

Slow-Dancing Away From The Brink Of Extinction

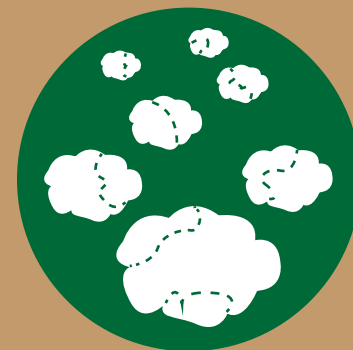
The majestic Sangai Deer, also called the dancing deer and the brow -antlered deer, is an endangered species found in its natural habitat only in one spot in the world - the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur, India. It was believed to be extinct in the 1950s, but after sighting 6 deer, concerted conservation efforts have lead to a slow increase in their count to over 250. The example of conservation of the Sangai Deer is proof that with collective efforts, a species can be saved even from the jaws of extinction.

Threats



Illegal Poaching

The deer are hunted mainly for their much sought after antlers

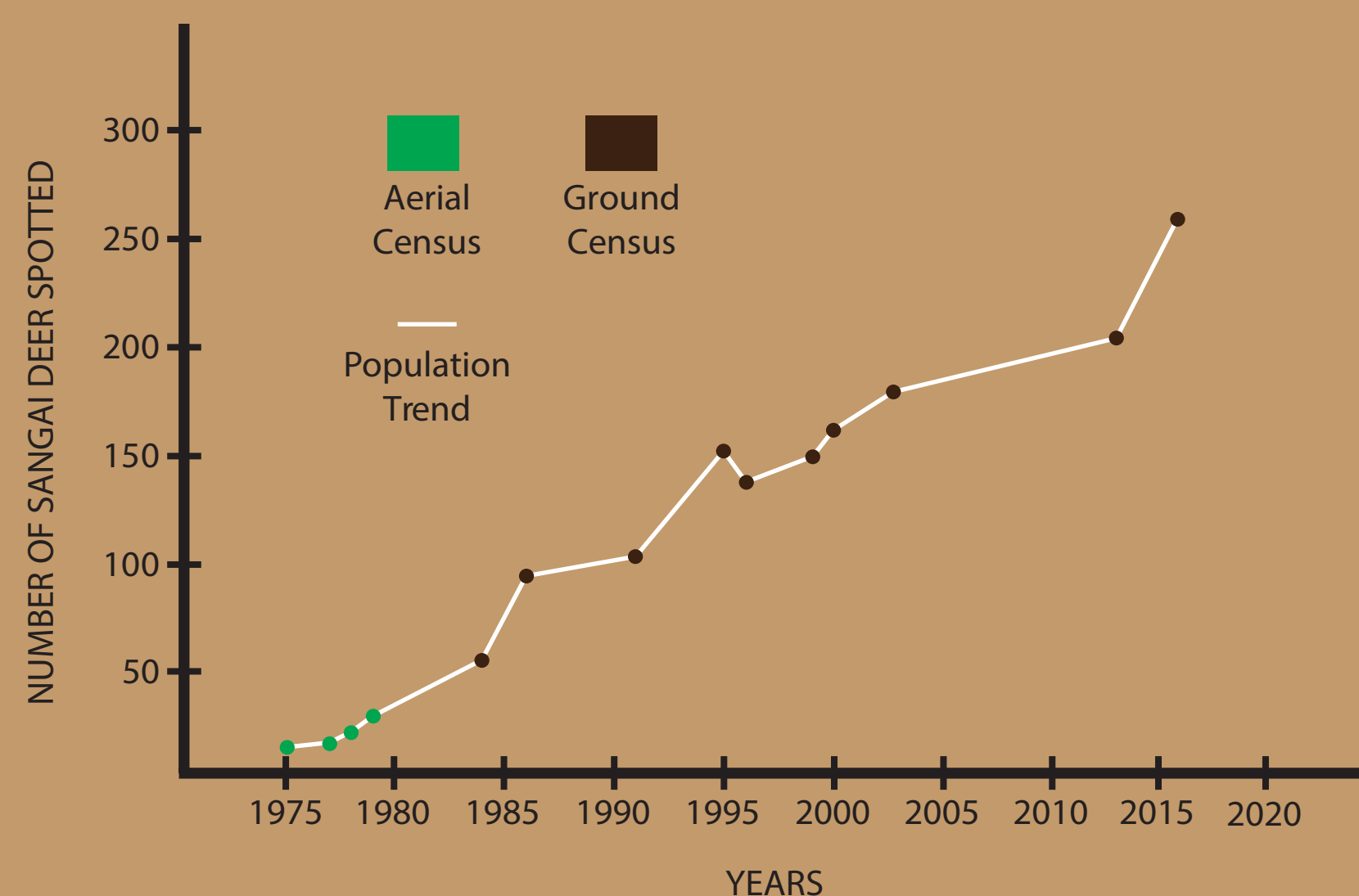


Loss of Habitat

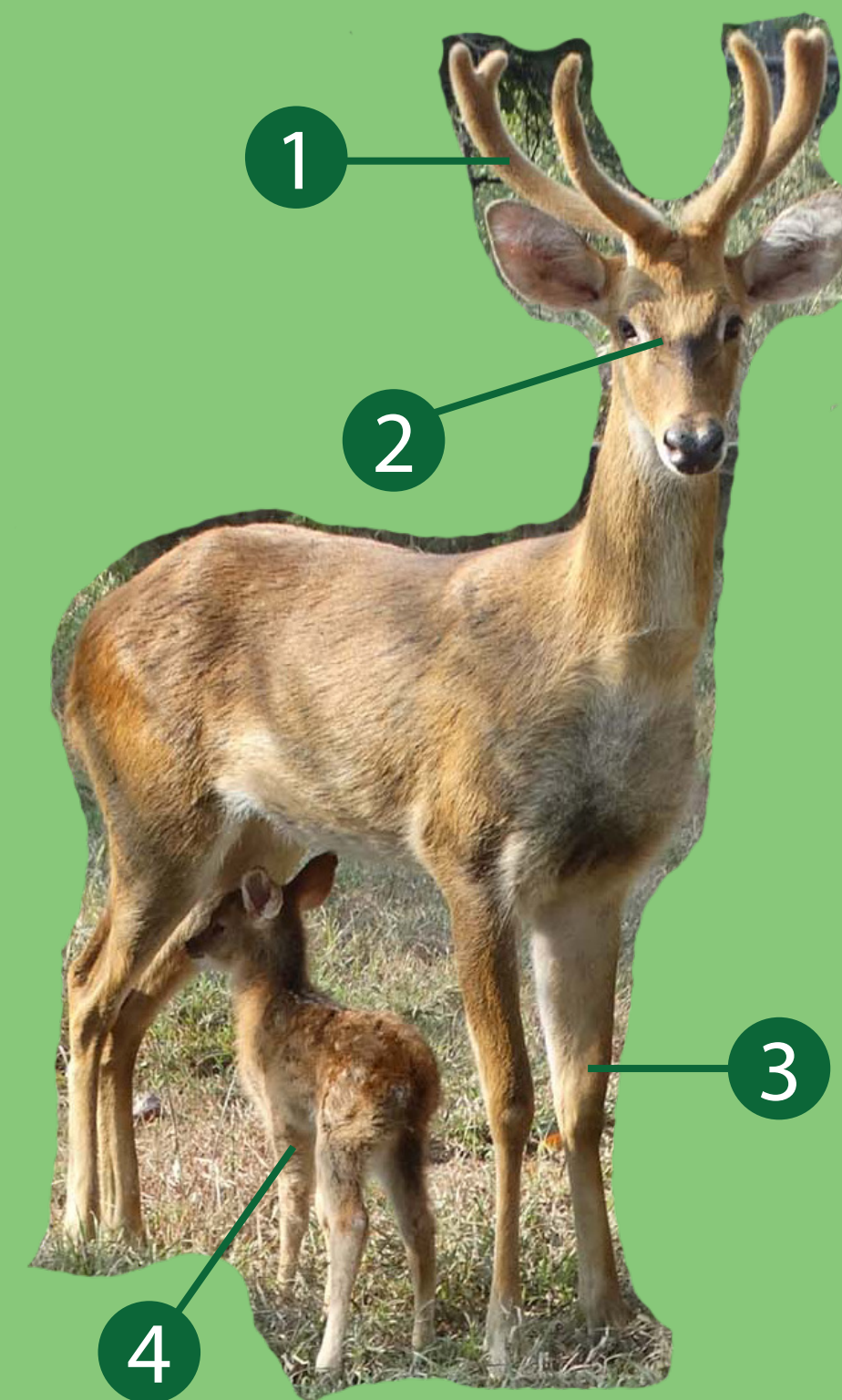
Overflooding of the Loktak Lake is causing phumdis to slowly dis-integrate

Gradual Growth in Sangai Population

From just 14 in 1975, the Sangai Deer population in the Keibul Lamjao National Park has increased to 260 in 2016



Source : Distribution, status and conservation of Sangai Deer in Manipur, India by Manisha Singh and Neelam Khare, from www.researchgate.net



1

The unique and attractive antlers of the male deer are the identifying mark of the Sangai deer

2

The curve of the protruding brows of the deer continues to its antler beams, hence the name brow-antlered deer

3

The graceful gait of the Sangai deer, which lends it the name dancing deer, has inspired classical Manipuri dance

4

Generally, a single fawn is born at a time, and has pale spots on its coat which fade as the fawn grows up



The Last Home Of The Sangai

The last 260 or so Sangai Deer in the world, are housed in the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur, India. This wildlife park is the only floating park in the world. It is located at the south east end of the Loktak Lake. It is a swamp with floating masses of tangled vegetation, locally called 'phumdis', which are the deer's natural habitat.

