

# WORLD WETLANDS DAY

World Wetlands Day  
2 February 2022

**WETLANDS**  
VALUE - MANAGE - RESTORE - LOVE

#ActForWetlands  
#WorldWetlandsDay

Wetlands Action for  
People and Nature

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This day marks the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. It is an opportune event for promoting, creating awareness and ensuring positive actions for the conservation of wetlands. In 2021, the day was recognized as an official United Nations event.

The 2022 theme 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature' is a call to take action for wetlands. It is an appeal to invest financial, human and political capital to save the world's wetlands from disappearing and to restore those we have degraded. Healthy wetlands play a vital role through groundwater recharge, buffering floods, filtering wastewater, enhancing landscape aesthetics, providing income generation opportunities and ultimately supporting well-being. It is pertinent that these productive ecosystems and cradles of biological diversity are restored and conserved.



## Contact

**Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma, IFS**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forests (PCCF),  
17, Rana Pratap Marg,  
Lucknow, (U.P.), 226001  
Fax No.0522-2206168

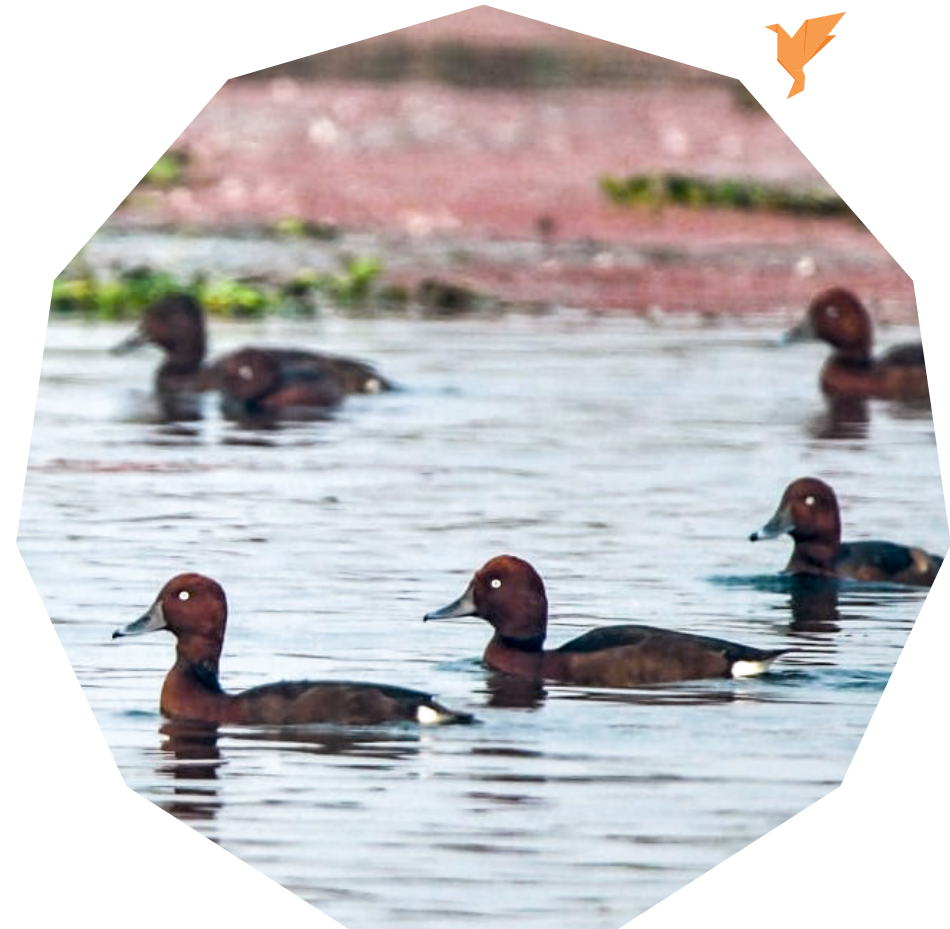
**Shri Neeraj Srivastava, IFS**  
Member Secretary,  
UP State Wetlands Authority  
Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh  
17, Rana Pratap Marg, Narhi, Civil Lines,  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226001.

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# WORLD WETLANDS DAY

February 2, 2022  
Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary



World Wetlands Day  
2 February 2022  
Wetlands Action for People and Nature



# BAKHIRA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is a freshwater wetland located 44 km from Gorakhpur Town in Sant Kabir Nagar District of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Forming the core of the Sanctuary, the Ramsar site is one of the prominent wetlands of the Gangetic Basin. The sanctuary and the wetland drawn their name from village Bakhira located in vicinity.

Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary came into existence in 1990. A kilometer wide buffer around the sanctuary has been designated as an eco-sensitive zone. The terrain of the wetland is mostly flat with an average elevation of 100 meters above mean sea level, characteristic of a typical terai landscape. Precipitation and inflows from Ami River are the major sources of water into the wetland.

**AREA**  
28.94 km<sup>2</sup>

**LOCATION**  
26° 34' 0"N Latitude; and  
83° 0' 00"E Longitude

**AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL**  
800-1200 mm

**ELEVATION**  
100 metre

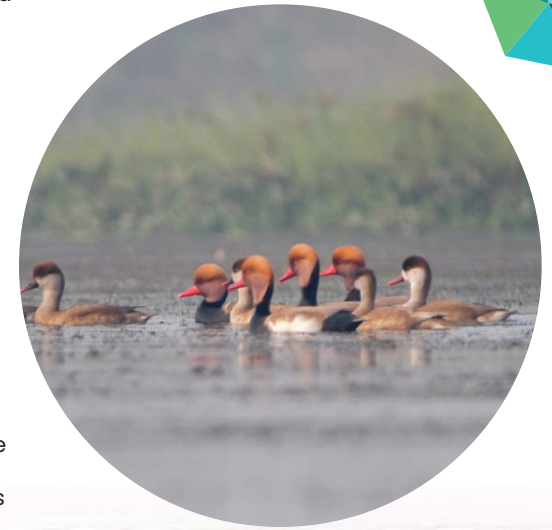
**NEAREST TOWN**  
Gorakhpur (44 km)

**PARK TIMINGS**  
6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

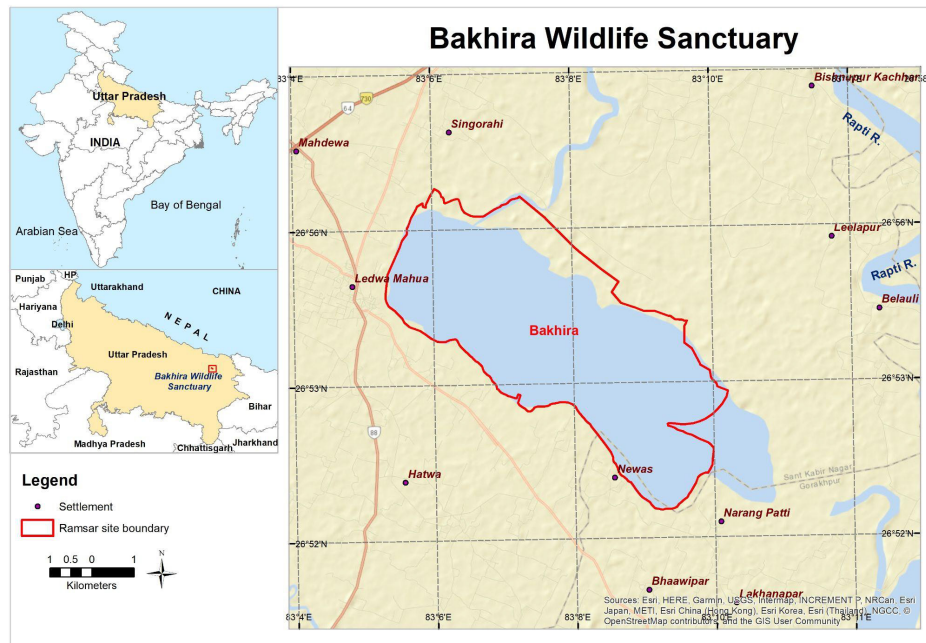
## BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary provides wintering and staging grounds for a large number of migratory birds, and breeding ground for resident birds, such as Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*). Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), and Northern Shoveller (*Anas clypeata*) are some of the prominent species found here. Greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Wood Snipe (*Gallinago namoricola*), and Swamp Francolin (*Francolinus gularis*) found here are of high conservation significance globally.

At least 212 species of plants of 56 families have been recorded here. The wetland is also a habitat for diverse fish species, and at least 45 commercially important fishes are found here. The wetland is an important site for recreation and tourism. Groundwater recharged by the wetland is critical for agriculture.



Boundary Map of Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh



## MAJOR THREATS



Drainage



Grazing



Illegal Fishing



Use of pesticides in surrounding fields

IN 2021, BAKHIRA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WAS DESIGNATED AS A WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR SITE) UNDER RAMSAR CONVENTION.

