

State Action Plan

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



Submitted by
Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI

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भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



Sh. Virendra R. Tiwari

Director

Foreword

India being one of the mega biodiversity countries, significant initiatives towards the protection of biodiversity, including avifauna, have been taken in the national context by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Among the various conservation models and strategies are India's National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) for wildlife in general, and Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP) specifically for the conservation of avifauna. The next logical step envisioned in the VPP is the preparation of State level action plans for States and UTs of the country and as first phase, seventeen states & UTs were undertaken by Salim 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 Kerala represents one of the highly diverse areas in terms of biological richness and associated habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in the country with eastern highlands, central rolling midlands, and western lowland with coastal plains. It is a challenging task to conserve this rich and diverse natural wealth in the current age of development and associated human pressure and impacts. Scientific documentation and objective prioritisation and guidelines for conservation actions for various taxa are 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 Kerala is an impressive step towards this goal. With over 550 bird species reported from the state, the state accounts for almost 40% of the total avifaunal diversity of India. The action plan has identified priority actions under various programmes envisioned in the national VPP, including neglected aspects such as conservation of avifauna outside Protected Areas and developmental impacts on bird population.

I am sure that the State Action Plan for conservation of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats, and landscapes in Kerala, 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 hope 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 Kerala.

(Virendra Tiwari)

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List of Abbreviations

Acronym	Full Form	Acronym	Full Form
ABP	Agasthyavanam Biological Park	EN	Endangered
AZE	Alliance for Zero Extinction	E-WG	Endemic to Western Ghats
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committee	E-WG & SL	Endemic to Western Ghats & Sri Lanka
BNHS	Bombay Natural History Society	FACT	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited
BS	Bird Sanctuary	FWOS	Flood Water Outlet System
CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority	GEF	Global Environment Facility
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species	KAU	Kerala Agricultural University
CR	Critically Endangered	KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	KFD	Kerala Forest Department
CWRDM	Centre for Water Resources Development and Management	KFRI	Kerala Forest Research Institute
DST	Department of Science & Technology	KILA	Kerala Institute of Local Administration
EDC	Eco-Development Committee	KMTR	Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	KPPL	Kerala Paper Products Ltd.
EMP	Environmental Management Plan	KSCSTE	Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment
E-SDP	Endemic to South Deccan Plateau	KSPCB	Kerala State Pollution Control Board
E-MI	Endemic to Mainland India		
E-H	Endemic to Himalayas		
E-IS	Endemic to Indian Subcontinent		

Acronym	Full Form
KSSP	Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath
KITTS	Kerala Institute for Tourism and travel Studies
KTDC	Kerala Tourism Development Corporation
KVASU	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
LSG	Local Self Government
LC	Least Concern
LM	Local Migrant
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
NAP	National Action Plan
NEST	Nature Education Society
NGI	Non-Governmental Institutions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHAI	National Highways Authority of India
NP	National Park
NT	Near Threatened
NE	Non Endemic
PA	Protected Area
PIB	Press Information Bureau
R	Resident
RET Species	Rare, Endangered, and Threatened Species

Acronym	Full Form
RF	Reserve Forest
SACON	Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
SAP	State Level Action Plan
SEEK	Society for Environmental Education in Kerala
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
SWAK	Tate Wetland Authority Kerala
TR	Tiger Reserve
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
U	Uncertain
UT	Union Territory
VPP	Visionary Perspective Plan
VSS	Vana Samrakshna Samithi
VU	Vulnerable
WII	Wildlife Institute of India
WLD	Wildlife Division
WLS	Wildlife Sanctuary
WPA	Wildlife Protection Act
WTI	Wildlife Trust of India
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

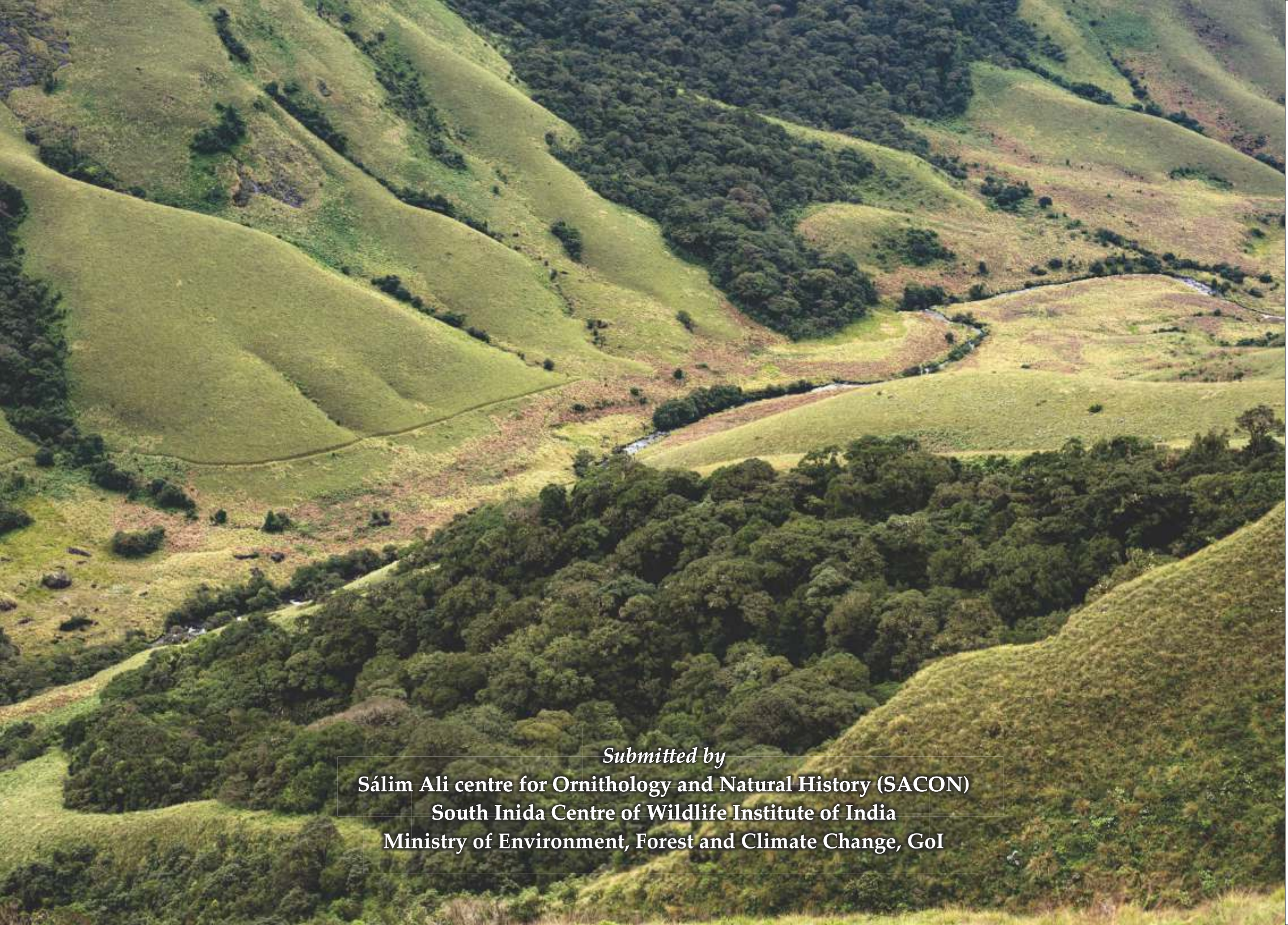
Preamble

India is gifted with a spectacular variety of natural habitats and landscapes that are abode to a wide variety of species including birds. It is home to over 1300 species of birds, nearly 13% of the world's avifauna, include 78 species endemic to the country. Historically India has been proactive in conserving its wildlife and their habitats, and has established an impressive network of Protected Areas -PAs- (106 National Parks, 567 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 105 Conservation Reserves and 220 Community Reserves) and other conservation areas such as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (554 Nos.), Biosphere reserves (18 Nos.), Ramsar sites (75 Nos.), etc. Nevertheless, a significant number of birds are threatened with extinction and its habitats, particularly those outside PAs, are under severe pressure from anthropogenic activities. In order to develop a long-term action plan to conserve the country's avian diversity and their habitats, MoEFCC, Government of India and SACON together developed a 'Visionary Perspective Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in the Country' (VPP) for the duration of next ten years (2020-30). The VPP has identified priority issues and actions required for the conservation of birds under the following 15 programmes:

- Conservation of Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) Bird Species
- Conservation of Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) Outside Protected Area (PA) Network
- Conservation of Protected Areas (PAs) with High Avian Diversity
- Conservation of Avian Diversity at the Landscape Level
- Conservation of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems with High Avian Diversity
- Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems with High Avian Diversity
- Conservation of Migratory Birds
- Impacts of Developmental Projects and other Anthropogenic Activities on Avian Diversity and Habitats
- Curbing Illegal Trafficking of Birds in India
- Mainstreaming Conservation of Avian Diversity with other Government of India Schemes and Programmes
- National Capacity Building Programme for Protection and Monitoring of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes
- National Plan for Nature Education and Awareness for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes
- Conservation of Avian Diversity in Urban Areas
- Surveillance and Monitoring of Avian Diseases
- Implementation of International Protocols and Conventions in Conservation of Avian Diversity



The VPP was developed as a national policy document for bird conservation, and it serves as a roadmap to identify and prioritize bird conservation issues specific to each State and UT and to each biogeographical region and landscape. As part of the implementation of the VPP, it was suggested to prepare State/UT level Action Plans (SAP) to identify specific issues and priority projects to combat the management problems. This SAP for the state of Kerala aims to collate published and unpublished information on avian diversity of Kerala and identify conservation issues and priority projects and develop an Action Plan for the conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes through widespread consultations with various stakeholders including Forest Department, State Biodiversity Board, research community, conservationists, NGOs and local communities.



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