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# **STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE HORNBILLS IN THE EASTERN GHATS**



**SÁLIM ALI CENTRE FOR ORNITHOLOGY &  
NATURAL HISTORY**

**MAY 2005**

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# STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE HORNBILLS IN THE EASTERN GHATS

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## Summary

This study documented the distributional status of hornbills in the Eastern Ghats. The survey was conducted in the Eastern Ghats complex of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu, twelve forest divisions were surveyed. In Andhra Pradesh eight protected areas (6 Sanctuaries, 1 National park and 1 Tiger Reserve) were surveyed. Hornbills were censused by Line transect method. The Occurrence of hornbills in different habitat types was recorded. The habitats surveyed include dry deciduous forest, moist deciduous forest, thorn forest, semi-evergreen forest and plantations. Potential breeding sites and human disturbances in hornbill habitats were also recorded.

Two species namely, Indian Grey Hornbill and Malabar Pied Hornbill were recorded. Among the two species of hornbills ( $n=75$ ), Indian Grey Hornbill was found to be the most common (97%) and Malabar Pied Hornbill was very rare (3%). Maximum sightings (66.7%) of the Indian Grey Hornbills were from the dry deciduous forests. The Malabar Pied Hornbill was most sighted from the riparian habitat. Maximum sightings (89.09%) of Indian Grey Hornbill were from Andhra Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu, this species was reported from, only a few locations. The potential breeding sights of the Indian Grey Hornbill are Hogenakkal, Sathyamangalam and Thengumarahada in Tamil Nadu and Nagarjuna-Sagar Srisailem Wildlife Sanctuary, Sri Venkateswara National Park, Kinnarsani Wildlife Sanctuary and Gundlabrameswaram Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh. Major disturbances in hornbill habitat include fire, agricultural activities and poaching. Survey result shows that the habitat threats in various protected areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu may affect the hornbill population.