

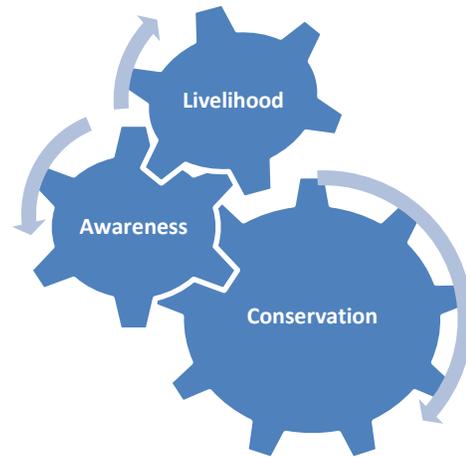


As a part of the “The Konkan Vulture” project, Sahyadri is protecting all 6 vulture colonies in Konkan region which will continue through Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund till Nov 2015. Part of for the next nesting season will be covered through Peregrine grant. Sahyadri had also received support from Rufford Foundation to study the “Vulture Food Base Trend due to Socio-Economic, Geographical and Policy Factors”.

Turtle habitat conservation, rapid biodiversity survey, setting up of libraries in 11 schools and field trips were part of the GIZ program from Jun 2014 – Nov 2014.

Individual donors have pledged INR 13.5 Lakhs for My Jungle program.

Eye donation, body donation, blood donation has been initiated by Sahyadri since Jun 2014 as its commitment towards betterment of community. Sahyadri has built network of local eye specialists for cornea collection which are then sent to Drushti Daan Eye Bank, Sangali for further transplant.



## **Our Mission**

**Nature Conservation through Field Protection, Awareness, Education and Scientific based Act**

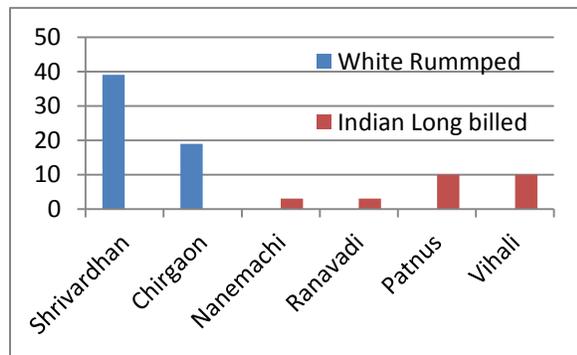
## Vulture Conservation

“The Konkan Vulture Project: Participatory vulture conservation in Western Ghats and Konkan Region” which received grant from Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) got 6 months’ extension i.e. till Nov 2015. Sahyadri has prepared vulture conservation plan for this program which highlights the following impacts within next 1-3 years:

- Decrease in usage of veterinary diclofenac medicines
- Public-private mechanisms providing incentives for vulture nest protection in the Konkan Region
- Sensitization and awareness on vulture conservation in the villages in Konkan region, in particular villages wherein vulture activity is reported

Following are the specific components of this program

### In-Situ Conservation



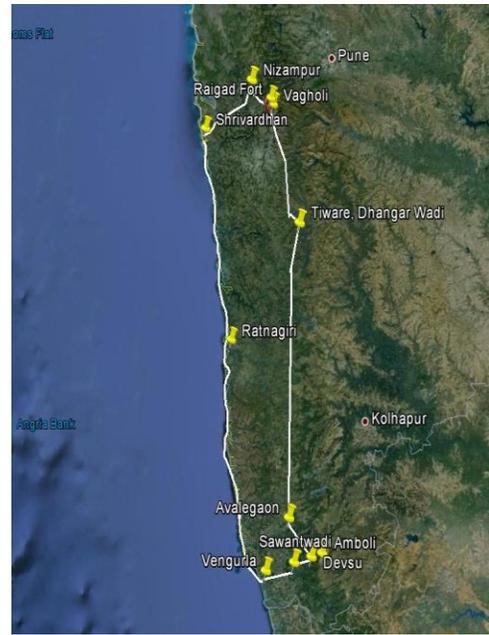
Vulture nesting data in Konkan - March 2015

**Protection through Compensation:** As coconut growers having vulture nest or activities forego the produce, Sahyadri compensated these coconut growers through corporate support. Sahyadri has been trying to regularize this compensation either through Forest Department or through insurance scheme of Coconut Board by introducing “Vulture Rider”.

**Tourism centric conservation partnership model:** “Jatayu Festival” was hosted at Shrivardhan to generate awareness about vulture conservation program. Sahyadri conducted rallies of students, various competitions to promote the cause. Sahyadri also hosted vulture information exhibition at all the nesting sites.

### Conducive Environment for Vulture Protection

**Awareness Campaigns:** Continuation of workshops for veterinarians, para veterinarians and chemists had been part of this year’s awareness generation program about ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac. Sahyadri also participated in various events to connect with locals, tourists through its mobile exhibits. Sahyadri has received support from Forest Department for these workshops. Sahyadri encouraged gram panchayats of all vulture nesting colonies and villages having vulture sighting to form Biodiversity Management Committee.



**Current Population Status Survey:** During this year also there has been no vulture sighting in Sindhudurga and Ratnagiri district. Sahyadri divided the entire region in 9 zones to monitor carcass dumping grounds. Vulture sighting has been reported at only those carcass dumping grounds which are closer to vulture colonies.

**In-Situ protection of vultures:** Five vulture colonies in district Raigad and one vulture colony in district Ratnagiri are being monitored by appointing local people.

## Anti Diclofenac Drive

**Diclofenac Free Village:** Sahyadri followed up on “Cattle health cards” with cattle keepers and Animal Husbandry Department (AHD). Sahyadri has also conducted “Cattle health checkup camps” for villagers along with AHD. Sahyadri received good response to “Village Competition for vulture conservation” for which specific activities were to be performed by gram panchayat to earn points. Smokeless Chulhas were distributed to the winners.

## My Jungle



**माझं जंगल**  
लोकसहभागातून  
जंगल संवर्धन

To build chain of concerned organizations and citizens under the concept of “My Jungle” Sahyadri conducted workshop in Pune. Individual donors have pledged total of INR 13.5 Lakhs towards “My Jungle”. Though appropriate place could not be shortlisted during the last year, Sahyadri is confident of doing so during this year.

Sahyadri has built a separate web site [www.myjungle.in](http://www.myjungle.in) to provide detailed information about this program.

## Eye Donation, Body Donation and Blood Donation Drive

1% of blind people in India are bilaterally corneal blind out of which only approximately 60,000 can be delivered vision by penetrating keratoplasty. Rest 50% cannot be provided vision due to associated involvement of posterior segment. Considering annual addition of 20,000 fresh cases of corneal blindness, maximum utilization of collected corneas and back log of corneal blindness and India needs approximately 140,000 eye donors as of today against 40,621 cornea collections as per NPCB.

To overcome lack of awareness and counseling, Sahyadri initiated Eye Donation awareness and cornea collection with the help of network of local eye specialists and Drushti Daan Eye Bank, Sangali. Till Mar 2015, 6 instances of cornea collection and subsequent transplant took place.

During this year, Sahyadri plans to conduct awareness drives in 164 villages of Chiplun including National Eye Donation Fortnight, 15 free Eye Check Up Camps with the help of eye specialists, local governing bodies. Slide shows, short films, poster exhibits will be used to encourage people to register for eye donation. Sahyadri aims registration of 5000 eye donors and at least 12 instances of cornea collection this year which will be sent to Drushti Daan Eye Bank Sangali.

Sahyadri has been associated with Dervan Hospital for body donation through which 2 instances of body donation took place. Blood donation camps are being held every quarter. Sahyadri plans to spread these activities in Chiplun Taluka and also felicitate next of kin for taking eye / body donation decision. Sahyadri has built a separate web site [www.netradaan.org](http://www.netradaan.org) to provide detailed information about this program.

## Energy and Technology Enabled Villages

For visitors and residents alike, the natural beauty, peace and solitude of Konkan villages get offset by lack of basic amenities, driving them away from village homes and towards tourist resorts and urban centers. Sahyadri’s study group that surveyed some naturally endowed villages and analyzed this problem has found that irregular power supply, inefficient cooking stoves and a general lack of application of modern technologies in daily village life are significant issues in this regard.

Sahyadri has been working on free distribution of smokeless chulhas and solar lamps. Sahyadri intends to spread these efforts for promotion of such alternate technologies in Konkan region.

## Marine Turtle Habitat Protection and Outreach Material

**Start-up phase of Coastal and Marine Protected Area:** Sahyadri received support from GIZ, India for the period of Jun – Nov 2014 for work in Velas, Kelshi and Anjarle. Sahyadri completed on Desk Review, Rapid Biodiversity Survey, Stakeholders Analysis and Conservation and Education Outreach components as a part of this project. Sahyadri donated books for libraries of 11 schools and also conducted field trips for students.

**Outreach Material:** Sahyadri developed outreach material for fisher folks, schools and villagers in the form of posters, stickers, and jig saw puzzles. Sahyadri is also working on responsible garbage disposal to reduce beach pollution.

## Develop Alternate Livelihood Options

- Sahyadri has been encouraging villagers having conservation program to initiate home stay to increase biodiversity focused responsible tourism
- Sahyadri has trained Self Help Groups in Shrivardhan, Kelshi to start Agarbatti making and packaging-selling of local food products during Turtle and Jatayu Festivals.

## What's New

- ❖ Widen the support for “My Jungle” program and finalize places along Northern Western Ghats
- ❖ Spread Eye Donation program to cover 164 villages of Chiplun Taluka
- ❖ Encourage gram panchayats to form Biodiversity Management Committees
- ❖ Increase individual donor base to cover administrative expenses

### Appeal

Volunteering, donations for specific activities and donations through online purchase of products like books, CDs helps Sahyadri to carry out various activities and also plan for future. Sahyadri appeals donors to check the details on the website and contribute generously towards the cause. **Donations made within India will be entitled for IT exemption under 80G. Foreign Donations are now accepted, please call for details.**

#### Donations within India

Name of account: Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra,	Name of Bank: Bank of Maharashtra,
Name of Bank: Bank of India, Chiplun	Chiplun
Account Number: 141110110000077	Account Number: 20061344941
NEFT: BKID0001411	NEFT: MAHB0000296

## Acknowledgements

Sahyadri is thankful to Forest Department, Maharashtra for extending support in all programs.

The Konkan Vulture project has been supported by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). We would also like to thank Rufford Foundation grant which made the study the vulture food base trend possible. We thank Peregrine Fund which will help continuation of vulture nest protection through community participation beyond Nov 2015.

Sahyadri is thankful to Animal Husbandry Department, Maharashtra State Biodiversity department for continuous support in vulture conservation program.

MCBT sponsored generation of content for marine turtle education.

We thank "Shri Shankarlal Pokarna Charitable Trust" as well as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for their continued support.

In addition, the local Gram Panchayats in each village and Kasav Mitra Mandals, chemists and druggist associations and their members, villagers and all the volunteers have worked to ensure the large-scale success of conservation programs as well as Eye Donation, Body Donation and Blood Donation programs.

The support of individual donors has always been the back bone of our activities.

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