

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY OF SARSAINAWAR LAKE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SARUS CRANE (*GRUS ANTIGONE*)

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Received February 5, 2010 and Accepted July 11, 2010

ABSTRACT : Wetlands are more valuable economic resources when retained in their natural or semi natural state since they support a wide variety of flora and fauna like sarus crane. Social inefficiency in wetlands is connected to the fact that wetlands are multifunctional resources and are under heavy utilization pressure. India is richly endowed with wetlands. Fresh water ecosystem supports a wide diversity of flora and fauna that are used for a wide range of purposes by humans. The first step in conservation of biodiversity is to assess the diversity of natural resources present and identify those, which are important and most irreplaceable (Groombrige and Jenkins, 1998). The current loss rate in India can lead to serious consequences, where 74% of the human population is rural (World Development Report, 1994) and many of these people are resource dependent. Healthy wetlands are essential in India for sustainable food production and potable water availability for humans and live stock. They are also necessary for continued existence of India's diverse population of wildlife and plant species. The conservation of this wetland will be an useful tool for protecting its biodiversity. The avifaunal diversity especially the Sarus crane in Sarsainawar lake is fast deteriorating due to heavy use of various pesticides, excessive irrigation and increasing population pressure. Immediate short term and long term conservation measures are recommended to escape this threatened species from getting extinct by protecting its habitat.

Key Words: Sarus crane, conservation, biodiversity, flora and fauna, wetland, avifaunal diversity.