



Hornbill Conservation Centre

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The **Tamil Nadu** government has announced the establishment of India's first **Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation** at the [Anamalai Tiger Reserve \(ATR\)](#).

- **Focus Hornbill Species:** It will focus on conserving **four species** found in the [Western Ghats](#) i.e., **Great Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill, and Indian Grey Hornbill.**
- **Expansion:** Alongside **ATR**, it will extend to **Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, [Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve](#), and parts of Kanyakumari.**
- **Broader Conservation Strategy:** This marks another milestone in **Tamil Nadu's conservation journey**, following the [Dugong Conservation Reserve, Nilgiri Tahr Project, Slender Loris Conservation Centre](#), and **AI-powered elephant conservation.**

Hornbill

- **About:** Hornbills are **large, wide-ranging, fruit-eating birds** that primarily inhabit **tropical forests (tall trees).**
- **Unique Traits:** Hornbills have **large curved beaks, booming calls, and distinctive wing beats.**
 - During **breeding**, the **female seals a tree cavity**, and the **male feeds her** through a **narrow slit.**
- **Hornbill Species in India:** India hosts **9 species**, with **4 in the Western Ghats**(Nature Conservation Foundation).
 - The **Great Hornbill** is widely distributed, and the [Narcondam Hornbill](#) is **endemic to Narcondam Island.**
- **Ecological Role:** They serve as **vital seed dispersers**, earning the title **“farmers of the forest,”** and function as [keystone species](#).



Read More: [Anamalai Tiger Reserve](#)

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