

4th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LESSER-KNOWN SPECIES OF CENTRAL INDIAN LANDSCAPE

16, 17 & 18 January, 2026
Bhopal



THEME 2026

Day-1

Current Status, Conservation issues & Management Challenges of Lesser Known & Endangered Faunal Species of Central Indian Landscape

Day-2

River Ecosystem-Conservation & Rejuvenation
The Communities- Their role in conservation, and maintaining healthy Ecosystem

DATE

16-17 & 18th of January, 2026

VENUE

EPCO Conference Hall, Paryavaran Parivar
E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal

ORGANISING AGENCY

SNHC India

(Society of Nature Healers, Conservators and Local Tourism Development) Bhopal

COLLABORATIVE AGENCY

MP State Biodiversity Board, Bhopal



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

SNHC India started organising a 2 day National Conference on "Lesser known species of Madhya Pradesh" with the vision of Wildlife Conservation and sensitisation to youth as well as people in conservation, to plan and highlight conservation efforts and management challenges of Lesser Known species. Lesser known as in, species with very low distribution, less researched, rapid population decline, data deficient and Endangered.

To fill the conservation gap the first conference was organised in **Jan 2023** followed by 2nd and 3rd in **Jan 2024 & 25** respectively, with expected outcome being, to come up with better conservation action plans and management strategies for these species through utilisation of available research data focusing on their current status, conservation issues or challenges and the way forward that is recommendations from the researchers and scientists for the implementing agencies like Forest Departments, Forestry & Wildlife institutes and NGO's to execute on the field and if data is deficient or not available in any of the species then detailed research is suggested to analyse the issues as without that nothing can be figured out.

In the first 2 days of the conference, around 15 technical sessions are held in which speakers share their rich experience and hard work in the field and throw light on different aspects of Biology to Ecology, from conservation challenges to conservation strategies. People active in the field of nature conservation come together under one roof to plan and act for the conservation of these lesser-known species.

For a broader and more scientific approach after conducting our 3rd Conference in Jan 2025 we are moving to Landscape conservation resulting in the addition of around 08 more states and a lot more diverse lesser-known species seeking attention there. The conference will now be titled as "**National Conference on Lesser-Known Species of Central Indian Landscape**" which will be a pivotal step in strengthening the conservation community of Central India.

SNHC India is trying to fill the gap and strengthen the conservation community of Central India by highlighting very important and much needed topics of lesser-known species that are equally important as flagship species. We in Collaboration with **MP State Biodiversity Board** are coming up with the 4th edition of the conference in **Jan 2026** to push the conservation efforts & Management plans of lesser known Faunal species of Central Indian landscape.



ABOUT MPSBB

Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has been constituted by the State Government as per the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 notified by the Government of India. Objectives of the Board being Conservation of biodiversity, Sustainable use of its components and Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Board has an advisory role in promoting biodiversity concerns among various stakeholders. One of the focus areas of the board includes promotion of research and advocacy of policy in gap areas. The lesser known faunal species is one such gap area which needs focus and action.

OUTCOME

- To Make these Lesser-Known, Known among conservation Community.
- To create connection between field and academic work of conservation.
- To give a platform to the national experts of lesser-known species and review the available research data of these species.
- To highlight the conservation efforts & Management Challenges for these species.
- To highlight Lesser-Known Faunal diversity of Central Indian Landscape in National scenario.
- To promote more and more research and study of Lesser-Known Species.
- To propose effective conservation action plans and management strategies for these species.
- Promotion and presentation of Lesser Known Species open windows for new species to be explored and studied by researchers and then tourists respectively and hence new aspects of tourism as well as wildlife can be witnessed rather than the traditional ones.

KEY SPEAKERS

**Dr. Asad R. Rahmani**

Ornithologist &
Former Director BNHS,
Mumbai

**Prof. B C Choudhury**

Former Sr. Prof. WII Dehradun
Advisor WWF-INDIA
& Exec. Trustee, WTI

**Dr. Jai Singh Parihar**

Scientist (Retd.), Space
Applications Centre (SAC)
ISRO, Ahmedabad

**R Sreenivasa Murthy**

Retd IFS, Ex. Member
Secretary MP State
Biodiversity Board

**Dr. Shomita Mukherjee**

Senior Principal
Scientist, SACON-WII
Coimbatore

**Dr. Rajendra P Mishra**

Dy. Director & Regional Head
Central India,
Wildlife Trust of India

**Dr. Rajat Bhargava**

Ornithologist
Bombay Natural History
Society, Mumbai

**Dr. Sumit Dookia**

Asso. Prof. University
School of Env. Mgmt.
GGSIP, University, New Delhi

**Dr. Raju Vyas**

Former Zoo Inspector Regional
Vice Chair, IUCN/SSC
Crocodile Specialist Group
(South Asia & Iran) Vadodara

**Tarun Nair**

Lead-Programme
Makara, WCT
Mumbai

**Himanshu Thakkar**

Coordinator, South Asia
Network on Dams, Rivers &
People (SANDRP), Bangalore

**Dr Yash Veer Bhatnagar**

Country Representative
IUCN India

**Megha Moorthy**

Editor-in-Chief
Roundglass Sustain

**Shailesh Srivastava**

Senior Editor
Mongabay-India

**SV Krishna Chaitanya**

Associate Editor
The New Indian Express
Chennai

**Sharda Kosankar**

Principal Scientist &
Associate Professor (AcSIR)
CSIR - Neeri, Nagpur

**Dr. Oishimaya Sen Nag**

Senior Editor, WorldAtlas
and Conservation Science
Communicator

**Dr. Unmesh Katwate**

Scientist C, Fish
BNHS, Mumbai

**Nitin Kaushal**

Director - Rivers,
Wetlands & Water Policy,
WWF-India

**Ashok Biswal**

Manager- Harit,
HCL, Foundation

**Pallav Jain**

Co-founder and
Editor in Chief
Ground Report

**Utsow Pradhan**

Environmentalist and
Founder of TIEEDI,
Darjeeling, West Bengal

**Dr. Nidhi Rana**

Research Affiliate
Graphic Era, Deemed to be
University, Dehradun

**Akshita Jain**

Wildlife and Conservation
Photographer,
Software Engineer, Microsoft
Hyderabad

**Kashif Farooq Bhat**

Sanctuary Asia
Mud-on-Boots Project
Leader, Srinagar, J&K

**Gautam Kadam**

PhD Research Scholar
Sacred Heart College
Kochi, MGU, Kottayam

**Prachi Hatkar**

Sr. Project Officer, ARC for
Ecology & conservation
DES, Pune University

SCHEDULE

DAY-1 (16th January, 2026)

Time	Topics/Details and Speakers
09:15-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:45	INAUGURATION By Hon'ble Chief Secretary MP Govt (TBC), ACS Forest MP (TBC) Chairperson, NBA, Chennai (TBC) or Director WII, Dehradun (TBC)
10:00-10:10	Introduction & Welcome of guests by Organizers
10:10-10:15	LIGHTING OF LAMP
10:15-10:45	Introductory remarks by the Guests, including the keynote address by Mr. B C Choudhury , Former Senior Prof. WII Dehradun, Advisor WWF-INDIA & Exec. Trustee, WTI
10:45-10:50	Memento distribution to dignitaries and Group Photo
10:50-11:20	Tea Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION -1
11:20-12:20	A Panel on Commemoration of India's Glorious & Successful Crocodile Conservation Project (1975-2025) an indicator of aquatic ecosystem health - Moderated by Mr. R J Rao , Former VC, BU Bhopal and Panelist will be: Mr. B C Chaudhury , Former Senior Prof. WII Dehradun Dr. Raju Vyas , Former Zoo Inspector & Regional Vice Chair IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (South Asia & Iran) Vadodara, Mr. L A K Singh , Senior Research Officer (Retired), Crocodile Project, Odisha Mr. Tarun Nair , Lead-Programme Makara, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai
12:20-13:00	Small carnivores in and around a pastoral land in Kachchh, Gujarat by Dr. Shomita Mukherjee , Senior Principal Scientist, SACON-WII, Coimbatore <i>Chaired By: Dr. Suhas Kumar, Retd IFS, Former PCCF, MP</i>
13:00-13:40	Conservation beyond protected area boundaries: Building community Youth Network for conservation of GIB in Western Rajasthan by Mr. Sumit Dookia , Associate Professor, University School of Environment Management, GGSIP University, New Delhi Group <i>Chaired By: Dr. Asad Rahmani, Veteran Ornithologist & Former Director BNHS, Mumbai</i>
13:40-14:25	Lunch Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION -2
14:25-15:05	Conservation of Hill Myna - a case study from Chhattisgarh - Dr. Rajat Bhargava, Independent Ornithologist, Meerut <i>Chaired By: Mr. R Sreenivasa Murthy, IFS Retd, Former APCCF & Member Secretary, MPSBB</i>
15:05-15:40	Wild Buffalo in Central India by Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra , Deputy Director & Regional Head Central India, Wildlife Trust of India <i>Chaired By: Mr. Shailendra Singh, IFS (Retd), Former APCCF, CG</i>
15:40-16:20	Geomatics applications for lesser-known wildlife species: retrospect, prospect and challenges by Dr. Jai Singh Parihar , Scientist (Retd.), Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO Ahmedabad <i>Chaired By: Mr. Jasbir Singh Chauhan, IFS Retd, Former PCCF Wildlife, MP</i>
16:20-17:00	Firefly of the Western Himalaya: Diversity, Pressures and Conservation Strategies by Dr. Nidhi Rana, Research Affiliate, Graphic Era - Deemed to be University, Dehradun <i>Chaired By: Mr. Aseem Shrivastava, IFS Retd, Former PCCF & HOFF MP</i>
17:00-17:40	An Integrative Approach to Systematics, Ecology, and Conservation of Indian Ornamental Tarantulas by Mr. Gautam Kadam , PhD Research Scholar, Sacred Heart College Kochi, MGU, Kottayam <i>Chaired By: Dr. Vipul Keerti Sharma, Scientist & Zoologist, Research professor Holkar College, Indore</i>
17:40 Onwards	Hi Tea

SCHEDULE

DAY-2 (17th January, 2026)

Time	Topics/Details and Speakers
09:15-10:00	Registration
	TECHNICAL SESSION - 3
10:00-11:00	<p>A Panel on Future of Indian Rivers, their Health, Biodiversity & Ecosystem services - Issues, Concerns & Way Forward Moderated by Mr. Saurabh Popli, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape, SPA Bhopal</p> <p>Mr. R Sreenivasa Murthy, IFS Retd, Former APCCF & Member Secretary, MPSBB Mr. Tarun Nair, Lead - Programme Makara, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai Mr. Ashok Biswal - Manager Harit, HCL Foundation Mr. Himanshu Thakkar - Coordinator, South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People Mrs. Sharda Kosankar - Principal Scientist & Associate Prof. (AcSIR) CSIR - NEERI</p>
11:00 -11:30	Tea Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION - 4
11:30-12:10	<p>Lost Mahseer of Krishna by Mr. Unmesh Katwate, Scientist C - Fish & Fisheries, BNHS, Mumbai</p> <p><i>Chaired By: Dr. Shriparna Saxena, Prof. & Head, Dept of Aquaculture, SAGE, Bhopal</i></p>
12:10-12:50	<p>Ecological flow of Rivers - A study to access the impact on Aquatic & Avi-Fauna, dependent on River Hydrology - by Mr Tarun Nair, Lead - Programme Makara, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai</p> <p><i>Chaired By Mr. K Raman, Retd IFS, Former APCCF, MP</i></p>
12:50-13:30	<p>Meet the Mermaids of the Ocean - Dugong by Ms. Prachi Hatkar, Senior Project Officer, ARC for Ecology & Conservation DES, Pune University</p> <p><i>Chaired By: Mr. B C Chaudhury, Former Senior Prof. WII Dehradun</i></p>
13:30-13:50	<p>IUCN National Red Listing: Access, Plan & Act for Species Conservation by Dr. Yash Veer Bhatnagar, Country Representative, IUCN India</p> <p><i>Chaired By Dr Asad Rahmani, Veteran Ornithologist & Former Director BNHS, Mumbai</i></p>
13:50-14:40	Lunch Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION - 5
14:40-15:20	<p>River Rejuvenation approaches - WWF India's Experiences by Mr. Nitin Kaushal Director Rivers, Wetlands & Water Policy, WWF - India</p> <p><i>Chaired By: Mr. Saurabh Popli, Associate Professor, Dept. of Landscape, SPA Bhopal</i></p>
15:20-16:10	<p>The Communities - Their role in conservation, and maintaining healthy Ecosystem by Dr. Oishimaya Sen Nag, Managing Editor, World Atlas, Canada</p> <p>Mr. Utsow Pradhan, Environmentalist and Founder of TIEEDI, Darjeeling Mr. Kashif Farooq Bhat, Sanctuary Asia Mud-on-Boots Project Leader, Srinagar, J & K Ms. Akshita Jain, Wildlife & Conservation Photographer, Software Engineer Microsoft</p> <p><i>Chaired By: Mr. Rajneesh Singh, IFS, Deputy Director, Pench Tiger Reserve</i></p>
16:10-17:10	<p>A panel on Scope of Media Exposure in Nature and Wildlife Conservation Reporting: Moderated by Mr. Debadityo Sinha, Lead Climate and Ecosystems, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi</p> <p>Mr. Abhilash Khandekar, Senior Journalist & Environmentalist, Indore Ms. Megha Moorthy, Editor-in-Chief, Round Glass Sustain Mr. Shailesh Shrivastava, Editor, Mongabay India Mr. SV Krishna Chaitanya, Associate Editor, New Indian Express, Chennai Mr. Pallav Jain, Co-Founder & Editor-in-Chief, Ground Report</p>
17:10-17:30	Valedictory Session & Adoption of Workshop Recommendations
17:30 Onward	Hi Tea
DAY-3 (18th January, 2026)	
06:15-11:00	FIELD VISIT TO VAN VIHAR NATIONAL PARK
06:30-10:00	Birdwatching & Nature trail in leadership of Dr. Asad Rahmani, Veteran Ornithologist & Former Director BNHS
10:00 -10:30	Breakfast followed by Group photo & Dispersal



ABOUT SNHC

SNHC India with registered name Society of Nature Healers, Conservators and Local Tourism Development is a Not for Profit Organisation (NGO) founded in Year 2019 in Bhopal MP with the vision of sensitising people for Nature and through different knowledge platforms like publishing quarterly magazine (Print, Soft and Website), organising workshops, Conferences, talks, field trips etc., through online engaging platforms like LinkedIn, blogs etc, and online and print documentation of sensitising activities.

Through our publication i.e. **SNHC Journal - A Quarterly English magazine of central India on sensitising people for Nature**, we are reaching Educational institutions at National Level, all forest divisions of India, libraries of different Schools, Collages, Govt. departments, NGO's and people in nature conservation etc. We have been publishing this since February 2020 and have received very good responses and commendations from all over India and parts of the world as well. We have 40,000+ E - distributions (Including Email & What's App) & 2500 Hard Copies distributions all over India and abroad which is increasing as well with every upcoming edition.

PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

Vikas Singh Baghel | Shubham Singh Rajput

Contact No. :

+91 9584003002, 8269443002

Email Id :

snhcconference@gmail.com



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Interested researchers may send the soft copy of abstract on themes "Current Status, Conservation issues & Management Challenges of Lesser-Known & Endangered Species of Central Indian Landscape" or on "River Ecosystem: Conservation and Rejuvenation" for poster presentation (Font: Times New Roman, Font Size: 12, Spacing: 1.5 and in 250 words) via email at snhcconference@gmail.com and submitter must be registered for acceptance of the abstract. The last date of abstract submission is on or before 25th Dec 2025, selected candidates will be updated via email.

REGISTRATION

Student:	₹ 600/-	Research Scholars:	₹ 1100/-
Faculty / Academician / Professional:	₹ 1500/-	Educational Institution / NGO's:	₹ 2100/- *
Business / Industrial Institution:	₹ 5000/- ** (Outside Bhopal)		
Accompanying Person:	₹ 600/-		

Registration fees includes the Registration Kit (Folder, Writing Pad, Pen & Other Reading Materials), Participation/ Presentation Certificate, Breakfast- Lunch- Hi Tea of both the conference days.

* Conference inclusions for 02 delegates is included in this category.

** Other than conference inclusions accommodation (basic) for 02 delegates on twin sharing basis for both (02) days of the Conference is also included in this category.

Registration Link:

<http://bit.ly/3HKwKw1>



Scan to Register

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS :

Name of the Account : Society of Nature Healers, Conservators and Local Tourism Development Bhopal (SNHC and LTD Bhopal)

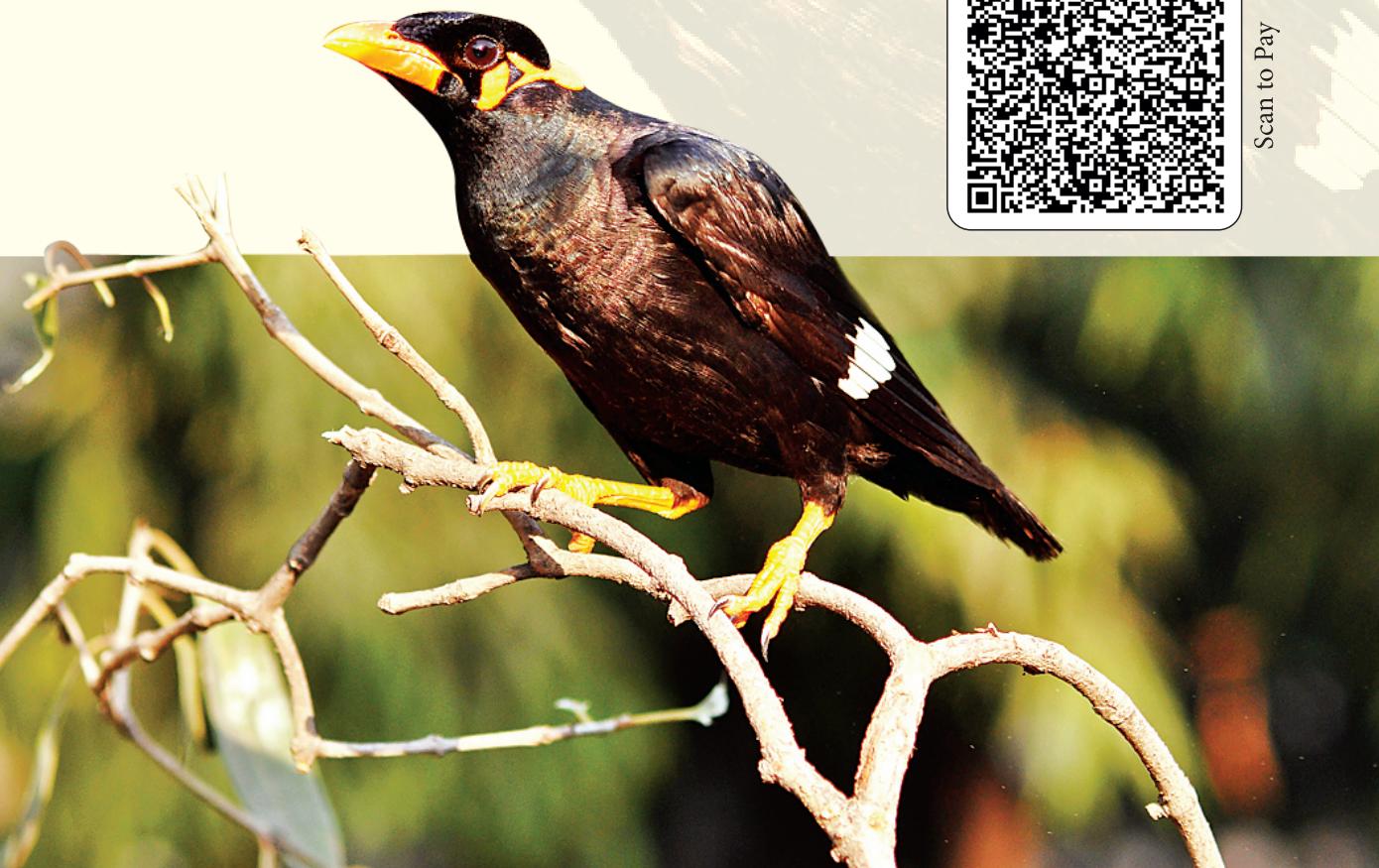
Bank & Branch : Bank of Baroda, Arera Colony, Bhopal

Account No. : 29210100012345

IFSC : BARB0ARERAC (0 - ZERO)



Scan to Pay





Conference Weblink:



Scan to Know more



SUPPORTED BY



MP Forest Department



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER



TRAVEL PARTNER



MP Tour and Travels.Com
Providing all travelling solutions !!!

PRINT PARTNER



KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



VIDH | Centre for Legal Policy

