

Introduction
This accordion zine presents the *original sketches* that were later translated into a series of *embossed artworks* (20" x 30"), currently on display. Together, they explore the themes of *presence and absence* through the narrative of the hornbill.

The works are informed by field interviews conducted in Terpur and Pakke, including stories collected by Nandini Velho and Sali Subedi as part of the Atlas of Living Hope project.

I am a hornbill.

My *absence* is not empty—it *lingers*, altering the world I once sustained. This is a landscape — where *details are hidden*, but *nothing is missing*.

The space I leave behind is still *shaped by me*. Look closely, you will see my outline in the trees I once seeded, in the gaps I no longer nest.

What is *unseen* is *not absent*.
What is *silent* is *not gone*.
You just have to know *how* to look.



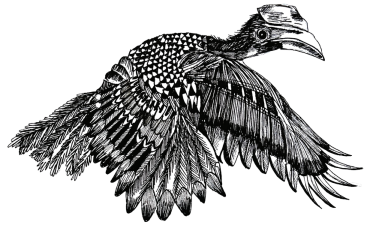
"Hornbills used to come before... They used to come to eat Tokko fruits (Livistonia jenkinsiana), we used to scavenge the seeds as children. There was a time they disappeared when all the jungle was cut down. Now we don't directly see them, they are in Pakke and Nameri Tiger Reserve, but the seeds have reached the fields again, whic means they have started to come?"

- Geeta Timsina



"In our Karbi community we have many more such stories, where almost every Clan have our own deity in the form of wildlife. We have such connected or related stories with wildlife such as, elephant, monitor lizard, hornbill and many more."

-Serlibon Timungpi



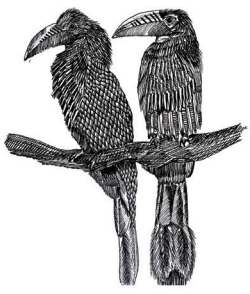
I look at examples like the Hornbill nest protectors— people in Pakke are proud of their conservation story. I want my village to have a similar story to tell.

- Manisha Halai



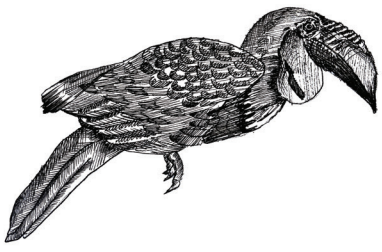
In the jungle, whatever knowledge I have learned I am teaching my children. My twin daughters Aarati-Baroti know about hornbill (Woh Terang in Karbi - Great, Wreathed and Rufous, essentially the large hornbills) and the smaller Oriental pied homrbill (Wo Enkek in Karbi).

- Lakhiram Rongam



"In my childhood I used to hunt birds with friends. And once I entered the Pakke Tiger Reserve through Tana Tapi, I could observe hornbill and saw the beauty of nature."

- Arjun Rai



"If you hear the hornbill, it means there's still big trees nearby."

- Lakhiram Rongam



Undekha - Dekha

The presence of absence

Mahi Agarwal

Undekha - Dekha

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