

CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION (CWRC)

Annual Report: 2021-2022



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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 19 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 five non-releasable leopards apart from temporarily displaced animals and release them back to the wild after necessary treatment.

2. History of the Rescue Centre

Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (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 1085.53 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 1st January 1974. It was also proclaimed a UNESCO 'World Natural Heritage Site' in 1985. Kaziranga holds the largest population of One horned rhinoceros globally from a few individuals during the beginning of the 19th century, is regarded as one of the greatest conservation success story of the world.



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 and the associated plateau in the south. Brahmaputra River, one of the longest rivers of Asia is 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, while replenishes the wetlands and allowing the grasslands to flourish in its large floodplains. 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 others state. Karbi Anglong also becomes an important landscape during flooding season for the animals migrating from the Kaziranga landscape to the natural 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 sustain spectacularly unique biodiversity.

Threats to Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga landscape witnesses' different types of disasters that cause a huge influx of animals to



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

come under distress due to displacement (temporary or permanent), injury and conflict. Floods submerges the area, covering 50-70 per cent of the total landmass causing widespread displacements of wild animals including elephant and rhino calves. They get stranded or sometimes stuck in a marshland/bog (figure 2) when they are unable to swim across the current. 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 has been a challenge which not only deplete population 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.

Further, 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 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 eight 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. By 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 Assam 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 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 23rd August 2018 as per the letter no 22-9/2004-CZA(429)(Vol.1)(AK)/2663/2016.

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’ 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 5000 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	6901684900/9435748840
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)	23 rd August 2023
11	Area (in Hectares)	10 ha
Management Personnel of the Rescue Centre		
12	Name with designation of the Officer in-charge	Dr Bhaskar Choudhury, Deputy Director, WTI
	Name of the Veterinary Officer	Dr. Samshul Ali
	Name of the Curator	NA
	Name of the Biologist	
	Name of the Compounder/ Lab Assistant	NA

7. Organizational Chart of the Rescue Centre

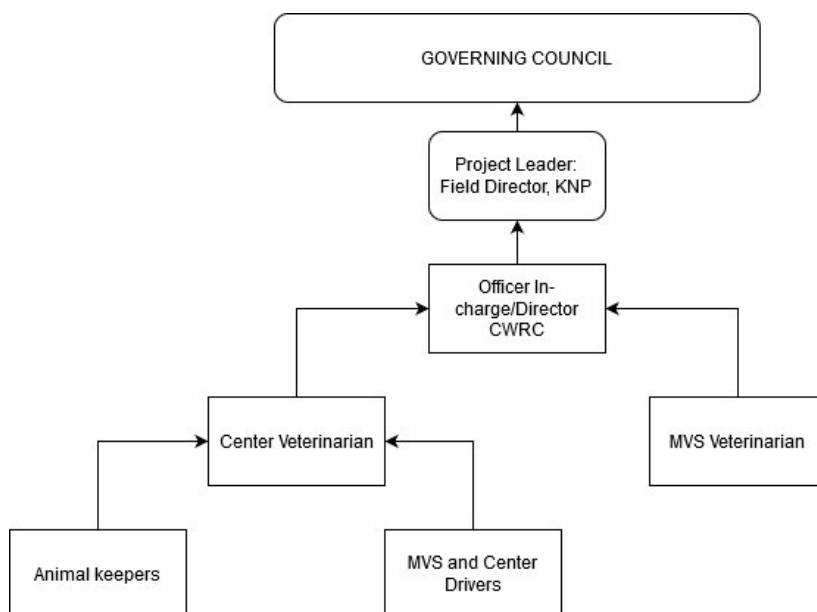


Figure 4: Organizational chart of CWRC

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	Mobile Veterinarian	1	1
4	MVS Driver-cum-keeper	1	1
5	Animal keepers-cum-grass cutters	9	9
6	Night chowkidar	1	1

9. Capacity Building of Rescue Centre personnel (in FY 2021-2022)

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

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:** 15th July 2019

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:
 - i. Dr. N.N. Barman, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for microbiology and viral diseases)
 - ii. Dr. K.K. Sarma, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for elephant management)
 - iii. Dr. Bhupen Sarma, Centre for Veterinary Science, Khanapara (for anaesthesia, surgery and critical care)
 - iv. 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. Online personal interaction were carried out throughout the period.

12. Statement of income and expenditure of the Rescue Centre: Annexure 01

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: upto 2.5-3 years of age)	Milk formula (Skimmed milk powder+coconut milk powder+protein supplement)	40-50% of body weight	30-40% of body weight	No fasting
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	Concentrates and fodder	10-20% of conc. Feed	10-20% of conc. Feed along with	No fasting

	rhinoceros (weaned off:> 1.5-2 years of age)		along with <i>Ad libitum</i> fodder and water	<i>Ad libitum</i> fodder and water	
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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, Praziquantal, pyrantel palmoate (depending on the identity and load of the endo-parasites)	Every six months after faecal examination
2.	Asian elephants and greater one-horned rhinoceros	Fenbendazole, Oxyclozoxide+Levamisole (Neozide)	Every 3-6 months interval based on faecal examination

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. Samshul Ali	Veterinary surgeon	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
02	Mahadeo Das	Senior Driver	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
03	Horeswar Das	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
04	Lakhiram Das	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
05	Raju Kutum	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
06	Romen Das	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
07	Hemanta Das	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
08	Amal Das	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
09	Tarun Gogoi	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	Healthy and NAD
10	Hemakhanta Nath	Animal keeper	23rd Feb 2022	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'21 – Mar'22). Some minor renovations and routine repairs were undertaken as follows:

- Removal of Bamboo in the paddock, turn over and disinfection of soil, replacement of Agrinet 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.
- Routine Weeding from entire campus.

19. Important Events and happenings

Date	Event	Type	Attended by
3 rd Mar'22	Wild life day	Education/ Awareness and Capacity building	Students, Local NGO, DFO KNP
14 th Mar '22-20 th Mar'22	Azadi ka Amrit Mahatsov	Education/Awareness	Students, NGO

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 2021-2022

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 2021 – Jun 2021)						
1.	01-04-21	Tokay Gecko (0:0:1:1)	Bokakhat		02-04-21	CWRC
2.	02-04-21	Wolf snake (0:0:1:1)	Mohmaiki		01-04-21	Mohmaiki
3.	04-04-21	Himalayan Griffon (0:0:1:1)	Nimati		12-04-21	Nimati
4.	12-04-21	Monocled cobra (0:0:1:1)	CWRC		13-04-21	Methoni
5.	14-04-21	Himalayan Griffon (0:0:1:1)	Jorhat		25-04-21	Arikata
6.	14-04-21	Checkered Keelback (0:0:1:1)	CWRC		15-04-21	Panbarigaon
7.	19-05-21	Red wattled lapwing (0:0:1:1)	Bokakhat		19-05-21	Bokakhat
8.	08-06-21	Grey cat snake (0:0:1:1)	Methoni		08-06-21	CWRC
9.	25-06-21	Cattle Egret (0:0:3:3)	Tangla Ward no.1		07-07-21	CWRC
10.	17-06-21	Rose ringed parakeet (2:0:0:2)	Tezpur		05-07-21	CWRC
QUARTER 2 (July 2021 – September 2021)						
11.	08-07-21	Wild Boar (1:4:0:5)	Behoguri		21-07-21	CWRC
12.	23-07-21	Peacock soft shelled turtle (0:0:1:1)	Kohora		24-07-21	Mihimukh
13.	07-08-21	Asian Koel (0:0:1:1)	Panbari		30-08-21	CWRC
14.	29-08-21	Oriental pied hornbill (1:0:0:1)	Naharjan		05-09-21	CWRC
15.	24-09-21	Copper headed Trinket snake (0:0:1:1)	Panbari		24-09-21	Panbari
QUARTER 3 (October 2021 – December 2021)						
16.	06-10-21	Oriental pied hornbill (0:0:1:1)	Kalyani TE		30-10-21	CWRC
17.	19-10-21	Scops owl (0:0:1:1)	Bokakhat		21-10-21	CWRC
18.	04-11-21	Barn owl (0:0:1:1)	Tezpur		06-11-21	CWRC
19.	13-11-21	Yellow footed green pigeon (0:0:1:1)	Bokakhat		15-11-21	CWRC
20.	21-11-21	Rhesus macaque (1:0:0:1)	Bokakhat		28-11-21	Latabari
QUARTER 4 (January 2022 – March 2022)						
21.	21-01-22	Hare (0:1:0:1)	Subujuri		21-01-22	CWRC
22.	22-01-22	Hog deer (0:1:0:1)	Bokakhat		22-01-22	Agoratoli
23.	02-02-22	Common palm civet	Tezpur		03-02-22	Modarjuri

24.	08-02-22	Sambar (1:0:0:1)	Dolamora Ashram		08-02-22	Modarjuri
25.	24-03-22	Rhesus Macaque (1:0:0:1)	Bokakhat		26-03-22	CWRC

23. Annual Inventory of animals

Form – II

[See Rule 11(1)]

Part – A

Inventory Report for the Year:

Endangered Species*

.No.	Animal Name	Scientific name	Opening Stock as on 1 st April 2021				Births			Acquisition			Disposal (transferred)			Death			Closing Stock as on 31 st March 2022			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1	Common leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	2	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	5
2	Asian elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	3	6	0	9	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	6	0	11
3.	Greater One-horned rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	

*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
1	“Buree”	Asian elephant	F	19 th April	Respiratory failure

25. Compliance with conditions stipulated by the Central Zoo Authority:

Detail compliance report shared with CZA in response to letter no File No: 21-2/2019-CZA (vol 1) E – Part-1 of grant of recognition issued to the zoo)

26. Photographs of major activities undertaken in 2021-2022



Figs: Top left 1: greater one horned rhino relocation, top right 2:Elephant calves at CWRC , bottom left 3: rehabilitating egret chick, bottom right 4: capacity building training of FD staff at CWRC



F-13, Sector-8

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