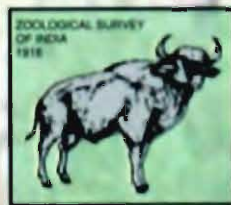


*Animals of India*  
**Mammals**

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## PREFACE

India is an abode of about ninety thousand animal species with innumerable variety and variability. Amongst these, about five thousand species belong to chordates and the remaining are invertebrates. This animal diversity of the country has been dealt with in ample details in a book, *Faunal Diversity in India* published by the ENVIS Centre of the Zoological Survey of India in 1998. Information and data contained in that book on species diversity are mostly numerical. To fill that gap the ENVIS Centre is now actively engaged in preparing a checklist of all the animal species of India along with brief diagnostic features, habit and habitats, and distribution range of each of them. In this connection, the ENVIS Centre envisages to bring out a series of publications under the title "*Animals of India*" to deal with Protozoa to Mammalia of this country. The present publication is the first part of this series, dealing with all the mammalian species of India.

The mammals of the world belong to 4629 species under 1135 genera, 136 families and 26 orders (Wilson and Reeder, 1993). Their Indian counterpart includes 401 species, representing 180 genera, 45 families and 13 orders, constituting about 8.6 per cent of the global mammalian species. The checklist of Indian mammals incorporated in this book is primarily based on Wilson and Reeder (1993) and Alfred *et al.* (2000). In the checklist conservation status of all these species is also given as per IUCN (2003), Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Indian Red Data Book (1994), CITES and CAMPS. In addition to these, salient diagnostic features, distribution, endemism, habits and habitats of all the species are also incorporated.

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## Order PERISSODACTYLA



The perissodactyls are medium to large sized mammals whose legs are elongate and foot provided with odd number of toes, each sheathed in cornified hooves. The hooves which encase the toes appear like a single hoof cleft in two. The main axis of the foot passes between third and the fourth toes and the third one is the longest on all four feet.

These odd toed hoofed mammals include the families Equidae (horses, asses and zebras), Tapiridae (tapirs) and Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceros) comprising of 18 species throughout the world. Indian perissodactyls are represented by three species under two families.

Sl. No.	Family	No. of Genus	No. of Species	No. of Endemic species
1.	Equidae	1	2	–
2.	Rhinocerotidae	1	1	–
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>–</b>



## Family EQUIDAE

### ASSES

As mentioned earlier, this family includes horses, asses and zebras. In equids only the third toe of each foot is functional and encased in a large solid hoof. The wild horses and zebras do not occur in India. Only two species of wild asses are found in this country.

#### Kulan, *Equus onager*

Also called the Indian Wild Ass; slightly larger than domestic ass, height at shoulder 1.1-1.2 m; rufescent grey to fawn or pale chestnut above and white below; mane erect and dark brown and continued as a dark brown stripe along the back to the root of the tail; inhabits flat, salt encrusted barren arid land having flat grass covered expanses, known as 'bets'; a grazer and feeds mainly on grasses of the bets; diurnal in habit; also raids wheat and millet fields during night.



Kulan, *Equus onager*

**Distribution :** *India* : Rann of Kutchch in Gujarat. *Elsewhere* : Russia, Ukraine, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan.

**Conservation status :** IUCN : VU; IWPA : Sch. I, Part I; RDB : EN; CITES : Appendix I.

#### Kiang, *Equus kiang*

Also known as the Tibetan Wild Ass; larger in size and, darker and redder in colour than the Indian Wild Ass; height at shoulder 1.35-1.40 m; its dorsal stripe narrower



extending from the neck till the base of tail; hooves large, like those of horse; found in the high cold plateau hill and valley; diurnal in habit; grazes on grass and sedge.

**Distribution :** *India* : Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir and in Sikkim usually at high elevation. *Elsewhere* : China, Nepal and Tibet.

**Conservation status :** IWPA : Sch. I, Part I; RDB : EN; CITES : Appendix II; CAMP : VU (Nationally), DD (Globally).

Kiang, *Equus kiang*



## Family RHINOCEROTIDAE

### RHINOCEROS

Contrast to equids, rhinos have three toes on forefeet and three on hind feet although only the third toe of the foot is functional. Their heavy build, short stumpy legs, thick skin thinly clad with hair or naked and one or two horns on the tip of nose make them distinctive. Only five species of Rhinoceros survive now throughout the globe. Out of these, only one is found in India.

#### Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*

The largest of all living species of Rhinoceros of the globe and perhaps the largest land mammal next to the elephant with 3-3.15 m in head and body length and height at shoulder 1.7-1.85 m; one-horned as its popular name implies and hide hairless; colour of the body blackish grey, head boat-shaped, skin divided into large shields by heavy folds before and behind shoulders, in front of thighs and on buttocks; fold in front of shoulder not continued right across the back; skin studded with convex tubercles on shoulders, thighs and buttocks; inhabits grass jungle and prefers swampy ground; both diurnal and nocturnal; a grazer, feeds on grass.

**Distribution :** *India* : Assam and West Bengal; introduced in Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh. *Elsewhere* : Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Conservation status :** IUCN : EN; IWPA : Sch. I, Part I; RDB : EN; CITES : Appendix I; CAMP : EN (Nationally), DD (Globally).



Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*