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ECOLOGICAL MONITORING OF WORLD FAMOUS KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK (INDIA) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COSERVATION STRATEGIES OF RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS

Kaziranga National Park of Assam (India), is identified as one of the World Heritage sites because of its largest population of One horned Rhinoceros and several other endangered mammals. The question is whether or not these resources can be sustained in the future. Specially, the One horned Rhinoceros, which is killed for its horn, has become an endangered species. A study was conducted to find out the habitat utilization pattern of Rhinoceros. A vehicle drive was followed to measure the number of sighting and the habitat utilization pattern covering four seasons. Study has reveled that rhino was found more frequently in waterlogged grassland habitat for feeding and wallowing activities. However, those wetlands, which are densely covered with water hyacinth and lantana, have got less frequency of rhinoceros. Besides, it has been found that large areas of the park are infested with Mimosa, which further eliminating the grassland habitat the prime source of food for Rhinoceros. An immediate clearance of water hyacinth, lantana and Mimosa should be done for conservation of the rhino habitat. Uprooting of tree sapling is required to maintain grassland ecosystem. Broad-based conservation education programs, designed to diffuse conservation information to the public, must become an important priority.

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