



Indian Rhino Vision 2020

Why in News

The **Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV2020) program** has come to a close with the recent translocation of two rhinos to Manas National Park in Assam.

- It was the eighth round of rhino translocation under IRV2020.

Key Points

▪ About Indian Rhino Vision 2020:

- **Launched in 2005**, Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was an ambitious effort **to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos** spread over seven protected areas **in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020**.
- **Seven protected areas** are **Kaziranga, Pobitora, Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary, Burachapori wildlife sanctuary** and **Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary**.
- **Wild-to-wild translocations** were an essential part of IRV2020 - moving rhinos from densely populated parks like Kaziranga NP, to ones in need of more rhinos, like Manas NP.
- It is a **collaborative effort** between various organisations, including the International Rhino Foundation, Assam's Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, World Wide Fund - India, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

▪ Performance of the Program:

- **Target of attaining a population of 3,000 rhinos almost achieved** but the **animal could be reintroduced in only one of the four protected areas planned**.
 - The plan to spread the Greater one-horned rhino across four protected areas beyond Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Pobitora could not materialise.
- The translocated rhinos **helped [Manas National Park](#) get back its [World Heritage Site status in 2011](#)**.
- **2018 and 2019 saw significant decreases in poaching**, the results of forestry, local and national government officials coordinating efforts to combat wildlife crime across Assam.

▪ About Greater One-Horned Rhino:

- There are **three species of rhino in Asia** — Greater one-horned (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Javan and Sumatran.
- **Poaching for the horns and habitat loss** are the two greatest threats to the survival of Asia's rhinos.
- The **[five rhino range nations](#)** (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.
- **Protection Status:**

- **Javan and Sumatran Rhino** are **critically endangered** and the **Greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino** is **vulnerable** under the [IUCN Red List](#).
- All three listed under **Appendix I (CITES)**.
- Greater one-horned rhino is listed under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Habitat of Greater One-Horned Rhino:**
 - The species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam.
 - In India, rhinos are mainly found in [Kaziranga NP](#), [Pobitora WLS](#), Orang NP, Manas NP in Assam, Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP in West Bengal and [Dudhwa TR](#) in Uttar Pradesh.

[Source:TH](#)

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