

Project title

**Conservation initiatives for Greater Adjutant Stork
in Assam, India**



Final Report
CLP project ID: 331509

Host Country, site location and dates in the field
India, Kamrup District of Assam. Project Start Date: 01-07-2009. Project
End Date: 31-03-2011

Names of any institutions involved in organizing the project or participating
Aaranyak (www.aaranyak.org)

The overall aim of the project
Getting ecological information and initiating a conservation campaign with
critical stakeholders for a globally endangered bird.



Aaranyak

Permanent contact address, email and website
Aaranyak, 50 Samanwoy Path, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati
781028, Assam, India
Email: purnima@aaranyak.org,
website: <http://www.aaranyak.org/GACP.html>

Full Names of Author(s)
Ms Purnima Devi Barman
Mr. Ajoy Kumar Das
Mr. Bipul Kumar Das
Ms. Sampa Biswas



Date when the report was completed: 15.10. 2011

Final Report
CLP project ID: 331509

Project title

Conservation initiatives for Greater Adjutant Stork in Assam, India

Host Country, site location and dates in the field

India, Kamrup District of Assam.

Project Start Date: 01-07-2009. Project End Date: 31-03-2011

Names of any institutions involved in organizing the project or participating

Aaranyak (www.aaranyak.org)

The overall aim of the project

Getting ecological information and initiating a conservation campaign with critical stakeholders for a globally endangered bird.

Full Names of Author(s)

Ms Purnima Devi Barman

Mr. Ajoy Kumar Das

Mr. Bipul Kumar Das

Ms. Sompal Biswas

Permanent contact address, email and website

Aaranyak, 50 Samanwoy Path, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati 781028, Assam, India

Email: purnima@aaranyak.org, website: <http://www.aaranyak.org/GACP.html>

Date when the report was completed: 15.10. 2011

The logo for Aaranyak is written in a stylized, cursive black font. The word "Aaranyak" is written in a fluid, handwritten style with a horizontal line underneath the letters.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
Acknowledgements	3
Section 1: Summary	4
Introduction	
Project members	6
Location Map of Project area	7
Section 2: Aim and Objectives	8
Methodology	8
Outputs and Results	10
Achievements and Impacts	17
Section 3: Conclusion	18
Problems encountered and lessons learnt	18
In the future	20
Reference Cited	20
Section 4: Appendix I	22
Financial Statement Summary	
Appendix II	23
Number of Foraging / Breeding and Roosting area recorded during the project period	
Appendix III	23
Physicochemical environment of Deepar Beel wetland, the prime foraging habitat of Greater Adjutant in Kamrup District of Assam	
Appendix IV	
Nesting records during project period	24
Appendix V	
Copies of collaterals produced during the project period	25
Appendix VI	
Copies of media articles relating to the project	26



Acknowledgements

We are greatly indebted to Conservation Leadership Programme and its team for giving us the opportunity to work in the subject and for their constant guidance throughout the project period.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to all villagers, nest tree owners of the areas where we did our project field work for their constant support and best wishes. Without their love and helps this project would not be a success. We learned a lot from this group of our well-wishers in not only in our project subject but also in improving our social science area.

We record our sincere thanks to Dr. A. R. Rahmani, Director Bombay Natural History Society, Mr. B.C. Choudhury of Wildlife Institute of India, Prof. P.C. Bhattacharjee of Gauhati University, Dr. H.J. Singha of Assam University, Dr. B.K. Talukdar, Secretary General of Aaranyak, Mr. M. Barua of Early Bird for their constant guidance, suggestions and support during the project period.

We offer our sincere thanks to Assam State Zoo authorities, Forest Department, Government of Assam for their helps in different times during the project period.

We record our sincere thanks to Dr. Pranjit Sarma and Mr. Arup Kr. Das for their help during the GIP activities of the project.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Prastuti Parasar, noted Assamese Film Actress for being the brand ambassador for conservation of Greater Adjutant and participating in public meeting in the nesting colony area of the bird.

We offer our sincere thanks to all our colleagues at Aaranyak. Only with their support and encouragement the project could complete its all activities without any difficulties.

Special thanks to all support staffs of our organization for their helps in different field activities.

At the last but not the least we offer our special thanks to all print and electronic media houses for their appeal for conservation of this endangered bird through their publications.

Project team



Section 1:

Summary (max 200 words):

Globally endangered Greater Adjutant could be easily seen in some traditional nesting colonies in Kamrup District of Assam. This poorly studied bird is facing extinction threat as many of its traditional nesting colonies are missing. The project was initiated to study the bird in Kamrup District of Assam. A conservation initiative was also initiated in the locality along with the ecology of the bird to get the desired conservation actions. Nesting colonies were surveyed, monitored, studied and various ecological factors were recorded. Conservation initiatives involving various stakeholders were successfully started. The local villagers and conservation authority were found to be more aware of the situation of the conservation needs of the bird and encouraging results were seen in the very next nesting season with increasing nests in the area. The villagers developed “ownership” feeling of this bird in the locality after the project’s initiative and that helped protection in this breeding habitat located outside the protected area network in Indian wildlife conservation scenario. Involving film celebrities for spreading the message of conservation of this bird was an instant hit and had good media coverage of the project activities. Survival prospects of this bird definitely get a boost through this project.

Introduction (max 500 words):

With less than 1000 as its global population, Greater Adjutant (*Leptoptilus dubius*) is considered as most endangered amongst the all 20 species of Storks in the world ((BirdLife International, 2011). Endemic to South East Asia, it was abundant across much of Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia and Southern Vietnam including India. It has suffered a massive population decline in its entire distribution range and currently known to breed only in India and Combodia (Singha *et al* 2003). Brahmaputra Valley, Assam is considered as its last stronghold and supports more than 80% of its global population. Armature bird watchers have reported that many nesting colonies are missing and sighting has also gone down in recent times. The bird is probably facing some critical



stage. This colonial nesting bird generally nests in privately owned trees and forage on the garbage dumping grounds and wetlands near to their nesting locations. Many nesting trees are being cut by the owners for various reasons and current state owned wildlife protection mechanism cannot prevent this unless tree owners come forward voluntarily to save the nesting trees. The bird has not been widely studied and available literatures indicated low reproductive success with a long breeding season (Saikia and Bhattacharjee, 1993; Singha *et al* 2002). State forest department does not have enough information to initiate any conservation actions. As the habitat is mostly located outside the Indian protected area network and conservation is mainly depends on the general public, a campaign for conservation of this bird is indeed a need. The current project was based on these critical facts and tried to address its conservation needs with the various stakeholders.

Project site, Kamrup District of Assam supports about its 50% of its global population and thus qualified to be the forefront to initiate any representative value based scientific and conservation actions to save this globally endangered bird. Nesting colonies are located in thickly populated villages and spread in about 5 sq km across the north bank of Guwahati city. The bird has been using this area since more than 18 years now, as reported by the villagers. Positive note is that the villagers do not disturb this bird in the nesting sites unless they are compelled to cut some of the economically important trees for their livelihood support.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the nest tree owners are the key stakeholder for any conservation planning and action for this globally endangered bird. The state forest department authority is another important stakeholder as they has the right to implement various sections under Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for any illegal poaching or killing of this bird. The state forest is also responsible for conservation many of the foraging wetland areas near to the nesting colony, including Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, protected area declared under Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The current project tried to work with these key stakeholders with a long term vision to conserve the bird with its breeding and foraging habitats.

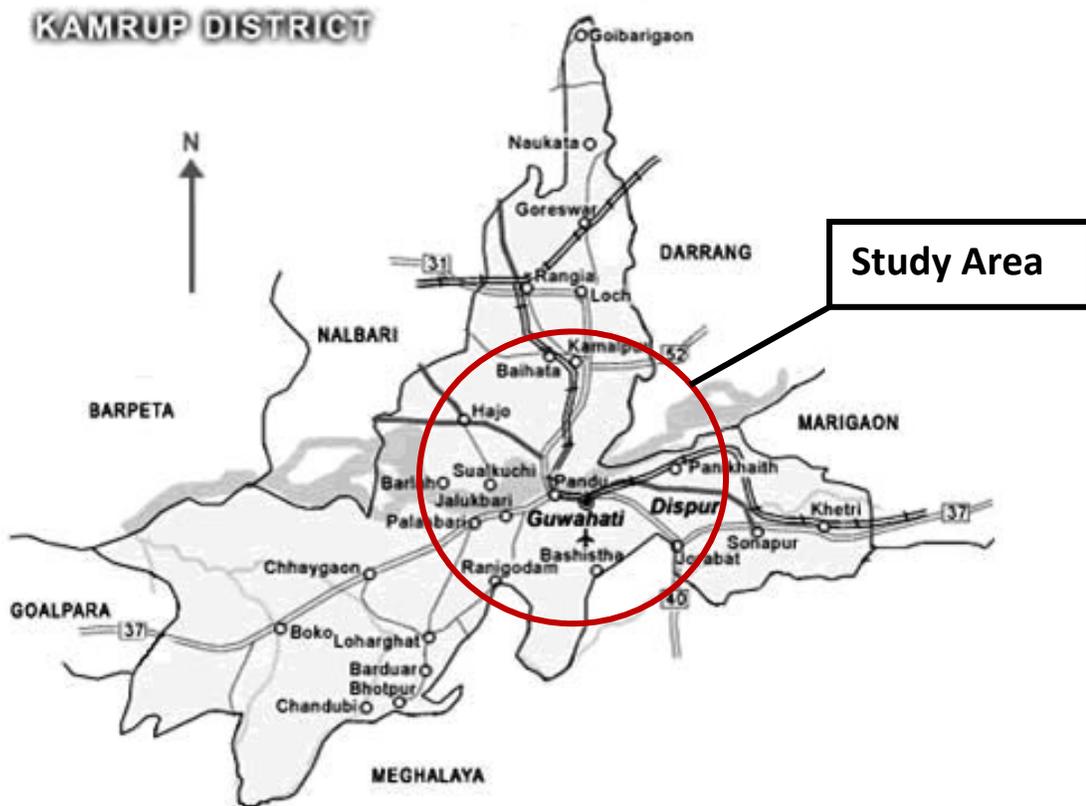


Project Members

Name	Age and Qualification	Responsibilities
<p>Ms. Purnima Devi Barman</p> 	<p>32 years.</p> <p>Master in Zoology and specialized in Animal Ecology and Wildlife Biology.</p>	<p>Team Leader. Overall coordination, planning and execution of the project. Scientific data collection and analysis, community and awareness</p>
<p>Mr. Ajoy Kumar Das</p> 	<p>33 years</p> <p>Law Graduate. Specialized in India Wildlife Laws</p>	<p>Coordination with decision making bodies. Organizing field activities.</p>
<p>Mr. Bipul Kumar Das</p> 	<p>28 years</p> <p>Biology Graduate</p>	<p>Community conservation works, floral survey.</p>
<p>Ms. Sompā Biswas</p> 	<p>24 years</p> <p>Forestry Graduate</p>	<p>Biodiversity conservation works, organizing workshops and meetings</p>



Location Map of the Project Area



Section 2:

Aim and objectives (max 200 words):

The project was aimed to make a basic platform for conservation activities of the Greater Adjutant stork in one of the major breeding colony with its surrounding foraging areas in Kamrup District of Assam, India. Critical scientific data were also collected to know the current ecological information for better inputs for all future conservation activities.

Following objectives are planned to achieve the goal to save this species from extinction by gathering critical scientific information and through campaign involving all stakeholders.

1. To investigate the status of habitats in Kamrup District, Assam.
2. To investigate prey availability in the feeding grounds of the study area.
3. To identify the frequently used foraging area during breeding and non breeding season.
4. To study the intra and inter specific relation with other wader species in the foraging sites.
5. To initiate conservation campaigns involving students and celebrities based on the information gathered through previous objectives.

Methodology (max 500 words)

Before doing the actual field works information were gathered on the past distribution and previous sighting records of the species in the locality from the published literatures, meeting with experts and armature birdwatchers. Based on this primary survey was done in Kamrup District to know the current breeding and foraging areas. DBH (Diameter at breast height) of each breeding trees were recorded and identified up to species level. Foraging areas of the bird were visited and GPS location were recorded. Prey density was sampled in the foraging wetlands. Water quality for the main foraging



wetland was also sampled and analyzed for basic chemical parameters (1. Dissolved Oxygen, 2. Free Carbon-di-oxide, 3. Alkalinity as CaCO_3 , 4. Acidity, 5. Hardness as CaCO_3 , 6. Chloride, 7. Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen and 8. Phosphate) to know the chemical environment of the wetland. Use of various foraging grounds by the bird was recorded for both breeding and non-breeding seasons. Main foraging area in the non breeding season was visited in every week during the non breeding season and number of storks were recorded in every week. In both breeding foraging habitats other associated bird fauna were also recorded to know and association with Greater Adjutant in the habitat. All observed threats in both breeding and foraging habitat were recorded for analyzed for further conservation actions by the respective stakeholders. Networks of local volunteers were involved to monitor the bird in the breeding season on the locality.

Conservation campaign was planned involving students, villagers, celebrities, media personalities and policy makers. Regular education workshops were arranged in local schools and community places to raise the awareness level of the villagers and school children of the breeding colony area. Meetings were arranged between policy makers and local people to understand the ground situation for conservation of the bird. Collaterals were published in local languages to spread the message of conservation of the stork and distributed freely to local people, school library and community places. Local woman groups in breeding colony area were sensitized and special awareness campaign were arranged for them. A celebrity, who is a famous film actress in Assam was roped in to spread the conservation message and visited the nesting colony, met the breeding tree owners personally. All nest tree owners were publicly felicitated in a public meeting by this celebrity and photo sessions were arranged for the nest tree owners with the celebrity. Local media houses were sensitized with the conservation situation of the bird and inputs were given to them for publishing the conservation situation and urgency for conservation of this globally endangered bird.



Outputs and Results (max 500 words)

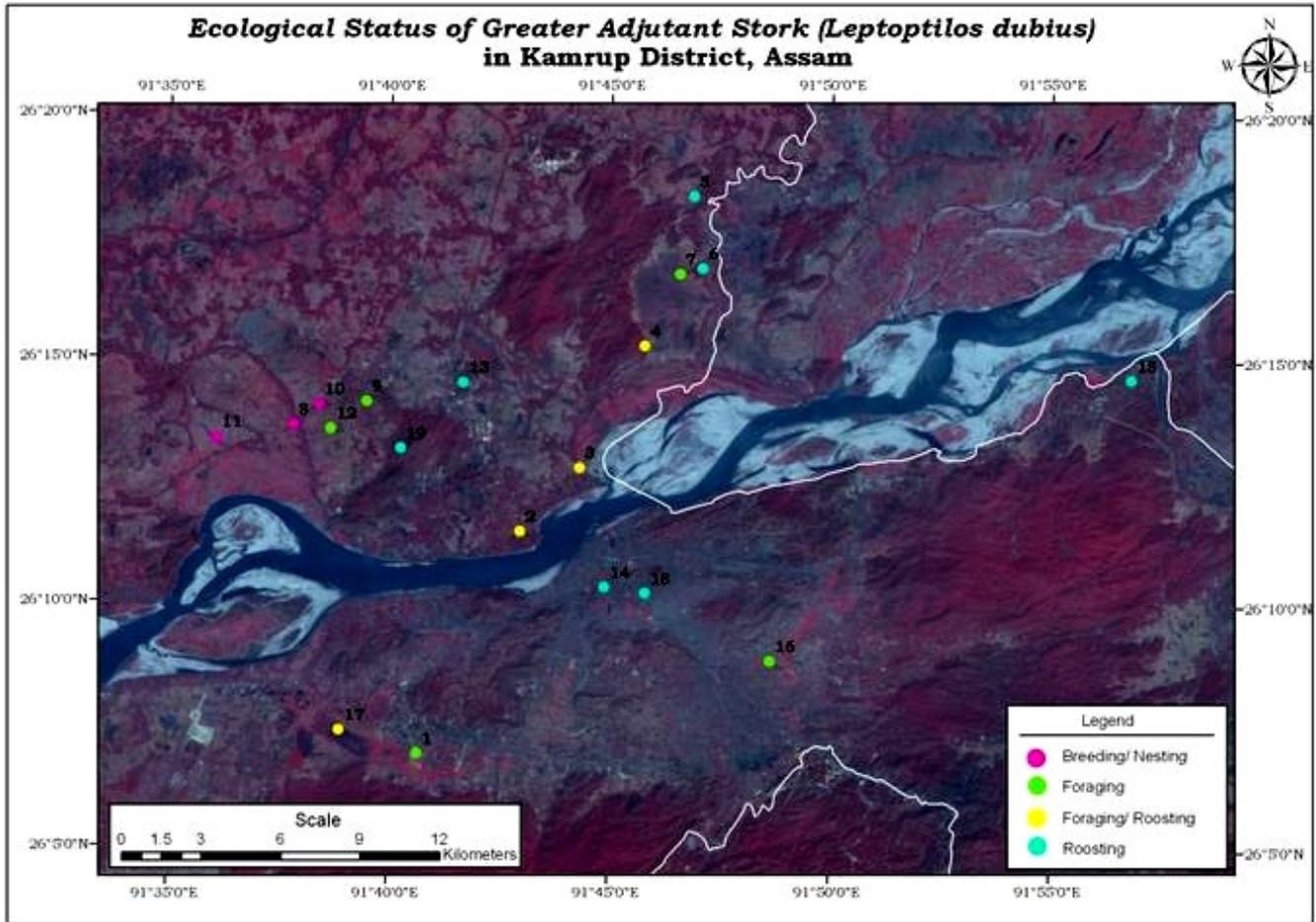
In the first season (2009-2010) all together 124 numbers of nests were found in the locality in the very first nesting month. But subsequently 64 numbers of nests were found successful. In the second breeding season (2010-2011), 172 numbers of nests were found in the area but later 106 numbers were found to be successful. In the first breeding season (2009-2010), in 11 numbers of nests, two nestling per nests were raised where as in 53 numbers of nests only one nestling was raised. In the second breeding season (2010-2011) in 55 numbers of nests two nestlings were raised and in 51 nests only one nestling was raised. In the first breeding season (2001-2010) 36 numbers of nestlings was found dead below in the ground of the nesting trees. In the second breeding season (2010-2011) 18 were found dead in the ground of the nesting trees. In terms of association with other similar species Openbill storks were recorded in the wetlands of the area but no nesting colonies could be seen in the area. Lesser adjutant storks also could be seen using the same wetlands during breeding season and nests were located in nearby villages. But sharing the same nesting tree was not recorded in the study area. But in the garbage dumping grounds no other similar wetland birds were seen. Deepar beel wetland ecosystem found to be the main foraging area both in breeding and non-breeding season and any single day minimum 50 numbers of greater adjutant could be seen in this wetland. In this wetland water quality parameters were found to be higher in end but within the (ISI) permissible limit. The DO₂ was estimated low, however, the increasing trend of TKN and phosphate were found. The concentration of chloride was also estimated in increasing trend indicating pollution both chemical and organic origin (Das 1978).

During the project period a poster was prepared to highlight the importance of the bird with appeal for its conservation in local vernacular language. This poster seems to be very popular in amongst the stakeholder. This was distributed freely to the villagers, students and community groups of the locality. A sicker with similar motive was also prepared and presented to the government officials. A *gamosa*, traditional Assamese towel, was prepared with a stork motive by the women folk of the nesting colony. They were very proud to make such *gamosa* and this was presented to the all guests, government officials, experts media personals who visited the nesting colony as a sign of gesture by the villagers.



Table No. 1: Number of workshops, meeting, education programmes with number of participants and target group.

Sl.No	Programme	Number	Number of Participants	Target Groups	Comments
1	Workshop for project staffs	1	16	Project staffs and volunteers who will participate in the data collection and field sessions	This was organized to have a interaction session with the project staffs to familiarized then in the project aim and objectives and methodology and overall project activities.
2	Group meeting	11	11x 12 (average)	Field volunteers	These groups meeting was organized to discuss the field methodologies and any problem anticipation and probable solution for them.
3	Meeting with top decision makers (Forest Department)	4	4 x 3	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Chief Conservator of Forest, Research Officer, Forest Department, Conservator of Forest	These meeting was organized basically to give them a recent update of the status of the bird and for request to take necessary actions.
4	Meeting with Local Youth Groups	8	8 X 14 (average)	Local Youth groups in the nesting colony area	For a better understanding of the bird and its importance. Free distribution of poster and educational materials
5	Public meeting	2	2 x 60 (average)	Local villagers	For a better understanding of the bird and its importance. Free distribution of poster and educational materials
6	Nest tree owners felicitation meeting	2	50 (aprox)	Local people and Forest Department personnel	To praise the efforts of the local nest tree owners for their support for this bird.
7	Workshop cum discussion with school / college students	16	16 x 55 (average)	Students of Kamrup District	For a better understanding of the bird and its importance. Free distribution of poster and educational materials
8	Student Rally	1	150 (aprox)	Students of the nesting colony area	To raise public awareness on the importance of the species and its conservation



Some of the Project Activities.....



Briefing to the local school students at the nesting colony village



Students rally for the conservation of the bird and its habitat



Community meeting for the conservation of the bird



Kamrup District Commissioner's appeal for conservation of the bird



Village volunteers rescuing a nest fall Greater Adjutant chick and giving first aid



Villagers and Forest Department authority release a nest fall and rescued bird that was treated and hand raised by Assam Forest Department



Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Government of Assam addressing a village meeting



Noted Assamese film actress felicitates a nest tree owner in public meeting

Achievements and Impacts:

Apart from the gathering on the information on the status of the breeding colony and foraging habitats in the study area, conservation initiatives taken along with was found to be very effective. The results could be seen in the very second breeding season with higher nest counts in the area. Many villagers who was planning to cut the nesting trees for some reason had stop doing so and extended their full support for the conservation of this endangered bird. Forest Department personnel, who used to ignore so far the conservation of this bird in the locality found to be more participatory and helpful for various conservation initiatives taken by the project. During the project tenure villagers successfully hand raised few nest fall birds and could be released in area. This was amazing as those nest fall birds usually died of starvation or preyed by street dogs. Few nest fall birds were sent to Assam State Zoo for hand raising and few of them could be released in the area after hand raising. The making of portrait of the bird by the village women groups in traditional handloom towels were highlighted in the media and that encouraged the village folk for taking conservation initiatives in their locality. Visiting the nest sites in the villages by the popular Assamese film actress was an instant hit and found to be very effective for spreading the conservation message. The villagers said that because of this bird only this popular film celebrity visited their villages and they feel proud of that. They even said that they will try their level best to save this bird in their villages so that they have more celebrity and tourist visits in their village. Finally the project work could developed the “ownership feeling” amongst the villagers that may be termed as the biggest impact of this project.



Section 3:

Conclusion (max 250 words):

Continuous support of the nest tree owner is the key for any conservation effort for this bird. This can be achieved with arranging interaction cum meeting and praising their support in a regular basis. This was experienced during the project tenure and nest tree owners and local villagers understood the need of the conservation of this species. A ‘ownership feeling’ of the bird was developed amongst the villagers and this could be mentioned as a big success of the project. If this can be replicated in all major nesting colonies in Assam then the future of the bird is bright. Though can be termed as natural phenomena, mortality of nest fall bird is found to be a major hindrance in nesting success. Timely intervention to save this nest fall chicks found to be effective during the project tenure. The Conservation of Greater adjutant was not in agenda in any government sponsored initiative. Conservation decision making bodies was lacking in the key information regarding this bird. The project has brought key government officials to the nesting colony and they were briefed with the situation and thus “ice was broken” for any future joint conservation effort with communities and government. It may be mentioned that in Kamrup District, Deepar Beel is the key foraging habitat for this bird. This wetland needs specific protection and required urgent attention in regards to the habitat need of this bird. Conservation groups should make more efforts to know the bird in whole Brahmaputra valley.

Problems encountered and lessons learnt (max 500 words):

The involvement of the most popular film actress in the conservation campaign was an instant hit and popularized the project activities in breeding colony villages. The villagers were very happy to met the film actress in their village that too for a noble cause. With the involvement of the celebrity, the villagers also got extra edge media publicity for their support of conservation of this globally endangered bird. This made villagers very happy to see their recognition on their effort to save this bird. Involving celebrities was found to be troublesome initially as many celebrities demanded money to visit the villages and to be a part



of the conservation campaign. That was not budgeted in the project. This was overcome by involving popular media houses who promised to give extra edge publicity to the celebrity who help to the noble cause. That's how we could rope in the most popular film personality who got publicity as a "brand ambassador" to save this globally endangered bird. Media houses kept their promise so the celebrity got publicity and the project got its desired results in return.

Initially the project was planned to wind out its field activities by December 2010. But this was not possible because the presence of birds was seen in the nesting colony area till March. So, project team decided to continue the field activity till March of 2011. This was also not budgeted but as this was seen in the very first nesting season (September 2009 to March 2010, field works were re-planned for the next nesting season (September 2010 to March 2011) and daily field expenditures were reduced to minimum (from December 2010 to March 2011). Monitoring of the birds in all nests together was found to be a problem initially as these were spread over an area of 10 sq km and also demanded lots of travel and related cost factors which was not budgeted as such. But this was overcome later with involving local volunteers.

Using school children and local women folks during the project was found to be very effective. In Indian scenario politicians plays a major role in almost all sectors. It would have been very nice if the project could rope in local influential political leader. But the political leader is always known to be a "double edge sword" and this was avoided in the present project.

Need of a field station in the in the project location was felt while doing project activities in the area. This will help to plan and execute field activities easily and will have regular access to various nesting locations in a day-to-day basis by the project staff. For any long term future activities such field station should be planned. The field station also may be used as a local resource centre for community awareness activities.



In the future (max 200 words):

Awareness activity initiated in the project location has been continued as per the request of the local people. These programmes include presentation in the local schools, community halls and one to one discussion with the nest tree owners.

As the nesting colonies are located in community areas and support of tree owners is the key, community participatory activities should be the back-bone of any future conservation effort. A compensation scheme should be planned to compensate some selected poor villagers who wants to cut the nesting trees to earn their livelihoods. The current project model should be extended to other major nesting location along the Brahmaputra valley. As no recent information is available on the population and breeding locations of the Brahmaputra valley and a systematic data generation should be planned in these aspects. Government law enforcement authority should be sensitized continuously and should be fed with recent scientific data of the species. A conservation action plan involving all stakeholders with all recent facts and figures might be good idea for saving this endangered species. Rescue and rehabilitation of nest fall bird chicks with meticulous planning may be proved as an important tool to contribute in the population of this bird.

Reference Cited:

1. BirdLife International. 2011. Species factsheet: *Leptoptilos dubius*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 05/08/2011. Recommended citation for factsheets for more than one species: BirdLife International (2011) IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 05/08/2011
2. Das, D. 1978. Pollution in Lake Nainital, UP. As evidenced by biological Indicator. *Sci., and Cutt.*, 44, 236-237.
3. Saikia , P. and P.C. Bhattacharjee. 1993. Status, Diversity and decline of waterbirds in Brahmaputra valley, Assam, India. In: Bird Conservation strategies for the nineties and beyond, Ornithological Society of India. 20-27 pp.



4. Singha, H., A. R. Rahamani, M. C. Coulter and S. Javed 2002. Nesting ecology of Greater Adjutant Stork in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam, India. *Waterbirds* 25(2): 214-220.
5. Singha, H., A. R. Rahamani, M. C. Coulter and S. Javed. 2003. Surveys for Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* in the Brahmaputra valley, Assam, India during 1994 -1996. *Forktail* 19:146-148

Project presentations in Conferences and Seminars:

1. Attended 23rd Annual Meeting of Society for Conservation Biology at Edmonton, Canada on July 2010 and presented poster on the project activities.
2. Attended annual meeting and conference of National Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (NWRA) at Seattle, USA from 8th to 15th March, 2010 and discussed the project activities.
3. Attended Department of Science and Technology (DST)-SERC, Government of India Interaction meeting in Bird Biology (5th to 7th August, 2011) at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) and presented paper on the project activities.



Section 4:

Appendix I

Financial Statement Summary

Itemized expenses	Total CLP requested (USD)	Total CLP used (USD)
PHASE I - PROJECT PREPARATION		
Administration		
Communications (telephone/internet/postage)	100.00	98.00
Books and printing journal articles/materials	500.00	500.00
Insurance		
Permission fee	500.00	490.00
Team training	400.00	410.00
Reconnaissance	300.00	300.00
Medical supplies/first aid		
Equipment		
Scientific/field equipment and supplies	2350.00	2350.00
Photographic equipment	575.00	575.00
Camping equipment		
Field guides	2000.00	2000.00
Maps	450.00	450.00
Boat/engine/truck		
Fuel	500.00	500.00
Other (Please detail:)		
PHASE II - IMPLEMENTATION EXPENSES		
Food for team members and local guides	440.00	460.00
Transportation	1000.00	1008.00
Workshops	400.00	415.00
Outreach/education activities and materials (brochures, posters, video, t-shirts, etc.) (Please detail:	500.00	500.00
Posters	500.00	525.00
t-shirts and traditional towel with stork motif	500.00	500.00
Other (Please detail:)Flakes printing	500.00	500.00
PHASE III - POST-PROJECT EXPENSES		
Administration		
Report production and results dissemination	500.00	450.00
Other (Please detail:)		
Total	12015.00	12031.00

Appendix II

Number of Foraging / Breeding and Roosting area recorded during the project period

Sl.No.	Place	District	Activity	Latitude	Longitude
	Boragaon Garbage				
1	dump	Kamrup	Foraging	26 06 55.1	91 40 40.7
2	Majgaon	Kamrup	Foraging/Roosting	26 11 28.8	91 42 59.1
3	Rangmahal	Kamrup	Foraging/Roosting	26 12 46.7	91 44 18.9
4	Bornijuri Par	Kamrup	Foraging/Roosting	26 15 16.7	91 45 47.0
5	Mandakata	Kamrup	Roosting	26 18 21.1	91 46 52.1
6	Satgaon (Howrapara 2)	Kamrup	Roosting	26 16 52.4	91 47 04.6
7	Jeng Beel	Kamrup	Foraging	26 16 45.3	91 46 33.4
8	Dadara village	Kamrup	Breeding/Nesting	26 13 37.3	91 37 49.7
9	Digheli beel	Kamrup	Foraging	26 14 07.03	91 39 28.49
10	Pachariya village	Kamrup	Breeding/Nesting	26 14 02.76	91 38 24.13
11	Singimari	Kamrup	Breeding/Nesting	26 13 21.19	91 36 05.08
12	Bhoka beel	Kamrup	Foraging	26 13 33.1	91 38 40.3
13	Alabhai Pahar	Kamrup	Roosting	26 14 30.75	91 41 39.62
14	South Sarania	Kamrup	Roosting	26 10 20.98	91 44 53.50
15	Chandrapur	Kamrup	Roosting	26 14 38.42	91 56 49.21
16	Sasal	Kamrup	Foraging	26 08 51.50	91 48 39.77
17	Deepar beel	Kamrup	Foraging	26 07 23.63	91 38 54.46
18	Ulubari	Kamrup	Foraging/Roosting	26 10 13.98	91 45 48.97
19	Hitila pahar	Kamrup	Roosting	26 13 09.23	91 40 15.07

Appendix III

Physicochemical environment of Deepar Beel wetland, the prime foraging habitat of Greater Adjutant in Kamrup District of Assam, India

	Tur NTU	pH	DO ₂ mg/l	FCO ₂ mg/l	Alk mg/l	Acd mg/l	Har mg/l	Chl mg/l	Tkn mg/l	Phs mg/l
No. of Observations	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Minimum	34.0	7.6	5.5	4.6	123.0	10.0	118.0	35.5	0.92	0.9
Maximum	40.0	8.2	6.9	6.7	145.0	17.0	135.0	42.7	1.3	1.4
Mean	37.6	7.9	6.3	5.3	134.2	12.8	124.8	38.6	1.0	1.0
SD	1.77	0.18	0.34	0.53	5.46	2.06	5.06	2.62	0.12	0.15

Nesting records during project period

Name of Nest tree owners	Nesting tree	DBH (diameter at breast height) In feet	Nesting season 2009-2010		Nesting season 2010-2012	
			Initial nests before hatching	Successful nesting	Initial nests before hatching	Successful nesting
Mr. Bapu Ram Das	Kadam(1)	9.0	9	4	6	3
Mr Bapuram Das	Kadam(2)	6.5	9	4	6	2
Mr. Bapuram Das	Dewa(3)	9.0	9	4	6	2
Mr. Utpal Das	Kadam (1)	6.5	9	4	6	2
Mr. Utpal Das	Kadam (2)		9	4	9	2
Mr.Mukunda Madhab Baiswa	Kadam(1)	5.5	6	3	6	3
Mr. Mukunda Madhab Baishya	Kadam (2)	6.6	9	3	9	2
Mrs.Sumitra Baiswa	Kadam	7.0	9	3	9	4
Mr.Yadav Das	Kadam	7.0	9	3	9	4
Mr. Khagen Kalita	Kadam	5.6	9	4	6	2
Mr.Gahan Saikia	Dewa	5.5	9	4	9	2
Mr. Mahin kalita	Kadam	5.5	9	2	6	3
Mr.Deepak Das	Kadam (1)	9.0	9	2	6	3
Mr. Deepak Das	Kadam (2)	5.5	12	4	Tree cut in 2010	
Mr. Gahan Saikia	Kadada	8.0	9	2	9	4
Mr. Jatin Kalita	Kadam	5.5	9	2	9	4
Mrs Madhuri Patrhak	Kadam	6.0	9	2	9	4
Mr. Prabin Saikia	Kadam	7.3	9	4	9	4
Mr. Shibaram Das	Kadam	9.0	9	4	9	4
Mrs Basanti Deka	Dewa	9.0	9	4	9	4
Mr. Atul Kalita	Kadam	9.0	9	3	9	4
Mr. Mahin Das	Dewa	6.7	9	2	6	4
Mr. Bhupen Das	Dewa	5.5	9	2	9	2
Naba kumar Das	Kadam	5.5	6	2	9	2
Mr. Bhupen Das	Kadam	6.6	6	2	9	2
Mr. Naba Kumar Deka	Kadam	5.5	9	2	6	2
Mr. Mridul Kalita	Dewa	6.6	9	3	6	2
Mr. Dimbeshwar Kalita	Kadam	9.0	9	3	6	4
Mr. Niranjan Sarmah	Kadam		9	3	9	2
Mr. Tanuram Kalita	Kadam	5.5	6	3	9	2
Mr. Radha Ram Kalita	Kadam	5.5	9	2	3	3
Mr.Satish Kalita	Kadam	7.7	9	2	3	3

Appendix V

Copies of collaterals produced during the project period



Copies of any media articles relating to the project.

1. <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=mar0611/city05>

Assam Tribune: Guwahati, Sunday, March 06, 2011 Villagers check fall in adjutant stork population

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, March 5 – The highly-endangered greater adjutant stork – the rarest of the 20 species of storks in the world – has found a green ambassador in popular actress Prastuti Parashar who will be interacting with local villagers and schoolchildren at Dadara on its remarkable conservation endeavour through community participation.

Dadara has been witness to a unique saga of villagers stepping in to prevent the downward slide of the greater adjutant stork (hargila in Assamese) population. The habitat of the bird is now sacrosanct at Dadara, and this apart, the local community's commitment is reflected in the efforts of the weavers who are busy spreading the message of conservation through the wonderful stork motifs on the traditional gamosa – a household item across the State.

"Weaving the motifs of the bird on the gamosa is a reminder to all the users that just about 800 adjutant storks are left on the planet, which need people's support to survive. Awareness on the need to protect this unique bird is definitely growing with community participation," Purnima Devi Barman of Aaranyak who has been behind the conservation efforts at Dadara, said.

Eighty per cent of the present global population of the bird is found in the Brahmaputra Valley, with Kamrup district accounting for 50 per cent of those. The three villages of Dadara, Posoria and Singimari shelter a healthy concentration of 280 birds.

"Now we are involving popular cine and theatre personality Prastuti Parashar in our conservation efforts. She will be interacting with villagers and children of the local Sankardev Sishu Niketan, Dadara, on March 7. We expect her star power to give a further boost to our conservation efforts," Purnima said, adding that forest and district administration officials would also actively participate in the event.

As the storks build their nesting colonies on trees grown on private land, the threat to their existence becomes greater and conservation efforts remain a far cry sans active cooperation from the communities. Aaranyak started the conservation initiative at Dadara in 2009 with the objective of eliciting people's cooperation in protecting the nesting colonies of the birds spread over numerous treetops in the area.

The Aaranyak initiative which is coordinated by Purnima is supported by the **Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), UK**. The CLP is a partnership of four organisations – Birdlife International, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Fauna and Flora International – working to promote the development of future biodiversity conservation leaders.

“Due to a sustained awareness campaign, the villagers at Dadara now take pride in the reality that their place is one of the last few bastions on the planet where this bird is thriving. They are aware that Dadara is an important spot on the map of global distribution of the greater adjutant stork,” she said, adding that of late an increasing nesting trend was conspicuous at Dadara.

2. <http://www.wildlifewatch.in/section/habitat/6524.html>

3. http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100723/jsp/northeast/story_12713611.jsp

The Telegraph: Friday, July 23, 2010

Gamosa in ‘save stork’ cry

- Kamrup artisans weave conservation message on to cloth ROOPAK GOSWAMI



Guwahati, July 22: Artisans in a Kamrup village are raising silent conservation slogans with a spool of thread, weaving motifs of the greater adjutant stork into *gamosas* to remind the user that there are only 800 of them left in the world.



Of the 20 stork species found on the planet, the greater adjutant is the rarest, confined mainly to Assam and Cambodia. Eighty per cent of the bird’s global population lives in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam and Kamrup district is home to 50 per cent of them.

A research team of Aaranyak, a society for biodiversity conservation in the Northeast, arrived in Dadara in Kamrup district in July last year to mobilise community co-operation for conservation of the nesting colony of the greater adjutant stork species.

The storks and (above) the motif on the *gamosa*

“With frequent interaction and motivation efforts, the villagers began understanding the importance of the bird species to the ecology.

They have started taking pride in the fact that theirs is one of the few places on earth where this important variety of stork is found,” said Purnima Devi Barman, the leader of Aaranyak’s research team.

Villagers have now become so fond of those storks that they have started flaunting their presence in whatever way they can.

For instance, a team of weavers led by Sanju Saikia has started weaving the motif of the bird on *gamosas* (traditional Assamese towels) under the guidance of Purnima Devi.

“Professor Stephen Garnett, director of School of Environmental Research Charles Darwin University in Australia, was overwhelmed by the stork motif on the *gamosa* presented to him when I met him at Albarta University in Canada during a conference earlier this month. We are now planning to help and motivate Dadara weavers to weave bedsheets using the stork motif so that their love for the bird can provide them with a source of earning too,” she said.

Dadara, she feels, can also be promoted as a tourist location to highlight the community’s involvement in ecology conservation.

She admits that only a few weavers are involved now and they have not yet tried to sell the *gamosa* in the market.

“We are planning to orient the weavers of Dadara on the issue and to encourage them for production of other things like bags and wall-hangings with stork sketches,” she said.

Though the bird species is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India, its habitats (nesting colonies) are not protected. As these storks build their nesting colonies on trees grown on private land, conservation efforts become futile without the co-operation from the community concerned.

4. <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2010/20100815/spectrum/main3.htm>

Spectrum

The Tribune

Sunday, August 15, 2010

Saving the stork

By weaving motifs of the Greater Adjutant, a rare stork species, into their gamochas, Assam villagers are raising silent conservation slogans, writes Bijay Sankar Bora from Guwahati

A unique episode of villagers participating in the conservation of an endangered bird species has been unfolding in the non-descript Dadara area in Kamrup district of Assam, about 30 km from the Guwahati city.

The villagers’ commitment for the protection of the bird is reflected in the efforts of weavers from the area, who are raising silent conservation slogans by weaving motifs of the Greater Adjutant into ‘*gamochoa*’ (traditional Assamese towels) to remind the users that



only 800 of the species are left on the planet. Greater Adjutant (called hargila in the Assam valley) is an important scavenging bird species that keeps the environment clean, besides regulating the population of vertebrates like frogs, fishes, snails etc. found in wetlands.

Of the 20 stork species found on the planet, Greater Adjutant is the rarest. It is found mainly in Assam and Cambodia. Eighty per cent of the global population of the bird is present in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam and Kamrup district houses about 50 per cent of these birds. Though the species is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India, its habitats and nesting colonies are not protected under the provision of the same Act. As these storks build their nesting colonies on trees grown on private land, the threat to their existence becomes greater and conservation efforts remain a far cry sans active cooperation from the community concerned.

A research team of Aaranyak, a society for biodiversity conservation in the North-East, set feet at the Dadara area in Kamrup district in July 2009 with the objective to elicit the community's cooperation for the conservation of the nesting colony of Greater Adjutant species spread over several treetops in the area. The effort has been funded by the **Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), UK**. The CLP is a partnership of four organisations — Birdlife International, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Fauna and Flora International — working to promote the development of future biodiversity conservation leaders by providing a range of awards, training and mentoring support via an active international network of practitioners.

"By virtue of frequent interaction and motivation efforts initiated by us, the villagers started understanding the importance of the bird species to the ecology. They have started taking pride that theirs' is one of the few places on the earth where this important species of stork is found and that puts their area in the global map of distribution of important bird species," said Purnima Devi Barman, leader of the Aaranyak research team.

The villagers have become so fond of those storks that they have now started flaunting it in whatever way they can. For instance, a team of weavers led by Sanju Saikia of the village have started weaving the motif of the bird on 'gamochas' under the guidance of Purnima Devi, who claims that this new-look 'gamochas' have been an instant hit with outsiders.

"Professor Stephen Garnett, Director of the School of Environmental Research Charles Darwin University in Australia, was overwhelmed by the stork motif in the 'gamocha' presented to him when I met him at Albarta University in Canada during a conference earlier this month. We are now planning to help and motivate Dadara weavers to weave bedsheets using the stork motif so that their love for the bird can provide them with a source of earning too," she said, adding that Dadara can now be promoted as a tourist location to highlight the community's involvement in ecology conservation.

According to Paresh Das, Principal of Sankardev Sishu Niketan, Dadara, the participation of villagers in conservation efforts has raised hopes for the survival of the species. "The villagers have realised that just as the Kaziranga National Park is famous for the one-horned rhino, Dadara, too, can win global recognition for the Greater Adjutant if the state's tourism authorities start promoting it," Das said.



5. http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091215/jsp/northeast/story_11860193.jsp

The Telegraph: Tuesday December 15, 2009

For a greener world

The nature club of Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Borsajai, organised various activities on December 2 on the school premises to celebrate National Pollution Prevention Day.

Eco Club Borsajai is recognised by the Union ministry of environment and forests as a member of its National Green Corps programme.

The members started the daylong programme with a drawing competition in which students from the lower classes participated. The theme for the competition was environment. A quiz was organised for middle school students, conducted by the members of the eco-club with “Assam” as its topic.

For the students of Classes IX and XII, an interaction programme was held in the library hall of the school.

At the beginning, Nandini Srutikar Sarma, programme secretary of the club, gave a brief introduction.

Attending as a resource person, **Purnima Devi Barman**, environment educator of *Aaranyak*, discussed the threatened species of the Northeast and the importance of their conservation.

Two documentary films on environment were screened by Jhorna Brahma of *Aaranyak*.

Another attractive programme of the day was an exhibition in which various models, charts and drawings were displayed.

As a part of a cleanliness drive, members of the club collected polythene packets found on the school premises and then with the help of the school authorities, declared the campus a “no polythene zone”.

6. <http://www.assamtimes.org/knowledge-development/3720.html>

World Wetlands Day 2010 celebrated in Guwahati

10 February, 2010 [Amarjyoti Borah](#)



“Caring for wetland –an answer to Climate change”, “Save Wetland Save Greater Adjutant”, “Wetlands are the Kidney of an ecosystem” - with these important themes Aaranyak in collaboration with Sarala Birla Gyan Jyoti School has celebrated World wetlands Day on February 2 through a rally in the Jalukbari area. After this rally a petition was submitted to District Commissioner, Kamrup Rural by the students of Sarala Birla Gyanjyoti and requested him pass the message to Chief Minister of Assam to conserve 3000 odd wetlands of Assam which are the store house of our Biodiversity.

This programme was followed by an additional daylong programme at Shankardev Sishu Niketan at Dadara where students of this school along with the students of Sarala Birla Gyanjyoti were briefed by Aaranyak in the importance of wetlands and their need for conservation to save our environment. Dr. Rathin Barman, a prominent wetland scientist addressed the students and had interaction with the students on various issues relating to wetlands of our state. Ms. A. Goyal, Principal of Sarala Birla Gyanjyoti school has addressed the students and she thanks the local villagers who are protecting Greater Adjutant, a globally endangered bird, which makes nests in this villages. Students also felicitated the proud nest tree owners of this globally endangered bird in the occasion. Purnima Devi Barman, a researcher from Aaranyak also spoke in the occasion and made appeal to the students to be a part of the wetland conservation movement which will save many endangered species and plants including Greater Adjutant. She said in future Dadara can be a tourist hub to see this endangered bird by various bird lovers from the globe. “Without wetlands these bird has no future and will vanish from our earth. We must protect wetlands to save this bird”, she said. In the daylong programme was co-organized by Sankardev Sishu Niketan and Transition Academy in collaboration with Aaranyak and Sarala Birla Gyanjyoti School.

Dadara village was selected for this years World Wetland Day celebration to highlight the needs for the protection of wetlands to conserve the globally endangered bird Greater Adjutant. In the world today about 600 of this bird are left in Assam and more than 50 percent of its global population can be found in and around Guwahati City.

7. <http://www.hindustantimes.com/Where-humans-help-stork-deliver-their-own-babies/Article1-670249.aspx>

Hindustan Times: March 06, 2011

Where humans help stork deliver their own babies

Storks are fabled to deliver human babies to expectant parents. Reality is, residents of a backward village in Assam have been helping the birds deliver their own. For greens and Assamese cine stars, all roads would on Monday lead to Dadara village 30 km west of Guwahati. Their agenda: to felicitate 25 owners of tall trees for quietly making a strong ecological statement. These trees belong to species – locally called ‘kadam’, ‘simalu’ and ‘deva’ – that are quite common in the subcontinent. What makes the ones in Dadara special is that they are homes to almost a third of the world’s total population of greater adjutant storks. The greater adjutant, the rarest of 19 species of storks on earth, is found in India and Cambodia. The world has only 800 of these large birds left, of which 600 reside across Assam’s Brahmaputra Valley. Some 300 such storks including chicks live on the trees in Dadara and adjoining areas. Farmers Paresch Das and Subodh Saikia aren’t aware that the trees they own sustain a tad under 50% of the world’s adjutant storks. “All I know is that they are family members, and that god has chosen our village to help them live peacefully on earth,” says Saikia. Wildlife activists stumbled upon Dadara’s stork-nest tree owners a few months ago. “The silent effort of the villagers has gone a long way in conserving the endangered greater adjutant stork they call ‘hargila’,” said Purnima Devi Barman of a green NGO named Aaranyak. “As these storks build their nesting colonies on trees grown on private land, conservation efforts cannot succeed without the active cooperation of the community concerned,” she told *HT*. In order to promote conservation beyond Dadara, the NGO would be felicitating the nest tree owners on Monday. Assamese film heartthrob Prastuti Parashar is expected to heighten the glamour quotient

-
8. [www.bnhservis.nic.in/pdf/BUCEROS%2016%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.bnhservis.nic.in/pdf/BUCEROS%2016%20(1).pdf)

-
9. http://meghalayatimes.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7702:greater-adjutant-plight-highlighted&catid=36:state&Itemid=29

Meghalaya Times: 10

February 2010



Greater Adjutant plight highlighted

Written by the Editor

Wednesday, 10 February 2010 18:53

OurBureau

GUWAHATI, Feb. 09: World Wetlands Day was observed at Guwahati on February 2,

organised by Aaranyak, a Guwahati-based environment organisation in collaboration with Sarala Birla Jyoti School.

The themes of the rally were ‘Caring for wetland –an answer to climate change’, ‘Save wetland save greater adjutant’ and ‘Wetlands are the kidney of an ecosystem’. After the rally, a petition was submitted to District Commissioner, Kamrup Rural, by the students of Sarala Birla Gyanjyoti, requesting him to pass the message to Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, to conserve 3,000 odd wetlands of Assam which are a storehouse of biodiversity.

The programme was followed by an additional day-long programme at Shankardev Sishu Niketan at Dadara where students of the school along with those of Sarala Birla Gyanjyoti were briefed by Aaranyak on the importance of wetlands and the need for conservation to save the environment. Dr. Rathin Barman, a prominent wetland scientist, addressed the students on issues relating to wetlands of the state.

Students felicitated proud nest tree owners of the Greater Adjutant Stork, a globally endangered bird, on the occasion. Purnima Devi Barman, a researcher from Aaranyak, also spoke in the occasion and appealed to the students to be a part of the wetland conservation movement which will save many endangered species and plants including the Greater Adjutant. “Without wetlands, these birds have no future and will vanish from our earth. We must protect wetlands to save this bird,” she said.

Dadara village was selected for this year’s World Wetland Day celebration to highlight the need for the protection of wetlands to conserve the globally endangered Greater Adjutant.

At present, only 600 Greater Adjutants remain in Assam and more than 50 per cent of its global population can be found in and around Guwahati city.

10. http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100105/jsp/northeast/story_11943901.jsp

The Telegraph: Tuesday, January 5th, 2010

CHIT CHAT

An awareness programme on greater adjutant storks was held at Transition Academy, Damdama, in the Hajo area of Kamrup, recently. Higher secondary and degree students and villagers participated in the programme that stressed on conservation of the species. **Purnima Devi Barman, a field biologist of the Guwahati-based NGO Aaranyak, delivered a lecture on the topic, Endangered biodiversity of the Northeast with special reference to greater adjutant stork conservation.** She focused on the importance of bio-diversity conservation, threats to biodiversity, its values, besides students’ role in biodiversity conservation. The students formed a hargilla conservation group, which also comprises teachers, and committed to record the activities of the species, their numbers, and their problems

11.<http://www.assamtimes.org/social/3825.html>

Greater adjutant treated

24 March, 2010 [Amarjyoti Borah](#)



Phaguni, a greater adjutant found its natural home after one month stay as a special guest at the Assam State Zoo. It was released on 21 March after a grand farewell at Dodora village located 15 kms from Guwahati city, the birth place of the bird, by forest officials of the Assam forest department, Conservationists and the local villagers.

Phaguni a two month old greater adjutant was seriously injured, and was under treatment at the Assam state zoo for almost a month under the supervision of Dr. Bijoy Gogoi, veterinary surgeon posted at the Assam State zoo and Dr. Debojit Das, of the Rani Vulture Breeding Centre.

“The bird was found at a very critical stage, now it is perfectly fine. It was encouraging to see it fly after one month under treatment”, adds Das.

“Most likely the baby bird fell down from the tree where it was living under the supervision of its mother. It was found in a serious state on 23 February and has been under treatment and supervision since then”, says conservationist Purnima Barman, of the NGO Aaranyak who is pursuing a research on Greater Adjutant. “The breeding period is between September-March and this period a lot of Greater Adjutant dies by falling from the trees, last year there were 22 reported deaths.”, adds Barman.

Conservationists say they are alarmed at the reduction in the numbers of this endangered species. “The number of greater adjutant has gone down alarmingly. This ceremonious event followed by the farewell to the Adjutant, Phaguni was an effort to make the villagers aware of the importance of the bird”, says renowned Conservationist Bibhab Talukdar of Aaranyak.

Aaranyak had organised a meeting on March 21 at the house of Bapuram Das, the tree owner of the tree from which the bird fell down in February. “I was never aware of the importance of the Greater Adjutant bird, today I have taken a vow that I will always try to protect these birds”, said Das at the meeting He also praised Purnima Barman for her efforts to protect these birds and also making the villagers aware about how valuable these birds are for the nature. “Earlier the children in our village didn’t know about these birds, now they are always on the lookout for any Great Adjutant which might be in danger or need medical attention, and report these to the forest department”, adds Das.

Praising Aaranyak for their conservation efforts, DFO Narayan Mahanta said knowledge about nature is very important and it needs to penetrate into the rural areas. “Today we have taken only one small step, our goal is still far ahead and for that we need active cooperation from the villagers”, said Mahanta. “The concept and idea of the meeting followed by the release of the bird was excellent, also it was really productive as it involved the villagers in their locality”, said senior forest official George Ahmed after the event.

[12.http://www.meghalayetimes.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9725:phaguni-back-to-the-open-after-being-treated-in-assam&catid=46:cfm&Itemid=60](http://www.meghalayetimes.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9725:phaguni-back-to-the-open-after-being-treated-in-assam&catid=46:cfm&Itemid=60)

Phaguni back to the open after being treated
in Assam



Challenges for Meghalaya

Tuesday, 23 March 2010 10:59

Conservationists say they are alarmed at the reduction in the numbers of this endangered species. “The number of greater adjutant has gone down alarmingly. This ceremonious event followed by the farewell to the Adjutant, Phaguni was an effort to make the villagers aware of the importance of the bird”, says renowned Conservationist Bibhab Talukdar of Aaranyak.

Aaranyak had organised a meeting on March 21 at the house of Bapuram Das, the tree owner of the tree from which the bird fell down in February. “I was never aware of the importance of the Greater Adjutant bird, today I have taken a vow that I will always try to protect these birds”, said Das at the meeting.

He also praised Purnima Barman for her efforts to protect these birds and also making the villagers aware about how valuable these birds are for the nature.

“Earlier the children in our village didn’t know about these birds, now they are always on the lookout for any Great Adjutant which might be in danger or need medical attention, and report these to the forest department”, adds Das.

Praising Aaranyak for their conservation efforts, DFO Narayan Mahanta said knowledge about nature is very important and it needs to penetrate into the rural areas. “Today we have taken only one small step, our goal is still far ahead and for that we need active cooperation from the villagers”, said Mahanta.

“The concept and idea of the meeting followed by the release of the bird was excellent, also it was really productive as it involved the villagers in their locality”, said senior forest official George Ahmed after the event.

Phaguni, a greater adjutant found its natural home after one month stay as a special guest at the Assam State Zoo. It was released on March 21 after a grand farewell at Dodora village located 15 kms from Guwahati city, the birth place of the bird, by forest officials of the Assam forest department, Conservationists and the local villagers.

Phaguni a two month old greater adjutant was seriously injured, and was under treatment at the Assam state zoo for almost a month under the supervision of Dr. Bijoy Gogoi, veterinary surgeon posted at the Assam State zoo and Dr. Debojit Das, of the Rani Vulture Breeding Centre.

“The bird was found at a very critical stage, now it is perfectly fine. It was encouraging to see it fly after one month under treatment”, adds Das.

“Most likely the baby bird fell down from the tree where it was living under the supervision of its mother. It was found in a serious state on 23 February and has been under treatment and supervision since then”, says conservationist Purnima Barman, of the NGO Aaranyak who is pursuing a research on Greater Adjutant.

“The breeding period is between September-March and this period a lot of Greater Adjutant dies by falling from the trees, last year there were 22 reported deaths.”, adds Barman.

Conservationists say they are alarmed at the reduction in the numbers of this endangered species. “The number of greater adjutant has gone down alarmingly. This ceremonious event followed by the farewell to the Adjutant, Phaguni was an effort to make the villagers aware of the importance of the bird”, says renowned Conservationist Bibhab Talukdar of Aaranyak.

Aaranyak had organised a meeting on March 21 at the house of Bapuram Das, the tree owner of the tree from which the bird fell down in February. “I was never aware of the importance of the Greater Adjutant bird, today I have taken a vow that I will always try to protect these birds”, said Das at the meeting.

He also praised Purnima Barman for her efforts to protect these birds and also making the villagers aware about how valuable these birds are for the nature.

“Earlier the children in our village didn’t know about these birds, now they are always on the lookout for any Great Adjutant which might be in danger or need medical attention, and report these to the forest department”, adds Das.

Praising Aaranyak for their conservation efforts, DFO Narayan Mahanta said knowledge about nature is very important and it needs to penetrate into the rural areas. “Today we have taken only one small step, our goal is still far ahead and for that we need active cooperation from the villagers”, said Mahanta.

“The concept and idea of the meeting followed by the release of the bird was excellent, also it was really productive as it involved the villagers in their locality”, said senior forest official George Ahmed after the event.

13. News in Local Hindi News Paper.



14. <http://www.aaranyak.org/GACP.html>

In Aranyak website details of the project and its activity has been posted.

15. <http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20111102/1863918.html>

Assam Biologists educate villagers on bird conservation

Biologists in Assam are making the villagers aware about the importance of birds with the objective of increasing their numbers in near future.

Efforts are being made by the local population to protect the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork birds as they are presumed to be on the verge of extinction.

Purnima Devi Barma, a biologist attached with a non- government organisation, said it was a challenging task to educate villagers on the subject, as they were told about the disadvantage of cutting trees on which the Greater Adjutant storks made their nests.

She added that as this particular bird was carnivorous and fed mainly on garbage and offal, the locals considered it unclean. It took a lot of tutoring to explain to villagers the value of these endangered birds.

"The nests of these birds are near villages, in the non-protected areas and on the private land of people. So, problem is that people think it's a non-hygienic bird and that is a hurdle towards conservation. Our role here is to explain it to them that they should treat these birds like their children as they only visit this place for six months," said Barma.

Barma also said that the local administration provided them with all kinds of assistance and added that it was important that the government and the NGO jointly worked towards devising a plan that was aimed at protecting the endangered species.

"They (government) should take steps, and even NGOs like us and institutions can help the government. We all should sit down and come out with a conservation action plan. We should discuss what could be done practically. I am sure it will help conservation and the population of the bird would increase," said Barma.

The global population of the Greater Adjutant stork is likely to be around 900-1,000, with the Bramhaputra region alone consisting of about 700 of them.

The Greater Adjutant is listed as an endangered bird on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

This large stork has an enormous wedge-shaped beak, a bare head and a characteristic neck pouch.

It can be spotted foraging about in shallow lakes and rubbish dumps, and is regularly sighted with other carnivorous birds like kites and vultures. (ANI)

[16.http://news.hamaraphotos.com/ani/assam-biologists-educate-villagers-on-bird-conservation.html](http://news.hamaraphotos.com/ani/assam-biologists-educate-villagers-on-bird-conservation.html)

Kamrup, Nov 1 (ANI): Biologists in Assam are making the villagers aware about the importance of birds with the objective of increasing their numbers in near future.

Efforts are being made by the local population to protect the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork birds as they are presumed to be on the verge of extinction.

Purnima Devi Barma, a biologist attached with a non- government organisation, said it was a challenging task to educate villagers on the subject, as they were told about the disadvantage of cutting trees on which the Greater Adjutant storks made their nests.

She added that as this particular bird was carnivorous and fed mainly on garbage and offal, the locals considered it unclean. It took a lot of tutoring to explain to villagers the value of these endangered birds.

Barma also said that the local administration provided them with all kinds of assistance and added that it was important that the government and the NGO jointly worked towards devising a plan that was aimed at protecting the endangered species.

The global population of the Greater Adjutant stork is likely to be around 900-1,000, with the Bramhaputra region alone consisting of about 700 of them.

The Greater Adjutant is listed as an endangered bird on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

This large stork has an enormous wedge-shaped beak, a bare head and a characteristic neck pouch.

It can be spotted foraging about in shallow lakes and rubbish dumps, and is regularly sighted with other carnivorous birds like kites and vultures. (ANI

[17.http://www.indiatalkies.com/2011/11/assam-biologists-educate-villagers-bird-conservation.html](http://www.indiatalkies.com/2011/11/assam-biologists-educate-villagers-bird-conservation.html)

Assam Biologists educate villagers on bird conservation

November 2, 2011 | [National News](#) | Written by [Sakshi](#)

Kamrup, Nov 2: Biologists in Assam are making the villagers aware about the importance of birds with the objective of increasing their numbers in near future.

Efforts are being made by the local population to protect the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork birds as they are presumed to be on the verge of extinction.

Purnima Devi Barma, a biologist attached with a non- government organisation, said it was a challenging task to educate villagers on the subject, as they were told about the disadvantage of cutting trees on which the Greater Adjutant storks made their nests.

She added that as this particular bird was carnivorous and fed mainly on garbage and offal, the locals considered it unclean. It took a lot of tutoring to explain to villagers the value of these endangered birds.

“The nests of these birds are near villages, in the non-protected areas and on the private land of people. So, problem is that people think it’s a non-hygienic bird and that is a hurdle towards conservation. Our role here is to explain it to them that they should treat these birds like their children as they only visit this place for six months,” said Barma.

Barma also said that the local administration provided them with all kinds of assistance and added that it was important that the government and the NGO jointly worked towards devising a plan that was aimed at protecting the endangered species.

“They (government) should take steps, and even NGOs like us and institutions can help the government. We all should sit down and come out with a conservation action plan. We should discuss what could be done practically. I am sure it will help conservation and the population of the bird would increase,” said Barma.

The global population of the Greater Adjutant stork is likely to be around 900-1,000, with the Brahmaputra region alone consisting of about 700 of them.

The Greater Adjutant is listed as an endangered bird on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

This large stork has an enormous wedge-shaped beak, a bare head and a characteristic neck pouch.

It can be spotted foraging about in shallow lakes and rubbish dumps, and is regularly sighted with other carnivorous birds like kites and vultures. (ANI)

18. <http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/248303>

Assam Biologists educate villagers on bird conservation

Kamrup, Wed, 02 Nov 2011 ANI

Kamrup, Nov 2 (ANI): Biologists in Assam are making the villagers aware about the importance of birds with the objective of increasing their numbers in near future.

Efforts are being made by the local population to protect the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork birds as they are presumed to be on the verge of extinction.

Purnima Devi Barma, a biologist attached with a non- government organisation, said it was a challenging task to educate villagers on the subject, as they were told about the disadvantage of cutting trees on which the Greater Adjutant storks made their nests.

She added that as this particular bird was carnivorous and fed mainly on garbage and offal, the locals considered it unclean. It took a lot of tutoring to explain to villagers the value of these endangered birds.

"The nests of these birds are near villages, in the non-protected areas and on the private land of people. So, problem is that people think it's a non-hygienic bird and that is a hurdle towards conservation. Our role here is to explain it to them that they should treat these birds like their children as they only visit this place for six months," said Barma.

Barma also said that the local administration provided them with all kinds of assistance and added that it was important that the government and the NGO jointly worked towards devising a plan that was aimed at protecting the endangered species.

"They (government) should take steps, and even NGOs like us and institutions can help the government. We all should sit down and come out with a conservation action plan. We should discuss what could be done practically. I am sure it will help conservation and the population of the bird would increase," said Barma.

The global population of the Greater Adjutant stork is likely to be around 900-1,000, with the Brahmaputra region alone consisting of about 700 of them.

The Greater Adjutant is listed as an endangered bird on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

This large stork has an enormous wedge-shaped beak, a bare head and a characteristic neck pouch.

It can be spotted foraging about in shallow lakes and rubbish dumps, and is regularly sighted with other carnivorous birds like kites and vultures. (ANI)

