

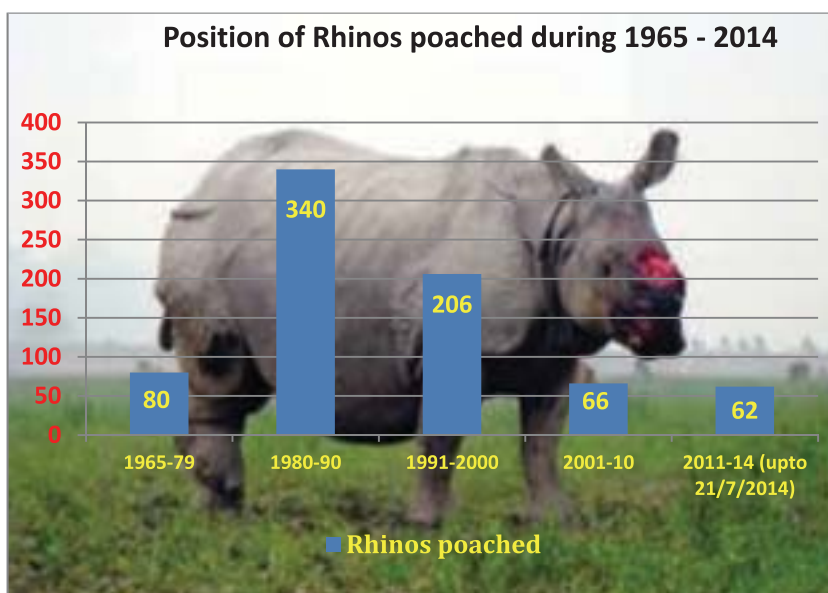


CHAPTER – IV ANTI-POACHING ACTION PLAN

Introductory

10.1.1 As discussed in some of the preceding paragraphs, the major challenge at present is the poaching of Rhinos. The decade-wise position on poaching of Rhinos *vis-a-vis* during 2008-14 are as discussed below:

	1965-79	1980-90	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-14 (upto 21/7/14)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (upto 21/7/14)
Rhinos poached (total)	80	340	206	66	62	06	06	05	03	11	27	21
Yearly average	5	34	20	7	18							



10.1.2 Thus, poaching of Rhinos is not an isolated problem of the recent past but infact it had a history of over 50 years, of which 1980-90 saw the worst phase

when over 340 Rhinos with annual average of over 34 Rhinos were killed. However, the position improved considerably during the next two decades registering annual average of 20 and 7 respectively. Again the trend is shooting upward during the past few years and during the last two years (till 21-7-2014) 48 Rhinos had been poached.

10.1.3 Audit had carried out a detailed analysis of the anti-poaching measures and attempted to identify the issues and challenges which are discussed in the following paragraphs:

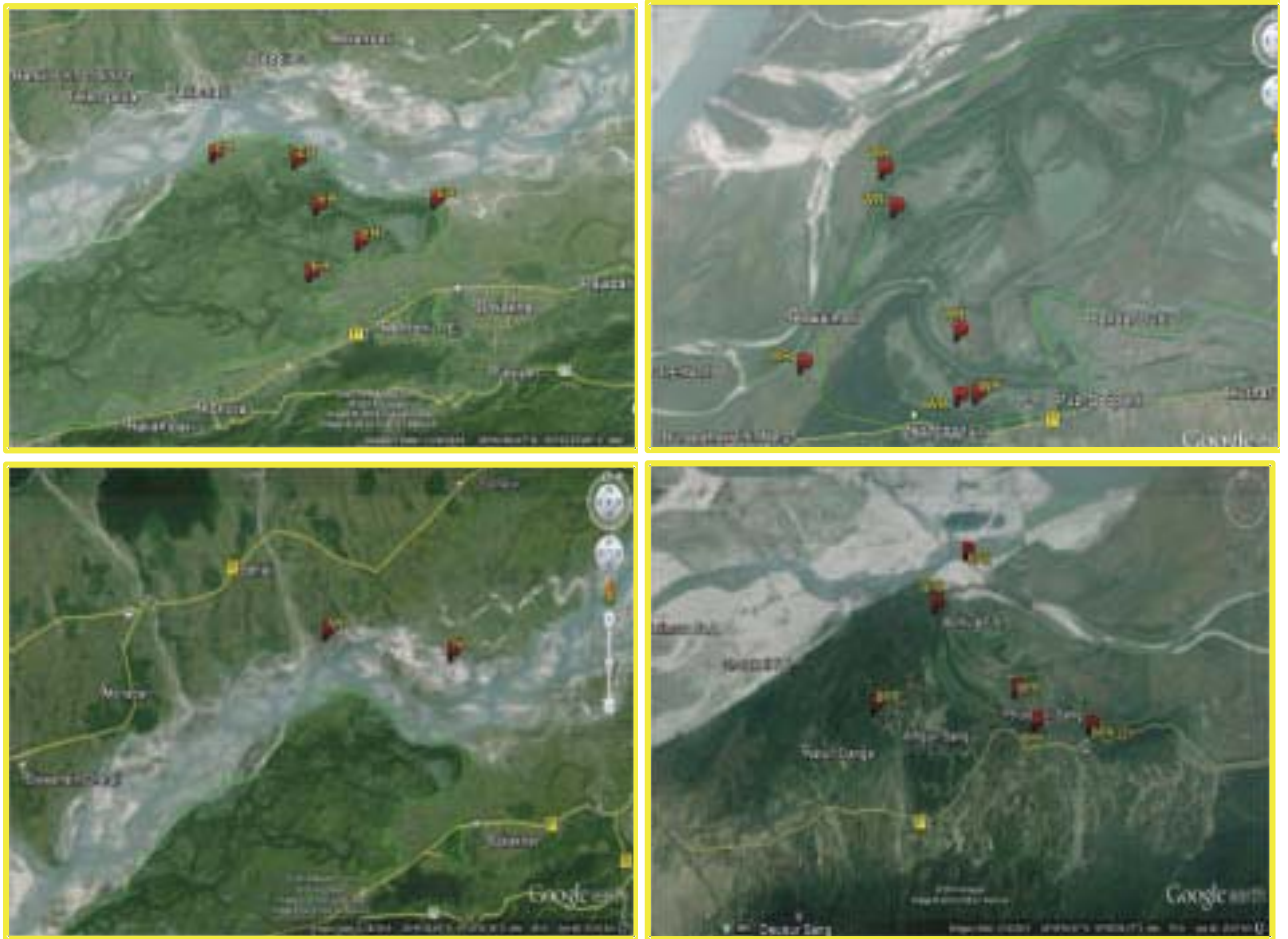
Anti-poaching camps

10.2.1 As of date, 165 anti-poaching camps had been established across the park for protection measures. The locations of these camps are depicted through a diagram enclosed as **Annexure B**.

10.2.2 While there are a number of camps inside the park, there has been real dearth of camp on the periphery of the park boundary. This is important as the park is surrounded by 110 villages with population of 2.60 lakh and there had been strong evidences that the poachers had taken shelter in these villages before striking. Audit had analysed the GPS locations of the 21 out of 27 Rhino poaching instances¹ **during 2013** which revealed that in most of the cases the poachers struck near the periphery of the park, either near NH 37 (Bagori and Burapahar Range) or across river Brahmaputra on north side of the park. The following table and the snapshot show the details.

Items	Name of the Ranges			
	Eastern	Western	Burapahar	Northern
Area covered (in sq km)	120	120	82	376
No of camps	37	37	19	22
Poaching incident	6	6	7	2

¹ As GPS co-ordinates in respect of 21 poaching cases were readily available.



Satellite imagery of location of 21 poaching cases during 2013 {six under Eastern Range (ER), six under Western Range (WR), seven under Burapahar Range (BPR) –(two Rhinos were killed on the same spot) and two under Northern Range (NR)}- the yellow line denotes NH 37 while the green line is the boundary of core area of KNP.

10.2.3 The snapshots would reveal that the poachers had struck more in the peripheries of Eastern, Western, Burapahar and Northern Ranges. Further, in cases of the poaching incidents under Western and Burapahar Ranges, the poachers had also used the river route through the Northern Range. Evidently, the poachers took advantage of the porous boundaries and lack of surveillance in the periphery of the park. Besides, interaction with the wildlife guards of camps located deep inside the park revealed that instances of encounters/poaching in those areas were rare.

10.2.4 The Audit Team had travelled more than 100 km on road² and 20 km on river³ along the periphery to physically gauge the threat. It was seen that the eastern boundary of Eastern Range, Southern boundary of Burapahar Range and the entire stretch of 120 km river front under Northern Range can be flagged as 'highly risky' as evident from the correspondences made by the park authorities. The reasons are – Eastern Range shares a long boundary with fringe villages which do not maintain 'good relations' with the wildlife authorities. The Burapahar Range has a long border of 20 km touching NH 37 and on the other side is Karbi Anglong hills which is infested with insurgents.



Villages near the boundary of Eastern Range



Glimpse of NH (Burapahar Range is on the right - hardly any periphery protection)

It was observed that there are only two anti-poaching camps on the NH while the other camps are about 1 km inside the park. During interaction with the RO, Burapahar it was ascertained that there are three villages across NH 37 with history of sheltering poachers and these villages never co-operate with the wildlife authorities. This makes it impossible to guard such a long and porous boundary that too with risky fringe villages.



A glimpse of a tongi erected by the Wildlife authorities

10.2.5 Audit also noticed that in view of the threat and past experiences, the park authorities had taken preventive measures which had proved to be beneficial. For example, under Western Range four poaching instances in

Measures taken by park authorities had been effective in preventing poaching.



Installation of power fencing near Burapahar Range has contained poaching

² The entire boundary of Eastern, Central, Western and Burapahar Range.

³ Under Northern Range.

2013 took place in Kanchanjuri area (adjacent to NH 37) where a *tongi*⁴ has been constructed and staff are posted at night to keep vigil on the large spread of grassland frequented by Rhinos. There has been no poaching in this area till date.

10.2.6 In Burapahar Range also there were four poaching cases near Deopani bridge where the Rhinos had come very close to the NH 37. The park authorities had installed power fencing along the area due to which Rhinos don't come close to the NH. There has been no poaching reported from this area ever since.

10.2.7 As regards Northern Range, it was noticed that while there are 143 anti-poaching camps manning the original core area of 429 sq km including the 1st and 4th additional areas, there are **only 22 camps in the sixth additional area which is about 376**



A glance of Riverfront under 6th addition area

sq km. Of these, there are only four floating camps covering more than 120 km stretch of mighty Brahmaputra while the other camps are located on both banks of the river. The risk and threat posed by the *chapories*, fishermen and fringe villagers in and around Northern Range has been discussed in the



Some of the camps under 6th addition area for which GPS coordinates are available

paragraph under sixth addition *infra*. Interaction with the wildlife guards revealed that though the Northern Range had been created in 2008, it was only in 2013-14 that the Range had initiated identifying the requirements and locations of new camps. A list of 20 such new proposed camps had been prepared, though the same had not been forwarded to the park authorities till date. On the issue being raised by Audit, the staff recalled preparing such a list which was collected by the Audit Team.

⁴ Temporary elevated structure.

10.2.8 Despite these threats and risks which highlight periphery security as the major concern, Audit scrutiny of the records revealed that except for some disparate efforts as pointed out above the park authorities are yet to come out with a fool proof action plan on periphery protection. Also, despite the increasing trend of Rhino poaching over last three years, neither the Directorate nor the Department had taken verifiable efforts in fulfilling the gaps regarding protection of Rhinos as discussed in subsequent paragraphs.

Intelligence gathering

10.3.1 In view of the porous boundaries and acute staff shortage as discussed in the preceding paragraphs, it is of prime importance that a strong intelligence gathering network is established to plug the gaps. The DFO, i/c KNP in his letter of May 2014 had also highlighted this fact and advised the range officers to chalk out their protection strategies based on intelligence inputs.

Year	Allocation of funds			Position of Rhino poaching		
	Funds allocated		Total funds allocated	Year	Rhino poached	Poacher arrested
	CSS	State				
2010-11	0.25	0.25	0.50	2010	5	2
2011-12	0.50	0.50	1.00	2011	3	5
2012-13	1.00	0	1.00	2012	12	113
Total	1.75	0.75	2.50	2013	27	65
				Total	47	185

₹ in lakh. Calculations shown separate as figures of poaching, poacher killed/arrested are maintained calendar year basis.

10.3.2 Audit scrutiny revealed that only ₹ 2.50 lakh was allocated for intelligence gathering to the park authorities during 2010-11 to 2012-13. This was despite the fact that there was an increase in poaching incidents as well as arrests of poachers during these three years as depicted in the table.

10.3.3 Interaction with the Wildlife Officers revealed that timely receipt of intelligence input enables the Wildlife authorities to kill or nab the poachers. Such inputs are also received from the fringe villagers having passion for wildlife conservation and protection. However, in maximum instances information are to be 'purchased'. It was also gathered that credible information at times cost ₹ 1 lakh each. This when read with the fund allocation *vis-à-vis* the numbers of Rhinos poached/poachers killed and arrested during 2010-2013 not only highlights the apathy on the part of the Directorate/Department in allocating sufficient funds for the purpose but also reveals that the park authorities had indeed achieved an uphill task with negligible financial support.

10.3.4 It was further observed that the Department had not put in place a system of suitably rewarding the informers in cases where the information leads to nabbing/killing of poachers. Neither has the Department instituted a system of securing the future of the informers in case they are targeted by poachers. Interaction with villagers including the presidents of the EDCs revealed that they are

scared of passing information about poachers because of life threat involved in the matter.

10.3.5 A system of suitably rewarding and ensuring financial security of the family members of the informers would have been definitely beneficial for the park authorities in receiving timely inputs about the movement of the poachers.

10.3.6 In reply, the Department admitted that the system of providing financial incentives to the informers is not institutionalised in the Department.

Monitoring of poachers/linkmen

Use of Information and Communication techniques (ICT)

10.4.1 Monitoring of poachers/linkmen could be done through (i) physical tracking, (ii) aerial tracking and (iii) intelligence gathering - inputs from the informers.

10.4.2 The park authorities had agreed that in view of the vastness of the territory of the park and the given manpower, it is not possible to guard each and every nook and corner of the park. Physical tracking of the movement of the poachers/linkmen is also difficult in view of the acute shortage of men in position which is not even sufficient to guard the park. The other option of tracking through intelligence inputs also largely depends on the informers as there is hardly any fund. Thus, the only viable option for the park authorities at present is aerial tracking.

10.4.3 Audit observed that KNP did not take any action to obtain call data records (CDR) of communication exchanges within and around the Park as part of its intelligence gathering efforts. Incidentally, the DFO, Mangaldoi in-charge of R G Orang National Park has exercised the provisions of Section 50 (7) & (8) of the Act and obtained the CDR and other information from the service providers based on which several poachers/ linkmen were apprehended.

10.4.4 In view of the above and the fact that the ROs/ACF in-charge of the Ranges are hard pressed with the protection duties and day to day functioning, a special cell needs to be put in place at the headquarters of the KNP with personnel drawn from intelligence agencies of the Centre/State, Police, Army and para-military forces specially trained in intelligence gathering from the public as well as use of ICT (CDR analysis and call tracking). The cell should have requisite mandates to gather intelligence as well as handle investigation of the cases having inter-State linkages.

Gujarat has constituted a 'Wildlife Crime Cell' to adeptly deal with wildlife crimes through intelligence gathering, exchange information with GoI, various central agencies etc and suggest measures to mitigate/curb wildlife crime. The Cell include personnel from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (GoI), state police, forest, coast guards and the customs departments.

The Cell collects details of suspects and provides inputs to the field units. It also follows up legal action in respect of ongoing wildlife crime cases, besides assisting the field units during the legal proceedings.

10.4.5 The Department appreciated the recommendation of Audit on obtaining the CDR and creation of a special cell. They stated that in addition to the CDRs, location based services would be more useful. They further stated that institution of the special cell for intelligence gathering and analysis would go a long way in strengthening the anti-poaching operations and averting the incident of poaching and nabbing the poachers. As regards the protection mechanism, they stated that the first unmanned aerial vehicle trial was done in KNP in April 2013 which could not be successful due to non-issuance of clearance by the Ministry of Defence. They further stated that the patrolling strategies are being overhauled and a fool proof periphery protection mechanism is being put in place. Regarding protecting the river route, they stated that two additional floating boats have been procured and a hand held thermal scanner provided to the Northern Range. It was also stated that there is a plan for construction of 30-40 permanent camps on Brahmaputra for effective monitoring of the North bank.

Availability of weaponry

10.5.1 During scrutiny of records it was observed that there are strong evidences of involvement of extremists in organised Rhino poaching. Various insurgent groups active in the Karbi hills and Sonitpur district are directly linked with this malady. Inputs received from credible sources in the police organisation obtained from the records of the park authorities also confirm that the criminal groups from the north eastern region having camps beyond the national borders had taken over the Rhino horn trade. The sources further added that the money made from sale of Rhino horns are used in buying arms and ammunitions by these criminal groups.

10.5.2 On the other hand, information furnished by the park authorities revealed that the present (30-5-2014) position of weaponry is : .315 - 193, .303 - 164, revolver - 10, DBBL - 41 and SBBL - 01 while 377 of the similar weapons are lying unserviceable. This reveals that the park authorities do not have sophisticated weaponry. Further the wildlife guards are not trained to handle these as has been discussed before. Also, the available arms (.303, .315) are not dependable as these are old and became defective prone to mis-fire. The position has slightly improved after deployment of AFPF jawans, as some of these jawans have been allotted with sophisticated weapons.



Glimpse of a defective pin and ejector

10.5.3 Interaction with the wildlife guards confirmed the fact that the poachers are armed with sophisticated weapons. However, with limited weaponry (.303, .315, double barrel guns) and lack of training, the wildlife guards often find it impossible to counter them. It was also observed from the records that there has been a practice of blank fire in response to the firing by poachers. This allows the poachers to identify the location of the forest guards and plan their exit routes accordingly. This also corroborates the inability of wildlife guards to face poachers carrying fire arms.

Gadgetry

10.6.1 State of the Art gadgetry is essential for mounting effective surveillance in the park having large grass fields and river front. An analysis of the available gadgets revealed that the park has nine binoculars and two night vision equipment. Further, it was observed that while distributing these, preference was given to the officers posted in the headquarters while none of the camps carrying out anti-poaching activities possesses any such surveillance gadgets. The absence of night vision/binoculars in the camps especially river camps which cater to more than 30 km renders large part of the river remaining out of surveillance at night. This allows enough scope for the poachers to sneak into the park without being spotted.

Item	Qty	Issued to	Stock in hq
Binocular	9	CCF - 1, ACF - 1, Research Officer 1, Burapahar RO 1, Northern Range RO 2, Western Range 1.	2
Night Vision	2	ACF (hq) and RO (Northern Range)	Nil

10.6.2 Audit scrutiny also revealed that in view of acute shortage of gadgetry, the park authorities requested (2007) the WWF for funds for procuring *inter-alia* 100 binoculars and eight night vision equipment. However, neither the WWF had released the funds sought for nor had the park authorities moved the Directorate/Department for providing funds for procurement of the gadgets- vital component of surveillance.

10.6.3 *The Department agreed that there is no way out without going for a full scale modernisation in respect of weaponry and gadgetry. They stated that a modernisation plan had been chalked out to equip the AFPF jawans with AK series rifles and INSAS rifles to frontline staff along with bullet proof (BP) jackets, BP helmets and vests etc. As regards gadgetry, they stated that there is acute shortage of funds for procuring the devices since each of the hand held thermal scanner cost around ₹3 lakh and as such scouting for funding mechanism is being explored. It is planned to equip all the camps with such sophisticated devices, gradually.*

Database/tracking the activities of the poachers/villagers

10.7.1 It was observed that the park authorities had prepared a database of poachers which contain electronic database relating to the poachers arrested during 2013 while the remaining database is maintained manually. However, the database contains only the names and the addresses of the poachers. Further, database does not contain the mobile/landline contacts. In view of acute shortage of manpower, it is quite unlikely that the movements of these known poachers could be monitored physically by the wildlife officers/guards. During verification of the records, it was also noticed that the arrests made by the wildlife authorities from the nearby villages are all following inputs from the informers. Therefore, it can be concluded that the response of the wildlife authorities towards poachers is reactive instead of being proactive.

10.7.2 Secondly, the park authorities are yet to initiate a database of contact numbers of the households in the fringe villages. Availability of the database of mobile/landline numbers of known poachers as well as the households in the fringe villages could have enabled the park authorities to effectively monitor the activities remotely with the help of CDR which is not being done at present.

10.7.3 *The Department stated that the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, GoI had designed an interactive wildlife crime database which is planned to be put into use.*

Conviction of arrested poachers

10.8.1 Conviction of the arrested poachers, linkmen, undoubtedly is one of the most effective deterrents which not only helps in confining the poachers in custody for sufficiently long durations but also sends a message to the others in the trade.

The Act with its amendments confers enormous power to the wildlife officers in dealing with the wildlife crimes and offences. Besides, the Government of Assam by an amendment had increased the minimum imprisonment from three to seven years and from seven to 10 years for subsequent offence.

10.8.2 As may be seen from the table, the Act, *inter-alia*, provides for recording statements by the wildlife officers and in case the same is recorded in the presence of the accused, the statement can be used as an evidence in the Court of law, which is not the case in respect of statements taken by Police Authorities. **This**

Sec of the Act	Recital/powers conferred on Wildlife Officers
50 (8) (a)	To issue a search warrant.
50 (8) (b)	To enforce the attendance of witness.
50 (8) (c)	To compel the discovery and production of documents and material objects.
50 (8) (d)	To receive and record evidence.
50 (9)	Any evidence recorded under clause (d) above shall be admissible in any subsequent trial before a Magistrate provided that it has been taken in presence of the accused person.

would mean that if a statement is properly taken to the satisfaction of the Court, there is every possibility that the offence cases can be converted into conviction leading to imprisonment of the accused for not less than seven years⁵.

10.8.3 It was, however, observed that there has been no conviction of poachers/linkmen till date in cases related to Rhino poaching. In all the cases, though the wildlife officers/guards had put their life into risk to nab poachers/linkmen/field-men, but in absence of conviction, these offenders often come out clean/on bail and indulge in similar anti-wildlife activities till detected and nabbed again. This has created a situation where the poachers/linkmen/field-men are roaming free posing threat and huge setback for the wildlife officers/guards.

The Wildlife Conservation strategy 2002 of MoEF, GoI prescribes – Law enforcing agencies must ensure quick and deterrent punishment to the poachers and the traders of wildlife articles, trophies etc.

10.8.4 The Audit team has held series of discussions with the key wildlife officers involved in anti-poaching activities and other stakeholders, sought replies of the park authorities against specific questionnaires which were corroborated with scrutiny of the records revealing the following deficiencies/issues.

- There is no register to show up-to-date position of the cases lying pending in various Courts depicting the numbers and names of accused, date of arrest/filing of case, police case reference numbers, number of hearings held till date, brief results of the hearings, whether bail granted to the accused and present status of the case.

⁵ As per amendments made to the Act by Government of Assam in October 2010.

Absence of such a system has denied the wildlife officers the tool to monitor the pending cases effectively. Further, monitoring the activities of known poachers had also hampered due to non-availability of the information on grant of bail to the accused.

- In absence of the above, Audit had to rely on the information furnished (November 2012) to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)⁶ of Assam by the park authorities which revealed that between 2002 - 2012 (upto November 2012) 74 Rhino poaching cases were registered against which 59 arrests were shown to have been made. Of these, final reports had

Year of offence	No. of cases	Charge sheeted	Under trial	Final Report
2002	4	2 (2005, 2012)		2
2003	3	1 (2003)		2
2004	4			4
2005	8			8
2006	5	1 (2006)	2	1*
2007	16			16
2008	7	1 (2008)		6
2009	6	1 (2010)	1	4
2010	6		1	5
2011	4		3	1
2012	11	2 (2012)	9	--
Total	74	8	16	50

* Records untraceable in one case.

been submitted in 50 (*i.e.* 68 per cent) cases and 16 cases dating back upto 2006 were under trial while only in eight cases (*i.e.* 11 per cent) charge sheet had been filed. The position puts forth an alarming situation where charge sheet could be filed only in 11 per cent cases while in 68 per cent cases investigation had been closed. Further, information furnished by the park authorities to Audit on arrests made during 2008-09 to 2012-13 *vis-à-vis* conviction revealed that 251 persons were arrested while not a single case could be convicted.

The GoI had established the National Green Tribunal in October 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forest and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal rights relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to person and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- The same staff and officers responsible with day to day protection duties, normal office works are carrying out wildlife crime investigations as well as attend the cases as and when hearing is held. Moreover, none of the Wildlife Officers had been trained in investigating techniques. Besides, there is no system of maintenance of case diaries in the Ranges. The absence of institutional memory makes it difficult to track cases which drag for years.

⁶ CID has been roped in to investigate the Rhino poaching cases.

Majority of the cases once detected by the wildlife officers were handed over to the Police authorities. This was despite the fact that the Act conferred more powers to the Wildlife personnel to effectively handle wildlife crimes. Besides, this has also increased the load on the Police Officers who are already overburdened with law and order and other

District	Period	No. of Rhino poaching cases regd	No. convicted	Remarks
Karbi-Anglong	2009-13	15	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 cases handed over to CID • Remaining pending.
Sonitpur		18	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 cases handed over to CID. • Remaining pending.
Golaghat		29	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 cases disposed off. • Remaining pending.
Nagaon		35	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cases handed over to CBI. • 12 cases not arrested. • Remaining pending.

administrative issues. Information obtained⁷ from the Superintendents of Police of four districts indicated that against 97 cases of Rhino poaching registered in various police stations during 2009-2013 under their jurisdiction, not a single case had been convicted. **In the absence of any conviction, the amendment made by the State Government in the Act to enhance the minimum imprisonment to seven and ten years remained on paper without being implemented in letter and spirit.**

10.8.5 Scrutiny also revealed that despite the above, neither the Department/Directorate nor the park authorities had ever attempted to analyse the reasons for low conviction.

10.8.6 From the above analysis, the following alternative solutions to handle the problem of low conviction emerge.

- *Special Courts may be set up to deal with wildlife crimes in the lines of NGT established by the GoI.*
- *In exercise of the powers conferred under the Act, amendments may be made in the Act so that the statement recorded under Section 50 (8) of the Act can be regarded as 'Evidence in chief' to be treated as final and to make Section 51 of the Act self contained.*
- *A high Power Committee may be set up to examine the legal hurdles/deficiencies in the existing provisions of the Statutes/training needs within the Department hindering conviction of the accused in wildlife offences. While firming up*

⁷ Information obtained by an RTI activist who had shared it with Audit on specific requests.

the proposal, the Committee may take into account the good practices prevalent in other States having major wildlife areas such as Gujarat, Rajasthan etc.

Till the above materialises, the following may be considered.

- Putting in place a check list of issues needing special attention by the wildlife officers while preparing seizure list and other evidential documents after consultation with legal experts.
- Making it mandatory for the wildlife Officers to deal with the Offence cases under the existing provisions of the Act instead of handing over the entire case to the Police authorities. Separate investigation⁸ may be made by the Police authorities in the cases registered under Arms Act.
- Special financial rewards may be rolled out for the wildlife Officers, public prosecutors involved in cases leading to conviction.
- A system of periodic monitoring of the pending cases including reasons for non-conviction may be installed. The reports may be prepared at the divisional level and submitted to the Department with specific remarks/inputs on the status/action being taken at the Directorate level.

10.8.7 The Department while agreeing that lack of conviction had been a major bottleneck stated that the situation is gradually improving. They also highlighted that in a recent case two accused had been convicted (August 2014) with jail term of five years which was the first of its kind in recent times. On being asked whether there is a system of obtaining legal opinion, the Department stated that the cases in Higher Courts are represented by legal representatives appointed by the State Government. However, they admitted that most of the cases on poaching are disposed off at the lower Courts where only the public prosecutors represent the Department.

Innovative approaches and other initiatives

10.9.1 Apart from the deficiencies discussed in the preceding paragraphs, a number of innovations as well as initiatives on the part of the park authorities/Department were noticed as discussed below.

10.9.2 The park authorities had installed electronic eye with thermal sensors around the park with its headquarters at the Central Range, Kohora. The system would sense presence of human movement within its range and send signals to the headquarters. The project is expected to be operational by December 2014.

10.9.3 The Government has from time to time taken a number of initiatives for betterment of the wildlife management in the State, namely

⁸ As directed by the Director General of Police vide letter dated 28 November 2013.

- Providing immunity to the wildlife guards from prosecution without prior sanction under relevant provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Amendment to the provisions of the Act to provide for harsher punishment fixing the minimum and maximum tenure of imprisonment for the first offence as seven years and 10 years instead of three years and seven years while in case of subsequent offence the minimum imprisonment had remained same and the maximum penalty has been increased to life imprisonment.

Recommendations (Anti-poaching action plan)

In addition to the recommendations at 10.8.6 supra, the following may be considered.

- *Anti-poaching camps and watch towers need to be installed at strategic locations along the boundary of the park. This may be backed up by a strong periphery protection network with constant patrolling by wildlife personnel and members of the Village Defence Parties, members of fringe villages to leave no scope for poachers sneaking into the park.*
- *The frontline staffing system needs to be revamped to inject able bodied personnel for protection duties. Setting up of KNP centric frontline cadre (with additional benefits/allowances) with fixation of upper age limit may be considered for deployment of dedicated staff. Training, specially designed for meeting the challenges, need to be imparted to these personnel.*
- *Sophisticated weaponry and gadgets need to be acquired and distributed among the frontline staff along with training.*
- *A database of licenced weapons around the park needs to be put in place in co-ordination with the district administration. Besides, extensive search and seizure of unlicenced weapons available in the fringe villages as well as the hills need to be carried out by forming joint parties from Army, para-military, police and wildlife personnel.*
- *The effectiveness of the AFPF personnel need to be increased by merging the force with wildlife wing and the control of the personnel deployed to KNP may be placed at the disposal of the park authorities.*
- *In view of the emerging threat, intelligence gathering may be given maximum emphasis while the Department need to ensure flow of required funds for the purpose.*
- *A dedicated intelligence cell with personnel drawn from the intelligence agencies of Centre/State, Police etc may be instituted at the KNP headquarters to handle the intelligence gathering and investigation of wildlife offence cases.*
- *IT techniques (analysis of CDR, mobile tracking etc) including the usage of location based services need to be put into extensive use by the intelligence cell as mentioned above.*