The Rhino's Last Stand

Read the following text where a number of words are missing. Write ONE word in each gap. The word should make sense in the context and fit in grammatically. Remember to check your spelling.

In a newspaper article, a journalist who visited Kaziranga National Park in northern India describes a meeting with a white rhino and goes on to tell us how the existence of these animals is threatened by poachers, i.e. people who illegally kill the animals to make a profit from their horns.

Together with forest ranger Pankaj Sherma, I visited the Kaziranga National Park. We went out in a Jeep to _____ (1) for rhinos. When we turned a bend in the track, we almost _____ (2) into a white rhino mother with her calf. A few seconds _____ (3) we were speeding down the track with this massive creature in hot pursuit.

An animal of this kind _____ (4) around four tons and I was scared stiff, but for Mr Sherma, on the other _____ (5), it was just an occupational hazard. Being attacked from behind is not a problem, he says. From the front, it is a _____ (6) matter. Once he had to reverse for more than a mile, before the beast _____ (7) interest.

In our case, the mother soon _____ (8) up, perhaps realising she would never _____ (9) up with us. We were doing 40 miles an _____ (10) and she only 35. Fortunately for _____ (11) who come too close to a rhino, these animals are short-sighted and almost deaf with a limited sense of smell. As a result they usually don't pay _____ (12) to intrusions from tourists in the area, _____ (13) they are provoked as in our case. But these qualities together with their methodical habits—they graze in

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the same spots and follow regular tracks—make them easy _____ for
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poachers.

A kilo of Asian horns fetches £25,000 in the medicine markets in Taipei and Hong Kong. The huge demand for horns has brought the animal _____ to extinction. It is estimated that only 2,000 rhinos
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_____ in India and Nepal. Of these, 1,200 are to be found in the
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Kaziranga Park and this is probably their last habitat on earth.

But poaching has _____ alarmingly despite vigilant staff. An
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average of 30 to 40 animals are _____ every year. The poachers are
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clever. Some of them _____ shooting for fear of alerting the park
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rangers. Instead they electrocute the animals by fixing cables to high tension wires. When the horns are removed they enter a complex smuggling network that carries them to the pharmacies of the Far _____.
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