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Directorate of Tourism

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Port Blair, dated the 2nd August, 2024.



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**BIRDWATCHING POLICY
FOR
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR**

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A. OBJECTIVE

The objective of a bird watching policy for Andaman and Nicobar Islands is to promote sustainable bird watching activities that benefit both the birds and the local communities, while also preserving the natural environment and cultural heritage of the Islands. Specific goals and objectives include:

- i. Promoting bird watching as an eco-friendly and sustainable activity that generates income and employment opportunities for local communities, especially those living in and around protected areas.
- ii. Establishing guidelines for bird watching activities that ensure minimal disturbance to bird habitats and minimize the risk of endangering birds species.
- iii. Developing bird watching infrastructure such as bird hides, trails, and observation towers that are designed to minimize the impact on bird habitats and enhance the bird watching experience.
- iv. Conducting regular bird surveys and monitoring programs to track bird populations, migration patterns, and habitat use to inform conservation and management decisions.
- v. Developing educational programs that raise awareness about the importance of bird conservation and the role of bird watchers in promoting conservation efforts.
- vi. Promoting the use of local guides and ecotourism companies that adhere to the principles of sustainable tourism and conservation.
- vii. Encouraging research and collaboration among bird watchers, local communities, and Scientific Institutions to enhance knowledge about the bird species and their habitats in the Islands.
- viii. Incorporating birdwatching into the overall tourism strategy for the Islands, with the aim of increasing the economic benefits of tourism while minimizing its impact on the environment and cultural heritage of the Islands.

B. BACKGROUND

STATUS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BIRD WATCHING POLICY

Currently in India while no state has a dedicated bird watching policy, some states have ecotourism policies that include bird watching as a component.

For example, the state of Kerala has an ecotourism policy that includes bird watching as one of its key activities. The policy aims to promote sustainable tourism that benefits local communities and wildlife conservation while providing visitors with a unique and authentic experience.

Similarly, the state of Karnataka has an ecotourism policy that includes bird watching as one of its activities. The policy aims to promote responsible tourism practices that conserve the environment, support local communities and promote awareness and appreciation of nature and wildlife.

Other states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttarakhand also have eco tourism policies that promote nature-based tourism activities, including bird watching. However, it is important to note that these policies may not specifically address bird watching, but rather include it as one of the activities under the larger umbrella of ecotourism.

Internationally, UK has a Bird watching Ethics code. The UK bird watching ethics code, also known as the Bird watchers Code of Conduct, is a set of guidelines and best practices designed to ensure that bird watchers behave in a responsible and ethical manner while observing birds. The code was developed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in partnership with other bird watching organizations and has been widely adopted by bird watchers in the UK.

There are several reasons why there is a need for a birdwatching policy in Andaman and Nicobar Islands :

- i. **Protection of bird species:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to a diverse range of bird species, many of which are endemic to the region. A birdwatching policy can help protect these bird species and their habitats by regulating birdwatching activities, minimizing disturbance to their habitats, and preventing any harmful practices that can endanger their populations.
- ii. **Sustainable Tourism:** Bird watching has become a popular activity among tourists visiting the Islands. A well-designed bird watching policy can help promote sustainable tourism that generates

income for local communities and businesses, while also preserving the natural environment and cultural heritage of the Islands.

- iii. **Research and Conservation:** Bird watching can also contribute to Scientific research and conservation efforts. By collecting data on bird populations, migration patterns, and habitat use, bird watchers can help inform conservation and management decisions, and contribute to our understanding of the Islands' biodiversity.
- iv. **Community Involvement:** A bird watching policy can involve local communities in the management and conservation of bird habitats, and provide opportunities for their participation in ecotourism activities.

A bird watching policy can help balance the economic benefits of bird watching with the need to protect the Islands biodiversity and cultural heritage. It can also contribute to sustainable development and conservation efforts, while promoting responsible tourism practices that benefit local communities.

C. ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY

1. Registration of Birders –

- 1.1 An online portal will collect information and a Registration Number will be issued to each registered birder for affixed fee of Rs. 500/- paid to Director (Tourism).

All the registered birders would be notified through their registered e-mail and by posting on the portal about :

- i. Sighting of a new species
- ii. Birding festivals
- iii. Any new development in the birding area
- iv. All existing and any new operator in the birding trail
- v. Any birding trip organized by the department / operator
- vi. An option would be given at the web portal for the registered birders to :
 - a. Give their feedback / suggestions about the trail
 - b. Post pictures of the birds of A&N Islands.
- vii. Each query, suggestion, feedback of the registered birder will responded by Director (Tourism).

- 1.2 **Status of Birders –**

Any person will be able to be a Registered Birder by registering for following self-reported categories : -

- i. Newbie Birder : Just starting off
- ii. Experienced Birder : Has been birding, does not require basic guidance or help.

- 1.3 **All tour operators engaging in birding tour operations shall be required to be registered with Directorate of Tourism.**

2. Birding Trails :

- 2.1 A committee headed by Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) having officer from Forest Department ,Tourism Department and representatives of Birders' groups as members has been constituted for listing out existing birding trails as well as recommending new birding trails in A&N Islands. **(Annexure-A)**

A list of existing birding trails along with details like frequently sighted species of birds in the trails, how to reach these trails, basic amenities in and around the trails, tourist attractions in and around the trails, google mapping etc. is annexed at **Annexure-B.**

- 2.2 **Proposal of Birding Trail –** Any Registered Birder may propose a birding trail in the prescribed format online which will be submitted to the Tourism Department.

- i. Bird Watching activities shall be permitted exclusively within the designated trails located within the Eco-tourism Zones of the Protected Areas (PAs). These activities must adhere to the guidelines and regulations outlined in the respective Management Plans of Eco Tourism Zones of Protected Areas (PAs). It is essential to ensure that bird watching activities are in harmony with the conservation goals of the PAs.
- ii. The authority responsible for approving new Bird Watching trails within Protected Area (PAs) shall be Secretary (Tourism) in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden on the recommendation of the committee mentioned in **Annexure A.**

2.3 REGISTRATION OF BIRDING TRAIL–

The Department will identify and register basic bird trails along with species likely to be found, for the convenience of tourists and Newbie birders. The trails will be as follows : -

- i. As **Amateur Birding Trail** – Registered birding trails located out side the Protected Areas where anyone can visit without a guide.
- ii. As **Guided Birding Trails** – Registered birding trails located within the Protected Areas where Birders have to go with guides.

The list of registered guides will be shared with the Department of Environment and Forests by the Directorate of Tourism.

3. BIRDING GUIDES:**3.1**

- i. A guide is defined as a person who personally takes bird watchers out on trails to see birds.
- ii. All bird guides must be registered with the IP&T Department using relevant forms.
- iii. While there is no educational qualifications for guides, all guides should be certified by passing the course conducted by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) or other department / agency authorized by IP&T Department from time to time, as notified on its official website.
- iv. The guide training and certification will be a two tier, be imparted by ZSI : for new guides and also for guides with over 4 years of experience.
- v. Guides will also be expected to sign the pledge for ethical bird guiding.
- vi. Rates for half and full day for both types of guides will be widely displayed.
- vii. Guides will also receive badges or Identity Card issued by Directorate of IP&T, A&N Administration and will meet with concerned department to give feedback or report any concerns including their safety etc.
- viii. Guides will be encouraged but not compelled to report their sightings on E-Bird and share the link.
- ix. Availability of Guides: The guides will have to be pre-booked and these guides will be required to be present at the head of the birding trail atleast 15 minutes before starting of the trail / trip.

3.2 Criteria for Guides :

- i. Guides will be registered after written and field examination to be conducted quarterly by Zoological Survey of India.
- ii. The guides should be able to converse in Hindi and English and have sound knowledge of birds, their habitats, habits, environmental issues, identification of different birds, various features of birds etc.

3.3 Mandatory things to be available with guides:

- i. Electronic and printed pamphlets depicting the birds of the trail.
- ii. Ethics & manual, Do's and Don'ts
- iii. Read out dos and don'ts everytime before starting of the trail.
- iv. The guide shall carry two extra pairs of binoculars if the birding group comprises of 3 or more members and one binocular if less.
- v. The guide shall also carry a soft copy of birding guide book / bird pamphlets as well as a pointer light.

3.4 Prohibited items / activities at the birding trails:

- i. Any equipment which disturbs the birds, speakers, bird calls through apps etc. are strictly prohibited.
- ii. There should not be any call to be played during Birdwatching either during the day or night.
- iii. In case of any complaint is received against any guide, the designated committee to review and recommend for cancellation of registration of the guide and such cancellation will published in web portal.

4. Permits

- 4.1** No permit is required for engaging in birdwatching activities outside the Protected Area.

- 4.2 Permits for engaging in birdwatching within the trails located in Protected Areas shall be issued by the Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) who oversee the specific areas under their jurisdiction. This process ensures proper oversight and management of birdwatching activities in these ecologically sensitive regions.
5. **Documentation**—All registered birders will be encourage to upload their sightings onto online portal of Directorate of Tourism.
6. **Database** – A database of Bird watching Trails shall be accessible to public with all information such as the birds likely to be seen in each season with links to e-bird data base on the online portal of Directorate of Tourism. A database of guides shall be maintained for the purpose of promotion of Birdwatching.
7. **Safety** —
- 7.1 During all bird watching activity the safety of the birders shall be their own responsibility and responsible birding should be under taken wherein birders take into account their own physical limitations, safety from natural and man made hazards.
- 7.2 Safety of Birders under 18 years of age shall be the responsibility of their guardians as the bird watching trails being a public space is open to all and minors cannot be barred.
8. **Conservation of Environment** – All birders shall promote environmental awareness among all and adhere to the Birdwatcher's Code of Ethics. Any bird watching in Andaman & Nicobar shall be sustainable and responsible with respect to protection of all natural resources whether living or non-living.
9. **Bird watching trails to be independent of land use** –
- 9.1 Bird watching trails can be on road / off road / urban / rural and shall preferably have right of access through any land with appropriate permissions from the recorded tenants / land owner. Any right of access given by a Person / Department / Organization / entity to allow bird watching can be withdrawn by them immediately. In case of dispute the Bird watching trail shall be de-registered immediately.
- 9.2 **No change in land use** –Registration of any Bird watching Trail shall not change the land use or alter the status of land in any way.
10. **Events** – IP&T Department shall periodically conduct Birding events, Bird watching Conventions / Conferences / Seminars / Lectures on its own or in collaboration with experts to promote Andaman & Nicobar as a Birding Destination of International repute as well as for encouraging research on the subject. Global experts to be invited.
11. **Limit on number of people on a Bird watching trail** – A Bird watching trail should normally have 1 person per 20 meters of the total length of trail per day excluding the guide required for birding activity in Protected Area.
12. **MINIMUM STANDARDS CHECKLIST FOR RECOMMENDED BIRDING TRAIL HEADS AND TAILS**—
- Minimum standards for a bird watching trail that can enhance the experience for bird watchers and protect the natural environment :
- i. **Clearly marked head and tail of the trail** - The trail should be well marked with clear signs indicating the start and finish points and directions to key birdwatching locations.
 - ii. **Map of the trail**—Clear map of the trail should be available online and at the trail head.
 - iii. **Trail literature**—Should be available at the trail head. Can be scanned via barcodes.
 - iv. **Registration at Entry and Exit at theTrail head**— to be done by staff or to be done voluntarily.
 - v. **Safe trail**—The trail should be safe and accessible for all visitors. The trail surface should be stable and free from hazards.
 - vi. **AccessibleTrail** – If trail head and the trail itself is accessible for specially abled persons it should be stated.
 - vii. **Parking space** – within 500 meter of trail head.
 - viii. **Interpretative signage** – Interpretative signs along the trail can provide information about the bird species that can be seen in the area, their habitat, and their behavior.

- ix. **Appropriate habitat management-** The trail should be managed to support the habitat needs of the bird species found in the area, including managing invasive species, avoiding noise from other activities, preventing waste dumping, preventing building on the trail and maintaining healthy ecosystems.
 - a. In-charge of the trail to be published
 - b. Periodic survey of the trail
 - c. Feedback about the trail
 - d. Monthly reviews of the feedback at Secretary level
- x. **Minimal disturbance to birds**— The trail should be designed to minimize disturbance to birds and their habitat, with designated viewing areas and protocols for bird watchers to follow to reduce noise and disruption. Where regular nesting is known to take place, birders should not be allowed at all, preventing any disturbance of the bird.
- xi. **Manning of the trail head** – A designated staff to be present at the trail head during birding season / on call.
- xii. **Safety**– Provision of First Aid Kit at the trail head with designated staff.

These minimum standards can help create a safe and enjoyable birdwatching experiences while promoting the conservation of bird habitats and species.

The Director (Tourism) and DFO of the concerned area will ensure adherence to the above mentioned minimum standards in the birding trails within protected areas and the Assistant Director (Admn.), Directorate of Tourism will ensure adherence to the above mentioned minimum standards in the birding trails lying outside the protected areas.

13. MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS :

- i. Encroachment, garbage dumping and littering will be strictly prohibited.
- ii. Anyone found littering will be penalized. Any guide found littering will be deregistered.
- iii. An Officer from Tourism Department will be designated for a trail who will carry out inspection of the trail in 15 days. He shall submit the information to Director (Tourism) and Director (Tourism) will carry out a monthly review of the trail.
- iv. Any suggestions / complaints filed by any birders or any other person shall be disposed off by Director (Tourism).
- v. Quarterly review to be carried out by Secretary (Tourism).
- vi. A report about the status of the trails including suggestions, if any, will be prepared and submitted to Chief Secretary. A review will be done at Chief Secretary's level once in six months.

14. BIRD WATCHING ETHICS CODE :

To be enforceable on all visitors on Bird watching Trails-

- i. **Respecting birds and their habitats:** Bird watchers should not disturb birds or damage their habitats, and should keep a safe distance of 100 meters from nests, roosts and feeding sites. This is valid even if there is no signage.
- ii. **Avoiding over crowding** : Bird watchers should avoid over crowding, especially during nesting season or when observing rare birds and should take turns to avoid disturbing birds or blocking other bird watchers' views.
- iii. **Respecting other wildlife and visitors:** Birdwatchers should respect other wildlife and visitors to the area and should not damage or disturb other wildlife or interfere with other visitor's enjoyment of the area.
- iv. **Behaving in a responsible and safe manner:** Birdwatchers should obey local laws and regulations, and should be aware of potential hazards such as cliffs, tides and weather conditions.
- v. **Sharing knowledge and promoting conservation** : Bird watchers should share their knowledge and enthusiasm for birds with others and should promote conservation efforts to protect birds and their habitats.
- vi. Bird watchers should avoid flash at night, photos of chicks or nesting or eggs and avoid noise, so as not to disturb birds and other wildlife.
- vii. As per the guidelines of the National Parks / Parks / Sanctuaries the birders may be permitted, however no priority may be accorded to them.

- viii. The guides shall ensure that the tourists should take back organic / inorganic waste generated by them and will not be allowed to litter in the birding trails.
15. **Savings** – This policy will not supersede any policy / law / regulation / rule in force or which may be notified subsequently. This policy shall be void to the extent that it is in contravention with any existing policy / law / regulation / rule etc.

BIRDING TRAILS

ANNEXURE- B

SOUTH ANDAMAN

1. CHIDIYATAPU BIRDING TRAIL, SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities available nearby the trail

Forest Guest House, Grocery Shop, Tea Stall, Light Refreshment, Eateries
Public Convenience / Toilets

Other facilities

Scuba Dive Centres

Other attractions

Chidiyatapu / Munda Pahad Beach
Sunset

How to Reach

By Road from Port Blair : 40-45 minutes

Most sighted Bird Species :

Andaman Asian Glossy Starling
Andaman Green Pigeon
Andaman Imperial Pigeon
Andaman Long-tailed Parakeet
Red Collared-Dove
Red-whiskered Bulbul
Andaman Serpent Eagle
Andaman Bulbul
White-bellied Sea-Eagle

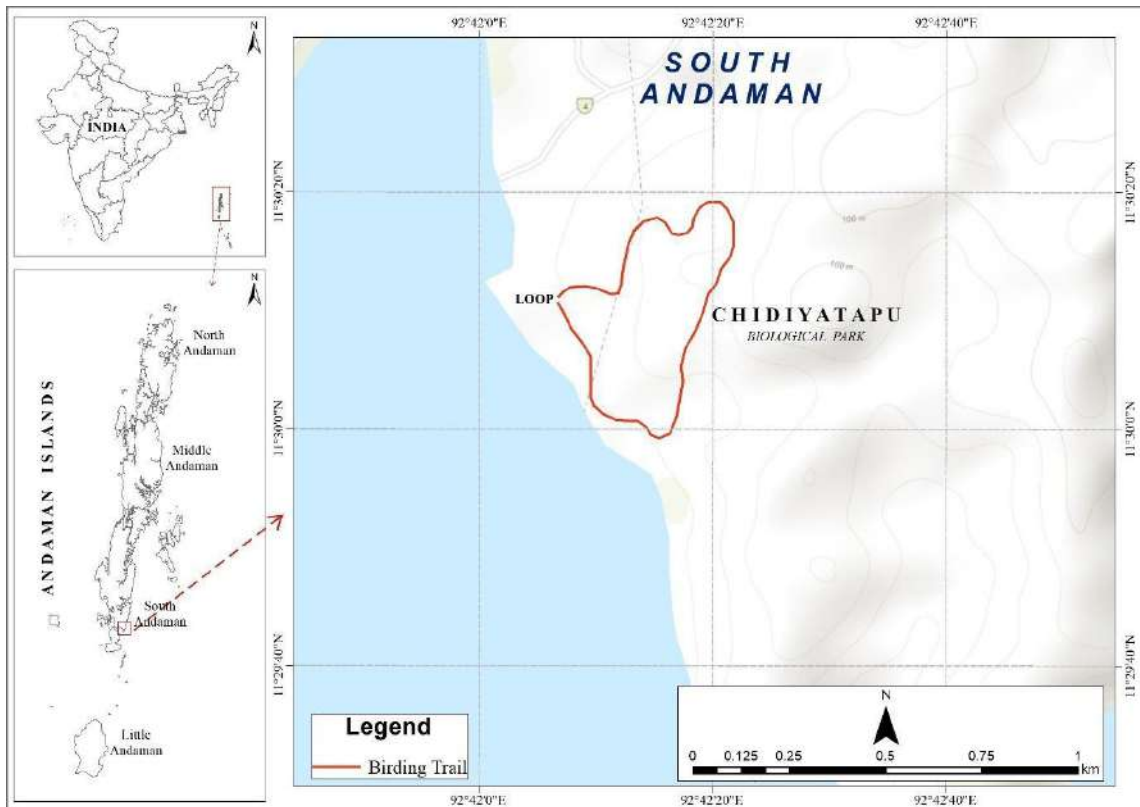


Fig.1. Chidiyatapu Birding Trail, South Andaman

2. MT. MANIPUR PARVAT NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Forest Guest House
- Public Convenience / Toilets
- Sit outs / Viewing deck

Attractions near the trail

- Second Highest Peak
- Tropical Evergreen Forests
- Overview of North Bay
- Trekking route

How to Reach

From Port Blair : The following options are available (Sea route / By Road)

- Sea Route : Chatham-Bambooflat by vehicle ferry (15-20 minutes) ; Bambooflat to Mt. Manipur by road approximately 30 minutes
- By Road : Port Blair to Mt. Manipur by Road 1 hr. 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Andaman Asian Glossy Starling
- Andaman Green Pigeon
- Andaman Wood Pigeon
- Andaman Long-tailed Parakeet
- Andaman Red-breasted Parakeet
- Andaman Serpent Eagle
- Andaman Cuckoo-Dove
- Andaman Bulbul
- Rock Pigeon

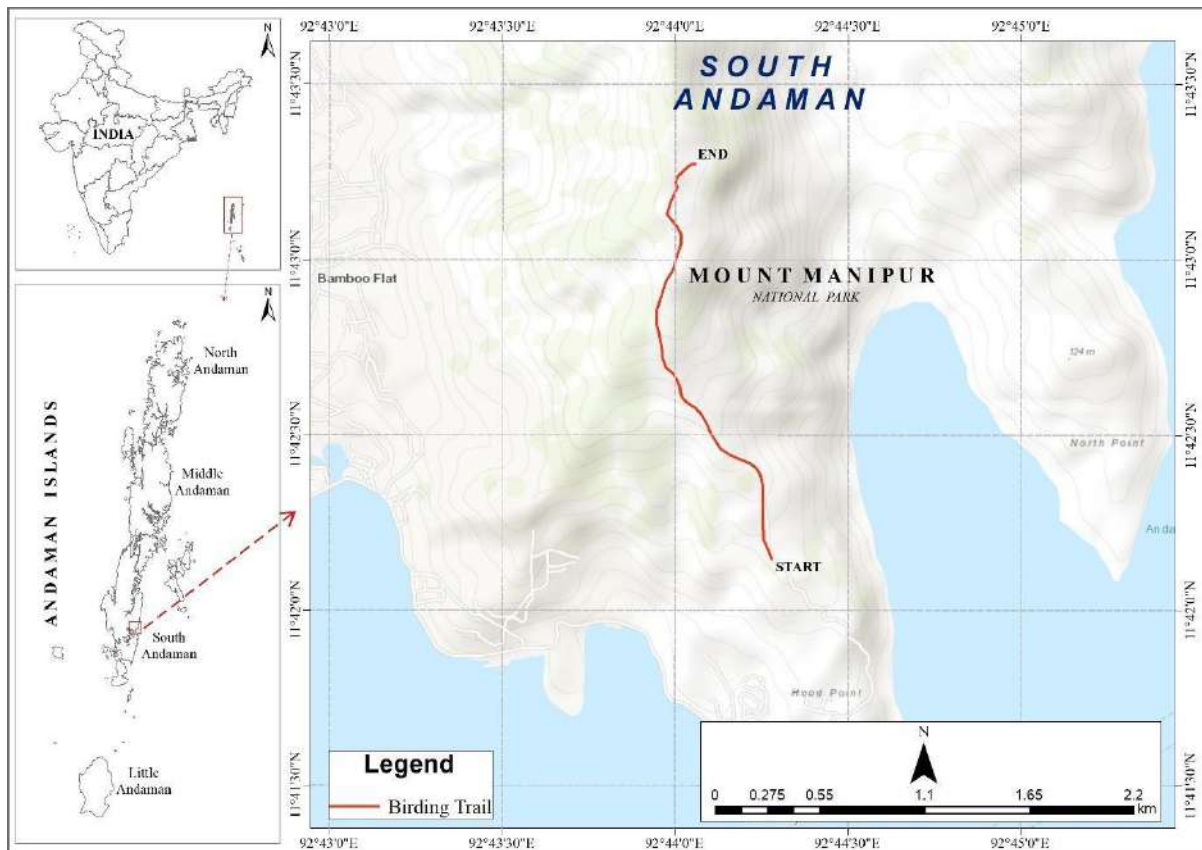


Fig. 2. Mount Manipur Birding Trail, Mount Manipur National Park, South Andaman

3. KALATANG FOREST RESERVE, WIMBERLYGUNJ FOREST DIVISION, SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

Public Conveniences (Toilets)

Attractions near the trail

- Dense Forest Cover
- Wright Myo Creek
- Mangrove Interpretation Centre at the Wright Myo Jetty
- Tea / Coffee / Snacks / Stalls

How to Reach

From Port Blair :

- By sea: Chatham-Bambooflat- by vehicle ferry -15-20 minutes & Bambooflat to Kalatang by Road 30 minutes
- By Road: Port Blair-Kalatang 1 hr. 30 minutes

Most sighted Bird Species:

- Andaman Teal
- Red-whiskered Bulbul
- Asian Glossy Starling
- Andaman White-headed Starling
- Andaman Woodpecker
- Andaman Serpent Eagle
- Andaman Crested-Serpent Eagle
- Andaman Black Baza
- Eastern Cattle Egret
- Lesser Whistling-Duck

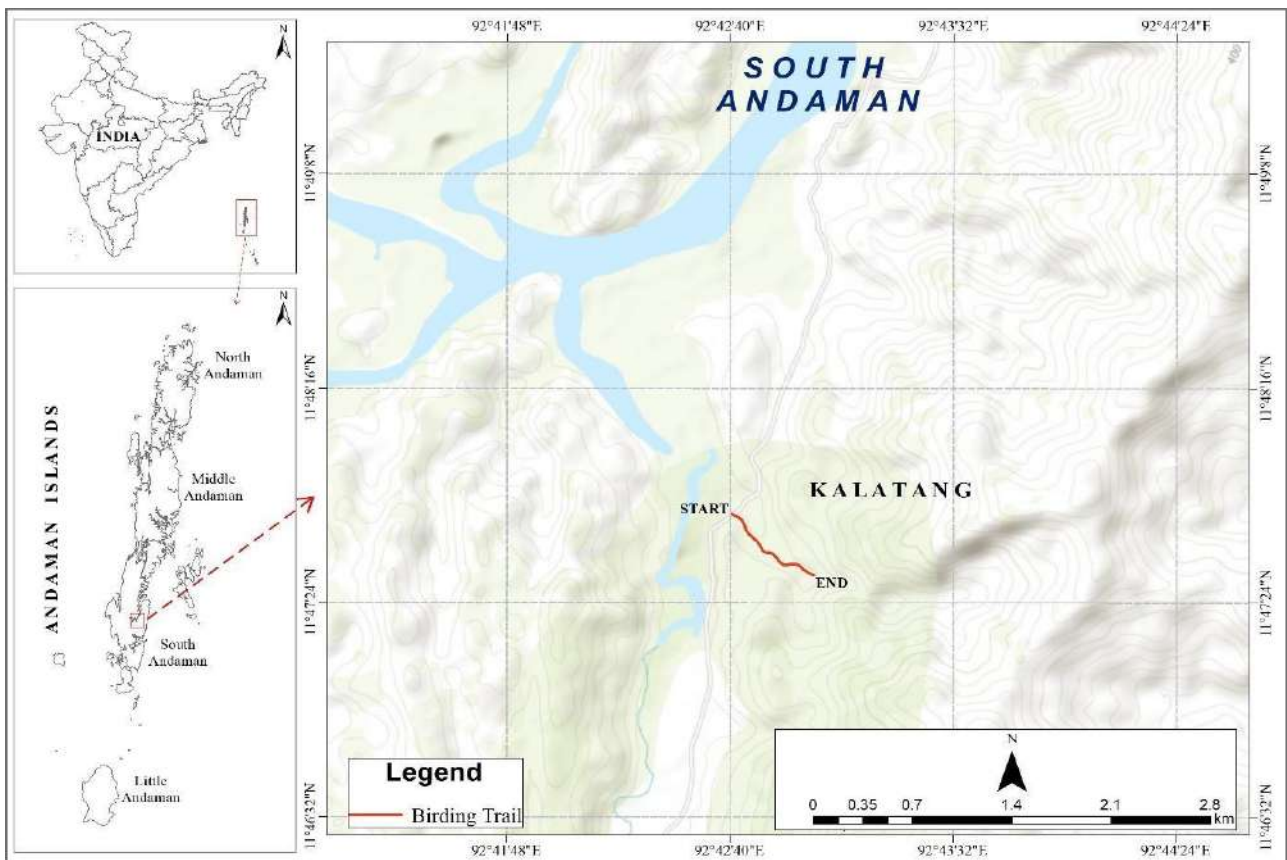


Fig. 3. Kalatang Birding Trail, South Andaman

4. GANDHI PARK, PORT BLAIR CITY, SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Public Conveniences / Toilets
- Eateries

Attractions near the trail

- Lake
- Japanese Bunker
- Art Gallery
- Walkway
- Paddle Boating

How to Reach

From Port Blair : Road 5-10 minutes

Most sighted Bird Species :

- House Crow
- Red-whiskered Bulbul
- Rock Pigeon
- Asian Glossy Starling
- Plume-toed Swiftlet
- Eurasian Moorhen
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater

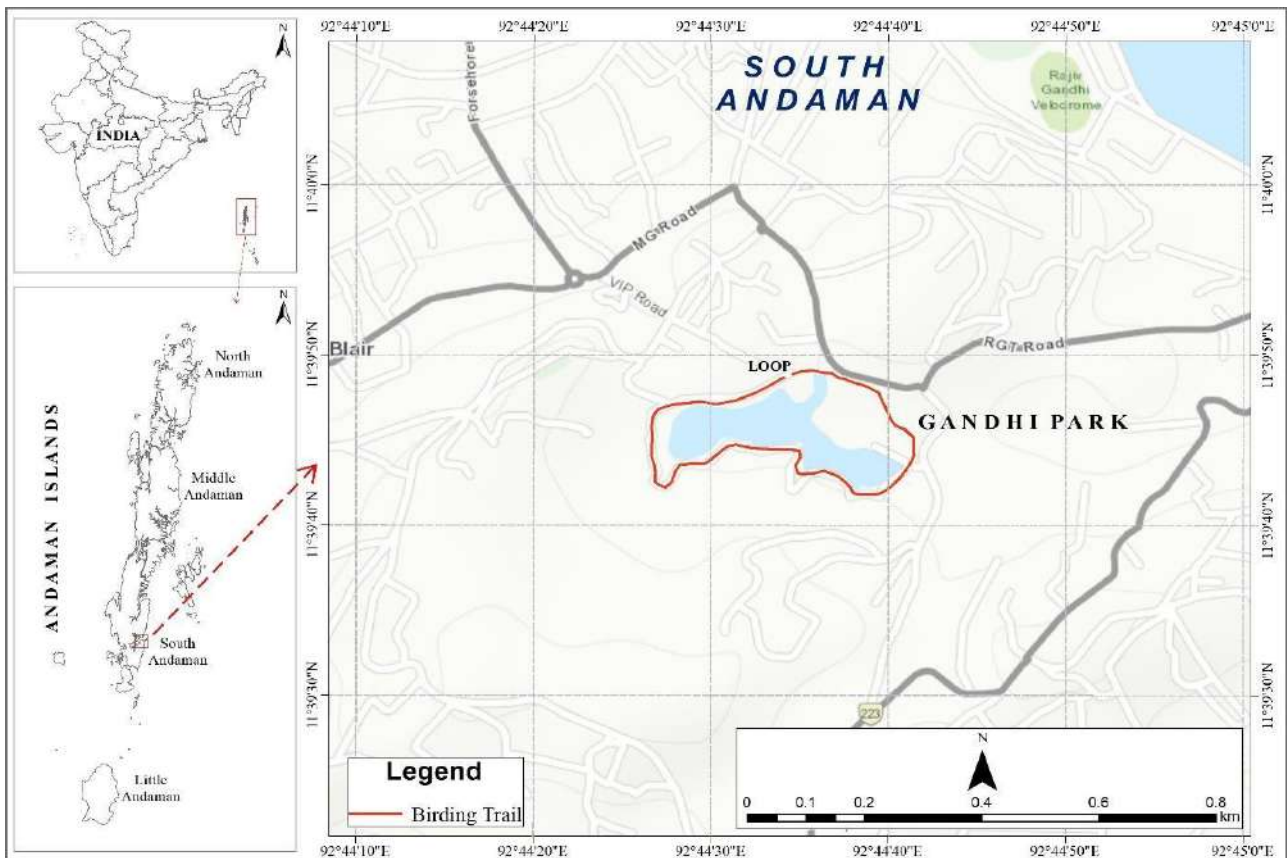


Fig. 4. Gandhi Park Birding Trail, Port Blair, South Andaman

5. PHONGIBALU, MGMNP, SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Eateries (outside)

Attractions near the trail

- Dense Forest Cover
- Beach

How to Reach

From Port Blair : By Road 1 hour

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Black-naped Tern
- Common Redshank
- Red Collared-Dove
- White-nest Swiftlet
- Vernal Hanging-Parrot

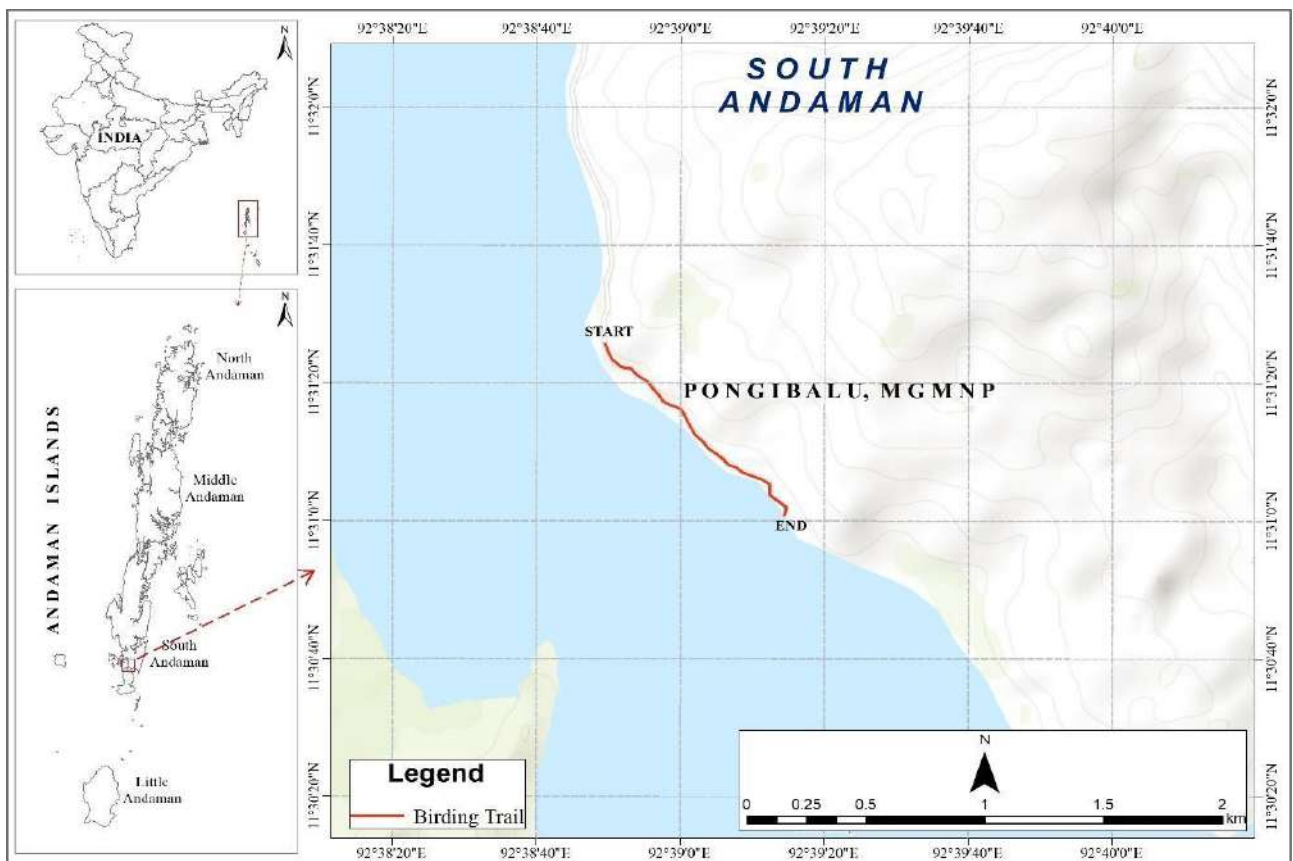


Fig. 5. Pongibalu Birding Trail, South Andaman

6. TEYRELABAD-SIPPIGHAT WETLAND, SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Boarding and lodging facilities
- Hotels & Resorts
- Eateries

Attractions near the trail

- Sippighat Agriculture Farm

How to Reach

From Port Blair : By Road 1 hour

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Lesser Whistling- Duck
- Little Egret
- House Sparrow
- Medium Egret
- House Crow
- Rosy Starling
- Common Redshank
- Rock Pigeon

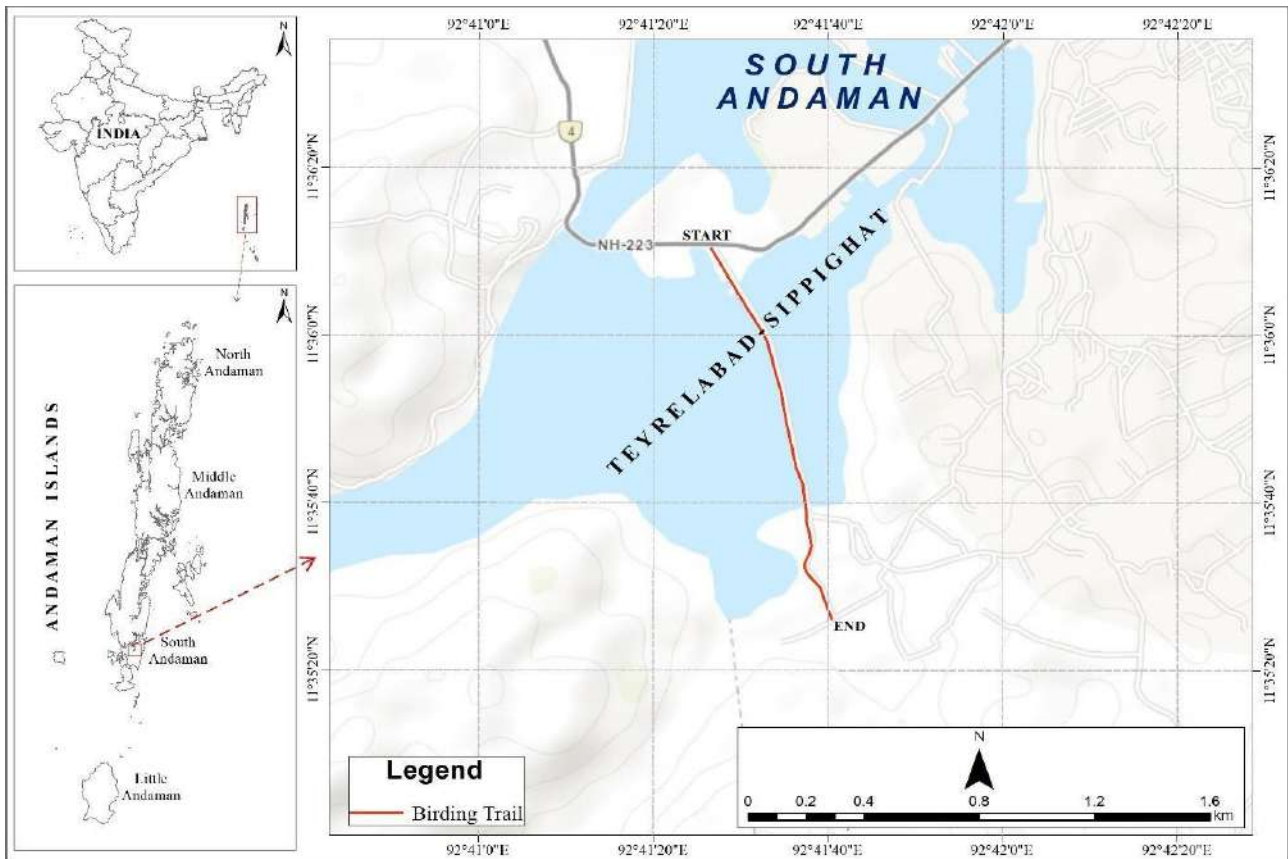


Fig. 6. Teyrelabad–Sippighat Birding Trail, South Andaman

7. ELEPHANT BEACH TREK (SWARAJ DWEEP), SOUTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Public Convenience – Toilets / Changeroom-cum-shower
- HDPE Floating Jetty
- Fruit Stall
- Snacks (for tea / coffee) & light refreshment

Attractions near the trail

- Water sports activities
- Beach
- Swimming

How to Reach

- By Sea: Port Blair – Swaraj Dweep Option 1 – Private ferries 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours
Option 2 - Govt ferries 2 hours to 2 ½ hours
- Swaraj Dweep to Elephant Beach Option 1 – By trekking from Swaraj Dweep (No .6) – 45 minutes
Option 2 – SD Jetty to Elephant Beach by Sea – FRP Boat 20 – 30 minutes

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Asian Glossy Starling
- Green Imperial-Pigeon
- Plume-toed Swiftlet
- Andaman Drongo
- Scarlet Minivet
- Red-whiskered Bulbul



Fig. 7. Elephant Beach Birding Trail, Swaraj Dweep, South Andaman

NORTH AND MIDDLE ANDAMAN

1. DHANINALLAH WALKWAY, BETAPUR, MIDDLE ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Public Convenience – (Toilets) etc.
- Hawks Bill Nest – boarding and lodging facilities
- Eateries
- Grocery shop
- Local Transportation, Auto, Jeep, local buses etc.

Attractions near the trail

- Canopy walk way
- Cutbert Bay Beach
- Turtle Nesting ground at Cutbert Bay (season November to February)
- Panchwati trekking trail
- Panchwati waterfall
- Aamkunj Beach
- Mangrove Creek & Dense Forest

How to Reach

From Port Blair

- By Road : Port Blair – Rangat - (Dhaninallah) 6 – 8 hours
- By Sea : Port Blair – Rangat (By Sea) Govt. ferry / boat services 5 – 6 hours plus by road from jetty to Dhaninallah- 1hour

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Andaman Green-Pigeon
- Common Myna
- Plume-toed Swiftlet
- Chestnut-headed Bee-eater
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail
- Eastern Cattle Egret

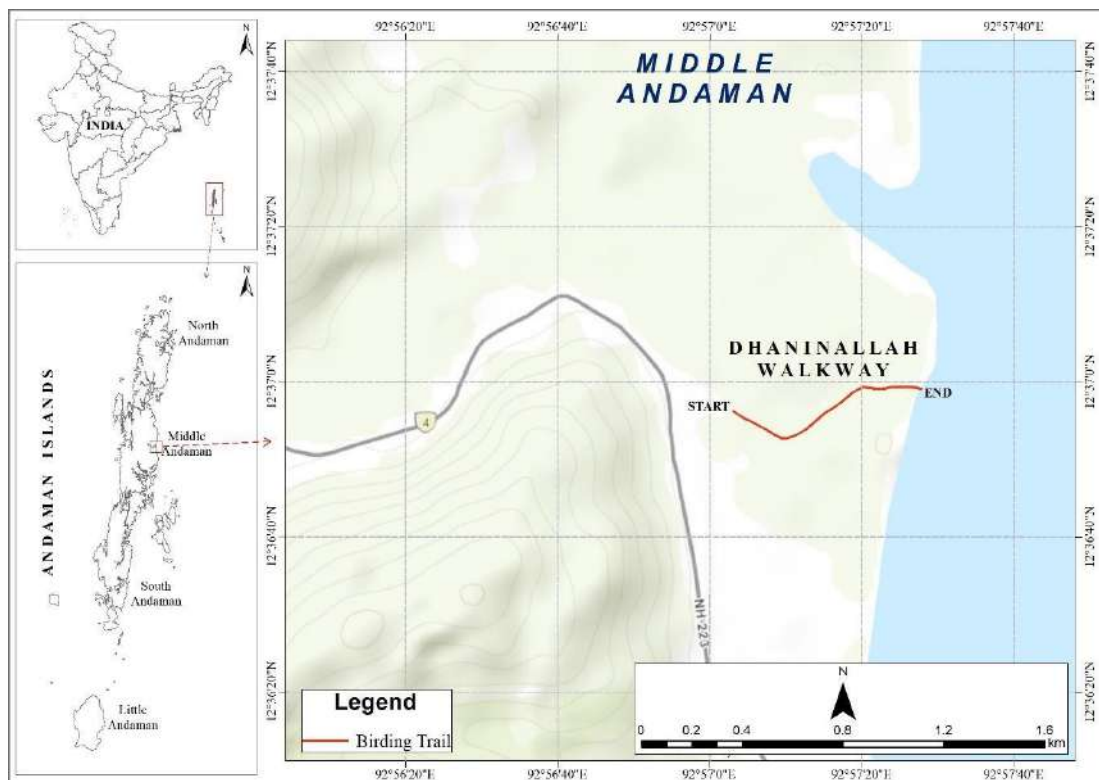


Fig. 1. Dhaninallah Birding Trail, Middle Andaman

2. Yerrata Mangrove Walk Way, Rangat, Middle Andaman

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Public Convenience – (Toilets)
- Eateries, Refreshments Tea, Coffee etc.

Attractions near the trail

- Watch Tower
- Mangrove Creek
- Board walkway
- Dense Forest

How to Reach

From Port Blair

- By Road : Port Blair – Rangat - (Yerrata) 6 – 8 hours
- By Sea : Port Blair-Rangat (Nimbutala Jetty) (By Sea) Govt. ferry / boat services 5 - 6 hours plus by road 30 minutes from jetty to Yerrata Trail

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Asian Glossy Starling
- Small Minivet
- Red-whiskered Bulbul
- White-rumped Munia
- Rock Pigeon
- Andaman Green-Pigeon
- Plume-toed Swiftlet

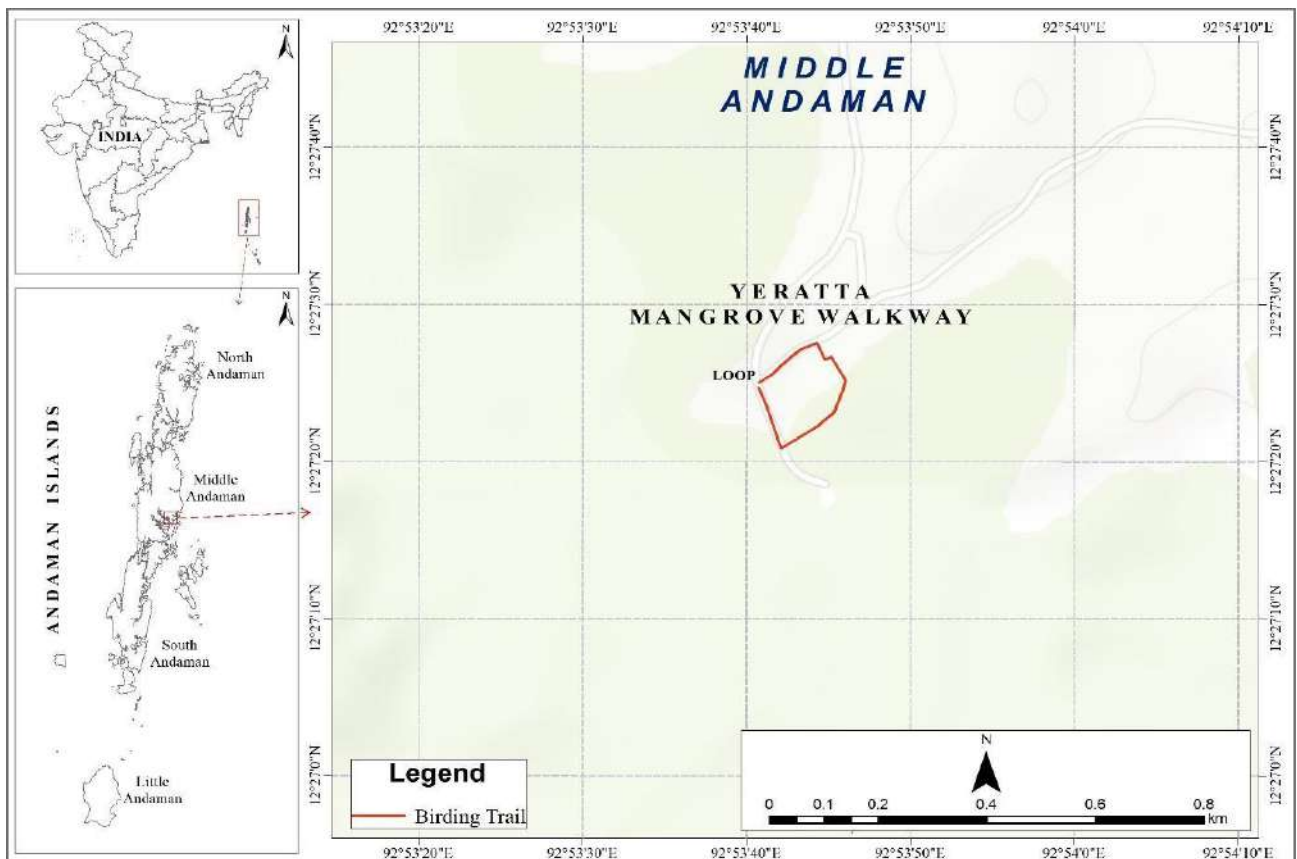


Fig.2. Yerrata Mangrove Walkway Birding Trail, Middle Andaman

3. LAMIA BAY TO SADDLE PEAK BASE CAMP, DIGLIPUR, NORTH ANDAMAN

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Lodging and boarding facilities –Turtle Resort
- Eateries and refreshment facilities

Attractions near the trail

- Highest Peak of A & N Islands-Saddle Peak
- Trekking upto Saddle Peak
- Lamia Bay Beach
- Dense Forest Cover

How to Reach

From Port Blair

- By Road : Port Blair- Rangat-Mayabunder-Diglipur 10-12 hours
- By Sea : Port Blair-Diglipur Government Ferry services available, and will take 8-10 hours

Most sighted Bird Species :

- Asian Glossy Starling
- Plume-toed Swiftlet
- Common Hill Myna
- Pacific Golden-Plover
- Small Minivet
- Red-whiskered Bulbul
- Common Myna

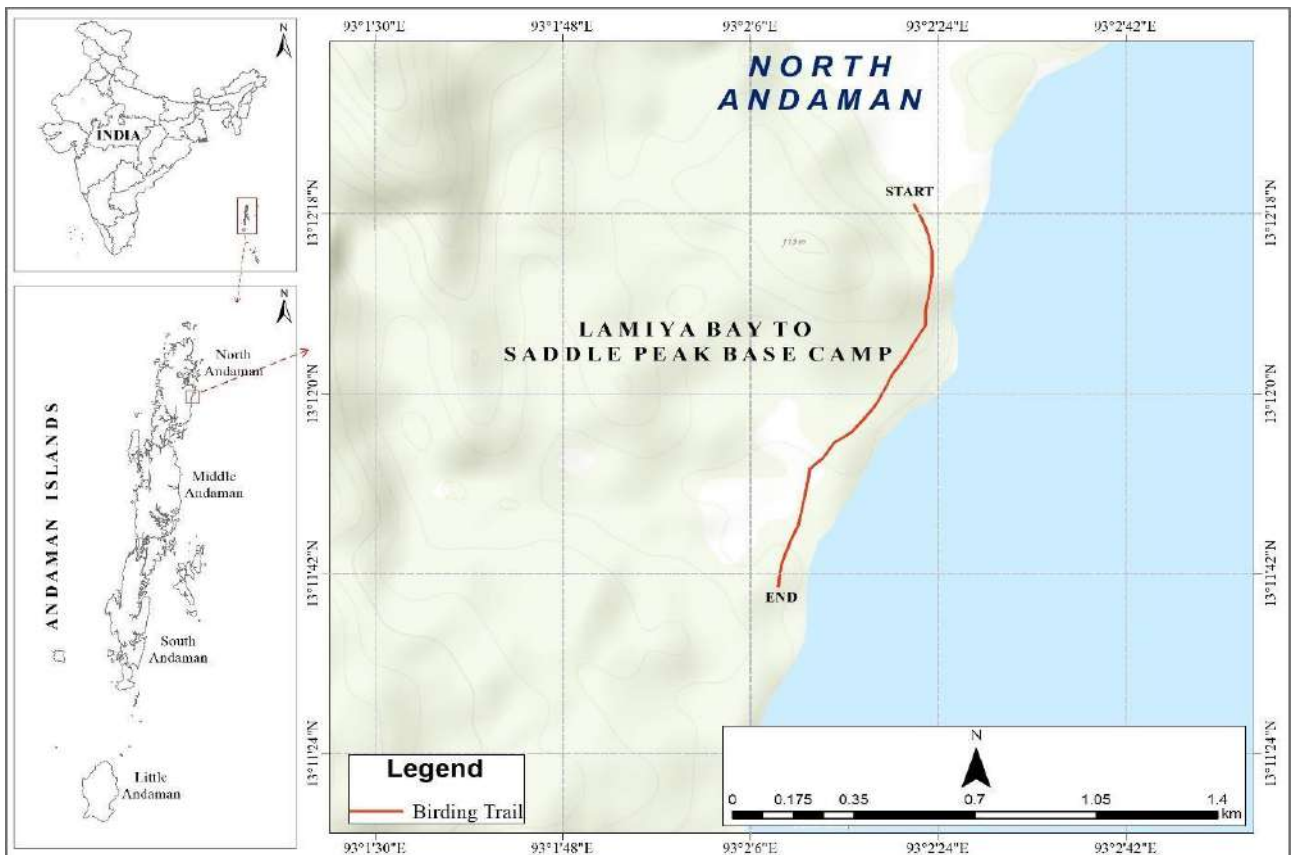


Fig. 3. Saddle Peak Birding Trail, North Andaman

NICOBAR

1. GREAT NICOBAR BIOSPHERE RESERVE, GREAT NICOBAR

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Public Convenience (Toilets)
- Lodging and boarding-Govt owned guest houses

Attractions near the trail

- B-Quarry Beach
- Joginder Nagar Beach
- Galathea Beach
- Laxman Beach
- Church Beach
- Indira Point Beach
- Gandhi Nagar Beach
- Laxmi Nagar Beach
- Shastri Nagar Beach

How to Reach

From Port Blair

- By Sea (by ship) Port Blair- Great Nicobar around 36 hours

Most sighted Bird Species

- Asian Glossy Starling
- Long-tailed Parakeet
- Eastern Cattle Egret
- Common Myna
- Nicobar Parakeet
- Common Hill Myna
- Nicobar Imperial-Pigeon

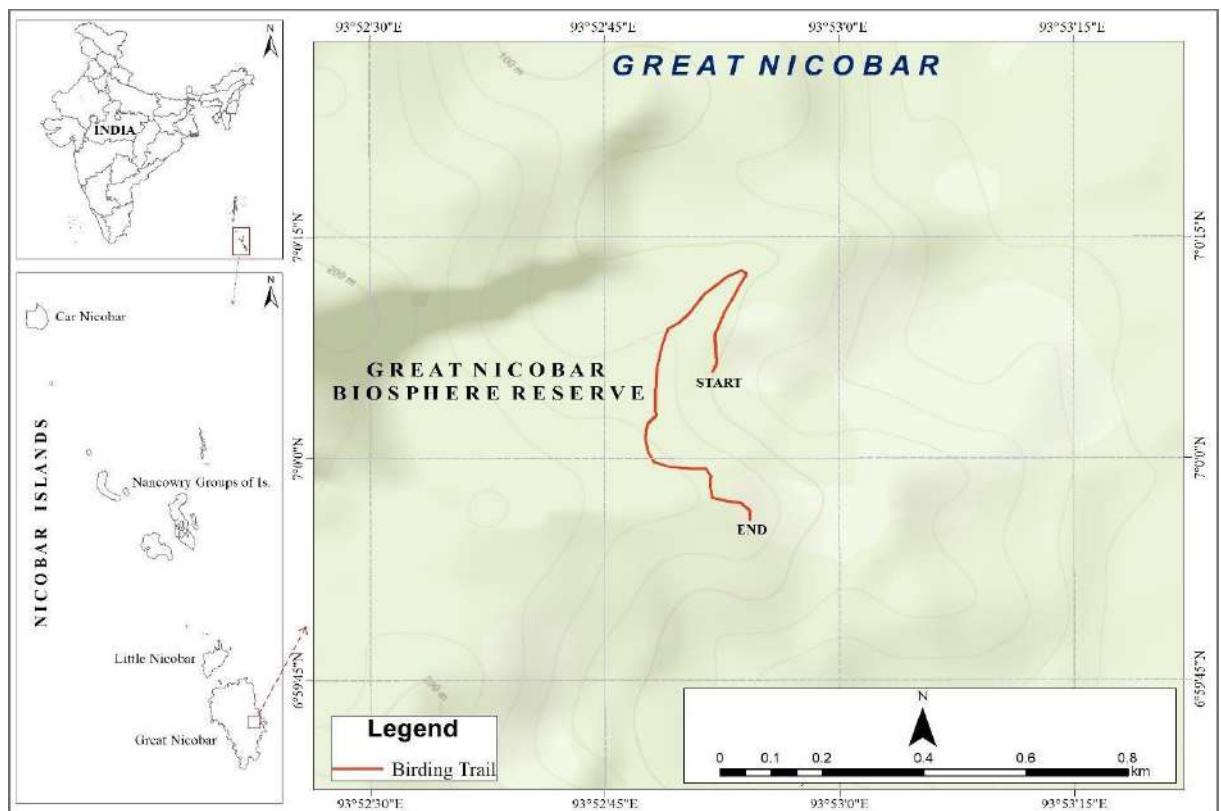


Fig. 1. Great Nicobar Birding Trail, Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island

2. MAGARNALLAH FOREST NURSERY AREA, CAMPBELL BAY, GREAT NICOBAR

Basic amenities & facilities near the trail

- Public Convenience (Toilets)
- Lodging and boarding (Government & Private guest houses)

Attractions near the trail

- B-Quarry Beach
- Joginder Nagar Beach
- Galathea Beach
- Laxman Beach
- Church Beach
- Indira Point Beach
- Gandhi Nagar Beach
- Laxmi Nagar Beach
- Shastri Nagar Beach

How to Reach

From Port Blair

- By Sea (by ship) Port Blair- Great Nicobar around 36 hours

Most sighted Bird Species

- Asian Openbill
- Asian Glossy Starling
- Nicobar Parakeet
- Plume-toed Swiftlet
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail
- Long-tailed Parakeet
- Barn Swallow

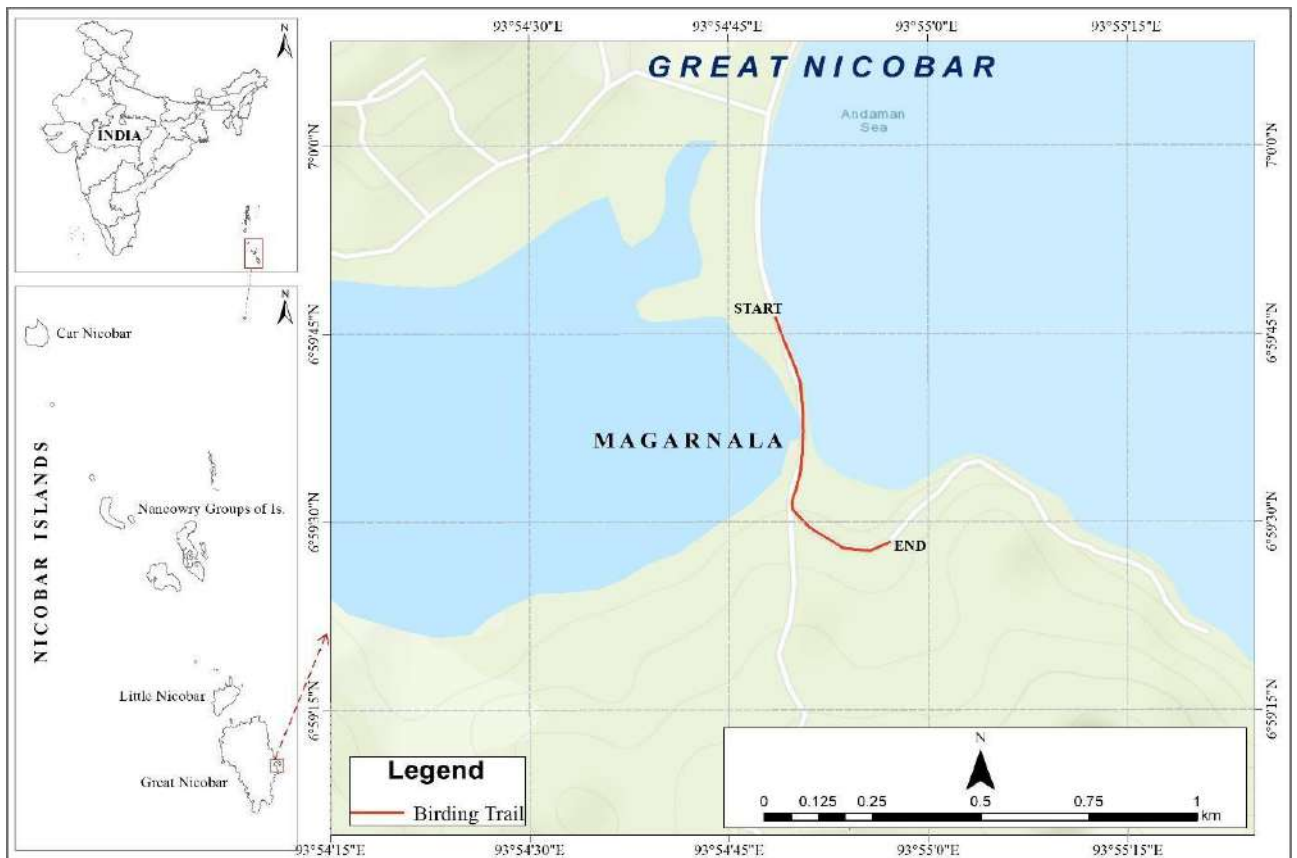


Fig. 2. Magarnallah, Birding Trail, Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island

COMMITTEE FOR DECIDING BIRDING TRAILS**ANNEXURE –A**

F.NO. M-17065/110/2023-P&P-Tsm-Tourism_AN/.....

अण्डमानतथानिकोबारप्रशासन

Andaman and Nicobar Administration

पर्यटननिदेशालय /Directorate of Tourism

Tel.No.03192-230381 Fax No.03192-230933

Port Blair dated 30 April, 2024

ORDER No...1127

The Competent Authority is pleased to constitute a Committee for listing out existing birding trails as well as recommending new birding trails in A & N Islands with the following composition:-

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 1. Director, ZSI, A & N Islands | - | Chairman |
| 2. DCF, Wildlife Division/his representative | - | Member |
| 3. Sr. Manager, Policy & Projects, DIPT | - | Member |
| 4. President, Avians Club, Port Blair | - | Member |

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the committee are as under:-

1. Mapping of all the existing Bird Watching trails on Google Map.
2. Listing details of birds visiting these trails(each trail wise).
3. Opening & closing season of the each Bird Watching trail.
4. Clearly stating how to reach and access these Bird Watching trails.
5. Listing out basic amenities near the existing Bird Watching trail, like facilities for food, accommodation and public conveniences.
6. Listing out basic amenities in the existing trails if available.
7. Listing out Tourism attractions in and around the existing Bird Watching trails.
8. Naming of the existing trails based on names of the most frequently sighted birds in the given trail.

The Committee shall submit its report and recommendations to Secretary, Tourism within 10 days from the issuance of this order.

This issue with the approval of competent authority.

Signature
Assistant Director (Admn.)
DIPT

To,
All Concerned

Office Oder Book:-**Copy to:-**

1. The Sr. PS to Chief Secretary, A&N Admn. for kind information of Chief Secretary, A&N Admn., Port Blair.
2. The PS to the Comm- Cum- Secretary (IP&T) for kind information of the Comm- Cum- Secretary (IP&T).
3. The PS to the Secretary (IP&T) for kind information of the Secretary (IP&T).
4. The DCF, Wildlife Division, Forest Department for kind information and necessary action.
5. The PA to the Spl. Secretary, IP&T for for kind information of the Spl. Secretary (IP&T).
6. PA to the Director, IP&T for kind information of the Director (IP&T).
7. PA to the Director, ZSI Port Blair for kind information and necessary action.
8. The Sr. Manager, P&P, DIPT for kind information and necessary action.
9. The President, Avians Club, Port Blair for kind information and necessary action.

Signature
Assistant Director (Admn.)

NORTH ANDAMAN

North Andaman Islands comprise of nearly 70 Islands and lies about 285 km south of Myanmar, between 12° 95' N and 92° 86' E covering an area of 1458 km². The important Islands are Landfall, Paget, Interview, Stewart, Narcondam, Smith and Sound. Kalpong, the only major perennial fresh water river in Andaman flows in North Andaman. Major settlements include Diglipur, Radhanagar, Shyamnagar, Aerial Bay, Mohanpur, Ramnagar, Kishorinagar and Kalighat. Vegetation typically constitutes of evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous, mangroves and littoral forest types. In addition, North Andaman is one among the 14 identified Biosphere Reserves of India constituting two important zones viz., core zone and the buffer zone (Negi, 1996). The Saddle Peak (732 m) that harbors a wide variety of species due to varied topographic and climatic conditions has been proposed as core zone and its surrounding areas as the buffer zone (Devraj, 2001). The anthropogenic influx from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh had adversely affected the natural resources of these Islands by increasing logging and encroachments, hence disturbing its ecological dynamics.

Saddle Peak National Park

Saddle Peak forests, declared as a National Park, in Diglipur Forest Division of North Andaman (13°15' to 13°41' N and 92°37' to 93° 7' E) are characterized as humid tropical evergreen forests with an extent of 33 km². The climate here is typically oceanic and the temperature usually varies between 20-30 °C. Generally during the month of June to October is the rainy season. The Saddle Peak National Park is surrounded by moist, tropical vegetation as well as deciduous evergreen forest. The species *Scolopia pusilla* and *Cleistanthus robustus* are found in these Islands that are not found in the mainland India. Saddle Peak at 732 m above sea level and it is the highest peak in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The North Andaman is a major group of Islands and known for rich species diversity and endemism.

Flora of North Andaman Islands

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one among the 26 mega diversity centers of plant biodiversity in world. Of all the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, North Andaman harbours a good variety of endemism (Reddy *et al.*, 2008) and species diversity (Reddy and Prasad, 2008). As per the Champion and Seth (1968) the predominant terrestrial vegetation types are North Andaman Forest Tropical Evergreen Forest (1A/C2), Andaman Semi-evergreen forest (2A/C1) and Andaman Moist deciduous forest. The existence of different forest types is due to the slight micro topographic and soil variations, which gives the scenario of top hill Evergreen Forest and low land Moist Deciduous Forest, with scattered Semi-evergreen. Irrespective of type, all the forest types show dense vegetation with climbers, canes, shrubs and herbs signifying the tropical wet evergreen nature. Presence of 66 percent of area under large patches in North Andaman is an indicative of low fragmentation rates and intactness of forest (Prasad *et al.*, 2008). The present study provided comprehensive vegetation ecological analysis for community structure and composition.

The vegetation is composed of five major natural classes adapted according to the nature of the soil, elevation, topographical structure and edaphic factors. Andaman Evergreen forests are most luxuriant type of forest, with canopy formed by giant *Dipterocarpus* sp. Tropical semi evergreen forests include both evergreen and deciduous species. The mangrove forest, which confines to sea washes soil is dominated by *Rhizophora* species while the littoral forest is dominated by *Manilkara littoralis* that forms a pure fringe on sandy beaches. Some of the important tree species are *Dipterocarpus gracilis*, *Atrocarpus chaplasha*, *Dipterocarpus grandiflorus*, *Hopea odorata*, *Pterospermum acerifolium*, *Calamus palustris*, *Dipterocarpus costatus*, *Cryptocarya ferrarsi*, *Pterocarpus dalbergioides*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Xanthophyllum andamanicum*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Calophylluminophyllum* and *Terminalia catappa*. The mangrove species are *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Bruguiera conjugate*, *Bruguiera cylindrical*, *Bruguiera parviflora*, *Avicennia officinalis* and *Kandeliacandel*.

Common birds of Saddle Peak National Park

Common Name	Scientific Name	Residential Status
Andaman Teal	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i> (Muller, 1842)	R
Andaman Black-crested Baza	<i>Aviceda leuphotes andamanica</i> Abdulali, 1817	R
Andaman Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis elgini</i> (Blyth, 1863)	R
Andaman Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela davisoni</i> Hume, 1873	R
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu s andamanensis</i> Tytler, 1865	R
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco perigrinus</i> Tunstall, 1771	WM
Andaman Crake	<i>Rallina canningi</i> (Blyth, 1863)	R
Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	R
Andaman Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumboides</i> (Hume, 1873)	R
Andaman Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia rufipennis</i> (Blyth, 1847)	R
Andaman Emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica maxima</i> Hartert, 1931	R
Andaman Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron chloropterus</i> (Blyth, 1840)	R
Andaman Green-Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea andamanica</i> (Abdualali, 1964)	R
Andaman Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri abbotti</i> (Oberholser, 1919)	R
Andaman Barn Owl	<i>Tyto deroepstorffi</i> (Hume, 1875)	R
Andaman Scops-Owl	<i>Otus balli</i> (Hume, 1873)	R
Oriental Scops-Owl	<i>Otus sunia</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	R

GREAT NICOBAR

The Great Nicobar Island is one of the 18 Biosphere Reserves created under the Man and Biosphere Programme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. It includes two National Parks: the Galathea National Park, which represents the Galathea river basin and the Campbell Bay National Park with high mountain ranges. The extremely high endemism and extraordinary diversity of species community levels make the Campbell Bay National Park one of the hottest hotspots in the world. The Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve was included in UNESCO-MAB Network during May, 2013.

The fauna consists of over 2050 species of animals. The vertebrate fauna includes 22 species of mammals, 106 species of birds, 32 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians and 314 species of fishes (Sivaperuman et al. 2018). Invertebrates are represented by more than 400 species of insects, including 73 species of butterflies and 155 species of moths, and a large number of other invertebrate species that await discovery. The important faunal elements of the biosphere reserve include the Nicobar treeshrew, Nicobar wild boar, long-tailed macaque, Nicobarcivet, Nicobar pigeon, Nicobar megapode, Great Nicobar serpent eagle, leatherback turtle, and reticulated python. The important faunal elements of the biosphere reserve include the Nicobar longtailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), Nicobar treeshrew (*Tupaia nicobarica*), Nicobar megapode (*Megapodius frycinet*), Nicobar serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*), Nicobar parakeet (*Psittacula caniceps*), and the edible-nest swiftlet (*Collocalia fuciphaga*).

Common birds of Great Nicobar

Nicobar little green heron *Butorides striatus spodiogaster* (Sharpe, 1894) Nicobar Malayan night-heron *Goraschius melanolophus minor* (Hachisuka, 1926) Great Nicobar serpent eagle *Spilornis klossi* (Richmond, 1903)

South Nicobar megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis abbotti* (Oberholser, 1919) Nicobar blue-breasted rail *Gallirallus striatus nicobariensis* (Abdulali, 1967)

Great Nicobar white-breasted waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus midnicobaricus* (Abdulali, 1979) Nicobar wood pigeon *Columba palumboides nicobarica* (Abdulali, 1964)

Nicobar pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* (Linnaeus, 1758) Nicobar green pigeon *Treron chloroptera* (Blyth, 1846) Nicobar imperial pigeon *Ducula nicobarica* (Blyth, 1858) Nicobar parakeet *Psittacula caniceps* (Blyth, 1846)

Nicobar oriental scops-owl *Otus sunia nicobaricus* (Hodgson, 1836) Nicobar scops-owl *Otus alius* (Rasmussen, 1998)

Nicobar brown hawk-owl *Ninox scutulata rexpimenti* (Abdulali, 1979) Nicobar hooded pitta *Pitta sordid abbotti* (Richmond, 1903)

Great Nicobar hill myna *Gracula javensis halibretha* (Oberholser, 1926) Nicobar black-naped oriole *Oriolus chinensis macrourus* (Blyth, 1846) Nicobar racket-tailed drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus nicobariensis* (Baker, 1918)

Table 1. Endemic Birds of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Sl. No.	Common Name	Species Names	IUCN
	Anseriformes		
	Anatidae		
1.	Andaman Teal	<i>Anas albogularis</i> (Muller, 1842)	VU
	Accipitriformes		
	Accipitridae		
2.	Andaman Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis elgini</i> (Blyth, 1863)	VU
3.	Central Nicobar Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis minimus</i> Hume, 1873	NE
4.	Great Nicobar Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis klossi</i> Richmond, 1903	NT
5.	Nicobar Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter butleri</i> (Gurney, 1898)	VU
	Galliformes		
	Megapodiidae		
6.	Nicobar Megapode	<i>Megapodius nicobariensis</i> Blyth, 1846	VU
7.	South Nicobar Megapode	<i>Megapodius nicobariensis abbotti</i> Oberholser, 1919	NE
	Gruiformes		
	Rallidae		
8.	AndamanCrake	<i>Rallina canningi</i> (Blyth, 1863)	LC
	Columbiformes		
	Columbidae		
9.	Andaman Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumboides</i> (Hume, 1873)	NT
10.	Andaman Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia rufipennis</i> Blyth, 1846	NT
11.	Andaman Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron chloropterus</i> (Blyth, 1840)	NT
12.	Nicobar Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula nicobarica</i> Blyth, 1858	LC
	Psittaciformes		
	Psittaculidae		
13.	Nicobar Parakeet	<i>Psittacula caniceps</i> (Blyth, 1846)	NT
	Cuculiformes		
	Cuculidae		
14.	Andaman Coucal	<i>Centropus andamanensis</i> (Beavan, 1867)	LC
	Strigiformes		
	Tytonidae		
15.	Andaman Barn Owl	<i>Tyto deroepstorffi</i> (Hume, 1875)	LC
	Strigidae		
16.	Andaman Scops-Owl	<i>Otus balli</i> (Hume, 1873)	LC
17.	Nicobar Scops-Owl	<i>Otus alius</i> Rasmussen, 1998	NT
18.	Hume's Boobook	<i>Ninox obscura</i> Hume, 1872	LC
19.	Andaman Boobook	<i>Ninox affinis</i> Beavan, 1867	LC
	Caprimulgiformes		
	Caprimulgidae		

20.	Andaman Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus andamanicus</i> Hume, 1873	LC
	Bucerotiformes		
	Bucerotidae		
21.	Narcondam Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros narcondami</i> (Hume, 1873)	EN
	Piciformes		
	Picidae		
22.	Andaman Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus hodgei</i> (Blyth, 1860)	VU
	Passeriformes		
	Campephagidae		
23.	Andaman Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina Dobsoni</i> (Ball, 1872)	NT
	Pycnonotidae		
24.	Andaman Bulbul	<i>Brachypodius fuscoflavescens</i> (Hume, 1875)	LC
25.	Nicobar Bulbul	<i>Ixos nicobariensis</i> Moore, 1854	NT
	Muscicapidae		
26.	Andaman Shama	<i>Kittacincla albiventris</i> (Blyth, 1858)	LC
	Muscicapidae		
27.	Nicobar Jungle-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis nicobaricus</i> Richnond, 1903	NT
	Dicaeidae		
28.	Andaman Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum virescens</i> Hume, 1873	LC
	Sturnidae		
29.	White-headed Starling	<i>Sturnia erythropygia</i> (Blyth, 1846)	LC
	Dicruridae		
30.	Andaman Drongo	<i>Dicrurus andamanensis</i> Beavan, 1867	LC
	Corvidae		
31.	Andaman Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta bayleyi</i> Blyth, 1863	VU