

# Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore, Haryana

## Annual Report for the period

1<sup>st</sup>April 2023 - 31<sup>st</sup>March 2024



An adult White-rumped vulture in colony aviary



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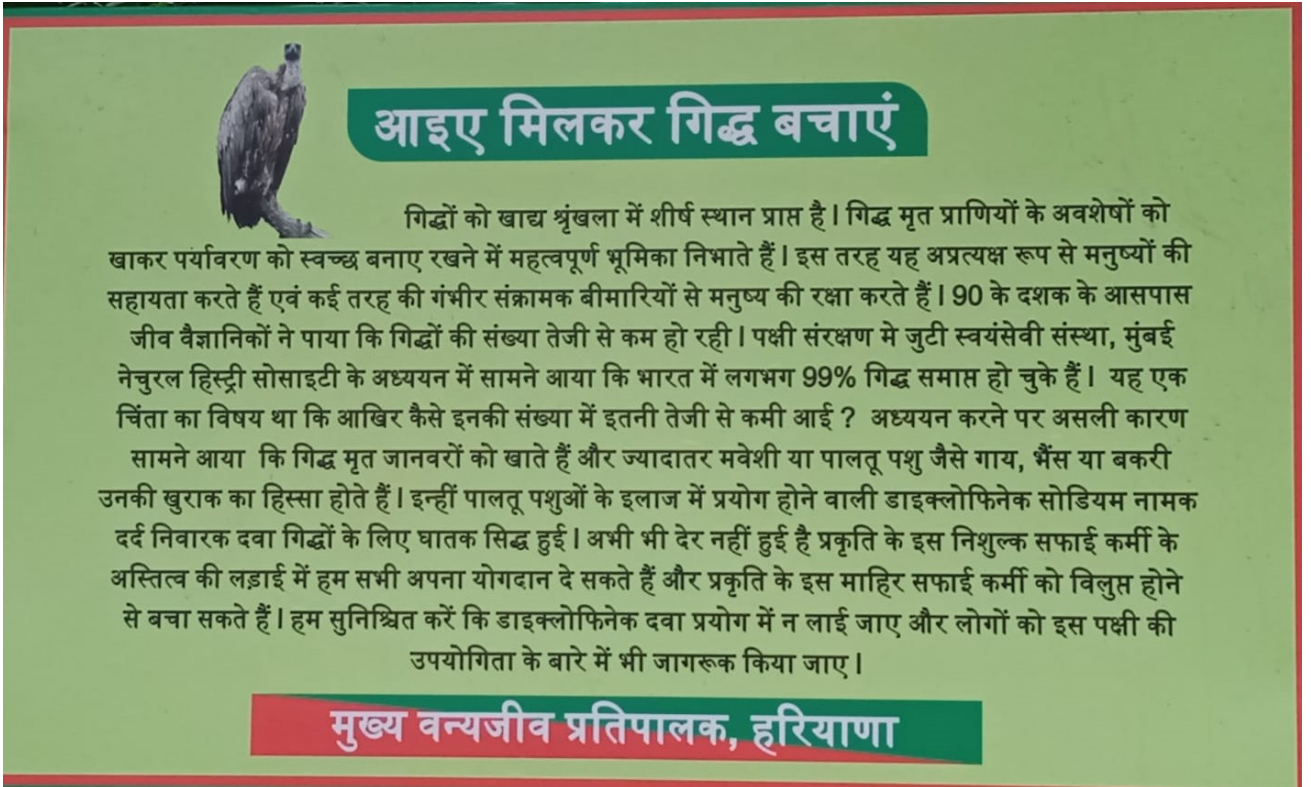
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## 1. Report of the Officer-in-charge

The Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore, located at Jodhpur village on the edge of the Bir Shikargaha Wildlife Sanctuary is a collaborative project of the Forest and Wildlife Department, Haryana and Bombay Natural History Society. The centre was established to save the three Critically Endangered Gyps species of vultures viz. White-backed vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*, Long-billed vulture, *Gyps indicus* and Slender-billed vulture, *Gyps tenuirostris*, from looming extinction. The main objective of the centre is to house and breed 25 pairs of each of the three species and release 100 pairs of each of the species, within ten years from the beginning of the release programme. The release programme was initiated during 2015-16.

The centre has a Governing Council which is chaired by the Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of Haryana. The PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana is the Member Secretary.



**आइए मिलकर गिद्ध बचाएं**

गिद्धों को खाद्य श्रृंखला में शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त है। गिद्ध मृत प्राणियों के अवशेषों को खाकर पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। इस तरह यह अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से मनुष्यों की सहायता करते हैं एवं कई तरह की गंभीर संक्रामक बीमारियों से मनुष्य की रक्षा करते हैं। 90 के दशक के आसपास जीव वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि गिद्धों की संख्या तेजी से कम हो रही। पक्षी संरक्षण में जुटी स्वयंसेवी संस्था, मुंबई नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी के अध्ययन में सामने आया कि भारत में लगभग 99% गिद्ध समाप्त हो चुके हैं। यह एक चिंता का विषय था कि आखिर कैसे इनकी संख्या में इतनी तेजी से कमी आई? अध्ययन करने पर असली कारण सामने आया कि गिद्ध मृत जानवरों को खाते हैं और ज्यादातर मवेशी या पालतू पशु जैसे गाय, भैंस या बकरी उनकी खुराक का हिस्सा होते हैं। इन्हीं पालतू पशुओं के इलाज में प्रयोग होने वाली डाइक्लोफिनेक सोडियम नामक दर्द निवारक दवा गिद्धों के लिए घातक सिद्ध हुई। अभी भी देर नहीं हुई है प्रकृति के इस निशुल्क सफाई कर्मी के अस्तित्व की लड़ाई में हम सभी अपना योगदान दे सकते हैं और प्रकृति के इस माहिर सफाई कर्मी को विलुप्त होने से बचा सकते हैं। हम सुनिश्चित करें कि डाइक्लोफिनेक दवा प्रयोग में न लाई जाए और लोगों को इस पक्षी की उपयोगिता के बारे में भी जागरूक किया जाए।

**मुख्य वन्यजीव प्रतिपालक, हरियाणा**

### a. Vultures at the centre

The highest number of vultures anywhere in the world were housed at the Vulture

Conservation Breeding Centre. There were 389 vultures at the centre by end of March 2024 of which 224 were Long-billed vultures (LBV), 99 White-rumped vultures (WRV) and 66 Slender-billed vultures (SBV), the highest number ever held in any Gyps Vulture conservation breeding facility anywhere in the world. By the end of March 2024, 25 nestlings hatched successfully but were yet to fledge.

## **b. Breeding at the centre**

Successful breeding at VCBC Pinjore was noted in 2008 and intensive breeding by artificial incubation was taken up in 2010, double clutching in 2011 and chick swapping in 2014 as a result of which VCBC Pinjore hatched and fledged 300 plus vulture nestlings between 2010 to 2023.



A nursery aviary at the centre

The breeding season of vultures commenced from the month of September, just as it would in the wild. The established pairs in the colony aviaries were observed defending their nest ledges and remain perched together most of the time.

During the year 2023-24, all the three species attempted breeding at the centre. There were 26 pairs of White-rumped vultures, 31 pairs of Long-billed vultures and 8 pairs of Slender-billed vultures which laid only first clutch eggs and hatched and fledged nestlings on nests.

In the year 2023-24, emphasis was laid on transferring vultures to other centres and for releasing them in the wild, to reduce the expense due to severe funding crunch faced by the programme. 20 WRV were sent to Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. 20 vultures, 10 WRV and 10 LBV were sent to Maharashtra for a reintroduction programme in Pench Tiger Reserve and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 20 WRV were transferred to Greens Zoological, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Jamnagar, Gujarat (GZRRC) to initiate a conservation breeding programme on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. 25 WRV were shifted to Pre-release aviary of Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore, Haryana by the Haryana Forest Department for reintroduction in the wild.

## **c. Financials**

The funding crunch remained a big problem in running the centre. The entire funding for the centre comes from the MoEFCC, Government from its Centrally Sponsored scheme for the Endangered species through the Haryana Forest Department. This year an Annual Plan of Operation of Rs. 600 Lakhs was submitted but an amount of Rs. 559.50 Lakhs was sanctioned. Only an amount of 1.39 lakhs have been received by the Centre in 2 instalments of Rs. 43 Lakhs and 38 lakhs till March 2024. The first instalment of Rs. 43,36,750/- Lakh was received by BNHS on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and second was received in November 2023.

<b>Income and Expenditure Statement of the year 2023-24 for VCBC, Pinjore (Unaudited)</b>		
Sr.no	Description	Amount in INR (in Lakhs)
1	Grant sanctioned by MoEFCC through Centrally Sponsored Scheme (F.No. 13-7/2020WL dated. 5.5.23)	559.50
2	Total Amount received by Haryana Forest Department for the grant of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for VCBC, Pinjore in two instalments on 15.05.2023 and 13.09.2023	279.75
3	Total food cost of vultures paid by Forest and Wildlife Department	127.87
4	Total money received by BNHS in two instalments on 01.08.2023 and 08.11.23	82.69
5	Expenses incurred from April-2023 to March-2024	92.08
6	Total likely deficit	9.39

All the expenses related to vulture food (meat) were paid by Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department from the funds received through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of MoEFCC. Department also cleared the pending meat bills of Rs. 68 Lakhs from the last financial year. The BNHS still has a deficit of Rs. 7 Lakhs for the year 2022-23.

The shortage of funds forced the centre to defer annual cleaning of aviaries, health check of vultures, and any work for the reintroduction programme like the monitoring of vulture populations, carrying out pharmacy surveys and conducting advocacy and awareness programmes in an area of 100 km from the centre.

It has become very difficult to do any planned activity due to shortage and timing of release of funds and we are barely able to run the centre.

#### **d. The team**

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana is the Project Leader of the Programme. The Wildlife Inspector is the Deputy Manager of the Programme.

1. Nikita Prakash, Scientist C, Centre Manager
2. Niranjan Dalei, Administrative Officer
3. Jaikishan Sharma, Supervisor
4. Prakash Chand, Night watchman
5. Balakram Sharma, Accounts Assistant
6. Lalit Kumar, Technical Assistant
7. Tek Chand, Vulture keeper
8. Ravi Kumar, Vulture keeper
9. Sukh Dev, Vulture keeper
10. Manohar Singh, Vulture keeper
11. Ved Prakash, Vulture keeper

12. Devi Dutt, Vulture keeper
13. Rajnish Kumar, Vulture keeper cum Driver



This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**Nikita Prakash**  
**Centre Manager**  
**VCBC Pinjore**

## **2. History of the Rescue Centre**

The Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre is a joint project of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Haryana Forest Department. It is a collaborative initiative of a Government agency and a Non-Governmental Organisation, to save the three species of vultures, the White-backed, Long-billed and Slender-billed, from looming extinction.

The VCBC, earlier known as Vulture Care Centre, was established in September 2001 with the UK Government grant of the Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species, to investigate the dramatic declines in India's *Gyps* species of vultures. The centre was inaugurated in the year 2003 by the British Minister for Nature, Mr. Elliot Morley.

Subsequent to the release of the South Asia Vulture Recovery Plan in February 2004, the centre was renamed Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) as conservation breeding became the main objective of the centre.

**The centre was recognised as a rescue centre for vultures in the year 2007 by the Central Zoo Authority.** The centre was renamed Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre following the decision taken in the 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting of the centre.

The centre is situated at the base of the Shivalik ranges of Himalayan foothills. It lies on the outskirts of the Bir Shikargaha Wildlife Sanctuary, 8 km from Pinjore, off the Chandigarh-Shimla highway. It spreads over 5 acres of Haryana Forest Department's land in village Jodhpur. The centre is ideally located away from human habitations, and yet is easily

accessible from the main city so the day to day requirements of the centre can be easily organised.

### 3. Vision

To become a living example of saving critically endangered bird species from extinction with ex-situ conservation programme.



## 4. Mission

To release 100 pairs each, of the three species of vultures, in the next fifteen years, to establish and secure viable wild populations of resident *Gyps*, in an environment free of diclofenac and other poisons.

### 5. Objectives

To establish a founder population of 25 pairs of each of the three endangered vulture species viz. White-backed vulture, Long-billed vulture and Slender-billed vulture.



A flock of Slender-billed vultures at the centre

To produce a population of at least 200 birds of each of the three species, to be reintroduced in the wild.

To rescue injured wild resident *Gyps* vultures and include them in

the ongoing conservation breeding programme after recovery.

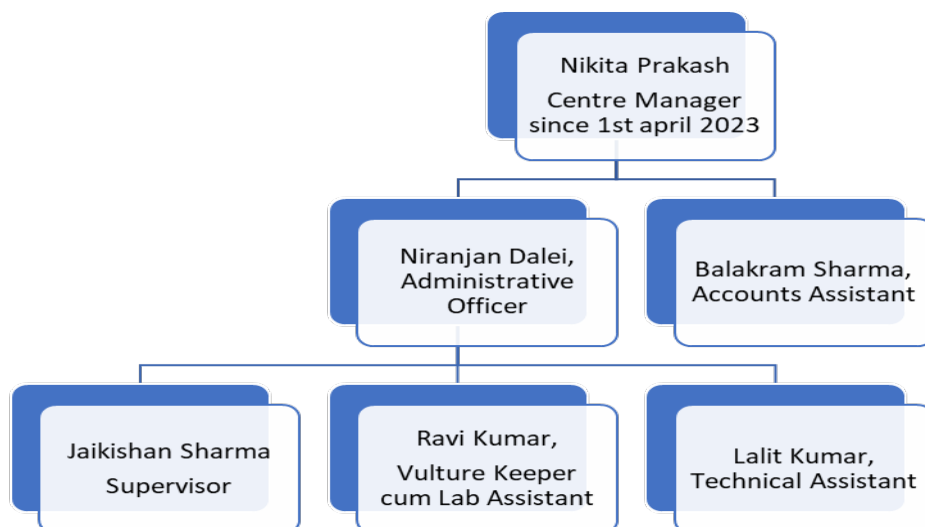
## 6. About us

S.No.	Particulars	Information
<b>Basic Information about the Rescue Centre</b>		
1	Name of the Rescue Centre	<b>Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre</b>
2	Year of Establishment	<b>2007</b>
3	Address of the Rescue Centre	<b>B-3, Forest Complex, Pinjore 134102, Haryana</b>
4	State	<b>Haryana</b>
5	Telephone Number	<b>+91 8278950245</b>
6	Fax Number	<b>NA</b>
7	E-mail address	<b>n.dalei@bnhs.org</b>
8	Website	<b>www.bnhs.org</b>
9	Distance from nearest	Airport: approx. 30km from Chandigarh International Airport Railway Station: 15km from Kalka Railway Station Bus Stand: 10km from Pinjore Bus Stand
10	Recognition Valid up to (Date)	<b>7<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>
11	Area (in Hectares)	<b>2.0234282</b>
<b>Management Personnel of the Rescue Centre</b>		
12	Name with designation of the Officer in-charge	<b>Centre Manager</b>
	Name of the Veterinary Officer	<b>Nil</b>
	Name of the Curator	<b>Nikita V. Prakash</b>
	Name of the Biologist	<b>Nil</b>
	Name of the Compounder/ Lab Assistant	<b>Ravi Kumar</b>

S.No.	Particulars	Information
<b>Owner / Operator of the Rescue Centre</b>		
13	*Name of the Operator	<b>Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana</b>
14	Address of the Operator	<b>Haryana Forest Department, C-18, Van Bhavan, Sector 6, Panchkula 134109, Haryana</b>
15	Contact details/Phone number of Operator	<b>0172-2561224</b>
16	E-mail address of Operator	<b>pccfwlhry@gmail.com</b>



## 7. Organizational Chart of the Rescue Centre



## 8. Human Resources deployment for management of Rescue Centre (Officer in-charge to Animal Keeper - Sanctioned posts, in-position and vacant posts)

Sl.No.	Designation	No. of sanctioned Posts	Names of the incumbent
1.	Officer in-charge	1	Nikita Prakash
2.	Veterinarian	1	Nil
3.	Curator	1	Nikita V. Prakash
4.	Biologist	1	Nil
5.	Technical Assistant	1	Lalit Kumar
6.	Accounts Assistant	1	Balak Ram Sharma
7.	Administrative Officer	1	Niranjan Dalei
8.	Supervisor	1	Jaikishan Sharma
9.	Vulture Attendants	6	Tek Singh, Ravi Kumar, Devidutt Sharma, Manohar Lal, Sukhdev, Ved Prakash
10.	Driver cum vulture attendant	1	Rajnish
11.	Night watchman	1	Prakash Chand

## 9. Capacity Building of Rescue Centre personnel

Sl.No.	Name and designation of the Rescue Centre personnel	Subject matter of Training	Period of Training	Name of the Institution where the Training attended
1	Ravi Kumar	Keeper's training	11-13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Chhatbir Zoo, Patiala, Punjab
2.	Ved Prakash	Keeper's training	11-13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Chhatbir Zoo, Patiala, Punjab

## 10. Rescue Centre Advisory Committee

**a. Date of constitution:** 2nd May 2006

**Members:** The following are the members of the Governing Council

- I. Addl. Chief Secretary, Health and Family welfare, Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh
- II. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Van Bhawan, Plot no. C-18, Sector 6, Panchkula
- III. Addl. Director General (Wildlife), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi.
- IV. The Member Secretary, MoEF&CC, Central Zoo Authority, B-1 Wing, 6th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
- V. The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun.
- VI. Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai.
- VII. Vice Chancellor, Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, Haryana.
- IX. Project Manager, VCBC, Pinjore
- X. PCCF(WI) and CWLW, Member Secretary

**b. Dates on which Meetings held during the year:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting was held on 11<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

## 11. Health Advisory Committee of the Rescue Centre

**a. Date of constitution:** Not formally constituted but since inception, 2004, the following committee supervises the health of birds

**b. Members:** Centre in-charge, Centre Veterinarian, Chief Veterinary Officer of Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

**c. Dates on which Meetings held during the year:** No meeting could be held

## 12. Statement of income and expenditure of the Rescue Centre

Income and Expenditure Statement of the year 2023-24 for VCBC, Pinjore (Unaudited)		
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5	Expenses incurred from April-2023 to March-2024	92.08
6	Total likely deficit	9.39

## 3. Daily feed Schedule of animals

Sl.No.	Species	Feed item	Quantity/vulture		Day of fasting
			Winter	Summer	
1.	<b>White-backed vulture</b>	<b>Goat meat</b>	<b>4kg</b>	<b>4kg</b>	<b>Fed twice a week on Monday and Friday</b>
2.	<b>Long-billed vulture</b>	<b>Goat meat</b>	<b>4kg</b>	<b>4kg</b>	<b>Fed Twice a week on Monday and Friday</b>
3.	<b>Slender-billed vulture</b>	<b>Goat meat</b>	<b>4kg</b>	<b>4kg</b>	<b>Fed twice a week on Monday and Friday</b>



#### 14. Vaccination Schedule of animals

Sl.No.	Species	Disease vaccinated for	Name of the Vaccine and dosage/ quantity used	Periodicity	Remarks
	-	-	-	-	No vaccination has been done till now although the centre would like to vaccinate its birds against avian influenza but permission to import the vaccines could not be obtained.

#### 15. De-worming Schedule of animals

Sl.No.	Species	Drug used	Month
1.	White-backed vulture	No de-worming is done but endoparasite load is monitored by routine faecal sample analysis. This is because the birds have to be reintroduced in the wild.	NA

2.	Long-billed vulture	Do	NA
3.	Slender-billed vulture	Do	NA

### 16. Disinfection Schedule

Sl.No.	Species	Type of enclosure	Disinfectant used and method	Frequency of disinfection
1.	White-backed vulture	Incubator and brooder room, Nursery, holding, colony aviaries	Lime and F10	Once in 15 days
2.	Long-billed vulture	Incubator and brooder room, Nursery, holding, colony aviaries	Lime and F10	Once in 15 days
3	Slender-billed vulture	Incubator and brooder room, Nursery, holding, colony aviaries	Lime and F10	Once in 15 days



Scrubbed and freshly painted walls



Potable clean water



F10 disinfectant for cleaning surfaces

- Perches are regularly mended to avoid pressure sores

## 7. Health Check-up of employees for zoonotic diseases

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Date of Health Check up	Findings of Health Check up
1.	Mr. Jaikishan Sharma	Supervisor	No health check could be conducted due to lack of funding and the corona pandemic	NA
2.	Tek Singh	Vulture Attendant	--ditto-----	ditto
3.	Ravi Kumar	Vulture Attendant	--ditto-----	ditto
4.	Devidutt Sharma	Vulture Attendant	--ditto-----	ditto
5.	Manohar LaL	Vulture Attendant	--ditto-----	ditto
6.	Sukhdev	Vulture Attendant	--ditto-----	ditto
7.	Prakash Chand	Vulture Attendant	--ditto-----	ditto

## 8. Development works carried out in the Rescue Centre during the year

### a. Transfer of 20 White-rumped vultures from VCBC Pinjore to VCBC Bhopal on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 to increase the founder population of the Bhopal centre



**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023** marked a significant moment for conservation in India when **20 White-rumped** vultures were shifted to transport boxes and loaded in a 17-seater air-conditioned Tempo traveller bus which came specially from Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Bhopal. Earlier, Mr. Pankaj Goel, IFS, PCCF(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana had permitted the transfer of 20 White-rumped vultures from Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) in Pinjore to Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) in Bhopal for the

genetic management of vultures at the Pinjore centre and increase the founder population of vultures at the Bhopal centre.

The team led by Dr. Rohan Shringarpure, Centre Manager of Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre accompanied by Dr. Rajat Kulkarni reached Pinjore by bus on 21st June 2023 to complete the final paper work and take the vultures to Bhopal. The vultures were transported in an air-conditioned environment to protect them from the heat during about 100 km road journey.

The Field Director of Van Vihar National Park had submitted a request to the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Haryana, through the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), seeking the acquisition of 20 White-rumped vultures for conservation breeding purposes. The Pinjore centre is designated as co-ordinating zoo for Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme of vultures and was required to help the participating zoos like VCBC, Bhopal in acquiring the adequate number of founder-stock.

For genetic management, birds which had siblings were selected, and after a comprehensive health check, these birds were chosen for transfer to the Bhopal centre. The selected vultures were in the range of 3 to 8 years. Among the 20 birds, there were 5 breeding pairs and it was expected that they would breed at Bhopal centre during the approaching breeding season. 10 birds were about 3 years old.

**b. Transfer of 10 White-rumped vultures and 10 Long-billed vultures from VCBC Pinjore to Pench and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra on 19th January 2024 for their reintroduction to the wild**



10 Long-billed vultures and 10 White-rumped vultures were transported to Maharashtra on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to facilitate the Reintroduction Programme of vultures in Maharashtra. The birds reached safely in 2 air-conditioned vehicle and State Forest Minister, Mr. S.

Mungantiwar released them in a pre-release aviary at Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Pench Tiger Reserve. The vultures in the Pench aviary have attracted wild vultures to feed with them, which is a positive sign for their rewilding process. To support this effort, BNHS has trained veterinary officers through a course organized from February 15–17, 2024, at Chandrapur Forest Academy in Maharashtra. In addition, people from Chandrapur and Nagpur districts are being sensitized to ensure that NSAID-free carcasses are available for vultures on their reintroduction in the wild. Additionally, BNHS President Mr Praveen Pardeshi has requested the Food and Drugs Department (FDD) of Maharashtra to ensure that banned NSAIDs are unavailable in pharmacies in Vidarbha. Mr Abhimanyu Kale Commissioner of FDD, has conducted meetings of chemists and druggists at Ramtek and Chandrapur.

### **Visit of Range Forest Officer, Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra**

In response to a proposal for release of conservation bred vultures in Ranthambhore, Mukundra, Kumbhalgarh, Sariska and other sanctuaries of Rajasthan and Melghat, Pench, Tadoba and Navegaon, Nagzira in Maharashtra, Mr. Vivek Rajurkar, Range Forest Officer, Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra visited VCBC Pinjore on 23rd & 24th August 2023 to understand the design and functioning of the Pre-release aviary. White-rumped vultures would be transferred from VCBC Pinjore to Pre-release aviary in Pench Tiger Reserve from where they will be released in the wild. Mr. Rajurkar was showed the pre-release aviary from close quarters and all its technical aspects like dimensions, design, construction, material used, enrichments provided were explained. The transport box and catching net were also displayed. Their dimensions and critical aspects of safety of the birds while in transport were also explained. Care of birds to be taken while in transport and transport permit, transport protocols were also explained. Mr. Rajurkar spent 2 days at the centre to understand Vulture conservation.

### **c. Transfer of 20 White-rumped vultures from VCBC Pinjore to VCBC, GREENS Zoological, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Jamnagar, Gujarat, on 28th March 2024 to initiate a conservation breeding programme**



20 White-rumped Vultures were shifted to transport boxes and loaded in an air-conditioned animal ambulance vehicle which came specially from Greens Zoological, Rescue and Rehabilitation centre (GZRRC), Jamnagar, Gujarat to Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (JCBC), Pinjore, Haryana.

Permission had been granted by Mr. Vineet Garg, IFS, PCCF(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana for the transfer of 20 White-rumped vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*) from JCBC Pinjore to GZRRC to initiate a Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme to increase the founder population of vultures at their centre and for the genetic management of vultures at the Pinjore centre.

The selected vultures were in the range of 3 to 9 yrs. Among the 20 birds, there are 2 breeding pairs and it is expected that they will settle down in the new environment and would be ready to breed in the next breeding season.

The Pinjore centre is designated as co-ordinating zoo for Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme of vultures and is required to help the participating zoos like VCBC GZRRC, Jamnagar in acquiring the adequate number of founder stock.

We sincerely hope that the 20 birds sent to GZRRC will augment the population and bail out the species from the status of critically endangered.

#### **d. Nesting of a pair of Reintroduced Captive Bred Birds in Wild**

One of the pairs of the released birds have started nesting and one released bird has paired with a wild bird. The nestlings, when they fledge will be truly wild and will also signal the successful reintroduction programme of the critically endangered *Gyps* species of vultures in the country. The pair are of Tag. No. 6 (Orange) and Tag. No. 180 which is 7188 (yellow). The pair attempted nesting last year also but was not successful. This year the pair is nesting and the nestling is about a month old.



## 20. Budget and funding for the Centre for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 - 31st March 2024 and challenges faced

The funding crunch remained a big problem in running the centre. The entire funding for the centre comes from the MoEFCC, Government from its Centrally Sponsored scheme for the Endangered species through the Haryana Forest Department. This year an Annual Plan of Operation of Rs. 600 Lakhs was submitted but an amount of Rs. 559.50 Lakhs was sanctioned. Only an amount of Rs. 1.39 lakhs have been received by the centre in 2 instalments of Rs. 43 Lakhs and 38 lakhs till March 2024. The first instalment of Rs. 43,36,750/- Lakh was received by BNHS on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and second was received in November 2023.

<b>Income and Expenditure Statement of the year 2023-24 for VCBC, Pinjore (Unaudited)</b>	
Description	Amount in INR (in Lakhs)
Grant sanctioned by MoEFCC through Centrally Sponsored Scheme (F.No. 13-7/2020WL dated. 5.5.23)	559.50
Total Amount received by Haryana Forest Department for the grant of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for VCBC, Pinjore in two instalments on 15.05.2023 and 13.09.2023	279.75
Total food cost of vultures paid by Forest and Wildlife Department	127.87
Total money received by BNHS in two instalments on 01.08.2023 and 08.11.23	82.69
Expenses incurred from April-2023 to March-2024	92.08
Total likely deficit	9.39

All the expenses related to vulture food (meat) were paid by Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department from the funds received through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of MoEFCC, except for the months of April and May 2023. The Department also cleared the pending meat bills of Rs. 68 Lakhs from the last financial year. They still have to pay BNHS a sum of Rs. 7 Lakhs to clear the last year's deficit of BNHS.

The shortage of funds forced us to defer the annual cleaning of aviaries, health check of vultures, artificial incubation and any work for the reintroduction programme like the monitoring of vulture populations, carrying out pharmacy surveys and conducting advocacy and awareness programmes in an area of 100 km from the centre.

It has become very difficult to do any planned activity due to shortage of funds and we are barely able to run the centre.



## 20. Seasonal special arrangements for upkeep of animals

I. Once again high-quality shade cloth was laid on top of all aviaries to provide additional shade. This cloth brings down the temperature by 5°C.



II. Instead of only 2 water troughs filled in winter months, all 4 water troughs are filled during peak summer months of May, June, July and August to keep the birds cool and hydrated.

III. No New nest cots, perches, stumps, sand were provided in all the aviaries due to severe fund crunch.

## b. Awareness programmes for vulture conservation

Forest Department is the custodian of wildlife and is responsible for the implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. A visit to the centre is part of the curriculum of Forest Academies of the country. As a result, the centre gave extensive information on vulture conservation to various Forest Academies of the country.

The awareness programmes conducted during 2023-24 are summarized below:



Sr. No.	Date	Number of Persons visited	Designation	Department
1	05.05.2023	44	Range Forest Officer Trainees	TSFA Hyderabad
2	06.05.2023	26	Forester Trainees	Haryana Forest Department Pinjore Haryana
3	03.06.2023	3	Roots Country School,	Education
4	11.06.2023	57	Range Forest Officer Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
6	13.06.2023	44	Range Forest Officer Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
7	14.06.2023	40	Range Forest Officer Trainees	Kundal Forest Academy, Maharashtra
8	17.06.2023	59	Range Forest Officer Trainees	Central Academy for State Forest Service, Tamil Nadu
9	13.06.2023	41	Forester Trainees	Haryana Forest Department
10	11.08.2023	4	M.SC. batch	WII Dehradun
11	21.08.2023	40	Forest Guard Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
12	21.08.2023	40	Forest Guard (Female) Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
13	23.08.2023	43	Forest Guard (male) Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani

14	26.08.2023	51	Forest Guard from Haryana & Leh Ladakh	Forest Training Academy Sohana, Haryana
15	28.08.2023	25	Forester Trainees, UFTA	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
16	09.09.2023	28	Forester Trainees, FTI Pinjore	Haryana Forest Training Institute, Pinjore
17	16.09.2023	41	Range Forest Officer Trainees, Chandrapur	Maharashtra Forest Department, Chandrapur
18	05.10.2023	54	M. Sc. Students (Zoology)	Mata Gujari College, Deptt. Of Zoology
19	11.10.2023	27	Range Forest Officer Trainees, OFRC Odisha	Odisha Forest Department
20	22.10.2023	44	Range Forest Officer Trainees	Rajasthan Forest Department
21	30.11.2023	28	Forest Guard Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
22	02.12.2023	22	Forest Guard Trainees	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
23	04.12.2023	39	Forest Guard (Female) Trainees,	Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani
24	16.12.2023	29	Officers, Indian Air Force, Chandigarh	Indian Airforce, Chandigarh
25	23.12.2023	39	Forester Trainees	Haryana Forest Training Institute, Pinjore
26	08.02.2024	51	Forest Guard Trainees	Forest Training Academy, Chail Himachal Pradesh
27	13.02.2024	23	Forester	Haryana Forest Training Institute, Sohana, HR.
28	24.02.2024	16	IFS Officer Trainees	Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun
29	27.02.2024	55	Forest Guard Trainees, Sunder Nagar, Himachal Pradesh	HPFA, Sunder Nagar, Himachal Pradesh

A detailed power-point presentation on vulture conservation including the cause of crash in vulture population and the various conservation initiatives taken to save the species from possible extinction was given to the officials. The process of setting up and functioning of the centre was also explained. The officials were given a guided tour of the centre and were shown all the facilities. All the trainees were provided with the brochures of the centre and awareness material developed by the centre.

A batch of Indian Air Force Officer's from Chandigarh of 29 Officers visited the centre to understand vulture conservation efforts of the centre.

## 22. Rescue and Rehabilitation of wild animals.

Sl. No.	Date of Rescue	Species with number of animals rescued with their sex (M: F: U: T)	Received from	Date of Submission of Report to the CWLW / CZA	Action taken	
	None	None	None	None	None	None

## 23. Annual Inventory of animals

Form – II

[See Rule 11(1)]

Part – A

**Inventory Report for the Year: 1st April 2023-31st March 2024**

Endangered Species\*

S.No.	Animal Name	Scientific name	Opening Stock as on				Births			Acquisition			Disposal			Death			Closing Stock as on			
			M	F	U	T	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	T
1.	Long-billed vultures	Gyps indicus	31	31	158	220	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	1	31	31	162	224
2.	White-backed	Gyps bengalensis	26	26	91	143	0	0	6	0	0	0	7	7	36	0	0	0	19	19	61	99



		to be tested			potable municipal water supply for drinking.
2.	10.5(5)	Perches and shelves should be cleaned and disinfected regularly	Regular basis	Not pending as they are cleaned once every 15 days.	Done
3.	10.9(3)	Acquisition of rescued birds	Immediately as and when rescued	Not pending	No bird was rescued during the year
4.	10.5(3)	Shifting of birds from one centre to other	At the earliest	Not pending	No bird was shifted from one centre to other.