

Biodiversity of Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve as a Tourist Attraction Place, Sonitpur District, Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve, located in Assam, encompasses approximately 344 square kilometers of ecologically significant terrain along the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas. The protected area features diverse tropical semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests, extensive river systems, and high floristic and ecological complexity.

The primary objectives of this study are to evaluate the ecological, environmental, and commercial characteristics of Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve. The study examines the physical landscape, terrain types, soil composition, including Chapori formations, and extensive river systems such as the Jia-Bhorali, which collectively define the physiographic characteristics of the park.

Second, the study emphasizes the park's remarkable biological richness and ecological value by highlighting the existence of over 600 plant species and several animal species, such as tigers, elephants, and several rare bird species. Thirdly, it assesses the scenic landscape, distinct forest ecosystems, particularly tropical semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests, and unique wilderness characteristics that contribute significantly to the park's environmental value. Fourthly, the study examines Nameri's potential and existing status as an important tourism destination, with activities such as jungle trekking, river rafting, and angling contributing to its recreational and commercial significance. In addition, the study identifies major challenges affecting the reserve, including illegal poaching, hunting, seasonal monsoon flooding, and inadequate infrastructure, which require effective mitigation and management strategies to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable development.

Keywords: Conservation, diverse, ecological, environmental, floristic, management, potential, terrain, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve (NTR) is situated in the northern part of Sonitpur district of Assam and lies along the foothills of eastern Himalayan. It spreads over an area of approx 344 sq. km. Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve boasts a rich diversity of flora and fauna. It is well known for its scenic beauty and conservation values. Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve is one of the important protected areas on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra. It is about 40 K.M from Tezpur and the third national park in Assam. Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Area of over 1000 km' of which Nameri has a sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. Together they constitute a total area of 344 square km of which Nameri has a total area of 200 square km ^[1]. The park is the second Tiger reserve of Assam. The Park extends up to the east and south-west bank of the river Bor Dikorai from the interstate boundary at Sijussa to the left bank of Jia Bharali River up to the south bank of Balipara Reserve Forest. The Nameri National Park is surrounded by Assamese and Mising tribal villages.

The habitat of Nameri is made up of tropical evergreen, Semi-evergreen, and moist deciduous forests with cane and bamboo brakes and narrow strips of open grassland along rivers. Grassland comprises less than 10% of the total area of the park, while the semi-evergreen and moist deciduous species dominate the area. The Jia Bhareli River flows along the park's western and southern boundaries. In addition to Jia-Bhoroli river some other tributary rivers like Doigurung, Diji, Nameri, Dinai, Dikorai, etc., crisscross the park area. Bor Dikrai River

forms the eastern boundary of the park. The area is drained by the Jia Bharali and its tributaries, namely the Diji, Dinai, Doigurung, Nameri, Dikorai, Khari, etc^[3]. It is one of the richest areas in the world in terms of Plant Functional Type and Plant Functional Complexity. The area is influenced by the tropical monsoons, which cause rainfall to be seasonal and heavy, with an average of 3,400 mm of rain falling between May and September. The park was declared a reserve forest on 17 October 1978. It was set up as a Nameri Sanctuary on 18 September 1985 with an area of 137 km² as a part of Naduar Forest Reserve. Until then, the Nameri National Park was heavily used for logging. Another 75 km³ was added on 15 November 1998 when it was officially established as a National Park. The Jia Bhoroli river of Assam was famous since the time of the British Raj for the Golden Mahseer angling.

Objectives

To study the physiographic base of the park

To study the diversity of flora and fauna and different species

To bring to light the nature and characteristic and beauty of the park

To examine Nameri as a tourist attraction place

To examine the problems and threats of the park

METHODOLOGY

The work has been done through definite stages systematically one after another. First the topic for investigation is taken through intensive library work done to find out relevant information's in books, journals, articles, monographs etc. and also assembling personal experiences. Theoretical knowledge and imaginations, opinion, observation in the field and discussion with the neighbouring people.

In the second stage, collection of relevant data from the field and from secondary and tertiary sources are done. Primary data through observation in the field, collection of personal experiences and secondary data are collected from books, journals, articles.

In the third stage the collected data and materials are classified, processed and analysed depending on methodology available and prepare to represent the findings.

In the fourth stage, the analysed data, table are arranged systematically for analysis and explanation as a whole and write up the paper at the end.

Physical Settings

Physiography

Nameri National Park is characterized by undulating topography considering the formation and deposition of older to recent alluvium. The park is situated and extends up to the Arunachal Himalayas, and the terrain conditions show the nature and characteristics of the topography. The area is intersected by numerous streams running generally and precisely from north to south-westerly and eventually meet the Jia- Bhorali River, which further joins the Brahmaputra on the south. The streams originate from the Arunachal Himalayas and flow through the park considering the natural slope. The average altitude of the park varies from 80 meters (near the confluence of the Bor-Dikorai and the Jia-Bhorali River) to 340 meters above MSL (Mean Sea Level) in the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh Inter-state boundary. The area is mostly plain except along the northern boundary, where the terrain is undulating as the outer Himalayas are provided with spurs and hillocks. The aspect is southern with a moderate slope except in the hillocks, where the slope is steep in places. About 18 km² of Nameri National Park is undulating with small hillocks. Excluding the isolated hillocks, exposing the Archean gneisses in the southern part of the park and occasional outcrop of the upper tertiary sandstones at places over the northern boundary, the entire park is covered by alluvial deposits of recent and sub recent origin.

Climate And Temperature

Climate is the most important environmental element that determines the accessibility and seasonality of ecotourism destinations. Nameri National Park, being a part of the Brahmaputra valley, enjoys a sub-tropical monsoon climate with mild and partly dry winter and a warm, humid summer. The climate of this part of Assam is characterized by a wet summer, the warmest temperatures being experienced during the influence of the southwest monsoon season along with abundant rains, and a highly humid atmosphere throughout the year. Winter, summer or pre-monsoon, monsoon, and retreating monsoon are the distinct seasons experienced here in a year. The isohyet map of the Jia-Bhoroli basin shows an increasing trend in mean annual rainfall from south to north with an almost uniform trend along east-west stretches of the area. The monthly average temperature during the winter season usually remains above 10° C. Rains with thunderstorms start from March to May, indicating the onset of the pre-monsoon season. The period is characterized by a rapid rise in temperature and has a monthly average of 26° C. With the onset of monsoon in early June, heavy rainfall occurs, and the rising temperature is considerably arrested, the monthly average temperature being 27.33° C. The cold season is from December to February. The southwest monsoon season is from June to about the beginning of October. October and November constitute the post-monsoon season.

Broadly, the climate of the park can be divided into three seasons. These are the summer season from March to May, the rainy season from June to October, and the winter season from November to February. The summer season is hot. In the winter season, cold is experienced due to snowfall in higher ridges of Arunachal Pradesh situated to the north of the Nameri National Park.

Flora

The Nameri National Park is gorgeous in its variety of fauna and flora. The vegetation of the park includes various species of evergreen, deciduous, and semi-evergreen trees and Cane and Bamboo species along with shrubs, grass, and climbers. The flora of Nameri National Park ranges to about 600 ^[2] different species. The major tree species comprise the following species.

Table:1 Major Tree Species Of Nameri National Park

SL.NO	LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Gomari	Gemelina arboria
2.	Ow tenga	Dillenia indica
3.	Baji Ow	D.pentagyna
4.	Ganori Chapa	Magnolia griffitni
5.	Tita Chapa	Micnella champaca
6.	Bel	Aegle marmelos
7.	Siris	Saraca indica
8.	Sisso	Dalbergia sissoo
9.	Aam	Mangiferra indica
10.	Bogori	Ziziphus mauritiana
SL NO	LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME



11.	Madhuri	Psidium guajava
12.	Kadam	Anthocephalus cadamba
13.	Bor goch	Ficus benghalensis
14.	Lewa	Engelhardtia spicata
15.	Pani Jamun	Syzygium malaccense
16.	Amlakhi	Phyllanthus embica
17.	Owlata	Delina sarmentosa
18.	Pipoli	P.longum
19.	Kaurri lata	C.gracillis
20.	Hati Poita	Pothos cathcart

Fauna:-

It is interesting to note that the Nameri National Park shares its boundary with the Pakke Sanctuary. It is in Assam and also home to several species of mammals, birds, fishes, insects, etc. The second Tiger reserve, Nameri National Park, is also a biodiversity hotspot zone of Northeast India.

I. Mammals Diversity:-

A total of 54 species of mammalian fauna belong to nine orders and 21 genera^[4]. Of all the 40 numbers of Scheduled species, the Pygmy Hog (*Porcula salvania*) has been designated as critically endangered by IUCN under the threatened species category. Some of the species with their scientific name are given below.

Table-2 Major Animal Species Of Nameri National Park

SL.NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Assamese Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>
2.	Capped Langur	<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>
3.	Common flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista pallas</i>
4.	Royal Bengal tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
5.	Wild Dog	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>
6.	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
7.	Asiatic Elephant	<i>Elephus maximus</i>
8.	Pygmy hog	<i>Porcula salvania</i>
9.	Indian bison	<i>Bos gaurus</i>
10.	Clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>



SL NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
11.	Indian grey mongoose	Herpestes edwardsi
12.	Sloth Bear	Melursus ursinus
13.	Indian flying fox	Pteropus giganteus
14.	Common palm civet	Paradoxurus hermaphrodites
15.	Golden jackal	Canis aureus
16.	Sambar	Cervus unicolor
17.	Hispid hare	Caprolagus hispidus
18.	Bengal fox	Vulpes bengalensis
19.	Hog deer	Axis porcinus
20.	Leopard	Panthera pardus

Ii. Avifauna Of Nameri:

The biggest selling point of this national park is the large diversity of birds that live here. A photographer's paradise, Nameri National Park is one of the very few places in the world where one can see the endangered species the White Winged Wood Duck. There are more than 374 species of birds^[5]. found in this park. Some of the avifauna found in Nameri are given below with their scientific names.

Table-3 Major Avifauna Of Nameri National Park

SL.NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	White winged wood duck	Asarcornis scutulata
2.	Rufous necked hornbill	Aceros nipalensis
3.	Indian roller	Coracias beghalensis
4.	Small minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus
5.	Pied kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
6.	Rose ringed parakeet	Psittacula Krameri
7.	Oriental scops owl	Otus Sunia
8.	Ibisbill	Ibidorhyncha struthersii
9.	White tailed eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla
10.	Amur falcon	Falco amurensis
SL NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME



11.	Hill Myna	Gracula religiosa
12.	Streaked Spiderhunder	Arachnothera magna
13.	Himalyan Flameback	Dinopium Shorii
14.	Grey Headed Woodpecker	Picus Canus
15.	Great Hornbill	Buceros bicornis
16.	Lesser Fish Eagle	Lethyophaga
17.	Short Toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus
18.	Oriented Magpie Robin	Copsychus saularis
19.	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus
20.	Common Kingfisher	Acedo atthis

iii. Butterflies:

Back to predatory attack, butterflies, like several other creatures, cannot sting or bite. Therefore, to escape from predators, butterflies have evolved various protective adaptations, right from the blooded animals; butterflies do not have a constant body temperature from the egg to the adult stage. Their body temperature depends on the surrounding ambient temperature. A lower temperature slows down the physiological processes. Nameri National Park has recorded 124 species of butterflies, some of Following.

Table-4 Butterflies Species Of Nameri National Park

SL.NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	Striped Tiger	Danaus genutia
2	Blues Fluffy Tit	Zeltus amasa
3	Lime Butterfly	Papitiodemolues linnacus
4	Yellow Pansy	Junonia Hierta
5	Chocklet Albatross	Appias Lyncida
6	Punchinello	Zemeros flegyas

Cold-blooded reptiles are air-breathing vertebrates covered in special skin made up of scales, bony plates, or a combination of both. They include crocodiles, snakes, lizards, turtles, and tortoises. All regularly shed the outer layer of their skin. Their metabolism depends on the temperature of their environment. They are blooded animals. Nameri National Park comprises 15 types of reptiles and 7 types of turtles. Some of them are as follows:

Table-5 Reptiles And Turtles Species Of Nameri National Park

SL.NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	King Cobra	Ophiophagus hannah



2	Cobra	Naja naja
3	Pit Viper	Crotalinae
4	Python	Phython molurus
5	Rat Snake	Pantherophis Obsoletus
SL.NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
6	Assam Roof Turtle	Pangshura Sylhetensis
7	Malayan Box Turtle	Cuora Amboinensis
8	Asian Leaf Turtle	Cyclemys dentate
9	Russell Viper	Dabola
10	Indian Soft Shelled Turtle	Nilssonina Gangetica

V. Fishes:

Golden Mahseer is the famous fish of this national park. Some of the fish with their scientific name present in this park are:

Table-6 Important Fish Species Of Nameri National Park

SL.NO	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	Golden Mahseer	Tor tambroides
2	Shaort Gilled Mahseer	Tor Putitora
3	Sighoria	Labeo pangusia
4	Nepura	Labeo dero

2.5. Drainage

The Kameng River (previously named Bhorali River, now called Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh and Sie Bhoral in Assam) in the eastern Himalayan Mountains originates in Tawang district from the glacial lake below snow-capped Gori Chen Mountain with an elevation of 4250 meters. It flows through Bhalukpong Circle of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sonitpur District of Assam, India. It is one of the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River, joining it at Tezpur, just east of the Kolla Bhomora Setu Bridge. The Jia-Bhorali River is about 264 K.M (164 mi) long.

The Jia-Bhorali River forms the western boundary of the national park; its basin covers an area of 11,716 km² and lies between 26°37'N and 28°0'N latitudes and 92°0'E to 93°25'E longitudes. It originates in the great Himalayan ranges at an elevation of 4520 meters and traverses a total distance of 247 km through mountains, hills, and plains until reaching its confluence with the Brahmaputra. Perennial waters of numerous feeder streams coming from different ranges feed the Jia-Bhorali River. The basin falls in the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, accounting for 6.7 per cent of the total catchment area of the Brahmaputra River. Out of its total basin area, 10,239.8 Km² (87.4%) lies in the hills of Arunachal Pradesh and 1,476.2 Km² 6%) in the plains of Assam. The Jia-Bhorali basin has a truncated base; it has a maximum length of 157

Table-7 Water Bodies Of Nameri National Park

Sl No	Name of the Water Course	Nature	Location
1	Jia- Bhoreli River	Perennial	All along the western boundary of the Nameri National Park
2	Dihaipur Nala	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
3	Diji Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
4	Nameri Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
5	Doigrung Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
6	Upar-Dikrai Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
7	Khari Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
8	Bogijuli Nala	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
9	Koilajuli Nala	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River running through the area between Bogijuli Nala and Bor- Dikorai river
10	Bor-Dikorai River	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River along the eastern boundary of the park
11	Boimara Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River through Nauduar Reserve Forest
12	Monai Nala	Perennial	Tributary of Ghiladhari River starting from Nauduar Researve Forest
13	Selaikhati Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Ghiladhari River
14	Monai and Chota Ghiladhari	Perennial	Tributary of Ghiladhari River
15	Ghiladhari River	Perennial	Along the Eastern Boundary of Nauduar Researve Forest
16	18 th mile Nala	Seasonal	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
17	Upar- Sonai Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
18	Chotai Nadi	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Upper- Sonai Nadi
19	Bor- Sonai Nala	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River
20	Tarajan Nala	Perennial	Tributary of Jia-Bhoreli River

kilometers and a maximum width of 143 kilometers. In the Nameri National Park, the Jia-Bhoroli River and its flood plain covering an area of 163.4 km², which is 1.39 per cent of the entire Jia - Bhoroli basin. The river traverses a distance of 62 km from Bhalukpong, situated on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, to its confluence with the Brahmaputra River near the Bhomoraguri hill near Tezpur.

Sotal Nala is the predominant tributary of Jia-Bhoroli River. There are three natural wetlands (Beel), namely, Borghuli Beel near Baithakata forest camp, Kurus Beel near Putasali forest camp, and Magurmari Beel near

Owbarn forest camp, and salt licks at Balipung near Putasali camp and at Bogijuli of the core area. There is no such waterhole in the east and west buffers. The natural water sources of the park are sufficient for the wildlife except in the area up to 3 km south of the inter-district boundary in between Seijosa and Bogijuli camp. The streams and nalas of this area dry out from December to March till pre-monsoon showers occur. The natural water sources of the east and west buffer areas are also sufficient for wildlife.

SOIL:-

Nameri National Park is positioned on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra, extending up to the Bhabar zone (composed of older alluvium such as pebbles, cobbles, boulders, etc) along the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Assam. The terrace deposit, also known as the older or high-level alluvium, consists of a thick accumulation of unassorted, sub-rounded pebbles, cobbles, boulders, and coarse sandy clay matrix. Thus, quartzite, sandstone, shale, slate, and gneisses embedded in the formation of red soil and sedimentary rocks prevalent on these foothills represent the sediments laid down many thousands of years ago. The rest of the park, however, is composed of recent alluvium, which covers a large variety of soils. A well-defined 'Bhabar' formation is noticeable along the foothills. Most of the streams in this tract remain waterless during the dry part of the year, although further south the same streams run with water. Mostly the soil is composed of clay loam with fine sand. Some patches of 'Khoorkani' (quick sand) occur, formed by throwing up of mounds by activities of some type of earthworm in the land portion. Changing course of the Jia-Bhoreli River and other tributaries in the core area forms river islands (locally called 'Chapori' or 'Char').

Vegetation

Plants are grouped into flora based on region, period, special environment, or mate, and are consistently richer in the tropics and in other localized regions. Plant diversity depends on climate, altitude, soils, and the presence of other species. Plants are living organisms belonging to the kingdom Plantae. It includes familiar organisms such as trees, herbs, bushes, grasses, vines, ferns, mosses, and green algae, etc. These eco-regions are a part of the Eastern Himalayan Mega Biodiversity Hotspot. It is one of the richest areas in the world in terms of plant functional type and plant Functional Complexity. The Nameri National Park has relatively rich natural vegetation with numerous medicinal and commercial plant species.

The climate of this park is warm and humid with a dry cold season. The vegetation and forest types can be broadly classified into:-

- a) Mixed moist Evergreen forest: Evergreen forest patches are very few (found only 0.2 km² in the park) and are only 0.1% of the total study area (Smaller than 0.01% patches of evergreen forests have also been sighted, but it was too small to detect by imagery). The lone evergreen forest patches were present near Jia-Bhoroli River in Morisuti Camp.
- b) Mixed moist semi-Evergreen forest: Mixed moist semi-evergreen forest covers (163.22 km² of the total forest area) are almost 67.49% of the total land cover of the study area. Of the total mixed moist semi-evergreen forest, 134.98 km² areas have a forest density of 40-60%, 28.20 km² area was about 20-40%, and only 0.04 km² of the area has 20% forest density.
- c) Grasslands: The open Grassland area (15.7 km² of the total forestland of the national park) in the study area was 7.8% in total, which includes both tall and short grasses. The Grassland patches were scattered along the banks of Jia-Bharoli and Bordikoral rivers. Of the total grassland area, 10.36 km² was short grassland and 5.34 km² was tall grassland.
- d) Degraded forests or Scrubland: Degraded forest habitat was very low in the study area, indicating the potential of the wildlife habitat. Prior to the establishment of the National Park, a total of 9.18 km² of wildlife habitat had degraded owing to being illegally cut down by local people. Now, this area has been colonized by various shrub species. A few tree saplings have been seen to grow within scrubland.

e) Cultivated Lands: The cultivated land was found in the southern boundary of the study area along the Jia-Bharali river bank, where both the rivers, Bor Dikorai and Jia-Bharali, have united, and the area was 9.64 km². This area might have existed outside the boundary demarcation in the past and has presently been added to the park.

f) Riverine Forests: Riverine forest covers only 0.001 sq km of the park. These types of forests are of an initial stage and have just started to succeed the sandy riverbeds of Bordikoral.

g) Deciduous Forests: Pure deciduous forest patches are also less than 0.001 sq. km of the total Park's land cover.

h) Miscellaneous Forests: The forest area, which cannot be classified as a separate group due to being very small in patch but sighted in the Park, is categorized as miscellaneous forests. These are Cane and Bamboo forests.

Analytical Part

Nameri As a Tourist Attraction Place

Nameri National Park is positioned on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra, extending up to the Bhabar zone (composed of older alluvium such as pebbles, cobbles, boulders, etc) along the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Assam. As the zone is sparsely populated and endowed with deep forests and various types of animals, it provides ample scope for an ecotourism venture. The park located in this zone is one of the significant spots of attraction for tourists. The attributes of landscape such as geology and geomorphology, water bodies, vegetation, etc. have been described in this project as these are considered tourist resources.

Although it is one of the mega biodiversity hotspot zones of India and rich in Plant Functional Type & Plant Functional Complexity in the world. There are 600 species of flora found in this park, like Amari, Titachapa, Rudraksha, Hollock, Nahar, Orchids, etc. It is also rich in fauna, with 54 species of mammals like the Asiatic Elephant, Clouded Leopard, Royal Bengal Tiger, Pygmy Hog, Barking Deer, Assamese Macaque, Indian Hare, etc. There are 315 species of birds like White-winged Wood Duck, four species of Hornbill, Kingfisher, Vulture, Eagle, Ibis bill, Fairy Blue Bird, etc. Reptiles to be found here are King Cobra, Rat Snake, Russell Viper, Asian Leaf Turtle, etc. Fishes to be found here are Golden Mahseer, Short-Gilled Mahseer, Silghoria, etc.

This composition of flora and fauna of Nameri National Park gives much satisfaction to the Natural Enthusiast. Also, some scientist and researchers visits here to collect samples for further activities. One can see here the Golden Mahseer, which is 9ft long, and it is famous in this region, also known as the "Tiger of the Himalayan River". So tourists are attracted to those places which are rich in biodiversity.

Tourist Activities

Some of the most popular activities in this park include River Rafting and Trail walking to appreciate the natural wealth of Nameri. A wildlife trail of 5 K.M starts from Potasali Ghat and takes visitors through the abandoned channel of Jia Bhorali, natural salt licks at Pung Nala, and forest Patches. There are two watch towers in this trail to observe wildlife.

Another way to experience the beautiful landscape of Nameri is River Rafting from 13 miles to Potasali Ghat. The length of this route is 14 K.Ms. Visitors can also walk to learn about the nearby village about culture lifestyle of local tribe like Missing, Garo, Karbi etc. Entry permits for the park are obtained by paying entry fees at the Forest Range Office. Forest Guard are accompanied to the park. One can stay in nearby Eco Camps and restaurants. Photographers can take a camera to the park by paying fees. The best time to visit Nameri is from 1st November to 30th April.

Conservation History

One of the most important and challenging duties performed by park management is the protection. Anti-poaching camps have been at various strategic locations inside the park for carrying out protection duty.



Everyday their forest team of dedicated foresters undertakes intensive patrolling on foot, by boat, by vehicle, and on an elephant's back to ensure that the forest and the wild denizens are free from threats.

In addition to protection duty, they also monitor the wildlife of Nameri, including the Tiger and their prey base, by using the latest camera trap methodology. The two years of study state that 8-15 Tigers and more than 30 species are in Nameri. NTR also has the unique distinction in the country for monitoring Tigers using camera.

The Wildlife Management and Planning System requires consent authorities to consider the potential impact of development and activities on threatened species. To be performed adequately, threatened species conservation requires a range of professional competencies, knowledge and expertise.

In addition to promoting the ecological, cultural and social development of the Nameri landscape, the Government of Assam has constituted the Nameri Tiger Conservation Foundation (NCTF), a registered society. In this society, anyone can become a partner in conserving Nameri by donating generously to NCTF by consulting the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO).

Problems And Prospects Of Nameri :

The following are the problems and prospects faced by the Nameri National Park.

Problems:-

Nameri National Park suffers from the following problems:-

1. The park staff board is inadequate in the conservation of the park as there is a very small number of staff.
2. There is poor connectivity on the path of Nameri due to flooding problems in the monsoons.
3. Aging field staff and low level of motivation.
4. The government funds which are collected for the park are lacking adequate and timely fund flow.
5. Insurgency problems are also a major threat to this park. As many of the hunters come for poaching in the park is illegal.
6. It is difficult to gather secrets and intelligence because of government laws & order.
7. Erosion of soil is also a major problem of this park.

Prospects:-

1. The future prospects of Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve are very bright due to the presence of Anti-Poaching Camps and their teams in strategic locations.
2. Maintaining and conserving great predators like Tigers are good in number helps to increase their population. So that they can exist in the particular location for a long time.
3. Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve is one of the mega biodiversity, hotspot zone of North-East India, by continuing the conservation of such plants and animals, birds, living organisms etc may be results as the existence of those species on the earth.
4. Conservation of such species of flora and fauna may attract more and more tourists to visit Nameri. As a result, the growth of Eco Development and development of tourism industries will be at a very rapid growth stage.
5. The Nameri National Park and its growth and development may give employment to many people who are unemployed.



6. Medicinal Plants available at Nameri may give researchers and scientist to the invention of such medicine of those diseases whose medicines have not been invented till now.

Safety Inside The Park:-

1. We should always wear dark-colored clothes, instead of wearing light colors like Red, Yellow, White, etc. These colors are strictly prohibited.
2. We must cooperate with the guide and forest guards.
3. We must not tease any type of animals, because we may get sometimes into danger situation.
4. We should not perform any kind of activities like smoking, lighting fire, playing music, cooking, etc. These are strictly prohibited by law & order.
5. We must maintain silence or talk in a low voice whenever needed.

SUGGESTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a visitor of Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve, I would like to suggest the following points:

1. The transport and communication system of Nameri National Park is very poor. The bridges are wooden not even a metallic bridge to cross over a small river. The roads and routes in these areas are moreover non-metallic (kuccha). Railway facilities are not available to connect with the developing towns and cities. The government should take measures to create bridges and roads. Railway services should be provided up to Nameri.
2. The information system of Nameri is not well-connected to connect other mobile locations. So, high-power technological equipment is necessary to convey messages amongst mobile locations.
3. The government should allow gathering secret information and intelligence to trustworthy persons, geographers, researchers, or scientists to know deeply and analyze the particular species or data. So if it is used it can be more profitable to the human species and humanity. For example, the medicinal plant. So the government restriction should be limited and open to trustable persons.
4. Conservation of species must be done at a high grade and the strength of park staff must be good in numbers. So that it will empowered people to get employability and to take some valuable knowledge to know more about wildlife.
5. Illegal poaching, fishing, and hunting are at a high risk. So the Government of India must have to stop such kind of illegal activities to save natural wealth. The government must increase the number of Anti-Poaching camps and forces.

The Government should pay attention to forestry and should possess training and educational programs in schools and colleges to attract the attention of students and people towards wildlife. They should enroll some courses on conserving wildlife open to all and wildlife photography.

CONCLUSION

Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve is one of the mega biodiversity hotspot zones of North-East India. It is situated in Sonitpur district of Assam and lies along the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas. It spreads over an area of 344 km². Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve is boasting with a rich diversity of flora and fauna and is one of the protected areas on the northern bank of the river Brahmaputra. It was declared a national park on 15th of November, 1998.

The drainage area of this national park is blessed with Jia-Bhoral, a northern tributary of the river Brahmaputra, which is known as Kameng River in Arunachal Pradesh. In the Eastern Great Himalaya Mountain ranges

originates in Tawang district from the glacial lake below the snow-capped Gori Chen Mountains with an elevation of 4250 meters. It flows from Arunachal Pradesh as the Kameng River via Sonitpur of Assam as Jia-Bhoral and adjoins the Brahmaputra at Tezpur.

The physiography of this park is mostly terrain and comprises small hillocks within the Jia-Bhoral basin. Soil extends up to the Bhabar zone, composed of older alluvium such as pebbles, cobbles, boulders, quartzite, sandstone, slate, and coarse sandy clay matrix. Formation of red soil and sedimentary rocks prevalent on these foothills represents the sediments laid down many thousands of years ago. These soils are called locally "Chapori" or "Char". The climatic conditions are that summers are hot and winters are cold due to snowfall in the mountains. The monthly average temperature remains 27.33 °C, and average rainfall is 3400mm between May and September.

It is one of the richest areas in the world in terms of Plant Functional Type & Plant Functional Complexity. It is rich in flora and fauna diversity. More than 600 species of flora are found in this park, such as Amari, Agaru, Titachapa, Rudraksha, Hollock, Nahar, etc. It is also rich in fauna, with 54 species of mammals like the Asiatic Elephant, Clouded Leopard, Royal Bengal Tiger, Pygmy Hog, Barking Deer, Common Flying Squirrel, Himalayan Giant Squirrel, etc. There are 315 species of birds like White Winged Wood Duck, four species of Hornbill, Kingfisher, Fairy Blue Bird, Ibis bill, Amur Falcon, etc.

Reptiles to be found here are King Cobra, Rat Snake, Russell Viper, Asian Leaf Turtle, etc. Fishes are to be found here are Golden Mahseer, Short-Gilled Mahseer, Silghoria, etc. Butterflies are found here, over 124 species like Stripped Tiger, Lime Butterfly, etc. Some of the flora and fauna presented here are at high risk and becoming endangered.

Nameri National Park is also a tourist attracted place of India. Also, it provides many kinds of tourist and visitor activities like trekking in the Jungle Park and River Rafting. It is famous for "Golden Mahseer" and four species of Hornbill.

The park is at high risk because of poaching, hunting, and fishing, which are illegal. The flood problem, which occurs during rainy seasons, causes soil erosion. Transport and communication are not good in these areas. For these problems, the Government of India is taking some measures to overcome them. So, the National Park will be rich in natural wealth in the near future.

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