



# State Action Plan

**for Conservation of Avian Diversity,  
their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in  
Telangana**

*Submitted by*

**Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**  
South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India

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**Front Cover**

Indian Courser by Sriram Reddy

**Back Cover**

Grey-headed Fish Eagle by Sriram Reddy

# **State Action Plan**

**for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in  
Telangana**





**Rakesh Mohan Dobriyal, IFS**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

(Head of Forest Force)

Govt. of Telangana



## MESSAGE

Telangana hosts 28% of the country's avian diversity with 377 species. There are three IUCN Critically Endangered, four Endangered, seven Vulnerable and 17 Near-threatened species recorded in Telangana. There are ten species which are endemic to India that are found in Telangana including Yellow-throated Bulbul which is endemic to Southern Deccan plateau of India. Therefore, stressing the need for avian conservation within the state is necessary.

I am glad to inform that the State-level Action Plan (SAP) for conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in Telangana provides a strong foothold to strengthen the avian conservation of the state. The SAP will take forward the Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP 2020-2030) for avian conservation in the country. SAP will aid the state in acting upon the thrust areas that require immediate attention to protect the bird diversity in the state. Prioritizing the threats and management concerns, identifying the conservation gaps and proposing the potential strategic plan for various threats are the key points that stand out in this document.

The baseline data on the bird diversity, literature review and consultations from all the potential stakeholders has resulted in SAP and the implementation of the plan is a collective responsibility of the various Government and private bodies within the state in collaboration with the Central bodies. The cooperative action from various sectors is required for successful implementation of this action plan. The document acts as useful resource for forest department, researchers, NGO's, bird enthusiasts, students and public and acts as reference in providing an overview of the avifaunal status in Telangana.

I congratulate Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, MoEFCC, GoI for completing this action plan for Telangana and appreciate the effort taken by their research team. I also congratulate the State Forest department and all other organizations and individuals for investing their valuable time in providing inputs to this action plan. I look forward to the highest possible implication of this action plan in Telangana to conserve birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes.

(R. M. Dobriyal)

**Date: 20.07.2023**



**Virendra R. Tiwari, IFS**

Director

Wildlife Institute of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Govt. of India



## MESSAGE

Telangana lies in the heart of Deccan peninsula is bestowed with rich diversity of flora and fauna. It homes various ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, scrublands, semi-arid landscapes, rocky terrains, riverine and lacustrine systems. These diversified ecosystems support a wide range of biodiversity with 2001 floral and 2450 faunal species. The state also represents a rich diversity of 377 birds with high number of raptors (birds of prey) that inhabits in the rocky, grassland and scrubland open habitats, which forms the peculiar landscape of Telangana in addition to the forests.

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, Coimbatore, MoEFCC, GoI has developed “State-level Action Plan (SAP) for conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in Telangana”. The action plan provides a road-map for bird conservation within the state. It stemmed from Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP 2020-2030) that emphasized the need for avian conservation in India. The action plan guides the state by identifying the domains that require immediate attention for betterment of the avifaunal species and their habitats. The avifaunal conservation at the state level will in turn help India achieve its National goals and contribute towards its international targets in conserving global biological diversity.

The SAP for avian conservation in Telangana has 12 main programmes that amass various kinds of threats for birds inhabiting in the state. The document accentuates the threats to birds inside and outside protected areas of the state, threats in varying landscapes such as grasslands, scrublands, wetlands, urban areas and also details the importance of assessing the impact of state level projects on avifauna, such as ‘Telangana ku Haritha haram’ and ‘Mission Kakatiya’. It also highlights the management concerns in the field of capacity building and increasing awareness through nature education, outreach programmes to initiate community participation. The SAP would serve as framework document for avian conservation in Telangana. The various stakeholders at state level in collaboration with various partner institutions and organizations can utilize the action plan for implementation of avian conservation within the state.

I am thankful for the efforts taken by SACON in the preparation of the SAP and to all the stakeholders such as State Forest Department, Biodiversity board, NGOs and individual experts in the field for investing your time to provide inputs, suggestions and comments to enhance the quality of this document and finalizing the plan.

**Date: 10.07.2023**

  
(Virendra K. Tiwari)

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## Context and Background

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India has recognised the need for a focussed approach to conserve the avian diversity in the country and entrusted Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, Coimbatore, a Centre under the MoEFCC, for the preparation of Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP 2020-2030) for avian conservation. India has a diversified range of natural habitats and landscapes that are host to a diverse bird species. The state of Telangana is bestowed with rich diversity of flora and fauna in the various ecological habitats such as forests, grasslands, scrublands, semi-arid landscapes, rocky terrains, riverine and lacustrine ecosystems. There are 12 PAs in the state of which nine are Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks. The state constitutes two Tiger Reserves and four Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) which also act as key biodiversity areas. There are 377 avian species found in Telangana, belonging to 231 genera under 82 families of 23 orders. Among them, there are three IUCN Critically Endangered, four Endangered, seven Vulnerable and 17 Near-threatened species recorded in Telangana. There are ten species which are endemic to India that are found in Telangana. Of which only one species, i.e., Yellow-throated Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xantholaemus*) is endemic to Southern Deccan plateau of India in discontinuous population. Under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), there are 37 schedule I species in the state.

Upon preparation of VPP, SACON as a nodal agency has prepared the State level Action Plan for the 17 states of India during Phase I of implementation of VPP. The VPP document is used as guideline to prepare the State level Action Plan (SAP) of the respective states. We identified priority issues and actions required for conservation of birds under the following programmes of VPP for Telangana:

- 1) Conservation of Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) Bird Species
- 2) Conservation of Protected Areas (PAs) with High Avian Diversity
- 3) Conservation of Avian Diversity at the Landscape Level
- 4) Conservation of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems with High Avian Diversity
- 5) Conservation of Migratory Birds
- 6) Impacts of Developmental Projects and other Anthropogenic Activities on Avian Diversity and Habitats
- 7) Curbing Illegal Trafficking of Birds in India

- 8) Conservation of Avian Diversity in Urban Areas
- 9) Surveillance and Monitoring of Avian Diseases
- 10) National Plan for Nature Education and Awareness for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes
- 11) National Capacity Building Programme for Protection and Monitoring of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes
- 12) Mainstreaming Conservation of Avian Diversity with other Government of India Schemes and Programmes

The State level Action Plan is prepared to:

- Identify and prioritize the conservation issues and management priorities for birds and their habitats at the State level.
- Follow the tramlines of national VPP for thematic/thrust areas but identifies SPECIFIC issues and priorities with regard to bird taxa, habitats, protected areas, ecosystems, or landscapes.
- Develop roadmap for the state to plan their bird conservation initiatives.

The main objectives for the preparation of SAP are:

- To collate published and unpublished information on conservation of avian diversity of the selected states' under each of the thematic areas as outlined in the VPP.
- To develop State-level Action Plans for the conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes for the selected states' through widespread consultations with various stakeholders.

The outline of SAP includes two main parts. Part A involves compilation of data and literature regarding the birds and their habitats within the state. Part B is concerned with identifying the bird conservation issues and management priorities. Therefore, the SAP for Telangana will be the first comprehensive document to understand the nuances and concerns for bird conservation throughout the state and act as a platform to initiate the conservation efforts within Telangana.