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OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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REPORT OF THE HELMETED HORNBILL CONSERVATION STRATEGY  
AND ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP

This information document has been submitted by Malaysia in relation to agenda item 61 on *Illegal trade in the helmeted hornbill* (*Rhinoplax vigil*).\*

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## REPORT OF THE HELMETED HORNBILL CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP

(19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Sarawak, Malaysia)

### Introduction

In line with implementation of CITES Resolution Conf. 17.11 on Conservation of and trade in Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) taken at the CITES CoP17, a workshop to develop a range-wide conservation strategy and action plan for the Helmeted Hornbill was held on 19-20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Kubah National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Malaysia, through the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, and co-organised by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Asian Species Action Partnership, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Wildlife Conservation Society, BirdLife International, Hornbill Research Foundation and Helmeted Hornbill Working Group. The workshop was hosted by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Government of Malaysia) and funded by Wildlife Reserves Singapore and Sarawak Forestry Corporation. The IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) was engaged to provide support with workshop design and to act as a neutral facilitator for the group.

The workshop brought together a multi-disciplinary group of 35 participants from 28 organisations, including representatives of government and non-government organisations, field biologists, geneticists and experts in wildlife trade. The workshop started with a series of scene-setting presentations. Over the remaining two-day workshop, participants worked collaboratively to agree:

- A VISION for the long-term future of Helmeted Hornbills;
- Operational GOALS which, if achieved, would realise the vision;
- The nature and dimensions of the ISSUES currently impacting the viability of the species;
- A series of OBJECTIVES aimed at addressing these issues;
- ACTION steps to be taken in pursuit of these objectives, including recommendations on where and how action should be taken and who would be ideally placed to take it.

Discussions were focussed on four themes: 1) Building knowledge of distribution, ecology and biology; 2) Understanding and mitigating the impact of habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation; 3) Trade: law enforcement and policy; and 4) Trade: disrupting the trade chain from poacher to consumer.

The resulting range-wide conservation strategy includes both broad action recommendations designed for further consideration and delegation by in-country agencies, and more specific action recommendations already committed to by those present at the workshop. In particular, this document is built for use by:

- workshop participants, as a record of the actions, initiatives and collaborations discussed;
- range country government agencies, to help guide and inform the development of national action plans and initiatives;
- non-governmental conservation organisations, to guide and inform their priorities and work plans;
- donor organisations to guide priority actions for funding support;

- the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group, to help in tracking and supporting progress with the directions and priorities agreed.

### **Framework for implementation**

There is no single organisation of sufficient size or reach to ensure the future of this species. Success will require sustained international and interdisciplinary collaboration and communication among a large and diverse coalition of partners. Workshop participants agreed that to support a streamlined and effective response to the challenges facing this species, and in particular to enable the implementation of the actions described in this document, a formal coordinating body would be essential. To fulfil this role, the structure of the pre-existing Helmeted Hornbill Working Group was revised and agreed by participants during the workshop which would enable it to take on this greater role and responsibility. The new Helmeted Hornbill Working Group comprises four thematic sub-groups each led by a sub-group Lead, a Facilitator for each range and consumer country and a Coordinator(s) to support communication and reporting. The thematic sub-groups are as follows:

1. Trade - the Lead will be responsible for the Trade related components of the Action Plan, working with other members to ensure the actions are implemented, tracked and monitored across the species range as well as in the demand countries.
2. Research - the Lead will be responsible for the Research related components of the Action Plan, working with other members to ensure the recommended research activities are implemented, tracked and monitored across the species range.
3. Habitat - the Lead will be responsible for the Habitat related components of the Action Plan, working with other members to ensure the actions are implemented, tracked and monitored. This component will also include aspects to address and improve policy issues around land use change and management impacting the species (including forest and plantation management, High Conservation Value Forest etc.)
4. Capacity Development - the Lead will be responsible for identifying capacity building and training needs for the successful implementation of the Action Plan as a whole. This will act as a cross-cutting theme and the Lead will work closely with the other Leads.

In addition to driving and enabling implementation of this strategy, this group will provide ongoing advice and support to government agencies and NGOs working to conserve this species.

## Outline of Conservation Strategy and Action Plan

The following 25-year vision was developed:

*The unique Helmeted Hornbill thrives in viable, ecologically functional populations in forests, both intact and managed, within its natural range. These wild hornbills are cherished by local and global communities and are protected from threats such as trade and habitat loss, through international collaboration.*

Goal 1. To restore Helmeted Hornbill populations to viable levels throughout its natural range, ensuring that:

- Populations are actively monitored for thresholds of concern that enable action;
- Key habitats are identified.

Key recommendations include:

- Produce population estimates and distribution maps filling current knowledge gaps;
- Undertake breeding and ecology studies;
- Evaluate the feasibility of captive breeding;
- Identify important habitat for Helmeted Hornbills outside of Protected Areas and research impact on different land uses on their conservation;
- Understand impact of hunting pressure on Helmeted Hornbill populations.

Goal 2. To strictly protect Helmeted Hornbill populations and their habitats throughout their natural range, ensuring that:

- all important Helmeted Hornbill habitats are permanently protected, restored and sustainably-managed;
- Helmeted Hornbill populations are protected through effective anti-poaching efforts and on-ground protection;
- local communities are empowered to protect and conserve their resident Helmeted Hornbill populations.

Key recommendations include:

- Evaluate and improve current policies for wildlife management in different land use types;
- Incorporate Helmeted Hornbill conservation into different land use management practices;
- Improve and increase law enforcement around habitat protection;
- Increase frequency and capacity of anti-poaching activities at key Helmeted Hornbill sites;
- Engage local communities through education and awareness programmes;
- Understand key drivers of poaching and develop behaviour change and sustainable livelihood programmes.

Goal 3. To eliminate the trade of Helmeted Hornbills, ensuring that:

- all trade is prevented through strong and effective national and international policies and legislations, and strict enforcement;
- the demand for Helmeted Hornbill products is eliminated across all consumer communities/countries through targeted behaviour change campaigns

Key recommendations include:

- Advocate for strengthened legislation to protect Helmeted Hornbills in both range and demand countries;
- Advocate for countries to implement CITES legislation effectively;
- Map current and possible trade routes for improved enforcement promoting multi-agency and country collaborations;
- Improve coordination between law enforcement agencies and cross-border law enforcement;
- Encourage development of International Helmeted Hornbill Working Group under CITES;
- Improve capacity and knowledge of enforcement officials and judiciary;
- Implement targeted evidence-based behaviour change interventions to reduce demand for Helmeted Hornbill products, including engaging with the carving industry.

Note:

During the workshop, it was agreed that the term “red ivory” should not be used when referring to Helmeted Hornbill casques.

**Appendix 1: Participant list**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Adam	Miller	Mr.	Planet Indonesia
Anuj	Jain	Dr.	Birdlife Singapore
Aparajita	Datta	Dr.	Nature Conservation Foundation
Bee Choo	Strange	Mrs.	Hornbill Research Foundation
Caroline	Dingle	Dr.	The University of Hong Kong
Chin Aik	Yeap	Mr.	Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)
Chris	Sheperd	Dr.	TRAFFIC SEA
Cynthia	Chin	Ms.	WWF Sarawak Programme
Ferry Hasudungan	Simbolon	Mr.	Burung Indonesia
Jack	Lam	Mr.	Independent wildlife trade researcher
Jessica	Lee	Dr.	Wildlife Reserve Singapore
Jinxing	He	Mr.	Division of Fauna Affairs, State Forestry Administration
Kanita	Outhavorn	Dr.	Dept. of Nat. Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand
Karathi	Martelli	Dr.	Full Circle Foundation (Karthiyani Krishnasamy)
Lay Win		Mr.	BANCA, Myanmar
Lee Kheng	Sim	Ms.	Sarawak Forestry Corporation
Ling	Xu	Ms.	TRAFFIC China
Lucy	Kemp	Dr.	Mabula Ground Hornbill Project
Madelon	Willemsen	Ms.	TRAFFIC Vietnam
Madhu	Rao	Dr.	Wildlife Conservation Society/ IUCN SSC ASAP
Muhd Shavez	Cheema	Mr.	1 Stop Borneo
Nancy L.	Gibson	Ms.	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand
Nerissa	Chao	Ms.	IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP)
Oswald Braken	Tisen	Mr.	Sarawak Forestry Corporation
Pilai	Poonswad	Dr.	Hornbill Research Foundation/ Thailand Hornbill Project
Ratna Kusuma	Sari	Ms.	Deputy Director of Implementation on International Conventions
Ravinder	Kaur	Ms.	HUTAN - Sabah
Rohit	Naniwadekar	Dr.	Nature Conservation Foundation
Serene	Chng	Ms.	TRAFFIC SEA
Somkiat	Soontornpitakkool	Mr.	Director, Div. Of Wild Fauna and Flora Protection Dept. of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation

Tinna	Wound	Ms.	Sarawak Forestry Corporation
Vijak	Chimchome	Dr.	Hornbill Research Foundation/ Thailand Hornbill Project
Wayne	Hsu	Mr.	Independent nature guide in Taiwan
William	Marthy	Dr.	WCS Indonesia Program
Yok Yok	Hadiprakarsa	Mr.	Indonesia Hornbill Conservation Society
Caroline	Lees	Ms.	Facilitator - IUCN CPSG