

# Lesser Florican Community Leadership Programme, India

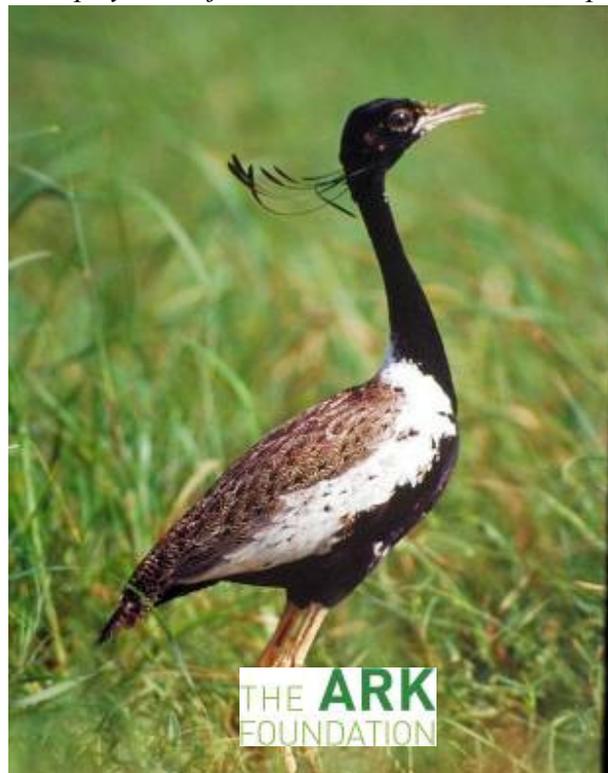
Project Code 100080

BP Conservation Leadership Programme

Future Conservationist Award 2008

## Final Report

*Supriya Jhunjhunwala & Anirban Dutta Gupta*



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### CLP Team

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## 2. PROJECT FACT SHEET

**Project Title:** Lesser Florican Community Leadership Programme in India

**Country:** India

**Project Start Date:** 15-July-08

**Project End Date:** 30-Oct-09

**Study Site:** The Sailana Kharmor Sanctuary, Ratlam District Madhya Pradesh India. Important Bird Area ( IBACode IN-MP-15);

**Conservation Species:** The Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indica*) is a globally threatened bird species.

**Conservation Status of Species:** Endangered (EN) in the Asian Red Data Book and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) of India.

**Funders:** The Conservation Leadership Programme, (Future Conservationist Award 2008)

### Team:

**Project Leader:** Supriya Jhunjunwala, Centre for Environment Education

**Project Co-leader:** Anirban Dutta Gupta, Ark Foundation

**Other Team Members:** Ms. Samita Rajora, Mr. Jolly Jain and Mr. Diogo Gaspar Verissimo

Field Support: Gargi Shankar Deshmukh

**Habitat Type:** Terrestrial, Grassland



### 3. INTRODUCTION

A site-based approach may not be appropriate for the conservation of widely dispersed threatened species that share part or whole of their habitat with human settlements.

One such species is the lesser florican *Sypheotides indica* is a globally threatened bird species that is Endemic to the Indian subcontinent. The global population has been estimated to be <2,500 (BirdLife International 2002). The species is primarily threatened by habitat loss and hunting (and its habitat has shrunk by c. 90% (Rahmani 2006). It is categorized as Endangered on the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2009) and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) of India. Involvement of local communities is essential to its survival. Two protected areas have been established to conserve the Lesser Florican: the Sardarpur Florican Wildlife Sanctuary, and our study site the Sailana Florican Sanctuary, both of which are in Madhya Pradesh India .

This Programme ‘Lesser Florican Community Leadership Programme in India’ aims to increase community stewardship for the species around the Sailana Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, India by building a build a cadre of leaders from various stakeholder groups to conserve the Lesser Florican, its grassland habitats and nature and biodiversity.

Confidence building measures, conservation education and awareness programmes were conducted to harness support of local communities. It is only by empowering the local stakeholders that the continuing support for local conservation efforts can be guaranteed.

Our conservation education programme succeeded in drawing 371% more stakeholders to participate in an economic reward incentive scheme to report floricans.

We hope that we have begun the process to create a future generation of knowledge empowered decision makers to continue the conservation efforts. This is urgent as the species is highly endangered and its survival is dependant on the habitat which is under extreme pressure from multiple sources.



## 4. SPECIES DESCRIPTION

The Lesser Florican belongs to the Family *Otididae*, commonly known as bustards, which is an ancient one, with the earliest fossil records from the Eocene Period, 40 to 50 million years ago. (Osborne *et al.* 1984)

Of the six species of bustards found in the Indian Subcontinent, the Lesser Florican and Great Indian Bustard are endemic, the Bengal Florican has a subspecies that is found in Kampuchea and Vietnam (Osborne *et al.* 1984) and the Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Houbara Bustard are occasional to common winter migrants.

### Food

The Lesser Florican is omnivorous and eats invertebrates like grasshoppers, beetles, flying ants, caterpillars, centipedes, worms, frogs, small lizards and plant parts like crop shoots, leaves, herbs and berries (Sankaran and Rahmani 1986, Roberts 1991\_1992).

### Habitat Preferences

The Lesser Florican's primary habitat is grasslands and open fields adjoining them, a mosaic of grassland and scrubland. Ali and Riply (1983) describe their habitat as "tall grassland with scattered bushes and standing crops of cotton and millets. It prefers drier ungrazed plains with grass 0.5\_1 m tall, generally avoiding tall grasslands in well-watered tracts, and occupying grasslands of varying shrub densities.

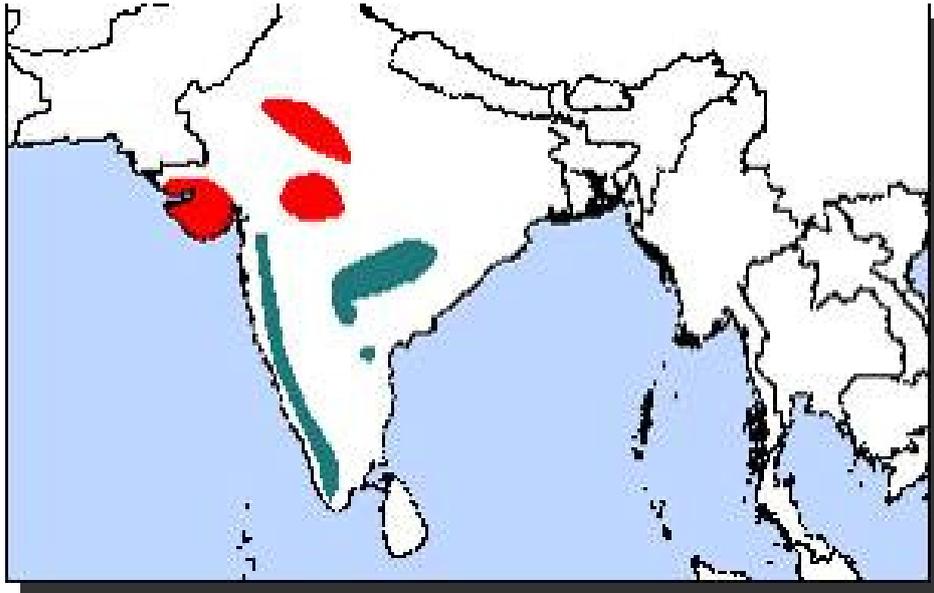
It breeds chiefly in grasslands that are left ungrazed through the monsoon to harvest fodder after the rains around October (Sankaran 2000). High grass productivity, an indicator of low grazing pressure, is a good predictor of florican presence (Magrath *et al.* 1985, Sankaran 1997c), with breeding areas generally coinciding with those in which grass grows tall in the monsoon (Sankaran 2000)

Very little known about the post-breeding habitat of the Lesser Florican.



## Distribution

The Lesser Florican is virtually endemic to India. Historically it was evenly distributed across most of lowland India from Gujarat and central Rajasthan in the east to West Bengal and Orissa and from north-west Uttar Pradesh to Kerala in the South (Sankaran 1995b).



Breeding Records of the Lesser Florican



Non- Breeding Records of the Lesser Florican

## Breeding of the Lesser Florican

The Lesser Florican breeds in western and Central India during the southwest monsoon (Jerdon 1864, Ali and Ripley 1969 and Dharmakumarsinhji 1950). The main breeding areas were in Maharashtra, eastern Haryana and South-central and south Gujarat, but are now in southern Rajasthan, southern and eastern Gujarat, and western Madhya Pradesh (Sankaran 1991, 1994b).

Breeding is correlated with rainfall.

The breeding system of the Lesser Florican can be described as a dispersed lek ; males are territorial for two to three months and inter territory distances vary from 200 to 500 m ( Sankaran



1991) Males occupy territories of less than 2 ha, during the breeding season from which they display aerially to attract females (Sankaran 1991)

In Sailana Sanctuary nesting begins in early August and continues till the end of September. Like all other species of Bustards the Lesser Florican is a ground nester.

Hens nest in tall grass and are very secretive in behaviour and very difficult to find. The nest in this family is a simple scrape in the ground without any nesting material added (Osborne *et al.* 1984). The nests are located well away from or at the periphery of the territories established by breeding males (Sankaran 1995). As females nest outside male territories, large grassland areas are necessary to accommodate all the nesting females.

Clutch size is about 3-4 eggs and incubation period is 21 days. While on the nest female floricans do not move away at the sound of approaching danger and prefer to avoid detection by freezing.

Breeding males have a black and white plumage. As females, immature males and non breeding males are cryptically coloured and very inconspicuous, there is very little known about the post-breeding distribution of the Lesser Florican but it appears to disperse into suitable habitat over much of the Indian sub continent with the majority moving into southern India (Jerdon 1864).



Nest of Lesser Florican with eggs,  
**Photo PM Laad**



## 5. THREATS & CONSERVATION STATUS

### Threats

The Lesser Florican is primarily threatened by habitat loss and hunting. Its population also affected adversely by drought.

The Lesser Floricans habitat has shrunk by almost 90% (Rahmani 2006). Its breeding range has shrunk to 40% of its original size. The species now only breeds in what is regarded as the historical core of the breeding range (Sankaran 1997). The main cause for the loss of habitat is Grazing and conversion of traditional fodder grassland to agricultural land.

### Uncontrolled grazing



Photograph Supriya Jhunjhunwala

A major threat to the Lesser Florican is uncontrolled grazing in the grassland habitat between July to October. Until four years ago the grasslands of Sailana Sanctuary were open for livestock grazing and were leased out by the land owners at a rate of about Rs. 500 per ha., to nomadic tribes and locals for their livestock to graze in the breeding season of the Lesser Florican.

When the Forest department held talks with the land holders it was found that they were ready to protect the grasslands they owned for four months if they were paid compensation and allowed to harvest and sell the fodder at the end of Lesser Florican's breeding season in November.



The department has since leased these grasslands from the owners for the four monsoon months that coincide with the breeding season of the Lesser Florican. At the end of the monsoon the owners are allowed to harvest and sell the grass, so they profit doubly. The Forest Department has also appointed watchmen to patrol the Sanctuary.



Photograph Supriya Jhunjhunwala



Photograph Supriya Jhunjhunwala



## **Hunting**

The Lesser Florican was a very popular game bird and was hunted for its delicate flesh. The male specially while displaying was hunted for sport. Although it is now protected under the Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act (1972) hunting still continues with guns and snares although the extent of the hunting pressure is unclear.

## **Bad Policies**

In the Dhar District the bird is being deliberately persecuted by villagers living around the Sardarpur Sanctuary in an attempt to get their land back from the government who has been in the process of acquiring it for the Sanctuary. After the initial notification of the Sanctuary in 1983, no progress could be made for determination of rights to enable its notification. Sale of land is banned and registration of lands is not allowed. Anxiety levels have increased amongst the people and resentment for the Florican runs deep and it is perceived as an enemy that is taking away their lands.

The Villagers feel that if the bird disappears from the area then there will be no reason to have the Sanctuary and they will get their land back.

## **Pesticide Use**

As insects and crop parts form a major part of the florican's diet excessive use of pesticides can kill it or even affect its breeding.

## **Exotic Invasive Species**

Two plant species *Lantana camera* and *Prosopis juliflora* are gradually spreading in the floricans habitat



## The Conservation Status of the Lesser Florican

The Lesser Florican has been recorded as in decline since the end of the nineteenth century (Baker 1921\_1930); Hume and Marshall (1879\_1881) had even expressed their fear of the species going extinct within 50 years of their writing (i.e. by the 1930s). Early reports suggest that it was abundant in the nineteenth century. Its numbers have been declining for many decades, and in the process it has become much rarer and/or disappeared from many parts of its range (Sankaran 1990, 1993).

Its population declined by nearly 60% from an estimated 4,374 birds in 1982 to about 1,672 in 1989 (Sankaran *et al.* 1992; also Sankaran 1990, Sankaran and Rahmani 1990a), mainly owing to a failure of monsoon rains between 1985 and 1987 (Sankaran 1993, 1995c).

However, a survey in 1994 showed a population of 2,206, an increase of 32% on the 1989 figure, attributed to the fairly good rainfall that western India had enjoyed in the ensuing five years (Sankaran 1994b, 1995c). A further survey in 1999 (after another series of good rains) encountered 240 floricans (223 males and 17 females) resulting in a population estimate of 3,530 birds (Sankaran 2000), a population increase of a further 62%. However, caution is urged in interpreting these figures as it is now postulated that these increases may have reflected a greater concentration of floricans in known sites, and thus falling habitat availability rather than rising numbers of birds (Sankaran 2000; see Threats). Population densities at a single site are known to change depending on the rainfall patterns (Sankaran 1991, 1994b).

Today the Lesser Florican is a globally threatened bird species. BirdLife International estimates that there are less than 2,500 individuals worldwide. It is classified as endangered (EN) in the Asian Red Data Book and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) of India. There have been special protected areas set aside to aid conserve the Lesser Florican, like the Sardarpur Florican Wildlife Sanctuary in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.





Archival picture of Dr Salim Ali ringing the Floricane in Sailana with Dr. Asad  
Photos by P.M Laad



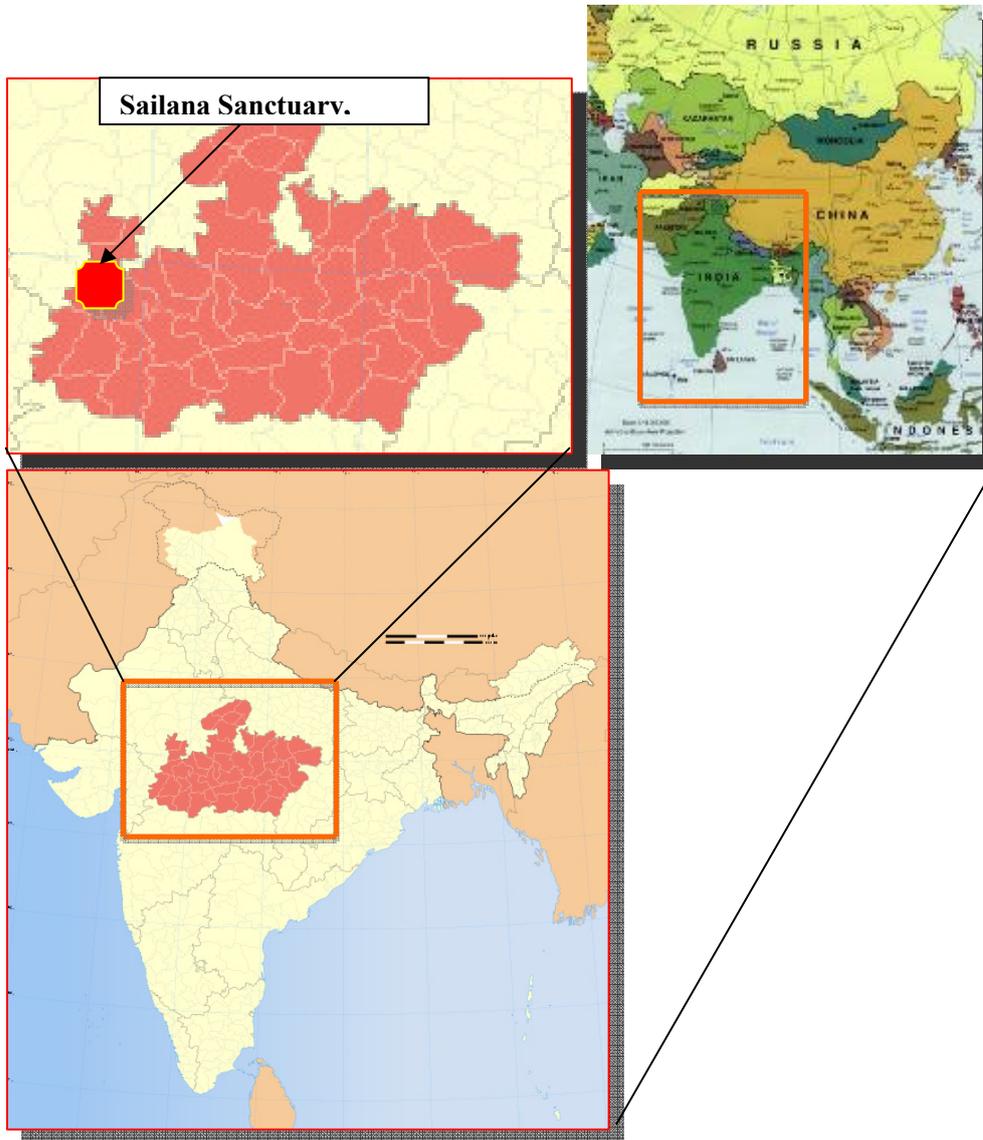


Ratlam District is wherr Dr. Salim Ali Saw his first Florican. Some people in Ratlam still remember his vist and excitement on seeing the bird.  
Photo by P.M Laad



## 6. STUDY SITE

### SAILANA KHARMORE SANCTUARY



Location of our study site The Sailana Sanctuary



Sailana Kharmore Sanctuary (area 1297 ha.) in Ratlam District, is situated at 23° 24' 26" North and 74° 58' 05" East, within the Malwa plateau in Central India. It lies at 1577 feet above sea level, the average temperature is 55°, and the average rainfall is 90 cm. The Sanctuary was declared a protected area in June 1983 by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and notified vide order number 15-7--83, dated July 6<sup>th</sup> 1983. to safeguard the Lesser Florican. It has also been identified as an Internationally Important Bird Area ( IBACode IN-MP-15).





The habitat is predominantly tropical grassland interspersed with agricultural fields consisting of pure grasslands and grass patches in crop areas, crop fields and grazing lands. The grasslands and croplands within the sanctuary are jointly owned by agriculturists and landholders from these villages.

An area of about 200 ha within the sanctuary is known as the Naulakha grasslands or Naulakha *beed*. The area was originally well wooded and Teak *Tectona grandis* and Palash *Butea monosperma* but the area now is mostly a treeless grassland dominated by the grass type *Sehima nervosum-Chrysopogon fulvus*. Pure grasslands are found in the traditionally protected areas like *shikarwadi* (the hunting lodge in the naulakha grasslands). The area covered by the pure grasslands are however decreasing rapidly due to conversion to agricultural fields.

The Sherpur, Anba and Jaora blocks of Ratlam district have smaller grasslands measuring between one to two hectares interspersed with crops. There are about 20 additional grasslands with sizes varying from 20 ha. to 400 ha. scattered in the Ratlam district that could also be good habitat for the Lesser Floricorn.





### **LAND HOLDINGS WITHIN THE SAILANA KHARMOR SANCTUARY**

The area within the Sailana Sanctuary includes 445.73 ha. of private land and 851.70 ha of government forest land. There are about 252 land holdings within the 445.73 ha. of private land inside the Sanctuary. The average size if these holdings vary from 0.5 ha. - 2 ha. About 60% of this area has been converted to soya bean agriculture, and 40% stands as grasslands that are crucial to the breeding of the Lesser Florican. About 8 male Lesser Floricans have been seen displaying here in 2005.

### **LEGAL STATUS OF THE SAILANA KHARMOR SANCTUARY**

Though the Sanctuary was declared a protected area in 1983 and notified, there were no attempts made to actually acquire and purchase the grasslands from the villagers.

As the Sanctuary is under notification the process for settlement of rights is still to be undertaken. Hence land owners cannot be denied their grazing rights.



## **7. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES, METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

Our conservation education programme aimed to draw more stakeholders to conserve the Florican through confidence building measures, conservation education and awareness programmes. To create a future generation of knowledge empowered decision makers. This is urgent as the species is highly endangered and its survival is dependant on the habitat which is under extreme pressure from multiple sources.

### **Our objectives were as follows:**

Objective 1. To Conserve the Lesser Florican and its habitat

Objective 2. Developing and disseminating conservation education material

Objective 3 : Empowering stakeholder communities through community leadership programmes

Objective 4: To disseminate learning's to a wide stakeholder group

Objective 5: To support ongoing local level conservation programmes

Objective 6: To raise levels of awareness about the species and site

Objective 7: To influence policy detrimental to the survival of the species

**The Objectives are discussed individually in detail subsequently**

### **Stakeholder Groups**

**Local Community:** Farmers Members of Local Self Governance and Panchayat, Police Officers, Forest Department, School Teachers, Shop and Establishment Owners, School Children, Parents of School Children, Journalists, Farmers, Farm Labourers, Video Parlour owners, and all the people living in Ratlam near the Sanctuary.

**National and International Community:** NGO's Government Departments, Researchers, Journalists, birdwatchers, wildlife enthusiasts, tourists.



## 7.1 Objective 1

### **To Conserve the Lesser Florican and its habitat, Methods and Outputs**

In order to imply a shift in conservation paradigm from a site based protectionist approach to a community-based approach, a site-specific evaluation of conditions, attitudes and current levels of knowledge were essential. We used interviews, interaction, and surveys with questionnaires with multi stakeholder groups to measure the above. Insight was gained about local conditions, perceptions and attitudes towards the bird and the Bird Sanctuary. Key members of the community were spoken to including village leaders, farmers, Owners of the land of the sanctuary and school teachers. We gained insight on levels on awareness about the Sanctuary through informal interaction rather than formal interaction.

Effective communication is an integral part of a successful conservation education campaign. The Programme was culturally sensitive and not only spread awareness about the Lesser Florican but also increase stakeholder awareness about the benefits derived from conserving the grasslands and the Lesser Florican both tangible and long term.

#### **Basic Principals followed while designing the programme:**

**A. Information to Knowledge:** Information on Lesser Florican was converted by the target group into knowledge about Lesser Florican and about the dangers it faces, the ecological impacts and the possible economic benefits – both long-term and short-term- from its conservation..

**B. Products and services** – A distinction was made between products and services. Products are tangible objects like a poster, film etc which were disseminated through a service like an education programme.

**C. Part of a system** – Humans in general have a very short term memory. For our campaign to be successful we had to introduce a number of complimentary products and services that worked together and became part of a formal system like the schools and village public places.





Photographs Gargi Deshmukh



## 7.2 Objective 2

### Developing and disseminating conservation education material

#### Methods and Outputs

##### Educational Material

We worked in the schools in the 21 villages surrounding the Sanctuary. We conducted a pre-test in the middle schools in the In the form of a quiz, about 10% (11.5%) of the children our programme has reached out to were tested (sample size= 449) (total number of children involved in school programme 3,900)

We calculated the percentage of children that knew the florican by name (50%) and those that recognised the florican's picture (44.3%). After gaining insight about their levels of knowledge, interest, favourite birds etc. the following products and services were designed and/or distributed.

1. Florican Poster
2. Florican stickers
3. Stickers about other biodiversity
4. Bird Poster
5. Activity Booklet cum story book
6. Slide Shows
7. Flip Charts

Initially we used slide shows but because of severe electricity problems we had to finally start using electricity independent tools like flip charts



### **School Programmes:**

Each School was visited four times to conduct talks, slideshows, and quizzes , about 10% (11.5%)(N=449) of the total students (3,900) were sampled through a quiz to gain a basic understanding of the knowledge levels of children. All subsequent talks and products were designed and developed based on the information collected in the quiz.

As part of the programmes framed posters of the florican and birds of the region and stickers were distributed..

An activity booklet is under production and will be distributed along with screening of the final films just before the next florican breeding season.





We shot several short films addressing specific concerns and stakeholder groups related to the lesser florican, biodiversity and even organic and natural farming. Pilot versions of these films have been tested by showing it to locals through video parlours and community screenings.



Our final productions will be shown just before the florican breeding season to harness support and increase reporting





Photographs Gargi Deshmukh



### 7.3 Objective 3

#### **Empowering stakeholder communities through community leadership programmes.**

##### **Methods and Outputs:**

Direct observation, personal interviews and communication with officials of the forest department community leaders, including school teachers and stakeholders like landholders, agriculturists, both men and women were used to gain insight about the attitudes of local people towards the bird and bird sanctuary. The team felt that keeping the interaction informal and more mentoring oriented rather than using a questionnaire or workshop format form aided in dialogue and enhanced capacity building.

We identified eight potential leaders from different stakeholder groups through informal and formal meetings interviews and interactions.

Our leaders ranged from the guards patrolling the Sanctuary, field level forest officers, School teachers and principals, former *Sarpanches* (village head person), Organic and natural farmers, farmers and local youth who had reported the florican and school children. We met our identified potential leaders several times over the course of the programme and mentored them to take on a leadership role within their communities.

Our leaders are Mr Khima Forest Guard, Mr Dashrat Singh Pawar Forest Guard, Mr Rajendra Singh Rathore ( Ex Village head and Organic Farmer), Pawan Kumar (Middle school student Advania School), Mr. Shyam Bihari Patel (headmaster Advania School), Mr. Rajkumar Singh (Assistant Teacher Hatnara School), Ms Neelam Dodiari (Headmaster Bhainsadambar School) and Mr Prakash ( Farmer Sailana).

Two of our identified leaders are now part of our team for the CLP Follow up Award.





**Our Community Leader Ms Neelam Dodiya (Extreme left)  
One of our community leaders Prakesh pointing to a displaying florican**



#### **7.4. Objective 4**

##### **To disseminate learning's to a wide stakeholder group. Methods and Outputs**

We framed posters of birds and details about the florican reward scheme and used outlets for dissemination (for eg. Primary schools, local video parlours, barber shops, panchayat (local governance) meetings, hotels etc.) to display them. We also facilitate dissemination of material through the leaders. We also made stickers that are more permanent in nature than brochures and distributed them.

#### **7.5. Objective 5**

##### **To support ongoing local level conservation programmes. Methods and Outputs**

The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department announced an economic incentive scheme for sighting of the florican in private land where the land owner receives a reward of INR 5,000 (over a hundred US \$) if a male florican is sighted in private land and the sighting is confirmed by the forest department.

If the bird is sighted displaying in July within a farmland the farmer is rewarded Rs. 1,000. If the same bird (at the same spot) is shown displaying in same spot in October the farmer is paid another Rs. 4000.00. Originally it was proposed to reward farmers if nests and eggs were found in the field but this has been shelved.

However this scheme is not widely known. About 50% of our children knew about the existence of the Sanctuary and 21% knew that it was set up for the Lesser Florican. But very few of the adults knew.

We distributed framed posters about the scheme and the florican to various stakeholder groups. We also mentioned the scheme and reward in all our educational programmes and interactions with the stake-holder groups.





Our community leaders Mr. Rajendra Singh Rathor and Mr Dashrat Singh Pawar

## 7.6. Objective 6

### **To raise levels of awareness about the species and site; Methods and Outputs**

We wanted to generate awareness about the Lesser Florican, Grassland Conservation and the programme to a audience wider than the immediate communities to harness wider support for the programme.

We have involved journalists who are now supporting our programme and shared information about the Florican. These resulted in quite a few newspaper articles.

Our results have been and will be shared with, government and forest officials, policy makers, other wildlife conservation societies, research institutions and national and international NGO's through talks, meetings, and updates.

Of the CLP Partners talks were given at BirdLife International and Fauna and Flora International in October 2009





### **7.7 Objective 7: To influence policy detrimental to the conservation of the Lesser Florican. Methods and Outputs**

#### **Policy Related to Protected Areas**

Since the onset of the Programme in 2005 we have been trying to influence Policy for the Conservation of Widely Dispersed Species through a Landscape Model.

This is being done primarily by updating the Forest Department who then go through the proper channels. Some changes have already been initiated by the Forest Department Approaching the Supreme Court to delineate the boundaries of Sardarpur Sanctuary and return land rights to the land owners to prevent deliberate persecution of the Florican by the Communities.

We now feel that the florican needs a combination of a site based and a landscape approach and are sharing our results with decision makers in all relevant departments of both the State and Central Government.





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## 8. CONSERVATION IMPACT



Our Community Leader, Mr. Shyam Bihari Patel (in left centre)

### Measuring Impacts

Long-term conservation impact from 'soft' approaches like conservation education can only be accurately estimated after a minimum of one more year months have passed. Basic evaluation of the impact will be assessed using the following markers:

- Number of sighting reported by previously uninvolved stakeholders.
- Number of new claims for the reward and its verification by the Forest Department.
- Number of visitors coming to the sanctuary compared to previous years.



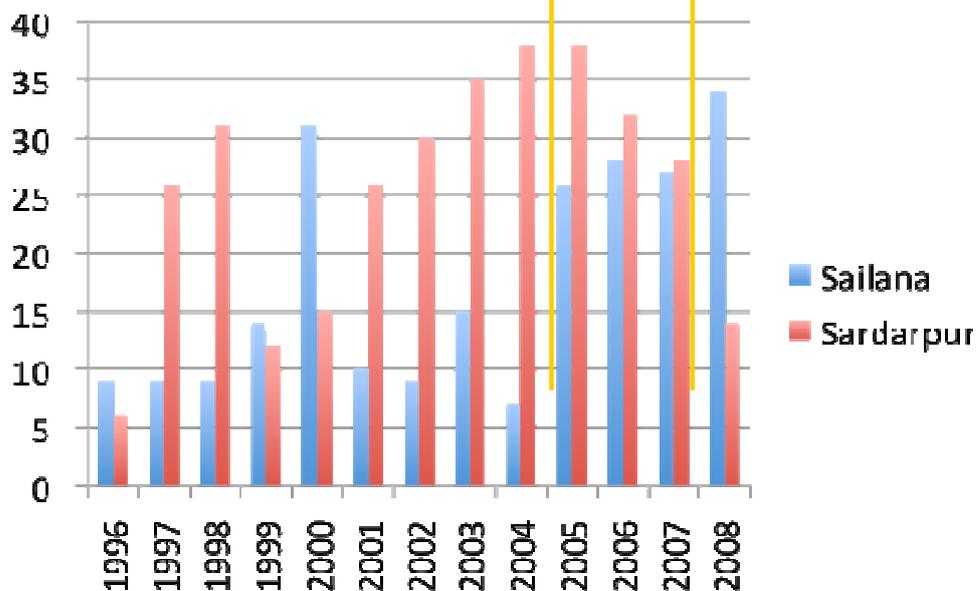
### Impact of the Community Outreach Programme

Our Programme had reached out to the community surrounding the Sanctuary. It is difficult to quantify the impact of posters and stickers but we have reached out to 3,900 school children and at least over a hundred adults directly.

The attitudes of the landholders towards the Sanctuary became positive after the forest department leased the land and allowed the landholders to harvest fodder post-monsoon. The forest department's incentive scheme is also successful here and several villagers have reward for sighting floricans in private lands INR 5,000

Surrounding schools have included the lesser florican as a topic in their curriculum. The people living in the surrounding area take great pride in the florican and it has become a flagship species for the area. The programme has been so successful that the children in the schools in which we work are now demanding that the lesser florican be made the state bird of Madhya Pradesh.

There are two protected areas designated for conserving the Lesser Florican, both lie in Madhya Pradesh, these are Sardarpur Kharmore Sanctuary (area 3484 ha.) in Dhar District and Sailana Kharmore Sanctuary (area 1297 ha.) in Ratlam District. Since we began working in Sailana in 2005 the number of florican sightings per year have been consistently > 27, with the highest number of sightings in 2008 (the year the CLP programme began; Fig. X). In the control site at Sardarpur, where we have not conducted outreach programmes or facilitated the reward scheme the number of Floricans have actually decreased even though Sardarpur is 2.9 times bigger than Sailana.



## **9. RECOMMENDATION**

### **FOR THE FOREST DEPARTMENT**

#### **Incentive scheme for florican sighting**

We recommend that the verification and payments for the sighting should be should be done speedily so as to not offend land owners. We also suggest that the INR 5,000 phased out accordingly within the displaying season. A down payment of Rs 2.000 is made on first sighting and the rest be given in installments of INR. 1,000 for each month the bird displays in the field.

We also recommend that the reward of Rs 1000 is given to anyone who spots a florican in a new area every year and not be limited to the land owners. A mechanism can be worked out to split the reward with the farm owner. The reward scheme needs to be supported by an outreach programme for it to become popular.

#### **Exotic Invasive Species**

We feel the need for a structured management programme for the two exotic invasive plant species *Lantana* sp. and *Prosopis* sp.

### **FOR RESEARCHERS**

As very little is known about the wintering grounds of the Lesser Florican all conservation efforts are limited to what is possible only part of its range. We need to use satellite telemetry to track the Florican to its wintering grounds. A thorough survey is needed during the next breeding season to identify its sites in the rest of the states that form part of its range.

### **FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS**

Widely dispersed species cannot be conserved without the support of the communities they share their habitat with. Collaborations are needed between government department and NGO's specializing in outreach programmes

### **FOR POLICY MAKERS**

It is urgent to develop a policy for widely dispersed species that encompasses mosaic of protected areas and landscape conservation. The possibility of making all tourism around protected areas and threatened species ecologically sustainable and all agriculture organic or natural needs to be explored.



## 10. FUTURE GOALS

### *Years 2010-2012...*

- Patrolling of Sanctuary continues
- Train communities in point counts and conduct a census
- Feasibility study for organic farming around Florican area
- Feasibility study for Ecotourism in the Florican area
- Publications
- Products: Florican Song, Music Video, Calendar, Certificates
- Advertisement for reward scheme in local cable channels and video parlours
- Drawing competitions
- Natural history Education Panel in Schools in each classroom
- Website English /Hindi
- Further Capacity Building of Stakeholders

### *Years 2013 to 2015...*

- Develop a Florican Conservation Network
- Develop a Grassland and Florican Interpretation Centre at Sailana Sanctuary
- Florican Mela
- Private Florican Reserves
- Expand Programme to include one other Indian State (Gujarat or Maharashtra)
- Identify potential habitat in India through surveys



## 11. CONCLUSION

As the Lesser Florican is a widely dispersed bird species, a site-based approach is not appropriate for its conservation. Involvement of local communities is essential to its survival. This is urgent as the species is endangered and its survival is dependant on the habitat which is under extreme pressure from multiple sources

For any conservation education strategy to succeed it has to be part of and supported by a larger systematic strategy that encompasses the areas of wildlife management, livelihood generation, research, economic growth and incentives. At the end of the any conservation education strategy is driven by people – forest department staff, scientists, naturalists, teachers, educators, parents, designers, journalists, policy makers, local elected representatives etc.

For a conservation strategy to be a success, it is important that the majority of the stakeholders are in some parts convinced about the importance of the species or habitat that is the focus of the strategy. This conviction can be based on any or a combination of factors ranging from perceived and actual economic benefits, empathy and love for nature, scientific interest, pride or sheer disinterest.

At best our programme will bring about a complete change in the way the stakeholders look at Lesser Florican and get involved in supporting its conservation. The success of our programme is dependent on our ability to provide knowledge and to empower and involve all stakeholders – and it is this belief that must be shared by all who take the responsibility for not only the lesser florican but the conservation of wild habitats and species.



## 12. DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE (Amounts in US \$)

		Obtained to date from other sources	CLP Grant	Actual Spent
	<b>PROJECT PREPERATION</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>3050</b>
	Communication, Telephone, Internet Postage	0	800	950
	Printing Journal Articles Materials		100	0
	Insurance	0		0
	Reconnaissance	1000	0	0
	Medical Supplies/ First Aid Kit		50	50
	Scientific Field Equipment	350	0	0
	Photographic Equipment, Waterproof Camera Bag, CF Cards		0	0
	Camping Equipment			150
	Field Guides		100	300
	Maps			
	Boat/ Truck			600
	Fuel			1000
	<b>PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</b>		<b>10,500</b>	<b>9,450</b>
	<b>Insurance</b>		100	100
	Accommodation for team members and local guides		1000	1000
	Food for team members and local guides		500	500
	Transportation		1250	1250



	Workshops		2000	0
	Outreach Activities and materials (Stickers, 2 Posters, Videos, Booklet, Pin Badges, School programmes)		5000	6000
	Contingency		750	600
	<b>POST PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1150</b>
	<b>Administration</b>		250	300
	<b>Report Publication and Result Dissemination</b>		400	850
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	1350	12300	13650

\* Rate of conversion 1US\$= 40.40 INR (Rs.)

GRANT STATUS	
Total Amount Granted	12300
Advance Payment 75%	9225
Balance Due from CLP 25%	3075



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