

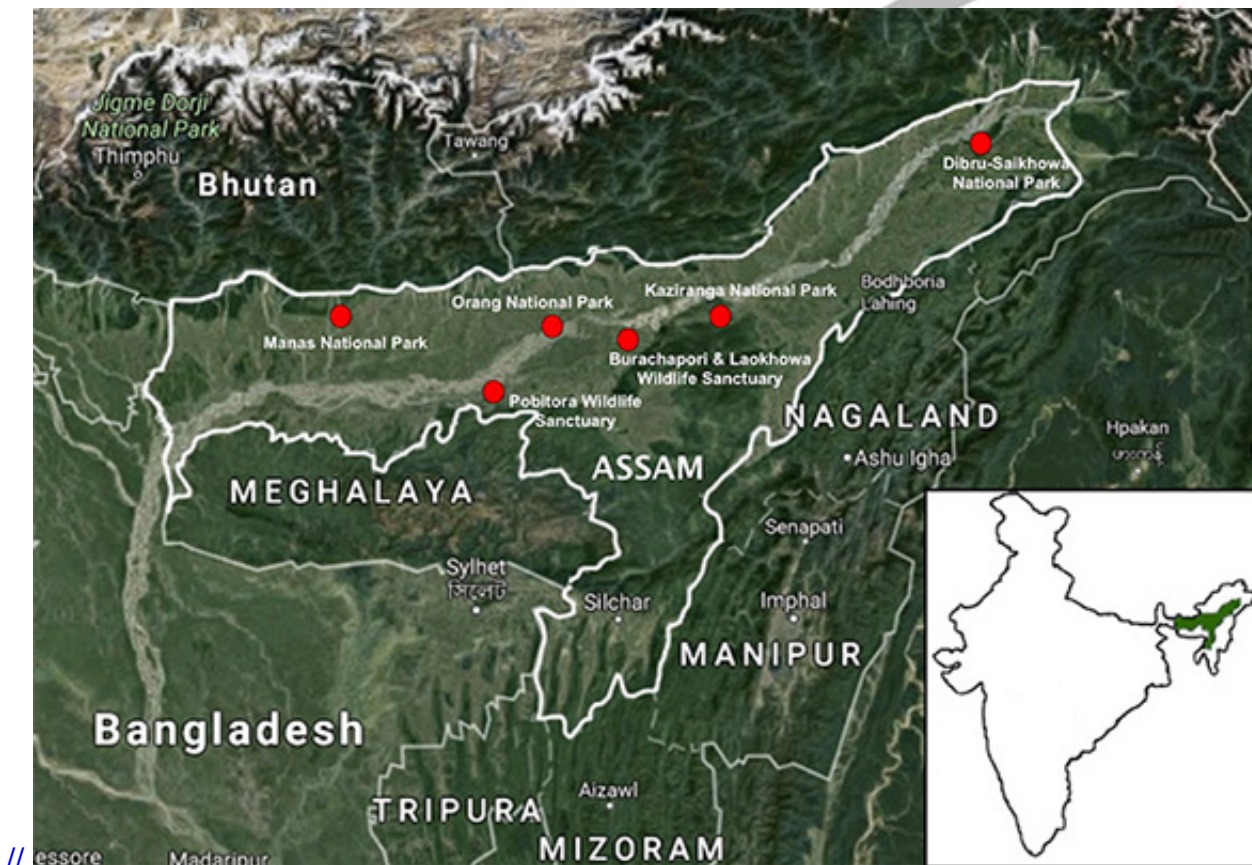


Pygmy Hog

Why in News

Recently, eight captive-bred **pygmy hogs**, the **world's rarest and smallest wild pigs**, were released in the [Manas National Park of Assam](#).

- This is the second batch to have been reintroduced into the wild under the **Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP)** in a year.



Key Points

- **Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP):**
 - The PHCP is a **collaboration** among **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust of UK, Assam Forest Department**, Wild Pig Specialist Group of [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) and **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
 - It is currently being **implemented by NGOs - Aaranyak and EcoSystems India**.
 - Conservation of pygmy hog was initiated by noted naturalist **Gerald Durrell and his trust**

in 1971.

- The pygmy hog was brought back from near-extinction by the partnership effort, and now moving towards the establishment of a population across the entire range.
- Six hogs were captured from the **Bansbari range** of the Manas National Park in 1996 for starting the breeding programme.
- The reintroduction programme began in 2008 with the **Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park** and **Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary**, all of them are in Assam.
- By 2025, the PHCP plans to release 60 pygmy hogs in Manas.

▪ **About Pygmy Hog:**

- **Scientific Name:** *Porcula Salvania*



◦ **Features:**

- It is one of the very few mammals that build its own home, or nest, complete with a 'roof'.
- It is **also an indicator species**. Its presence reflects the health of its primary habitat, the tall, wet grasslands of the region.

◦ **Habitat:**

- It thrives in **wet grassland**.
- Once found along a narrow strip of tall and wet grassland plains on the Himalayan foothills - from Uttar Pradesh to Assam, through Nepal's terai areas and Bengal's duars. Today found mainly in a small population in **Assam**.

◦ **Protection Status:**

- [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered
- [CITES](#): Appendix I
- [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): Schedule I

◦ **Threats:**

- Habitat (grassland) loss and degradation, and illegal hunting.

[Source:TH](#)

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