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**HABITAT UTILISATION PATTERN OF GREAT INDIAN  
ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)  
IN ORANG NATIONAL PARK**

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The study has been carried out to find out the habitat preference and utilization pattern of Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Orang National Park. For convenience of study, the existing habitat types of the study areas were categorized, and locate them using satellite imagery. The analysis of satellite imagery of Orang NP revealed that, out of 78.8 km<sup>2</sup> of total area, 25.93 km<sup>2</sup> (32.9%) was covered with tall grassland, followed by 17.13 km<sup>2</sup> (21.7%) with wet grassland (both marshy and wet grasses), 14.05 sq. km<sup>2</sup> (17.8%) with short grasslands, 10.75 km<sup>2</sup> (13.6%) area with woodlands (including shrubs and ground covers), 6.88 km<sup>2</sup> (7.7%) with sand and only 4.86 km<sup>2</sup> (5.5%) with water body (including edge and floating areas). Among water bodies, 0.5 km<sup>2</sup> (0.6%) area covered with wetland and 4.36 km<sup>2</sup> (5.5%) with rivers and perennial streams.

The study showed that the rhino utilized 41.4% in Wet Grassland (including marshy and wet grassland habitat), 27.7% in Tall grassland, 20.0% in Water body, 11.0% in Short Grassland and 3.6% in Woodland habitats including tree, shrub and ground cover etc. But, rhino was never been observed in sandy areas.

Rhino also showed the seasonal variation of habitat use in Orang National park. During pre-monsoon period Rhino use maximum of wet grassland (45.7%) and followed by Tall grassland (38.3%), Water bodies (7.4%), Short grassland (5%) and Wood land habitats (3.7%). During monsoon season, rhinos utilized maximum of Wet grassland (42%) and followed by Water bodies (35.5%), and Tall grassland (10%). The Wet grassland (42 %) was also the most preferred habitat of rhino during re-treating monsoon, followed by wetland (26 %) and tall grassland (26%) respectively. During winter season also wet grassland was the mostly used (37 %), followed by tall grasslands (29 %) and wetland habitat (16%)

**Key words:** One-horned Rhino, Orang National Park, Grassland, Habitat utilization, and Seasonal variation.