

Conservation Action Plan Workshop for Hornbills of Arunachal Pradesh



Arunachal Pradesh is located within the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot and represents a critical stronghold for hornbill conservation. Five species of hornbills occur in the state, the globally threatened Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Austen's Brown Hornbill, and the Oriental Pied Hornbill.

The state has around 65% of the forests classified as unclassed state forests (USFs) which are also commonly called community forests governed by 26 Arunachal tribes; and the rest of the forest area comes under protected areas and reserved forests. Habitat loss and hunting remain a continuous challenge in most of these forest areas and need immediate attention for conservation of all animals including Hornbills.



Working in the Arunachal landscape for past 25 years, the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) team understands that a state-wide Conservation Action Plan is needed to promote indigenous stewardship to protect hornbills and their habitats in the community forests and forests outside PAs in Arunachal Pradesh

integrated with scientific research and monitoring based on ecological knowledge. Also, measures to strengthen hornbill conservation inside PAs are necessary both to halt the decline of hornbills and secure the future of hornbill populations in the state.

Hosted by Arunachal Pradesh University at Pasighat, the Conservation Action Plan for Hornbills of Arunachal Pradesh held on 16–18 July 2026, marked a





crucial milestone towards conservation of hornbills in the state. Nature Conservation Foundation, India organized the workshop and it was facilitated by Zoo Outreach Organisation and Conservation Planning Specialist Group, South Asia. The workshop invited 55+ participants from three states, Assam, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh; from more than 25 organisations, including forest departments, NGOs, and community groups.

The major objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Develop a collaborative landscape-level vision for hornbill conservation;
2. Strengthen scientific evidence-based and culturally grounded action;
3. Build regional and inter-state partnerships, capacity, and networks; and
4. Action-oriented implementation timeline and policy possibilities.

The workshop started with setting baselines on existing knowledge of hornbill population, habitat, threat, community interaction, cultural significance, management strategies, and past research. Everyone participated and provided

all the different information they had on hornbills that affect the conservation status of the species. Once the context was set, all the participants together set the vision for Hornbill Conservation in the state in collaboration with all stakeholders. Once the vision was set, participants started understanding the different threats the species is facing throughout the state and discussed goals to combat each of the threats.

The workshop ended successfully involving all participants towards a shared vision to conserve hornbills in Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with each other.



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