪১ ৪২ ৪৩ ৪৪ ৪৫ ৪৬ ৪৭ ৪৮ ৪৯ ৫০ ৫১ ৫২ ৫৩ ৫৪ ৫৫ ৫৬ ৫৭ ৫৮ ৫৯ ৬০ ৬১ ৬২ ৬৩ ৬৪ ৬৫ ৬৬ ৬৭ ৬৮ ৬৯ ৭০ ৭১ ৭২ ৭৩ ৭৪ ৭৫ ৭৬ ৭৭ ৭৮ ৭৯ ৮০ ৮১ ৮২ ৮৩ ৮৪ ৮৫ ৮৬ ৮৭ ৮৮ ৮৯ ৯০ ৯১ ৯২ ৯৩ ৯৪ ৯৫ ৯৬ ৯৭ ৯৮ ৯৯ ১০০			
৪	১ নং কইনা	কাজিৰঙা ৰিজৰ্ট	শ্ৰী জুগল কলা	১৩৫	৩৭০	১ কটা ১ কটা ৫ পোখা	৬	১০ কৰ	পকি হৰ শিলাখী হোটেল আছে ।	১০/০৫/০৬ তাৰিখ প্ৰায়ঃ দাৰ্শনিক আছে ।
৫	জোপানীৰত	প্ৰতিমা হোটেল	শ্ৰী জিতেন দত্ত	৭, ২৩	৩৪০ ৩৪২	১ কটা ৭.৫ পোখা ৪ কটা ১৪.৫ পোখা	৬ ৭ ৮ ৯ ১০ ১১ ১২ ১৩ ১৪ ১৫ ১৬ ১৭ ১৮ ১৯ ২০ ২১ ২২ ২৩ ২৪ ২৫ ২৬ ২৭ ২৮ ২৯ ৩০ ৩১ ৩২ ৩৩ ৩৪ ৩৫ ৩৬ ৩৭ ৩৮ ৩৯ ৪০ ৪১ ৪২ ৪৩ ৪৪ ৪৫ ৪৬ ৪৭ ৪৮ ৪৯ ৫০ ৫১ ৫২ ৫৩ ৫৪ ৫৫ ৫৬ ৫৭ ৫৮ ৫৯ ৬০ ৬১ ৬২ ৬৩ ৬৪ ৬৫ ৬৬ ৬৭ ৬৮ ৬৯ ৭০ ৭১ ৭২ ৭৩ ৭৪ ৭৫ ৭৬ ৭৭ ৭৮ ৭৯ ৮০ ৮১ ৮২ ৮৩ ৮৪ ৮৫ ৮৬ ৮৭ ৮৮ ৮৯ ৯০ ৯১ ৯২ ৯৩ ৯৪ ৯৫ ৯৬ ৯৭ ৯৮ ৯৯ ১০০			
৬	জোপানীৰত	পাকৰ খাৰা	শ্ৰী গীৰেশ দত্ত	৭, ২৩	৩৪২ ৩৪০	৪ কটা ১৪.৫ পোখা ১ কটা ৭.৫	৬ ৭ ৮ ৯ ১০ ১১ ১২ ১৩ ১৪ ১৫ ১৬ ১৭ ১৮ ১৯ ২০ ২১ ২২ ২৩ ২৪ ২৫ ২৬ ২৭ ২৮ ২৯ ৩০ ৩১ ৩২ ৩৩ ৩৪ ৩৫ ৩৬ ৩৭ ৩৮ ৩৯ ৪০ ৪১ ৪২ ৪৩ ৪৪ ৪৫ ৪৬ ৪৭ ৪৮ ৪৯ ৫০ ৫১ ৫২ ৫৩ ৫৪ ৫৫ ৫৬ ৫৭ ৫৮ ৫৯ ৬০ ৬১ ৬২ ৬৩ ৬৪ ৬৫ ৬৬ ৬৭ ৬৮ ৬৯ ৭০ ৭১ ৭২ ৭৩ ৭৪ ৭৫ ৭৬ ৭৭ ৭৮ ৭৯ ৮০ ৮১ ৮২ ৮৩ ৮৪ ৮৫ ৮৬ ৮৭ ৮৮ ৮৯ ৯০ ৯১ ৯২ ৯৩ ৯৪ ৯৫ ৯৬ ৯৭ ৯৮ ৯৯ ১০০			

৭	বন্যজাতি	বন্যজাতি বিল্ডিং	শ্রী বিপুল ঠাকুর শ্রী মঞ্জী বৰা বৰকটকী বন্যজাতি শ্রী অশ্বিনীয়া শইকীয়া	১১	৬৭৬	১০৭	৩ কটা ১০ লোহা	ট্রাবাৰী	৪ বছৰ	
৮	সোমালী বন্য	কাৰিকৰা ঘাৰা		১২	৪০৭		১ বিঘা	ট্রাবাৰী	২ বছৰ	
৯	বন্য	কাৰিকৰা ওয়াইডাৰল প্ৰাইভেট		১৩০	৭৩২		১ বিঘা ২ কটা ২ লোহা	ট্রাবাৰী	৩ বছৰ	০৬:১২ ২৫ ২৪:৩৩ ৫৪ ০৬: ০০:৫৬ ১
				৫৪	৭৩৬		২ বিঘা ৫ লোহা ৩ বিঘা ৫ লোহা ১ বিঘা ১ কটা ৭ লোহা ২ কটা	ট্রাবাৰী ট্রাবাৰী ট্রাবাৰী ট্রাবাৰী ক:		
					৭৩১		মুঠ-১১ বিঘা ১ লোহা			
১০	বন্য	ডাউট, বি, বিল্ডিং (ওয়াইড গ্ৰাউ)	শ্রী জিষ্ণু বৰুৱা	১৪, ১৪৫, ২০৭, ৬০, ৭৬, ১০ ১৭	৭৩২ ৭৪৭ ৭৪৬ ৭০১ ৭০২ ৭০৩ ৭০৭		২ বিঘা ৫ লোহা ১ কটা ১৪ লোহা ২ কটা ২ লোহা ৩ কটা ২ লোহা ৪ কটা ১১ লোহা ১ কটা ৩ লোহা ৩ বিঘা ১ কটা ১১ লোহা ১ বিঘা ২ কটা ৬ লোহা ১ বিঘা ৭ লোহা ১ বিঘা ৪ কটা	ট্রাবাৰী বাৰী ট্রাবাৰী বেংগাই বেংগাই বেংগাই বেংগাই ট্রাবাৰী বাংলা ট্রাবাৰী	২০ বছৰ	প্ৰস্তাৱ দাখিল কৰা আছে।
১১	বন্য	এমিডেট	শ্রী পথ কুমাৰ	৭২	৬৩০ ৬৪০		মুঠ-১২ বিঘা ২ কটা ৭ লোহা ২ বিঘা ১ বিঘা	বাংলা বাৰী	৫ বছৰ	

১২	ঘাটা	বেচৰে হাট ইথ কম্প	শ্ৰী ব্ৰজেন বৰনৈন শ্ৰী গাংকুৰাত খাউণ্ড	১৩০	৭০৬ ৭০৪	২ বিঘা ৩ কঠা ১৪ লোখা ১ বিঘা ৪ কঠা ১৫ লোখা	বাংলা বাৰী	৩ বছৰ	
১৩	হালোৱা লনাক	আইবাৰা বিৰ্জিট	শ্ৰী সূত্ৰত শৰ্মা	২৬	৪১/৪৪১, ১৪৪/৪৪২ ✓	১৩ বিঘা ৪ কঠা	কেঠাই কেঠাই	৫ বছৰ	
১৪	চোপনা কোৱাৰা	আলই ধৰ	শ্ৰী হৰি চন্দ্ৰ গুঁগ	৯৭	৩৩৫	২ কঠা ৭ লোখা	ট্ৰিবাৰী	৩ বছৰ	
১৫	বামুন গাওঁ	ধনশ্ৰী ইক কেঞ্চ	শ্ৰী যোতম শইকীয়া	-	১৭০	১২ বিঘা ২ কঠা ১০ লোখা	বাংলা	৩ বছৰ	চৰকাৰী মাটি প্ৰভাৱিত
১৬	কাঁৰ অতি গাওঁ	ডিব্ৰুগড়ি থাৰা	শ্ৰী প্ৰানল বৰুৱা	৭৩	১৪৪	১ বিঘা	কা	১ বছৰ	
১৭	সোমবাৰীৰ	পূৰ্ব শইকীয়া হোটেল	শ্ৰী পূৰ্ব শইকীয়া	৩৪	৩৬১	৩ কঠা ১৪ লোখা	ট্ৰিবাৰী	১৫ বছৰ	
১৮	চোপনা কোৱাৰা	অন্তঃ	শ্ৰী কমল গগৈ	৯৫	৪০২	৩ কঠা	বাংলা	১০ বছৰ	
১৯	হালোৱা গাওঁ	এম আৰ বিৰ্জিট	শ্ৰী প্ৰদীপ কলিতা	২	৮১	৩ বিঘা	কা	২ বছৰ	
২০	লতাৰাৰী বাগিছা গাওঁ	কাজিৰঙা থাৰা	শ্ৰী বাসুচন্দ্ৰ চাৰ	২	১	১ বিঘা	ট্ৰিবাৰী	৪০ বছৰ	
২১	হালোৱা লনাক	ধনশ্ৰী বিৰ্জিট	শ্ৰী কাজীৰ দৰা	২৪	৪০/৪৪৩ ✓	১৫ বিঘা	কেঠাই	১৫ বছৰ	
২২	১ নং কুইনা	ইমাবেল হোটেল জৰু বিৰ্জিট	শ্ৰী বাসুচন্দ্ৰ বাগিচা	১৮	২৩১ নাম্বাৰ আংশ ২৩২	৬ বিঘা	নতুন বাৰী	১০ বছৰ	কেঠাইল জৰাৰ নাথিল কৰা আছে
২৩	১ নং কুইনা	গটে হৰিকেশ লতা	শ্ৰী অজিত শোৱামণী	১৬	২৩১ নাম্বাৰ	২ কঠা ৫ লোখা	নতুন	১২ বছৰ	

২৪	১ নাং কৰ্মী	মুনিৰ্বৰ কৰ্তৃক আৰু নিৰ্ভৰ	শ্ৰী দেৱানন্দ কলিতা	১০০	আশ	১ বিয়া ১ কটা ৫ পোতা	বাৰী	১০ বছৰ	
২৫	১ নাং কৰ্মী	মা-কমলা টুনিট লজ	শ্ৰী বিপুল বৰা	১৫০	২৫২	৩ বিয়া ১ কটা	টংবাৰী	১২ বছৰ	শ্ৰী পৰিষ্কাৰ প্ৰকাৰ লিয়া আছে
২৬	১ নাং কৰ্মী	নিৰ্ভৰ মফক, কৰ্মী	শ্ৰী যতিন চক্ৰৱৰ্তী	১৭০	২১৭ আশ	১ বিয়া	টংবাৰী	১০ বছৰ	
২৭	১ নাং কৰ্মী	প্ৰিভেট ৰেটুৰেট	শ্ৰী চিত্ৰবৰ্তন চক্ৰৱৰ্তী	৪	২১৭ আশ	১ কটা	টংবাৰী	১০ বছৰ	
২৮	১ নাং কৰ্মী	প্ৰিন্সিট নিৰ্ভৰ	শ্ৰী বিপিন বৰুৱা	৮২	২৫৮ আশ	২ বিয়া ১ কটা ১০ পোতা	বাংলা	১৫ বছৰ	
২৯	১ নাং কৰ্মী	নিৰ্ভৰ পোষ্ট হাউচ	শ্ৰী প্ৰবীৰ চক্ৰৱৰ্তী	৬০	২১০ আশ	৩ কটা	ভাংবাৰী	৮ বছৰ	

Annexure – 'G'
Statement obtained from Circle Officer, Kaliabor

STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS OF LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY-37 IN KALIABOR CIRCLE UNDER KAZIRANGA EEO- SYSTEM ZONE :-

Sl. No.	Name & Address of hotel/ dhaba/ restaurant etc.	In case of resort/ hotel/ dhaba/ restaurant etc. whether registered under SSSI Act. ? If yes, supporting documents to be produced along with the year of establishment	Any other documents like NOC from various Authorities/ Pollution Control Board (consent to Establish) Forest Deptt./ Trade License/ Labour License etc.	Name of Village with Mouza	Name of owner/ run by	Name of Pattadar/ encroacher	Partic No. indicating Whether PP or AP or Abotted or Govt. Land	Dug No.	Class of Land	Approx. lateral distance of the resort/ dhaba/ hotel/ restaurant/ venture from the centreline of NH-37	Approx. lateral distance of the resort/ dhaba/ hotel/ restaurant/ venture from the boundary of the Kaziranga National Park	Area of the plot occupied/ encroached	Disturbance/ impact caused to Wild life & habitat (like noise pollution/ air pollution/ blocking animal corridor etc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Barmel Dhaba	No	License issued by Kurmit G.P	Vill. Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Sonulal Goswami run by Sri Barmel Prashedi Sri Sri Ram Chandra	Encroacher Sri Sonulal Goswami	Govt. Land 416 (Pt.)		Grazing (No Class)	More than 60 ft.	Within 1 KM	01B- 04K- 15L	May be commented upon by Forest Deptt.
2	Masi Fall Dhaba	No	License issued by Kurmit G.P	Vill. Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Binuhela Goswami Run by Sri Dhirendra Pr. Barma	Encroacher Sri Binuhela Goswami	Govt. Land 352 (Pt.) 353 (Pt.)		Barri Barri	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	01B- 04K- 15L 01B- 3K- 0L Total- 01B- 03K- 15L	do
3	Dhaba	No		Vill. Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Daboon Goswami Run by Sri Dev Nath Sri Shyam Nandan	Pattadar Daboon Goswami Sri Late Lalji	Partic Land PP No. 72	130 (Pt.)	Lata	More than 55 ft.	Within 1 KM	01B- 03K- 0L	do
4	Line Hole	N/A		Vill. Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Uma Krl Goswami Run by Sri Maya Sankar Roy Sri Late Ram Charan	Pattadar Sri Uma Kantia Goswami Sri Late Mahabi	Partic Land PP No. 42	132 (Pt.)	Lata	More than 55 ft.	Within 1 KM	01B- 3K- 0L	do

5	Dhaba	No		VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Sri Bindhalal Goswami Run by Sri Ramen Roy	Pattadar Rabi Goswami S/o Bindhalal	Patta Land PP No. 42	133 (Pl.)	Lahi	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
6	Jungle Camp Lodge	No		VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Sri Bindhalal Goswami S/o Mahabir	Pattadar Rabi Goswami S/o Bindhalal	Patta Land PP No. 66	134 (Pl.)	Sai	More than 55 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
7	Jungle Camp Dhaba	No	License issued by Kuitiani G.P	VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Sri Bindhalal Goswami Run by Sri Mahesh Thakur S/o Sri Kail Charan	Pattadar Rabi Goswami S/o Bindhalal	Patta Land PP No. 98	134 (Pl.)	Sai	More than 55 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
8	Dhaba	No		VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Miss Kalyani Goswami	Pattadar Miss Kalyani Goswami	Patta Land PP No. 51	145 (Pl.)	Lahi	More than 60 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
9	Dhaba	No		VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Sri Penga Mirtha Run by Md. Saheed S/o Md. Yunush	Pattadar Sri Penga Mirtha S/o	Patta Land PP No. 62	148 (Pl.)	Bari	More than 54 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
10	Dhaba	No		VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Sri Bindhalal Goswami Run by Sri Thakur Prashad S/o Late Dharmia	Pattadar Sri Dhiren Tali S/o Bechia	Patta Land AP No. 3	160 (Pl.)	Form	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 0L	do
11	Bon Raja Motel	No	License issued by Kuitiani G.P along with NOC issued by same	VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Smt. Bina Devi W/o Sri Diganta Boruah	Pattadar Sri Diganta Boruah and Smt. Bina Devi	Patta Land PP No. 37 PP No. 41 PP No. 70	174 173 172	Sai Sai Sai	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 3K- 1SL 4B- 2K- 1SL 2B- 3K- 12L	do
12	Line Hotel	No		VII Bagoni, Mouza- Dewar Bagoni	Owner Bindhalal Goswami Run by Israf Ali S/o Late Lal Miya	Pattadar Rabi Goswami S/o Bindhalal	Patta Land PP No. 78	184 (Pl.)	Tragle Site	More than 200 ft.	Within 1 KM	1B- 0K- 0L	do

19	Line Hotel	No	License issued by Kuchitani G.P	Vill Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Sorhab Ali S/o Late Abdul Malek	Pattadar Sri Sorhab Ali S/o Late Abdul Malek	Patta Land PP No. 24	270 (Pl.)	Sea	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	1B- 2K- 0L	do
20	Line Hotel	No		Vill Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Karan Ghosal Run by Sri Pawan Roy S/o Sri Br Ch. S/o	Pattadar Sri Karan Ghosal S/o Late Surja Ghosal	Patta Land PP No. 55	249 (Pl.)	Sea	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 02K- 10L	do
21	Line Hotel	No	License issued by Kuchitani G.P	Vill Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Saifuddin Run by Md. Abdul Hakim S/o Late Chandra	Pattadar Mrs. Samanta Banu W/o Sri Tula Miya	Patta Land PP No. 55	250 (Pl.)	Sea	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 5.5L	do
22	Bagori Dhaba	No		Vill Bagori, Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Ramesh Dutta S/o Late Chandrahar Dutta	Pattadar Sri Ramesh Dutta S/o Late Chandrahar Dutta	Patta Land PP No. 90	177	Sea	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	4B- 0K- 19L	do
23	Morji Wine Bar	No	License No- 4/2008-07	Vill- Harmoti No. 1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Akbar Rahman Run by Sri Manjit Mahanta	Pattadar Md. Akbar Rahman S/o Akbar Rahman	Patta Land PP No. 19	192 (Pl.)	Sea	More than 67 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 0K- 2L	do
24	Dhaba	No		Vill- Harmoti No. 1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Akbar Rahman Run by Sri Arjun Singh S/o Sabarot Singh	Pattadar Md. Akbar Rahman S/o Akbar Rahman	Patta Land PP No. 19	192 (Pl.)	Sea	More than 67 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 0L	do
25	Lonpi Jahagi Bank	No		Vill- Harmoti No. 1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Akbar Rahman Run by Bank Manager	Pattadar Md. Akbar Rahman S/o Akbar Rahman	Patta Land PP No. 19	192 (Pl.)	Sea	More than 67 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 0K- 5L	do
26	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No. 1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Bijoy Yadab S/o Late Ramesh Yadab	Pattadar Ramesh Yadab	Patta Land PP No. 33	51 (Pl.)	Trade Site	More than 65 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do

27	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Safruddin Run by Md. Rijuddin Ali S/o	Pattadar Md. Safruddin	Patta Land PP No. 5	53 (Pl.)	Foring	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 0K- 10L	do
28	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Safruddin Run by Md. Ismail Ali S/o Md. Abdul Kadir	Pattadar Md. Safruddin	Patta Land PP No. 44	171 (Pl.)	Sali	More than 100 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do
29	Dhaba & Store Room	No	License issued by Kuhlari G.P	Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Abdul Munnaf Run by Md. Intaz Ali S/o Zinnat Ali	Pattadar Md. Abdul Munnaf S/o Late Hassain Ali	Patta Land PP No. 36	95 (Pl.)	Foring	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 0K- 5L	do
30	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Abdul Barek Run by Md. Abdil Khalek S/o Abdul Barek	Pattadar Md. Abdul Barek S/o Mojuddin	Patta Land PP No. 93	98 (Pl.)	Bari	More than 80 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do
31	Dhaba & Pan shop	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Kayum Haldar	Pattadar Md. Kayum Haldar S/o Md. Abdul Rahman	Patta Land PP No. 61	105 (Pl.)	Bari	More than 100 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do
32	Grass Land	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Lio Resort & Hotel Pvt. Limited	Encroacher & Pattadar Lio Resort & Hotel Pvt. Limited	Gov. Land Patta Land PP No. 37	106 (Pl.) 129	Foring Trade S/c	More than 100 ft.	Within 1 KM	1B- 0K- 0L 8B- 1K- 10L	do
33	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Md. Sahabuddin S/o Md. Abdul Razak	Pattadar Md. Sahabuddin S/o Md. Abdul Razak	Patta Land PP No. 50	179	Sali	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	4B- 4K- 6L	
34	Line Hotel	No	License issued by Kuhlari G.P	Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner and Run by Md. Nazir Ali S/o Md. Ashek Ali	Pattadar Md. Nazir Ali S/o Ashek Ali	Patta Land PP No. 49	175 (Pl.)	Sali	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	1B- 0K- 0L	

35	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Saifuddin Run by Md. Idul Hussain S/o Saruj Ali	Pattadar Mussamat Jamila Khalun W/o Saifuddin	Patta Land PP No. 39	175 (Pt.)	Sali	More than 52 ft	Within 1 KM	1B-0K-2L	
36	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Abdul Munnaf Run by Md. Ataur Rahman S/o Glasuddin	Pattadar Md. Abdul Munnaf S/o Late Hassain Ali	Patta Land PP No. 16	168 (Pt.)	Sali	More than 52 ft	Within 1 KM	1B-0K-0L	
37	Line Hotel	No	License issued by Kuitari G.P	Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Md. Samsul Haque S/o Late Mewa Hussain	Pattadar 1) Sri Budgu Maz 2) Sunia Maz 3) Shukial Maz 4) Mailla Maz	Patta Land PP No. 73	89 (Pt.)	Foring	More than 52 ft	Within 1 KM	1B-0K-0L	
38	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Md. Ajimuddin S/o Late Abdul Razak	Pattadar Abdul Razak S/o Aziz	Patta Land PP No. 20	156 (Pt.)	Sali	More than 52 ft	Within 1 KM	1B-0K-0L	
39	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.1 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Md. Jamaluddin S/o Md. Afazuddin	Pattadar Md. Mussamat Aherun Khatun W/o Afajuddin	Patta Land PP No. 89	344 (Pt.)	Foring	More than 52 ft	Within 1 KM	2B-4K-15L	
40	Diphu River Lodge			Vill- Harmoti No.2 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Ashish Phukan & Jahmabi Phukan	Pattadar & Encroacher Ashish Phukan S/o Late Jagadish	PP No.2 PP No.33	76 77 78 85 87 230 231 86	Bao Foring Foring Foring Foring Bari Bari	More than 60 ft	Within 1 KM	4B-2K-5L 2B-4K-16L 1B-1K-9L 2B-1K-15L 1B-2K-19L 0B-3K-0L 0B-1K-10L	do
							Govt. Land	74 (Pt.) 75 84	Foring Bao Foring				

41	Raju Hotel	No		Vill- Harmoti No.2 Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Md. Iman Ali S/o Late Zinnat Ali	Pattadar Md. Iman Ali S/o Late Zinnat Ali	Patta Land PP No. 7	150 (Pl.)	Bari	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
42	Gramin Bikash Bank	No		Vill- Na-jan Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Sankar Mahanta Run by Bank Manager	Pattadar Sri Sankar Mahanta S/o Late Gopi Mahanta	Patta Land PP No. 66	124	Bari	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 4L	do
43	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Na-jan Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Atul Gogoi Run by Md. Mojibur Rahman S/o Abdul Mazid	Pattadar Md. Atul Gogoi S/o	Patta Land PP No. 7	72 (Pl.)	Foring	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
44	Line Hotel	No		Vill- Na-jan Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Md. Fakharuddin Ahmed Run by Sri Kanu Roy S/o Late Ganesh Roy	Pattadar Sri Dipon Orang & others	Patta Land PP No. 7	73 (Pl.)	Foring	More than 52 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 3K- 0L	do
45	Hotel	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	Vill- Rangoloo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Sabiti Mandal C/o Monindra Mandal	Pattadar Sri Sabiti Mandal C/o Monindra Mandal	Patta Land PP No. 165	136 (Pl.)	Trade Site	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do
46	Hotel	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	Vill- Rangoloo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Sri Amar Singh S/o Guru Charan Singh	Pattadar Sri Amar Singh S/o Guru Charan Singh	Patta Land PP No. 36	140 (Pl.)	Sali	More than 58 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do
47	Hotel	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	Vill- Rangoloo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Khagen Mahanta Run by Rajen Singh S/o Late Ramen Singh	Pattadar Khagen Mahanta S/o Raman	Patta Land PP No. 36	140 (Pl.)	Sali	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do

46	Hotel	No		VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Durgja Satnamji S/o Bitta Satnamji	Pattadar Durgja Satnamji S/o Bitta Satnamji	Patta Land PP No. 37	140 (Pt.)	Sell	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
49	Hotel & Pan Shop	No		VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Gaffil Rachali Run by Surjya Prasad Sarma S/o Devi Prasad	Pattadar Gaffil Rachali	Patta Land PP No. 13	335 (Pt.)	Sell	More than 70 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
50	Petro Pump	No		VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Kamal Jain Run by Yasin Ansari	Pattadar Sri Kamal Jain	Patta Land PP No. 19	544 (Pt.)	Sell	More than 60 ft.	Within 1 KM	2B- 0K- 0L	do
51	Dani Charbo Dhaba	No		VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Kamal Jain Run by Dera Khan	Pattadar Sri Kamal Jain	Patta Land PP No. 19	544 (Pt.)	Sell	More than 50 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 2K- 0L	do
52	Hotel	No		VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Sri Ayt K. Chandik S/o Kallawari	Pattadar Sri Ayt K. Chandik S/o Kallawari	Patta Land PP No. 74	321 (Pt.)	Trade Site	More than 65 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 1K- 10L	do
53	Restaurant B.S cum Dhaba	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Bithia Modh Bihash Modh Pattadar Sri Broyut Khaund S/o	Pattadar Sri Bithia Modh W/o Sri Bihash Modh	Patta Land PP No. 74	321 (Pt.)	Trade Site	More than 95 ft.	Within 1 KM	0B- 3K- 0L	do
54	Chopal The Village Club	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	VII- Rangpoo Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner Sri Niran Jain Run by	Pattadar Sri Niran Jain S/o Sri Nirmal Jain	Patta Land PP Nos. 104 144	327 328	Sell Fencing	More than 68 ft.	Within 1 KM	1B- 0K- 0L 2B- 2K- 0L	do

55	Kirchhang Dhaba & Bar	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	Vill- Rangaboo Mouza- Dewar Bagori	Owner & Run by Sri Pujul Gogoi S/o Tinsain	Pattadar Sri Pujul Gogoi S/o Tinsain	Patta Land PP No. 72	30(11)	Sai	More than 50 ft	Within 1 KM	08- 2K- 0L	do
56	The Green Village	AF	License issued by Amguri G.P	Vill- Natun Danga Mouza- Dewar Bagori	Owner Md Khalekur Jaman S/o Aminuddin	Pattadar Md. Khalekur Jaman S/o Aminuddin	Patta Land PP No. 25	214 221	Foring Foring	More than 50 ft	Within 1 KM	12B- 2K- 0L 12B- 2K- 0L	do
57	Hotel	No		Vill- Natun Danga Mouza- Dewar Bagori	Owner & Run by Sri Champa Devi C/o Binul Singh	Encroacher Champa Devi C/o Binul Singh	Govt. Land	170	Foring	More than 70 ft	Within 1 KM	08- 0K- 10L	do
58	Kaziranga Wild Resch Eco Resort	No		Vill- Amguri Chang Mouza- Dewar Bagori	Owner Sri 1) Sri Mohendra K/o 2) Sri Bagha Tabli 3) Sri Tapan Ingti Run by Sangita Boruath	Allotted 1) Sri Mohendra K/o 2) Sri Bagha Tabli 3) Sri Tapan Ingti	Govt. Land	131	Foring	More than 50 ft	Within 1 KM	5	do
59	G.L. Resort	No		Vill- Fulbogi Chang Mouza- Dewar Bagori	Owner Sri Gimssial Agarwala Run by Bhaskar Gogoi	Pattadar Sri Champa Kropi & Encroacher Gimssial Agarwala	PP No. 156 Govt. Land	118 730 731 732 117	Jaisak Jaisak Garabad Garabad Foring	More than 75 ft	Within 1 KM	1B- 1K- 0L 7B- 2K- 0L 23B- 0K- 17L 7B- 4K- 18L 10B- 0K- 0L	do
60	Hotel Shop	No	License issued by Amguri G.P	Vill- Fulbogi Chang Mouza- Dewar Bagori	Owner Sri Kareng Ingti W/o Naran Singh	Encroacher Sri Kareng Ingti W/o Naran Singh	Govt. Land	721	Foring	More than 75 ft	Within 1 KM	0B- 0K- 10L	do

61	Camp Rhino Resort	No		Vill- Deopani Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner & Run by Md. Imtiaz Ahmed S/o Fazlul Ahmed and Mussa Babi Ahmed W/o Imtiaz Ahmed	Pattadar Md. Imtiaz Ahmed S/o Fazlul Ahmed and Mussa Babi Ahmed W/o Imtiaz Ahmed	Patta Land PP No. 82	39 (Pt.)	Foring	More than 150 ft	More Than 225 ft	7B- 2K- 14L	do
62	Land Mark Hotel	No		Vill- Deopani Mouza- Dwar Bagori	Owner M/S Brahmeputra Real State Pvt. Ltd. Run by Sri Dipankar Boruah S/o Sudhir Boruah	Pattadar M/S Brahmeputra Real State Pvt. Ltd.	Patta Land PP No. 118	101 (Pt.) 132 (Pt.)	Foring	More than 500 ft	More than 575 ft	45B- 1K- 15L	do
63	NRL Petrol Depot	No		Vill- Jakhaliabandha Mouza- Chatial	Sri Amal Hazarika Run by Armitabh Hazarika	Pattadar Sri Amal hazarika	Patta Land PP No. 200	526	Trade Site	More than 52 ft.	Within 3 KM	1B- 0K- 0L	do
64	Dhaba	No		Vill- Keribakori Mouza- Chatial	Sri Puna Boruah Run by Jayanta Chandik	Pattadar Sri Puna Boruah	Patta Land PP No. 101	330	Trade Site	More than 52 ft.	Within 3 KM	1B- 0K- 0L	do
65	Dhaba	No		Vill- Keribakori Mouza- Chatial	Sri Puna Boruah Run by self	Pattadar Sri Puna Boruah	Patta Land PP No. 101	330	Trade Site	More than 52 ft.	Within 3 KM	1B- 0K- 0L	do
66	Dhaba	No		Vill- Keribakori Mouza- Chatial	Owner & run by Sri Kehar Singh Chetry S/o	Pattadar Sri Kehar Singh Chetry	Patta Land PP No. 105	329	Trade Site	More than 52 ft.	Within 3 KM	0B- 0K- 10L	do
67	Hotel Banzara	A/F		Vill- Garubandha Mouza- Chatial	Owner & run by Sri Surajit Khaund S/o	Pattadar Sri Surajit Khaund	Patta Land PP No. 100	155	Trade Site	More than 52 ft.	Within 3 KM	1B- 0K- 0L	do

68	Auto Axis Pvt. LTD	No		Vill- Jakhelbandha Mouza- Chaital	Owner & Run by Sri Robi Hemmat Singh	Pattadar Sri Kamini Sarmah	Patta Land PP No. 101	512 (Pl.)	Best Udding	More than 42 ft.	Within 3 KM	OB- BK- 10L	do
69	Hero, Purab Auto Mobiles	No		Vill- Jakhelbandha Mouza- Chaital	Owner & Run by Sri Tularam Buchha	Pattadar Sri Tularam Buchha	Patta Land PP No. 148	553 (Pl.)	Best No. 2	More than 43 ft.	Within 3 KM	OB- 2K- 0L	do
70	Gas Agency	No		Vill- Jakhelbandha Mouza- Chaital	Owner & Run by Sri Upamai Pabor W/o Sri Bimal Amchi	Pattadar Sri Sarat Saha & others	Patta Land PP No. 49	515 (Pl.)	Best No. 2	More than 43 ft.	Within 3 KM	OB- 3K- 0L	do
71	Care & Craft Industry	No		Vill- Jakhelbandha Mouza- Chaital	Owner Sri Ramchandra Aganwal Run by Sri Gauri Sanjar Poddar	Pattadar Sri Ramchandra Aganwal S/o Late Merchulet	Patta Land PP No. 163	600	Trade Site Class I	More than 75 ft.	Within 3 KM	4B- 2K- 10 L	do

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