

State Action Plan

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



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

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

2023



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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

Published by:

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History,
South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Anaikatty (Post), Coimbatore – 641 108, Tamil Nadu, India.
Website: www.sacon.in

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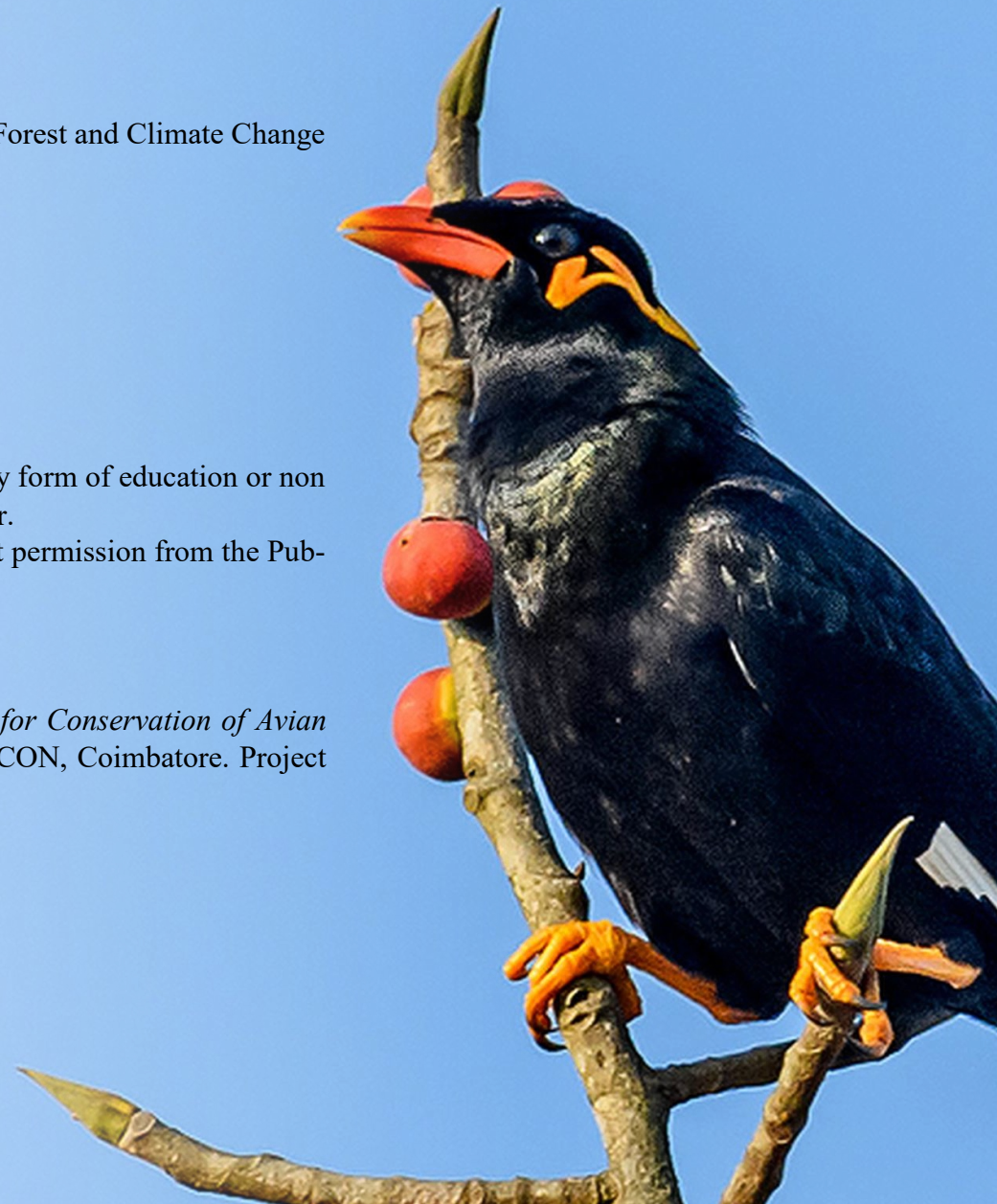
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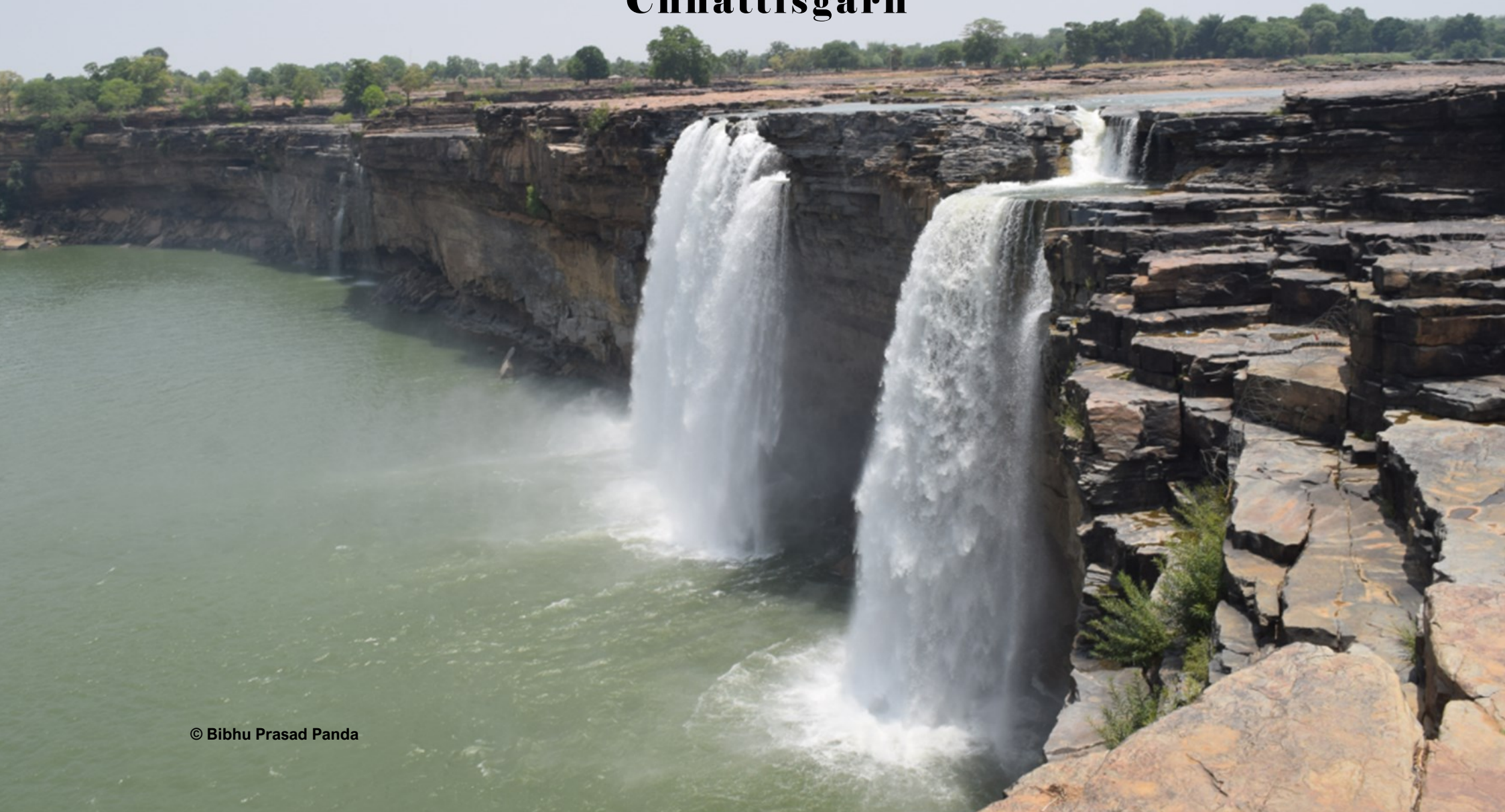
Arun, P.R., Arjun, M.S., & Bibhu Prasad Panda (2023) *State Action Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in Chhattishgarh*. SACON, Coimbatore. Project Report, 150pp.

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Foreword



Virendra Tiwari,
Director,
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Dehradun

India being one of the leading countries in biodiversity conservation and protection of threatened biodiversity including avifauna, significant major initiatives towards this direction have been taken in the national context by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through policy documents such as India's National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) for wildlife conservation and Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP) specifically for conservation of Avifauna. As the next logical step envisioned in the VPP, preparation of State level action plans for seventeen states, were undertaken by Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), the South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

The state of Chhattisgarh represents one of the highly diverse areas in terms of biodiversity in the country. It is a challenging task to conserve this rich and diverse biological wealth in the current age of climate change and human pressure. Scientific documentation and objective prioritization and guidelines for conservation actions for various taxa is crucial for the effective conservation of biological diversity. With an exhaustive compilation of the status of the state's Ornithological history and future directive for avifaunal conservation efforts in the state, the present State Action Plan document for Chhattisgarh is an impressive step towards this goal. With over 500 bird species reported from the state, the state accounts for almost 39% of the total avifaunal diversity of India. The action plan has identified priority actions under various relevant Programmes envisioned in the national VPP, including neglected aspects such as conservation of avifauna outside Protected Areas and developmental Impacts on bird populations.

I am sure that the State Action Plan for conservation of Avian diversity, their ecosystems habitats of and Landscapes in Chhattisgarh is a useful and handy document for policy makers and researchers. I congratulate the entire team involved in the preparation of this State Action Plan as well as all those who provided various inputs, comments, and suggestions during the development of this action plan. I wish this Action plan will be effectively used as a guideline document by all relevant stakeholders for developing and implementing the conservation actions relevant to the avian diversity in state of Chhattisgarh.

Virendra Tiwari

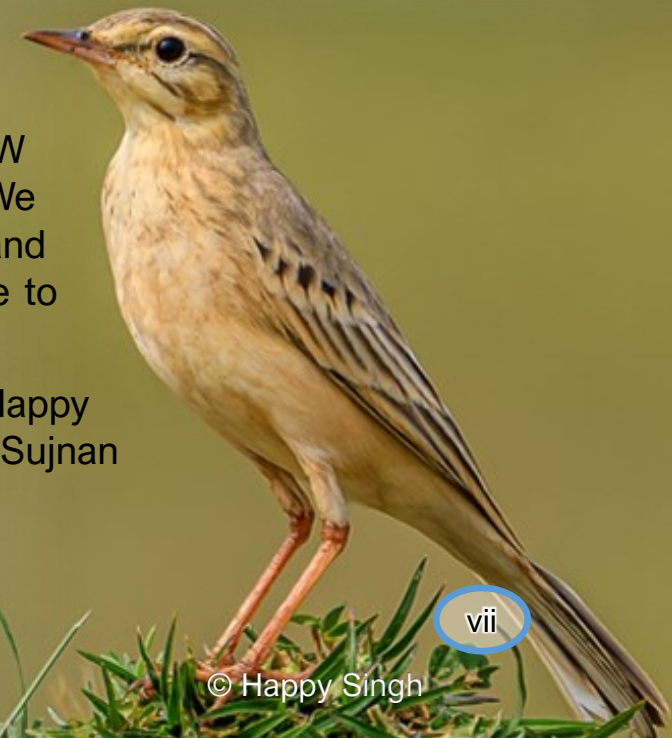
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thankfully acknowledge the support from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) for all the support and for developing the national Visionary Perspective plan (VPP), which envisaged the State Level Action Plans for the protection of bird species, habitats, landscapes, and ecosystems in Chhattisgarh.

We would like to convey our profound appreciation to Shri P. V. Narasingha Rao IFS (PCCF, Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Chhattisgarh) and Shri Srinivas Rao, APCCF & CEO CAMPA for their invaluable assistance in preparing this action plan for the state. We are also thankful to Shri Anup Kumar Bishwas I.F.S, APCCF and Shri Ashish Kumar Bhatt I.F.S, APCCF, Wild Life for their support and cooperation. We also appreciate Shri Varun Jain IFS, Director of the Forest Management Information System; Mr. Thakur Vikram Singh, and Ms. Prerna Honey Tirkey of the Chhattisgarh State Forest Department for their contributions in facilitating this study.

We are thankful to Shri. A.M.K Bharos, President of Chhattisgarh Wildlife Society & Ex-State Coordinator, IBCN (BNHS) of the state; Mr. Ravi Naidu from CROW Foundation; Mr. Saurabh Singh from Jashpur Wildlife Welfare Foundation; Mr. Ameet Mandavia, President of CROW Foundation for their valuable suggestions in the preparation of SAP. We would like to pay special regards to Mr. Pratik Thakur, Mr. Avinash Bhoi, and the Dhamtari Wildlife Welfare Society (NGO) for their valuable response to the preparation of the State Action Plan.

We also thankfully acknowledge and appreciate the photographers Mr. Happy Singh, Mr. Ravi Naidu, Mr. Ashwin C.P, Mr. Vishnu Omnakuttan, Mr. Sujnan Sonu, Mr. Faisal Magnet for their contribution to the SAP.



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CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

India has a diversified range of natural habitats and landscapes that are host to a diverse range of species, notably birds. It is abode to around 1,300 bird species, including 78 endemic to the country. India has taken proactive measures in the past to safeguard its wildlife and habitats, through establishing an astounding network of Protected Areas (PAs). However, a significant number of species (103 in total) are endangered by anthropogenic activities, and their habitats -especially outside of PAs- are under grave threat. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Government of India, through Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) developed the 'Visionary Perspective Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, Ecosystems, Habitats, and Landscapes in the Country' (VPP) for next ten years, with the goal of developing a long-term action plan to conserve the country's avian diversity and habitats (2020-30). Upon preparation of VPP, SACON as a nodal agency has prepared the State level Action Plan for Chhattisgarh during Phase I of implementation of VPP. The VPP document is used as guideline to prepare the State level Action Plan (SAP) of the state.

Chhattisgarh is a heavily forested state of Central India with 42.8% forest cover on its total geographical area. It has three National Parks and eleven Wildlife Sanctuaries. The state has 501 bird species recorded. Conservation

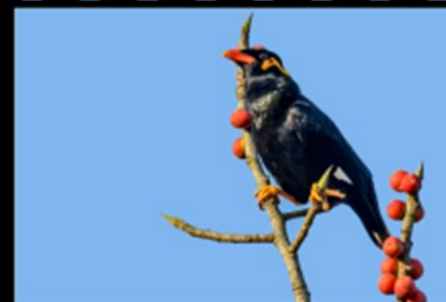
priority identification is necessary to protect the avifauna in the state. This SAP report shall serve as a road map for identifying and prioritizing bird conservation concerns specific to Chhattisgarh as an important first step towards implementation of the VPP and effective management of Avifauna and its habitats in the state. This SAP for Chhattisgarh aims to collate all available published and unpublished information on avian diversity, identify conservation issues and priority projects and develop an Action plan for the conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes through appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders.



This Action plan identifies priority areas for bird conservation challenges and activities through the following 14 programmes (out of 16 programmes identified in the national level VPP*) as applicable to the state of Chhattisgarh.

1. Conservation of rare, endangered & threatened (RET) bird species of India and implementation of species recovery plans (SRPs)
2. Conservation of important bird & biodiversity areas (IBAs) of the country outside protected area (PA) network
3. Conservation of protected areas (PAs) with high avian diversity
4. Conservation of avian diversity at the landscape level
5. Conservation of inland aquatic ecosystems with high avian diversity
6. Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems with high avian diversity
7. Conservation of migratory birds
8. Impacts of developmental projects and other anthropogenic activities on avian diversity and habitats
9. Curbing illegal trafficking of birds in India
10. Conservation of avian diversity in urban areas
11. Surveillance and monitoring of avian diseases
12. National plan for nature education and awareness for conservation of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats & landscapes
13. National capacity building programme for protection and monitoring of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats & landscapes
14. Mainstreaming conservation of avian diversity with other government of India schemes and programmes





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