

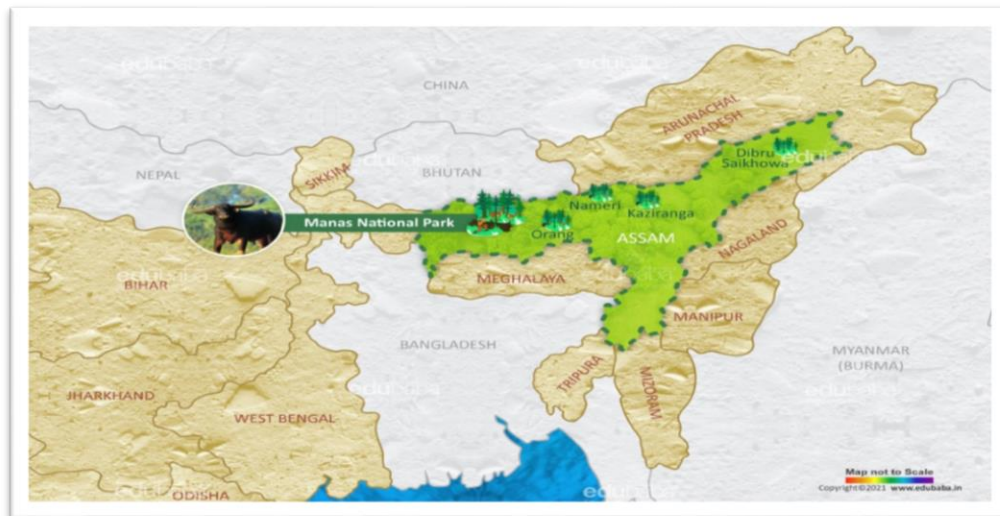
The online visit for March 2022 was proposed to undertake the following program.

Awareness Campaign about

Manas National Park as a wildlife sanctuary, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve in Assam, India. Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan

This was aimed to Study and let people know about this World Heritage site. It is a Promotional Tour and this visit (Online /offline) is expected to enhance Tourist Awareness campaign, School students awareness campaign , Tourist Stakeholder Awareness workshop.

MANAS NATIONAL PARK





Manas National Park is located in Chirang and Baksa districts of Bodoland Territorial Region in the State of Assam in North-East India, a biodiversity hotspot. Covering an area of 39,100 hectares, it spans the Manas river and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan. The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the core zone of the 283,700 hectares Manas Tiger Reserve, and lies alongside the shifting river channels of the Manas River. Manas National Park gets its name from the River Manas, which flows through the reserve and is also the major tributary of Brahmaputra River. Sprawling in a large area of 950 sq km, the national park shares border with Bhutan's Royal Manas National Park and is also home to species like Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog. The wildlife reserve covers Chirang, Darrang, Kokrajhar, Udalguri and Baska districts of Assam and has three ranges, namely Bansbari (Central), Panbari (Western), and Bhuiapara (Eastern) in it.

The Bansbari range is the only one accessible to visitors, the other ranges having poor connectivity and insufficient infrastructure. Hence most tourists visit Bansbari and then spend some time inside the forest at Mathanguri on the Manas river at the Bhutan border.

History:

In past, the Cooch Behar royal family and Raja of Gauripur used the park as a hunting reserve.

Manas was proposed a Reserve Forest in 1905, and declared a Reserve Forest in 1907. In 1928, it was declared a Game Sanctuary.

Manas Game Sanctuary was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950. Total area of the sanctuary was about 360 Km². In 1973, it was declared as Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger (total area – about 2837 Km²).

In 1985, Manas was declared as World Heritage Site (Natural) by UNESCO for outstanding universal value. Manas was declared as Biosphere Reserve under Man & Biosphere Programme of UNESCO (total area – about 2837 Km²) in 1989.

The Indian government added Kahitama Reserved Forest, the Kokilabari Reserved Forest and the Panbari Reserved Forest in the year 1990 to form the Manas National Park.

Manas was declared as a National Park in 1990. Total area of the park was about 500 Km². In 2003, Manas was declared as Chirang – Ripu Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant. It was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, following the advice of IUCN, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in 2011. In 2008, the area of the national park was increased to 950 km².

The name 'Manas' is derived from the Hindu deity, the snake goddess 'Manasa' and is also shared with the Manas river that transverses through the park.

Flora:

The combination of Sub-Himalayan Bhabar Terai and the Himalayan subtropical broadleaf forests makes Manas National Park one of the richest biodiversity in India. A total of 543 plants species have been recorded from the

core zone. Of these, 374 species are di-cotyledons, 139 species mono-cotyledons and 30 are Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms.

Aphanamixis polystachya, *Anthocephalus chinensis*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Syzygium formosum*, *Syzygium oblatum*, *Bauhinia purpurea*, *Mallotus philippensis*, *Cinnamomum tamala*, *Actinodaphne obvata*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Sterculia villosa*, *Dillenia indica*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Careya arborea*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Trewia polycarpa*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Saccharum naranga*, *Phragmites karka*, *Arundo donax*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Bombax ceiba* etc.

Fauna:

The sanctuary has recorded 55 species of mammals, 380 species of birds, 50 of reptiles, and 3 species of amphibians. Out of these wildlife, 21 mammals are India's Schedule I mammals and 31 of them are threatened.







Animals – Tigers, Leopard, Indian Rhinoceros, Clouded Leopard, Black Panther, Asian golden cat, Barasingha, Hoolock Gibbons, Smooth-coated Otters, Capped Langurs, Gaurs, Asian Water Buffaloes, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, Golden Langurs, Assamese Macaques, Slow Loris, Asian Elephants, Indian Rhinoceros, Sambar Deer, Chital





Birds – Bengal Florican, Giant Hornbill, Jungle Fowls, Bulbuls, Brahminy Ducks, Egrets, Pelicans, Pied Hornbills, Grey Hornbills, Mergansers, Serpent Eagles, Falcons, Red-headed Trogon, Swamp Francolin, Wreathed and Rufous-necked Hornbill, Marsh and Jerdon's Babblers, Pied Harrier, Ibis bill, Scarlet Minivets, Fishing Eagles, Magpie Robins, Bee-Eaters, Harriers, Como duck etc.



Reptiles – Assam Roofed Turtle, Monitor Lizard, Gharial, Snakes etc

How to Reach:

By Air : The nearest airport to Manas National Park is in Guwahati. Regular flights are available from Bagdogra, New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Dibrugarh, Goa, Jorhat and other major cities in India to Guwahati. Cabs are easily available from the airport for Manas National Park.

By Rail : Barpeta Road is the nearest railhead (32 km from Manas). Guwahati is another railway station close to Manas National Park.

By Road : Manas National Park is 176 km away from Guwahati which takes about 5 hours to reach. Cabs are available from Guwahati to the national park.