



Kaziranga Animal Corridor

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Why in News

There are cases of clearance of forest land, digging and construction activities on at least three animal corridors within the **eco-sensitive zone** of the **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve**.

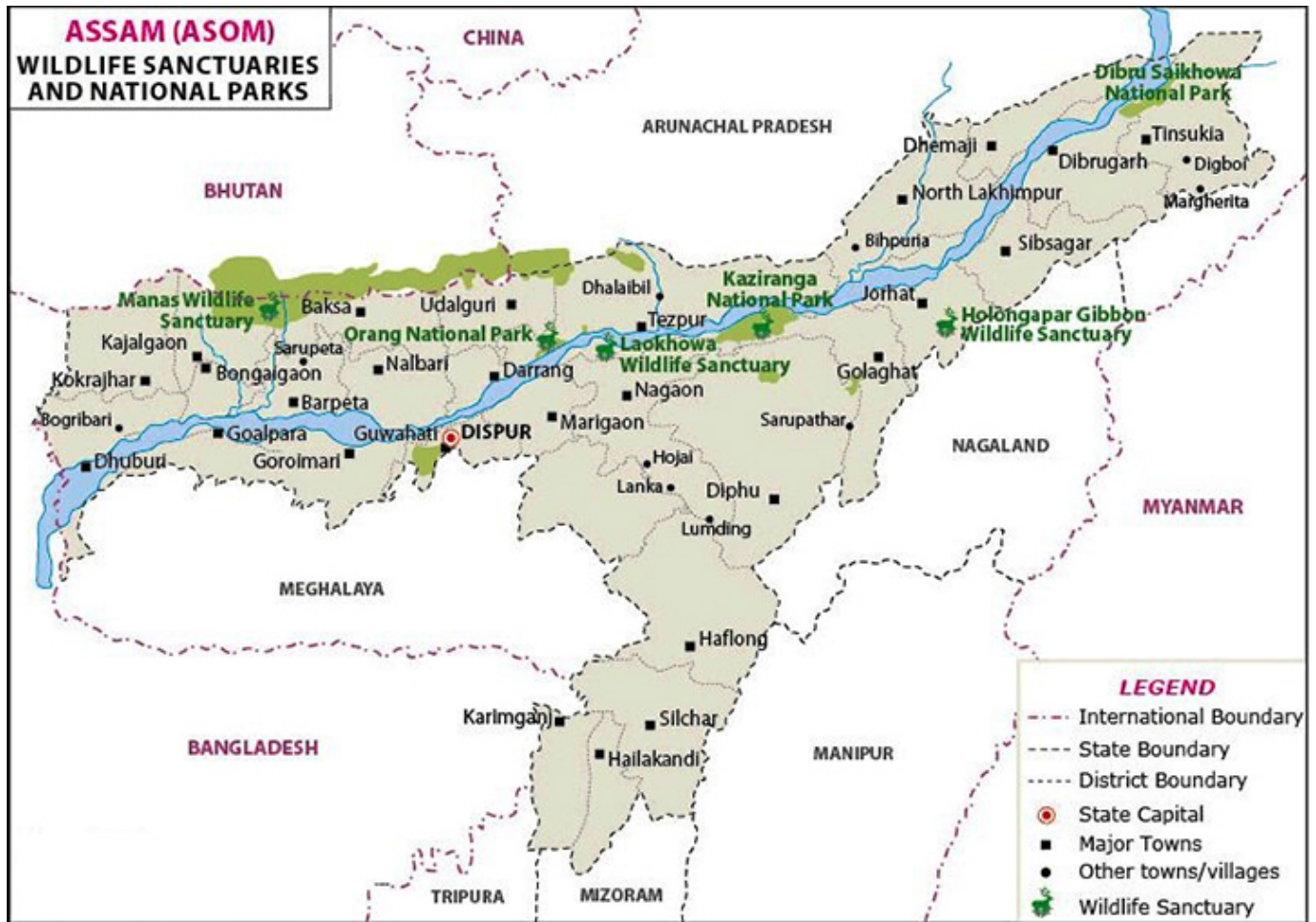
The **Supreme Court of India in its 2019 order** had said that “**No new construction shall be permitted on private lands which form part of the nine identified animal corridors.**”

Key Points

- **About the Animal Corridor:**
 - **Wildlife or animal corridors** are meant to ensure safe passage for animals between two isolated habitats.
 - In wildlife parlance, corridors are mainly of two types: functional and structural.
 - **Functional corridors** are defined in terms of functionality from the perspective of the animal (basically areas where there have been recorded movement of wildlife).
 - **Structural corridors** are contiguous strips of forested areas and structurally connect the otherwise fragmented blocks of the landscape.
 - When structural corridors are affected by human anthropogenic activities, functional corridors automatically widen because of animal use.

- **Kaziranga Animal Corridor:**

- A special committee formed by the Supreme Court in its report had recommended the **delineation of nine animal corridors** in Kaziranga National Park (KNP). The nine identified animal corridors are:
 - Amguri, Bagori, Chirang, Deosur, Harmati, Hatidandi and Kanchanjuri are in Nagaon district and Haldibari and Panbari corridors are in Golaghat district of Assam.
 - The nine corridors that already exist behave as functional corridors, but according to the new recommendation, the corridors will **act as both structural and functional**, on the basis of need.
- The report suggested that **structural corridors should be made free of all human induced disturbances** except for the forestry and wildlife management practices. On the other hand, **functional corridors** (which might become important when structural corridors are disturbed), can have **regulated multi-use with restrictions on land use change**.
- **Significance of Animal Corridors:**
 - These corridors are **crucial for the rhinos, elephants, tigers, deer and other animals that escape a flooded Kaziranga during the monsoon months** for the safety of the hills of Karbi Anglong district beyond the highway skirting the southern boundary of the tiger reserve.
 - Once the rain clear, the animals make their way back to the grasslands.



- **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve:**

- It is located in the State of **Assam** and covers 42,996 Hectare (ha).
- It is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the **Brahmaputra Valley floodplain**.
- It was declared as a National Park in 1974.
- It has been declared a **tiger reserve** since 2007.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985**.
- It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by BirdLife International.
- It is the home of the world's most **one-horned rhinos**.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and second highest number of Rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.

- The **National Highway 37** passes through the park area.
- The park also has more than 250 seasonal water bodies, besides the **Diphlu River** running through it.

- **Other National Parks in Assam:**

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park,
- Manas National Park,
- Nameri National Park,
- Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

Source: TH