

# DR. PURNIMA DEVI BARMAN

LINDSEY PARADISE (1/8/24)

## About

**Born:** 1980 Assam, India (age 44)

**Education:** Masters degree and PhD in Zoology

**Field:** wildlife biology

**Awards:** UNEP's Champion of the Earth (2022) and Nari Shakti Puraskar from the president of India

## Hargila Army

Dr. Barman's group of over 10,000 village women who protect stork nesting sites, rehabilitate injured storks, and weave textiles depicting the storks. The name Hargila means "bone swallower".



Image credits to <https://ebird.org/species/greadj1>

Dr. Barman has dedicated her career to saving the greater adjutant stork, the second-rarest stork species (above). Her work has increased the number of nests in her region from 28 to 250.



Image credits to <http://www.smitasharma.com/the-hargila-army>

Human-wildlife conflict is a pressing threat to wildlife species. Changing the locals' view of the greater adjutant storks as disease carrying bad omens was crucial in Dr. Barman's efforts to ensure their survival.

## References

United Nations Environment Program. (2023, February 10). *Meet 5 women who are using science to help save the planet*. UNEP. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/meet-5-women-who-are-using-science-help-save-planet>

United Nations Environment Programme. (2022, November 10). *Dr Purnima Devi Barman - Entrepreneurial Vision*. UNEP. <https://www.unep.org/championsofearth/laureates/2022/dr-purnima-devi-barman>