2.1. **Animals**

2.1.1. **Tourists interests.**

The park is particularly famous for the Rhino and Wild buffalo. The number of Elephants is also high. After the introduction of walkie-talkie systems poaching and illegal fishing is also very limited.

Animals can be seen easily and comfortably in their natural surroundings. There is a Forest Rest House in the heart of the Park which is connected by road both from Kohora and Bagnuri; the road is jeepable only during a part of the year.

But the provision of more accommodation and other facilities and more moderate charges is necessary to attract common people.

The visitors to Kaziranga should be encouraged to visit as much of the park as possible which will act as deterrent to poachers and other law-breakers.

Most of the visitors halt at Kohora. They are taken on elephant back to the Minimukh centre and the rhinos in this area are so much accustomed with the visitors that they can approach very near to a rhino or can drive close to Swamp deer or herd of buffaloes.

KazirangaWild Life Sanctuary is famous for wild buffaloes, Elephants, Beers, Tigers, Caur & Golden Langurs. Rhinos are less in number, than in Kaziranga.

The Sanctuary is famous for Mahseer fishing and a wealth of bird life. But number of visitors are less than Kaziranga because of the lack
of proper communications.

Its area was greatly increased by the inclusion of the Bhutan portion across the river under joint management. The Manas sanctuary on the Assam side infact includes two reserves - North Kamrup and part of Manas reserve forest. The author has covered only the Assam side of Manas Sanctuary.

The management of the sanctuary has received more impetus with starting of Project Tiger. There are about 51 tigers with some cubs (source: DFO & Director, Tiger Project).

2.1.2. Biotic factors.

There are some villages inside the National Park, but there are no forestry operations and no cultivation inside the Park.

There are no villages inside the Manas Sanctuary; no cultivation and no forestry operations are allowed. Though it is considered that there is no grazing, but the cattle of villages on the southern boundary do stray into the sanctuary.

Both in the Kaziranga National Park & Manas Sanctuary the grasses are burnt by the staff from December to February. Accidental fire is also not uncommon. Burning is done with a view to encourage new growth of grasses. The new and tender shoots of grasses come up after rain. Most of the animals concentrate in such burnt areas both for ash and new shoots.

The Rhinos and Elephants enjoy the burnt stems of the tall grasses.
No burning is done in the evergreen patches of the forests.

2.1.6. **Methods of collections**.

The author spent several days inside the Kaziranga National Park & Manas Wildlife Sanctuary with the forest guards for collection of plants and twice during this time encountered wild elephant and rhino but narrowly escaped with the help of armed forest guards.

There is constant danger of wild animals and poachers in the National Park and Sanctuary and one should be adventurous and bold enough to face all problems.

The poachers and fishermen generally move in armed bands. Therefore a single or several wild life guards are practically helpless to take them into custody.

In rainy season the only means of travel inside the National Park & Sanctuary is by elephant back. Even on elephant back to go inside the grassland is troublesome because of leeches and flies. Because one should not be panicked if one loses one's way inside the grassland there will be little chance of returning.