

Effect of anthropogenic disturbance on the abundance and habitat occupancy of two endemic hornbill species in Buton island, Sulawesi

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Summary

The Red-knobbed Hornbill *Rhyticeros cassidix* and the Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus* are endemic to Sulawesi. This study assessed the effect of anthropogenic disturbance on these two species in Lambusango forest, Buton, south-east Sulawesi. Data were collected between 2005 and 2007 in six study sites which varied in their levels of disturbance. Two of the lightly disturbed and two of the more heavily disturbed sites were within 'protection forest' whereas the rest were classified as 'production forest'. We used point counts with distance sampling to survey the hornbills. Habitat data were also collected at each of the points and related to hornbill 'occupancy' with the program PRESENCE. Both hornbills were estimated to be at higher density in the lightly disturbed forest but the level of disturbance had more of a detrimental effect on Red-knobbed Hornbill than on Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill. Lightly disturbed forest had significantly more large trees than the heavily disturbed forest but there was no difference in the abundance of figs. Using four covariates (disturbance level, protection status, number of large trees, and number of figs), 99% of presence/absence of Red-knobbed Hornbills at the points could be explained by habitat disturbance and 87% by forest status; the same covariates explained 76% of presence/absence for the Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill with abundance of large trees as the most important factor. These results support the notion that Red-knobbed Hornbill is more sensitive to anthropogenic disturbance and its conservation is highly dependent upon the preservation of forest habitats with low levels of disturbance.

Introduction

Sulawesi and its associated islands are located in Wallacea and support a combination of Oriental and Australasian biotas; levels of endemism are high in comparison to other islands in Indonesia (O'Brien and Kinnaird 2000, Whitten *et al.* 2002). At least 280 bird species are recorded and 41 (14.6%) species and 17 genera are endemic (Coates *et al.* 1997, Whitten *et al.* 2002). There are two endemic hornbills, Red-knobbed Hornbill *Rhyticeros cassidix* and Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus* (Coates *et al.* 1997) which are thought to be dependent on forest below 2,000 m asl (Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007). Sulawesi is mostly mountainous with only 25% of its area classified as lowlands (Holmes 2002). Between 1985 and 1997, Sulawesi suffered an 89% loss of lowland forest because of commercial logging, transmigration, and estate crop plantation (FWI/GFW 2002). This is one of the highest rates of deforestation amongst all of the larger islands in Indonesia (FWI/GFW 2002). The influx of migrants has caused additional pressure on the forest through the increase in illegal logging and agricultural encroachment (Whitten *et al.* 2002).

Buton Island, with Lambusango forest at its centre, lies in the south-eastern part of Sulawesi. The forest covers approximately 35,000 ha, and supports a high level of animal biodiversity including Lowland Anoa *Bubalus depressicornis* and Buton Macaque *Macaca ochreata brunnes-cens*. Because of the proximity to many settlements, including Buton's largest town Bau-bau, Lambusango forest is subjected to different forms of anthropogenic pressures such as agricultural encroachment, uncontrolled harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFP), as well as bushmeat hunting and asphalt mining (Singer and Purwanto 2006).

Within Sulawesi, the Red-knobbed Hornbill is usually more abundant than the Sulawesi Tardive Hornbill and has a larger home range (Kinnaird and O'Brien 2005). Both species have high proportions of fruit in their diet, although the Red-knobbed Hornbill is more dependent on figs (Kinnaird and O'Brien 2005, Walker 2007). As with other hornbill species, because of their large size and specific diet, they could be considered as umbrella species and indicators of forest health. They are also able to move between forest patches and, as seed dispersers, they may have an important role in forest regeneration (Whitney and Smith 1998).

The response of hornbill species to disturbance is varied. Whitney and Smith (1998) found that the African *Ceratogymna* hornbill species were reliant on the continued presence of particular nesting trees (Kalina 1988) and Marsden and Jones (1997) indicated something similar for the Sumba Hornbill. Several studies have suggested that many hornbill species' abundance is affected by logging because of the paucity of fruiting trees (Anggraini *et al.* 2000, Cleary *et al.* 2007). A previous study of the Red-knobbed Hornbill suggests that it avoids secondary forest and agro-forest (Waltert *et al.* 2004) but there has been no proper evaluation of the response of either species to different levels of disturbance. Therefore, in this study we evaluate the effect of disturbance on the occupancy patterns and the abundance of these insular hornbill populations and aim to identify the habitat features that are associated with hornbill occupancy.

Study area and Methods

Study area

This study was carried out in Lambusango forest during 2005–2007. The forest (5°09'–5°24'S, 122°43'–23°07'E) lies in the centre of Buton island, south-east Sulawesi, Indonesia at an elevation of 50–780 m asl (Singer and Purwanto 2006). The 35,000 ha forest covers protected areas (combining wildlife reserve and nature reserve) as well as production and protection forests (Figure 1). At least 95 forest bird species have been recorded, with 37% endemic to Sulawesi (Singer and Purwanto 2006).

There were six study sites evenly distributed within Lambusango, four situated in forest reserves (Anoa, Lapago, Wahalaka, and Wabalamba) and two in the limited production forest (Lawele and Lasolo) which are forests allocated for low-intensity timber production (FWI/GFW 2002) (Figure 1). Two disturbance levels characterise the Lambusango forest; Anoa, Lapago, and Lawele in the northern part are considered to be less disturbed, and Lasolo, Wabalamba and Wahalaka in the southern part, more heavily disturbed (Seymour 2004, Winarni 2009, Winarni and Jones 2009). This distinction was based on differences in the structure of the dominant vegetation (Figure 1): the lightly disturbed habitats supported more *Pandanus* spp., palms, lianas, ferns; the more heavily disturbed habitats showed the opposite and also had higher canopy openness and more fallen trees (Winarni 2009, Winarni and Jones 2009).

Hornbill survey

As part of the general Lambusango Forest Conservation Project, hornbills were surveyed using the Variable Circular Plot method (point counts with distance estimates to each contact) following Reynolds *et al.* (1980) and Jones *et al.* (1995) at the six study sites. Surveys were conducted in the dry season (July–August) in 2005 and in the dry and wet seasons (May–June) in 2006 and 2007.

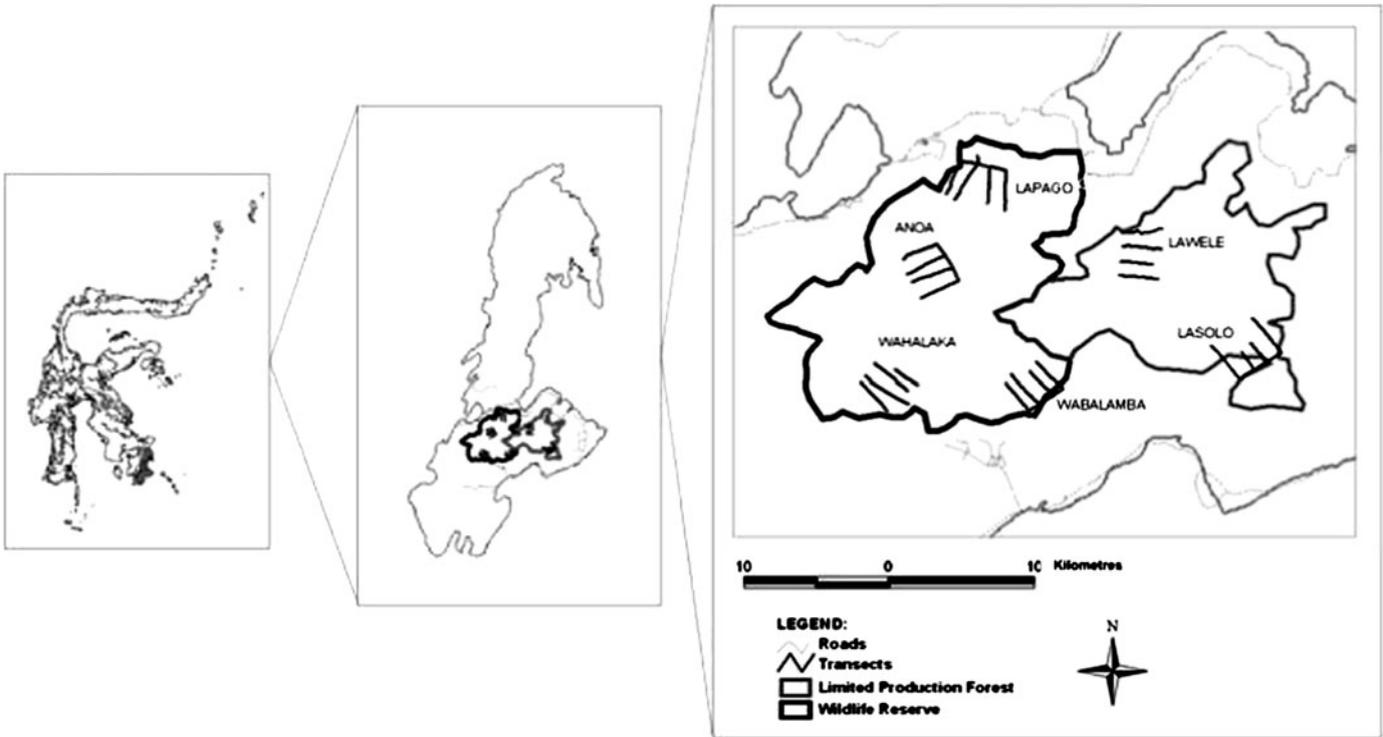


Figure 1. The forest of Lambusango relative to Buton island and Sulawesi, and the distribution of study sites.

The survey in 2005 excluded the newly set-up transects in Lasolo. The number of actual sampling days is presented in Table 1.

The placement of points was not random because of problems of accessibility; they were laid out on four transects of 3 km length at each study site. The distance between transects was 1 km and each transect was marked at 50 m intervals. Points were located at 150 m intervals along each of the four transects at each study sites up to 900 m and were visited between 06h00 and 08h00. Preliminary surveys in the area suggested that bird activity (including that of hornbills) started to increase at 06h00 and dropped off markedly after 08h00 hours. Therefore we decided to use a 150-m interval between adjacent points to reduce the travelling distance between each point and increase the number of points each day (Winarni 2009). Positions of individuals at a point were noted to avoid double counting.

There were two groups of recorders, each of 2–3 people, who stayed at each point and recorded any birds detected around the central point for 10 minutes without the use of a settling down period (Lee and Marsden 2008). Each group visited different points each day and made counts only once at each point. When one group conducted a count at one point, then the other group would replicate the point on the following day. A single survey visit with replication resulted in 28 point count stations at each study site or 168 point count stations in total. All hornbills heard and seen were recorded and an estimate of distance was made to each contact. Flying birds were excluded. One week prior to survey, all observers were trained in bird identification and distance estimation.

Habitat assessment

We used the same point count stations to count figs and large trees. These variables were quantified within a 20 m radius circular area around the points. Figs were defined as any strangling figs, and large trees were defined as any trees with diameter at breast height (DBH) > 50 cm within the area. Mann-Whitney U-tests were used to compare the densities of large trees and figs between the two disturbance levels because the densities were not normally distributed and not easily transformed.

Density analysis

DISTANCE 5.0 (Thomas *et al.* 2006) was used to estimate the densities of the two hornbill species in each habitat category, the less heavily (Anoa, Lapago, and Lawele) and more heavily (Lasolo, Wabalamba and Wahalaka) disturbed forests (Buckland *et al.* 2001). For this analysis, all data from different observers, different seasons, and from the two disturbance levels during 2005–2007 were pooled and then post-stratified to obtain density estimates for less disturbed and more disturbed habitats (Marsden *et al.* 2001). This provides larger sample sizes and so increases precision (Marsden 1999). Distances over 100 m were truncated because they comprised only

Table 1. Number of actual sampling days at each study site per year.

	Number of days surveyed			Total
	2005	2006	2007	
Lightly disturbed habitats				
Anoa	4	8	4	16
Lapago	4	6	4	14
Lawele	4	8	12	24
Heavily disturbed habitats				
Lasolo	0	8	14	22
Wabalamba	4	7	8	19
Wahalaka	4	7	1	12

0.9% of the observations and they can adversely affect the modeling of the detection function within Distance (Buckland *et al.* 2001). Three detection functions were fitted – half-normal, uniform, and hazard rate. The best fit was selected based on the minimum AIC (Akaike's Information Criterion) provided by the program (Buckland *et al.* 2001). Differences in density estimates between lightly disturbed (\bar{D}_0) and heavily disturbed sites (\bar{D}_1) were tested using Z tests as described in Buckland *et al.* (2001).

Occupancy analysis

The program PRESENCE vers 2.2 (MacKenzie *et al.* 2002, MacKenzie *et al.* 2006) was used to model the habitat factors associated with the presence/absence of hornbills at each point station in the study sites per year. This is a likelihood-based method which estimates the proportion of area occupied when detections are varied (MacKenzie *et al.* 2006). Single species, multi-season analyses were used with four covariates – degree of disturbance (light or heavy), forest status (protected or production), number of large trees, and number of figs. Considering that hornbills are easily detected by calls and appearance, we assumed that the species was identified correctly, the detection probability (p) was constant over time, and over different disturbance levels (Hadiprakarsa 2008) and we also assumed that occupancy (Ψ) is affected by different covariates but not over time. Models used were each of the four covariates and combination of covariates, creating 15 different models for each species. Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) was used to rank the candidate models in the model selection. AIC is defined as $-2 \ln(L) + 2k$ where L is likelihood and k is the number of parameters (Burnham and Anderson 2004). In this study, we used the models selected to make inferences on habitat selection of the two hornbill species (MacKenzie *et al.* 2006). In addition to using the lowest AIC values to select the most parsimonious model, we also summed the AIC weight (w) for each covariate used in all models to select which covariate was the best of the habitat association of each hornbill species. Covariates used in the highest ranked models will give larger total AIC weights than those which appear in the lowest ranked (Burnham and Anderson 2004, MacKenzie *et al.* 2006).

Results

Variations of tree and fig abundance between study sites

The lightly disturbed habitats had significantly more large trees than the heavily disturbed habitats (lightly disturbed $\bar{x} = 4.73 \pm 0.28$ SE; heavily disturbed $\bar{x} = 3.74 \pm 0.27$ SE; Mann-Whitney $U = 2642.0$, $Z = -2.612$; $P < 0.001$). Amongst the study sites, distribution of large trees was more variable. Lawele, a lightly disturbed habitat ($\bar{x} = 5.96 \pm 0.44$ SE) had the most large trees followed by Lasolo ($\bar{x} = 5.36 \pm 0.42$ SE) and then Wahalaka ($\bar{x} = 2.71 \pm 0.47$ SE) (Figure 2). Fig abundance, however, was not different between the two disturbance levels (lightly disturbed $\bar{x} = 0.24 \pm 0.06$ SE; heavily disturbed $\bar{x} = 0.36 \pm 0.10$ SE; Mann-Whitney $U = 3472.0$; $Z = -0.257$; $P = 0.80$). Wabalamba ($\bar{x} = 0.50 \pm 0.24$ SE), the heavily disturbed habitat, had most figs whereas Anoa, one of the lightly disturbed habitats ($\bar{x} = 0.14 \pm 0.07$ SE) had the fewest (Figure 2).

Hornbill abundance

In total, 614 observations were recorded for the two hornbill species during 2005–2007 (Red-knobbed Hornbill = 236 observations, Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill = 378 observations, 956 birds in total. Red-knobbed Hornbills were recorded at 75 points across all study sites whereas Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbills were recorded at 116 points. Number of observations for Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill was higher than for Red-knobbed Hornbill at all sites except Lapago and Lawele (Table 2). More hornbills were seen in the lightly disturbed forest (Table 2) but the difference was only significant for Red-knobbed Hornbill (Red-knobbed Hornbill $U = 1716.0$, $Z = -6.33$, $P < 0.05$;

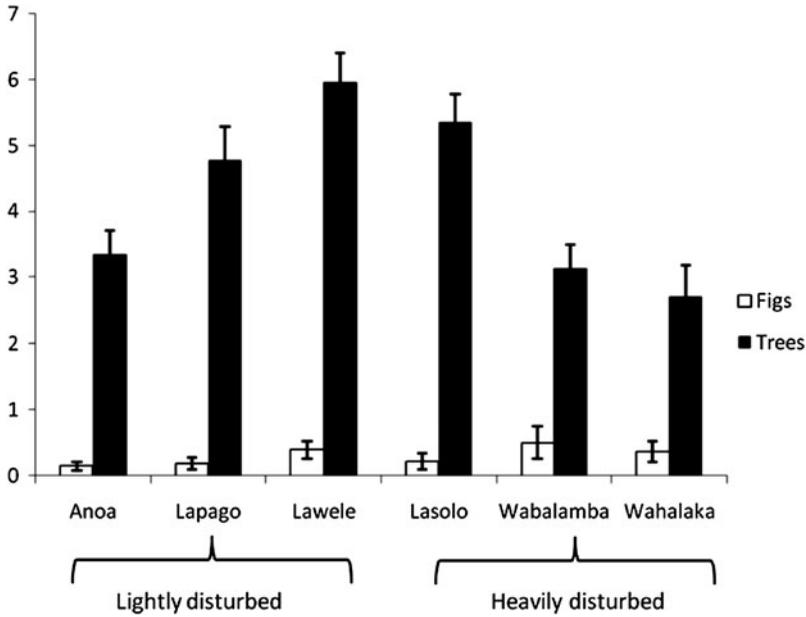


Figure 2. Distribution of figs and large trees (DBH > 50 cm) within study sites.

Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbills ($U = 3454.0, Z = -0.24, P > 0.05$). The Distance analysis fitted a uniform detection function and suggested that the Red-knobbed Hornbills were at significantly higher density in the lightly disturbed habitats but there was no difference for Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbills ($-1.96 < Z < 1.96$) (Table 2; Figure 4).

Table 2. Density estimations of Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill and Red-knobbed Hornbill at different habitats and study sites within Lambusango forest.

	Red-knobbed Hornbill	Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill
Number of observations	236	378
Lightly disturbed habitats	204	198
Anoa	27	40
Lapago	73	55
Lawele	104	103
Heavily disturbed habitats	32	180
Lasolo	10	54
Wabalamba	17	81
Wahalaka	5	45
Density estimates (pooled)	0.04 grp/ha	0.04 grp/ha
Density - Lightly disturbed ± SE	0.07 grp/ha ± 0.012	0.04 grp/ha ± 0.004
Density - Heavily disturbed ± SE	0.01 grp/ha ± 0.003	0.03 grp/ha ± 0.004
Z test density estimates lightly vs heavily disturbed	4.65	1.49
Density - Protected area	0.04 grp/ha ± 0.008	0.03 grp/ha ± 0.008
Density - Production forest	0.04 grp/ha ± 0.008	0.04 grp/ha ± 0.010
Z test density estimates protected vs unprotected status	0.91	0.05
Naïve occupancy estimate	0.2738	0.5178

Factors affecting forest habitat occupancy by hornbills

The occupancy analysis created 15 models for each hornbill species with different combinations of the covariates (Tables 3 and 4). The naïve occupancy estimate for Red-knobbed Hornbill was 0.2738 and Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill was 0.5179. For Red-knobbed Hornbill, the model with the disturbance level and forest status covariates is the most parsimonious, while the model with large trees was the one selected for Sulawesi Tarictic hornbills (Tables 3 and 4). In support of these results, when we summed the AIC weights of each covariate, disturbance levels (99.8%) and forest status (86.8%) appeared as the important predictors for Red-knobbed Hornbill occupancy (Table 5) and large trees (76.3%) for Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill. Figs were not good predictors of the presence of hornbills.

Discussion

Abundance and occupancy preference of hornbills

Hornbills are secondary cavity nesters and prefer live, tall, and large trees (Poonswad 1995, Kinnaid and O'Brien 2007). Hornbills may vary in their choice of habitat and may tolerate recently logged areas (Marsden 1999). The abundance of hornbills is known to be related to food availability and in some species is also negatively related to habitat disturbance due to lower availability of food resource (Anggraini *et al.* 2000). Habitat destruction such as logging or forest fire may reduce numbers of their preferred nesting trees (Cahill and Walker 2000, Sodhi *et al.* 2004). In this study, disturbance seemed to affect the availability of large trees rather than fig availability with the lightly disturbed habitat containing more potential nesting trees than the heavily disturbed habitats (see also Jones *et al.* 1995, Marsden and Pilgrim 2003).

Both Red-knobbed and Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbills were more abundant in the least disturbed forest although only Red-knobbed Hornbill was significantly so. Previous studies have suggested that both species are able to live in a variety of forest types from primary to more disturbed

Table 3. Model likelihood of Red-knobbed Hornbill occupancy using four covariates: disturbance (dist), forest status (status), number of large trees (trees), and number of figs (fig).

Model	AIC	Δ AIC	w	Model Likelihood	K	-2L
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status}), p(\cdot)$	330.03	0	0.3716	1	4	322.03
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status} + \text{trees}), p(\cdot)$	331.10	1.07	0.2176	0.5857	5	321.10
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	331.60	1.57	0.1695	0.4561	5	321.60
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status} + \text{tree} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	332.52	2.49	0.1070	0.2879	6	320.52
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{trees}), p(\cdot)$	334.00	3.97	0.0511	0.1374	4	326.00
$\Psi(\text{dist}), p(\cdot)$	334.56	4.53	0.0386	0.1038	3	328.56
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{tree} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	335.37	5.34	0.0257	0.0693	5	325.37
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	336.22	6.19	0.0168	0.0453	4	328.22
$\Psi(\text{status} + \text{trees}), p(\cdot)$	342.21	12.18	0.0008	0.0023	4	334.21
$\Psi(\text{status} + \text{tree} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	343.08	13.05	0.0005	0.0015	5	333.08
$\Psi(\text{status}), p(\cdot)$	344.28	14.25	0.0003	0.0008	3	338.28
$\Psi(\text{status} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	345.50	15.47	0.0002	0.0004	4	337.50
$\Psi(\text{trees}), p(\cdot)$	346.45	16.42	0.0001	0.0003	3	340.45
$\Psi(\text{tree} + \text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	347.36	17.33	0.0001	0.0002	4	339.36
$\Psi(\text{fig}), p(\cdot)$	351.92	21.89	0	0	3	345.92

Notes: Ψ is the probability a site is occupied by hornbill species and p is the probability of detecting hornbill in j th survey where $\Psi(\cdot)p(\cdot)$ assumes that hornbills presence and detection probability are constant across sites, Δ AIC is the difference in AIC values between each model with the low (best) model, w is the AIC model weight, K is the number of parameters in the model, -2l is twice the negative log-likelihood e.

Table 4. Model likelihood of Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill occupancy using four covariates: disturbance (dist), forest status (status), number of large trees (trees), and number of figs (fig).

Model	AIC	Δ AIC	w	Model Likelihood	K	-2L
$\Psi(\text{trees}),p(\cdot)$	504.07	0	0.2208	1	3	498.07
$\Psi(\text{status}),p(\cdot)$	505.39	1.32	0.1141	0.5169	3	499.39
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{trees}),p(\cdot)$	505.47	1.40	0.1096	0.4966	4	497.47
$\Psi(\text{status} + \text{tree} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	505.50	1.43	0.1080	0.4892	5	495.50
$\Psi(\text{status} + \text{tree}),p(\cdot)$	505.57	1.50	0.1043	0.4724	4	497.57
$\Psi(\text{tree} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	505.71	1.64	0.0972	0.4404	4	497.71
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status}),p(\cdot)$	507.19	3.12	0.0464	0.2101	4	499.19
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status} + \text{trees}),p(\cdot)$	507.37	3.30	0.0424	0.192	5	497.37
$\Psi(\text{status} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	507.38	3.31	0.0422	0.1911	4	499.38
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{tree} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	507.46	3.39	0.0405	0.1836	5	497.46
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status} + \text{tree} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	507.49	3.42	0.0399	0.1809	6	495.49
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{status} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	509.08	5.01	0.018	0.0817	5	499.08
$\Psi(\text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	510.99	6.92	0.0069	0.0314	3	504.99
$\Psi(\text{dist}),p(\cdot)$	511.00	6.93	0.0069	0.0313	3	505.00
$\Psi(\text{dist} + \text{fig}),p(\cdot)$	512.90	8.83	0.0027	0.0121	4	504.90

See notes under Table 3 for explanation of symbols

habitats but exist in the latter if there is still a high proportion of native forest cover (Waltert *et al.* 2004, Sodhi *et al.* 2004). Waltert *et al.* (2004) found that Red-knobbed Hornbill was absent in secondary forest and agro-forest area while Sodhi *et al.* (2004) found both absent in plantations. Alvard and Winarni (1999) indicated that Red-knobbed Hornbills were more common in a forest close to horticultural activities, although soil differences might also play a role – they were absent in forest on ultrabasic soils while Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill occurred in forests on both ultrabasic and limestone soils.

The ability to survive in disturbed habitats varies between hornbill species (Datta 1998, Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007) and in this case the effect of disturbance was more noticeable in Red-knobbed Hornbill than in Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill. Red-knobbed Hornbill showed a preference for the less disturbed habitats and this was reflected in its densities, presence at individual stations, and its habitat occupancy. Research has shown that abundance and distribution of the wide-ranging Red-knobbed Hornbill is resource-limited, particularly by figs, and their presence and movement is related to their search for figs (Kinnaird *et al.* 1996, Kinnaird and O'Brien 2005; Hadiprakarsa *et al.* 2007). In Lambusango, however, the Red-knobbed Hornbill seemed to be affected more by the availability of potential nesting trees rather than the density of figs. There is also the possibility that the phenology of the figs may be more important than their presence alone.

Occupancy was less predictable for Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill and its presence does not seem to be strongly correlated with the level of disturbance. This is a small-bodied, cooperatively breeding hornbill with a small home range which appears to be reluctant to move to new, unknown patches (Meijaard *et al.* 2005, Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007). Small hornbills also tend to have wider diets and are able to rely on fruit resources within territories (O'Brien 1997, Hadiprakarsa *et al.* 2007,

Table 5. Sum weights of AIC for each covariate to explain the importance for hornbill occupancy.

Covariates	Red-knobbed Hornbill	Sulawesi Tarictic Hornbill
Disturbance	0.998	0.306
Forest status	0.868	0.515
Large trees	0.403	0.763
Figs	0.320	0.355

Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007). The pattern of occupancy by Sulawesi Tropic Hornbills in Lambusango appears to be influenced by the presence of large trees but further research is required to determine whether this is typical throughout its range. Large trees are required for nesting (Poonswad 1995, Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007) and it is the larger trees within the high canopy which may produce the larger fruit crops (Johns 1987, Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007).

Although forest status was an important predictor of habitat occupancy by Red-knobbed Hornbill, protection status did not figure in the occupancy analysis and was not related to disturbance. In Indonesia, many of the protected areas are not secure from deforestation (Curran *et al.* 2004, Linkie *et al.* 2004, Gaveau *et al.* 2007). In Sulawesi, < 20% optimal habitat for Red-knobbed and Sulawesi Tropic Hornbills is within protected areas (Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007). However, the protected status may still effectively decelerate deforestation particularly from large-scale mechanised logging operations (Gaveau *et al.* 2007). A 2004 spatial analysis of Lambusango (Coles 2006) demonstrated that although most of the forest was still in a reasonable condition, even within protected areas there was still considerable rattan extraction and there is no guarantee that protected status is able to prevent forest loss (see also Curran *et al.* 2004).

Conservation priorities for Lambusango

Forest in Lambusango has suffered damage as a result of a variety of anthropogenic activities and these may have affected hornbill populations and particularly that of the Red-knobbed Hornbill. The Lambusango forest is now a habitat island, human settlement continues and is creating a modified habitat matrix which makes the forest even more isolated. Although species such as Red-knobbed Hornbill can be considered as 'landscape species' (Sanderson *et al.* 2002, Kinnaird and O'Brien 2007) because of the ability to move long distances between forest patches, they still need areas with lower levels of disturbance. The lightly disturbed areas within Lambusango may provide the essential areas in which the large trees provide nest sites. Areas such as Anoa, Lawe, and Lapago which are currently considered lightly disturbed, were still accessible and prone to anthropogenic activities, and therefore need particular attention from site managers. It is probably valid to pay particular attention to the needs of the hornbills as they can act as umbrella species for other elements of forest biodiversity (Lambeck 1997, Caro and O'Doherty 1999). Their sensitivity to disturbance also makes them good indicators of habitat quality and habitat change (Caro and O'Doherty 1999).

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