

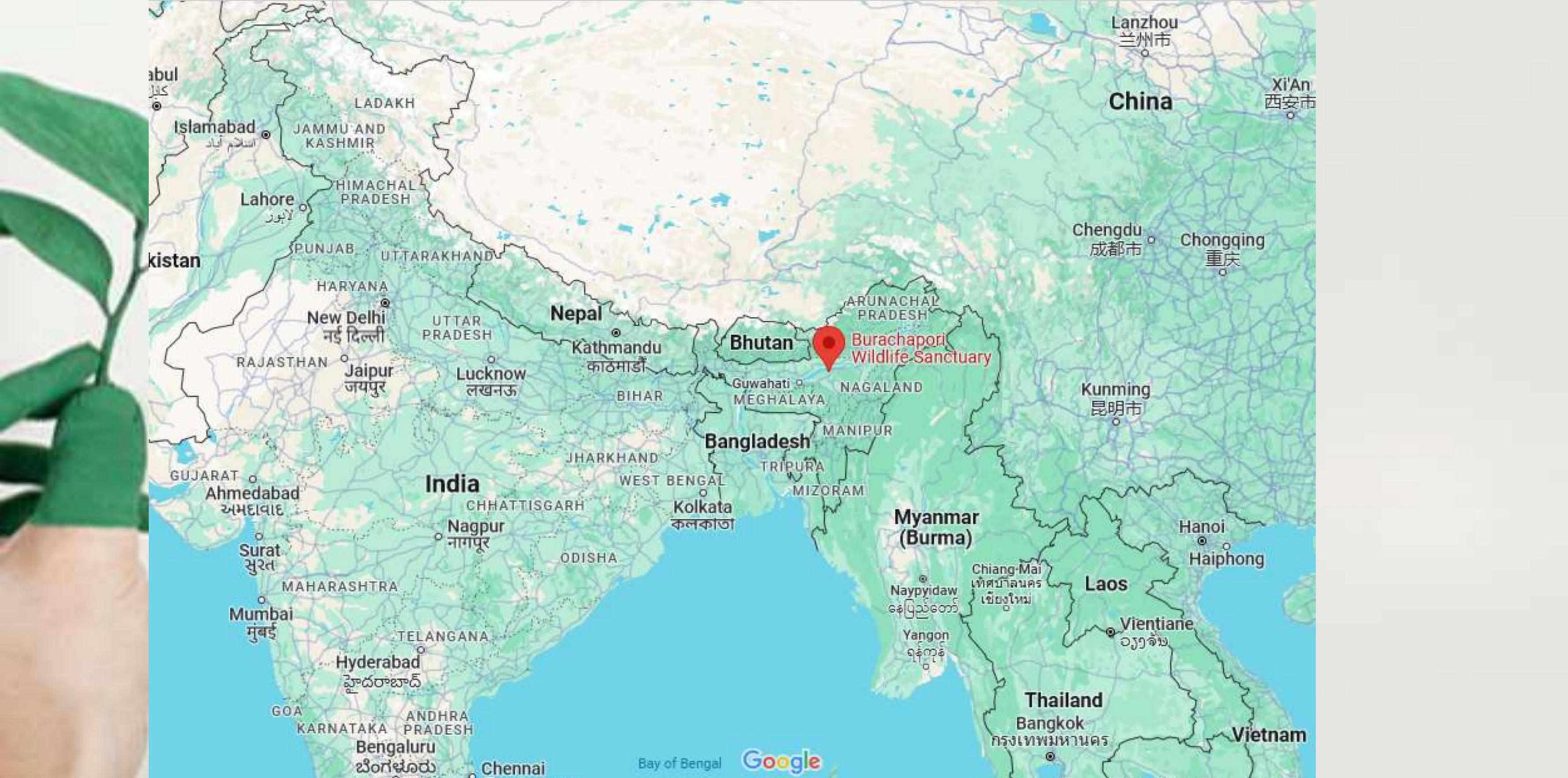
# ‘Impact of eviction’: Rhinos return Assam’s Burachapori wildlife after 40 years

Large-scale encroachment in the 1980s led to the edging out of most animals from the Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary

January 07, 2024 01:36 am | Updated 07:46 am IST - GUWAHATI



Representational file image of a one horned Rhino. | Photo Credit: RITU RAJ KONWAR



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**Burachapori  
Wildlife Sanctuary**

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- **Burachapori, which is part of the Kaziranga National Park (KNP), was once a heaven for the Rhinos and the population was more than 50**
- **But due to frequent poaching and illegal encroachment of land in the early 1980s, the rhino population went down to zero in 1983,**
- **Assam's Burachapori wildlife sanctuary has witnessed the presence of rhinoceros after 40 years, forest officials said.**
- **They said this happened because of successful eviction drives conducted by the state government last year.**

# About the Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary:

Dimension	Details
	Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Assam, on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in Sonitpur district.
Ecological Significance	It forms an integral part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem and is a notified buffer of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
Wildlife	Considered an ideal habitat for the <b>Bengal Florican</b>
Official Recognition	Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1995
Threats	The sanctuary is facing illegal land encroachment. Approximately 16,000 bighas of land recovered from illegal encroachers



- The **Assam government** had **last year carried out a massive eviction** drive to remove encroachments in forest reserves.
- **51.7 sq km of forest cover** was **retrieved** from the evictions across the state in **2023**.
- which led to a clearing of 1,282 hectares of forest land and **it allowed the rhinos to enter the protected forests easily.**



- “Since November 2023, rhinos were sighted at Burachapori and Laokhowa wildlife areas but they did not stay.
- Now two rhinos have started living here.
- They came from Orang National Park



## How endangered are the world's rhino species

White (two sub-species)



Southern Population  
**19,666-21,085**  
Northern 2

Status  
**NEAR  
THREATENED**

Black (four sub-species, one declared extinct 2011)



Population  
**5,040-5,458**

Status  
**CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED**

Greater one-horned



Population  
**3,500+**

Status  
**VULNERABLE**

Sumatran



Population  
**100**

Status  
**CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED**

Javan



Population  
**67**

Status  
**CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED**

five species of rhino: Black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinos.

# Kaziranga National Park- highest number of Rhino

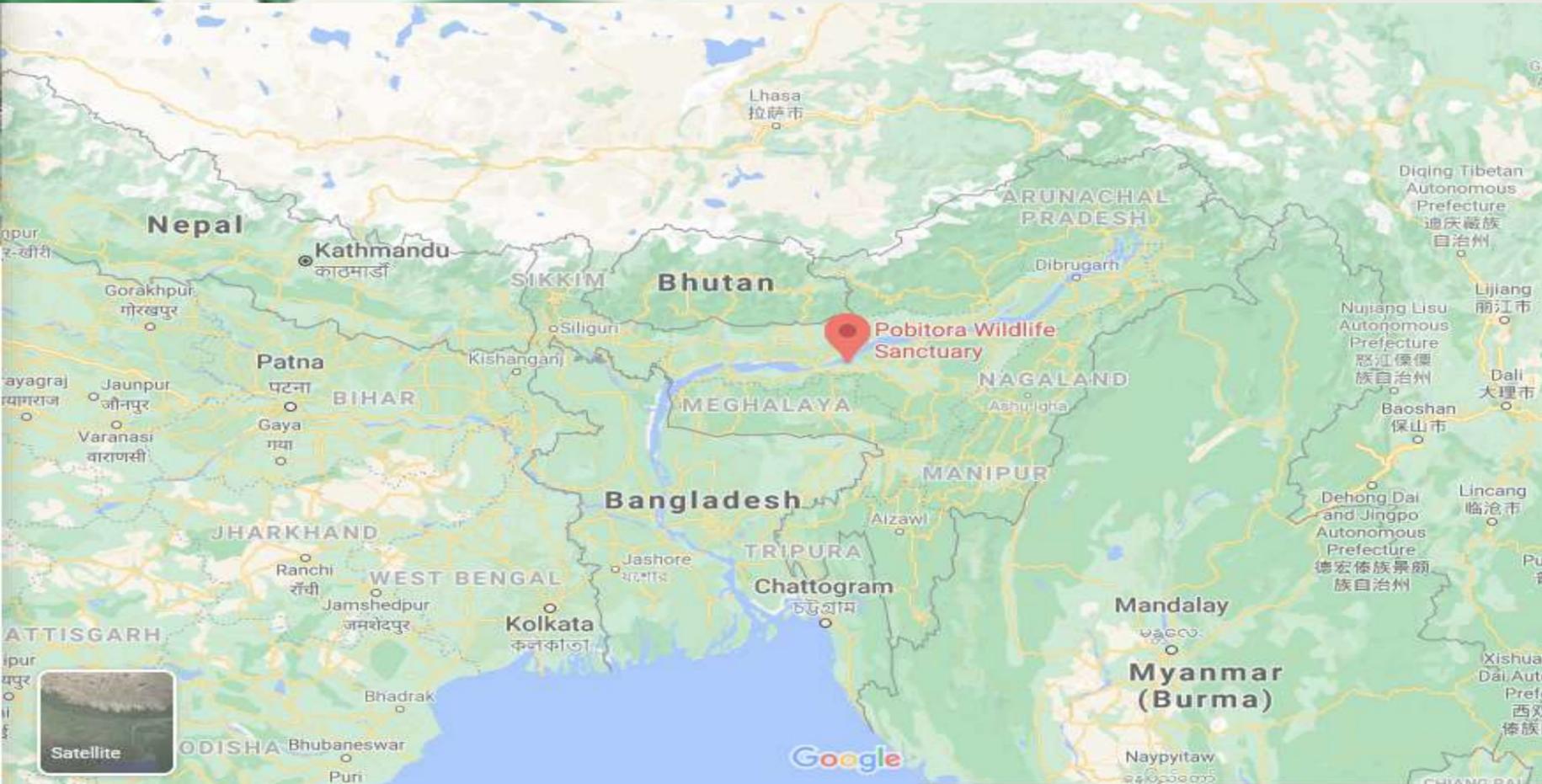
- Located in the State of Assam.
- It was declared as a **National Park in 1974**.
- declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985**.





- in Kaziranga, much of the focus of conservation efforts are focused on the 'big four' species—  
rhino, elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.
- Indian one-horned rhinoceros, are approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.

# Mini Kaziranga



- Assam's **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** is also known as 'Mini Kaziranga'.
- It has the **highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world** and
- **second highest numbers of rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.**

## Rhino Vision 2020 program for Translocations of Rhino

Translocations from Kaziranga NP and Pobitora WLS to populate Manas NP, Dibru Saikhowa WLS, Laokhowa WLS



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