

# Delhi-NCR: Conservation Action Plan

STATE-LEVEL ACTION PLAN  
FOR IMPLEMENTING SACON'S  
VISIONARY PERSPECTIVE PLAN  
FOR CONSERVATION OF AVIAN  
DIVERSITY, THEIR ECOSYSTEMS,  
HABITATS & LANDSCAPES IN THE  
COUNTRY; DELHI-NCR

2023

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भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

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PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR CONSERVATION OF AVIAN DIVERSITY, THEIR  
ECOSYSTEMS, HABITATS & LANDSCAPES IN THE COUNTRY; DELHI-NCR



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# Message



**Sh. Virendra R. Tiwari**

Director, Wildlife Institute of India

Birds are beneficial to humans and the environment in several ways, including improving the nutrient cycle in aquatic habitats, pest control and pollination of crops & plants, seed dispersal, regeneration of forest growth, recreational opportunities for ecotourism activities, including bird watching and retreats to bird sanctuaries that have proved the maintenance of health and well-being of humans.

Therefore, conserving birds and their habitats becomes critical through which society could quickly achieve greater protection of ecological values, prevent from economic impacts, and improve social significance & scientific importance.

Considering the conservation values of avifauna, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India sanctioned a project titled "Developing State-level Action Plans for implementing Visionary Perspective Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in the country" to Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) as part of the implementation of the Visionary Perspective Plan of SACON for 2021–2031.

This document comprises several action plans for the Delhi-NCR to prioritize the conservation of avifauna under 14 programmes. It has identified several thrust areas under each programme for further planning and action. Some of the crucial programmes include the conservation of threatened birds, strengthening the Protected Area network for bird conservation, landscape level conservation planning for bird populations, conservation of freshwater wetlands & their avifauna, conservation of migratory birds, curbing illegal trafficking and trade in wild birds, conservation of urban avifauna, capacity building for protection and monitoring of avian diversity, and among others.

I am sure that the document would be helpful to various stakeholders, including Forest Departments, universities, research institutions, multiple NGOs, bird watchers and nature lovers for the conservation of birds and their habitats in the Delhi region.

Signed by  
Virendra Rambahal Tiwari  
Date: 26-07-2023 08:50:58



# Foreword



## Sh. C.D. Singh

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Head of the Department, Department of Forests and Wildlife  
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

Birds have always been an inspiration to human beings from time immemorial. Consequently, birds, with their colourful diversity and rich abundance, have constantly been influencing the imaginations of men throughout history, reflecting equally in the arts, cultures, traditions, customs, and religions of people across the world.

However, the concept of the study of birds has recently evolved into a solid academic and scientific discipline across the world's universities and research institutions. Many studies have highlighted the importance and values of birds to the very survival and well-being of humans.

Our country, India, is home to about 1300 species of birds, ranked ninth in the world in terms of avian diversity, one of the mega-biodiversity regions of the world and comprises three of the global hotspots of avian endemism, i.e., the Eastern Himalayas, the Western Ghats, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Earlier, I was informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India had sanctioned a project titled "Developing State-level Action Plans for implementing Visionary Perspective Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in the Country; Delhi- NCR" to Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) as part of the implementation of the Visionary Perspective Plan of SACON for 2021–2031. Following that, the SACON has prepared the final report comprising action plans for the Delhi NCR to prioritize the conservation of avifauna under 14 broad programmes, including appropriate thematic areas.

I am sure that the State Level Action Plan will be helpful for forest managers, academic communities, birdwatchers, and policymakers to develop appropriate actions for the conservation of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats & landscapes in Delhi- NCR. I congratulate the team on the successful completion of this mammoth task.

  
07/10/2023  
Sh. C.D. Singh  
PCCF & HOF



## Message

### **Dr. Suneesh Buxy**

Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden,  
Department of Forests and Wildlife,  
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

The ability of birds to fly flawlessly kindles the imagination of everyone, undoubtedly leaving one to wonder. Across the world, human societies value birds for economic, cultural, ethical and spiritual reasons. India comprises a mosaic of unique habitat types forming an abode for rich biodiversity. Governments have been actively conserving many ecologically important habitats through Protected Area (PA) Networks spread across the country, and there are many important habitats for conservation outside PAs, which inhabit several important floral and faunal species. Nevertheless, birds face serious threats, including fragmentation, habitat destruction, and habitat loss due to the rampant conversion of pristine natural ecosystems into agriculture, mines and urban developments. Draining swamps, conversion of natural wetlands and logging reduces potential habitats for birds and many biotas.

Equally, the birds face threats in different ways in urban settlements, including overhunting, accidental mortalities due to road kills and structural mortalities, long-line fishing bycatch, oil spills, pesticide use, pollution, and climate change. To counter the ill effects, the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), with financial support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India, has been working on the project titled "Developing State-level Action Plans for implementing Visionary Perspective Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes in Delhi- NCR."

Earlier, the draft proposal of the document was submitted to the Department of Forests & Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi, by the SACON in February 2022, which was later circulated to a broader audience and placed in our web portal for getting comments and suggestions from different stakeholders and the general public. As expected, SACON received many comments and suggestions from various stakeholders. The final document has been prepared to prioritize action plans for the conservation of avifauna under 14 broad programmes, including appropriate thematic areas for the Delhi NCR.

I hope & wish the document will become more dynamic in the coming days. This action plan is a rich source of information and guidelines for anyone interested in conserving avifauna. It encapsulates appropriate actions for the conservation of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats & landscapes in Delhi- NCR.



Dr. Suneesh Buxy  
APCCF & CWLW

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Conservation of avifauna is one of India's missions to protect biodiversity. There are 1340 species of birds in the country, including 78 endemic and 103 threatened species. Conservation measures for birds have already been taken up in Protected Areas (PA) and Important Bird Areas (IBA). However, areas outside the designated PAs and IBAs, require prioritizing bird conservation by a comprehensive conservation strategy throughout the country. In this regard, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had assigned Sálim Ali Institute for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) the task of developing a Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP) from the period 2021–2031, covering every aspect of conservation of birds and their habitats, the actions required to execute them and the thrust areas for prioritization at the country level. Under this plan, 14 programmes have been chalked out covering different aspects of bird ecology and their habitats. Based on the VPP, SACON is now executing State Level Action Plans (SAP) for a robust state-specific scheme. In the first phase of these SAPs, 17 states belonging to 5 zones have been selected. The current document pertains to the conservation action plan of avifauna in the National Capital Region comprising the National Capital Territory (Delhi) and the adjoining areas, including Haryana (14 districts), Uttar Pradesh (8 districts) and Rajasthan (2 districts).

For the plan, the information collated includes the state profile (Delhi-NCR), current avifaunal status, conservation issues and required actions. The NCR consists of two ecologically important geographical features – the Yamuna floodplains and the Delhi Ridge, an extension of the Aravalli Hills. We have compiled and reported 446 confirmed bird species in NCR, including five Critically Endangered, seven Endangered, 24 Near Threatened, and 16 Vulnerable; 39 Schedule I species, 404 Schedule IV species, and one Schedule V species. There are nine PAs, eight IBAs, 10 Biodiversity Parks, and 24 wetlands (3 Ramsar; 12 proposed; 1 unnotified) of conservation importance. According to a simple score-based methodology, we identified 18 major Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species for Delhi NCR. We identified and prioritized the RET species using different conservation and ecological indicators, which include IUCN status, WPA schedule, CMS Appendix, CITES Appendix, endemism, habitat specialization and the conservation value of species, priorly available in the State of India's Bird (2020) report. The key conservation issues concerning birds are pollution, various developmental projects, habitat encroachment, and other anthropogenic activities. We have identified and discussed in detail three high-priority issues falling under each of the 14 VPP programmes. Based on available literature and stakeholder comments, we have listed most of the medium and low-priority issues. We have highlighted that bristled grassbirds, raptors, and wetland RET species, three wetlands (Najafgarh Jheel, Dhanauri, Basai, Dighal and small undesignated waterbodies) outside PAs and Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Sultanpur National Park amongst the bird-rich PAs require immediate conservation interventions. We also identified issues of pollutants in the Yamuna landscape, invasive species, illegal mining and land use change in the Aravallis, feral pigeons and the declining house sparrow population. We posited that assessment of the extent of illegal trafficking of birds, effects of urbanization, surveillance, monitoring and establishing state/district-specific laboratories are essential requirements. We also gave insights on conducting state-level awareness programmes by including national/international schemes and protocols. We have also done some outreach activities and received media coverage regarding the draft. The study aims to develop a plan with a collaborative consultation between SACON and all relevant stakeholders, including the State Forest Department, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and individuals interested in bird conservation. The consultations helped us to prioritize actions required and thrust areas to manage avian conservation issues specific to the state. It is a first step in the direction of making a wholesome, dynamic and detailed action plan for the conservation of avifauna and their habitats in the Delhi NCR.

## Appendix X: Outreach



ThePrint



Home > India > Genome resource banking part of plan to conserve rare, endangered bird species...

India

# Genome resource banking part of plan to conserve rare, endangered bird species in Delhi-NCR

GAURAV SAINI | 8 May, 2022



HOME / LIFESTYLE / SCIENCE

## Genome resource banking part of plan to conserve rare, endangered bird species in Delhi-NCR

Local birding organisations will be involved to conduct bird census in major urban agglomerates and assess the population status of the urban avifauna.

Wednesday, 28 September 2022

The Tribune

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨ ਟੈਲੀਕ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨ



The Tribune

Wednesday, 28 September 2022

### Plan to conserve rare, endangered 1 NCR

Authorities to set up genome resource bank as part of the urban conservation banking facility for birds



PTI

New Delhi, May 8

The authorities in Delhi-NCR plan to develop methods for preserving and conserving urban birds, including and introducing NCR bird species using multiple species, and create a bank of the urban conservation banking facility for birds.

Authorities involved in the development of reproduction, and and conserve from threatened species with an intention to use them in breeding programmes in the future.

## पक्षियों के संरक्षण को एक्शन प्लान का ड्राफ्ट सौंपा

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : सलीम अली सेंटर फॉर ऑर्निथोलॉजी एंड नेचुरल हिस्ट्री (सैकान) के विज्ञानियों ने दिल्ली-एनसीआर में पक्षियों के संरक्षण और प्रबंधन के लिए एक्शन प्लान का ड्राफ्ट वन विभाग को सौंपा है। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि ड्राफ्ट प्लान सैकान के दिमाग की उपज दूरदर्शी परिरक्ष्य योजना (वीपीपी) का एक हिस्सा है, जो पारिस्थितिकी और पक्षियों के आवास से संबंधित मुद्दों को संबोधित करना चाहता है। इसमें कई सुझाव भी दिए गए हैं। सैकान ने इस साल दिल्ली-एनसीआर सहित 17 राज्यों के लिए एक कार्ययोजना विकसित करना शुरू कर दिया है।

दिल्ली-एनसीआर के एसएनपी का मुख्य उद्देश्य पक्षियों, उनके आवास, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र और परिरक्ष्य के लिए संरक्षण के मुद्दों और प्रबंधन प्राथमिकताओं को पहचान करना है।





# DELHI-NCR

## Conservation Action Plan

State-Level Action Plan for  
implementing SACON's Visionary  
Perspective Plan for Conservation of  
Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems,  
Habitats & Landscapes in the Country;  
Delhi-NCR



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