

Sarus Crane

सारस



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Illustrations

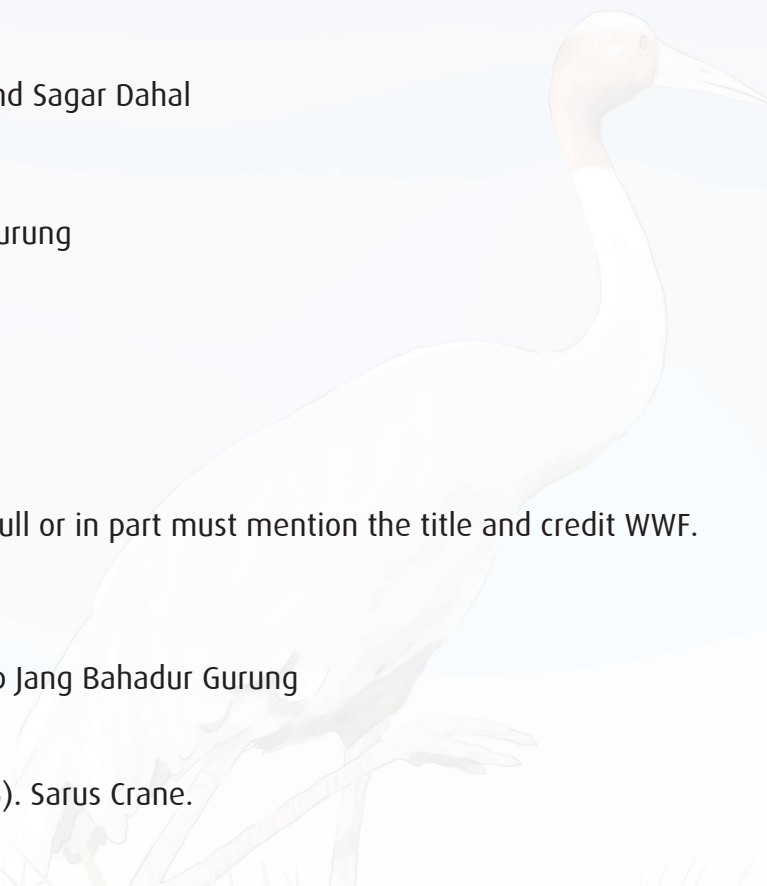
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Morphology and Structure

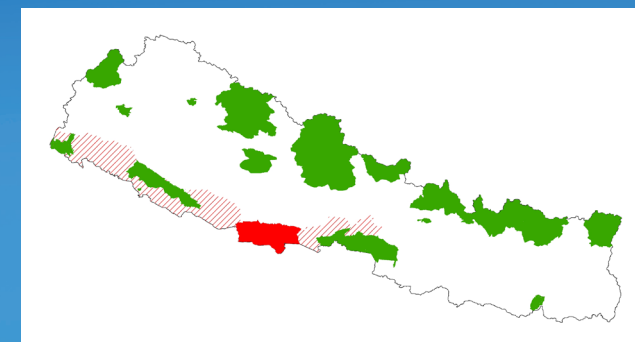
Sarus Crane *Grus antigone antigone* belongs to the Gruidae family which is the tallest flying bird of the world. The height reaches up to 156cm. It has a long beak, reddish leg and pale grey body. The head and upper neck is red with ashy green crown. There are 15 species of Crane in the world.



सारस गुरुडेइ परिवारमा पर्दछ । यो विश्वकै सबैभन्दा अग्लो उड्ने चरा हो । यसको उचाइ १५६ से.मि. सम्म हुन्छ । यसको लामो चुच्चो, रातो खुट्टा र शरीर हल्का खैरो रङको हुन्छ । यसको टाउको र माथिल्लो घाँटी रातो रङको तथा तालु हल्का खरानी र हरियो रङ मिसिएको हुन्छ । विश्वमा १५ प्रजातिका क्रेनहरू पाइन्छन् ।

Distribution and Population

Sarus Crane is resident in lowland Terai region of central Nepal. In Nepal, it has been recorded from Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Dang, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Terai region with the largest population (85 percent) concentrated in Kapilvastu and Rupandehi districts of Lumbini zone. Besides Nepal, they are distributed in South and South-East Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand. Global estimated population of mature Sarus Crane is 13000-15000 individuals. In Nepal it is estimated that 450-700 mature individuals reside.



सारस नेपालको मध्य तराइको स्थानीय पन्छी हो । यो चितवन, नवलपरासि, कपिलवस्तु, रूपन्देही, दाङ, बाँके, बर्दिया, कैलाली, र कञ्चनपुरबाट अभिलेख गरिएको छ । नेपालमा सारसको ८५ प्रतिशत सङ्ख्या लुम्बिनी अञ्चलको रूपन्देही र कपिलवस्तु जिल्लामा रहेको छ । नेपाल बाहेक सारस दक्षिण तथा दक्षिण पूर्वी एशियाली राष्ट्रहरू जस्तै: भारत, बंगलादेश, कम्बोडिया, मलेशिया, भियतनाम र थाइल्याण्डमा समेत पाइन्छ । यसको अनुमानित वयस्क संख्या विश्वमा ३०००-५००० र नेपालमा ४५०-७०० जति छ ।

Habitat

Sarus Crane inhabits in open wet grasslands, agriculture fields, marshes and pools. It is also found breeding in suboptimal paddy fields of Terai.

सारस खुल्ला सिमसार, खेतियोग्य जमिन, पोखरी तथा तलाउ नजिकका क्षेत्रहरूमा बस्न रुचाउँछ। यसले धानखेतमा पनि बच्चा कोरल्ने गर्छ।



Feeding Behavior

Sarus Crane is an omnivorous bird and feeds on grain gleaned in stubbles, green shoots, grasses and cereals, tubers and corns of marsh plants, frogs, fish, lizards, grasshoppers and other large insects.

सारस सर्वहारी पन्छी हो । यसको आहारमा अन्न, घाँस, पलाएको टुसा, जरा, सिमसार क्षेत्रमा पाईने बिरुवा, दानाहरू, भ्यागुता, माछा, छेपारो, फट्याङ्गा र अरू ठुला किराहरू पनि पर्छन् ।



Reproduction and Life Cycle

Sarus Crane gets sexually matured by 2-3 years and breeds mainly during the monsoon (July to October) season. They construct their nests by using straw, grasses with the roots and muds in wet marshyland or agricultural fields. Clutch size is usually 1-2 eggs. The incubation period is for 30-32 days. The chick can walk once its down feathers are dry. The juveniles remain with their parents up to six months and join the flock. The life span of Sarus Crane is up to 40 years in captivity.



सारस २-३ वर्षमा प्रजनन योग्य हुन्छ र यसले वर्षायाममा बच्चा कोरल्ने गर्छ। यसले घाँसका त्यान्द्रा, जरा, नर्कटको साना डाँठहरू संकलन गरी सिमसार क्षेत्र र कृषियोग्य जमिनमा गुँड बनाउँछ। प्राय जसो एउटा गुँडमा १-२ ओटासम्म अण्डा पाछ्छ। भाले र पोथी दुवै ओथारो बस्ने गर्छन् र करिब ३०-३२ दिनको ओथारो पछि चल्ला कोरल्छन्। चल्ला ५-६ महिनासम्म माउसँगै रहन्छन् र त्यसपछि अन्य सारसको भुन्डसित बस्छन्। त्यही भुन्डमा एउटा जोडी खोजेर आजीवन सँगै बस्छन्। यसको आयु चिडियाखानामा ४० वर्षसम्म अभिलेख गरिएको छ।

Social Behavior

Sarus Crane is non migratory species of crane. It maintains its territory during breeding period. The non breeding bird occur in flocks of more than 400 individuals. It plays vital role in maintaining the ecosystem of the farmland and wetland by preying upon small vertebrates and invertebrates, and helps to maintain the vegetation. Its eggs can be food source for mammals such as mongoose, fox, jackal and other carnivores.

सारस बसाइसराइ नगर्ने रैथाने पन्छी हो । यसले प्रजननको समयमा निश्चित क्षेत्र निर्धारण गर्छ । सारस ४०० भन्दा बढी संख्याको बथानमा पनि भेटिएको छ । यसले सिमसार तथा कृषियोग्य जमिनको पर्यावरणलाई सन्तुलित गर्न मद्दत पुऱ्याउँछ । यिनीहरूले ससाना किरा, उभयचर तथा अन्य जीवहरू खाएर प्रकृतिको सन्तुलन गर्छन् । यसको अण्डा न्याउरिमुसा, स्याल, फ्याउरो जस्ता शिकारी जीवकहरूको आहारा हुन्छ ।





Threats

The major threats to the population of Sarus Crane are environmental pollution, hunting and collection of eggs and chicks. Destruction of habitat due to human encroachment, development activities like building of roads, bridges and settlements and human induced climate change are also the reasons for declining the population of this rare bird. So, it is necessary to initiate conservation measures before it gets locally extinct. The species can be conserved through community based approaches by means of awareness activities, sustainable monitoring and conservation of its habitat through standard and scientific methods.

वातावरण प्रदूषण, अण्डा तथा चल्लाहरूको संकलन तथा चोरीशिकारी सारस संरक्षणका प्रमुख चुनौतिहरू हुन् । विकास निर्माणका कार्य जस्तै: आवास गृह, सडक, पुल आदि तथा मानव सिर्जित मौसम परिवर्तनका कारण यसको वासस्थान बिनास हुँदै गइरहेकाले पनि यसको संख्या घट्दै गएको छ । त्यसैले यसको वासस्थानको संरक्षण गर्न जरुरी छ । यो प्रजातिको संरक्षण गर्न समुदाय स्तरबाटै जनचेतनाका कार्यक्रम, वैज्ञानिक प्रविधिबाट यसको वासस्थानको दीगो संरक्षण गर्नुपर्छ ।

Conservation and Legal Status

Globally and nationally, Sarus Crane is categorized as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List with decreasing population trend and listed in Appendix I in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) agreement. Sarus Crane is a protected species according to the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 A.D (2029 B.S.). Hunting or killing of the bird is a punishable crime with the penalty of NPR 15,000-13,000 or imprisonment of 3-9 months or both.

विश्वव्यापि रूपमा र राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा सारसलाई आइ.यु.सि.एन. को रातो सूचीमा संवेदनशील पन्छीको वर्गमा राखिएको छ भने संख्या घट्दो क्रममा छ । यसलाई साइटिस सम्झौताअनुसार अनुसूची १ मा राखिएको छ । राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन, वि.सं. २०२९ अनुसार पनि यो पन्छी संरक्षित छ । यसलाई हानि पुऱ्याउने, मार्ने, अण्डाहरू नष्ट गर्ने वा व्यापार गर्ने कार्य गैरकानुनी हो । उक्त कार्य गर्ने वा गराउने दुवैलाई १५,०००-३०,००० रूपैयाँसम्म जरिवाना वा ३-९ महिनासम्म कैद वा दुवै सजाय हुने प्रावधान छ ।



Key Facts मुख्य विशेषता	
Common Name नाम	Sarus Crane सारस
Scientific Name वैज्ञानिक नाम	<i>Grus antigone antigone</i>
Height उचाई	156cm (Tallest flying bird of the world) १५६ से.मि. (विश्वकै सवैभन्दा अग्लो उड्ने चरा)
Global Status अवस्था (विश्व)	Vulnerable संवेदनशील
National Status अवस्था (राष्ट्रिय)	Vulnerable संवेदनशील
Global Population सङ्ख्या (विश्व)	13,000-15,000 १३,०००-१५,०००
National Population सङ्ख्या (राष्ट्रिय)	450-700 ४५०-७००
Global Distribution फैलावट (विश्व)	Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand नेपाल, भारत, बङ्गलादेश, कम्बोडीया, इन्डोनेशीया, म्यानमार, लाओस, ब्रुनाइ, मलेशिया, भियतनाम र थाइल्याण्डमा ।
National Distribution फैलावट (राष्ट्रिय)	Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Dang, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. चितवन, नवलपरासि, कपिलवस्तु, रूपन्देही, दाङ, बाँके, बर्दिया, कैलाली र कञ्चनपुर जिल्ला ।
Threats खतरा	Environmental pollution, hunting and collection of eggs and chicks. Destruction of habitat due to human encroachment and development activities. वातावरण प्रदुषण, अण्डा तथा चल्लाहरूको सङ्कलन तथा चोरीशिकारी र वासस्थान विनास ।

The Hariyo Ban Program is named after the famous Nepali saying 'Hariyo Ban Nepal ko Dhan' (Healthy green forests are the wealth of Nepal). It is a USAID funded initiative that aims to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. This will be accomplished by working with the government, communities, civil society and private sector. In particular, the Hariyo Ban Program works to empower Nepal's local communities in safeguarding the country's living heritage and adapting to climate change through sound conservation and livelihood approaches. Thus the Program emphasizes the links between people and forests and is designed to benefit nature and people in Nepal. At the heart of Hariyo Ban lie three interwoven components – biodiversity conservation, payments for ecosystem services including REDD+ and climate change adaptation. These are supported by livelihoods, governance, and gender and social inclusion as cross-cutting themes. A consortium of four non-governmental organizations is implementing the Hariyo Ban Program with WWF Nepal leading the consortium alongside CARE Nepal, FECOFUN and NTNC.



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