

through which poachers and others connected with illegal activities can reach the park without any problem. Adding to all these is the status of Tiger population, which is hopeless at present. Even the movement of elephants inside the park is not as frequent as earlier.

Famous ornithologists, late Dr. Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley of the Smithsonian Institution of United States visited Namdapha twice, in 1979 and 1981 when I was posted there. Other surveys were done by Zoological and Botanical Surveys of India and own survey team of Silviculture branch of the Forest Department.

So far as I am concerned, I was posted at Miao on two occasions. Once during 1978-80 as Divisional Manager, Miao Project Division

during which I had close link with the area as a supervisory authority. During 1988-90, I was partly Assistant Field Director and then Field Director. Lastly I was D.F.O. Namdapha Wild Life Division. The census of Tiger population was conducted under my direct supervision in 1989 in the districts of Tirap, Changlang and Lohit. All those opportunities had enabled me to observe the issues related to Namdapha. It is to be noted that exploration is yet to be done in Dapha Bum from where more information may come in future. □

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BRIEFLY

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Rhino population increased

The latest census of the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* carried out in the protected areas of Assam, viz., Kaziranga, RG Orang and Pabitora in March-April 2009 showed significant increase in the number of animals. The census was carried out by using direct visual count method from elephant-back (see table below).

Year →	1999	2006	2009
Kaziranga	1552	1855	2048
RG Orang	46	68	64
Pabitora	74	81	84

Recent records of Rhinoceros from outside traditional areas

- One animal entered Pani-Dihing Bird Sanctuary via Dikhowmukh (apparently from Kaziranga) in Assam's Sivasagar district on 15 March 2007.
- One strayed from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary to near Sonapur in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district in central Assam on 11 February 2008.
- One person was injured while he was trying to photograph a Rhinoceros at Sissimukh Haldhibari near Machkhowa, Dhemaji district in eastern Assam at 7 am on 4 March 2009.