

WORLD WETLANDS DAY



World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February. This day marks the date of adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2nd 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.



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WORLD WETLANDS DAY

February 2, 2022
Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary



World Wetlands Day
2 February 2022



Wetlands Action for People and Nature

BHINDAWAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in Jhajjar District of the State of Haryana and about 80 km from the city of Gurugram, is a human-made wetland ecosystem carved out from a saucer-shaped depression.

The wetland is surrounded by private agricultural lands and is separated from these fields by a 12 km long elevated embankment. Water is received into the wetland from an escape channel of Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Canal. The main habitat types of the wetland include large open deep-water areas and shallow water areas with emergent vegetation which include *Typha* sp. and various sedges of *Scirpus* and *Cyperus* species.

AREA
412 ha

LOCATION
28°28'00" to 28°36'00" N
Latitude and 76°28'00" to 76°38'00" E Longitude

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL
550 mm

ELEVATION
215 metre

NEAREST TOWN
Jhajjar (15 km)

PARK TIMINGS
6:30 AM – 5:00 PM

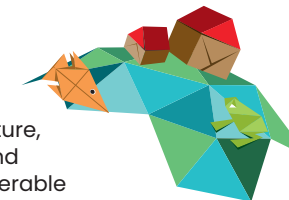
BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The wetland ecosystem is home to thousands of migratory as well as resident birds. Bhindawas Wetland lies on the western route of migratory birds and is used as a stopover by birds heading towards Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. More than 30,000 migratory birds belonging to over 250 species visit Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary throughout the year.

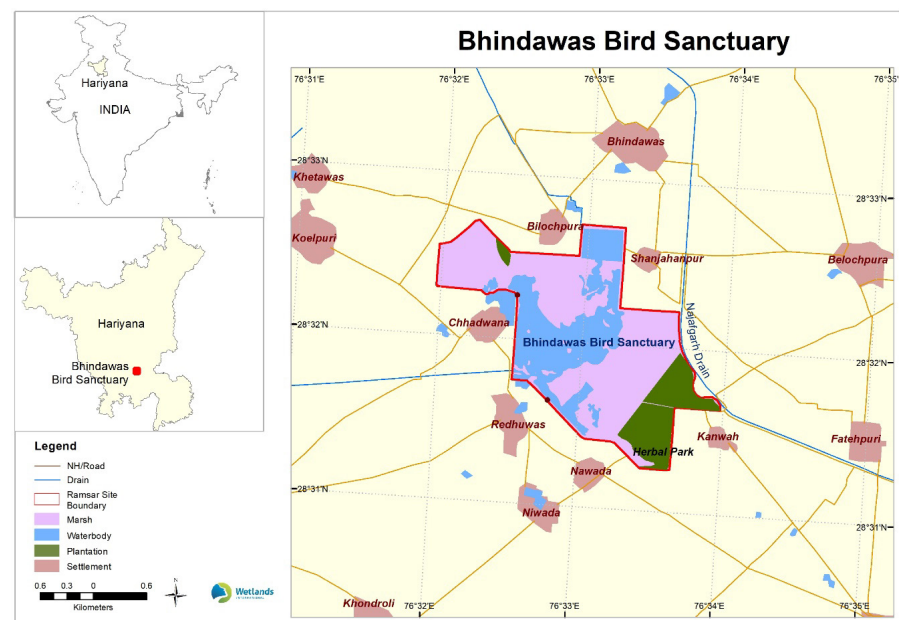
Notable bird species found in Bhindawas include Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Red-crested Pochard (*Rhodonessa rufina*), Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*). The wetland supports numerous globally threatened species including four

endangered species (Egyptian vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern) and seven vulnerable species (Greater Spotted Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Indian Spotted Eagle, Common Pochard, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Sarus Crane, and Asian Woollyneck).

The wetland acts as filter for the nutrient rich waters received from the landscape, and also buffers from the vagaries of floods and droughts. Its influence on the surrounding microclimate is evident from the lower day temperatures recorded even in the inclement weather of May and June. The site has educational value, and is routinely visited by researchers and experts throughout the year. To accommodate these visitors a two-room rest house is maintained by wildlife wing of the Forest Department.



Boundary Map of Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana



THREATS

The entire escape channel, the drainage canal, and 95% of the water body at Bhindawas Sanctuary get choked with *Eichhornia crassipes*. Majority of the water hyacinth propagules are carried into the park by the waters of JLN Canal.

Gradual intensification of groundwater abstraction in the region have increased the water level variability, with consequent impact on habitats.



THE WETLAND WAS NOTIFIED AS A PROTECTED AREA IN THE YEAR 1986, AND AN ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE DESIGNATED AROUND THE NATIONAL PARK IN 2011. IN MAY 2021, BHINDAWAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WAS DESIGNATED AS A WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE UNDER RAMSAR CONVENTION.