

## How high temperatures, drought have endangered the Kalahari bird?

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According to a study, increase in temperatures could see the southern yellow-billed hornbill disappear from parts of the Kalahari by 2027.



[Ref: Down to Earth]

### **Southern Yellow-Billed Hornbill (Tockus leucomelas):**

- It is a hornbill found in **southern Africa**.
- It is a common, widespread resident of the **dry thorn fields and broad-leafed woodlands**.
- They **feed mainly on the ground**, foraging for seeds, insects, spiders and even scorpions.
- They are known to forage co-operatively with **Dwarf Mongooses**.
- They nest in holes in trees. They line the cavity with **dry grasses and leaves**.
- The bird can be solitary but are also found in pairs or small groups.

### **Physical Features:**

- It is a **medium sized bird with long yellow beak**.
- The **skin around the eyes and in the malar stripe is pinkish**.

### **Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Red List: Least Concern**

### **Kalahari Desert:**



- It is a large basin like **plain of the interior plateau of Southern Africa**.
  - It is the **southernmost desert in Africa**.
- It is the **6th biggest desert by area on Earth** and **second biggest in Africa after the Sahara**.
- The name '**Kalahari**' means "**large thirst**" in Tswana language.
- Most of the desert is covered with **vegetation with Savannah**.
- It occupies almost all of **Botswana**, eastern third of **Namibia**, and northernmost part of **Northern Cape province in South Africa**.
- In the southwest it merges with the **Namib**, the coastal desert of Namibia.



[Ref: Britannica]

- The only permanent river that flows through the desert is the **Okavango River**.
- It is **home to many big cats** including lions, cheetahs or leopards.