

# The Rhino's Last Stand

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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.

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> for rhinos. When we turned a bend in

the track, we almost \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> into a white rhino mother with her calf.

A few seconds \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> we were speeding down the track with this massive creature in hot pursuit.

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

In our case, the mother soon \_\_\_\_\_<sub>8</sub> up, perhaps realising she would never \_\_\_\_\_<sub>9</sub> up with us. We were doing 40 miles an \_\_\_\_\_<sub>10</sub> and she only 35. Fortunately for \_\_\_\_\_<sub>11</sub> 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sub>12</sub> to intrusions from tourists in the area, \_\_\_\_\_<sub>13</sub> 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> for 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup> to extinction. It is estimated that only 2,000 rhinos \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16</sup> in India and Nepal. Of these, 1,200 are to be found in the Kaziranga Park and this is probably their last habitat on earth.

But poaching has \_\_\_\_\_<sup>17</sup> alarmingly despite vigilant staff. An average of 30 to 40 animals are \_\_\_\_\_<sup>18</sup> every year. The poachers are clever. Some of them \_\_\_\_\_<sup>19</sup> shooting for fear of alerting the park 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>20</sup>.

