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Wildlife habitat restoration intensifies at Debrigarh

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Bhubaneswar: The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary authorities have intensified the process of wildlife habitat restoration in villages that were vacated in March to create an inviolate space in the forest and provide better living infrastructure to local people.

The forest department decided to develop meadows through grassland management on over 450 hectares that became available following resettlement of around 400 families of Lambipali, Kurumkel, Rengali and Bhutuli villages. The meadows will help boost the sanctuary's prey population, officials said.

The villagers have been shifted to their resettlement colony at Chakramal in Bargarh district.

“Debrigarh sanctuary mostly is a deciduous forest where grassland management is important for the health of the forest's animals. We recently conducted a two-day workshop on grassland management so that frontline staff can complete weeding and develop new meadows in the sanctuary,” said Anshu Pragyan Das, divisional forest officer of the Hirakud wildlife division.

Biologist professor Gajanan Muratkar too visited the sanctuary to train wildlife personnel on methodology of seed collection, weeding and biomass management.

Debrigarh sanctuary offers frequent sighting of animals round the year.

While its route between Dhodrokusum and Chourasimal has been identified as the Bison Route, the stretch from Dhodrokusum to Damkighati is known for the presence of several herbivores such as boar, spotted deer and sambar. Leopards are sighted on