



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

91 Ramsar Site(s) covering 1,359,951 ha

### Beas Conservation Reserve

Site number: 2408 | Country: India | Administrative region: Hoshiarpur, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Kaputhala, Jalandhar, Tarn Taran

Area: 6,429 ha | Coordinates: 31°23'41"N 75°11'40"E | Designation dates: 26-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Beas Conservation Reserve is a 185-kilometre stretch of the Beas River located primarily in the north-west of the State of Punjab. The River meanders down from the Himalayan foothills to the Harike Headworks, where its course is diverted into a number of channels. The River is dotted with islands, sand bars and braided channels creating a complex environment supporting substantial biodiversity. More than 500 species of birds are documented along this stretch, along with more than 90 fish species. The Reserve also hosts the only known population in India of the endangered Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*). Further threatened species include the endangered masheer (*Tor putitora*) and hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) as well as the vulnerable smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*). In 2017, a programme was initiated to re-introduce the critically endangered gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) with 47 individuals released into the River 30 years after their disappearance. Major threats include urban and domestic pollution as well as impacts of agriculture along most of the River's course. The Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab, conduct the scientific management of the wetland.

### Saman Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2413 | Country: India | Administrative region: Saman Bird Sanctuary is located near village Saman in Karhal tehsil of Mainpuri district in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Area: 526 ha | Coordinates: 49°53'55"N 05°39'20"E | Designation dates: 02-12-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Saman Bird Sanctuary in the Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh is a seasonal oxbow lake on the Ganges floodplain. It is heavily reliant on the arrival of the south-westerly monsoon in July and August, which provides the vast majority of annual rainfall. The Sanctuary regularly provides refuge to over 50,000 waterbirds (187 bird species have been recorded) and is particularly important as a wintering site for many migrants including the greylag goose (*Anser anser*), with over 1% of the South Asian population present during winter. Vulnerable species including sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) and greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) are also found. Ecosystem services provided include supply of fresh water for agriculture, as well as recreation and nature-based tourism based around the huge diversity of birds. Settlement encroachment and salinization present threats. The Office of the Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) oversees the Site's management.

## Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve

Site number: 2414 | Country: India | Administrative region: Gurdaspur district of Punjab

Area: 344 ha | Coordinates: 32°05'34"N 75°23'23"E | Designation dates: 26-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve is located in the State of Punjab. The Reserve is a mosaic of natural marshes, aquaculture ponds and agricultural wetlands maintained by the annual rainfall runoff. It is heavily human-influenced, and includes a series of managed fishponds and cultivated crops such as lotus and chestnut. This management helps support a variety of flora, with 344 species of plants recorded in the area. In this way, the Site is an example of wise use of a community-managed wetland, which provides food for people and supports local biodiversity. Threatened species present include the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the endangered spotted pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*). The Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab, forms the management committee.

## Nandur Madhameshwar

Site number: 2410 | Country: India | Administrative region: Maharashtra, India

Area: 1,437 ha | Coordinates: 20°01'18"N 74°06'24"E | Designation dates: 21-06-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a mosaic of lakes, marshes and riparian forest on the Deccan Plateau. Construction of the Nandur Madhameshwar Weir at the confluence of the Godavari and Kadwa Rivers helped create a thriving wetland: originally designed to overcome water shortages in the surrounding area, the Site now also serves as a buffer against floodwaters and as a biodiversity hotspot. With 536 species recorded, its diverse habitats contrast with the surrounding semi-arid conditions caused by the rain shadow of the Western Ghats mountain range. The Site hosts some of India's most iconic species, such as the leopard and Indian sandalwood (*Santalum album*). It also provides sanctuary to critically endangered species including Deolali minnow (*Parapsilorhynchus prateri*), Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) and white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*). Invasive species including common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) threaten the Site, along with the effects of urban development and water abstraction. The Office of the Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) manages the Site.

## Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2458 | Country: India | Administrative region: The area falls within the administrative jurisdiction of Mehsana district of Gujarat state, India between 23° 15' to 23° 30' N latitudes and 72° 30' to 72° 45' E longitudes.

Area: 699 ha | Coordinates: 23°08'29"N 72°24'39"E | Designation dates: 05-04-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This shallow reservoir dominated by open water areas was originally constructed for irrigation in 1912. In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary to protect the birdlife found there: it is on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found, making up some 57% of all the bird species of Gujarat. More than 110 waterbird species have been recorded, about 43% of India's waterbird species, with almost 30% of those species being migratory waterbirds. More than 30 of the waterbirds are threatened, such as the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), and the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*). This wetland regularly hosts more than 1% of the population of species including glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). It is also essential during the dry seasons for a population of blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) and other mammals in the surrounding area. The Lake provides water for drinking and irrigation and enables groundwater recharge, and is also used for recreation and tourism. The vegetation provides excellent thatching material and is also used as fodder for domestic animals.

## Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2459 | Country: India | Administrative region: Rohtak, Haryana  
Area: 412 ha | Coordinates: 28°32'01"N 76°33'01"E | Designation dates: 25-05-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary is a human-made freshwater wetland, and is the largest wetland in Haryana State. The wetland was declared as a protected area in 1986 and was designated as an Eco-sensitive zone by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in 2011. Over 250 species use the Sanctuary throughout the year as a resting and roosting site. The Site supports more than ten globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*). The Site regularly supports more than 1.7% of the biogeographic population of greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and more than 2% of the biogeographic population of Indian cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*). Mammals recorded at the Site include nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), common mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*), and black-naped hare (*Lepus nigricollis*). The Sanctuary contributes to maintaining the region's water table by recharging groundwater, and is also a natural flood buffer.

## Wadhvana Wetland

Site number: 2454 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is situated in the state of Gujarat. It is located in Dabhoi Tehsil (Taluka), Vadodara district at a distance of 45 km from Vadodara city and 15 km from Dabhoi town.

Area: 630 ha | Coordinates: 22°10'19"N 73°29'12"E | Designation dates: 05-04-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This reservoir was created in 1910 by the former Baroda State. It is located in a semi-arid agricultural landscape and it is surrounded by wheat and paddy fields and villages. The wetland is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway. They include some threatened or near-threatened species such as the endangered Pallas's fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), and the near-threatened Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), grey-headed fish-eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*) and ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*). In addition the red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*), a duck which is otherwise rare in Western India, is regularly recorded here during winter. Resident birds include the vulnerable river tern (*Sterna aurantia*) and sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) and the near-threatened black-necked stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*). Almost 46,000 individual birds were recorded during a mid-winter waterbird census conducted in 2020. The Site provides a global example of how a wetland originally created for irrigation has come to serve as an important waterbird habitat and hub for ecotourism and nature education.

## Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2473 | Country: India | Administrative region: The site is located in Mandya district of Karnataka State, India.

Area: 518 ha | Coordinates: 12°24'28"N 76°40'55"E | Designation dates: 15-02-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary is a part of the Kaveri River on the Southern Deccan Plateau. This region comprises gently rolling plains traversed by several of the large rivers that rise in the Western Ghats mountain range and flow eastward to the Bay of Bengal. The Site is an ecologically important riverine wetland, rich in plant and animal species. It supports healthy populations of mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and hump-backed mahseer (*Tor remadevii*). The Site also supports over 1% of the global population of painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) and black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) and as such it is classified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). The wetland is well known for nature tourism which generates considerable revenue for local authorities and communities and also provides educational and research opportunities. The Site is classified as an Eco-Sensitive Zone and a management plan is currently being implemented to safeguard its ecological integrity as well as the ecosystem services provided to the local communities.

## Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2465 | Country: India | Administrative region: The site is situated in Sant Kabir Nagar district in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Area: 2,894 ha | Coordinates: 26°54'36"N 83°07'47"E | Designation dates: 29-06-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This freshwater marsh in the Sant Kabir Nagar district is the largest natural floodplain wetland of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Sanctuary was established in 1980 and is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972); an "eco-sensitive zone" extends up to a kilometre around its boundary. The wetland is internationally important for its birdlife as it supports over 80 species. It provides a wintering ground for over 25 species which migrate on the Central Asian Flyway, some of which are threatened or near-threatened such as the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and swamp francolin (*Francolinus gularis*), and the near-threatened oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*). The wetland also supports 119 plant species and 45 species of fish: it is home to the vulnerable European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and the catfish *Wallago attu*, and the near-threatened Gangetic ailia (*Ailia coila*) and silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*). The Site is also used for recreation and tourism and contributes to food supply and nutrient cycling.

## Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 1210 | Country: India | Administrative region: Tamil Nadu

Area: 38,500 ha | Coordinates: 10°18'59"N 79°38'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary. 19/08/02. Tamil Nadu. 38,500 ha. 10°19'N 079°38'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal area consisting of shallow waters, shores, and long sand bars, intertidal flats and intertidal forests, chiefly mangrove, and seasonal, often-saline lagoons, as well as human-made salt exploitation sites. Some 257 species of birds have been recorded, 119 of them waterbirds, including the vulnerable species Spoonbill Sandpiper (*Euryhorhynchus pygmaeus*) and Grey Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) and some 30,000 Greater and Lesser Flamingos. The site serves as the breeding ground or nursery for many commercially important species of fish, as well as for prawns and crabs. Some 35,000 fishermen and agriculturalists support their families around the borders of the sanctuary. Illegal collection of firewood and forest produce such as fruits (gathered by lopping off tree branches), the spread of *Prosopis chilensis* (Chilean mesquite), increasingly brackish groundwater caused by expansion of the historical salt works, and decreasing inflow of freshwater are all seen as potential causes for concern. Visitors come to the site both for recreation and for pilgrimage, as it is associated with Lord Rama. Ramsar site no. 1210. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## East Calcutta Wetlands

Site number: 1208 | Country: India | Administrative region: West Bengal

Area: 12,500 ha | Coordinates: 22°27'N 88°27'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

East Calcutta Wetlands. 19/08/02. West Bengal. 12,500 ha. 22°27'N 088°27'E. World-renowned as a model of a multiple use wetland, the site's resource recovery systems, developed by local people through the ages, have saved the city of Calcutta from the costs of constructing and maintaining waste water treatment plants. The wetland forms an urban facility for treating the city's waste water and utilizing the treated water for pisciculture and agriculture, through the recovery of nutrients in an efficient manner - the water flows through fish ponds covering about 4,000 ha, and the ponds act as solar reactors and complete most of their bio-chemical reactions with the help of solar energy. Thus the system is described as "one of the rare examples of environmental protection and development management where a complex ecological process has been adopted by the local farmers for mastering the resource recovery activities" (RIS). The wetland provides about 150 tons of fresh vegetables daily, as well as some 10,500 tons of table fish per year, the latter providing livelihoods for about 50,000 people directly and as many again indirectly. The fish ponds are mostly operated by worker cooperatives, in some cases in legal associations and in others in cooperative groups whose tenurial rights are under legal challenge. A potential threat is seen in recent unauthorized use of the waste water outfall channels by industries which add metals to the canal sludge and threaten the edible quality of the fish and vegetables. Ramsar site no. 1208. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Harike Lake

Site number: 462 | Country: India | Administrative region: Punjab

Area: 4,100 ha | Coordinates: 31°12'59"N 75°12'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Harike Lake. 23/03/90; Punjab; 4,100 ha; 31°13'N 075°12'E. Bird Sanctuary. A shallow water reservoir with thirteen islands, at the confluence of two rivers. Dense floating vegetation covers 70% of the lake. An important site for breeding, wintering and staging birds, supporting over 200,000 Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) during migration. The entire lake is leased on an annual basis to commercial fishery organizations. Ramsar site no. 462. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Hokera Wetland

Site number: 1570 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jammu and Kashmir State

Area: 1,375 ha | Coordinates: 34°04'59"N 74°42'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hokera Wetland. 08/11/05; Jammu & Kashmir; 1,375 ha; 34°05'N 074°42'E. Located at the northwest Himalayan biogeographic province of Kashmir, back of the snow-draped Pir Panchal (1,584m asl.), Hokera wetland is only 10 km from scenic paradise of Srinagar. A natural perennial wetland contiguous to the Jhelum basin, it is the only site with remaining reedbeds of Kashmir and pathway of 68 waterfowl species like Large Egret, Great Crested Grebe, Little Cormorant, Common Shelduck, Tufted Duck and endangered White-eyed Pochard, coming from Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Northern Europe. It is an important source of food, spawning ground and nursery for fishes, besides offering feeding and breeding ground to a variety of water birds. Typical marshy vegetation complexes inhabit like Typha, Phragmites, Eleocharis, Trapa, and Nymphoides species ranging from shallow water to open water aquatic flora. Sustainable exploitation of fish, fodder and fuel is significant, despite water withdrawals since 1999. Potential threats include recent housing facilities, littered garbage, and demand for increasing tourist facilities. Ramsar site no. 1570. Most recent RIS information: 2005.



## Kanjli

Site number: 1160 | Country: India | Administrative region: Punjab

Area: 183 ha | Coordinates: 31°25'N 75°21'59"E | Designation dates: 22-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kanjli. 22/01/02;. Punjab; 183 ha; 31°25'N 075°22'E. A permanent stream, the Kali Bein, converted by construction of a small barrage in 1870 into a water storage area for irrigation purposes. The site fulfils Criteria 3 because of its importance in supporting a considerable diversity of aquatic, mesophytic, and terrestrial flora and fauna in the biogeographical region, and acts also as a key regulator of groundwater discharge and recharge with the seasons. By this means and by direct abstraction of water for irrigation by the local population, the site plays a crucial role in the agriculture which predominates on the surrounding fertile plain, with fewer pressures upon water supplies than elsewhere in the Punjab. The invasive water hyacinth is present and must be removed from time to time; increasing pollution levels, deforestation in the catchment area, and excessive grazing are seen as potential threats. The stream is considered to be the most significant in the state from the religious point of view, as it is associated with the first guru of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The stream itself and surrounding marsh is under provincial ownership and surrounding areas privately owned. The site is a center for environmental tourism and picnicking. Ramsar site no. 1160. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Keoladeo National Park

Site number: 230 | Country: India | Administrative region: Rajasthan

Area: 2,873 ha | Coordinates: 27°12'59"N 77°31'59"E | Designation dates: 01-10-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Keoladeo National Park. 01/10/81; Rajasthan; 2,873 ha; 27°13'N 077°32'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. World Heritage Site; National Park; Bird Sanctuary. A complex of ten artificial, seasonal lagoons, varying in size, situated in a densely populated region. Vegetation is a mosaic of scrub and open grassland that provides habitat for breeding, wintering and staging migratory birds. Also supported are five species of ungulates, four species of cats, and two species of primates, as well as diverse plants, fish and reptiles. The canal provides water for agriculture and domestic consumption. Cattle and water buffalo graze on the site. A field research station exists. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 due to "water shortage and an unbalanced grazing regime". Additionally, the invasive growth of the grass *Paspalum distichum* has changed the ecological character of large areas of the site, reducing its suitability for certain waterbird species, notably the Siberian crane. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988 and 1990. Ramsar site no. 230.

## Kolleru Lake

Site number: 1209 | Country: India | Administrative region: Andhra Pradesh

Area: 90,100 ha | Coordinates: 16°37'N 81°12'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kolleru Lake. 19/08/02. Andhra Pradesh. 90,100 ha. 16°37'N 081°12'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A natural eutrophic lake, situated between the two major river basins of the Godavari and the Krishna, fed by two seasonal rivers and a number of drains and channels, which functions as a natural flood balancing reservoir between the deltas of the two rivers. It provides habitat for a number of resident and migratory birds, including declining numbers of the vulnerable Grey Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), and sustains both culture and capture fisheries, agriculture and related occupations of the people in the area. Damage and losses due to flooding in monsoon seasons and partial drying out during summers, the results of inadequate management planning and action, are seen as areas for improvement. WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. Ramsar site no. 1209. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Sasthamkotta Lake

Site number: 1212 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kerala District  
Area: 373 ha | Coordinates: 09°01'59"N 76°36'59"E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sasthamkotta Lake. 19/08/02. Kerala. 373 ha. 09°02'N 076°37'E. The largest freshwater lake in Kerala state in the southwest of the country, spring-fed and the source of drinking water for half a million people in the Kollam district. Some 27 freshwater fish species are present. The water contains no common salts or other minerals and supports no water plants; a larva called "cavaborus" abounds and eliminates bacteria in the water, thus contributing to its exceptional purity. The ancient Sastha temple is an important pilgrimage centre. WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. Ramsar site no. 1212. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Renuka Wetland

Site number: 1571 | Country: India | Administrative region: Himachal Pradesh State  
Area: 20 ha | Coordinates: 31°37'N 77°27'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Renuka Wetland. 08/11/05; Himachal Pradesh; 20 ha; 31°37'N 077°27'E. Wildlife Sanctuary, Reserve Forest. A natural wetland with freshwater springs and inland subterranean karst formations, fed by a small stream flowing from the lower Himalayan out to the Giri river. The lake is home to at least 443 species of fauna and 19 species of ichthyofauna representative of lacustrine ecosystems like Puntius, Labeo, Rasbora, Channa. Prominent vegetation ranges from dry deciduous like Shorea Robusta, Terminalia tomentosa, Dalbergia sissoo to hydrophytes. There are 103 species of birds of which 66 are residents, e.g. Crimson-breasted barbet, Mayna, Bulbul, Pheasants, Egrets, Herons, Mallards and Lapwing. Among ungulates Sambhar, Barking deer and Ghorals are also abundant in the area. The lake has high religious significance and is named after the mother of Hindu sage Parshuram, and is thus visited by thousands of pilgrims and tourists. Conservation measures so far include community awareness, and prevention of silt influx from eroded slopes and 50 ha. of massive plantation in the catchment. The site is managed by the Shimla Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh. Ramsar site no. 1571. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Ropar

Site number: 1161 | Country: India | Administrative region: Punjab  
Area: 1,365 ha | Coordinates: 31°00'59"N 76°30'E | Designation dates: 22-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ropar. 22/01/02; Punjab; 1,365 ha; 31°01'N 076°30'E. National Wetland. A humanmade wetland of lake and river formed by the 1952 construction of a barrage for diversion of water from the Sutlej River for drinking and irrigation supplies. The site is an important breeding place for the nationally protected Smooth Indian Otter, Hog Deer, Sambar, and several reptiles, and the endangered Indian Pangolin (Manis crassicaudata) is thought to be present. Some 35 species of fish play an important role in the food chain, and about 150 species of local and migratory birds are supported. Local fisheries are economically significant, and wheat, rice, sugar cane, and sorghum are cultivated in the surrounding area. Deforested local hills leading to siltation, and increasing industrialization causing an inflow of pollutants, are potential threats, and invasive weeds are a further cause for concern. Nature lovers, birdwatchers, swimmers and boaters visit the site in considerable numbers. Ramsar site no. 1161. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Sambhar Lake

Site number: 464 | Country: India | Administrative region: Rajasthan

Area: 24,000 ha | Coordinates: 27°00'N 75°00'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sambhar Lake. 23/03/90; Rajasthan; 24,000 ha; 27°00'N 75°00'E. A large saline lake fed by four streams set in a shallow wetland and subject to seasonal fluctuations. It is surrounded by sand flats and dry thorn scrub and fed by seasonal rivers and streams. The site is important for a variety of wintering waterbirds, including large numbers of flamingos. Human activities consist of salt production and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 464. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Surinsar-Mansar Lakes

Site number: 1573 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jammu, Kashmir State

Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 32°45'N 75°12'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes. 08/11/05; Jammu & Kashmir; 350 ha; 32°45'N 75°12'E. Wildlife Sanctuary, Hindu sacred site. Freshwater composite lake in semi-arid Panjab Plains, adjoining the Jhelum Basin with catchment of sandy conglomeratic soil, boulders and pebbles. Surinsar is rain-fed without permanent discharge, and Mansar is primarily fed by surface run-off and partially by mineralised water through paddy fields, with inflow increasing in rainy season. The lake supports CITES and IUCN Redlisted *Lissemys punctata*, *Aspideretes gangeticus*, and *Mansariella lacustris*. This composite lake is high in micro nutrients for which it is an attractive habitat, breeding and nursery ground for migratory waterfowls like *Fulica atra*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Aythya fuligula*, and various *Anas* species. The site is socially and culturally very important with many temples around owing to its mythical origin from the Mahabharata period. Although the lakes support variety of fishes, fishing is discouraged for religious values. The main threats are increasing visitors, agricultural runoff, bathing and cremation rituals. Conservation is focused on awareness-raising. Ramsar site no.1573. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Tsomoriri

Site number: 1213 | Country: India | Administrative region: Eastern Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir

Area: 12,000 ha | Coordinates: 32°54'N 78°18'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tsomoriri. 19/08/02. Jammu & Kashmir. 12,000 ha. 32°54'N 78°18'E. Wetland Reserve. A freshwater to brackish lake lying at 4,595m above sea level, with wet meadows and borax-laden wetlands along the shores. The site is said to represent the only breeding ground outside of China for one of the most endangered cranes, the Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*), and the only breeding ground for Bar-headed geese in India. The Great Tibetan Sheep or Argali (*Ovis ammon hodgsoni*) and Tibetan Wild Ass (*Equus kiang*) are endemic to the Tibetan plateau, of which the Changthang is the westernmost part. The barley fields at Korzok have been described as the highest cultivated land in the world. With no outflow, evaporation in the arid steppe conditions causes varying levels of salinity. Ancient trade routes and now major trekking routes pass the site. The 400-year-old Korzok monastery attracts many tourists, and the wetland is considered sacred by local Buddhist communities and the water is not used by them. The local community dedicated Tsomoriri as a WWF Sacred Gift for the Living Planet in recognition of WWF-India's project work there. The rapidly growing attraction of the recently opened area to western tourists (currently 2500 per summer) as an "unspoilt destination" with pristine high desert landscapes and lively cultural traditions brings great promise but also potential threats to the ecosystem. Ramsar site no. 1213. Most recent RIS information: 2002.



## Upper Ganga River

Site number: 1574 | Country: India | Administrative region: Uttar Pradesh  
Area: 26,590 ha | Coordinates: 28°33'N 78°12'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora Stretch). 08/11/05; Uttar Pradesh; 26,590 ha; 28°33'N 078°12'E. A shallow river stretch of the great Ganges with intermittent small stretches of deep-water pools and reservoirs upstream from barrages. The river provides habitat for IUCN Red listed Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Crocodile, 6 species of turtles, otters, 82 species of fish and more than hundred species of birds. Major plant species, some of which have high medicinal values, include *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Saraca indica*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Tectona grandis*, *Azadirachta indica* and aquatic *Eichhorina*. This river stretch has high Hindu religious importance for thousands of pilgrims and is used for cremation and holy baths for spiritual purification. Major threats are sewage discharge, agricultural runoff, and intensive fishing. Conservation activities carried out are plantation to prevent bank erosion, training on organic farming, and lobbying to ban commercial fishing. Ramsar site no. 1574. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Vembanad-Kol Wetland

Site number: 1214 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kerala State  
Area: 151,250 ha | Coordinates: 09°50'N 76°45'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vembanad-Kol Wetland. 19/08/02. Kerala. 151,250 ha. 09°50'N 076°45'E. The largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India, fed by 10 rivers and typical of large estuarine systems on the western coast, renowned for its clams and supporting the third largest waterfowl population in India during the winter months. Over 90 species of resident birds and 50 species of migratory birds are found in the Kol area. Flood protection for thickly-populated coastal areas of three districts of Kerala is considered a major benefit, groundwater recharge helps to supply well water for the region, and the value of the system for the local transport of people and trade is considerable. Ramsar site no. 1214. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Wular Lake

Site number: 461 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jammu & Kashmir State  
Area: 18,900 ha | Coordinates: 34°15'59"N 74°33'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wular Lake. 23/03/90; Jammu & Kashmir; 18,900 ha; 34°16'N 074°33'E. The largest freshwater lake in India with extensive marshes of emergent and floating vegetation, particularly water chestnut, that provide an important source of revenue for the State Government and fodder for domestic livestock. The lake supports an important fishing industry and is a valuable source of water for irrigation and domestic use. The area is important for wintering, staging and breeding birds. Human activities include rice cultivation and tree farming. Ramsar site no. 461. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Haiderpur Wetland

Site number: 2463 | Country: India | Administrative region: Uttar Pradesh

Area: 6,908 ha | Coordinates: 29°24'59"N 78°00'59"E | Designation dates: 13-04-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This human-made wetland was formed in 1984 by the construction of the Madhya Ganga Barrage on a floodplain of the River Ganga. It is located within the boundaries of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. Haiderpur Wetland provides habitat for numerous animal and plant species, including more than 30 species of plants, over 300 species of birds including 102 waterbirds, more than 40 fish and more than ten mammal species. This diverse habitat supports more than 15 globally threatened species, such as the critically endangered gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) and the endangered hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*), steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) and gold mahseer (*Tor putitora*). The Site supports more than 25,000 waterbirds, serves as a breeding site for the near-threatened Indian grassbird (*Graminicola bengalensis*) and provides refuge to the northern subspecies population of the vulnerable swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) during its seasonal flood-driven migration. The Site also regularly supports more than 1% of the population of greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*). Haiderpur Wetland also helps to support the livelihoods of the local communities, and contributes to the maintenance of hydrological regimes and to hazard reduction. It is used for recreation and tourism, and scientific and educational activities are also associated with the Site.

## Pong Dam Lake

Site number: 1211 | Country: India | Administrative region: Himachal Pradesh

Area: 15,662 ha | Coordinates: 32°00'59"N 76°04'59"E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pong Dam Lake. 19/08/02. Himachal Pradesh. 15,662 ha. 32°01'N 076°05'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A water storage reservoir created in 1975 on the Beas River in the low foothills of the Himalaya on the northern edge of the Indo-Gangetic plain. The RIS notes that "at a time when wetlands in northern India are getting reduced due to extensive drainage and reclamation, the avian habitats formed by the creation of the Pong Dam assume a great significance" - given the site's location on the trans-Himalayan flyway, more than 220 bird species have been identified, with 54 species of waterfowl. Hydrological values include monsoon-season flood prevention, both in the surroundings and downstream due to water regulation, groundwater recharge, silt trapping and prevention of soil erosion; electricity is generated for this and neighboring states, and irrigation water is being channeled to fertile areas of the Punjab and Rajasthan deserts. Low-yield subsistence fishing existed prior to impoundment, but since, a lucrative fishery has grown up, with 27 fish species and a yield increasing markedly each year - some 1800 fishermen now have direct employment and 1000 families benefit indirectly. A nature conservation education centre is found on the island of Ransar or Ramsar (sic). Recent management strategies have shifted away from law enforcement and use restrictions towards more participatory approaches and community awareness, and the site is well suited to "community-based ecotourism". Ramsar site no. 1211. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Ashtamudi Wetland

Site number: 1204 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kerala State

Area: 6,140 ha | Coordinates: 08°57'N 76°34'59"E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ashtamudi Wetland. 19/08/02. Kerala. 61,400 ha. 08°57'N 076°35'E. An extensive estuarine system, the second largest in Kerala State, which is of extraordinary importance for its hydrological functions, its biodiversity, and its support for fish. The site supports a number of mangrove species as well as over 40 associated plant species, and 57 species of birds have been observed, including six that are migratory. Nearly 100 species of fish sustain a lively fishing industry, with thousands of fishermen depending directly upon the estuary for their livelihood. Population density and urban pressures pose threats to the site, including pollution from oil spills from thousands of fishing boats and from industries in the surrounding area and conversion of natural habitat for development purposes. Ramsar site no. 1204. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Bhitarkanika Mangroves

Site number: 1205 | Country: India | Administrative region: Orissa

Area: 65,000 ha | Coordinates: 20°39'N 86°54'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bhitarkanika Mangroves. 19/08/02. Orissa. 65,000 ha. 20°39'N 86°54'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. One of the finest remaining patches of mangrove forests along the Indian coast - 25 years of continued conservation measures have made the site one of the best known wildlife sanctuaries. The site's Gahirmatha beach is said to host the largest known Olive Ridley sea turtle nesting beach in the world, with half a million nesting annually, and the site has the highest density of saltwater crocodile in the country, with nearly 700 *Crocodylus porosus*. It is a major breeding and wintering place for many resident and migratory waterbirds and is the east coast's major nursery for brackish water and estuarine fish fauna. Like many mangrove areas, the dense coastal forests provide vital protection for millions of people from devastating cyclones and tidal surges - of India's 58 recorded species of mangroves, 55 species are found in Bhitarkanika, a wider mangrove diversity than in the Sundarbans! Traditionally, sustainable harvesting of food, medicines, tannins, fuel wood, and construction materials, and particularly honey and fish, has been the rule, but population pressures and encroachment may threaten that equilibrium. Ramsar site no. 1205. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Chandertal Wetland

Site number: 1569 | Country: India | Administrative region: Himachal Pradesh State

Area: 49 ha | Coordinates: 32°28'59"N 77°36'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chandertal Wetland. 08/11/05; Himachal Pradesh, 49 ha; 32°29'N 77°36'E. A high altitude lake on the upper Chandra valley flowing to the Chandra river of the Western Himalayas (4,337m asl.) near the Kunzam pass joining the Himalayan and Pir Panchal ranges. It supports CITES and IUCN Redlisted Snow Leopard and is a refuge for many species like Snow Cock, Chukor, Black Ring Stilt, Kestrel, Golden Eagle, Chough, Red Fox, Himalayan Ibex, and Blue Sheep. These species, over the years, have developed special physiological features as adaption strategies to cold arid climate, intense radiation, and oxygen deficiency. Some 65% of the larger catchment is degraded forest due to overgrazing by the nomadic herdsman, while 35% are covered by grasslands. Other threatening factors to this fragile and sparse vegetation are summer trekking, littering waste, and lack of sanitation facilities. Since declaring the site a nationally important wetland in 1994, the authorities have been providing funds for ecotourism facilities. Spiti Forest Department is the custodian and State Council of Science, Technology and Environment is coordinating conservation management. Ramsar site no. 1569. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bhoj Wetland

Site number: 1206 | Country: India | Administrative region: Madhya Pradesh

Area: 3,201 ha | Coordinates: 23°14'N 77°19'59"E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bhoj Wetland. 19/08/02. Madhya Pradesh. 3,201 ha. 23°14'N 77°20'E. Two contiguous human-made reservoirs - the "Upper Lake" was created in the 11th century by construction of an earthen dam across the Kolans River, and the lower was constructed nearly 200 years ago, largely from leakage from the Upper, and is surrounded by the city of Bhopal. The lakes are very rich in biodiversity, particularly for macrophytes, phytoplankton, zooplankton, both natural and cultured fish species, both resident and migratory birds, insects, and reptiles and amphibians. Since implementation of a management action plan was begun in 1995 with financial support from the government of Japan, a number of bird species have been sighted which had rarely or never before been seen in the region. WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. A photo essay is available at [http://ramsar.org/photo\\_essay\\_india\\_bhoj.htm](http://ramsar.org/photo_essay_india_bhoj.htm). Ramsar site no. 1206. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Chilika Lake

Site number: 229 | Country: India | Administrative region: Orissa State

Area: 116,500 ha | Coordinates: 19°42'N 85°21'E | Designation dates: 01-10-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chilika Lake. 01/10/81; Orissa; 116,500 ha; 19°42'N 085°21'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993; removed from the Record, 11 November 2002. Brackish lake separated from the Bay of Bengal by a long sandy ridge and subject to sea water exchange, resulting in extreme seasonal fluctuations in salinity in different sections of the lake. Saline areas support aquatic algae. The site is an important area for breeding, wintering and staging for 33 species of waterbirds. It also supports 118 species of fish, including commercially important species. Significant numbers of people are dependent upon the lake's resources. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to problems caused by siltation and sedimentation which was choking the mouth of the lake; removed from the Record in 2002 following rehabilitation efforts for which the Chilika Development Authority received the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for 2002. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2001. Ramsar site no. 229.

## Deepor Beel

Site number: 1207 | Country: India | Administrative region: Assam

Area: 4,000 ha | Coordinates: 26°07'59"N 91°39'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deepor Beel. 19/08/02. Assam. 4,000 ha. 26°08'N 091°39'E. Sanctuary. A permanent freshwater lake in a former channel of the Brahmaputra river, of great biological importance and also essential as the only major storm water storage basin for the city of Guwahati. The beel is a staging site on migratory flyways and some of the largest concentrations of aquatic birds in Assam can be seen, especially in winter. Some globally threatened birds are supported, including Spotbilled Pelican (*Pelicanus philippensis*), Lesser and Greater Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus* and *dubius*), and Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*). The 50 fish species present provide livelihoods for a number of surrounding villages, and nymphaea nuts and flowers, as well as ornamental fish, medicinal plants, and seeds of the Giant water lily *Euryale ferox* provide major revenue sources in local markets; orchids of commercial value are found in the neighboring forest. Potential threats include over-fishing and hunting pressure upon waterbirds, pollution from pesticides and fertilizers, and infestation by water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*. A proposal to create a sewage canal from the city directly to the beel is considered to be disastrous in its potential effects. Ramsar site no. 1207. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Sandi Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2409 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Sanctuary is located in the Bilgram tehsil of Hardoi district in state of Uttar Pradesh, India. It is just 1 Km from the Sandi town, 19 Km from city Hardoi and 129 Km from Lucknow, the state capital.

Area: 309 ha | Coordinates: 27°18'49"N 79°58'19"E | Designation dates: 26-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sandi Bird Sanctuary is a freshwater marsh in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. The wetland is typical of the Indo-Gangetic plains and receives most of its water from monsoon rains. Rich in aquatic plants, the Site provides a productive habitat for waterfowl with over 40,000 individuals counted in 2018. It is home to over 1% of the South Asian populations of common teal (*Anas crecca*), red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) and ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), while the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) has a population of 200 individuals within the Sanctuary. These figures justify its designation as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. The wetland is a popular recreational and tourism destination and supports surrounding farmers as a source of livestock fodder. Drought presents a threat; the Sanctuary dried out leading to a subsequent collapse in waterbird populations from 2014 to 2015. The Office of the Conservator of Forests manages the Site in conjunction with local forest and wildlife officers.



## Samaspur Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2415 | Country: India | Administrative region: Raebareli district in state of Uttar Pradesh, India

Area: 799 ha | Coordinates: 25°59'44"N 81°23'19"E | Designation dates: 03-10-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, in the Raebareli district of Uttar Pradesh, is a perennial lowland marsh typical of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Its six connected lakes are heavily relevant on monsoon rains. Annual counts regularly find more than 75,000 birds present, with over 250 resident and migrant species documented. The Sanctuary harbours threatened species such as the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), and more than 1% of the South Asian population of the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). At least 46 freshwater fish species use the wetland, with some migrating in from nearby rivers during monsoon flood periods. The Site provides food products and agricultural fodder, as well as maintaining this biodiversity. However, invasive species threaten its ecological character, with over 40% of documented floral species being exotic. The Office of the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and State forest officers undertake joint management of the Sanctuary.

## Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2416 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Sanctuary is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Tarabganj Tehsil, at a distance of about 40 km from Gonda District at Mankapur-Nawabganj Road.

Area: 722 ha | Coordinates: 26°56'09"N 82°09'45"E | Designation dates: 02-12-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary is a permanent freshwater environment consisting of two oxbow lakes. These wetlands are characteristic of Uttar Pradesh and offer exceptional habitats for waterbirds, providing both roosting and breeding sites with over 100,000 birds documented in annual counts. The Sanctuary is a refuge for some of India's threatened vulture species: the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*), and the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) have all been recorded. It is also critical in the maintenance of hydrological regimes, ensuring groundwater recharge and discharge. Meanwhile ancient temples around the lakes provide religious significance and encourage tourism. Invasive species such as the common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) along with the development of roads and railways present significant threats. The Uttar Pradesh Divisional Forest Officer and Chief Conservator of Forests along with Sanctuary Officers share management duties.

## Sarsai Nawar Jheel

Site number: 2411 | Country: India | Administrative region: Takha tehsil, Etawah District, Uttar Pradesh

Area: 161 ha | Coordinates: 26°58'08"N 79°15'02"E | Designation dates: 19-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sarsai Nawar Jheel is a permanent marsh in the Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh. This typical wetland of the Indo-Gangetic floodplain is fed by precipitation run-off from the South West monsoon rains. It is an example of co-habitation of humans and wildlife: farming practices across most of the Site play important roles in sustaining the waterbird habitats. A particular beneficiary is the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), with a population of 400 individuals making up the largest flock in the region. The Site's name is derived from this large non-migratory crane. Other threatened species present include the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and endangered woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*). The wetland is also a site of spiritual and religious significance with the nearby Hajari Mahadev temple visited by thousands of pilgrims each year. Droughts along with drainage have the potential to threaten the Site's ecological character. It is recognized by Birdlife International as an Important Bird Area.



## Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve

Site number: 2472 | Country: India | Administrative region: Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (GoMBR), extends between Toothukudi & Ramanathapuram districts; joint declaration of Government of India & Government of Tamil Nadu.

Area: 52,672 ha | Coordinates: 09°06'57"N 78°47'12"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located at the south-eastern tip of India, the Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and South-East Asia. The Gulf is where the southward extension of the Bay of Bengal meets the Indian Ocean, and is one of the most biologically diverse regions in India. The Site supports 117 species of coral, over 450 of fish including four seahorses, 160 birds, 641 species of crustacean including 38 crabs and two lobsters, four sea turtles, and 11 mangroves. Globally threatened species include the dugong (*Dugong dugon*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*). The local communities are mainly Marakeyars, with fishing their main livelihood. Although classified as a Marine National Park and recognized as a World Heritage Site, habitat destruction, over-harvesting of marine resources and localized land-based sources of marine pollution have been identified as threats to the ecological integrity of the Site.

## Sakhya Sagar

Site number: 2483 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is situated in Shivpuri District in the state of Madhya Pradesh

Area: 248 ha | Coordinates: 25°26'03"N 77°42'25"E | Designation dates: 07-01-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sakhya Sagar is a human-made reservoir on the outskirts of Shivpuri town within the Madhav National Park. The Site features a mosaic of landforms including open water and surrounding marshes, plantations and a small patch of agricultural land. The north-eastern part maintains open water and marsh areas almost year-round, whereas the north-western part is often dried out. The reservoir is shallow, alkaline, and nutrient-rich. This wetland not only adds to the natural beauty of the area, but also provides a permanent source of water for wildlife, and habitat for animals including thousands of migratory waterfowl and also mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), whose presence attracts tourists. In total, the wetland supports 19 species of fish, nine reptiles and 19 mammals, and is an important staging ground for 73 bird species. The wetland also plays a vital role in nutrient cycling, groundwater recharge, and regulating the micro-climate of the area. The Site is one of the "three lakes of Shivpuri" and as such, it benefits from the Shivpuri Management and Conservation Plan implemented by the Local Urban Municipality.

## Tso Kar Wetland Complex

Site number: 2443 | Country: India | Administrative region: Nyoma Block, Leh District, Union Territory of Ladakh.

Area: 9,577 ha | Coordinates: 33°17'53"N 78°00'42"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This high-altitude wetland complex is found at more than 4,500 metres above sea level in the Changthang region of Ladakh. The complex includes two connected lakes, the freshwater Startsapuk Tso and the larger hypersaline Tso Kar; it presents a notable example of two such lakes existing in close proximity. The name Tso Kar refers to the white salt efflorescence on the margins of the lake caused by the evaporation of the saline waters. The local climate is arid, and glacial meltwater is the primary water source for the lakes. The lakes and in particular the presence of fresh water attract biodiversity in a biologically sparse region. Inhabiting the Site are numerous threatened species including the endangered saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and Asiatic wild dog or dhole (*Cuon alpinus laniger*), and the vulnerable snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*). The Site also acts as an important stopover ground for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway and is one of the most important breeding areas in India for the black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*).

## Vellode Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2475 | Country: India | Administrative region: Declared Bird Sanctuary under Section 26(1) of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (Central Act 53) in G.O.Ms.No.44, Environment & Forests (FRV) Dept. dated 29.2.2000 in Tamil Nadu Gazette.

Area: 77 ha | Coordinates: 11°15'06"N 77°39'06"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This human-made tank is an ideal habitat for birds, due to the abundant food resources it provides from neighbouring agricultural fields, and other aquatic organisms. It is an important staging and breeding ground for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway and also resident species such as the Indian river tern (*Sterna aurantia*), oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*). The Site is also an ideal habitat for notable plant species including *Cayratia pedata*, *Tephrosia purpurea* and *Commelina tricolor*. This Site provides drinking water and fish to local communities, and the farmers from the fringe villages enjoy enhanced crop yields with the arrival of a large number of birds, as the irrigation water is enriched by bird droppings. Although classified as a Bird Sanctuary by the national authorities, the Site is threatened by household sewage, urban waste water, vegetation clearance, land conversion and invasive non-native species. There is a management plan available, but it is yet to be implemented.

## Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2477 | Country: India | Administrative region: Maduranthagam Taluk of Chengalpattu District

Area: 40 ha | Coordinates: 12°32'47"N 79°51'21"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A small irrigation tank in Vedanthangal village surrounded by rocky plains and low-ridged, denuded hillocks, this Site is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) due to the presence of several species including the black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*). Vedanthangal is well known for nature tourism, which generates considerable revenue for the local communities. The Sanctuary also provides educational and research opportunities. The wetland also plays a vital role in nutrient cycling and groundwater recharge, which supports irrigation activities in the immediate vicinity. Although the Site has been a Bird Sanctuary since 1998 and a management plan is being implemented, housing and uncontrolled aquatic resource harvesting are some of the significant threats.

## Sur Sarovar

Site number: 2440 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is located on Delhi-Mathura highway (National Highway-2), in Agra district, Uttar Pradesh

Area: 431 ha | Coordinates: 27°15'06"N 77°50'24"E | Designation dates: 21-08-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham Lake, is a human-made reservoir; originally created to supply water to the city of Agra in summer, the wetland soon became an important and rich ecosystem. The Site's patchwork of different habitat types provides refuge to resident and migratory birds, and more than 60 species of fish. Threatened species include the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Clanga clanga*), sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) and catfish *Wallago attu*. The Site is important for bird species which migrate on the Central Asian flyway, with over 30,000 waterbirds known to visit the reservoir annually. Over 1% of the South Asian regional population of the greylag goose (*Anser anser*) is present. Unsustainable tourism, invasive species, and household sewage and urban wastewater present significant threats to the Site.

## Sultanpur National Park

Site number: 2457 | Country: India | Administrative region: Gurugram, Haryana  
Area: 143 ha | Coordinates: 28°27'54"N 76°53'31"E | Designation dates: 25-05-2021  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This shallow lake at the core of the Sultanpur National Park is fed by the overflow from neighbouring canals and fields, and replenished by saline groundwater. The lake features seasonal aquatic vegetation and is dotted with artificial islands; the Park also includes open grasslands. In 2010, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change declared the area within five kilometres of the Park as an eco-sensitive zone. The wetland harbours a rich plant and animal life: it supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles. More than ten of these are globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), and the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*). The Site regularly supports more than 7% of the biogeographic population of bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) and more than 8% of the biogeographic population of greylag goose (*Anser anser*). The ecosystem services offered by the Sultanpur National Park include nutrient cycling, recreation and tourism and scientific and educational activities.

## Karikili Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2480 | Country: India | Administrative region: Partly Maduranthagam Taluk, Chengalpattu District & partly Kancheepuram District  
Area: 58 ha | Coordinates: 12°35'56"N 79°50'32"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Karikili Bird Sanctuary comprises two rain-fed non-perennial irrigation tanks spreading over an area of more than 58 hectares. The Site is flat or gently undulating and lies near low ridged, rocky hillocks. Rainfall varies greatly from year to year, from 400 mm to almost 1,700 mm, flooding the Site in the monsoon months from July to September. The vegetation is mainly composed of *Barringtonia acutangula* and *Acacia nilotica* trees, raised as plantations by the Forest Department. Surrounding vegetation is composed of scrub and thorn. The Site provides habitat for a variety of resident and migratory birds, most of them waterbirds, as well as a few species of scavengers. The near-threatened oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) breed here. The wetland also supports several mammal, reptile and amphibian species such as the jungle cat, bonnet macaque, jackal, python, sand boa and frogs. The Karikili Bird Sanctuary has a history of people cooperating in protecting waterbirds, as their guano enables the supply of nutrient-enriched water to crop fields. The Site was declared a Birds Sanctuary in 1972 and a management plan is currently being implemented to safeguard the biodiversity of the Site as well as the ecosystem services provided to the local communities.

## Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2486 | Country: India | Administrative region: Peraiyur Panchayat, Mudukulathur Taluk, Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu, India  
Area: 97 ha | Coordinates: 09°21'35"N 78°28'44"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary is a nationally protected area and a notable nesting site for several migratory heron species. It is dominated by sub-tropical forests of babul (*Acacia nilotica*) that provide habitat for endemic and migratory birds including near-threatened species such as painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and oriental white ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*). Recent growth of invasive *Prosopis* trees has affected the growth of the indigenous babul populations, threatening the habitat of these birds. Besides its rich biodiversity, the wetland supports the adjacent ecosystems and communities by providing irrigation, flood control, and erosion control. It is culturally important to the local communities, who are known to protect the birds from poaching and other threats. The wetland is sensitive to climate changes which heavily influence the seasonal variability of the water level.

## Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2407 | Country: India | Administrative region: Rupnagar

Area: 116 ha | Coordinates: 31°23'46"N 76°22'16"E | Designation dates: 26-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the Shiwalik foothills of Punjab is the highly eco-sensitive Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, which supports abundant flora and fauna including threatened species, such as the endangered Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and the vulnerable leopard (*Panthera pardus*). It occupies a human-made reservoir constructed as part of the Bhakra-Nangal Project in 1961. The site is of historic importance as the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers formalized the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" there in 1954. More than half a million people downstream benefit from the reservoir as the flow of water is regulated, reducing the risks to both people and property from floods. The Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation (Rupnagar Wildlife Division), Punjab is responsible for managing the Sanctuary.

## Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2412 | Country: India | Administrative region: Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary is situated in Hasanganj tehsil of Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh, India. It is about 50 Km from Lucknow on the Lucknow-Kanpur highway. It is 18 Km from district head quarter Unnao.

Area: 225 ha | Coordinates: 33°11'35"N 119°07'39"E | Designation dates: 19-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A shallow marshland 45 kilometres from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. Monsoon rains feed this diverse wetland while the Sarda Canal supplies additional water. The Sanctuary supports recreation and tourism activities as well as local biodiversity. It is a haven for birds, with 25,000 waterbirds regularly recorded and 220 resident and migratory species documented. Among these are globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) as well as the vulnerable lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*). Protection and afforestation measures have helped increase the overall diversity of wildlife, with golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) and jungle cat (*Felis chaus*) now present. The highly invasive common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) poses a threat, as does the removal of timber from the forests. State forest officers along with the Office of the Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) jointly manage the Sanctuary.

## Lonar Lake

Site number: 2441 | Country: India | Administrative region: Site lies in Buldhana district in the state of Maharashtra

Area: 427 ha | Coordinates: 19°58'33"N 76°30'30"E | Designation dates: 22-07-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This wetland on the Deccan Plateau is an endorheic or closed basin, almost circular in shape, formed by a meteorite impact onto the basalt bedrock. The Site includes the lake as well as escarpments, which form the crater walls, and forested zones. The lake is high in salinity and alkalinity, as the lack of an outflow leads to a concentration of minerals as the lake water evaporates. Specialized micro-organisms such as anaerobes, cyanobacteria and phytoplankton survive in this harsh chemical environment. Outside the lake, there is considerable diversity of plant and animal life, as springs which help feed the lake provide a source of fresh water. Inhabiting the Site are 160 species of birds including the vulnerable Asian woollyneck (*Ciconia episcopus*) and common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), 46 species of reptiles, and 12 species of mammals including the iconic grey wolf (*Canis lupus*). Factors which threaten the site include household sewage and urban wastewater, and unsustainable tourism.



## Kabartal Wetland

Site number: 2436 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is situated in Begusarai district in the state of Bihar

Area: 2,620 ha | Coordinates: 25°37'05"N 86°08'22"E | Designation dates: 21-07-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kabartal Wetland, also known as Kanwar Jheel, covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the northern Bihar State. The Site is one of 18 wetlands within an extensive floodplain complex; it floods during the monsoon season to a depth of 1.5 metres. This absorption of floodwaters is a vital service in Bihar State where 70% of the land is vulnerable to inundation. During the dry season, areas of marshland dry out and are used for agriculture. Significant biodiversity is present, with 165 plant species and 394 animal species recorded, including 221 bird species. The Wetland is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel. It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented. Five critically endangered species inhabit the site, including three vultures – the red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) – and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*). Major threats to the Site include water management activities such as drainage, water abstraction, damming and canalization.

## Asan Conservation Reserve

Site number: 2437 | Country: India | Administrative region: Uttarakhand

Area: 444 ha | Coordinates: 30°26'01"N 77°40'58"E | Designation dates: 21-07-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Asan Conservation Reserve is a 444-hectare stretch of the Asan River running down to its confluence with the Yamuna River in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. The damming of the River by the Asan Barrage in 1967 resulted in siltation above the dam wall, which helped to create some of the Site's bird-friendly habitats. These habitats support 330 species of birds including the critically endangered red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*). More than 1% of the biogeographical populations of two waterbird species have been recorded, these being red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) and ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). Other non-avian species present include 49 fish species, one of these being the endangered Putitor mahseer (*Tor putitora*). Fish use the site for feeding, migration and spawning. As well as this support for biodiversity and the hydro-electricity production of the Barrage, the Site's role in maintaining hydrological regimes is important.

## Satkosia Gorge

Site number: 2470 | Country: India | Administrative region: Angul, Nayagarh, Boudha, Cuttack District, Odisha

Area: 98,197 ha | Coordinates: 20°34'20"N 84°49'56"E | Designation dates: 12-10-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Established in 1976 as a wildlife sanctuary, Satkosia Gorge in Angul district of Odisha State is a mosaic of rivers, marshes and evergreen forests at the meeting point of two biogeographic regions, the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats. These wetland habitats support a variety of plant and animal communities. Notable plant species include asan (*Terminalia alata*), dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), simal (*Bombax ceiba*), Indian thorny bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) and Calcutta bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*); while animal species include red-crowned roofed turtle (*Batagur kachuga*), Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle (*Chitra indica*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*). The wetland is also known for providing a variety of ecosystem services to surrounding communities like fishing, recharging of groundwater, climate regulation, and safety from floods. It also provides recreational and tourism opportunities and supports spiritual and cultural practices. Fire suppression, drought, drainage, and extreme temperatures are some of the high-impact threats affecting the ecological integrity of the Site.



## Pala Wetland

Site number: 2484 | Country: India | Administrative region: Mizoram

Area: 1,850 ha | Coordinates: 22°11'49"N 92°54'07"E | Designation dates: 31-08-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pala Wetland is the largest natural wetland in the state of Mizoram. The Site includes a relatively deep lake (over 16 metres deep on average) and its surrounding forest catchment area which climbs to almost 600m above sea level. The wetland supports a rich diversity of animal species, including at least seven mammals, 222 birds, 11 amphibians and 21 reptiles. The low-lying marshy areas within the wetland provide excellent habitat for many herbivores such as sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*), wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) and barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*). Various species of primate also inhabit the wetland, such as the endangered Hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) and Phayre's leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*). Pala Wetland is revered by the local Mara people and has a deep connection with their history. The wetland is the major source of freshwater and fish for the villages at its fringe and also the major source of irrigation water for wet rice cultivation, horticulture and other forms of agriculture. Although classified as a Wetland Reserve by the national authorities, the Site is threatened by the construction of roads and railroads, hunting and collecting of land animals, illegal logging and wood harvesting. However, a management plan is being implemented to mitigate these threats.

## Ansupa Lake

Site number: 2487 | Country: India | Administrative region: Subranpur, Cuttack, Odisha

Area: 231 ha | Coordinates: 20°27'36"N 85°36'11"E | Designation dates: 12-10-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ansupa, a small freshwater oxbow lake formed by the Mahanadi river, is known nationally for its scenic beauty and rich biodiversity. Some 194 species of birds, 61 fish species, 244 macrophytes, 88 butterflies and 26 mammals are supported by the wetland. The lake provides a safe habitat to three endangered species, the Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), the black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) and the wagur (*Clarias magur*), and the vulnerable river tern (*Sterna aurantia*) and helicopter catfish (*Wallago attu*). It also sustains the water demands of the surrounding areas and supports the fishing and farming livelihoods of the local communities. It is connected with Mahanadi river by a small channel which is not currently functional, making the lake prone to drying during extreme droughts. Other threats such as soil erosion, sedimentation, weed infestation, and fisheries also face the lake and its biodiversity. A management plan has been prepared for the period from 2019 to 2024.

## Hirakud Reservoir

Site number: 2494 | Country: India | Administrative region: Bargarh district

Area: 65,400 ha | Coordinates: 21°36'38"N 83°45'59"E | Designation dates: 12-10-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hirakud Reservoir is one of the largest man-made reservoirs in India, built across the Mahanadi River by a combination of earth and modern dams of a total length of almost 26 kilometres. The reservoir helps regulate the water level of the river and moderates the impact of floods in the Mahanadi Delta. It provides habitat for over 130 bird species and about 54 fish, with one classified as endangered and six others as near-threatened. 21 fish species are economically important to the region as they provide a total yield of 480 tonnes per year, supporting the livelihoods of over 7,000 fishermen. The reservoir also produces around 350 megawatts of hydropower and irrigates 436,000 hectares of land. The rich biodiversity and other recreational activities in and around the reservoir make it a popular tourist destination, with over 30,000 tourists visiting annually.

## Tampara Lake

Site number: 2489 | Country: India | Administrative region: Ganjam District, Odisha, India

Area: 300 ha | Coordinates: 19°21'02"N 85°00'04"E | Designation dates: 12-10-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The use of explosives during a battle in the Ganjam district between the British East India Company and French colonists in 1766 created a large depression which later became Tampara Lake. The lake is now connected to the Rushikulya river and helps in flood control during the monsoon season. The lake receives flood waters coming from the river, making its biodiversity highly vulnerable to extreme heat and dry weather. The wetland supports 60 species of birds and 46 fish species, including vulnerable species such as common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and river tern (*Sterna aurantia*). With an estimated average fish yield of 12 tonnes per year, the wetland is an important source of livelihoods for the local communities. Along with fish, the wetland also provides water for agriculture and domestic use and is used for recreation. It also provides a water pathway for local transportation of goods.

## Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest

Site number: 2481 | Country: India | Administrative region: Chennai City

Area: 1,248 ha | Coordinates: 12°55'40"N 80°13'13"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This freshwater marsh and partly saline wetland situated about 20 kilometres south of the city of Chennai serves as an aquatic buffer of the flood-prone Chennai and Chengalpattu districts. The diverse ecosystem of the marshland supports some 115 bird species, ten mammals, 21 reptiles, ten amphibians, 46 fish, nine molluscs, five crustaceans, and seven butterfly species. These include notable species such as Russell's viper (*Daboia siamensis*) and birds such as the glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), grey-headed lapwings (*Vanellus cinereus*) and Pheasant-tailed jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*). Apart from its biodiversity value, the wetland also plays a vital role in the prevention of flooding for the city of Chennai, soaking up water during wet periods and releasing it during dry spells. Inhabitants of seven surrounding villages partially depend on the wetland for their subsistence. The Site is threatened by invasive and non-native species, household sewage, urban wastewater and droughts. In response, the Conservation Authority of Pallikaranai Marsh is currently implementing a site-specific management plan.

## Pichavaram Mangrove

Site number: 2482 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Headquarters of the Pichavaram Mangrove is located at Cuddalore town, in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu

Area: 1,479 ha | Coordinates: 11°26'17"N 79°47'11"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

One of the largest mangrove ecosystems in India, located between the prominent estuaries of the Vellar and Coleroon Rivers, the Site features littoral and swamp forest habitats. It not only offers waterscape and backwater cruises but also another rare sight – the mangrove trees are permanently rooted in a few feet of water. The Site hosts a natural hybrid species, *Rhizophora annamalayana*, which is derived from two species of *Rhizophora*: *R. apiculata* and another natural hybrid *R. mucronata*. Like other mangrove wetlands in India, Pichavaram Mangrove supports several threatened species such as the critically endangered great white-bellied heron (*Ardea insignis*) and spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), the endangered spotted greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*) and the vulnerable olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The Site also provides spawning and nursing ground for commercially important prawns, mainly white prawn (*Penaeus indicus*) and tiger prawn (*P. monodon*), crabs and fish. In addition to this exceptional biodiversity, the Site supports the livelihoods of over 1,000 families through artisanal fishing, firewood collection, non-timber forest product harvesting, and grazing lands for livestock. The mangroves are revered by the local communities due to the significant spiritual value associated with *Excoecaria agallocha*, a mangrove with toxic properties commonly known as "Tillai". Despite being declared a Reserve Forest since 1893, the Site has no management plan.

## Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2479 | Country: India | Administrative region: Tirunelveli district  
Area: 72 ha | Coordinates: 08°29'44"N 77°45'14"E | Designation dates: 08-11-2021  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of irrigation tanks interconnected by a network of canals built a few centuries ago and fed by the rivers originating from the Western Ghats mountain range. Otherwise it only receives water only through seasonal monsoon rainfall. This wetland is the largest reserve for breeding resident and migratory waterbirds in South India. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) on the Central Asian Flyway. Notable waterbird species include Indian pond heron (*Ardeola grayii*), Eurasian wigeon (*Anas penelope*), spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*). The wetland supports rich social and cultural heritage as well as the agriculture which is the major source of local people's livelihoods. It also acts as a buffer against flooding during periods of extreme rainfall. It was declared a Bird Sanctuary in 1994; however some significant threats still affect the wetland including encroachments, household sewage and urban wastewater, the growth of shrimp farms, and other human activities.

## Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2491 | Country: India | Administrative region: Ramanathapuram  
Area: 260 ha | Coordinates: 09°20'28"N 78°28'40"E | Designation dates: 08-11-2021  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site, locally known as "Chitrangudi Kanmoli", is located in the village of Chitrangudi, adjacent to Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Ramanathapuram district. The wetland has been a protected area since 1989 and is also classed as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). There are 50 bird species found, including four near-threatened species. The Sanctuary is an important breeding ground for wintering birds such as spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*). It is also rich in medicinal plants such as holy basil (*Ocimum sanctum*) and flame lily (*Gloriosa superba*), the State flower of Tamil Nadu. Due to its rich biodiversity, the sanctuary is frequently visited by nature enthusiasts and birdwatchers. Despite being a hotspot for birds, the wetland water occasionally dries as its major sources are rainfall and run-off water. However, this feature also makes the wetland a buffering area during heavy rainfall and a sink for sediments and nutrients during flooding. The regional forest department undertakes regulation activities during the summer season to maintain the water level of the lake.

## Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2493 | Country: India | Administrative region: Is located on Thanjavur-Mannargudi highway, Thiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu; 22km from Thanjavur on Thanjavur-Mannargudi highway(SH-63), 45km from Thiruvarur, 58km from Udayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary& 50km from Point Calimere Sanctuary Block A  
Area: 113 ha | Coordinates: 10°42'10"N 79°18'59"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary is composed of small man-made reservoirs interconnected by an ancient network of canals and fed by the Mettur reservoir, in the semi-arid district of Thiruvarur. The rooted floating aquatic plants distributed through the reservoir provide habitat for around 118 bird species, including spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Eurasian wigeon (*Mareca Penelope*), and northern pintail (*Anas acuta*). Similarly, the aquatic submerged and terrestrial vegetation in and around the wetland provide foraging and breeding habitat for the birds. The interconnected wetland system acts as a buffer against flooding and also provides water during periods of drought. The Sanctuary is threatened by increasing anthropogenic pressures related to urbanization, water abstraction, unsustainable fishing, invasive species and climate change, and so has been identified as an area of national importance by the national government. The Tiruvarur Forest Division implemented a management plan from 2016 to 2021 to counter these threats.

## Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2476 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Sanctuary is located on Tiruthuraipoondi Taluk of Tiruvarur district in Tamil Nadu., and is located about 80 kilometres from Thanjavur, about 58km from Vaduvur Birds sanctuary and 10 km from Point Calimere Birds Sanctuary Block A.

Area: 44 ha | Coordinates: 10°27'02"N 79°33'16"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sanctuary consists of human-made irrigation tanks, interconnected by an ancient network of canals and fed by the Mettur dam through the Koraiyar canal. The Site is an important staging and breeding ground for several species of waterbirds. Notable species observed include the oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Eurasian wigeon (*Anas Penelope*), Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) and garganey (*Anas querquedula*). The Site provides the surrounding communities with fresh water for human consumption and also livestock and agriculture by storing floodwaters during the monsoon and maintaining surface water flow during drier periods. It also helps replenish groundwater and feeds surrounding smaller wetlands and agricultural land. The Site is threatened by storms, flooding, uncontrolled harvesting of aquatic resources, and recreation and tourism. There is a management plan available, but it is yet to be implemented.

## Sirpur Wetland

Site number: 2478 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is situated in Indore District in the state of Madhya Pradesh

Area: 161 ha | Coordinates: 22°41'58"N 75°48'44"E | Designation dates: 07-01-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sirpur Wetland is a human-made wetland that has stabilized and acquired near-natural characteristics in the last two centuries. Commonly named Pakshi Vihar (bird sanctuary), the Site is a shallow, alkaline, nutrient-rich lake that floods during the monsoon to a maximum depth of two metres. It boasts a wealth of plants and animals including threatened species: it supports some 175 terrestrial plant species, six macrophytes, 30 natural and cultured fish species, eight reptiles, and amphibians. Waterbirds congregate during the winter season; the Site supports 130 bird species in all, including residents and migrants such as common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Indian river tern (*Sterna aurantia*). Sirpur Wetland provides surrounding communities with fisheries and medicinal plants, and acts as a buffer against flooding while helping to regulate the local microclimate. The local communities also accrue benefits through spiritual enrichment, recreation and education. The Site is yet to benefit from a management plan or a national legal conservation status.

## Yashwant Sagar

Site number: 2495 | Country: India | Administrative region: District Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Area: 823 ha | Coordinates: 22°48'14"N 75°41'44"E | Designation dates: 07-01-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This freshwater reservoir was built in the Gambhir river basin in the 1930s to provide irrigation and drinking water to the Indore region. In more recent years, it has been also used for commercial aquaculture. This wetland is designated as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and is one of the most important birdwatching sites in the region. When the water recedes in the winter, the wetland provides nesting, breeding, and foraging habitats for a large number of migratory birds including the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*). Overall, it supports around 239 bird species and 39 species of fish along with other plants and mammals. The wetland plays a vital role in maintaining the hydrological regime of the area and is also known for its beauty, attracting thousands of tourists every year. It is also valued for scientific research.



## Nanda Lake

Site number: 2471 | Country: India | Administrative region: Quepem municipality, Village Quepem, Quepem Taluka, South Goa, Goa, India

Area: 42 ha | Coordinates: 15°14'12"N 74°06'26"E | Designation dates: 08-06-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nanda Lake comprises intermittent freshwater marshes that lie adjacent to one of the major tributaries of the Zuari River. They are linked to the adjacent river channel by a sluice gate, which when closed enables the flooding of the marshes. This wetland supports a wide variety of migratory waterbirds and many other important plants and animals. Notable bird species include black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), wire-tailed swallow (*Hirundo smithii*), bronze-winged jacana (*Metopidius indicus*), brahmyn kite (*Haliastur indus*), intermediate egret (*Ardea intermedia*), little cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*) and lesser whistling duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*). The Site enables local communities to store water during the off-monsoon season, to cultivate rice paddies downstream of the lake and support fishing and recreation. The lake also protects downstream areas from monsoon floods. Threats include invasive non-native species, garbage and solid waste, overfishing, and harvesting of aquatic resources. However, there is no management plan to address these issues.

## Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex

Site number: 2492 | Country: India | Administrative region: Commonly known as Suchindrum Eri & Theroor kulam; located at Kanniyakumari Dist. of Tamil Nadu State; is a Protected Area; declared as Conservation Reserve as per Sec 36 A of Wild Life Protection Act 1972; Env.& Forest Dept.,G.O.(Ms)No.41, Dated:19.3.2015

Area: 94 ha | Coordinates: 08°09'03"N 77°27'14"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is part of the Suchindram-Theroor Manakudi Conservation Reserve and lies at the southern tip of the Central Asian Flyway. The Wetland Complex lies at the point of the Kodaiyar river drainage system where water stored in the Perunchanidam, Pechipparai and Kodaiyar reservoirs is released into a channel which drains thousands of ponds. The wetland comprises two man-made reservoirs, Theroor and Suchindram, that provide irrigation and habitat for wetland birds. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA); around 250 species of birds have been recorded, of which 53 are migratory, 12 endemic, and four threatened. The presence of at least 183 plant and animal species enables the reservoirs to provide crucial staging and foraging grounds for the birds. The extensive irrigation system was built and monitored from the ninth century, and supports the livelihoods of about 75% of the population of the wetland's communities.

## Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve

Site number: 2496 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is 40 km from Srinagar, the UT summer capital and located in district Baramulla (34°15'N, 74°31'E) of Jammu & Kashmir on the flood plains of river Jhelum at an altitudinal height of 1580 m asl.

Area: 802 ha | Coordinates: 34°14'24"N 74°31'36"E | Designation dates: 08-06-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Hygam wetland lies downstream of another Ramsar Site (Wular Lake, [Site no.461](#)), with which it is connected, and forms an important site for biodiversity conservation. It lies on the Central Asian Flyway and over 40,000 migratory and resident bird species have been recorded annually. The wetland also supports mammals, amphibians, and fish including Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). The wetland is located within the Jhelum river basin and plays a significant role in flood control, aquifer recharge, and regulating water flow of the Wular Lake. This wetland provides local communities with a range of "ecosystem services", providing fish, wood and clean water, and regulating the local climate. However, it is increasingly threatened by continuous siltation, willow plantations and nutrient accumulation. To tackle these issues, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has been implementing an integrated management action plan since 2002.



## Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve

Site number: 2488 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is 18 km from Srinagar, the UT summer capital and located in district Srinagar and District Ganderbal of Jammu & Kashmir on the flood plains of river Jhelum at an altitudinal height of 1580 m asl. 34° 9.663'N 74° 43.457'E  
Area: 1,675 ha | Coordinates: 34°09'41"N 74°43'41"E | Designation dates: 08-06-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve lies west of Anchar Lake in the Sindh river delta. This shallow wetland is primarily fed by rainfall, snowmelt from the Kashmir Himalayas, and stream water flowing from the Sindh river and Anchar Lake. It lies close to another Ramsar Site, Hokera Wetland ([Site no.1570](#)) and together they form an important aquatic habitat in this region. It features extensive reed beds and floating aquatic vegetation which provide important habitat for over 21 species of resident and migratory birds. Many of the birds are in threatened, including the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), Pallas's fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*), and the vulnerable eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), yellow-eyed pigeon (*Columba eversmanni*) and wood snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*). Some of these species are also endemic to the wetland. The wetland supports fisheries, provides clean water, regulates flooding, and acts as a carbon sink. Excessive siltation is the biggest problem threatening the Site's ecological characteristics.

## Thane Creek

Site number: 2490 | Country: India | Administrative region: The site lies in the Thane, Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban district of Maharashtra State  
Area: 6,521 ha | Coordinates: 19°06'31"N 72°57'54"E | Designation dates: 13-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest creeks of Asia and hosts many birds migrating on the Central Asian Flyway. As a sanctuary for flamingos and other important bird species, it is in the list of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). Thane Creek falls under the Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) but is fed by numerous freshwater sources, making the water brackish. Its mangrove forests provide nurseries for several fish species, sustaining the local fisheries, and also act as a natural buffer against floods, cyclones and seawater intrusions, enhancing the resilience of surrounding areas to such climate-related hazards. The Creek features a rich biodiversity of birds, fish, crustaceans, molluscs, butterflies, and floral species, some of which are threatened, such as the vulnerable Sulawesi fruit bat (*Acerodon celebensis*), Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) and river tern (*Sterna aurantia*), and the endangered great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*).

## Nagi Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2545 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Site lies in the Jamui District of Bihar State in India  
Area: 206 ha | Coordinates: 24°49'01"N 86°24'28"E | Designation dates: 11-10-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site was created following the damming of the Nagi River, which enabled the gradual formation of water bodies with clear water and aquatic vegetation. The catchment area, largely dry deciduous forest, is surrounded by hills. Due to its importance for migratory bird species, the Site was recognized locally as a Bird Sanctuary in 1984, and internationally as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International. Threatened migratory species that winter at the Site include the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*). Overall, the wetland and its fringes provide habitat for over 75 bird species, 33 fish, and 12 aquatic plants. Notably, the Site hosts one of the largest congregations of bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) on the Indo-Gangetic plain. Additionally, the wetland provides a reliable source of water for the irrigation of over 9,800 acres of agricultural land, and serves as a location for recreation, tourism, and educational activities.

## Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve

Site number: 2536 | Country: India | Administrative region: Shirahatti

Area: 54 ha | Coordinates: 15°13'24"N 75°31'E | Designation dates: 14-02-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a human-made wetland that was primarily constructed to store monsoon rainwater for irrigation in a rural area of the Gadag district. Over the years following its construction, the water in the wetland became increasingly alkaline and unsuitable for irrigation. Nevertheless, the Site now provides stable habitat conditions for more than 165 bird species and has been declared nationally as a conservation reserve and globally as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). Rare and threatened species such as the northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), garganey (*Anas querquedula*) and common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) are found here. Some 30,000 waterbird individuals including 8,000 wintering individuals have been regularly recorded; the Site is one of the largest wintering grounds for bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) in southern India. The globally endangered Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) has also been observed in the vicinity of the Site. Locals primarily enter for cattle grazing and fishing.

## Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2548 | Country: India | Administrative region: Tamil Nadu

Area: 5,152 ha | Coordinates: 12°06'37"N 79°51'41"E | Designation dates: 16-01-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, the second largest brackish lake in Peninsular India, was designated as a Bird Sanctuary in 2021. It is connected to the Bay of Bengal in the north via Uppukalli creek, and receives seawater during high tides or cyclones. As a result, the salinity of the wetland varies, with saltier water in the north transitioning to fresh water in the south at Kazhuveli basin. This variation allows the wetland to act as a migratory path and spawning ground for multiple fish species. The gum arabic tree (*Vachellia nilotica*) and Jerusalem thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) found in the Site provide nesting areas for over 2,000 colonial nesting birds each breeding season, particularly for the spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). Located along the central Asian flyway, the Site also provides feeding grounds for migratory species such as the vulnerable spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and river tern (*Sterna aurantia*). Its swampy areas offer suitable nesting grounds for the vulnerable Indian flap-shelled turtle (*Lissemys punctata*) and Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*). Overall, the diverse habitats support 229 species of birds, 85 fish, 72 butterflies, 39 reptiles, 13 amphibians and 14 mammals. Hence, the Site is popular amongst nature enthusiasts, bird watchers, wildlife photographers and researchers.

## Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2559 | Country: India | Administrative region: Sahibganj district in the state of Jharkhand.

Area: 936 ha | Coordinates: 24°59'43"N 87°48'37"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises two interconnected wetlands, Pataura Lake and Barhel Lake, which are surrounded by the hillocks of the Rajamahar Hills and linked by a channel to the Ganga River. The Sanctuary supports a variety of plants, including around 30 aquatic species. The widespread sedge grass *Cyperus tagetum* is used for grazing livestock during the dry season. In 2016, the Site was designated as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area due to its role in providing habitat for over 140 birds. Among these, the Site provides habitat for the endangered band-tailed fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and lesser adjutant stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*). The area also holds historical significance, as the location of a famous battle between the King of Bengal and the British in 1763. Local communities use the banks of the wetlands for agriculture and sustenance fishing.

## Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2549 | Country: India | Administrative region: The wetland is situated at a distance of approximately 10 kms from Tiruppur town on the north side on the Tiruppur-Uthukuli main road.

Nanjarayan Lake Bird Sanctuary is locally known as

Area: 126 ha | Coordinates: 11°08'03"N 77°23'10"E | Designation dates: 16-01-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a freshwater lake located within Neruperichal and Sarkar Periyapalayam villages in Tiruppur district, Tamil Nadu. It holds historical significance, having been named after King Nanjarayan who constructed the reservoir 400 years ago. The lake's water levels fluctuate based on rainfall and runoff from the surrounding catchment area and Nallar River. During periods of high rainfall, excess water is diverted to Sarkar Periyapalayam village for irrigation. In 2022, the Site was designated as a Bird Sanctuary. Gum arabic trees (*Vachellia nilotica*) on the bunds of the lake provide refuge and nesting habitats for waterbirds such as the Indian darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and Indian cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*). The wetland banks also provide suitable breeding grounds for the Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*). Overall, the lake and its environs host 191 species of birds, 87 butterflies, 77 plants, 21 reptiles, 11 small mammals and 7 amphibians. The local villages rely on the lake for agricultural activities, while the forest department manages the Site in collaboration with established local community groups.

## Aghanashini Estuary

Site number: 2534 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka State, India

Area: 4,801 ha | Coordinates: 14°30'37"N 74°22'59"E | Designation dates: 14-02-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an estuary where the Aghanashini River flows into the Arabian Sea in Karnataka State. In addition to its estuarine and shallow marine waters, it features rocky and pebble shores, intertidal mudflats and some aquaculture ponds and rice fields. These diverse environments provide habitats to more than 80 fish, 115 birds and 45 mangroves and mangrove-associated species, including globally threatened species such as halavi guitarfish (*Glaucostegus halavi*), lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and Indian river tern (*Sterna aurantia*). A majority of the fish species found at the Site are able to adapt to a wide range of saline environments, while some are migratory and only enter the Site for spawning or during early life stages. About 55,000 individual birds and more than 1% of the regional populations of nine bird species have been recorded here, including almost 10% of the regional population of black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*). The Site supports the livelihoods of more than 6,000 households, who are engaged in activities such as fishing, agriculture, shrimp aquaculture, bivalve shell mining and salt production. In the estuary, farmers practice traditional farming to grow a salt-tolerant rice called "kagga", which is one of the specialties of the region.

## Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2537 | Country: India | Administrative region: Ariyalur District  
Area: 454 ha | Coordinates: 10°58'48"N 79°02'44"E | Designation dates: 24-05-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest inland freshwater lakes in the State of Tamil Nadu. It provides important stopover and foraging ground for birds migrating along the Central Asian Flyway. Some 10,000 individuals of 14 colonial waterbird species have been found nesting here. The gum Arabic tree (*Acacia nilotica*) provides roosting and nesting grounds for threatened species such as spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) and Indian darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*). When the water level starts receding after January, larger birds such as painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) flock to the Site; it has recorded one of the largest congregations of waterbirds among all lakes in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Site also provides breeding habitat for the vulnerable Indian flap-shelled turtle (*Lissemys punctata*). During the driest period, between July and October, the water level of the Site is maintained with water from the Mettur Dam. The lake water is used to irrigate about 4,000 hectares of surrounding farmland. There are issues related to human-wildlife conflict, in particularly concerning the vulnerable bonnet macaque (*Macaca radiata*).

## Longwood Shola Reserve Forest

Site number: 2538 | Country: India | Administrative region: Ooty  
Area: 116 ha | Coordinates: 11°26'22"N 76°52'38"E | Designation dates: 24-05-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site lies near the town of Kothagiri, adjacent to the eastern slopes of the Nilgiri mountain range. It features intermittent freshwater marshes and streams nested within a "shola" (a tropical montane forest of southern India which is usually found in patches separated by grasslands). This Site is the only natural shola forest remaining in the vicinity of Kothagiri and has very high species endemism. Around 40 species of trees, four reptiles, 14 frogs and 14 birds that are endemic to the Western Ghats region are found here. Some of the noteworthy plant species that are endemic and threatened include *Actinodaphne bourneae* (the Bourne's beak-rush), *Psychotria nilgiriensis* and *Cinnamomum wightii* (the Wight's cinnamon). The Site is one of the key conservation areas of the endangered black-chinned Nilgiri laughing thrush (*Strophocincla cachinnans*), the Nilgiri blue robin (*Myiomela major*) and the vulnerable Nilgiri wood-pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*). It is mainly threatened by encroachment, invasive species and deforestation. A committee of local residents actively work with the Reserve's officials to protect the Site and its biodiversity.

## Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve

Site number: 2535 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Site is found in the Vijayanagara District, Karnataka State, India

Area: 99 ha | Coordinates: 15°07'40"N 76°14'01"E | Designation dates: 10-03-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a human-made wetland built for storing monsoon run-off water coming from the Tungabhadra River and providing irrigation to surrounding drought-risk areas. The Site is widely known for its rich bird diversity and has been declared as a conservation reserve, managed mainly for bird protection. Some 35,000 birds of 240 species have been recorded, of which about 30 waterbird species breed at the Site. Several thousand gum Arabic trees (*Vachellia nilotica*) growing in the lake provide nesting, roosting and breeding habitat for large colonies of waterbirds including the Indian cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*) and the near-threatened painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*). At least 20% of the regional population of glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) has been regularly recorded at the Site. There are also nine endemic fish species, three of which are globally endangered: tiger loach (*Botia striata*), aruli barb (*Dawkinsia arulius*) and nukta (*Schismatorhynchus nukta*). Excessive growth of the invasive alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), the shrub *Prosopis juliflora* and the African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) are threatening the native fish and waterbirds. A management and restoration plan for the Site was being prepared as of 2023.

## Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2561 | Country: India | Administrative region: Ramanathapuram District

Area: 230 ha | Coordinates: 09°20'20"N 78°49'23"E | Designation dates: 15-07-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a peri-urban wetland located within three villages in southern Tamil Nadu. The wetland plays a crucial role in maintaining the hydrological regime of the area, preventing soil erosion, replenishing groundwater, and serving as a buffer during floods and extreme rainfall. It supports more than 120 species of birds, and in 2012, the Site was designated as a bird sanctuary. The abundant babul (*Acacia nilotica*) trees in the Site provide ideal nesting habitat for eight bird species, including the near-threatened spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). The Site also provides vital habitat for amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. The wetland's water, enriched by bird droppings, is used by local communities in agriculture. This relationship has fostered sentiments supportive to the protection of birds among villagers.

## Vembannur Wetland Complex

Site number: 2474 | Country: India | Administrative region: close to Bay of Bengal, comes under Melasankarankuzhi Panchayath; located 8km towards W from Nagercoil, 4km from Rajakkamangalam & 736km from Chennai; surrounded by Kurunthancode, Nagercoil, Thackalai & Agastiswaram blocks towards W, E, N & E respectively

Area: 20 ha | Coordinates: 08°10'54"N 77°22'34"E | Designation dates: 08-04-2022

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vembannur Wetland is a human-made irrigation tank, situated a few kilometres inland in Tamil Nadu near the southernmost point of mainland India. The Site forms part of an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and it provides suitable habitat to several species of waterbird in the breeding and non-breeding seasons such as the Indian river tern (*Sterna aurantia*), the spotted greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), the garganey (*Anas querquedula*) and the grey pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). The Site is also an excellent habitat for notable plants including *Indotristicha ramosissima*, *Cyrtococcum longipes* and *Eriochrysis rangacharii*. The wetland supports more than 2,000 hectares of agricultural land on which more than 1,000 families depend. It also supplies fish and drinking water to local communities while moderating the impacts of drought and floods, influencing the local microclimate, enhancing the beauty of the landscape, and providing many recreational opportunities. Vegetation clearance and land conversion, garbage and solid waste present moderate threats to the ecological integrity of the Site. Although a management plan has been prepared, the authorities are yet to start implementing it.

## Khachodpalri wetland

Site number: 2560 | Country: India | Administrative region: GYALSHING DISTRICT, SIKKIM, INDIA

Area: 172 ha | Coordinates: 65°12'38"N 11°25'54"E | Designation dates: 15-07-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a temperate Himalayan high altitude wetland ecosystem, which is an ecosystem found in only ten percent of India's land area. The central lake is surrounded by peatland and a temperate forest of evergreen oaks, chestnuts and laurels, providing more than 680 species critical refuge from volatile mountain conditions. Notably, the Site serves as an important habitat and stopover site for birds migrating across the Himalayas, including the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*). It is also home to the endangered red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and the vulnerable Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*), both of which are endemic to the region. The Site has religious significance as a pilgrimage destination for Sikkim Himalaya communities, which, with its scenic and cultural values, makes it a major tourist attraction in the state of Sikkim.



## Tawa Reservoir

Site number: 2547 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Tawa Reservoir is situated in Narmadapuram District in the state of Madhya Pradesh

Area: 20,050 ha | Coordinates: 22°30'45"N 78°00'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a man-made wetland which was created primarily for irrigation through the construction of Tawa Dam. It is located within Satpura Tiger Reserve, in the Central Indian Highlands. The largest protected area in Madhya Pradesh, the Site supports 57 fish species, 21 mammals, over 280 migratory birds, and a rich diversity of aquatic plants. Notably, it is an important fish spawning ground, hosting indigenous species such as the vulnerable common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and shark catfish (*Wallago attu*). In addition, the Site harbours the state fish of Madhya Pradesh, the tor mahseer (*Tor tor*), which is revered as a "god fish" by local communities. The Site and its environs also provide habitat to the Indian giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*), which is endemic to India. Alongside its ecological functions, the Site is a popular tourist destination for recreational activities such as boating and camping.

## Therthangal Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2562 | Country: India | Administrative region: Ramanathapuram District

Area: 29 ha | Coordinates: 09°27'33"N 78°46'14"E | Designation dates: 15-07-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a marshy lake located within Therthangal village in southern Tamil Nadu. The wetland is fed by two rivers during the rainy season. Ninety-six bird species have been recorded in the Site, including the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and the vulnerable Indian spotted eagle (*Clanga hastata*). The babul (*Acacia nilotica*) trees planted by the forest department provide popular nesting sites for migratory birds. In 2010, the Site was designated as a bird sanctuary. In addition to birds, the Site also supports 133 plant, 57 butterfly, 11 reptile, seven mammal, and six amphibian species. While the wetland is primarily used for water to irrigate the agricultural fields in adjacent villages, it is also a recreation and tourism site.

## Loktak Lake

Site number: 463 | Country: India | Administrative region: Manipur

Area: 26,600 ha | Coordinates: 24°26'N 93°48'59"E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loktak Lake. 23/03/90; Manipur; 26,600 ha; 24°26'N 93°49'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. A large, but shrinking freshwater lake and associated swamplands supplied by several streams. Thick, floating mats of weeds covered with soil ( phumids') are a characteristic feature. The lake is used extensively by local people as a source of water for irrigation and domestic use and is an important wintering and staging area for waterbirds, particularly ducks. It also plays an important role in flood control. Included on the Montreux Record in 1993 as a result of ecological problems such as deforestation in the catchment area, infestation of water hyacinth, and pollution. The construction of a dam for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation purposes has caused the local extinction of several native fish species. Ramsar site no. 463. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Rudrasagar Lake

Site number: 1572 | Country: India | Administrative region: West Tripura District

Area: 240 ha | Coordinates: 23°28'59"N 91°16'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rudrasagar Lake. 08/11/05; Tripura; 240 ha; 23°29'N 090°01'E. A lowland sedimentation reservoir in the northeast hills, fed by three perennial streams discharging to the River Gomti. The lake is abundant in commercially important freshwater fishes like *Botia* spp, *Notopterus Chitala*, *Mystus* spp., *Ompok pabda*, *Labeo bata*, and freshwater scampi, with annual production of 26 metric-tons, and an ideal habitat for IUCN Redlisted Three-striped Roof Turtle *Kachuga dhongka*. Owing to high rainfall (2500mm) and downstream topography, the wetland is regularly flooded with 4-5 times annual peak, assisting in groundwater recharge. Aquatic weeds are composed of rare marginal-floating-emergent-submerged weeds. Lands are owned by the state with perennial water areas leased out to the subsistent fishermen's cooperative, and surrounding seasonal waterbodies are cultivated for paddy. Main threats are increasing silt loads due to deforestation, expansion of agricultural land and intensive farming, and land conversion for population pressure. Vijaya Dashami, one of the most important Hindu festivals with various sports events, attracts at least 50,000 tourists and devotees every year. A management plan is underway by the MoEF-India. Ramsar site no. 1572. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Nalsarovar

Site number: 2078 | Country: India | Administrative region: Gujarat State

Area: 12,000 ha | Coordinates: 22°46'32"N 72°02'21"E | Designation dates: 24-09-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. 24/09/12; Gujarat; 12,000 ha; 22°46'33"N 072°02'21"E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A natural freshwater lake (a relict sea) that is the largest natural wetland in the Thar Desert Biogeographic Province and represents a dynamic environment with salinity and depth varying depending on rainfall. The area is home to 210 species of birds, with an average 174,128 individuals recorded there during the winter and 50,000 in the summer. It is an important stopover site within the Central Asia Flyway, with globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and the vulnerable Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) stopping over at the site during migration, while the vulnerable Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) takes refuge there during summer when other water bodies are dry. The wetland is also a lifeline for a satellite population of the endangered Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*) which uses this area in the dry season. Local communities heavily rely on the lake as it provides them with a source of drinking water and water for irrigation, as well as an important source of income from fishing for Catla fish (*Catla Catla*) and Rohu (*Labeo rohita*). An average of 75,000 tourists visit the wetland annually. Ramsar Site no. 2078. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2464 | Country: India | Administrative region: Khijadia wildlife sanctuary falls within Jamnagar District of Gujarat State, India. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary located virtually between 22°31'27" N and 70°07'17"E.

Area: 512 ha | Coordinates: 22°30'52"N 70°08'45"E | Designation dates: 13-04-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat State was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 to protect farmland from saltwater ingress. As one of the important waterbird habitats in North-West India, the Site provides breeding, feeding and roosting grounds for a wide range of resident aquatic and also land-based birds. It provides habitat for over 310 bird species, including 125 waterbirds; over 165,000 individual waterbirds have been counted. These include the endangered Pallas's fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), and the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). The Site also regularly supports more than 1% of the south and south-west Asian population of Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), more than 2% of greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and more than 20% of common crane (*Grus grus*). More than 180 plant species are present, including the critically endangered Indian bdellium-tree (*Commiphora wightii*). The Site contributes to the maintenance of hydrological regimes, erosion protection and nutrient cycling. It is used for recreation and tourism, and scientific and educational activities.

## Sundarban Wetland

Site number: 2370 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Headquarters of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve is located at Canning town, South 24 Parganas district and is connected with broad gauge railway line with Sealdah South suburban station, which is 46 kms from Canning.

Area: 423,000 ha | Coordinates: 21°46'29"N 88°42'51"E | Designation dates: 30-01-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sundarban Wetland is located within the largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, that encompasses hundreds of islands and a maze of rivers, rivulets and creeks, in the delta of the Rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra on the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh. The Indian Sundarban, covering the south-westernmost part of the delta, constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area and includes 90% of Indian mangrove species. The mangrove forests protect the hinterland from storms, cyclones, tidal surges, and the seepage and intrusion of saltwater inland and into waterways. They serve as nurseries to shellfish and finfish and sustain the fisheries of the entire eastern coast. The Sundarban Tiger Reserve is situated within the Site and part of it has been declared a "critical tiger habitat" under national law and also a "Tiger Conservation Landscape" of global importance. The Sundarbans are the only mangrove habitat which supports a significant population of tigers, and they have unique aquatic hunting skills. The Site is also home to a large number of rare and globally threatened species such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin (*Batagur baska*), the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), and the vulnerable fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*). Two of the world's four horseshoe crab species, and eight of India's 12 species of kingfisher are also found here. The uniqueness of the habitat and its biodiversity, and the many tangible and intangible, local, regional and global services they provide, makes the Site's protection and management a conservation priority.

## Menar Wetland Complex

Site number: 2567 | Country: India | Administrative region: Menar and Kheroda village, Vallabhnagar taluka, Udaipur District, Rajasthan, India.

Area: 463 ha | Coordinates: 24°35'53"N 74°05'52"E | Designation dates: 19-02-2025

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a freshwater monsoon wetland complex formed by three ponds, Braham talab, Dhand talab and Kheroda talab, and agricultural land that connects the latter two. During the monsoon season the farmland floods, providing habitat for 110 species of waterbirds, of which 67 are migratory. Among the notable bird species at the Site are the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*). Over 70 plant species are found, including mango trees (*Mangifera indica*) around Braham talab that host a large colony of Indian flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*). The Site is recognized as one of the best examples of community-led conservation in Rajasthan, with residents of the nearby Menar village playing a key role in conserving wildlife by preventing poaching or fishing.

## Khichan wetland

Site number: 2568 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jodhpur and Phalodi District, Rajasthan, India.

Area: 54 ha | Coordinates: 27°08'28"N 72°25'E | Designation dates: 19-02-2025

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located in the northern Thar Desert, comprises two water bodies, Ratri nadi (river) and Vijaysagar talab (pond), riparian habitat and scrub land. This desert ecosystem supports drought-resistant plant species that provide habitat for over 150 species of birds. The Site is especially recognized for hosting large wintering flocks of migratory demoiselle cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*), making up over 22,000 individuals each year. Residents of the adjacent village work to mitigate threats to the cranes' survival, by reducing mortalities from power line collisions and stray dog attacks. The Site attracts bird-watchers, tourists, students and scientists, drawn primarily by the large seasonal gathering of the cranes.

## Nakti Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 2546 | Country: India | Administrative region: The Nakti Bird Sanctuary is located in the Jamui district of the State of Bihar

Area: 333 ha | Coordinates: 24°50'50"N 86°26'50"E | Designation dates: 11-10-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a man-made wetland which was developed primarily for irrigation through the construction of Nakti Dam. Since the dam's construction, the wetland and its surrounding area have provided habitat for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, and reptiles and amphibians. They include globally threatened species, including the endangered Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) and a vulnerable native catfish (*Wallago attu*). The catchment area is largely dry deciduous forest, and is surrounded by hills. In 1984, the wetland was designated as a Bird Sanctuary, highlighting its importance as a wintering habitat for several migratory species, with over 20,000 birds congregating during winter months. This includes one of the largest congregations of red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) on the Indo-Gangetic plain. Alongside its function supporting the agricultural and domestic water demands of local communities, the Site is popular as a recreational birdwatching site.