

Hornbill Nest Adoption Program

Annual Report 2025

Photo by: Taring Tachang

Introduction

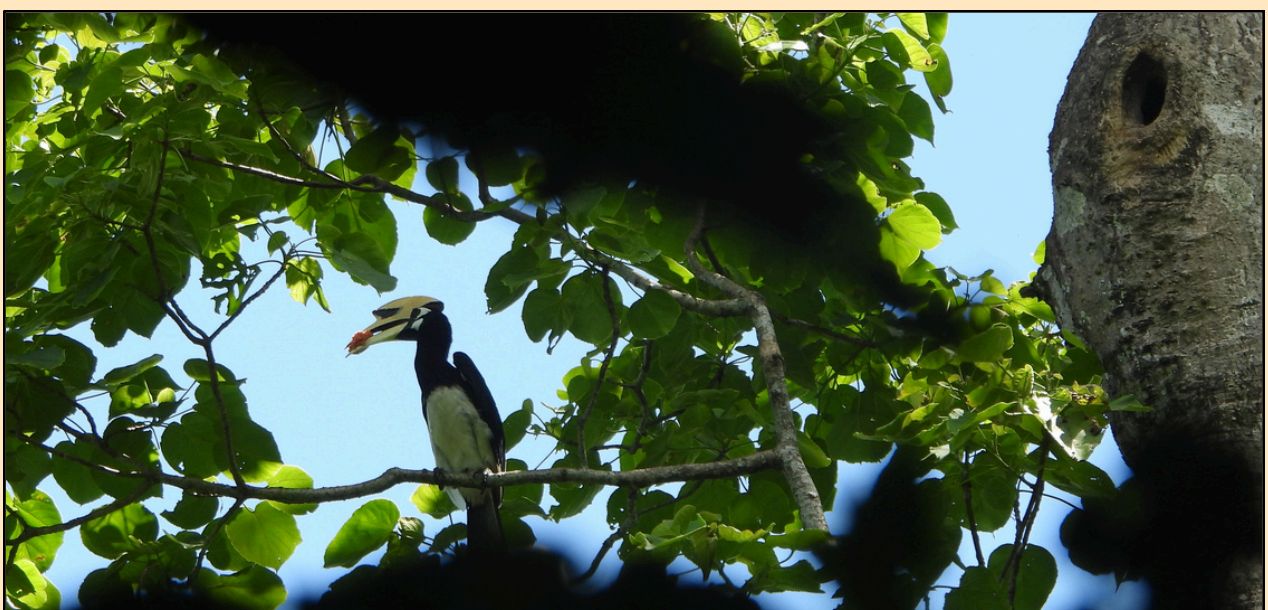
This year, our annual report of the Hornbill Nest Adoption Program (HNAP) is about sharing some voices from the villages where HNAP has been active since its inception. For the first time, we are sharing reflections from the community that has participated in protecting these magnificent birds.

The HNAP was initiated in 2011 and officially launched in 2012 as a collaborative conservation effort involving local partners from the indigenous Nyishi community, the Nature Conservation Foundation, and the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department. For thirteen years, HNAP has operated in 14 villages adjacent to the Pakke Tiger Reserve, protecting hornbills and their nesting habitat by engaging with the community.

This year, we conducted a study to understand the impact of this conservation effort and how the program has come to be perceived by the community where it has been active for over a decade.

We have also included the usual updates in the report regarding this year's hornbill breeding season, along with brief details on our nature education program.

Lastly, this year has been one of profound loss for our team as we lost a dear team member, Narayan Mogar. We feel his absence deeply. We take this opportunity to remember him through this report.



An Oriental Pied hornbill male with a fruit in its beak at nest OPHAM3. The nest is monitored by Nikje Tayem and Vijay Tachang. Photo by Vijay Tachang.

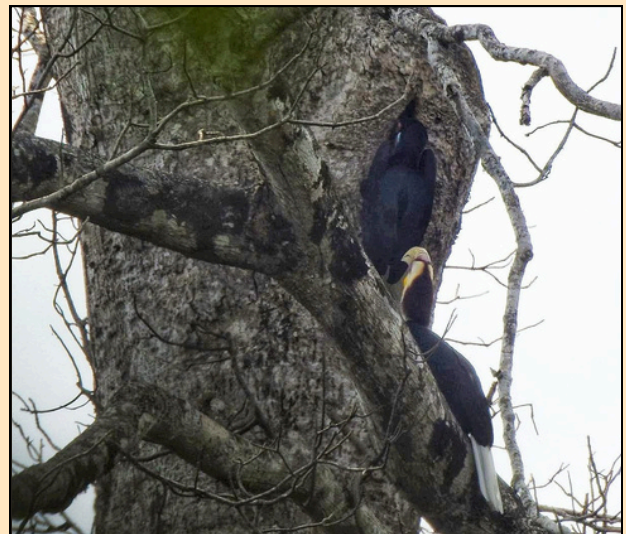
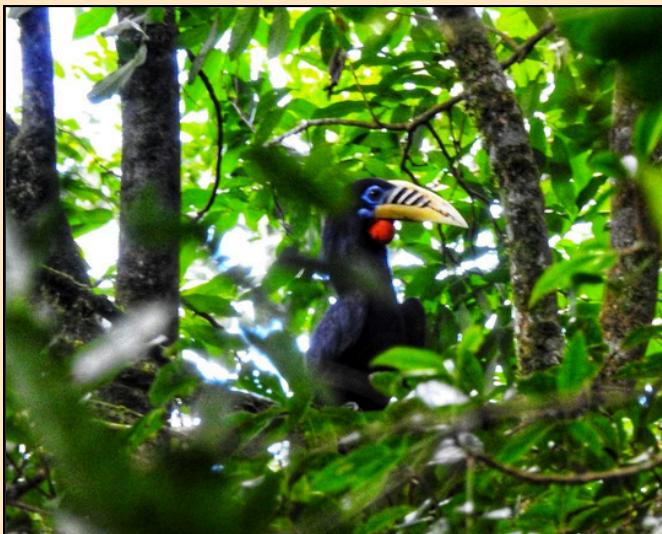
2025 Breeding Season

First, a brief update about the breeding season of 2025. This year, the nest protectors monitored 29 nests. Twelve nests were not monitored because, over the years, three nests have been lost to tree felling, and in four, the cavities have become unsuitable for nesting. Five nests could not be monitored because of their remote locations.

Out of the monitored usable nests, 55% were active or occupied this year. This year’s nest occupancy percentage shows a slight increase from last year’s 46%.

Table 1: Nesting summary in the Papum RF in 2025

Species	Mean female entry date in 2025	Mean chick exit date in 2025	Mean nesting duration in days
Oriental Pied hornbill	10 April (n = 10)	3 July (n = 12)	88.6 (n = 10)
Wreathed hornbill	31 March (n = 2)	12 August (n = 2)	134.5 (n = 2)
Rufous-necked hornbill	NA	29 July (n = 2)	NA



The female Rufous-necked hornbill is pictured after leaving nest RNHLP2 (left), while a pair of Wreathed hornbills is seen tidying their nest WHB1 in preparation for the breeding season (right). Photos by Taring Tachang.

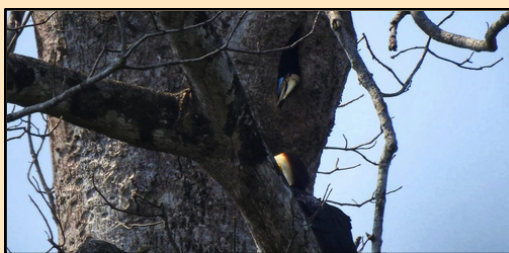
This year, the total number of active nests was 16, which includes 12 Oriental Pied hornbill nests, 2 Wreathed hornbill nests, and 2 Rufous-necked hornbill (RNH) nests. We are very pleased to report that this year, in the middle of the breeding season, we added 2 Rufous-necked hornbill nests to our list of monitored nests (see the field tale below for how this happened). This is the first time in thirteen years of the Hornbill Nest Adoption Program (HNAP) that we are monitoring Rufous-necked hornbill nests in the area.

However, this is the second consecutive year in which none of the known 4 Great hornbill nests were occupied. This could be due to degradation of the habitat in the Reserved Forest, which has lost large, old trees and the forest cover over the years.

Table 2: Total number of active nests in 2025

Sl No.	Nest ID	Nest Location	Nest Protector	Hornbill Species
1	OPHAM2	A3/Jungle camp	Vijay Tachang & Nikje Tayem	Oriental Pied
2	OPHUS1	Suka nala - Upper Seijiusa	Rikum Gyadi	Oriental Pied
3	OPHAM3	A3	Vijay Tachang & Nikje Tayem	Oriental Pied
4	OPHAM8	Tanki Nala	Vijay Tachang & Nikje Tayem	Oriental Pied
5	OPH/WH/O PHJ8	Tamoso Nala	Kaja Keyang	Oriental Pied
6	WHB1	Bali Nala	Taring Tachang	Wreathed
7	WHAM9	Taraso	Prem Tok	Wreathed
8	WH/OPHD3	VKV Darlong	Budhiram Tai	Oriental Pied

Sl No.	Nest ID	Nest Location	Nest Protector	Hornbill Species
9	OPH Ma1	Margasso	Tajik Tachang	Oriental Pied
10	OPHAM10	Para Hapa/Doimukh	Prem Tok	Oriental Pied
11	OPHAM11	Taraso	Prem Tok	Oriental Pied
12	OPHD4	Monai	Budhiram Tai	Oriental Pied
13	OPHJ9	Jolly	Sako Waro	Oriental Pied
14	OPHA/M12	Taraso	Prem Tok & Nikje Tayem	Oriental Pied
15	RNHLP1	Lasumpathe	Katolic Tomo	Rufous-necked
16	RNHLP2	Lasumpathe	Katolic Tomo	Rufous-necked



Wreathed hornbill pair photographed just after the female entered nest WHB1 (top left). Later in the breeding season, the female and her chick were observed with their beaks facing outward at the same nest (bottom left). The same chick can be seen peeking through the slit a few days before it fledged (right). All photos by Taring Tachang.

Table 3: Number of chicks that have fledged successfully since HNAP’s initiation

Year	Number of Chicks
2011	The year HNAP was initiated
2012-2013	11
2013-2014	11
2014-2015	17
2015-2016	20
2016-2017	22
2017-2018	20
2018-2019	17
2019-2020	19
2020-2021	14
2021-2022	21
2022-2023	20
2023-2024	13
2024-2025	14
2025-2026	18
Total	237

We are also happy to report that more chicks fledged successfully this year compared to last year. The total number of chicks that fledged successfully is 18 from the 16 active nests. This includes 13 Oriental Pied hornbill chicks, at least 3 Rufous-necked hornbill chicks, and 2 Wreathed hornbill chicks. This makes 100% successful nesting for this year.



The male Oriental Pied hornbill at nest WH/OPHD3 during the breeding season to provide food for the female and the chick inside (top left). On July 9, at 5 a.m., the chick was spotted peeking out from its nest (top right). At 6:14 a.m., the chick finally left the nest (bottom left). The empty nest, following the chick's departure, until the next breeding season. All photos by Budhiram Tai.

The total number of chicks that have successfully fledged since the inception of HNAP is 237. Recently, the HNAP was also featured in 2 articles. One by The Better India, highlighting the conservation effort under the HNAP. The article is titled, “Once Hunters, Now Protectors: How Arunachal’s Villagers Helped 238 Hornbill Chicks Take Flight.” [Note: Since the publication of the article, the total number of successful hornbill fledglings has been revised to 237]. The other article, by Frontline, is titled “Meet the ecowarriors of today.”



A roosting Oriental Pied hornbill. Photo by Vijay Tachang

Table 4: The current team of nest protectors and the number of nests and roost sites they monitor

Name & Village of Nest Protectors	No. of nest trees monitored	No. of roost sites monitored
Tajik Tachang from Mobuso-II	4	–
Tajek Waghe from Jolly	2	3
Budhiram Tai from Darlong	3	1
Kaja Keyang from Jolly	2	2
Nikje Tayem from A2 village	5	2
Prem Tok from Bali Basti	6	3-4
Rikum Gyadi from Upper Seijosa	2	2
Sako Waro from Jolly	2	2
Taring Tachang from Bali Basti	2	2
Vijay Tachang from A1 village	4	2

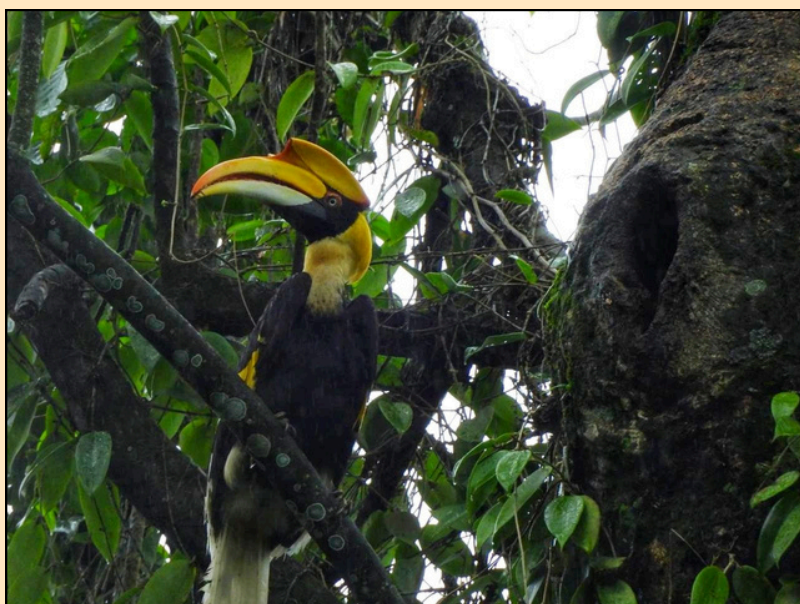
Note: Nikje, Prem, and Vijay monitor a few nests and roost sites together.

Updates from Pakke Tiger Reserve and sites in northern West Bengal

The monitoring of hornbills for long-term research on their breeding patterns continued inside Pakke Tiger Reserve, and the two North Bengal sites, namely, Buxa Tiger Reserve and Latpanchar (near Mahananda WLS).

Inside the Pakke TR, the team, Khem Thapa, Turuk Brah, Peter Wage, and Jakop Brah monitored 34 nests, out of which 22 were active and were being used by hornbills for nesting, with a nesting occupancy of 64.7%. The 22 active nests comprised 11 Great hornbill (GH), 7 Wreathed hornbill (WH), and 4 Oriental Pied hornbill (OPH) nests. The mean nest female entry date for the Great hornbill was March 17, for the Wreathed hornbill, it was March 27, and for the Oriental Pied hornbill, it was April 16.

This year, our team could obtain chick exit dates from only three nests. The team stopped monitoring hornbill nests inside Pakke TR after a tragic incident on July 9, where we lost one of our colleagues, Narayan Mogar, in a sudden elephant encounter.



We share these photos of a female Great hornbill at nest GH4 (left) and a male Wreathed hornbill at nest WH63 (right) inside the Pakke TR, in remembrance of Narayan. Photos by Turuk Brah.

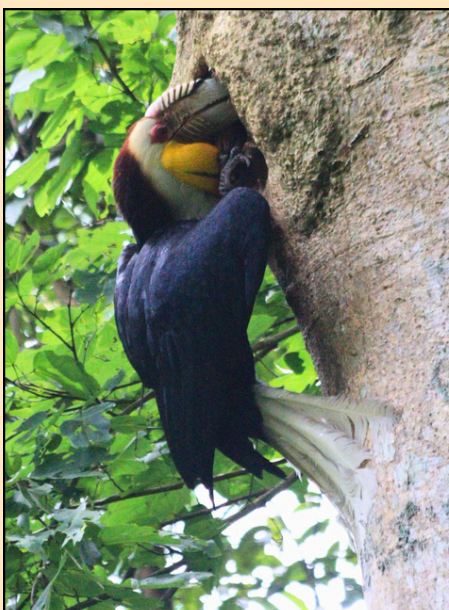
Out of the three nests where we obtained chick exit dates, one was a Great hornbill nest where the chick fledging took place on July 7th.

The total nesting duration for this nest from the time of female entry was 119 days. Two other chick exits were from Oriental Pied hornbill nests where the chicks fledged on July 7th and 8th, with a nesting duration of 90 and 77 days, respectively, with an average nesting period of 83 days.

Table 5: Nesting summary for hornbill nests in Pakke TR in 2025

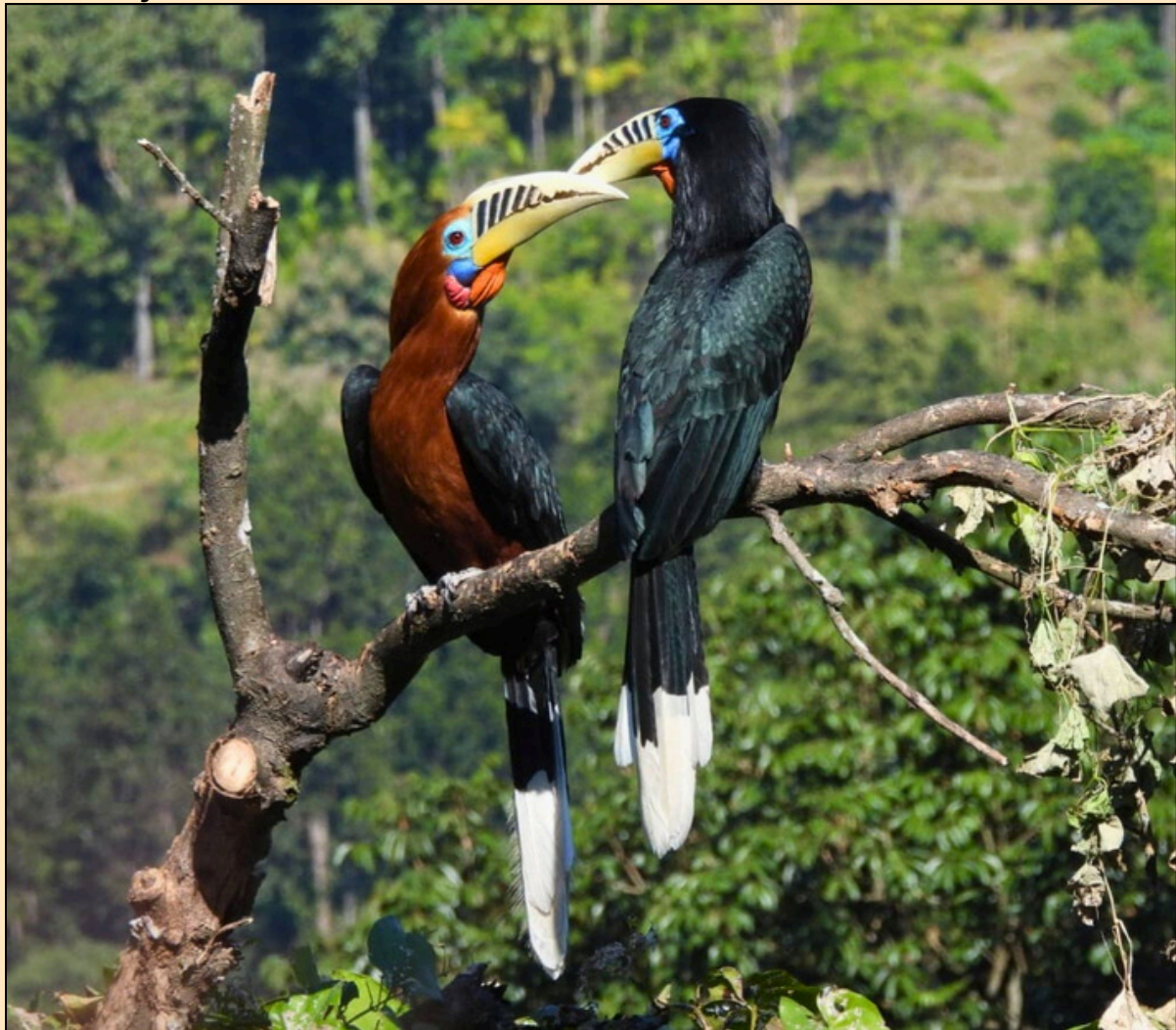
Species	Mean female entry date in 2025	Mean chick exit date in 2025	Mean nesting duration in days
Great hornbill	17 March (n = 9)	7 July (n = 1)	119 (n = 1)
Oriental Pied hornbill	16 April (n = 3)	7 July (n = 2)	83 (n = 2)
Wreathed hornbill	27 March (n = 4)	NA	NA

In Buxa Tiger Reserve, in North Bengal, the team monitored a total of 46 hornbill nests belonging to all 4 species – Great, Oriental Pied, Rufous-necked, and Wreathed hornbills. Among them, 4 Great hornbill nests were active, with 2 confirmed successful outcomes. Twenty Oriental Pied hornbill nests were active, with outcomes known for 11, where 9 were successful, 2 were abandoned, while the rest had unknown outcomes. Three Rufous-necked hornbill nests were active, with one known case of abandonment mid-season. Five Wreathed hornbill nests were active, with only one confirmed success. Outcomes for the others remain unknown.



In Buxa TR, a Great hornbill chick after exit (top). An Oriental Pied hornbill chick in the cavity (middle). A Rufous-necked hornbill during feeding at the nest (bottom right). A Wreathed hornbill feeding the female and chick at the nest (bottom left). Photos by Sitaram Mahato, Shilpita Mandal, and Kezajacho Dukpa.

We have been monitoring hornbill nests also in Latpanchar, a village on the fringes of the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, since 2022. With the help of local residents, we know of 5 hornbill nests in the forests around Latpanchar that fall in the Kurseong Forest Division and 2 nests inside the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary.



A pair of Rufous-necked hornbills in Latpanchar (top). A Rufous-necked hornbill chick after its exit (left). Photos by Sikandar Dewan.

This year, one Rufous-necked hornbill (RNH) nest and one Great hornbill (GH) nest were active around Latpanchar. In Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary also one RNH and one GH nest were active. Successful fledging of a single chick from each of the RNH and GH nests was recorded.

Some Observations from the HNAP Impact Study

In May, we also started a study to understand people's engagement with hornbill conservation in the villages where HNAP has been operating for more than a decade. The study was designed to be a qualitative assessment of the impact of HNAP on the attitude and perceptions of the community towards conservation by focusing on people's relationship with hornbills and the environment at large. The study also aimed to understand people's relationship with the forest and the natural resources.

For gauging the impact of HNAP, the study utilised a mix of interviews and key informant discussions, which were carried out by Apeksha Pradhan. She joined NCF for a short-term internship during the summer months as part of her master's project in Wildlife Conservation Action Program at Bharatiya Vidyapeeth University, Pune. While the data is still being analysed, we wanted to share a few statements and observations from the data.

The survey revealed a remarkably high level of ecological awareness regarding the role of hornbills. Community members are well-versed in the birds' importance for their surrounding natural environment. Many emphasized that hornbills are "very necessary" because "they help in growing more forest", correctly identifying their crucial role as seed dispersers.



Apeksha interviewing a respondent for the HNAP impact study. Photo by Gita Chiri

The area is home to the Nyishi tribe, and many respondents passionately discussed the birds' deep cultural significance during the interviews. The love and knowledge about hornbills among the community members have also translated into a conservation ethic. Some respondents expressed how a behavioural shift is setting in with respect to hunting hornbills, indicating a deep-seated desire to ensure the birds' survival for posterity. The Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival, started in 2015 and later declared as an important state festival, celebrates this idea of conservation and its interlinkages with culture.

Some respondents recognised HNAP as the program that is helping to protect hornbills while also supporting the livelihoods of some families in the area. A suggestion that was heard a few times was that engagement can be increased with the local community, either through employment opportunities or through awareness campaigns.



A group of Wreathed hornbills flying to their roosting site near Darlong village. Photo by Budhiram Tai

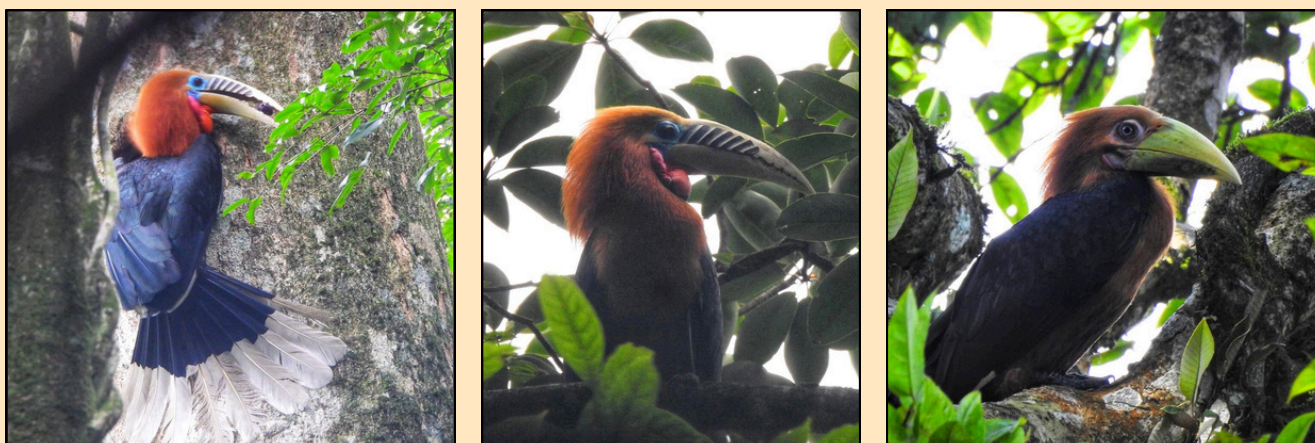
Finally, a Rufous-necked Hornbill Nest!

In this report, we turn our spotlight on Katolic Tomo of Lasumpathe village in the Papum Reserved Forest. Katolic embodies a significant moment of change in the HNAP's community-led conservation efforts.

Katolic's journey with the HNAP began when he spotted a male Rufous-necked hornbill feeding a female at a nest in the forest behind his village. After this chance encounter, Katolic knew exactly what to do – approach the HNAP team. For us, Katolic's discovery is not just another nest. It marks a turning point in our conservation efforts.

Katolic is from the Puroik tribe, and his village is home predominantly to the Puroiks. The village sits in an area that has forests ideal for hornbills. However, the initial attempts made in 2012-13 to expand nest protection in the area were unsuccessful. At that time, hunting was more widespread. In 2012, a Great hornbill nest tree identified for monitoring was attempted to be cut down, and tragically, a nesting Rufous-necked female was hunted at another place.

But over the years, things have changed. Katolic's spontaneous effort to reach out to us is a clear indication that the sustained efforts over the last decade have had a significant impact.



The male Rufous-necked hornbill first seen by Katolic at nest RNHLP1 during feeding (left). The second male Rufous-necked hornbill photographed on the day its chicks fledged from RNHLP2 (center). One of the chicks after leaving nest RNHLP2 (right). Photos by Prem Tok and Taring Tachang.

We met Katolic on a hot and sultry May afternoon, when most people were seeking refuge indoors. Katolic and the Gaon Burra of Lasumpathe, Lete Labung, set out for our base camp in Darlong village, knowing only that “hornbill researchers live there.” This meant an hour-long trip under the oppressive sun, navigating only by word-of-mouth directions.

On reaching the base camp and after overcoming the initial communication barrier, the significance of their arrival became apparent – Katolic had found a Rufous-necked hornbill nest, and he had the foresight to capture the moment on his phone and, more importantly, come and find us to pass on the news.



Katolic Tomo. Photo by Tajik Tachang

Katolic's initiative, his willingness to endure the heat, the travel, and the trouble to find our base camp, all for the sake of a hornbill nest in the forest, is very endearing and valuable for the entire HNAP team. His single act proves that the sustained efforts in awareness, education, and partnership with the community have been successful to some degree. We followed up our meeting with Katolic and Lete with a meeting with the larger community in their village. Gaon Burras from three surrounding villages and two Gram Panchayat members from Lasumpathe also attended the meeting. The Nest Protectors' team engaged with everyone to tell them about hornbills, the HNAP, and the significance of Katolic's discovery. We also distributed hornbill posters and colouring books for the children at the meeting.

After our first meeting with Katolic, he joined our team. He found a second Rufous-necked hornbill nest later in July, and this breeding season, he monitored both the nests and chicks fledged successfully from at least one of them (photos included in report). He is keen and geared up to continue working with us and find more nests in the coming season.

Artificial Nest Box in the Reserved Forest

While we repaired several nests last year, in 2025, we installed an artificial nest box in the Reserved Forest. This is the first artificial nest box that has been installed in the Reserved Forest. The nest box was set up in an inactive nest tree, OPHAM4, which was last used by Oriental Pied hornbills for nesting in 2021 after a gap of several years. Since then, the nest again fell into disuse. Therefore, in 2023 an attempt was made to check and repair the cavity. But it was found that the base of the cavity had completely collapsed. The trunk is also hollowed out almost completely from the inside, because of which fixing the cavity floor by filling in soil will not work.

The artificial nest box was installed in January. It was hauled up the *Bhelu* (*Tetrameles nudiflora*) tree by Tajik and Taring, who are expert canopy climbers in the team of Nest Protectors. Since the installation, the nest box is monitored regularly. While no hornbills used the nest box during the breeding season, other smaller cavity-dwelling birds like the Common Hill Myna and the Oriental Dollarbird were observed visiting it.



Taring and Tajik are seen with the artificial nest box after its installation on OPHAM4 (left). The field team and nest protectors who assisted with the setup of the nest box. Photos by Vijay Tachang and Peter Wage.

In November, Khem, Turuk, Peter, Taring, and Prem conducted a three-day canopy climbing training for the members of the North Bengal team. They successfully taught Sitaram, Sikandar, and Kejang the techniques necessary for climbing tall trees and repairing nest cavities through a hands-on approach. The training consisted of tree evaluation before climbing, rope installation, gear knowledge, the different knots for climbing, and important safety measures.



Khem, Jakop, and Taring showing Sikandar the ropes of canopy climbing. Photo by Sana Huque.

Adopt a Hornbill Nest!

To help us continue this conservation initiative, please continue to support the Hornbill Nest Adoption Program (HNAP). Donations by Indian donors are eligible for tax exemption under Sec. 80(G) (50% exemption) or Sec. 35 (100% exemption) of the Income Tax Act.

Please send us an email to let us know after you have donated.

If you wish to adopt a hornbill nest, you can do so online using this link: <http://ncf-india.org/pages/donate>.

The bank account details for Indian nationals to transfer funds are:

For Salaried employees

Section - 80 G (Exemption 50%)

Name: Nature Conservation Foundation

A/C No: 912010039076365

A/C type: Savings

IFSC code: UTIB0000151

Bank Name: Axis Bank Ltd

Branch: VV Mohalla, Mysore

For Professionals

Section - 35 (Exemption 100%)

Account Name: Nature Conservation Foundation

A/C No: 912010067967491

RTGS/NEFT/IFSC code: UTIB0000151

Bank Name: Axis Bank Ltd

Branch: VV Mohalla, Mysore

OR

You can send us a cheque in the name of 'Nature Conservation Foundation.'

The cheque can be sent to:

Smita Prabhakar

1311, "Amritha", 12th Main, Vijayanagar 1st Stage

Opp Kodava Samaj

Mysore 570 017.

Note: We cannot accept cash donations or cash deposits.

If you do transfer any funds, please do send us an email with PAN number, name, and address of the person to whom the receipt must be issued for IT exemption.

Foreign nationals/zoos can write to us – karishma@ncf-india.org, chaitra@ncf-india.org, or hnap@ncf-india.org for details to donate under the FCRA.

Names of all hornbill parents and support from zoos (September 2024 to November 2025)

Listed below are all donors who have adopted hornbill nests from September 2024 to November 2025. We thank you for your support towards protecting hornbills.

List of hornbill parents from September 2024 to November 2025:

- Amber Verkade-Jansen and Evert Verkade
- Anam Tok
- Aniket Aphale
- Aparajita Datta
- Charudutt Mishra
- Divya Mudappa
- Dr. Gomi Basar (Arunachal Superbike Club)
- Eashwar Raghuraman
- Geetanjali Dhar
- Gobeyond Foundation (Ms. Monica Bisht)
- Harshil Parmar
- Joy Ghosh
- Kongo Gyadi
- M Gopakumar
- Medha Darshani
- Mitesh Y Veecumsee
- Nisha Viswanathan
- Peeyush Sekhsaria
- Ram Gopalakrishnan
- Rohan Randery
- Rohit Naniwadekar
- Rohit Varma
- Sageraj Bariya
- Subbu Subramanya
- Sudip Datta
- Supratim Deb
- Swapna Achar
- Tim O'Brien and Margaret Kinnaird
- TR Shankar Raman
- Udain Singh Tomar
- Uday Kumar
- Ulhas Anand
- Utsava
- Vikesh Yeshwant Veecumsee
- Vir Anirudh Pratap Deshmukh

Zoos that donated towards the Hornbill Nest Adoption Program in the period from September 2024 to November 2025:

- Amiens Métropole Zoological Park, France
- Boissiere Mervent Conservation, France
- St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, USA
- Toronto Zoo, Canada
- Trésorerie Du Grand Amiens, France
- Virginia Zoo, USA



Male Wreathed hornbill passing fruit to the female inside the nest WHAM9. Photo by Prem Tok

Annual Expense Statement

Receipts and Expenses for HNAP for September 2024 to November 2025

	Total Amount	Domestic	FCRA	Sec 35
Opening Balance (a)	1,43,218	1,02,821	22,673	17,724
Donations Received (b)	31,62,010	5,28,800	20,73,210	5,60,000
Total Receipts (a+b)	33,05,228	6,31,621	20,95,883	5,77,724
Expenses				
Local Co-ordinator salary*	2,34,520	23,880	1,39,000	71,640
Nest protectors salary*	21,90,381	82,753	16,82,363	4,25,265
Honorarium for field assistant for HNAP impact study	19,500	Nil	19,500	Nil
Honorariums for finding and monitoring RNH nest	31,600	31,600	Nil	Nil
Health insurance for nest protectors	35,484	35,484	Nil	Nil
Accidental death insurance for nest protectors	10,000	10,000	Nil	Nil
Travelling & vehicle maintenance expenses	9,554	2,440	7,114	Nil
Fuel expenses	12,730	7,610	5,120	Nil

Expenses	Total Amount	Domestic	FCRA	Sec 35
Medical expenses for nest protectors	3,322	890	2,432	Nil
Bank charges, rates & taxes	22,222	7,142	13,664	1,416
Equipment and gear for nest protectors	26,502	7,500	19,002	Nil
Food for nest protectors and accommodation while travelling for Project Manager	20,698	17,318	3,380	Nil
Printing & stationery, postage	8,300	1,660	6,640	Nil
Cameras	30,000	30,000	Nil	Nil
Total Expenses (c)	26,54,813	2,58,277	18,98,215	4,98,321
Available Balance (a+b-c)	6,50,415	3,73,344	1,97,668	79,403

*The figure reflects 15 months of salaries, as this report covers a period from September 2024 to November 2025. The salary amount also includes Employee Provident Fund (EPF), which is a popular retirement benefit scheme which was introduced and is supervised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

Bringing the Children of Pakke Closer to Nature

In 2017, we initiated the Nature Education Program (NEP) and established Pakke Nature Clubs in six local schools around Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR). By 2022, we expanded to five more schools in the Tippi range. Each year, we conduct various activities and camps for students from these eleven schools in collaboration with the Pakke TR management.

The NEP aims to cultivate appreciation and stewardship for nature among children and youth, fostering a connection with their natural heritage. This year's annual nature camps took place from November 22 to December 7, involving 145 students and 16 teachers from eleven schools in Seijosa and Tippi.



Khem, Taring, Prem, and Vijay, with staff from the Tippi Range welcoming the students to the nature camp as hornbills (top left). The children watching a hornbill nest across a pond inside Pakke TR (top right). Saniya talking about trees as important habitats with students during a nature trail (bottom)

During camps, students engaged with their natural surroundings in the Pakke forest through sensory activities like creating leaf museums, making sound maps, and exploring food chains. Each day ended with a reflection time by the riverbank. Since 2017, about 2,800 students from local schools have participated.

The NEP is facilitated by Dr. Pranav Trivedi, Sangeetha Trivedi, Saniya Chaplod, and Karishma Pradhan, along with some of our Nest Protectors and Field Team members- Tajik Tachang, Khem Thapa, Turuk Brah, Prem Tok, Taring Tachang, Peter Wage, and Vijay Tachang. The Nature Education is supported and funded by the Serenity Trust and the DTCC.



Drawings of tiny forest creatures, which the children explored using magnifying lenses (left). Children peeking from inside a strangler fig they climbed while learning about the many creatures that depend on it (middle). Learning about food chain through roleplay as plants, herbivores, and carnivores (top right), and a reflection and solitude session, where the children spend quiet time by the river reflecting on their learnings and experience (bottom right). All NEP photos by Saniya Chaplod.

A Tribute to Narayan Mogar



We lost Narayan Mogar, fondly called Narayan Daju (elder brother in Nepali), to a tragic encounter with a wild elephant while doing what he did best, working in the forest and collecting critical ecological data. We will always remember Narayan Daju as a gentle, soft-spoken, and kind soul who contributed tremendously to our hornbill research, along with a diverse set of other research and conservation efforts on species such as squirrels, capped langurs, pygmy hogs, and plants which are native to this landscape.

Narayan Daju was a cherished member of the Eastern Himalaya Programme team at NCF. His association with NCF was almost as old as NCF itself. His association with Dr. Aparajita Datta in 1995 marked the beginning of decades of impactful work in and around the Pakke TR.

Daju's passing leaves an immense void, but his memory, filled with affection, laughter, and inspiration, will continue to guide us as we walk the forest paths he loved. He will live on in our hearts.



Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to all the hornbill parents and zoos for their financial contributions and support, which help us sustain this long-term, community-based hornbill conservation program. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department for their support, especially to Smt. Suman Beniwal (DFO, Khellong Forest Division), Shri. Dhawan Kumar Rawat (DFO, Pakke Wildlife Division), Shri. N. Tam (CWLWPCCF, WL&BD), Dr. Damodhar A.T. (CF, WL&BD), Shri. Millo Tassar (CF, P&D&HQ), and Shri. Tajum Yomcha (Scientific Officer at PCCF Office, Itanagar).

We appreciate the support from the Serenity Trust, Arvind Datar, the MM Muthaiah Foundation, the Whitley Fund for Nature, and DTCC for backing many of our on-ground research and conservation activities within the broader program.

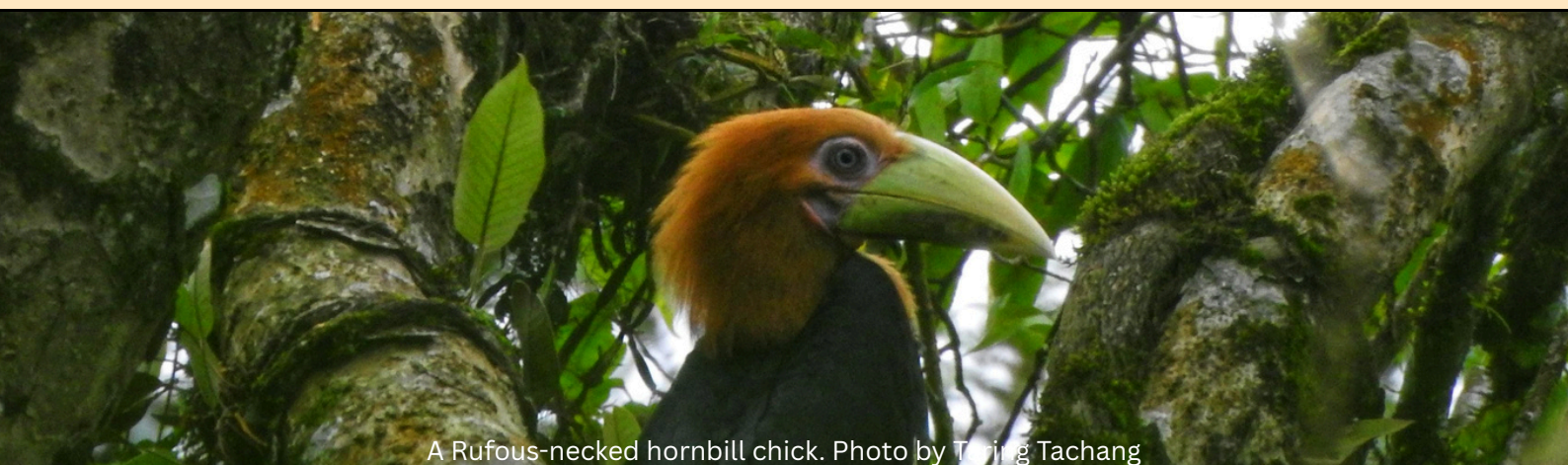
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A Rufous-necked hornbill chick. Photo by T. J. Tachang