

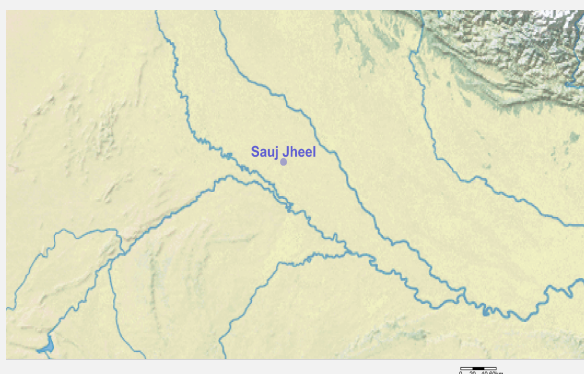


Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 15 October 2026

India

Sauj Jheel



Designation date	18 June 2026
Site number	2603
Coordinates	27°01'43"N 79°08'48"E
Area	40,76 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The Sauj Jheel located in Karhal tehsil of Mainpuri district in the State of Uttar Pradesh, is a shallow water body in the Ganges floodplain landscapes. It is located nearly 3 km from the Saman Bird Sanctuary. The Jheel is surrounded by agricultural fields and human settlements. The major source of water is agricultural run-off and precipitation. Sauj Jheel provides diverse aquatic habitat especially for the migratory and resident water birds. It is home to threatened species, which includes two (02) endangered and One (01) vulnerable reptile species and two (02) vulnerable species of water birds. The Site has rich biodiversity, which includes 43 species of water birds, 19 species of fishes, 07 species of reptiles. The site regularly support more than 30,000 water birds. Sauj Jheel is a significant wintering ground for Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), Bar headed goose (*Anser indicus*) and Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). Also, large congregation of Sarus crane (*Grus Antigone*), Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) and Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*). It has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Uttar Pradesh (IN-UP-20) based on criteria A1 (threatened species) and A4iii (>20000 waterbirds) of Birdlife International. Grazing activities and catching fish by local people is the main threat for the Jheel. Mainpuri Social Forestry Division is planning to implement management action plan to resolve or mitigate these threats which includes ban on entry, grazing, fishing in critical bird nesting and breeding areas with limited and regulated access and traditional use only in outer region. As part of habitat development, plantation drive is proposed around the Jheel. Thorny plant species such as *Prosopis juliflora* and *Acacia nilotica* will be sown to create a natural barrier and restrict cattle entry into the wetland. Specific measures include deploying Suraksha Shramik (Cattle Guards) to regularly monitor and restrict livestock movement, along with a complete ban on fishing during peak fish breeding and migratory bird seasons (monsoon and winter), followed by prohibition of fine-mesh nets, chemical poisoning, and over-harvesting of fingerlings, while involving local villagers in daily monitoring and patrolling.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Uttar Pradesh Forest Department
Postal address	Office Of Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Department Of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of Uttar Pradesh, Golabazar, Near Police Lines, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, Pin code 205001

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India
Postal address	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003 INDIA

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2021
To year	2023

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Sauj Jheel
Unofficial name (optional)	Sauj Talaab

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

The Sauj Jheel, covering an area of 40.7590 ha, is situated in Kishni Tehsil of Mainpuri District, Uttar Pradesh, about 5 km west of Saman Bird Sanctuary. The wetland is surrounded by agricultural lands falling within the revenue villages of Sauj, Mai Khera, Milik, and Seha Kala. The boundary of Sauj Jheel is defined with reference to the cadastral/revenue khasra (gata) parcels adjoining the wetland, as detailed below:

North:
The northern boundary of Sauj Jheel is formed primarily by agricultural lands of Seha Kala village. The boundary passes along Khasra Nos. 641, 648, 1148, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1154–1157, 1161, 1162, 1205, 1208, 1210, 1225, 1227,1231, along with Khasra Nos. 647 and 1226.

North-East:
Towards the north-eastern side, the boundary extends through agricultural lands of Milik and Mai Khera villages. In Milik village, the boundary follows Khasra Nos. 1263–1267, 1269 and 1344. It further extends through Khasra No. 1308 of Mai Khera and Khasra No. 1293.

East:
The eastern boundary of the wetland is primarily adjoining agricultural land of Sauj village and follows Khasra Nos. 1258, 1260 and 1261.

South-East:
The south-eastern boundary falls within the revenue village of Sauj and is delineated by Khasra Nos. 1952, 1953 and 1954.

South:
The southern boundary of Sauj Jheel is adjoining agricultural land of Mai Khera village and follows Khasra Nos. 1919, 1920 and 1921.

South-West:
Towards the south-west, the boundary continues through agricultural lands of Mai Khera village, following Khasra Nos. 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1770 and 1771.

West:
The western boundary is adjoining agricultural lands of Milik village and follows Khasra Nos. 629, 639, 1376 and 1377.

North-West:
The north-western boundary is adjoining Mai Khera village and is defined by Khasra Nos. 1384, 1385, 1388 and 1389.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

UTTAR PRADESH

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

KISHNI

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?

Yes

No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

Yes

No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

40.759

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

40.678

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions	
Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Freshwater Ecoregions of the World (FEOW)	Indo Gangetic Plains

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

☒ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

Sauj Jheel supports five (05) globally threatened species listed on the IUCN Red List. The site is home to two (02) Vulnerable species of waterbirds, namely Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) and Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*). The Jheel also supports two (02) Endangered reptilian species, namely the Spotted Pond Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) and the Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia hurum*) and Vulnerable - The Indian Flapshell Turtle (*Lissemys punctata*). The site also support near threatened species - Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*). The occurrence of these globally threatened species highlights the importance of Sauj Jheel as a refuge for species of international conservation concern and underscores its significance for biodiversity conservation in the Gangetic floodplain region.

☒ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Site is rich in biodiversity and comprises threatened species, which contribute to maintain the biodiversity of the entire biogeographic region. The Site supports 43 water birds species, many of which are widely distributed in the Site and the regional landscape. The site provides a wintering site for large numbers of aquatic birds like Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), and Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*). It is also home to 19 species fishes and 7 species of reptilian species. Among mammalian species, the sanctuary supports populations of Blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and Indian fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*). The mosaic of habitat in the site formed *Nelumbo* spp. and other aquatic plant species, with stands of *Saccharum* spp., and patches of *Ipomoea carnea* . The site provides habitat for Spotted Pond Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*), the Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia hurum*) and The Indian Flapshell Turtle (*Lissemys punctata*).

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

Optional text box to provide further information

The Jheel is an important wintering and stopover site for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF). During the winter season, it supports substantial populations of migratory waterbirds and raptors, including the Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*), Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), Bar headed goose (*Anser indicus*) and Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). The regular occurrence of these migratory species demonstrates the ecological importance of the Jheel as a feeding, roosting, and refuge habitat for birds undertaking long-distance migrations across the Central Asian Flyway.

The site provides important habitat for several reptile species by supporting critical feeding, breeding, basking, shelter, and refuge requirements throughout their life cycles. The Sauj Jheel is permanent and seasonal water bodies, vegetated margins, marshes, mudflats, and surrounding grassland-scrub habitats support populations of the Endangered Spotted Pond Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*), Vulnerable Indian Flapshell Turtle (*Lissemys punctata*), Endangered Indian Peacock, Soft shell Turtle (*Nilssonina hurum*), Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*), and Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*). These diverse habitats provide suitable aquatic and terrestrial environments for foraging, nesting, thermoregulation, and refuge, particularly during seasonal dry periods when alternative habitats become limited, thereby contributing significantly to the persistence of these reptile populations within the Jheel ecosystem.

☒ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers 34903

Start year 2021

End year 2023

Source of data: departmental census

Optional text box to provide further information

Annual Bird Count:

2021 : 34154

2022 : 35206

2023 : 35349

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Ipomoea carnea</i>	☐	☒	☐	NE	☐		Provides refuge to resident waders and facilitates to stabilize the banks of the wetland. It has ecological importance for birds also, acting as a nectar source for nectar-feeding and offering dense bush cover for shelter.
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	☐	☒	☐	NE	☐		Waterfowl and other migratory birds feed on high-protein seeds. Water birds by utilizing their feet and bills to dig into the mud and consume the starchy, carbohydrate-rich lotus roots during food shortage. The massive flowers open during the day and attract diverse populations of insects and pollinators, providing a high-protein food source for insectivorous birds.
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i>	☐	☒	☐	LC	☐		Provides dense breeding and nesting habitats, essential shelter from predators and harsh weather, and an accessible supply of seeds as food.

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: It is a key species for ecological monitoring, its high adaptability to changing environments, and its behavioral adaptations
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: The wetland's grasslands, scrub patches, and adjoining agricultural lands provide shelter and abundant prey for this snake species
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i>	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				EN	☒	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Permanent water bodies and vegetated wetland margins offer suitable basking, nesting, and foraging habitats.
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Shallow wetlands, marshes, and muddy substrates support feeding, breeding, and refuge requirements.
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Nilssononia hurum</i>	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				EN	☒	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Open water areas and soft-bottomed habitats provide ideal conditions for feeding, basking, and reproduction
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Python molurus</i>	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				NT	☒	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Dense riparian vegetation and wetland-edge habitats offer cover, nesting sites, and access to prey.
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Wetland fringes and surrounding vegetation provide feeding grounds, wallowing sites, and shelter.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence ¹⁾	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: The mosaic of grassland and scrub habitats around the wetland supports foraging and denning activities.
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	671	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species, Clear shallow waters support abundant small fish, the species' primary food source.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	235	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling, seed dispersal, and maintaining wetland food webs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	310	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity. wetland bioindicator, seed disperser, and key food web participant
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	840	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Open water and emergent vegetation provide feeding, resting, and breeding habitats.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	439	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Shallow marshes support large populations of molluscs and aquatic prey required by the species.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser anser anser</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	516	2021-2023			☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity The wetland offers winter foraging and roosting habitat for migratory flocks.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser indicus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	701	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Extensive open water and adjoining grasslands provide feeding and resting areas during winter migration.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ardea alba</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1350	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Wetland habitats support fish and small vertebrates that constitute its prey base during winter
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1727	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Shallow waters provide ideal feeding grounds for fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1430	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: The wetland supports abundant fish populations for foraging and roosting habitat.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1676	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Wetland edges and nearby agricultural fields provide diverse feeding opportunities
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1848	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Dense emergent vegetation offers nesting, roosting, and feeding habitats.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	652	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Shallow marshes and pond margins support feeding on fish, frogs, and insects

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence ¹⁾	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	393	2021-2023		NT	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Open water habitats sustain fish populations essential for its feeding ecology.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	210	2021-2023		VU	☐	☒		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Site provides critical wintering and foraging habitat, supporting the species with abundant prey and suitable refuge during its migratory non-breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	409	2021-2023		NT	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Open grasslands and agricultural areas adjoining the wetland support insect prey availability.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	978	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species: Marshy habitats with aquatic vegetation provide feeding and roosting sites.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	527	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Wetland-edge grasslands and agricultural lands support abundant insect prey.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1752	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Shallow water zones offer ideal feeding habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	370	2021-2023		NT	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Extensive shallow wetlands provide feeding grounds for fish, amphibians, and reptiles..
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1530	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Emergent vegetation and marshy habitats support nesting and feeding activities.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Grus antigone</i>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	2769	2021-2023		VU	☒	☐		Species specially adapted to habitat provided by the Site. Wet areas, marshes, and shallow water areas provide nesting and foraging habitat.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Halcyon smymensis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	590	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species The wetland supports diverse aquatic and terrestrial prey resources.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	392	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Mudflats and shallow waters provide abundant invertebrate prey.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	352	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Floating vegetation and shallow wetlands offer nesting and feeding habitats.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	470	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Open water and submerged vegetation provide winter feeding grounds.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1340	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Fish-rich water bodies support feeding and communal roosting.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	360	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Shallow wetlands provide abundant fish resources for foraging.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence ¹⁾	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	341	2021-2023		NT	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Mudflats and exposed shorelines offer feeding habitat for benthic invertebrates
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	430	2021-2023		LC	☐	☒		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Large open-water areas provide suitable feeding and roosting habitat during migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1624	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Fish-rich wetlands support feeding and resting requirements.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1224	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Wetland-associated trees provide nesting, roosting, and feeding opportunities.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	748	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Shrublands and wetland-edge vegetation offer food and nesting habitat.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	374	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Shallow water and mudflat habitats support feeding on aquatic invertebrates
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	637	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Woodland patches and scrub around the wetland provide nesting and foraging habitats.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	1450	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Open habitats around the wetland support feeding and breeding activities.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	421	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Shallow waters with aquatic vegetation provide breeding and feeding habitat
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	420	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity Open water areas provide wintering, roosting, and feeding sites during migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	342	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Shallow marshes support feeding on aquatic invertebrates and small vertebrates.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Turdoides striata</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	393	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Widely distributed species Scrub and woodland patches around the wetland provide shelter and food resources.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Upupa epops</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	415	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Open grasslands and wetland margins support abundant insect prey.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	502	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Exposed mudflats and wetland edges provide nesting and feeding habitat.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	732	2021-2023		LC	☐	☐		Regionally characteristic / indigenous species Open grassland habitats around the wetland support breeding and foraging activities.

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Sauj Jheel is a natural flood plain Jheel, situated in the flat alluvial landscape of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Covering an area of approximately 40.76 ha, the Jheel functions as an important freshwater ecosystem whose hydrology is primarily driven by the southwest monsoon. Water levels rise during the monsoon season of July to September and gradually recede thereafter, with the Jheel often drying considerably during the summer season in the month of April to June.

The Jheel supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and serves as an important habitat for both resident and migratory fauna. It is particularly significant for waterbirds, providing breeding, feeding, roosting, and wintering habitats. The site regularly supports breeding populations of the Vulnerable Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) and the Near Threatened Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*), while the Vulnerable Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*) is recorded as a regular winter visitor. During winter, the Jheel attracts large numbers of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, including Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Common Teal (*Anas crecca*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*), Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*), and numerous species of herons, egrets, waders, and ducks.

The Jheel also supports heronry species of birds such as egrets (*Egretta* spp.) and Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*), highlighting its importance as a breeding and nesting site for colonial waterbirds. In addition to avifauna, the Jheel and its surrounding habitats support a variety of reptiles, small mammals, and larger mammals, including Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), and other Jheel-associated fauna.

The ecological character of Sauj Jheel is further enhanced by its rich hydrophytic vegetation. Dominant aquatic and emergent plant communities include Lotus (*Nelumbo* spp.), Sedge (*Cyperus* spp.), Cattail (*Typha* spp.), and Common Reed (*Phragmites* spp.), which provide food, shelter, nesting substrates, and breeding habitats for numerous aquatic organisms and waterbirds. These plant communities also contribute to nutrient cycling, sediment retention, and maintenance of water quality.

Beyond its biodiversity values, Sauj Jheel provides important ecosystem services to local communities. The Jheel serves as a source of water for wildlife, facilitates groundwater recharge, supports local livelihoods, and contributes to flood moderation and microclimatic regulation. The seasonal hydrological cycle, coupled with diverse Jheel habitats and abundant biological resources, makes Sauj Jheel an ecologically significant freshwater Jheel within the Indo-Gangetic Plains and an important refuge for resident and migratory biodiversity.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> P: Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	SAUJ JHEEL	1	40.759	

(ECD) Habitat connectivity

The site receives water from a branch of the Lower Ganga Canal in addition to direct precipitation during the southwest monsoon. It is hydrologically connected to adjacent wetlands through seasonal inlet and outlet channels associated with the Sauj Nala,

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Non- Endemic and Common, species is native to Indian subcontinent and is known for medicinal properties
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Carex cruenta</i>	vital primary producers and "ecological engineers," regulating the hydrologic cycle, preventing soil erosion, and filter
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Cyperus difformis</i>	Non- Endemic and Common provide habitat and food sources for fish,
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Non- Endemic and Common, species is an economically important species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Non- Endemic and Common, species is economically important
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Phragmites karka</i>	provide vital ecosystem services, notably in water purification and soil stabilization
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Typha elephantina</i>	crucial for wetland ecosystems, acting as aggressive biofilters that extract heavy metals and nutrients to purify water
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>	Non- Endemic and Common, species has medicinal value and is also used as fodder

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Actual (minor impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Lantana camara subsp. camara</i>	Potential
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Potential

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Canis aureus</i>				Non- Endemic and Common, species is native to Indian sub-continent and is protected under schedule 2 of wildlife protection act
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Felis chaus</i>				widespread wild ANIMAL
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>				species is protected under CITES as well as schedule 2 of wildlife protection act, 1972
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>				Non- Endemic and Common, species is native to Indian subcontinent
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>				Non- Endemic and Common, Native to Indian sub-continent, species is protected under schedule 3 of wildlife protection act, 1972
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>				Non- Endemic and Common, Native to Indian sub-continent, species is protected under schedule 3 of wildlife protection act, 1972
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Xenochrophis melanostus</i>				Endemic to Asia, species is protected under schedule 2 under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cwa: Humid subtropical (Mild with dry winter, hot summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Entire river basin ☐

Upper part of river basin ☐

Middle part of river basin ☒

Lower part of river basin ☐

More than one river basin ☐

Not in river basin ☐

Coastal ☐

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Yamuna River Basin

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☐

Organic ☐

No available information ☒

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ☐ No ☒

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	
Water inputs from surface water	☒	No change
Water inputs from precipitation	☒	No change

Water destination

Presence?	
Feeds groundwater	No change
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

(ECD) Connectivity of surface waters and of groundwater

The Sauj Jheel receives water through a canal that conveys agricultural runoff from adjacent areas, with surplus water draining into the downstream Ramsar Site of Saman.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☐

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☐

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☐

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☐

Sediment regime unknown ☒

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour 1.5 to 150 NTU

(ECD) Water temperature 14.5°C to 30.5°C

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5) ☐

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☒

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☐

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

pH: 7.1-7.3

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☒

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ☐

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☐

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l) ☐

Unknown ☐

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water

3mg/lt -6mg/lt,

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☐

Mesotrophic ☐

Oligotrophic ☐

Dystrophic ☐

Unknown ☒

(ECD) Water conductivity 308 µS/cm

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ☐ ii) significantly different ☒ site itself:

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☒

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Low

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Within the site: 3000

Outside the site: 12000

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☒

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☒

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☒	☒

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☐	☒

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commoners/customary rights	☐	☒

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Land is owned by village panchayat.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

1) Village Wetland Committee,
under Supervision of District Wetland Committee

Office Of District Magistrate

Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh,
Pin code 205001

2) Office Of Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Department Of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Golabazar, Near Police Lines,
Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh,
Pin code 205001

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

1) District Magistrate, Mainpuri 2) Divisional Forest Officer, Mainpuri

Postal address:

1) District Wetland Committee
Office Of District Magistrate
Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh,
Pin code 205001

2) Office Of Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Department Of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Golabazar, Near Police Lines,
Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh,
Pin code 205001

E-mail address:

dfomainpuri@rediffmail.com

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Housing and urban areas	Low impact	Low impact	☐	☒

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Water abstraction	Medium impact	Medium impact	☒	☐

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	Medium impact	Medium impact	☒	☐

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Low impact	☒	☐

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion	Medium impact	Medium impact	☒	☐

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Low impact	☒	☐

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	☒	☐

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Droughts	Low impact	Low impact	☒	☐

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Sauj Lake	https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/sauj-lake-iba-india	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☒
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Fisheries management/regulation	Proposed

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ☐ No ☒

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ☐ No ☒

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but restoration is needed

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Proposed

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

1. Rahmani, A.R., Islam, M.Z. and Kasambe, R.M. (2016) Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in India: Priority Sites for Conservation (Revised and updated). Bombay Natural History Society, Indian Bird Conservation Network, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and BirdLife International (U.K.). Pp. 1992 + xii
2. UPFD (2022): Rejuvenation and Conservation of Sauj Wetland of Mainpuri Division.pp -1-29
3. BirdLife International (2024) Important Bird Area factsheet: Sauj Lake (India). Downloaded from <https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/sauj-lake-iba-india> on 16/09/2024.
4. Ramsar (2024) Saman Bird Sanctuary. <https://rsis Ramsar.org/ris/2413>
5. Wetlands of India Portal (2026): Sauj wetland https://indianwetlands.in/print_healthcard.php?ID=MTA0
6. Bird count data for of Sauj Jheel by UP Forest Department (Departmental Census) 2021-2023

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<1 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Sauj Jheel (rfo kishni, 27-01-2026)



Sauj Jheel (rfo kishni, 27-01-2026)



Sauj Jheel (rfo kishni, 27-01-2026)



Sauj Jheel (rfo kishni, 27-01-2026)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2026-06-18