

**F - STATUS OF RHINOS AND HORN STOCKPILES
IN NEPAL**
Mr. Shiva Raj Bhatta

Shiva Bhatta commenced his presentation by saying that three Terai protected areas (Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park and Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve contain rhino. The government's efforts to conserve rhinoceros through the establishment of Chitwan National Park, implementation of a buffer zone program and translocation of rhinos to other protected areas has improved the rhino's prospects in Nepal. The population in Chitwan has increased significantly. The current status and distribution of rhino are shown in Table 6:

Table 6. Rhino populations in Nepal

Name Of PA	Rhino Population									Total	Count/ estimate
	Adult			Sub Adult			Calves				
	Male	Female	Unsex	Male	Female	Unsex	Male	Female	Unsex		
Chitwan NP	113	129	20	9	25	8	11	19	38	372	2005
Bardia NP	9	11		4	3				3	30	2007
Suklaphanta WR	3			2					2	7	2007
Grand Total	125	140	20	15	28	8	11	19	43	409	

In Nepal, the main reason for the rapid reduction in the rhino population are the disappearance of most of alluvial plain grasslands, combined with massive poaching. Major steps taken so far include arresting illegal traders - more than 100 people are in custody with a provision of up to 15 years in jail and a fine of NRs100,000.00, or both.

Mr. Bhatta has stressed that in addition to increasing the efficiency of park staff in rhino conservation, training needs to be provided on a regular basis to enhance staff skills and capabilities. Horn stockpiles are collected and stored in Chitwan National Park.

With the increase in political commitments, the action plan, which is based on regular monitoring of rhino population and their habitats and generating resources for plan implementation, the future of rhino looks promising in Nepal.

III. (2.00 3.00 PM)
G - INDIAN RHINO VISION 2020
Mr. Tariq Aziz

Tariq Aziz said 2000 rhinos survive in about 970 km² of habitat in three Indian Protected Areas (Pabitora, Orang and Kaziranga). Threats faced in Assam include poaching and illegal trade, habitat destruction, conflict with people, and fragmented populations. Improvement in the conservation status of the rhinos in India means improving protection of the existing rhino populations and recreating lost rhino populations via translocations.

Successful translocations need:

- Buy-in from the government
- Technical expertise on rhino translocations
- Sufficient resources