



SOUMYA SUNDAR CHAKRABORTY

Vulture Conservation & Wildlife Management Specialist

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2024- ongoing

- Wildlife Institute of India

M.Sc. Ecology and Environment

2007 - 2009

- Sikkim Manipal University

B.Sc. Bio-Science 2005-2007

- North Bengal University

CORE STRENGTHS

- Conservation Breeding & Reintroduction
- Satellite & Ground-based Vulture Monitoring
- Wildlife Telemetry & Field Surveys
- Scientific Reporting & Publications
- Team Leadership & Crisis Response
- Stakeholder Coordination & Policy Support
- MS Office • Google Earth • Photoshop • Basic R • GIS

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Wildlife conservation practitioner with 15+ years of leadership in India's most successful vulture conservation breeding and reintroduction programmes. Expertise in ex-situ breeding, satellite telemetry (30+ Gyps tagged), post-release monitoring, toxicology research, and mass-poisoning intervention. Strong scientific output with recent first-author publications and ongoing Ph.D. research at the Wildlife Institute of India.

EXPERIENCE

CENTRE MANAGER, VULTURE

CONSERVATION BREEDING CENTRE,
RAJABHATKHAWA, BUXA TR, WEST
BENGAL FOREST DEPARTMENT

August 2023 -
Present

- Lead one of India's most successful vulture conservation breeding programmes.
- Direct state vulture reintroduction, ensuring compliance with national protocols.
- Oversee satellite and ground monitoring of all released vultures.
- Manage operations, staff, reporting, and inter-department coordination.

CENTRE MANAGER & SCIENTIST C,
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(BNHS), MUMBAI

April 2013 -
August 2023

- Managed India's second-largest vulture breeding facility and reintroduction programme.
- Successfully reintroduced the highest number of Critically Endangered Gyps vultures in the country.
- Led satellite tagging and monitoring of 30+ vultures.
- Coordinated vulture-safe zone initiatives across states.
- Produced technical reports and contributed to major national research outputs.

AFFILIATIONS

- Member, IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group (2024–Present)

LANGUAGES

- English
- Bengali
- Hindi

RESEARCH BIOLOGIST, BOMBAY
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (BNHS),
MUMBAI

August 2009 –
March 2013

- Conducted NSAID-toxicity surveys and population monitoring across seven states.
- Supported operations of multiple vulture breeding centres.
- Participated in emergency wildlife poisoning response.

PUBLICATIONS

FIRST AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS

- Chakraborty, S.S., D. Ray, A. Sen, P.J. Harikrishnan, N.K. Jha & R. Ghosh (2024). Indian Leopard predation on the sub-adult Himalayan Griffon Vulture (Accipitridae: Accipitriformes). *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 16(11): 26104–26109.
<https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.9255.16.11.26104-26109>.
- Chakraborty, S.S., D. Ray, A. Sen, P.J. Harikrishnan, N.K. Jha & R. Ghosh (2025). First documented case of flunixin residue in a Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* Hume, 1869 (Aves: Accipitriformes: Accipitridae) in India: conservation and veterinary implications. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 17(9): 27517–27522.
<https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.9714.17.9.27517-27522>.

OTHER CO-AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS

- Ranade, S. & S.S. Chakraborty (2024). Waterbird count at Narathali waterbody, Buxa Tiger Reserve in northern Bengal for a decade (2009–2019) with a note on raptors. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 16(2): 24752–24759.
<https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.8452.16.2.24752-24759>.
- Mallord JW, Ranade S, Bhusal KP, Alam ABMS, Chaudhry MJI, Chakraborty SS, Subbaiah B, Bohra DL, Dube A, Shringarpure R, Chaudhary IP, Joshi AB, Rana DB, Thakuri DC, Dangaura HL, Azmiri KZ, Ahmed S, Zakir T, Ahmed S, Fatima H, Rahim A, Murn C, Bowden CGR, Green RE (2025). The continued threat of toxic NSAIDs to Critically Endangered *Gyps* vultures in South Asia. *Bird Conservation International*, 35, e38, 1–12
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270925100270>.
- Chakraborty, Soumya Sundar.,(2022). ‘Creating VultureSafe Zones in West Bengal’.*Hornbill*, Special Issue July–September 2022, 132–137.
- PRAKASH, V., BAJPAI, H., CHAKRABORTY, S., MAHADEV, S, MANAN., MALLORD,W, JOHN., PRAKASH,N., . . . GREEN,R. (2024). Recent trends in populations of Critically Endangered *Gyps* vultures in India. *Bird Conservation International*, 34.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270923000394>.