

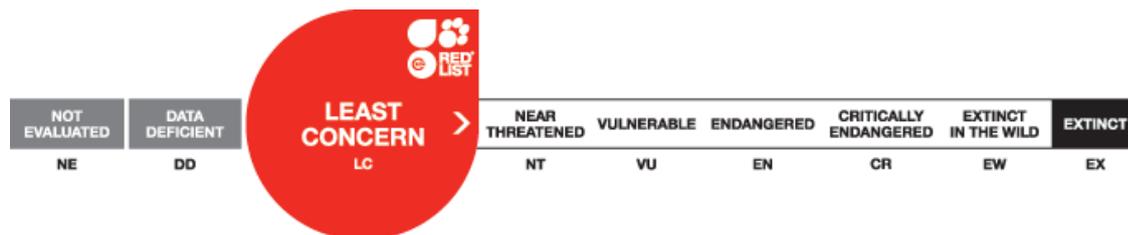
## Conservation Measures for Peacock or Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) Schedule –I bird species

Peacock or Indian peafowl falls under the scheduled-I category Indian Wild Life Protection Act (1972) Peacock or Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) is a very familiar bird of Gujarat also recognized as National Bird of India. The few population of this pheasant was reported in some villages of the study area. Once common throughout the wooded lowlands of Gujarat, their population has been declined in recent decades. The male peacock is predominantly blue with a fan-like crest of spatula-tipped wire-like feathers and is best known for the long train made up of elongated upper-tail; these stiff and elongated feathers are raised into a fan and quivered in a display during courtship. The female lacks these feathers.



### Protection Status:

IUCN



### Habitat:

The Indian Peafowl is found mainly on the ground in open scrub forest or on land under cultivation where they forage for berries, grains but will also prey on snakes, lizards, and small rodents. Their loud calls make them easy to detect, and in forest areas often indicate the presence of a predator such as a tiger. They forage on the ground in small groups and will usually try to escape on foot through undergrowth and avoid flying, though they will fly into tall trees to roost. The bird has a celebrated status in Indian mythology, and hence protected culturally in India especially in Gujarat. The Indian Peafowl is listed as Least Concern by IUCN.

### Status in the study area:

No peacock was sighted in the projects site. All the direct sightings of the peacock were located near the barren lands land near habitations. This species is well adapted to natural village environment setting. Day time they temporarily move towards the surrounding agriculture areas for feeding while

during night time they roost on the trees present in the village and in the agriculture hedges. Direct sightings of the peacock were in this coastal area.

### Threats in the Study Area

- No perceptible threats were identified in the villages surveyed.
- Village residents are against hunting or poaching of the peafowl, due to culture and mythology reasons.
- The only threat reported by the villagers is the stray dogs chasing these birds. Adult peafowl can usually escape ground predators by flying into trees.
- Foraging in groups provides some safety to them as there are more eyes to look out for predators.

### Conservation through Habitat Improvement and Awareness.

- Habitat improvement program will be undertaken through plantation of suitable tree species in the surrounding villages. While selecting the tree/ shrub species care shall be provided for berry plants which attract these birds.
- This tree will provide the shelters for these birds while escaping from the predators
- During summer period, villagers will be encouraged to use the old earthen pots to fill with water for drinking these birds
- Summer is the time when these birds are facing shortage of feeds, there by supplying the feed like Bajri, Juwar, Maize to the identified surrounding villages with good population of Indian peafowls will suffix the problem of food shortage.
- The proponent can directly supply these feeds to the villages directly or by funding to the NGOs active in this mission.

### Yearly Fund allocation towards Conservation through Habitat Improvement and Awareness program.

| Conservation measures                    | Proposed Conservation measures  | Yearly allocation in Indian Rupees |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Conservation through Habitat Improvement | Plantation of suitable tree species in the surrounding villages.  | Part of Green belt fund allocation |
|  | Supplying the feed like Bajri, Juwar, Maize to the identified surrounding villages.<br>Provision of Earthen pots for water during summer months | 50,000/-                           |