VULTURE CONSERVATION THROUGH CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME IN INDIA

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Abstract
Vultures were once the most abundant large birds of prey and nature’s scavengers across the world, including Indian subcontinent. Today they are one of the most endangered bird species. This has not only resulted in the near total disappearance of a magnificent bird from our skies, but also jeopardized the health and cleanliness in the countryside and caused unnatural changes in the natural food chain. To save vultures from extinction in India, an integrated approach of conservation breeding, research, monitoring, public awareness and advocacy for policy interventions was needed. The zoos have led the movement of vulture conservation in India from the outset. Zoos have been conducting an education and awareness campaign in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) to Save Vultures. The BNHS has been undergoing pioneering work in identifying the incidence and cause of vulture decline in India, scientific research on vulture populations, relentless advocacy work with multiple stakeholders to highlight the issue and partnering with Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres for threatened vulture species at three locations.