

Management of Forests in India for Biological Diversity and Forest Productivity A New Perspective

WII-USDA Forest Service Collaborative Project
Grant No. FG-In-780 (In-FS-120)



Volume II

Wildlife - Habitat Relationships (WHR) in Conservation Areas

Technical Coordinators

Pradeep K. Mathur
John F. Lehmkuhl
Vishwas B. Sawarkar



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
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Cover Photos	S.K. Srivastava, Harish Kumar, A.K. Gupta
Report Design & Layout	Virendra Sharma
Image Processing	Abhimanyu Gahlot
Reprography	D. Kothari, V. Prasad and S. Ismail

Citation

Mathur, P.K., J.F. Lehmkuhl and V.B. Sawarkar (Technical Coordinators). 2002. Management of Forests in India for Biological Diversity and Forests Productivity, A New Perspective - Volume II: Wildlife-Habitat Relationships (WHR) in Conservation Areas. WII-USDA Forest Service Collaborative Project Report, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun. 224 pp.

ISBN : 81-85496-18-8

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*Sajeev T.K., Shivaji G. Chavan, Vishwas B. Sawarkar, Anjana Pant,
Harish Kumar & Ashish Kumar*

Greater Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*

The greater Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* is distributed only a few isolated pockets along the floodplains of the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmutra rivers from the Hindu Kush in the west to the present Indi-Burmese border in the East. The one-horned rhinoceros is presently found in Nepal, Bengal and Assam. In TCA the animal was reintroduced in 1984.

ECOSYSTEM USED

The rhinoceros use open tall grassland areas for foraging along with

HABITAT REQUIREMENT

REARING: The primary mating season of rhinoceros is from February to June while the mating also occurs throughout the year. A female rhino is ready to reproduce five to six year old. The interval between her calving and her next breeding is approximately 28 months/ the gestation period is 18-19 months , and the period between births is 3-4 years (Mukherjee, 1966). Only one baby is born

FEEDING: Rhinos appear to be unselective in their FEEDING habitats, eating a variety of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Rhinos generally graze during the late afternoon, evening, night and morning.

COVER: Rhinos move to forest habitats when the short grass area is flooded, usually between July and September.

REFERENCES:

Mukherjee, 1966, Sinha, 1990.