



# ACTION PLAN

**FOR CONSERVATION OF AVIAN DIVERSITY,  
THEIR ECOSYSTEMS, HABITATS & LANDSCAPES  
IN LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS**



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**FOR CONSERVATION OF AVIAN DIVERSITY,  
THEIR ECOSYSTEMS, HABITATS & LANDSCAPES  
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## FOREWORD

Lakshadweep Islands, the only coral atoll system of our country has a unique ecosystem dominated by sea, vast lagoons and scattered coral Islands. Islands and the water around support numerous birdlife as well. Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, Coimbatore, MoEFCC, Government of India has developed “Action Plan for conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in Lakshadweep Islands”. The action plan provides the gaps in knowledge and road-map for bird conservation within the archipelago. This action plan stemmed from Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP 2020-2030) that emphasized the need for avian conservation in India. The action plan guides to identify the domains that require immediate attention for the betterment of the avifaunal species and their habitats. The avifaunal conservation at the regional level will in turn help India to achieve the national goals and contribute towards its international targets in conserving global biological diversity.

This action plan for avian conservation in Lakshadweep has eleven main programmes representing various kinds of threats for birds inhabiting in the state. The document accentuates the current knowledge of the birds, its habitats and concerns of conservation. It also highlights the threats and management concerns of birds in the archipelago, and need of capacity building and increasing awareness of people in the Islands. The action plan would serve as framework document for avian conservation in the Islands in the years ahead. The various stakeholders at the archipelago in collaboration with various partner institutions and organizations can utilize the action plan for the implementation of avian conservation within the area.

I am thankful for the efforts taken by SACON in the preparation of this action plan and to all the stakeholders such as Department of Environment and forests, Department of science and Technology of Lakshadweep administration, Government of India, NGOs and individual experts in the field for investing their time to provide inputs, suggestions and comments to enhance the quality of this document and finalizing the plan.

Date: 18.12.2023

(Virendra R. Tiwari)



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We would like to express our gratitude for the advice and directions of the Director and faculties of SACON, especially Dr. Rajah Jayapal coordinator of VPP-SAP projects in SACON for the much needed support in completing this project. Dr. P Riju, the Research Associate and Ms. Angel Joy the Junior Research Biologist engaged in developing this Action Plan were the groundwork force conducting the field-level visits and discussions with stakeholders. Contributions of several other researchers such as, Mr Anoop Raj and Ms. Shriya Auradhkar are thankfully acknowledged.

We are thankful to Mr. Vigneswaran, IT assistant of SACON for his contribution in typesetting and designing the Action Plan. Mr. C N Abdul Raheem, RFO, kindly provided most of the photographs used in the report.



# CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India has recognized the need for a focused 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 diverse bird species. The Union territory of Lakshadweep is bestowed with a rich diversity of flora and fauna associated with sea and coral Islands. Upon preparation of VPP, SACON as a nodal agency has prepared the State level Action Plan for the 15 states and two union territories of India during Phase I. The VPP document is used as a guideline to prepare the State level Action Plan (SAP) of the respective states. We identified priority issues and actions required for the conservation of birds under the following programmes of VPP for Lakshadweep Islands:

- 1) Conservation of rare, endangered & threatened (RET) bird species
- 2) Conservation of birds outside the protected areas (PAs)
- 3) Conservation of protected areas (PAs) with high avian diversity
- 4) Conservation of inland aquatic ecosystems with high avian diversity
- 5) Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems
- 6) Conservation of migratory birds
- 7) Impacts of developmental projects and other anthropogenic activities on avian diversity and habitats
- 8) Surveillance and monitoring of avian diseases
- 9) Plan for nature education and awareness for conservation of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats & landscapes
- 10) Capacity building programme for protection and monitoring of avian diversity, their ecosystems, habitats & landscapes
- 11) Mainstreaming conservation of avian diversity with other government of India schemes and programmes



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The action plan is prepared to:

- Identify and prioritize the conservation issues and management priorities for birds and their habitats at the level of archipelago.
- 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.
- Develop roadmap for the area to plan their bird conservation initiatives.

The main objectives for the preparation of action plan are:

- To collate published and unpublished information on the 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/UTs through widespread consultations with various stakeholders.

The outline of this Action Plan includes two main parts. Part A involves the 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. This Action Plan for Lakshadweep Islands will be the first comprehensive document to understand the nuances and concerns for bird conservation of the area and act as a platform to initiate the conservation efforts within the Islands.





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