

Survival International responds to Assam Environmental NGO Forum



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Stephen Corry, Director, Survival International, responding to allegations made by Assam Environmental Forum regarding the matter of negative publicity given on [Kaziranga National](#) Park authority by [BBC](#), says that it was in the interest of the wildlife and people living around [Kaziranga](#) NP that the matter was raised. The full text of the clarification by Stephen Corry is [as follow](#): “The Assam [Environment NGO](#) Forum asks what Survival International’s motives are for calling for a boycott of [Kaziranga National](#) Park ([NGO slams Kaziranga propoganda](#), *March 5 2017*). Survival International has only ever had one motive: to protect tribal people whose [rights](#) are threatened. We condemn the poaching of endangered animals but we do not believe that conservation should be at the expense of human life. The facts around [Kaziranga](#) speak for themselves. 50 people have been killed by park [guards](#) in the last three years alone. Many more have been injured, including a seven year-old-boy who has been left severely [disabled](#) after being shot by a guard. Communities who are living near the park face the threat of violence and eviction from their homes. We believe that if tourists and travel companies continue to visit [Kaziranga](#), they are complicit in this violence. All we ask for is an end to [guards](#) shooting people on sight and forced evictions from tiger reserves. We believe that [India](#)’s forest departments should listen to tribal people, who are, after all, the best conservationists”.

AT Staff Reporter

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