

CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CWRC)

Annual Report: 2020-2021



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1. Report of the Officer-in-charge

CWRC (Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation) was established in August, 2002 by Assam Forest Department and Wildlife Trust of India to address to the need of displaced, sick, orphan wildlife in the region. The efforts were further augmented by establishing satellite stations of CWRC in the form of Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) units in three regions of Assam: Central (operating through CWRC), Eastern (Near Dibru-Saikhowa NP), and Western (Near Chakrashila WLS). Since inception, for the past 20 years, CWRC and the allied MVS units have assisted them in providing emergency relief to displaced animals through trained and qualified veterinarians and animal keepers. CWRC is offering appropriate husbandry and veterinary care to the six non-releasable leopards apart from the temporarily displaced animals such as elephant and rhino calves to ensure their release back to the wild.

2. History of the Rescue Centre

Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park (KNP) (26°35'–26°45'N and 93°05'–93°40'E) is situated in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra river in the Nagaon and Golaghat districts of Assam, India. Covering an area of 430 km² it is the largest protected area on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River spreading from Brahmaputra in the north to National Highway 37 in South (figure 1). The conservation effort at Kaziranga begun in 1908, when it was made into a 'Reserve Forest', with the primary aim of protecting the Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and its habitat. It was subsequently declared a 'Game Reserve' in 1916, made into a 'Wildlife Sanctuary' in 1950 and, finally, declared a 'National Park' on 1 January 1974. It was also proclaimed a UNESCO 'World Heritage Site' in 1985. Due to more than 80 years of serious conservation effort in the park, the rhino population has increased from just a few to the present 1,200 individuals.



Figure 1: Map of Kaziranga National Park, with Brahmaputra River in the north and NH 37 in the south

The mention of Kaziranga National Park, is incomplete if one does not consider the mighty Brahmaputra River in the north and the Karbi Anglong hills to the south. Brahmaputra River, an immense river famed for its annual floods that unveil as a major social and economic natural disaster. However, the same river also makes the Brahmaputra valley one of the most fertile stretches of land, by replenishing the wetlands and allowing the grasslands to flourish including the Kaziranga National Park. The Karbi Anglong hills and its associated plateaus covering a total area of 10,434 sq. km mostly consists of undulating and hilly terrain with numerous rivers and streams. There are four vital corridors in the Kaziranga - Karbi Anglong elephant reserve, which allow elephant to migrate from Kaziranga to different PAs of Karbi Anglong and even to other states. Karbi Anglong also becomes an important landscape during flooding season for the animals migrating from the Kaziranga Landscape to higher

grounds. This important landscape in the form of grasslands, floodplains, beels and highlands provide ideal habitat for a wide array of species.

Kaziranga National Park, alone supports 35 mammalian species (includes 18 threatened species) and close to 500 species of birds. The park is home to about 60% of the world population of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, about 50% of the endangered Asiatic wild water buffalo and has the only viable population of eastern swamp deer in the north-eastern region; about 400 animals. Karbi Anglong apart from being home to about two thousand elephants is also home to gaur, tiger, leopard, sambar, hog deer, hoolock gibbon, capped langur, Asiatic black bear, large Indian civet, clouded leopard and many species of birds and reptiles.

Threats to Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga landscape witnesses different types of disasters that causes many animals to be distressed and get displaced. Floods submerges the area, covering 50-70% of the total landmass forcing animals to migrate to safer areas, sometimes even human habitations.



Figure 2: An adult rhino stuck in a bog post-floods

These include rhino and elephant calves as well that get separated from their natal mother/natal herd. On many occasions even adults get stranded or stuck in mud necessitating an intervention. Additionally, during floods, when

the animals are forced to moved southwards towards Karbi Anglong

hills, they not only end up getting killed or injured by vehicular traffic on the NH37 (that forms the southern boundary of the park) but also come dangerously close to human habitations causing human-wildlife conflict. The estimated population of more than 70000 people living in 23 villages bordering Kaziranga and 30 villages nearby are dependent on these agricultural activities and this puts additional pressure on the wildlife for resources mainly space. Large scale habitat changes in the Karbi Anglong plateau (tea garden conversions, settlements, mining, logging and *jhum* (shifting cultivation) have serious implications on the wildlife populations in Kaziranga NP. Poaching of rhinos for their horns is also becoming an increasingly difficult problem. Due to poaching, not only the population of the rhinos can dwindle, but many calves can also get orphaned, further augmenting the problem. However, despite all these issues and conservation threats, the 100 years of efforts from the State of Assam has been able to secure the habitat of several endangered species like rhino, elephant, tiger, wild buffalo and swamp deer. The park managers, frontline staff, local communities and civil society representatives have, under the guidance of the administrative as well as political leadership in the State of Assam, played a vital role in achieving this conservation success.

To assist the Assam State Forest Department in addressing these threats and to promote conservation through rehabilitation of displaced wildlife, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has collaborated with the Assam Forest Department by setting up Wildlife Rescue Centres and Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) units.

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is a leading Indian nature conservation organization committed to the service of nature. WTI works towards achieving its vision of a secure natural heritage of India, in six priority landscapes, knit holistically together by nine key strategies or Big Ideas. “Wild Rescue” is one of these eight Big Ideas that aims “To increase the welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation and wildlife health across India, and in doing so to save at least 50000 lives in the decade.” Wild Rescue strives to achieve this number in a threefold manner (Figure 1):

With over 20 years of experience in the field of evidence-based conservation, WTI has developed expertise in rehabilitation and veterinary skills to address wildlife displacements due to conflicts and calamities, both natural and man-made.

1. Rescuing and rehabilitating temporarily displaced wild animals directly through rescue-rehabilitation centres and mobile veterinary service (MVS) units;
2. Responding to natural and man-made disasters and providing emergency relief to animals (both wild and domestic) through involvement of members from the Pan-India Emergency Relief Network (ERN); and
3. Building capacity of rehabilitators and rescuers across India on best management practices of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation



Figure 3: Operational arms of Wild Rescue division of WTI

In 2000, WTI with support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and in collaboration with the state forest department started providing emergency relief and veterinary care to wildlife displaced due to floods thorough deployment of MVS units in Assam. This effort was further augmented by the establishment of two dedicated centres for wildlife rehabilitation namely: Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC), Kaziranga National Park, Assam and Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC), Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. The project directly contributed to improving the conservation and welfare of more than 250 species of wildlife including elephants, rhinoceros, Asiatic black bears, clouded leopards, vultures, etc.

With the support from the Government of India, “The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)” was established by Government of Assam, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in 2002. CWRC is also recognized by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) under the provisions of section 38H of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 up to 19th August 2021 as per the letter File No 21-2/2019-CZA(Vol.1)(E)-Part(1).

3. Vision

The vision of the rescue centre aligns to the vision of the organization which is “A secure natural heritage of India”

4. Mission

The mission of the rescue centre also aligns with the mission statement of the organization which is “To conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments”

5. Objective

The rescue centre fits into the Big Idea of ‘Wild Rescue’ of the Trust which aims “To increase the welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation and wildlife health across India, and in doing so to save at least 40,000 lives in the decade.” This is realized through three main objectives:

- To provide ethical and humane treatment to wild animals in captivity
- To rehabilitate wild animals displaced due to various reasons
- To provide veterinary expertise to manage free ranging wildlife

6. About CWRC

S.No.	Particulars	Information
Basic Information about the Rescue Centre		
1	Name of the Rescue Centre	Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)
2	Year of Establishment	2002
3	Address of the Rescue Centre	Borjuri, Bokakhat, Near Kaziranga National Park, Assam
4	State	Assam
5	Telephone Number	6901684900/6002792180
6	Fax Number	0120-4143933
7	E-mail address	bhaskar@wti.org.in info@wti.org.in
8	Website	http://www.wti.org.in/projects/centre-for-wildlife-rehabilitation-and-conservation-cwrc/
9	Distance from nearest	Airport: Guwahati (250 km)
		Railway Station: Furkating (75 km)
		Bus Stand: Bokakhat (7 km)
10	Recognition by CZA Valid upto (Date)	19 th August 2021
11	Area (in Hectares)	10 ha

S.No.	Particulars	Information
Management Personnel of the Rescue Centre		
12	Name with designation of the Officer in-charge	Dr Bhaskar Choudhury, Joint Director, WTI
	Name of the Veterinary Officer	Dr. Samshul Ali
	Name of the Curator	Dr. Rathin Barman
	Name of the Biologist	Dr. Rathin Barman
	Name of the Compounder/ Lab Assistant	NA

7. Organizational Chart of the Rescue Centre

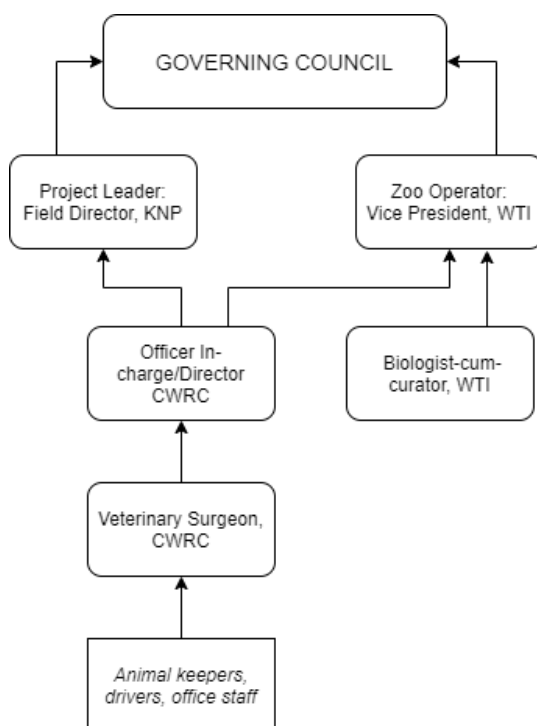


Figure 4: Organizational chart of CWRC

8. Human Resources deployment for management of Rescue Centre (Officer in-charge to Animal Keeper - Sanctioned posts, in-position and vacant posts)

S.No.	Designation	Number of Sanctioned Posts	Names of the incumbent
1	Centre In-charge/Officer In-charge	1	1
2	Centre veterinarian	1	1
3	Project Biologist-cum-curator	1	1
3	Driver-cum-keeper	1	1
4	Animal keepers-cum-grass cutters	10	10
5	Night chowkidar	1	1

9. Capacity Building of Rescue Centre personnel (in FY 2020-2021)

S. No.	Name and designation of the Rescue Centre	Subject matter of Training	Period of Training	Name of the Institution where the Training attended
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	personnel			
1	Dr Bhaskar Choudhury	Global health at the Human – Animal- Ecosystem Interface	08 weeks	University of Geneva through Coursera online courses

10. Rescue Centre Advisory Committee –

Administratively, CWRC is managed by a “Governing Council” headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest, Government of Assam.

a. Date of constitution: 12th December 2006

b. Members: Other than the members from WTI and Assam Forest Department, representative from College of Veterinary Sciences, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, Guwahati, and a member from local NGO experienced in animal rescue and rehabilitation are also enlisted as member of CWRC governing council. CWRC governing council meets at least once in a year. Since the inauguration of CWRC in August, 2002, this governing council has met nineteen times so far.

c. Dates on which Meetings held during the year: None (due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic)

11. Health Advisory Committee of the Rescue Centre –

a. Date of constitution: 3rd December 2017

b. Members: The members of the health advisory committee were subject experts mainly from the College of veterinary Science, Khanapara, Guwahati. These included:

- Dr. N.N. Barman, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for microbiology and viral diseases)
- Dr. K.K. Sarma, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for elephant management)
- Dr. Bhupen Sarma, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for anaesthesia, surgery and critical care)
- Dr. Saidul Islam, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for parasitology)

c. Dates on which Meetings held during the year: No meeting was held this year however, the committee is frequently consulted on various veterinary and wildlife health aspects of animals under care.

12. Statement of income and expenditure of the Rescue Centre

13. Daily feed Schedule of animals under lifetime care

S. No.	Species	Feed item	Quantity		Day of fasting
			Winter	Summer	
1.	Common Leopard	Beef and chevon	30-40% of body weight	20-30% of body weight	Once a week
2.	Asian elephant (hand-raising:	Milk formula (Skimmed milk	40-50% of body weight	30-40% of body weight	No fasting

	upto 2.5-3 years of age)	powder+coconut milk powder+protein supplement)			
3.	Asian elephant (weaned off: > 3 years of age)	Concentrates and fodder	10-20% of conc. Feed along with <i>Ad libitum</i> fodder and water	10-20% of conc. Feed along with <i>Ad libitum</i> fodder and water	No fasting
4.	Greater one-horned rhinoceros (hand-raising: Upto 1.5 years of age)	Human-infant Milk formula (Lactogen II)	30-40% of body weight	30-40% of body weight	No fasting
5.	Greater one-horned rhinoceros (weaned off: > 1.5-2 years of age)	Concentrates and fodder	10-20% of conc. Feed along with <i>Ad libitum</i> fodder and water	10-20% of conc. Feed along with <i>Ad libitum</i> fodder and water	No fasting

14. Vaccination Schedule of animals

S No.	Species	Disease vaccinated for	Name of the Vaccine and dosage/ quantity used	Periodicity	Remarks
1	Common leopard	Tetanus	Tetanus toxoid – 0.5 ml	Every six months	
		Rabies	ARV – 1 ml	Once a year	
2.	Asian elephants and greater one-horned rhinoceros	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	FMD vaccine – 3 ml	Jan-Feb	
		Rabies	ARV – 1 ml	Apr-May (once/year)	
		Tetanus	Tetanus toxoid – 1 ml	Every six months	

15. De-worming Schedule of animals

S.No.	Species	Drug used	Month
1	Common leopard	Fenbendazole, Praziquantel, Pyrantel pamoate (depending on the identity and load of the endo-parasites)	Every six months after faecal examination
2.	Asian elephants and greater	Fenbendazole, Oxyclonazide + Levamisole (Neozide)	Every 3-6 months interval based on faecal examination

	one-horned rhinoceros		
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16. Disinfection Schedule

S No.	Species	Type of enclosure	Disinfectant used and method	Frequency of disinfection
1.	Common leopard	Chain-link mesh Enclosure	Chlorinated lime and/or Burning and Virkon S spray	Once a month
2.	Elephant nursery, paddock and rhino paddock	Nursery + paddock	Fumigation with formaldehyde, burning, chlorinated lime	Once a year

17. Health Check-up of employees for zoonotic diseases

S No.	Name	Designation	Date of Health Check up	Findings of Health Check up
01	Dr. Bhaskar Choudhury	Centre in Charge	20 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
02	Dr. Samshul Ali	Veterinary surgeon	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
03	Mahadeo Das	Senior Driver	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
04	Horeswar Das	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
05	Lakhiram Das	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
06	Prasanta Das	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
07	Raju Kutum	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
08	Romen Das	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
09	Hemanta Das	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
10	Amal Das	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
11	Tarun Gogoi	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
12	Hemakhanta Nath	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD
13	Chandra Sworgayari	Animal keeper	4 th March 2021	Healthy and NAD

18. Development Works carried out in the Rescue Centre during the year

No major new construction was undertaken in the reporting period (Apr'20 – Mar'21). However, upgradation of working laboratory and OT was done. some minor renovations and routine repairs were undertaken as follows:

- Removal of Bamboo in the paddock, turn over and disinfection of soil, replacement of Netlon used as visual barrier
- Dredging, clearing inlets and outlets and disinfection of water bodies and seasonal streams for wallowing and bathing of rhino and elephant calves
- All major tree and shrubs within the campus are put with Local and scientific names for education purposes as instructed.
- Installation of IDEXX Vet Blood and Chemistry analyser.
- Installation of CR system with the existing X-ray unit to digitize the same.
- Pre-surgery preparation room and installation of hydraulic OT table
- Routine weeding in the entire campus.

19. Important Events and happenings

Due to COVID-19 related prohibitions no physical events or meetings were held

20. Seasonal special arrangements for upkeep of animals

None

21. Research Work carried out and publication

None

22. Rescue and Rehabilitation of wild animals

The following table shows the wild animals rehabilitated by CWRC in 2020-21

S.No	Date of Rescue	Species with number of animals rescued with their sex (M:F:U:T)	Received from	Date of submission of report to CWLW	Date of release	Place of release
QUARTER 1 (Apr 20 - Jun 20)						
1	23-Apr-20	Himalayan Griffon (0:0:7:7)	Lepaigaon Dichangmukh	10-Jul-20	27/Apr/20	Dichangmukh
2	23-Apr-20	Slender-billed vulture (0:0:3:3)	Lepaigaon Dichangmukh		27/Apr/20	Dichangmukh
3	23-Apr-20	White-rumped vulture (0:0:1:1)	Lepaigaon Dichangmukh		27/Apr/20	Dichangmukh
4	5-Jun-20	Siamese cat snake (0:0:1:1)	Bihatari Sivsagar		8-Jun-20	Panbari RF
5	15-Jun-20	Jungle owlet (0:0:1:1)	Kurabahi Tinali		16-Jun-20	Panbari RF
6	21-Jun-20	Malayan Giant Squirrel (0:0:1:1)	Panbari Forest Village		22-Jun-20	Panbari RF
7	28-Jun-20	Hog deer (1:0:0:1)	Dhansiri Mukh		29-Jun-20	Panbari RF
8	28-Jun-20	Oriental pied hornbill (0:0:1:1)	Sivsagar Tank		26-Jul-20	CWRC
9	29-Jun-20	Asian koel (0:0:2:2)	Lukura Khohonia		25-Jul-20	CWRC
10	29-Jun-20	Brown-headed barbet (0:0:1:1)	Kohora no.2		30-Jun-20	CWRC
11	29-Jun-20	Imperial Green Pigeon (0:0:1:1)	Mohpara		25-Jul-20	CWRC
QUARTER 2 (Jul 20 - Sep 20)						
12	18-Jul-20	King cobra (0:0:1:1)	Mihimukh	10-Oct-20	29-Jul-20	mihimukh
13	31-Jul-20	Asian koel (1:0:0:1)	Bokakhat		16-Aug-20	CWRC
14	26-Aug-20	Asian barred owlet (0:0:1:1)	Kohora		30-Aug-20	CWRC
15	13-Sep-20	Woolly Necked Stork (0:0:3:3)	Biswanath		20-Sep-20	CWRC
QUARTER 3 (Oct 20 - Dec 20)						
16	1-Nov-20	Rhesus macaque (1:0:0:1)	Bokakhat	10-Jan-	2-Nov-20	Bokakhat

17	6-Nov-20	Rhesus macaque (1:0:0:1)	Mohmaiki Gaon	21	8-Nov-20	Mohmiki
18	1-Dec-20	Indian flapshell turtle (0:0:1:1)	Laokhowa Beat		26-Dec-20	CWRC
19	3-Dec-20	Bar headed Goose (1:0:0:1)	Agaratoli			Agaratoli
20	10-Dec-20	Lesser Adjutant Stork (0:0:1:1)	Agartoli		14-Dec-20	CWRC
QUARTER 4 (Jan 21 - Mar 21)						
21	9-Jan-21	Sambhar (0:1:0:1)	Tengar Chariali	10-Apr-21	9-Jan-21	Sohola Kathoni
22	17-Jan-21	Capped langur (0:1:0:1)	Haldibari		27-Jan-21	Haldibari
23	17-Feb-21	Glossy ibis (0:0:1:1)	Bokakhat		18-Feb-21	Agaratoli

23. Annual Inventory of animals

Form – II

[See Rule 11(1)]

Part – A

Inventory Report for the Year:

Endangered Species*

Sl. No	Species (Common Name)	Scientific Name	Opening Stock (as on 01.04.2020)			Births			Acquisitions			Disposal (released)			Deaths			Closing Balance (as on 31.03.2021)		
			M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U
1	Common Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	1	3					1	0		0	0					2	3	
2	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	2	4					2	3					1	1		3	6	
3	Great One horned rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	2	3					1	1		1	2					2	2	

*Animals under Schedule I and Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

Part – B

Other than Endangered Species

S.No	Animal Name	Scientific name	Opening Stock as on				Births			Acquisition			Disposal			Death			Closing Stock as on			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T

24. Mortality of animals

Sl. No.	Animal Name (with individual identification mark, if any)	Scientific Name	Sex	Date of Death	Reason of Death as per the Post- mortem findings

25. Compliance with conditions stipulated by the Central Zoo Authority

No condition for compliance has been sent for the FY 2020-21. The conditions for compliance was sent for 2021-22 which will be complied and responded to.

26. Photographs of major activities undertaken in 2020-21



Figure a. Lesser adjutant stork admitted under care at CWRC



Figure b. De-siltation of the canal in the rhino paddock



Figure c. CWRC Vet treating a hog deer rescued during the floods; Figure d: Elephant calf under care at CWRC



Figure e: Rhino calf rescued during the floods



Figure f: Hog deer released back to the wild



F-13, Sector-8

NOIDA-201301

Delhi - National Capital Region (NCR)

Uttar Pradesh

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