

2024 FIELD STUDY REPORT



KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



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A Visit To
KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

A Field Study Report

Submitted for the partial fulfilment of syllabus BSc 5th semester

Animal Behaviour And Chronobiology(DSE1 paper)



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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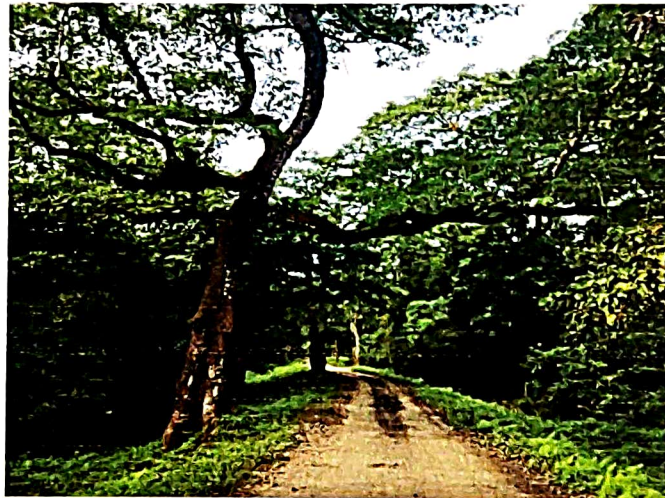
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2024 FIELD STUDY REPORT



KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



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DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
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2024 FIELD STUDY REPORT



KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



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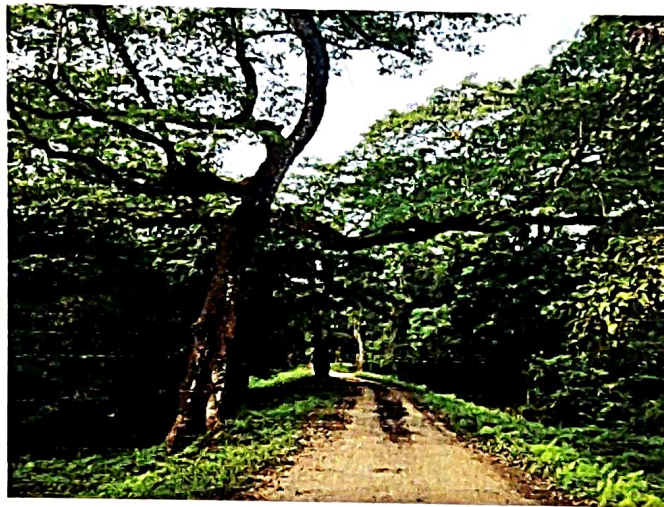
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KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that a field study to the Kaziranga National Park was carried out by *.Himadhi Bora*..... of B.Sc. 5th semester of zoology (major) of Nanda Nath Saikia College, Titabar under our supervision and guidance. We wish her all the success for her endeavour.

Samim Dullah
29/11/24

Dr Samim Dullah
Assistant professor
Dept. of Zoology
N.N. Saikia College

Manashi Bortamuly
29/11/24

Dr Manashi Bortamuly
Assistant professor
Dept. of Zoology
N.N. Saikia College

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to show my gratitude and give thanks to Dr Litoool Baruah, the Principal of N.N. Saikia College, Titabar who has given the permission to go on our educational trip to Kaziranga National Park. Also, I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the respected teachers of our Zoology Department, H.o.D Mrs Mitali Chetia, Dr. Manashi Bortamuly, Dr. Samim Dullah and Mrs Priyanka Saikia for providing us moral support and guiding us in carrying out our field study.

Special thanks to Dr. Manashi Bortamuly and field guide for providing us proper guidance and being with us throughout our field trip. At last but not the least, heartfelt thanks to my parents who gave me the financial support for the trip and also thanks to my friends for their contribution and support.

Himadri Boruah
.....

B.sc 5th Semester
Dept of Zoology

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INTRODUCTION

“ WHAT I hear”

I forget

“What I see

I remember

what I

I know”

-CONFUCIUS

Field trip has an immense value in any education system. An educational study in a practical field is known as field study. The things we are read in our text book is not sufficient to know the clear idea about the habit, habitat and behavior of animals. Field study is included in our syllabus observing plants and animals in their natural habitat gives a unique and euphoria experience. Moreover, as we take part in the field study as a group, it makes a strong bonding and trust on each other among our classmates.

We have selected Kaziranga National Park for our field study site as it is the nearest biodiversity rich national park not only in Assam but also in India. We were guided by “Dr. Manashi Bortamuly Dr. Samim Dullah and Mrs. Priyanka Saikia” maam.

IMPORTANCE OF FIELD STUDY

- 1. Theoretical knowledge is incomplete without practical experience. Therefore field visit and field study facilitate us to observe animal behaviour and ecosystem through visual observation.**
- 2. Engaging with real-world environments fosters a deeper understanding of concepts learned in the classroom.**
- 3. Field visit encourage teamwork and collaboration, helping to make stronger friendship and network among students, teachers as well as the field workers.**
- 4. By field visit we can gain firsthand experience with various habits, habitats, territories, and ecology of different species, enhancing the appreciation of biodiversity.**
- 5. Fieldwork enhances critical observational skill essential for ethological research and data collection in zoology.**
- 6. Field visit often provide opportunities to participate in research projects, enhancing our practical skills and resumes.**

DESCRIPTION OF OUR JOURNEY

We the students of 5th semester, zoology dept. of Nanda Nath Saikia College, started our journey on 19.10.2024 at morning 5:30 am from our college campus by bus. Through NH37 our journey continued. On the way to our destiny, we crossed Assam Agricultural University, NEIST, Dergaon, Rangamati, Badulipar, Numaligarh, Bihora Tea Estate and many historical places. At last we reached Bokakhat at about 7:40 am and then we breakfast at 7:45 am. We took jeeps from Bokakhat to Kaziranga at about 7:55 am. On reaching Kaziranga we entered to the ticket counter for our tickets at 8:38 am. At 9:15 am we entered by jeep into central range (Kohora range) of Kaziranga National Park. It is the main entrance of the world heritage site Kaziranga National Park that lies between Western and Eastern range. It is a flora & fauna rich range with many ecosystem & biodiversity.

About the study area

Location: K.N.P is located in the Golaghat and Nagaon regions of Assam, India. It is also placed beside the Brahmaputra River on the North and Karbi Anglong mounts on the south.

Boundary: The southern border of the park is roughly defined by the Mora Dipholu River. Further south are hills of Barail and Mikir. The Brahmaputra river constitutes dynamically changing Northern boundary of the park.

Topography: The land is quite level all over the park, which is mainly covered by dense and tall elephant grass due its flood-plain ecosystem. A few pockets of tropical semi-evergreen and deciduous forests also occur within the park area. K.N.P is mostly flat expanses of fertile alluvial silt, exposed sandbars, riverine flood-formed lakes called Beels and elevated flats called Chapories where animals shelter during floods. It is home to a wide variety of fauna, including mega animals and micro animal.

Stratification of the forest: Inside the forest we saw vertical stratification of the habitat of the living components. The bottom of the forest is always occupied by the deer, elephants, one horned rhino, wild boar etc making a terrestrial and aquatic community. The

uppermost part of the habitat is found to be covered by the birds like Indian roller, bee eater, eagle, asian palm swift etc.

FLORA & FAUNA OBSERVED

FAUNA-

One horned rhinoceros: It is the largest of the rhino species with a single horn found in both males & females. Horn colour is naturally black. Skin of the rhinoceros has thick silver-brown cover. Scientific name- *Rhinoceros unicornis*. They were mostly seen on riverine and tall grasses.



Indian Elephants: They are the largest mammals in Kaziranga. It has a large head, two laterally folded ear, a large trunk and has grey coloured skin. Only male Indian elephants can grow tusks. They were seen grazed in the tall grasses. Scientific name- ***Elephas maximus indicus.***



Hog deer- Kaziranga National Park is home to a large population of Hog deer. Skin coat is dark-brown in colour. The antlers of male hog deer are typically three tined whereas female lack antlers. Scientific name- ***Axis porcinus.***



Wild boar: Wild boar is a bulky, massively built animal with short and relatively thin legs. Their trunk is short & robust. The structure of the head is well suited for digging. It has a double layer of gray-brown fur in the body. Wild boars in Kaziranga inhabit grasslands, forest, & riverine areas.



Rhesus monkey: Rhesus monkeys are brown in colour which is fully covered with fur. They can live in trees depending on their habitat and also can live in the ground. They are good climbers & jumpers.

BIRDS

Darters:

Darters are also known as snakebird. Darters are large, slender, long-necked water birds. Their backs are usually black or brown, and their breasts are varying shades of brown & white. They have silvery wing markings. It swims nearly submerged with its head & neck showing above water and darting snakelike from side to side.



White wagtail:

Small species of bird with a combination of black, white, and gray feathers. It is a slender bird with the characteristic long, constantly wagging tail of its genus. It can be found in a variety of habitats like wild grassy areas, wetlands.

Scientific name- ***Motacilla alba***.



Black necked stork: They are stately birds with bluish-black heads, necks & bills. They have white bellies, mostly white wings with a black panel in the middle & long red legs. They are seen in wetlands. Scientific name- *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*.



Great egret: They are white colour bird having long, slender neck & black legs. These birds are commonly found in wetlands, ponds, riverine areas. Scientific name- *Ardea alba*



Siberian stonechat: Males have black head, white collar, female are paler with a brownish head and white neck patches. Commonly found in grasslands, scrublands. Scientific name- *Saxicola maurus*.



Black drongo: Black drongos are glossy black with a wide, forked tail & dark browned eyes bird. Scientific name- *Dicrurus macrocercus*.



Crested serpent eagles: This medium-sized bird of prey has a large head with a short, dark crest and bare yellow face. It has wide wings and in flight it displays a distinctive white band near the end of its tail.



Woolly-necked storks: They are the medium sized wading bird with a white neck, black body, and a dark salmon tipped bill. It has long red legs and deeply forked tail. Scientific name- *Ciconia episcopus*.



Little

cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*)

Jungle fowl

Green bee eater

Indian roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)

King fisher (*Alcedinidae*)

Spot-billed pelican

Ibis (*Threskiornithinae*)

Asian palm swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)

Long-tailed shrikes .

This safari was ended at about 11:30 am and on returning we clicked our group photos near Kathpora tower with our respected teachers Dr. Manashi Bortamuly madam, Dr. Samim Dullah madam, Priyanka madam and our friends.



After that, we visited Kaziranga National Orchid & Biodiversity Park located at the distance away from 2km from the central range of Kaziranga. Before entering to the park we had lunch at about 12:30 pm outside the park. After lunch we entered to

the park and observed variety of orchid species along with other species of plants.

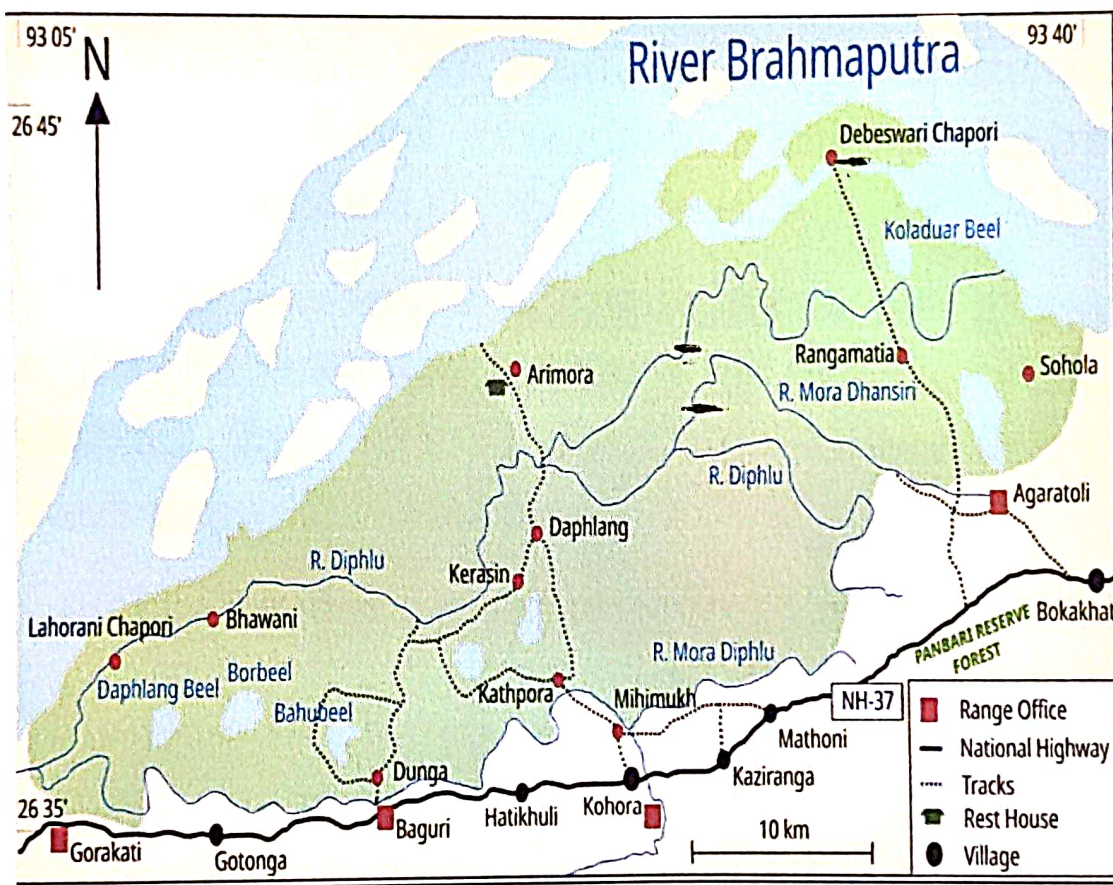


After that we ended our journey and returned to our beloved home & reached at about 6:00 pm.



HISTORY OF KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

In 1905 the park was established as the Kaziranga Proposed Reserve forest with an area of 232 square km. In 1908 the park was designated as a reserve forest. In 1916 the park was renamed the Kaziranga Game Sanctuary. In 1938 the park was opened to visitors. In 1950 the park was renamed the Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary. In 1968 the Assam National Park Act was passed, declaring the area a National park. In 1985 UNESCO declared Kaziranga a World Heritage Site for its unique natural environment. In 2006 Kaziranga was declared a Tiger Reserve.



Methodology

We simply observed the animals and plants usually with our naked eyes and sometimes with the binoculars. We made a record of the animals we observed and took photographs of the animals under observation wherever possible.

The observation was made from the gypsy and from the designated watch towers we could visit during the Jeep safari in Kohora range of Kaziranga National Park.

Camera used for photography : Canon EOS 1300D

Discussion

Role of fire and flood in maintaining the habitat of K.N.P. -

Fire and flood in Kaziranga have an important role to play in maintaining of the Kaziranga National Park. Burning is done to encourage the grow of new grass. The flood water adds fertility of the soil with fresh green grasses throughout the year.

High floods are however definitely injurious to the Kaziranga National Park. As large numbers of animals are lost during such high floods, they however do not occur every year. For such reasons fire and flood are considerable as essential agents for maintaining the present vegetation stage, inside the Kaziranga National Park.

K.N.P being flood plain ecosystem, annual flooding is a regular phenomenon which helps in maintaining a variety of habitats suitable for many threatened species. Flood in Kaziranga National Park is a boon as well as curse.

CONCLUSION

Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World heritage site, stands as a remarkable example of successful wildlife conservation. Known for its significant population of the Indian one horned rhinoceros, this protected area offers a critical habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna. The park's vast grasslands, wetlands, and forest support a thriving ecosystem.

This field study highlighted both the ecological richness of the Kaziranga and the conservation challenges it faces such as habitat loss, poaching and human wildlife conflicts. Sustainable tourism practices and continued conservation will be essential for the park long term preservation. Overall, KNP remains a testament to India's commitment to wildlife protection and a vital sanctuary for endangered species.