



State Action Plan for
Conservation of Avian Diversity,
Their Ecosystems,
Habitats and Landscapes in
MADHYA PRADESH



State Action Plan for Conservation of Avian Diversity, Their Ecosystems, Habitats and Landscapes in MADHYA PRADESH

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Rajah Jayapal
Deepti Gupta
Bibhu Prasad Panda



Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
(South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
Anaikatty Post, Coimbatore – 641 108, INDIA

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A pair of Indian Paradise-flycatchers | © Original artwork by Deepti Gupta

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Gond art is done to preserve and communicate the culture of the Gond community. Dots, dashes, and curved lines are common designs. Elements of nature detailed with repeating patterns are the most recognizable feature of Gond art. The Gond art depicts the local flora and fauna. For the Gond community, art is everywhere in nature, and nature reflects in their art. – Sumita Roy Dutta



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



Virendra R. Tiwari
Director

FOREWORD

Madhya Pradesh – the ‘Tiger State’ of India with the largest area under forest cover among all the states of the country, is also rich in birds with nearly 500 species recorded so far. These include globally threatened taxa like Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican, Black-bellied Tern, Indian Skimmer, River Lapwing, Pallas’s Fish Eagle, and Malabar Pied Hornbill, besides seven species of Asian vultures. The state is also home to three species of birds, endemic to central and north-western India, viz., Forest Owlet, Indian Spotted Creeper, and Green Munia. And no less than 150 species of migratory birds choose to winter here every year. It is, therefore, very pertinent that Madhya Pradesh is key to conservation of birds in peninsular India. The state also has enormous potential for birding tourism as the infrastructure for ecotourism is already in place owing to the fact that Madhya Pradesh has 42 wildlife Protected Areas including six Tiger Reserves.

In order to identify specific conservation issues and management priorities with regard to birds and their habitats in the state of Madhya Pradesh, Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) – South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, has prepared a State Action Plan in line with the ‘Visionary Perspective Plan for Conservation of Birds and Their Habitats’ (VPP) developed earlier by SACON under the aegis of MoEFCC in 2021. The Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan seeks to lay a roadmap for conservation of birds in the state under twelve of the 15 thematic areas outlined in the VPP, and as such, will be a valuable guideline for policy makers, wildlife managers, avian ecologists, conservationists, and land use planners.

I congratulate my colleagues at SACON for preparing this State Action Plan for conservation of birds and their habitats in Madhya Pradesh; I also appreciate the generous support and assistance given to them by other stakeholders including Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department, conservation NGOS, avian researchers, birdwatchers, and wildlife enthusiasts for preparing this document.

Virendra R. Tiwari
26 December, 2023

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We sincerely thank Dr S. Muralidharan, former Director in charge of SACON and Dr. P.R. Arun, Senior Principal Scientist & Research Coordinator, SACON for their constant support through the project. We would like to particularly thank Shri. Virendra R. Tiwari IFS, Director, WII & SACON for his keen interest in the project and administrative support for getting us through the final stages of the report.

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We are forever thankful to Aasheesh Pittie as we heavily draw on his online bibliographic database on South Asian ornithology for all the key published resources on birds of Madhya Pradesh.

We gratefully acknowledge the constant help and support from the all the faculty members and staff of SACON during the project.

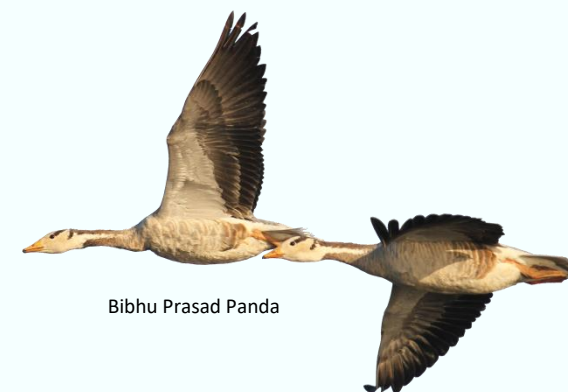
Rajah Jayapal
Deepti Gupta
Bibhu Prasad Panda

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PREAMBLE

India is home to 1359 species of birds, that constitute nearly 13% of the world's avifauna, and include 79 species, endemic to the country¹. Though India is traditionally protective of its wildlife and its habitats, and boasts of an impressive network of Protected Areas (numbering 998) and 554 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), a significant number of species (103 in total) are threatened with extinction and its habitats – particularly outside PAs, are under severe pressure from anthropogenic activities. In order to develop a long-term action plan to conserve the country's birds and their habitats, MoEFCC, Government of India and SACON 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. The VPP has identified priority issues and actions required for conservation of birds under the following 15 programmes:

- 1) Conservation of Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) Bird Species
- 2) Conservation of Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) 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

¹ Praveen J., & Jayapal, R., 2023. Checklist of the birds of India (v7.2). Website: <http://www.indianbirds.in/india/> [Date of publication: 30 October 2023].

- 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
- 15) 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 framework document to identify and prioritize bird conservation issues specific to each State and UT and to each biogeographical region and landscape. The latter requires exclusive and systematic conservation plans at the level of states, regions, and landscapes. Towards this direction, State-level Action Plans were conceived in 2021 to identify conservation issues and management priorities of birds and their habitats in each State/UT of the country and to prioritize them to develop comprehensive and inclusive solutions with stakeholders' participation.

During Phase-I of the programme, State Action Plans (SAPs) for bird conservation were proposed to be undertaken by SACON for a total of 17 States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh. This report is one of the outcomes of this collaborative effort involving multiple stakeholders for bird conservation in the state of Madhya Pradesh.



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