

HABITAT, CENSUS, DISTRIBUTION AND THREATS WORKING GROUP

The working group focussed on the following issues:

- 1) What are the populations that we would consider?
- 2) What are the present census figures for each of these populations?
- 3) What is the estimated carrying capacity of each of these populations for the areas that they are located in?
- 4) The major catastrophes and their effect on the population i.e. the mortality caused by these catastrophes
- 5) The major threats and the mortality caused by these threats
- 6) Feasible management plans and strategies to maintain a stable/viable population in the present areas of distribution.

Estimates and figures were arrived at after consulting secondary literature and notes from the field managers and biologists.

MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS AND STRATEGIES

Management problems and feasible strategies for each of the populations was discussed. A general agreement for the necessary action for the populations was arrived at

UTTAR PRADESH

- ▶ Sathiana population has its breeding grounds outside the National park on private land (in Gola and Gajrala). The Sathiana population uses these breeding grounds for about five to six months every year. These breeding grounds cannot be physically duplicated inside the park. Land acquisition is near impossible as the area has been politically oversensitised. Protection to the Barasingha in Sathiana must not eclipse the management issues dogging other endangered species in the area viz. the Bengal Florican and the Hispid Hare. Management measures that were suggested for this population are as follows
 - ▶ Creation of "chowkis" (patrol areas) during the crucial 5-6 months so as to mitigate the problem of poaching. The added patrolling will give only a better chance for the survival of the population and will not be a solution to all the threats to the population.
 - ▶ If the population Sathiana population drops to numbers of 75 and below, it would have to be relocated to other areas within the protected area (not to a zoo).
 - ▶ There is the need to renovate the road connecting Bumnagar Chauraha, Sumer Nagar, Kema Gowdi and Gauri Phanta.
 - ▶ Other populations in Pilibhit and Katernighat need to be built up.

data source

TABLE I : Census estimates & carrying capacity figures of the various populations of the Barasingha

NAME OF POPULATION	PRESENT POPULATION ESTIMATES	CARRYING CAPACITY
Sathiana	125	400
Kakraha	500	700
Bankital	125	200
Bhadhi & Nagraha	100	200
Kishanpur	400	600
Katerniaghat	50	1000
Pilibhit	200	400
Hastinapur	25	50
Suklaphanta	1750	1000
Karnali Bardia	50	100
Kanha	400	2000
Manas	50	100
Kaziranga	575	800

Carrying capacity has been estimated as the maximum no. of animals recorded in the area in its history or the best possible no that the area could support, based on the intuition of the field managers and researchers from these areas.

Table II : Factors contributing to mortality and their estimates (in %) *Assumed from, based on?*

Name of population	Poaching	Flood	Predation
Sathiana	15%	20% (fawn)	10%
Kakraha	2%	1% (fawn)	10%
Bankital	2%	1% (fawn)	10%
Bhadhi & Nagraha	5%	1% (fawn)	10%
Kishanpur	5%	1% (fawn)	10%
Kataniaghat	15%	1% (fawn)	10%
Pilibhit	15%	1% (fawn)	10%
Hastinapur	20%	1% (fawn)	-
Suklaphanta	15%	1% (fawn)	10%
Karnali Bardia	15%	1% (fawn)	10%
Kanha	-	-	10%
Manas	-	-	-
Kaziranga	-	-	-

Catastrophe :

Since documentation of any catastrophe to the Barasingha population and related figures are not available, the group decided to consider a disease that would wipe out half the numbers of the present populations (i.e mortality caused by the catastrophe would be 50% of the population).

TABLE III : RECRUITMENT FIGURES FOR VARIOUS CLASSES OF BARASINGHA *Data Source ?*

AREA	MALES:100 FEMALES	FAWNS:100 FEMALES
Satiana	54.8	44.30
Kakraha	54.8	44.30
Bankital	54.8	44.30
Bhadhi & Nagraha	54.8	44.30
Kishanpur	54.8	44.30
Katernighat	54.8	44.30
Pilibhit	54.8	44.30
Suklaphanta	45.71	46
Karnali Bardia	45.71	46
Hastinapur	-	
Kanha	59.45	36.29
Manas	-	-
Kaziranga	47.05	30