

Gogabil Lake Site Information

Gogabil Lake lies at longitude 25° 22.52 63 N and latitude 87° 412 16.63 E. Gogabil is Bihar's 15th Protected Area and also the state's first Community Reserve. The State Board for Wildlife, under the provision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, amended in 2002, incorporated Gogabil as a Community Reserve on 2nd August, 2019. Gogabil, is an important wetland enlisted in the Important Bird Areas (IBA) of Asia.

It is a prototype of oxbow lake of about 1 to 5 km dimension with ample water content round the year. The waterbody and land area of Gogabil encompass 217 acres area of which 73.78 acres belong to the government while the rest is owned by the local community of Amdabad and Manihari blocks of Katihar district. The area is heavily flooded during monsoon every year with rains and spillover from Kankhar, Mahananda and Ganga rivers. The lake is rich in aquatic flora and fauna providing abundant food which attracts migratory birds in the winter. The lake provides a habitat for about 130 species of birds of which 30 are migratory.

Global Significance of the Gogabil Lake:

Gogabil, is an important wetland enlisted in the Important Bird Areas (IBA) of Asia. The lake is rich in aquatic flora and fauna providing abundant food attracting migratory birds in the winter. Gogabil wetland is very rich in plant diversity particularly in marginal and emergent species. *Eichhornia crassipes* (free-floating), *Hydrilla verticillata* (submerged), *Cyperus rotundus* (emergent), and *Cynodon dactylon* (marginal) are the dominant species in the wetland. Birds such as Black Ibis, Jungle Babbler, Bank Myna, Red Munia, Northern Lapwing and Spot-billed Duck, Oriental Turtle Dove are commonly found during winter season.

National and Regional Significance of Wetland:

In August 2019, the Gogabil Lake was declared the Bihar's first 'Community Reserve' by the state government. During winters, it is visited by more than 100 northern lapwings that are a rare sighting in most parts of North India. The lake is home to hundreds of Indian skimmers (*Rynchops albicollis*), Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), Greater spotted eagle (*Clanga clanga*), Lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) and Lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*).

This wetland fulfills the following desirable Ramsar site criteria for designation as Ramsar site under Ramsar convention

Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Criterion 2: Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 3: Biological diversity

Criterion 4: Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Criteria 6 : It regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water birds.

Criterion 8: Fish spawning grounds, etc