

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November - 1 December 2017

Species specific matters

ILLEGAL TRADE IN THE HELMETED HORNBILL (*RHINOPLAX VIGIL*):  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 17.11 on *Conservation of and trade in helmeted hornbill*, as well as the following decisions:

**17.264 Directed to Parties**

*Range States and transit and consumer Parties should provide information to the Secretariat, about their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11 on Conservation of and trade in helmeted hornbill and collaborate with the Secretariat in its implementation of Decision 17.265.*

**17.265 Directed to the Secretariat**

*Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *consult the range States of the helmeted hornbill concerning their measures to conserve and protect this species, including relevant conservation actions, legal and regulatory measures, outreach and education activities, cross-border cooperation and actions to combat poaching and illegal trade;*
- b) *assist Parties to develop and implement measures, including legislative and enforcement measures and regional and sub-regional initiatives, to halt or reduce, and ultimately, eliminate illegal trade in helmeted hornbills;*
- c) *work closely with partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to support the implementation of this Decision; and*
- d) *report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision.*

**17.266 Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decision 17.265 on the basis of the Secretariat's reports and report at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this Decision, with any recommendations for further action.*

Implementation of Decisions 17.264 and 17.265

3. At the time of writing of this document (September 2017), no transit or consumer country of specimens of helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) had provided information to the Secretariat concerning their implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.11, as directed in Decision 17.264 (noting that the Resolution has been in effect for less than a year).

4. In compliance with Decision 17.265, paragraph a), the Secretariat consulted present and former range States of *Rhinoplax vigil* (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand) through letters sent in June 2017. It requested information concerning the measures that they were taking (or considering to take) to conserve and protect the helmeted hornbill, including relevant conservation actions, legal and regulatory measures, outreach and education activities, cross-border cooperation and actions to combat poaching and illegal trade.
5. The Secretariat received replies from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand, for which it is grateful. The responses, in the language and format as received, have been compiled in the Annex to the present document.
6. The information provided by the five Parties (four range States of *Rhinoplax vigil* and Singapore, a former range State) can be summarized as follows:

#### **Conservation actions**

- In Indonesia, comprehensive data on helmeted hornbills is collected in Medan, Sumatra, which is one of the critical exit points for trade in the species. The data includes information on population, habitat, trade, seizures, confiscations, as well as stakeholders' concerns.
- Peninsular Malaysia's Department of Wildlife and National Parks took conservation measures for hornbill species in several protected sites through the Wildlife Inventory Programme. The non-governmental organization Malaysian Nature Society implemented a Hornbill Conservation Project between 2004-2014 at the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, Perak.
- In Myanmar, the impact of hunting on helmeted hornbill populations is monitored. However, this remains limited because of shortage of financial resources, expertise and security. Myanmar also noted that systematic population surveys are still lacking and that there is a need for a better understanding of the species' area of occupancy and nest survival rates.
- In Singapore, Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) is supporting population surveys of helmeted hornbill and undercover investigations in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. The project addresses local trade and its linkages to poaching networks and smuggling routes flowing from West Kalimantan, and will help identify helmeted hornbill habitat in need of protection, enabling long term conservation programs and actions.
- In Thailand, biological and ecological research concerning helmeted hornbill has been undertaken, and community-based conservation programmes have been in place since 1978. Artificial nest programmes have also been implemented to increase reproduction. The information collected to date has allowed Thailand to develop a practical and sustainable management plan for the conservation of hornbill species and their habitats. The work conducted so far has attracted a range of partners and collaborations that have favored conservation efforts.

#### **Legal and regulatory measures**

- Indonesia protects the helmeted hornbill under its national legislation.
- In Malaysia, the helmeted hornbill is protected at national level under the International Trade in Endangered Species Act of 2008.
- In Peninsular Malaysia, hornbill species are protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act of 2010.
- In Sabah (Malaysia), the helmeted hornbill is protected under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment of 1997.
- In Sarawak (Malaysia), all hornbill species are totally protected.
- Myanmar noted the need to improve protection measures for hornbill species in the remaining lowland forest throughout the Tanintharyi mountain range.
- In Singapore, the helmeted hornbill is listed under the Endangered Species Act, prohibiting commercial trade.

- In Thailand, the helmeted hornbill is protected under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act.

### ***Outreach and education activities***

- In Sabah (Malaysia), the Wildlife Department actively educates the public on the conservation of the species.
- Myanmar noted the need for awareness raising in selected villages.
- In Singapore, WRS held a presentation on hornbill conservation efforts conducted by Jurong Bird Park in South-East Asia, and linked this to the Park's new hornbill icon. The presentation informed specifically about trade in helmeted hornbill, and subsequently attracted media attention. In February 2017, WRS organized a "Run for Wildlife", where approximately 7600 participants learnt about the threats to the helmeted hornbill.
- Thailand states that several organizations have collaborated to conduct a variety of conservation activities in order to raise public awareness, including that of local people and youth, and soldiers operating in helmeted hornbill-inhabited areas. Activities have also targeted ex-poachers to try and shift behaviour.

### ***Cross-border cooperation***

- Indonesia proposed the draft resolution on *Conservation of and trade in helmeted hornbill* at CoP17, which includes calls for broad international collaboration (see document [CoP17 Doc. 69](#)).
- Myanmar noted that transboundary collaboration with Thailand is necessary to promote information exchange and combat poaching.
- In Singapore, WRS supported a workshop in 2016 on helmeted hornbill, hosted by Planet Indonesia [a member of the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)], that aimed to raise awareness, identify future directions, and distribute roles to maximize conservation efforts. WRS also supported the First Indonesia Hornbill Symposium in 2016, which aimed to raise awareness, bring together key stakeholders and commence conservation initiatives. In May 2017, WRS supported the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group meeting, held in Malaysia.
- Thailand attended the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group meeting, held in Malaysia in May 2017.

### ***Actions to combat poaching and illegal trade***

- Regarding Sumatra, Indonesia reports that between 2014 and 2016, 32 poaching cases occurred in Leuser National Park, and 16 in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. It is stated that in West Kalimantan, more than 6,000 helmeted hornbills may have been hunted in the course of a single year. By 2016, the Government of Indonesia had prevented 25 smuggling cases, involving a total of 1,398 helmeted hornbill casques destined to export.
- In Peninsular Malaysia, enforcement activities between 2011 and 2016 recorded nine cases of illegal possession of different species of hornbill. Ten live individuals and 46 beak 'units' were seized (involving three species of hornbill, but not *Rhinoplax vigil*).
- Sabah (Malaysia) has not issued permits for hunting, trade, possession or keeping in captivity of the species to date. The Wildlife Department has not received information on smuggling cases, or come across such incidents.
- Sarawak (Malaysia) mentions to be aware of recent reports of high volume exports of helmeted hornbill casques from range States, but there have been no such consignments involving Sarawak.
- Thailand reports that protected areas are regularly patrolled. A special task force team was established to strengthen prevention and suppression of illegal wildlife trade, and wildlife poaching and trade surveillance have been implemented at the community level.

7. Concerning Decision 17.265, paragraph b), the Secretariat has consulted range States (see paragraph 4), inviting them to indicate if assistance was required to develop and implement measures to halt or reduce, and ultimately, eliminate illegal trade in helmeted hornbills. The Secretariat stated to be ready to provide support in this regard within available resources and subject to external funding. Indonesia responded that in the context of the implementation of the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Helmeted Hornbill, external support was needed, particularly from the CITES Secretariat, to provide facilitation to stakeholders at coordination meetings, and capacity building activities related to helmeted hornbill and wildlife trade issues in general. Myanmar indicated that support is needed to conduct helmeted hornbill population studies, awareness raising activities, and hunting and trade surveys, and to support cross-border collaboration.
8. Concerning Decision 17.265, paragraph c), the Secretariat intends to bring the information that was provided by the range States, as well as the helmeted hornbill Action Plan and other relevant information, to the attention of partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) so that appropriate measures can be developed in support of the implementation of Decision 17.265 [particularly its paragraph b)].

#### Discussion

9. The Secretariat notes that all major range States of the helmeted hornbill have engaged in actions to improve the conservation and protection of the species, and reduce illegal hunting and trade. The nature and scope of these actions vary widely, with Myanmar apparently suffering from a limitation of resources to address research and conservation needs. The collective impact of these activities on the conservation status of helmeted hornbills remains nevertheless difficult to assess. A global Action Plan for the species might be of great assistance in this regard.
10. Several recent publications have addressed the illegal trade in helmeted hornbill and its 'ivory' casques, and impacts on the conservation of the species.<sup>1</sup> It seems that urgent concerted efforts to reduce illegal hunting and trade remain a high priority.
11. Resolution Conf. 17.11 calls for *helmeted hornbills range States to develop and implement the Action Plan for the conservation of the helmeted hornbill*. As this Action Plan is not yet finalized, a substantial part of the Resolution that *CALLS UPON all governments, donor and funding organizations, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as a matter of urgency, to support efforts to implement the Action Plan*, cannot be acted upon. The Secretariat is of the opinion that the assistance that it is directed to provide to Parties [see Decision 17.265, paragraph b)] would best be framed in the context of the implementation of this Action Plan, as also suggested by Indonesia.
12. A meeting of the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Helmeted Hornbill Working Group was convened in May 2017 in Kuching, Malaysia. The meeting took into account the work conducted under the auspices of the IUCN Species Survival Commission through the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) towards the development of the Action Plan. The ASAP Secretariat informed the CITES Secretariat that the final Action Plan, as well as a detailed workshop report, would be finalized in time for dissemination at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee. If that were the case, they could be made available as information documents.
13. In its report to the Secretariat, Thailand states that it has developed a practical and sustainable management plan for the conservation of hornbill species and their habitats. The Secretariat encourages Thailand to share this information with other range States and with the Secretariat.

#### Recommendation

14. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://static1.1.sgspcdn.com/static/f/157301/27258782/1474607525143/Helmeted-Hornbill-trade-Lao-PDR.pdf?token=QOLsZOB5mA8OvOPk57W25nPFOSk%3D>

<https://eia-international.org/illegal-trade-seizures-helmeted-hornbills>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bird-conservation-international/article/trade-in-the-helmeted-hornbill-rhinoplax-vigil-the-ivory-hornbill/561C8F59CB72395B2C2BA17194621B04>

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## REPORT FOR CITES SECRETARIAT

### IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES RESOLUTION CONF. 17.11 CONCERNING CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN HELMETED HORNBILL IN INDONESIA

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Jakarta – 30 August 2017



Source of photo: Gunung Palung National Park, MoEF

**Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Republic of Indonesia**

Indonesia is known as one of the country served as home for helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) in Asia. This species is usually nesting on the big trees or on the forest canopy, distributed among Indonesian forests mainly in Sumatra and Kalimantan. Hornbill has a crucial role in the ecosystem. They can fly as far as 100 kilometers, and it makes them the most effective seed dispersers in the forests which support the growth of various plants.

Illegal trade and deforestation have been the major threats for helmeted hornbill population in Indonesia. In Sumatra, during 2014 to 2016, there are 32 poaching cases found in Leuseur National Park and 16 poaching cases found in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Meanwhile, in West Kalimantan, there are more than 6.000 individuals of helmeted hornbill were hunted in the span of one year time. These numbers exclude total individuals that are dead due to habitat loss.

Little study has found the total population of helmeted hornbill in Indonesia, whilst at the same time the number of helmeted hornbill that is smuggled globally is increasing. Until 2016, Government of Indonesia had been able to thwart at least 25 smuggling cases which involves 1,398 helmeted hornbill's casques for export.

Considering this high number of illegal trade, helmeted hornbill has been included in the CITES Appendix I. In Indonesia itself, helmeted hornbill is protected under Law No. 5 Year 1990 on Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem and its subsidiary regulation, Government Regulation No. 7 Year 1999.

During the CITES 17<sup>th</sup> Conferences of Parties, Indonesia proposed a resolution document Conf. 17.11 concerning "Conservation of and Trade in Helmeted Hornbill in Indonesia" which has been accepted by consensus. There are eight main actions directed to the Parties and range states, which altogether called as National Action Plan and Conservation Strategy of Helmeted Hornbill.

In compliance to aforementioned CITES Resolution and with regard to Decisions 17.264 and 17.265, Government of Indonesia has started the development of National Action Plan and Conservation Strategy for Helmeted Hornbill, which will be valid for ten years. Ministry of Environment and Forestry as CITES Management Authority in Indonesia is working closely with



Figure 1 Stakeholders involvement and process in SRAK development

Indonesian Institute of Sciences as CITES Scientific Authority in Indonesia, academics, and several non-governmental organizations to develop the document (Figure 1).



Figure 2 Consultation public held in Medan

April 2017 marked as the beginning of CITES resolution implementation for helmeted hornbill in Indonesia (Figure 2). The first national public consultation has successfully held on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Medan Sumatra, which is known as one of the critical exit points for helmeted hornbill. As a result, comprehensive data on population, habitat, trade, seizure and confiscation cases of helmeted hornbill are collected, and information on hopes and worries related to helmeted hornbill from various stakeholders are also recorded.

As a follow up to the national public consultation, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has issued a Director of Biodiversity Conservation Decree No. SK.57/KKH/PKINT/KSA.2/5/2017 concerning on The Establishment of Drafter Group for National Action Plan and Conservation Strategy (SRAK) of Helmeted Hornbill. As stated in the decree, the Drafter Group consists of representatives from Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University, RCCC University of Indonesia, Burung Indonesia, Fauna and Flora International, Rangkong Indonesia, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Zoological Society London.

This SRAK document will provide five main strategies that are paramount for helmeted hornbill conservation efforts. Each of the strategy here contains capacity building aspects for the respective stakeholders which will give fundamental support in the implementation of the conservation activities.

1. Population and Habitat Management  
The first strategy includes three main strategies, including research and monitoring activities, in-situ conservation and ex-situ conservation for helmeted hornbill.
2. Law Enforcement  
The second strategy is more focusing on law and regulation related to helmeted hornbill conservation program, such as establishment of protected area (outside Nature Reserve and Agrarian Reform Consortium) based on ecosystem characteristic, potency, spatial area, legal status, and traditional knowledge; as well as implementation and reinforcement of various laws and regulations to support the conservation of helmeted hornbill.
3. Partnership and Collaboration  
The third strategy mainly recommends the establishment of hornbill national forum which will be a foundation that provides oversight on the conservation activities for hornbills in Indonesia, the expansion of partnership with any potential stakeholders, partnership

development through community empowerment program, as well as monitoring and evaluation on the achievement of SRAK of Helmeted Hornbill.

4. Communication and Awareness Raising

The fourth strategy is focusing specifically on the enhancement of public awareness on helmeted hornbill issues, in order to strengthen the commitment on its conservation efforts.

5. Financial Strategy

The last strategy is emphasizing on the establishment of budget allocation plan, both in local and national level, as well as the establishment of trust fund for hornbill conservation efforts in the longer term.

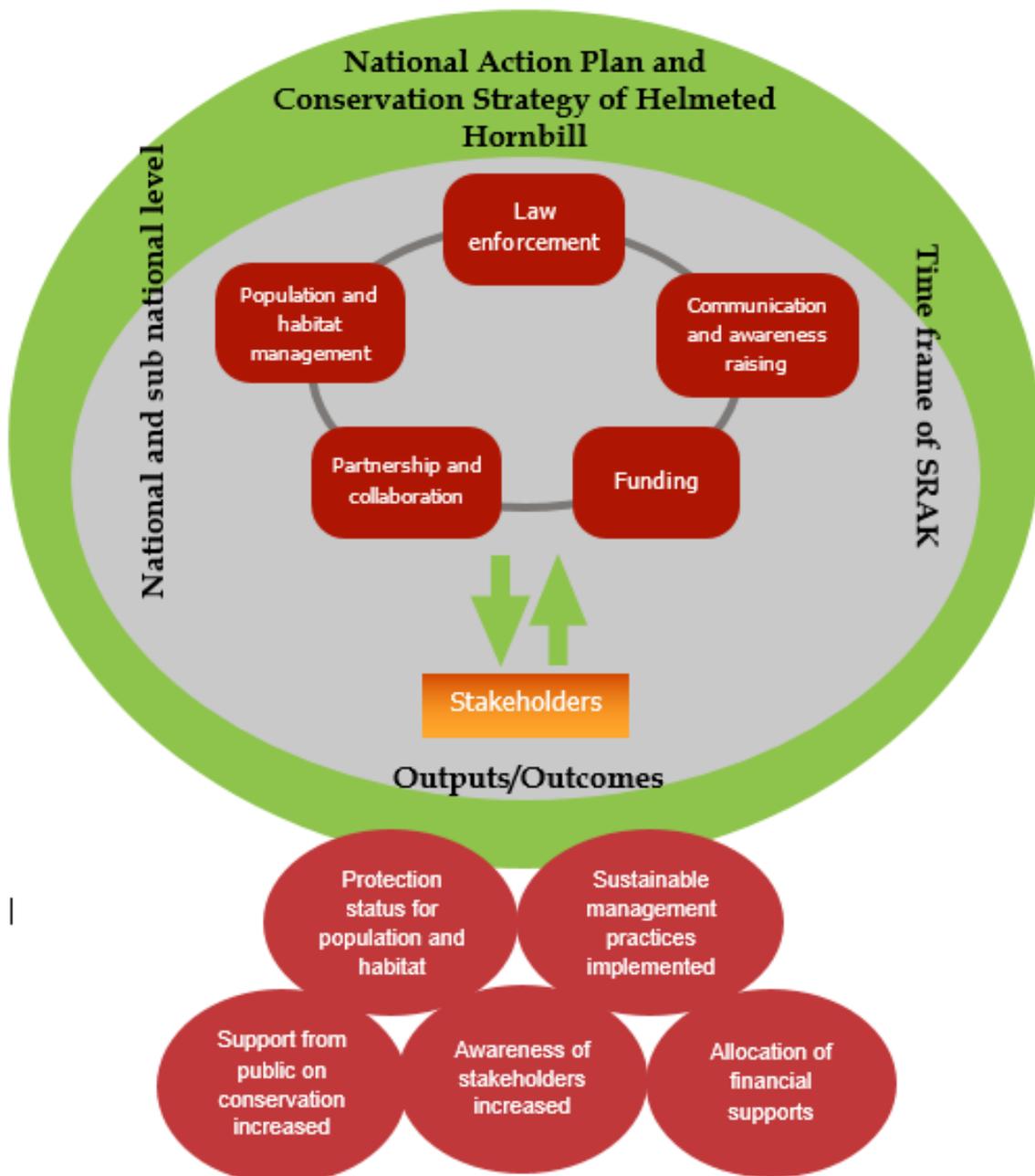


Figure 3 Strategies and outcomes/outputs of SRAK

As refer to Figure 3, there are five expected outputs from the conservation strategy implementation, including:

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1. High protection status for population and habitat of helmeted hornbill is maintained and enforced.
  2. Increased support from public towards the conservation strategy for helmeted hornbill.
  3. Sustainable management practices are well implemented by the local governments, private sectors, and concessions owners who work closely in the environmental and wildlife issues.
  4. Increased awareness from all stakeholders on the existence of helmeted hornbill and the issues related.
  5. Financial support is allocated and secured for long term Helmeted Hornbill conservation program.

In overall, Government of Indonesia will provide a strong support on the implementation of the National Action Plan and Conservation Strategy of Helmeted Hornbill. Lastly, in order to reinforce this implementation, Government of Indonesia would like to address the need of external support particularly from CITES Secretariat by providing facilitation on the coordination meetings and capacity building activities related to helmeted hornbill and wildlife trade issue in general to the respective stakeholders in Indonesia.

**MALAYSIA REPORT****CITES DECISION 17.265 : CITES RANGE STATE CONSULTATION CONCERNING HELMETED HORNBILL (*RHINOPLAX VIGIL*) DECISIONS**

This report consists of conservation status within 3 regions in Malaysia; Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak (Land of the Hornbill), and Sabah.

There are 10 species of hornbills that can be found in the rain forest of Malaysia. Out of this, only 8 species of hornbill were recorded in Sabah and Sarawak region, which exclude 2 species only can be found in Peninsular namely Enggang Papan (Great Hornbill) dan Enggang Belantara (Plain-pouched Hornbill).

List of 10 Species of Hornbill in Malaysia:

NO	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LOCAL NAME	ENGLISH NAME	ACT 716	ACT 686	IUCN REDLIST
1.	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>	Enggang Belukar	Bushy-crested Hornbill	TP	II	LC
2.	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	Enggang Belulang/ Enggang Kelingking	Indian/Oriental Pied Hornbill	TP	II	LC
3.	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>	Enggang Gatal Birah	Black Hornbill	TP	II	NT
4.	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>	Enggang Lilin/ Enggang Badak	Rhinoceros Hornbill	TP	II	NT
5.	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Enggang Papan	*Great Hornbill	TP	II	NT
6.	<i>Buceros vigil</i>	Enggang Tebang Mentua	Helmeted Hornbill	TP	II	NT
7.	<i>Aceros comatus</i>	Enggang Jambul Putih	White-crowned Hornbill	TP	II	NT
8.	<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>	Enggang Berkedut	Wrinkled Hornbill	TP	II	NT
9.	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>	Enggang Gunung	Wreathed Hornbill	TP	II	LC
10.	<i>Aceros subruficollis</i>	Enggang Belantara	*Plain-pouched Hornbill/ Blyth's Hornbill	TP	II	VU

Note : \*Only in Peninsular Malaysia  
TP : Totally Protected

At the national level, Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax Vigil*) is protected under the Malaysian CITES legislation, International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 [Act 686]. The Section 12 of the act prohibit any person who: (a) has in his possession or under his control; (b) sells, offers or exposes or advertises for sale; or(c) displays to the public, any scheduled species without a permit/certificate commits an offence and upon conviction, be liable to maximum fine of RM100,000 (for each animal/plant) and/or imprisonment up to 7 years for person/individual and maximum fine of RM200,000 for a body corporate.

## **A. PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

### **Enforcement**

All of the hornbill are listed as Totally Protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act, 2010 [Act No. 716]

Enforcement activities implemented by DWNP under Act 716 (2011 – 2016) recorded 9 cases of illegal possession of hornbill species.

Hornbill cases for period of 2011-2016

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of case</b>
2011	1
2012	2
2013	2
2014	0
2015	2
2016	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

A total of 10 live hornbills and 46 unit of beaks were seized involving species Enggang Papan (Great Hornbill), Enggang Badak (Rhinoceros Hornbill) and Enggang Kelingking (Oriental Pied Hornbill).

### **Conservation Efforts**

Conservation measure of Hornbill species were done by Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) through Wildlife Inventory Program at various protected areas; National Parks, Wildlife Reserve and Forest Reserve.

In addition, Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), a non-governmental organization had implementad Hornbill Conservation Project at the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, Perak (research paper attached) from 2004-2014.

DWNP had conducted reproduction efforts of Great Hornbill, Black Hornbill, Rhinoceros Hornbill, and White-crowned Hornbill at one of its Wildlife Conservation Centre in Perak. However the program failed and the hornbills were release at their natural habitat.

## **B. SABAH**

### **Enforcement**

In Sabah, the Helmeted Hornbill is protected under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 under Schedule 2 whereby if convicted for possession of the species; penalty received will be a fine of thirty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for three years or to both.

As of today, Sabah Wildlife Department has also never received information of smuggling and encounters any case of the species

### **Conservation Efforts**

To this date, as MA's there is no issuance of permit for hunting, possession, trade or keep in captivity for the species..

Sabah Wildlife Department is also very active in giving awareness program to our public on the law of protecting the species as well as its habitat.

## **C. SARAWAK**

### **Enforcement**

Sarawak Goverment has listed all hornbill species in Borneo as Totally Protected Animals. Guilty of the offence on hunting, killing, capturing or being in possession (whole or any recognizable part or derivative thereof) of the hornbill, may results in penalty of imprisonment for two years and a fine of twenty-five thousand ringgit.

Recently it has been reported that there has been a high volume of Helmeted Hornbill casques being exported out of range states. For Sarawak, there has been no such consignment.

### **Conservation Efforts**

As part of Malaysia as a range state, Sarawak is reporting on what has taken place earlier this year, ie 7th International Hornbill Conference 2017 and the Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Planning, both events were held in Kuching, Sarawak.

## 1. 7<sup>th</sup> International Hornbill Conference

This was an international conference organized by Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd as an operational arm of the State government of Sarawak, in collaboration with Unimas, Hornbill Research Foundation Thailand, Sarawak Convention Bureau and Catcity Sarawak Sdn. Bhd. Held in Kuching on 16-18 May 2017, the theme of the conference was; Hornbills: Fly free, Fly high. Total number of participants was 215 from 14 countries, including 34 speakers (29 foreign, 5 Malaysian) and 24 committee members. Papers covers four subthemes: Conservation status of hornbills, Hornbill biology & husbandry, Habitat fragmentation & connectivity, Importance of hornbills-Ecosystem, culture, tourism & awareness. There were no specific paper on Helmeted Hornbills.

## 2. Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Planning Meeting

The meeting was held in Kubah National Park on 19-20 May 2017. It was a meeting to discuss: the need to formalize the current Helmeted Hornbill Working Group (HHWG) & its role in implementing resulting Action Plan developed in the workshop. Among the 35 participants, there were 5 government reps (3 Msia, 1 Indonesia, 1 China). The rest were from NGOs (TRAFFIC, ASAP, WWF, IUCN, WCS, MNS, Birdlife Singapore, Hornbill Research Foundation, independents) and institutions of higher learning.

The meeting agreed upon the following:

- The need to formalize the current HHWG & how this would support successful implementation of the Action Plan;
- That the HHWG would fall under the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group (once that is officially formed);
- A temporary structure to be put in place to ensure coordination & momentum following the workshop continues;
- Suggestion to have a joint coordinator for the Songbird Specialist Group & HHWG to oversee implementation of the two action plans.

Summary of key points:

- Consensus for the need to formalize the HHWG
- In the absence of an IUCN SSC Hornbill SG, it was agreed that ASAP (Asian Species Action Partnership), as a neutral entity, would support the process of developing the Working Group & would take advisory role
- Agreement for a lead for each of the four main components (trade, research, habitat, capacity development) along with range state facilitators & one or two

Coordinators overarching link & track progress against the action plan (see figure below)

- Range state facilitators to be decided within the range state & to inform HHWG on decision
- Members of WG would send nominations for people to take on each role to ASAP
- The HHWG would have the following structure:



Other additional points:

- For the Hornbill Specialist Group: Aparajita (India) is co-Chair for Asia and Lucy Kemp (South Africa) is co-Chair for Africa.
- The group decided under the four components: Trade, Research, Habitat, Capacity Development, the following objectives as in order of "urgency" & "importance".

Aspect	No	Objectives	Most Urgent
Trade chain	1	Prevent/eliminate poaching of HH through law enforcement & local empowerment	19
Research	2	ID priority areas	17
Habitat	3	Improve protected area management	15

Trade chain	3	Disrupt transit from source to consumer by enhancing enforcement through pre-emptive deterrent measures & increased prosecution	15
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Aspect	No	Objectives	Most Important
Trade chain	1	Prevent/eliminate poaching of HH through law enforcement & local empowerment	10
Trade chain	1	Reduce consumption by implementing evidence-based behavior change interventions for consumers (not about raising awareness)	10
Habitat	2	Improve protected area management	9
Trade chain	3	Disrupt transit from source to consumer by enhancing enforcement through pre-emptive deterrent measures & increased prosecution	8

- Of the four categories, the group decided that “preventing/eliminating poaching of HH through law enforcement & local empowerment” is the “most urgent” objective for now, followed by “ID priority areas” and “Improve protected area management” and “Disrupt transit from source to consumer by enhancing enforcement through pre-emptive deterrent measures & increased prosecution”.
- For the “most important” objectives, three were from the category “trade chain” and one from “habitat” which is “Improve protected area management”.
- Of the four categories, objectives under CEPA were not considered as most urgent or most important for the moment.
- For both “Most Urgent” & “Most Important”, it appears that objectives categorized under Trade Chain obtained the most votes from participants.
- We can deduce that authorities should look into trade chain with regards to issue on Helmeted Hornbills conservation.

## Information about the Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) in Myanmar

### Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)

**Range description:** Confined to the Sundaic lowlands, where it is known from south Tenasserim (Taninthayi), Myanmar, peninsular Thailand, Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Kalimantan and Sumatra, Indonesia and Brunei (BirdLife International 2001).

**Range in Myanmar:** Found in Nga Woun Reserved Forest and proposed Lenya National Park, located southern Taninthayi, Myanmar.

**Northern limit:** unknown. Found in Nga Woun Reserved Forest with coordinates of N 11.60756° E 99.22385° is northern limit so far. The species can probably be found in other part of Taninthayi, Myanmar. However, the species has not been recorded yet in Taninthayi Nature Reserve which is in the north of Nga Woun Reserved Forest and proposed Lenya National Park.

**Population estimation:** In April 2015, Flora and Fauna International (FFI) recorded the species in NgaWoun Reserved Forest. But, the exact number of individual was not mentioned in their report (Monberg et al, 2015; Zockler et al 2015). However, nine individuals were recorded in July 2015 in NgaWoun (Thet Zaw Naing et al, 2015), and two individuals were observed in Lenya area (Nay Myo Shwe, 2017). Systematic survey for population estimation is still lacking. Generally, population is severely fragmented.

**Habitat and Ecology:** Found in Sundaic forest, mainly in good forest area. Helmeted Hornbills are omnivorous, feeding mainly on rainforest figs, fruits, but occasionally taking insects, small mammals and birds. Study on area of occupancy and survival of nest are needed.

**Major threats:** Hunting and habitat loss. Though the species is not a targeted species for poachers, hunting wildlife including hornbills in proposed Lenya National Park and Ngawoun Reserved Forest is common. A casque was found in Dan Sing Khon market in Thai-Myanmar border.

**Conservation actions:** Monitoring the impact of hunting pressure on populations, but the scale of the activities is very small due to several limitations such as fund, expertise and security. Trans-boundary collaboration between Thailand and Myanmar is necessary to combat poaching and to exchange information. Awareness raisings among the local people

from some selected villages and improved measured for the protection of remaining tracts of lowland forest throughout the Taninthayi Mountain range are required.

**Reference:**

- Thet Zaw Naing, Pyae Phyo Aung and Saw Lo Doh Htoo (July 2015). Birds Survey at Nga Wun Reserved Forest area, Tanintharyi Township in Tanintharyi Region by Wildlife Conservation Society Myanmar Program.
- Frank Momberg, Panawat, Saw Moses (April 2015). Wildlife pre-survey for ecotourism site at Ngawon Forest.
- Christoph Zockler, Frank Momberg, Jeremy Holden, Saw Soe Aung, Lay Win and Saw Moses. (May 2015). Overall Bird List of South Tanintharyi Recorded from December 2013 to May 2015.
- Nay Myo Shwe (March 2017). Ecological study on Gurney's Pitta in L

## **Singapore's report to the CITES Secretariat's consultation concerning Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) Decisions**

Singapore is no longer a range state for the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*). The last sighting of this species was in 1895. We understand the term range state to mean a country where the species still presently occurs. In Singapore's context, the helmeted hornbill has not been seen in the country over a century and is classified as Nationally Extinct in publications on Singapore's avifauna.

The helmeted hornbill is listed as a CITES Appendix I and a scheduled species under the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act (ESA). As such, commercial trade in the species including any of its parts and derivatives such as the casque or 'hornbill ivory', is prohibited. Under the ESA, any person who imports, exports or re-exports a scheduled species without a CITES permit commits an offence. The offender will be liable, on conviction, to a fine of \$50,000 per specimen (not to exceed \$500,000 in aggregate) and/or up to 2 years' imprisonment. The penalties also apply to possession, sale, display and advertisement including online sale of any illegal hornbill specimens.

The Singapore Jurong Bird Park, which is part of the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), has funded and co-organised workshops on conservation and activities to raise public awareness about the helmeted hornbill. Enclosed information provided by WRS for reference.

## WRS's EFFORTS ON CONSERVATION OF THE HELMETTED HORNBILL

### 1. Building a Regional Conservation Action Plan for the Helmeted Hornbill



#### ***The Species***

Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)  
IUCN Status: Critically Endangered (CR)

#### ***The Challenge***

The helmeted hornbill inhabits lowland and upland rainforests in Myanmar, south Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra and is one of the most iconic species of Southeast Asia. Habitat loss and the recent explosion on the international wildlife trade for its red ivory cask have recently caused this species to jump from an IUCN red-list listing of Near Threatened to Critically Endangered.

## **Conservation across all range countries**

Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy & Action Planning Workshop in Kubah National Park, Sarawak, 19-20 May 2017

The workshop was funded and co-organized by WRS

Core aim: to create a conservation action plan for this ‘critically endangered’ species, which is heavily threatened by poaching for the illegal hornbill ivory trade

Over 30 participants from CITES, academia, NGOs and other government agencies across the range states.

Identified four key working themes:

- Research (distribution & ecology)
- Habitat protection & land use impacts
- Policy & enforcement
- Trade chain

Formalization of a Helmeted Hornbill Working Group, with the key role of implementing of the resulting Action Plan developed in this workshop

WRS’s role as a member of the Working Group:

- Contributor - funding, capacity building, collaboration and strategy planning
- Conservation communications
- Support any future ‘ex situ’ work when required

## **2. Conserving the Helmeted Hornbill in West Kalimantan, Indonesia: Population Surveys and Undercover Investigations**

### ***The Goal***

This project will directly enable long-term conservation programs to begin in the nature reserve, will increase local and international awareness about the rich biological diversity of the area, will provide the first ever systematic study of the forests of Gunung Niut, and will allow for the targeting of villages and individuals who are engaged in trafficking, logging, and hunting of West Borneo’s most threatened and endangered species. This project will also directly address the local helmeted hornbill trade as it pertains to poacher circles and transit routes from West Kalimantan to other regions. This two-pronged approach will help identify habitats where HHs need protecting while busting illegal circles of poachers.

### ***WRS’s Role***

WRS is supporting this program.

### 3. Conservation in Kalimantan



Helmeted hornbills in West Kalimantan have been the main target of trade with an estimated 80% of casks exported from Indonesia originating from western Borneo.

Despite severe forest degradation in Gunung Palung National Park, its helmeted hornbill population has remained stable. This indicates that Gunung Palung National Park may be one of the most important habitats for this species, and hosts one of the largest, most stable populations in the province. Therefore, given the urgency of this issue and the critical population within Gunung Palung National Park, it is imperative that local organizations and governments come together to build a strategic plan to conserve this species.

#### ***The Goal***

For Planet Indonesia, a member of the IUCN Helmeted Hornbill working group, to host a helmeted hornbill workshop involving government agencies as well as local organisations which focus on conservation issues in Gunung Palung.

The goals of this workshop include:

- (i) increase awareness about helmeted hornbill trade among local stakeholders
- (ii) identify programs already in place that have potential to address the trade
- (iii) identify possible future programs to be built to increase protection of this species
- (iv) divide roles among local partners in order to maximize conservation outputs

#### ***WRS's Role***

WRS supported the workshop.

#### ***The Impact***

The workshop was held on 29-30 October 2016 and was attended by 22 representatives. Prior to the workshop many local participants were not aware of the issue or the trade dynamics affecting helmeted hornbills. The first day focused on increasing general awareness about the trade. Four

major categories that required specific action plans to be made were identified and worked upon on the second day.

This action plan is currently under review by all the workshop participants – it will be presented at the helmeted hornbill crisis summit meeting in May 2017 in Kuching, Malaysia.

This workshop also facilitated knowledge-sharing and networking amongst stakeholders to further future collaborative conservation actions.

#### **4. The 1<sup>st</sup> Indonesia Hornbill Symposium**

Indonesia is home to 13 species of hornbills known globally, with three endemic species. Despite the diversity in species, habitat loss and poaching have become some of the key factors threatening the survival of hornbill species in the country. The aim of the first Indonesia Hornbill Symposium is to create a national-levelled event to raise awareness on the issues and to start conservation initiatives around these species

##### ***The Goal***

The aim of the first Indonesia Hornbill Symposium 2016 is to bring together key stakeholders, as well as to create a national-levelled event to raise awareness on the issues and to start conservation initiatives around these species.

##### ***WRS's Role***

WRS supported the workshop.

##### ***The Impact***

Over 200 people attended the Symposium, with 14 presentations relating to helmeted hornbills.

#### **5. JBP event – introducing the JBP Animal Icon – Sunny the Hornbill**

WRS staff carried out a presentation on JBP's hornbill conservation efforts in Southeast Asia, linking this to the new JBP park icon – Sunny the Hornbill. The presentation looked specifically at the trade around Helmeted hornbills – this was presented to the media and volunteers. This event was followed by a subsequent interview on Channel News Asia.

## 6. Raising awareness amongst the public during Safari Zoo Run

TEAM AH MENG	TEAM CANOLA	TEAM CHAWANG	TEAM SUNNY
 <p>There are about 7,300 Sumatran orangutans left in the wild, making them critically endangered. Much of the orangutans' home in the rainforest has been lost to agricultural expansion. With natural food hard to find, the orangutans often venture into farms in search for food, creating human – orangutan conflict.</p> <p>Team Ah Meng supports the Orangutan Information Centre in rescuing and relocating orangutans to safer forests in the Gunung Leuser National Park of Sumatra, Indonesia.</p> <p><b>JOIN TEAM AH MENG</b></p>	 <p>Aquatic wildlife, such as turtles, are endangered by human activities like habitat loss and large development projects. On top of that, turtles are also facing extinction as they are hunted for their meat, eggs and for illegal pet trade.</p> <p>Team Canola will help conservation efforts to protect, breed and save 4 critically endangered turtle species across Southeast Asia: Palawan forest turtle (Philippines), Rote Island snake-necked turtle (Indonesia), Southern river terrapin (Cambodia) and the Burmese roofed turtle (Myanmar).</p> <p><b>JOIN TEAM CANOLA</b></p>	 <p>The Sumatran elephant is listed as a critically endangered species with less than 2,000 left in the wild. Threatened by habitat loss and poaching, conflicts often occur between humans and elephants at the farmlands.</p> <p>Team Chawang supports the Elephant Response Unit (ERU) in Way Kambas National Park. The ERU helps to herd wild elephants back to protected forests and ensure that these beautiful giants can thrive in their homeland of Sumatra, Indonesia.</p> <p><b>JOIN TEAM CHAWANG</b></p>	 <p>The helmeted hornbill is a critically endangered species that's native to the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. It's solid casque, also known as 'red ivory', is highly sought after in the illegal wildlife trade. At least 500 adult helmeted hornbills are killed for its casque every month in Kalimantan, Indonesia.</p> <p>Team Sunny will help conservationists to protect and conserve hornbills in Gunung Palung National Park, in West Kalimantan, Indonesia and also support the implementation of the Conservation Action Plan, which is the last hope to save this species.</p> <p><b>JOIN TEAM SUNNY</b></p>

WRS organized the Safari Zoo Run on 18 February 2017 which was themed “Run for Wildlife”. The run focused on raising awareness for wildlife conservation where 4 animal icons Ah Meng the Orangutan, Chawang the Asian Elephant, Canola the Manatee and Sunny the Hornbill were featured. Each animal icon team supports an endangered wildlife species to raise awareness about. Team Sunny focused on the helmeted hornbill. Around 7600 participants learnt about conservation threats to the helmeted hornbill during the run. Over 900 participants pledged their support for helmeted hornbill conservation by running for Team Sunny.

## 7. Two WRS staff are also members of the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group.

**Measures That Thailand is taking to conserve and protect the helmeted hornbill in compliance with Decision 17.265 are as follows.**

### **1. Relevant conservation action**

1.1 Hornbill research, including helmeted hornbill, has been conducted focusing on biological and ecological aspects. Hornbill nests have been recorded and research sites have been set up to study hornbills' life history. Plants that Hornbill feeds on are also surveyed. Artificial nests have been built to increase opportunity for Hornbill's reproduction.

1.2 The Hornbill conservation project at Budo Hill, Narathiwat province has been studying the biology and ecology of Thai hornbills, and running community-based conservation programs under the direction of Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Thailand since 1978. The Project has combined in-depth research with continuous input from the long-term studies. The information obtained has allowed Thailand to prepare a practical and a sustainable management plan towards the conservation of hornbills and their habitats, and eventually the overall conservation of forest ecosystems. The project has collaborated with several academic institutes, government and non-government sectors, at both national and international levels. In addition, the project has attracted a wide spectrum of interested people to join the programs that work towards hornbill conservation, from researchers to local communities, including our Hornbill Family Adoption Program and the Budo Hornbills Conservation & Education Center, Narathiwat, Thailand.

### **2. Legal and regulatory measures**

Helmeted hornbill is a protected species under the Wild animal reservation and protection Act. Hunt, attempt to hunt, trade in, breed, and possess the protected species are generally not allowed. Hunt can be performed by officials for particular purposes including research, survey, wildlife protection, breeding operation or public zoo operation. Import and export of the protected species need permission from government.

### **3. Outreach and education activities**

3.1 Relevant organizations including government agencies in cooperation with private sectors and communities have raised local youth's awareness regarding nature conservation, especially hornbills'. Variety of conservation activities have been launched such as the nature trail activity, the hornbill behavior's observation at their nests, and youth camps. Government staff has visited local schools to educate students in relation to hornbill conservation.

3.2 On the Hornbill day that launched annually, Hornbill conservation activities have been performed including public relations.

3.3 Soldiers who perform duties along the border in the area, where helmeted hornbills inhabit, have been educated with regard to the importance of hornbill conservation.

3.3 local people and ex- hornbill poachers, who join the Hornbill conservation project at Budo Hill, that are now changing from hunting Hornbills to protecting the hornbills, help transferring their cherished feeling in hornbill and natural resources to next generations in their hometown.

### **4. Cross-border cooperation:**

Thai delegates attended the Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Planning Workshop held during 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Kubah National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia, of which one of outputs was a Regional Conservation Strategy and Species Action Plan to catalyze regionally coordinated actions for conservation of species.

### **5. Actions to combat poaching and illegal trade:**

5.1 Any means of demonstration for trade or trade in helmeted hornbills, their carcasses and products in Thailand is illegal.

5.2 Smart patrol has scheduled and performed in Thai protected areas on regular basis. A special task force Team named 'Wild Hawk' was established to strengthen effectiveness in prevention and suppression of illegal wildlife trade. The combating transnational wildlife trafficking center was set up where enforcement agencies are working closely together.

5.3 There are the illegal wildlife poaching and trade surveillance groups at community level. The member of the group comprises a community leader, and other key persons in the community. They have been trained to collect data on transnational wildlife trafficking, so as the means to combat illegal trade are also advised.