

Gujarat's Reintroduction Project on Grey Hornbill

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Why in News?

Recently, Grey Hornbill has recorded four consecutive years of successful breeding following its reintroduction in the Gir landscape.

- **Indian Grey Hornbill reintroduction programme** - The initiative was undertaken by the Gujarat Forest Department and its conservation partners.



- **Reintroduced in** - 2021
- **Source Population** - The birds were translocated from healthy hornbill populations in Gujarat's Aravalli forests after extensive habitat assessments confirmed that Gir shall provide suitable ecological conditions.
- **Phased Release** - A total of 40 hornbills was introduced to Gir in two distinct waves
 - **Phase I (2021-2022)** - 28 birds released.
 - **Phase II (2023)** - 12 birds released.
- The birds have adapted to the environment, secured territorial

boundaries, and bred successfully every single year since their initial release.

- **Telemetry Tracking** - 11 males were outfitted with satellite transmitters to monitor long-term daily ranging, territorial habits, and behavioural shifts.
- **Forest Preference** - The birds showed preference for Gir's native dry ***mixed deciduous and teak forests***.
- Birds dispersing outside the protected area frequently used orchards, water bodies, and areas close to human settlements.
- **Nest Selection** - Hornbills selected ***mature trees with large trunk girths*** for nesting, particularly *Sterculia urens* and *Terminalia bellirica*.
- **Dietary Base** - Fruits of banyan, peepal, karamda, and dhraman, supplemented by insects and other invertebrates.
- **Ecological role** - A long-distance seed disperser, helping regenerate forests by transporting seeds of fruit-bearing trees across large areas.
- **Cause of Disappearance** - Historical records suggest that hunting, rather than habitat degradation, was the primary reason for its disappearance.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN Red List** - Least Concern (LC).
 - **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** - Schedule II.

Gir National Park and Sanctuary - Located in Gujarat, it is the sole global refuge of the wild Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*).

Reference

[The Hindu | Indian Grey Hornbill](#)