

Press release:

What are we ready with for this specie? Obituary or Lifeline?

**TERRE holds consultation with experts for mapping actions
to save Great Indian Bustard.**

8th Nov. 2014, Pune. ‘The last extinction of all species on earth occurred about 65 million years back, due to natural disaster. We are today going through latest extinction, this time caused by human activity. Red list of species on the verge of extinction is getting longer every year. The story of extinction of the bird’s species ‘The Great Indian Bustard-GIB is taking place in our backyard in Maharashtra. We must take action, and throw a lifeline to save this species’ said, Rajendra Shende at the meeting guided by a well known expert on the subject Dr. Pramod Patil.

TERRE Policy Centre organized a round table to address this grave issue and map out the possible actions to save majestic GIB. The meeting was attended by the RTI-activist and students of environmental science. The chief speaker Dr. Pramod Patil, who heads research group guided by BNHS on GIB conservation said, ‘ We have done enough to improve our own life, but not enough to save GIB. GIB extinction, if happens, would be termed as part of gross victimization our ecosystems, on which life on Earth depends.”

From 1980 to 2014, the population of GIB declined from some 2000 to less than 200. The degree of absolute helplessness is now looming large in all the habitats of GIB, except in Rajasthan’s Thar desert.

The meeting proposed the measures like landscape perspectives, promotion of traditional farming and grassland which would also help much needed cattle-grazing as alternatives to the random selections of land declared as sanctuaries of GIB. Facilitating conservation activities by local communities by ensuring incentives for their own development components. It was also proposed by

Anand Kharde, a passionate conservationist that communication strategy be developed to send appropriate and action oriented messages to the local communities and policy makers.

‘The road to recovery is very long but not impossible’, said Dr. Patil. ‘Let us work together so that the greatness of Great Indian Bustard will be seen by the next generations through their own eyes. The next generation should not be kept guessing why their forefathers could not save it from extinction.’ Added Dr. Patil.