**Building Community Capacity and Support for Conserving** the Lesser Florican (Sypheotides indica) in India

## Introduction

A site-based approach may not be appropriate for conservation of widely dispersed threatened species like the Lesser Florican that share part or whole of their habitat with humans. Involvement of local communities is essential to its survival. Our programme provides a combination of economic incentive, community outreach and conservation education programme. This has resulted in increasing community stewardship for the species leading to 371% increase in Florican sighting reported during the period 2007-2009 compared to previous years.

# Lesser Florican (Syphoeotides indica)

Principle threats are habitat loss

activities, cutting of grass and use

of pesticide leading to depletion of

prey base. Direct factors are hunting

and predation. Climatic factors like

failure of monsoon might also affect

through grazing, agricultural

**Threats** 

them.

# About the Lesser Florican

The Lesser Florican (Sypheotides indica) is endangered and endemic to India. Estimated global population is less than 2,500. It belongs to the Family Otididae, commonly known as bustards. It is about the size of a large chicken and is omnivorous. Its primary habitat is grasslands and open fields adjoining them. The male Lesser Florican has a unique mating display. Very little is known about its post-breeding habitat and behaviour.



PROTECTED AREA

(Sailana Kharmor

RAGMENTED

PRIVATE

GRASSLANDS

Sanctuary)

Male Lesser Florican mating display.

LESSER FLORICAN arrive in Sailana Sanctuary and surrounding agricultural

FOREST DEPARTMENT has no jurisdication over private land.

Lesser Florican and its



School outreach



PROGRAMME using easily transmissable mass media and infotainment to popularise the various conservation issues and challenges.

CONSERVATION STEWARDS

Identifying and training

Florican and its habitat.

Conservation Leaders are

individuals who will become

the guardians for the Lesser

given training, assistance and

AND LEADERS.

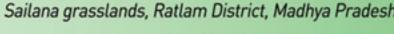
COMMUNITY OUTREACH







Screening of educational film in Sailana movie theater and in the field.



# The study site

Sailana Kharmor Sanctuary (23° 24' N, 74° 58' E), Ratlam district, Madhya Pradesh is a protected area to safeguard the Lesser Florican. It comprises of grassland, crop fields and grazing lands, and is bound by three villages. The whole area is owned by agriculturists. The sanctuary is 13 sq.km large.



Female Florican

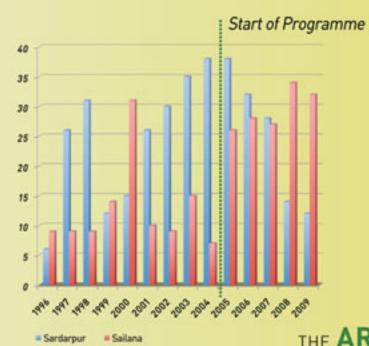
# Conservation Strategy

A purely site based approach to a widely dispersed species whose habitat overlaps with human activity might not work. Our aim is to conserve it's population by protecting the habitat through active community participation. We use a combination of Outreach & Environment Education Programmes using infotainment & mass media, Community Leadership Development Programme through active discussion & participation and Government sanctioned Economic Incentive Scheme to provide economic compensation against protection of habitat.

# Results & Conclusion

Our conservation education and incentive programme has increased community stewardship, leading to 371% increase in Florican sighting in and around Sailana.

Control site at Sardarpur Sanctuary where no outreach programme are being conducted, sightings have decreased by over 50%.



Supported and funded by:

Threats: Grazing, pesticide use & intensive land use





Supriya Jhunjhunwala conducting education programme in a local school in Sailana

School children with educational material

THE ARK FOUNDATION