

The Society was founded in 1883 for the purpose of exchanging notes and observations on Zoology and exhibiting interesting specimens of animal life. Its funds are devoted to the advancement of the study of zoology and botany in the Oriental Region. The Society also promotes measures for conservation of nature.

Membership of the Society is open to persons of either sex and of any nationality, proposed and recommended by one or more members of the Society; and also to persons in their official capacity, scientific societies, institutions, clubs, etc. in corporate capacity.

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December will extend to the 31st December of the year following the election.

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A new home for the Rhinoceros

According to the Chief Conservator of Forests, the population of rhinoceros in Kaziranga, as estimated by the local staff, was 400 in 1962, and 960 at present. In addition to this, there are 400 to 500 rhinos in areas like Manas and isolated pockets outside the Government Forests. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam, considered that the rhino numbers would soon be beyond the carrying capacity of Kaziranga National Park and systematic reduction of population by translocation was essential.

The possible alternative habitats

suggested were Dudhwa National Park (U.P.), Jaldapara (W.B.), Champaran (Bihar), Intanki in Nagaland and Lalighabri Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh. In the case of Jaldapara, there was a decline in population of rhinos from 45 in 1972 to 23 in 1975 and 19 in 1979. Since the precise factors for the decline are not known a decision to introduce any new populations into this area is being kept pending. Dudhwa has been selected as the first choice as an alternate habitat.

A comprehensive ecological study of the alternative habitats suggested is being planned before translocation.



Confrontation

Photo: G. P. Gee