

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAUREATES
FREIBURG, GERMANY · 15 - 18 MARCH 2018



EUROPEAN
ENVIRONMENT
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Laureates' Symposium



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Purnima Devi Barman

India

“Protecting Greater Adjutant in Assam, India: Community Conservation, research and forming “Hargila Army”“

Journey with Hargila....an endangered bird



In 2008, I landed in a village to collect my data on this bird for my Ph.D

But, an incident changed my life! my Ph.D got a backseat
I converted myself from an academician to a manager
..... with 10,000 people in three villages

Conservation Problem....



This colonial nesting bird makes nesting colonies in privately owned trees....

Bird is protected under WPA (Schedule IV), 1972 but its breeding habitat is not.....



The birds is a carrion feeder

The birds brings lots of beef and throw in their campus

**.....Easy source of money by cutting down the tree,
expansion of land , house construction**



Developed a PR plan to win the support of women and villagers by integrating the bird into religion and tradition



**Stork Baby
shower**



**Forming a Hargila Army among them. Regular biodiversity
education classes and capacity building.**

Integrating the bird into traditions

Pride campaign was a great effective tool too.....



Hargila Army

Motivating nest tree owners....

Make friendship and understand their concerns, Continuous Visit and work....

Felicitate in Public meeting

Making them understand the importance of Greater Adjutant in the environment





Hargila Rally in Geeta Bhagawat (the holly book) procession.....



We partnered with “Sankardev Sishu Bidya Niketan, Dadara to sustain this campaign and now adopting this school as “hargila learning center”





Now Police takes leads in conservation of the nesting colony



120 nets fitted under nesting trees

58 chicks were released so far



Results are rewarding

Year	No.of nesting trees	No. of active nest	Reference/Sou rce
2006	12	28	Singha and Rahmani,2010
2006	15	31	Choudhury,2006
2014	57	171	Barman,2015

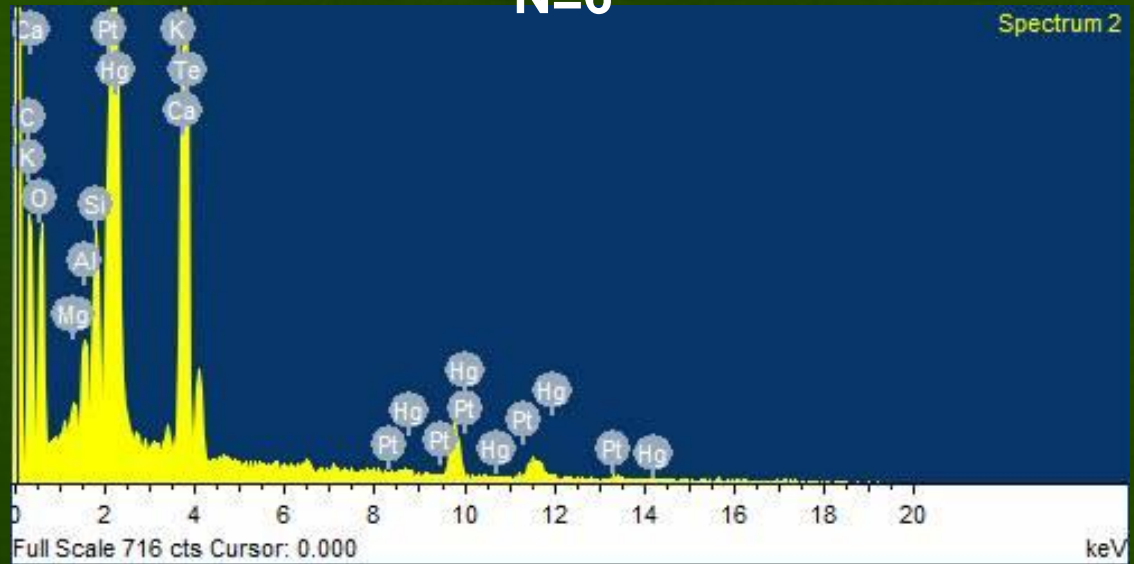
In 2017,average 150 nests were counted and not a single tree cut down since 2010

To investigate breeding behaviour



Energy dispersive X-ray analysis

N=6



Element	Weight%	Atomic%
C K	21.4	40.2
O K	29.7	41.8
Mg K	0.67	0.62
Al K	1.65	1.37
Si K	3.38	2.71
K K	0.57	0.33
Ca K	17.7	9.93
Te L	4.09	0.72
Pt M	11.4	1.32
Hg M	9.45	1.06



Future plan and we need support

- 1. Community conservation initiatives to be continued and expanded, more in kind support benefits, scholarships for the community**
- 2. Artificial nest platforms, Hargila restaurant (Artificial feeding site)**
- 3. Wetland restoration, more plantation in scientific way**
- 4. Health benefits, health insurance of hargila army, more livelihood benefits and continue this movement**

**We offer our sincere thanks to all who helped
us....**

Kamrup District Administration

WCS, Cambodia

SIRD

**Conservation
Leadership Program**

Whitley Fund For Nature

Assam State Zoo

Assam Forest Department

**Women in Nature
network**

Local villagers

Local schools and NGOs

Media houses

Kamrup Police

Veterinary College

Bombay Natural History Society

Colleagues in Aaranyak

Lets fly together

Thank you



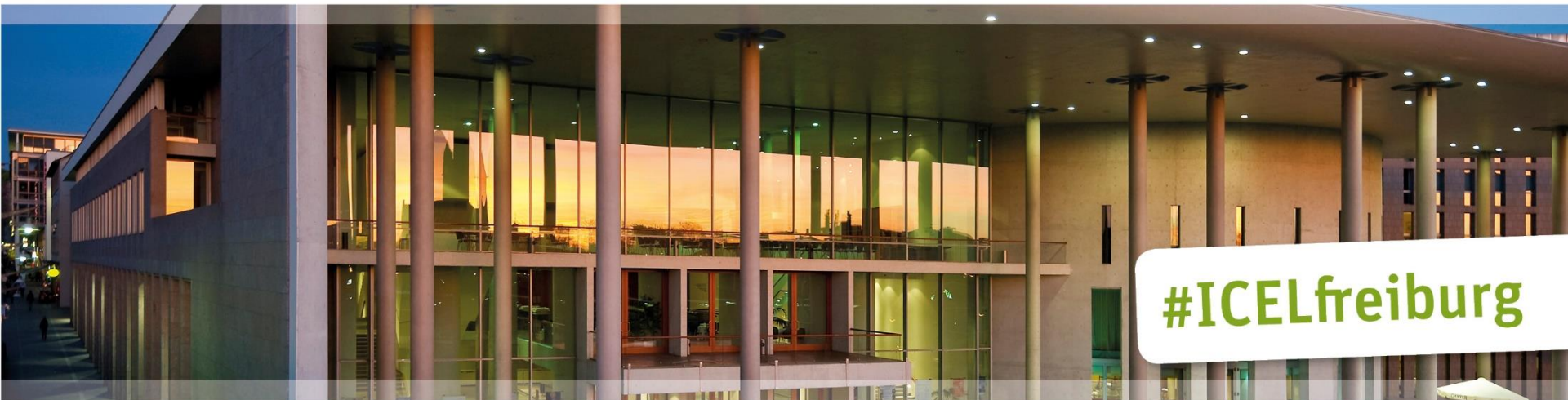
Purnima Devi Barman
Aaranyak, Assam

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