



STATE ACTION PLAN ASSAM

**for Implementing Visionary Perspective Plan for
Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems,
Habitats & Landscapes in ASSAM**

**Submitted By
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STATE ACTION PLAN

ASSAM



for Implementing Visionary Perspective Plan for
Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems,
Habitats & Landscapes in ASSAM



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Director



FOREWORD

The state of Assam is home to India's significant part of biodiversity. The ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, scrublands, rocky terrains, and rivers harbour this rich biodiversity. Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, Coimbatore, MoEFCC, Government of India has developed a "State-level Action Plan (SAP) for conservation of birds, their habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in Assam". The action plan provides a road map for bird conservation within the state. It stemmed from the Visionary Perspective Plan (VPP 2020-2030) that emphasized the need for avian conservation in India. The action plan guides the state by identifying the domains that require immediate attention for the betterment of the avifaunal species and their habitats. The avifaunal conservation at the state level will help India achieve its national goals and contribute towards its international targets in conserving global biological diversity.

The SAP for avian conservation in Assam has 13 main programmes that address various threats to birds inhabiting the state. The document accentuates the threats to birds inside and outside protected areas of the state, and threats in various ecosystems. It also highlights the management concerns in capacity building and increasing awareness through nature education outreach programmes to initiate community participation. The SAP would serve as a framework document for avian conservation in the state. In collaboration with partner institutions and organizations, the various stakeholders at the state level can utilize the action plan to implement avian conservation within the state.

I congratulate SACON for the efforts taken in the preparation of the SAP and to all the stakeholders, such as the State Forest Department, Biodiversity board, NGOs and individual experts in the field, for investing your time to provide inputs, suggestions and comments to enhance the quality of this document and finalizing the plan.

(Virendra R. Tiwari)

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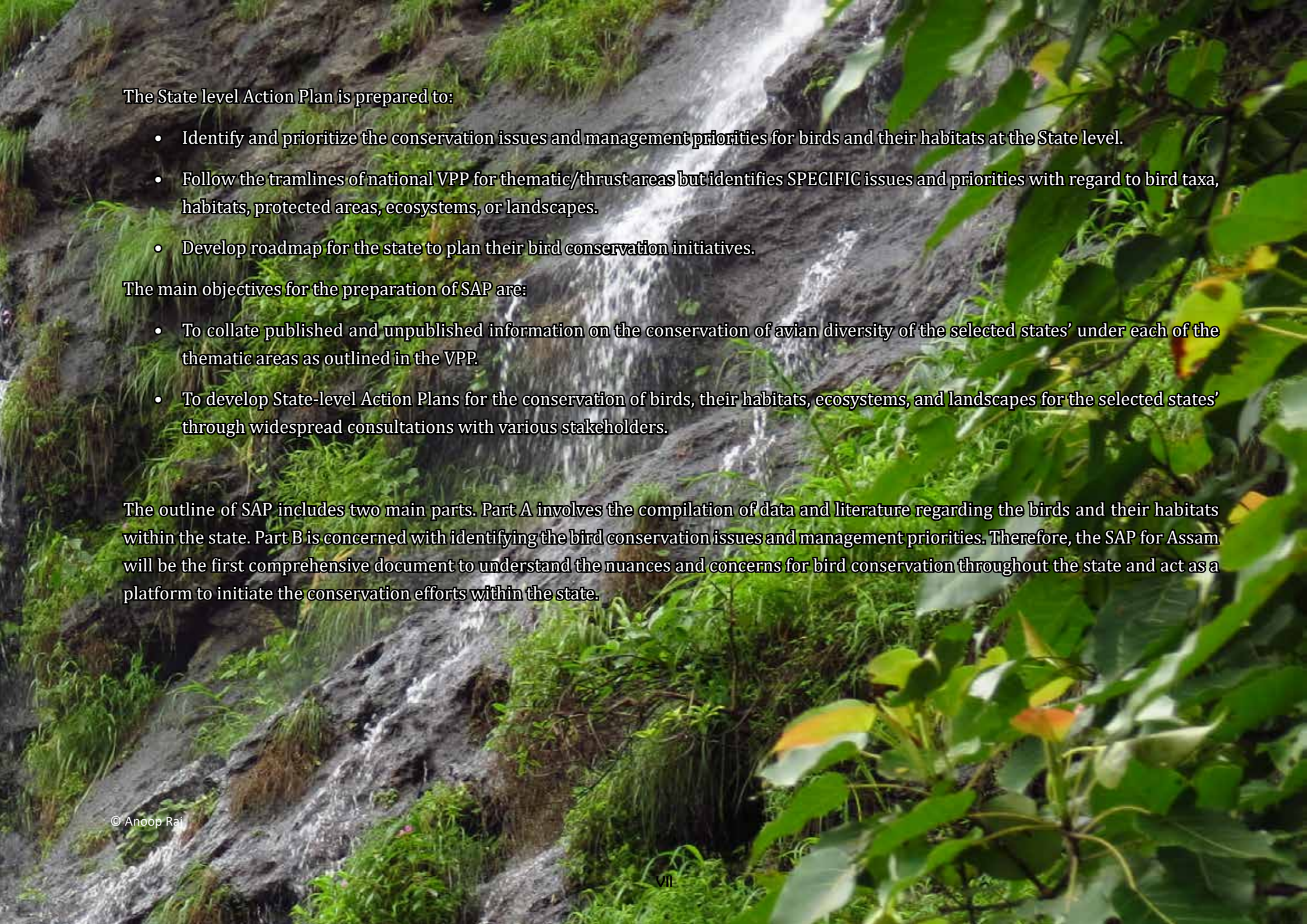
We are thankful to Shri. Ms. Kimnei Changsan, Director-in-charge of Assam Science Technology & Environment Council (ASTEC), Mr. Jaideep Baruah, Member secretary ASTEC, Dr. Oinam Sunanda Devi, Research Officer of Assam State Biodiversity Board, Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar , Dr. Purnima Devi Barman , Mr. Pranab Goswami, Mr. Udayan Borthakur and Mr. Jayanta Sharma from Aaranyak, Mrs. Archita Baruah Bhattacharyya; State coordinator of WWF, Dr. Rathin Barman-Joint director of WTI (North east division), Mr. Sachin Ranade; In-charge of Vulture conservation breeding centre, Rani; and (NGO) for their valuable suggestions in the preparation of SAP.

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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 Sálím 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 state of Assam is bestowed with a rich diversity of flora and fauna in various ecological habitats such as forests, grasslands, rocky terrains, and rivers and wetlands. Upon preparation of VPP, SACON as a nodal agency has prepared the State level Action Plan for the 17 states of India during Phase I of the implementation of VPP. 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 Assam:

- 1) Conservation of Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) Bird Species
- 2) Conservation of important bird & biodiversity Areas (IBA's) 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 Migratory Birds
- 7) Impacts of Developmental Projects and other Anthropogenic Activities on Avian Diversity and Habitats.
- 8) Curbing Illegal Trafficking of Birds in India
- 9) Conservation of Avian Diversity in Urban Areas
- 10) Surveillance and Monitoring of Avian Diseases
- 11) Nature Education and Awareness for Conservation of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes
- 12) Capacity Building Programme for Protection and Monitoring of Avian Diversity, their Ecosystems, Habitats & Landscapes
- 13) Mainstreaming Conservation of Avian Diversity with other Government of India Schemes and Programmes



The State level Action Plan is prepared to:

- Identify and prioritize the conservation issues and management priorities for birds and their habitats at the State level.
- 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, or landscapes.
- Develop roadmap for the state to plan their bird conservation initiatives.

The main objectives for the preparation of SAP 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' through widespread consultations with various stakeholders.

The outline of SAP 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. Therefore, the SAP for Assam will be the first comprehensive document to understand the nuances and concerns for bird conservation throughout the state and act as a platform to initiate the conservation efforts within the state.

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