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Appendix 5 - VULTURE NESTING SITES IN KATERNIAGHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

APPENDIX 5: Vulture nesting site in India

BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION SCIENCES

AN ASSESSMENT OF AVIAN AND OTHER SCAVENGING OF AN ANIMAL CARCASS AT KATERNIAGHAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, DISTRICT BAHRAICH, UTTAR PRADESH – INDIA, AND ITS FORENSIC IMPLICATIONS.

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN

FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY: CRIME SCENE AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

By

SHAMSHAD (ROMA) KHAN

FEBRUARY 2006

APPENDIX 5: Vulture nesting site in India

Website: http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/jun32005/update74749200563.asp

DECCAN HERALD Friday, June 3, 2005

Vulture nesting sites in Katernia Ghat Wildlife Sanctuary

Lucknow, PTI

Katernia Ghat wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district has emerged as the only place in the country where the endangered scavengers have been found building their nesting sites and breeding under natural conditions.

Even as environmentalists are concerned over dwindling population of vultures, the Katerina Ghat wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district has emerged as the only place in the country where the endangered scavengers have been found building their nesting sites and breeding under natural conditions.

Divisional Forest Officer Ramesh Pandey said "Till now there is not a single site identified in the country where the vultures form their nests and lay eggs under natural conditions." He said that in a bid to save the vultures from being extinct, a captive breeding project is currently underway in Haryana where they are bred in cages.

"The example of naturual nesting and breeding has come to light only at Katernia Ghat," Pandey said. He informed that of the available 19 species of vultures on earth, eight are found in India. Of these the five species-- White-Backed vultures, Egyptian vultures, Indian long-billed vultures, Redhead and Griffon- were found in Katernia ghat. According to a census conducted in 2002, there were about 700 vultures in the sanctuary and as many as 32 places were identified where they nestled and bred in natural environment, Pandey said.

Pandey said forest officials had recently identified six separate trees of 'Semal' and 'Haldu', where White-Backed vultures had formed their nests and bred. Eggs were spotted in these nests, the DFO said adding the hatchlings had come out of the shells and were ready to test their strength in air.

He said the vultures played an important role in maintaining ecological balance by eating the caracasses of animals. Till recently the vultures were spotted in large numbers in the country but their numbers had nosedived since almost a decade, Pandey said. Though wildlife experts had been conducting research to ascertain the reasons for the dwindling population of vultures, the death rate had risen sharply because of contamination in carcasses which was their main food, he said. Pandey attributes the contamination in the carcasses to pollution. The DFO expressed the hope that the population of the vultures in Katernia Ghat would register a sharp growth given the evidence of their breeding there.

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