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**THE SPECIALIST GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF GALLIFORMES WORLDWIDE**

Dr Ravi Sankaran  
Salim ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History  
Kalampalagam PO  
Coimbatore 641 010  
India

10th September 1993

Dear Dr Sankaran,

Please find enclosed a copy of parts of the draft of the Megapode Action Plan, the second part of the Galliformes Action Plan trilogy arising from the Conservation Assessment Workshop that René Dekker has corresponded with you about. René has asked me send these pages to you for comment, so that you can make sure that all details are correct, which is important as the Action Plan will be widely circulated by the Species Survival Commission of IUCN.

The report of the Conservation Assessment Workshop was edited to take account of all comments received as a result of our consultation during March and April. The draft of that report was sent to the Captive Breeding Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission in mid-May for production. The three WPA Specialist Groups involved in that assessment are now producing Action Plans to be published in the SSC Action Plan series and we should be grateful if you comment in detail on the draft material enclosed.

I should be grateful if you would let me have any comments as soon as you are able. Please bear in mind that the production of the Action Plan in subject to a strict timetable. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that any comments that you may have **MUST REACH US BEFORE 15th October.**

Yours sincerely,

Phil McGowan

*P.S. Please give my regards to Dr Vijayan.*

24 September 1993

To  
Dr P McGowan  
Executive Secretary  
W.P.A. International  
P.O Box 5  
Lower Basildon  
Reading RG8 9PF

Dear Dr McGowan,

I recieved your letter yesterday morning. I am enclosing my comments on the parts of the draft of the Megapode Action Plan that you have enclosed. I think it is alright, though some of the changes that I have proposed will give a truer picture.

I am also enclosing parts (on the status) of the report that I am currently working on, which I hope will be ready in another 15 to 20 days. This should also enable you to have a clearer picture of the status of the Nicobar Scrubfowl. Unfortunately, I have not yet prepared the maps, so I am only enclosing a very rough version of what I hope the final form will look like.

With regard to the 5 year action plan, and the proposed research project:

- 1) SACON has a project on the megapodes and other endemic avifauna of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. We hope to establish a field station in November this year, to study the ecology of the species. A research scholar will most probably be working towards a Ph.D on this species. It thus appears that the proposed research project of the Megapode Specialist Group Action Plan is very similar to the one that we intend undertaking.
- 2) I will be surveying the remainder Islands (9) from December onwards, and put in more effort in Katchall Island to see if there are more populations. Katchall was an inadequately surveyed Island.
- 3) We are unsure if we can keep to our schedule as was planned last year. While funds to do the 5 month survey were given last year, funds have not been released as of now, which may cause a delay in restarting work this year.
- 4) From the draft Action Plan, are we to assume that funds may be available to do this study? As a proposal has already been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for funding, and it has been approved in principle, we will be unable to submit a proposal to do the same. However, a one time grant of about Rs 50,000 (US \$ 2000) should be more than adequate to keep us going for upto 4 months, and will result in us getting down to work as planned rather than 5 or 6 months hence. Could you please let us know about the possibility of this and in what form you would expect the application for grants to be made?

I will be glad to be of any further assistance, and I do hope that you find the comments and enclosed excerpt of use.

Yours sincerely

R Sankaran