

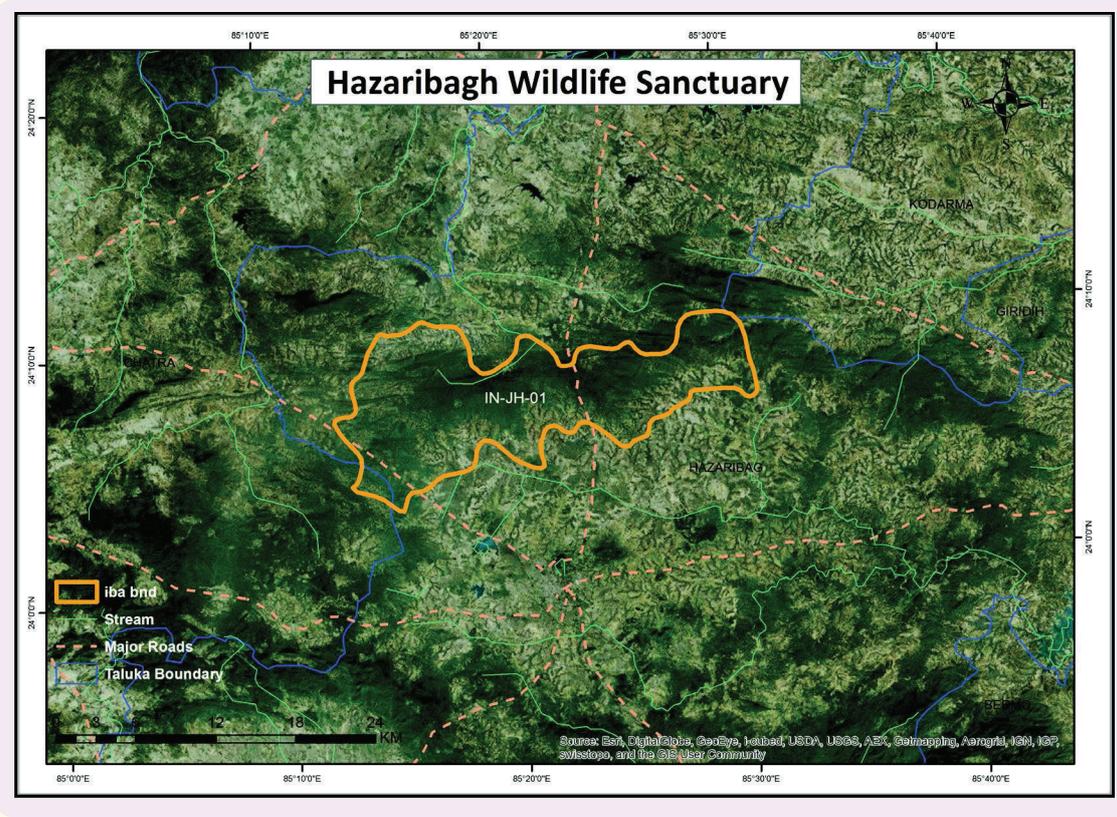
# HAZARIBAGH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

IN-JH-01

<b>IBA Site Code</b>	: IN-JH-01	<b>Rainfall</b>	: 1,234.5 mm
<b>State</b>	: Jharkhand	<b>Temperature</b>	: 4 °C to 42 °C
<b>District</b>	: Hazaribagh	<b>Biogeographic Zone</b>	: Deccan Peninsula
<b>Coordinates</b>	: 24° 1' to 24° 12' N, 85° 13' to 85° 32' E	<b>Habitats</b>	: Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest, Dry Peninsular Sal Forest, Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest, Dry Bamboo Brake
<b>Ownership</b>	: State		
<b>Area</b>	: 18,625 ha		
<b>Altitude</b>	: 604 msl		

**IBA CRITERIA** : A1 (Threatened species), A3 Biome 11: Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone

**PROTECTION STATUS** : Wildlife Sanctuary, established in May 1976. Declared a National Park.



## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary (HWS) occupies an area of 186.25 sq. km (18,625 ha). Before Independence, the entire sanctuary area was a private hunting reserve forest belonging to the Raja of Ramgarh, that subsequently became government property after the abolition of the Zamindari system. The terrain encompasses high plateaus, hills, and valleys. Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary was one of the first protected areas of the erstwhile Bihar State, and came to be in the new state of Jharkhand, following the division of Bihar in 2001.

The sanctuary is surrounded by a number of densely populated tribal villages with their cultivation and

settlements, which exert increasingly undesirable biotic pressure, rendering the area susceptible to degradation. An 8 km highway passes through the wildlife sanctuary, severing the habitat into two.

According to the classification of Champion & Seth (1968), the forests of the sanctuary fall under the category Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest, which is further subdivided into Dry Peninsular Sal, Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest, and Dry Bamboo Brake.

## AVIFAUNA

The sanctuary is rich in avifauna. Ara (1966) published a preliminary list of 97 birds species. After more than four

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
ENDANGERED	
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
VULNERABLE	
Asian Woolly-neck	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>
NEAR THREATENED	
Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
Red-headed Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
BIOME 11: INDO-MALAYAN TROPICAL DRY ZONE	
Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>
Red-headed Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
Yellow-footed Green-pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Dusky Horned-owl	<i>Bubo coromandus</i>
Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrocus birostris</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulvicata</i>
Brown Rock-chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>
Rufous-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
Rufous-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>

decades, survey was conducted between 2009 and 2014, which revealed the presence of 183 species of birds in the sanctuary. These do not include 14 species, including one Vulnerable species Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*, reported by Ara. Prakash *et al.* (*in press*) have listed 197 species of birds, including six globally Threatened and 32 biome-restricted species.

Based on the biome classification of BirdLife International, Hazaribagh WLS lies in the Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone (Biome 11).

Four species of vultures species: Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus*, Endangered Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, and Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* are found in Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary. Himalayan Vulture is regularly sighted during the winter. *Gyps bengalensis* is successfully nesting and breeding in the area and action is being taken for their *in situ* conservation (Prakash 2009; Prakash *et al.* 2013).

Recently, a tagged Mongolian Bar-headed Goose was seen in Chharwa Dam, in the identified Eco-sensitive Zone on the periphery of HWS (Prakash 2014). On another occasion, one injured Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* was reported from the periphery of HWS (Satya Prakash, *pers. comm.* 2014). Recently, breeding of Lesser Adjutant has been reported from Bokaro district, adjacent to Hazaribagh district (Dwivedi *et al.* 2013).

### OTHER KEY FAUNA

Major mammalian fauna includes Tiger *Panthera tigris*, Leopard *P. pardus*, Sambar *Cervus unicolor*, Spotted Deer *Axis axis*, Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena*, Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus*, Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*, Wild Dog or Dhole *Cuon alpinus*, Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, and Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*. A recent study revealed 25 species of reptiles, including 16 species of snakes, 8 species of lizards and Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata* (Prakash 2012).

### LAND USE

- Nature conservation and research
- Tourism and recreation
- Water management
- Watershed management
- Transportation (widening of road which will bisect the sanctuary)

### THREATS AND CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Mining and quarrying
- Agricultural intensification and expansion
- Tourism
- Livestock/Grazing
- Poaching
- Infrastructure development (widening of existing road)
- Illegal felling of trees
- Forest fire

Hazaribagh WLS is rich in biodiversity, but it is facing serious multidimensional threats. The sanctuary is particularly under serious threat of habitat fragmentation. The proposed Hazaribagh-Koderma railway line, when commissioned, will pass through the outskirts of HWS



Hazaribagh is one of the earliest sanctuaries of erstwhile Bihar but now it is in Jharkhand state. It has old-growth Sal forest

and cut off the forest from North Karanpura Valley. The forests of Hazaribagh WLS and North Karanpura Valley in Jharkhand are vital wildlife corridors connecting the forests of Palamau in the west to those of Ranchi in the south, and the Konar watershed in the east. A project is underway to widen the existing lane of NH-33 from Barhi to Hazaribagh (8 km road passing through HWS). This proposed widening of the highway threatens to bisect the protected area and to obstruct the movement of wildlife. Eventually, there will be increase in road mortality of wildlife, particularly smaller mammals which move across the road in search of water, shelter, and food. In the last three years (2011–2013), a part of the sanctuary is being visited seasonally by a few dispersed elephants. As a result, numerous reports of human-elephant conflict have emerged from the villages Mutia Tola, Gadi, Fufundi, Marpa, Tilir, Sayal, and Lotwa in HWS.

Increased tourism has become a cause of disturbance to the wildlife in the sanctuary. Livestock grazing within the sanctuary is a serious problem, which in the last few years has increased due to lack of control. Along with grazing, lopping, felling of young trees, mining/quarrying, and removal of bark for preparation of Ayurvedic medicines and rope making, all go on unabated. Immediate conservation measures need to be undertaken, with community participation, to reverse habitat degradation.

#### KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Neeraj Vagholikar, Satya Prakash, A.K. Mishra, M. Raziuddin, Raju Kasambe, Sushant Choudhury.

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