

HAIDERPUR WETLAND





The Haiderpur wetland is a recently declared Ramsar site (No. 2463 dated 13th April 2021) located Near Bijnor Barrage between 29°25'25" N latitude and 78°00'00" E longitude falling in Muzaffarnagar and Bijnor districts of Uttar Pradesh. Towards the east of the wetland is Ganga River, to the west is Nizampur and Haiderpur Reserved Forest and Bijnore Barrage on the south of the wetland.

The area of the wetland is 1221 ha, this wetland came into existence in 1984 after the construction of Madhya Ganga Barrage on Ganga River, about 10 km west of Bijnor city and is located within the boundaries of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.

This freshwater human-made wetland receives backwater flow from Ganga River during the monsoon and stretches of river (Ganga River and Solani). This diverse aquatic habitat thrives with life forms and provides a significant abode especially for the migratory waterbirds.

This wetland is easily accessible from 67 km to Muzaffarnagar, 67 km to Hapur, 83 km to Rampur, 97 km to Ghaziabad, 115 km to New Delhi.

BIODIVERSITY VALUE

The wetland supports over 300 species of birds including 102 waterbird species, five turtle species, 46 fish species, 10 mammal species and 32 plant species, (Source : Management Plan of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, 2019-2020; Annual Waterbird census, 2019-2020).

RECREATIONAL VALUE

The wetland serves as an important site for bird watching especially during the migratory season. The bird species are Black-necked Grebe, Goosander, Common Shelduck, Ruddy Shelduck, African Comb Duck, Lesser white-fronted Goose, Greylag Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Lesser Whistling-Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Tufted Duck, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Common Teal, Common Moorhen, Common Coot, Sarus Crane, Common Crane, Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, Asian Woollyneck, Black-necked Stork.

BOUNDARIES

Because of the seasonality of this wetland, its boundary fluctuates depending on the extent of precipitation. The wetland is surrounded by eight villages along its boundary; Deval, Dharmnagai, Nizampur, Jeevanpuri, Rawali, Katiya, Kasampur, Jarwad and Nawalpur. The land between the permanent water and these villages are the drawdown areas which are cultivated by the local people when the water recedes after the monsoon. These lands are mostly under private ownership.



ALTITUDE/TERRAIN TYPE

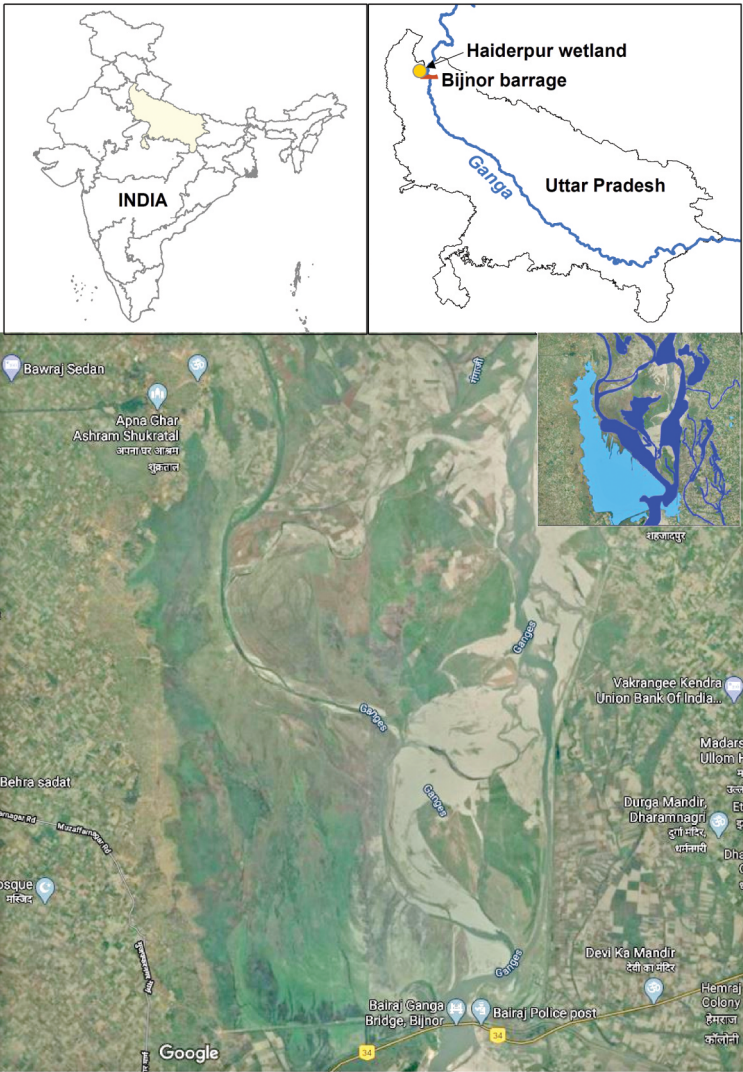
The area is located at minimum sea-level elevation 217 m and maximum elevation sea level 236 m with shallow flooded land and stretches of rivers.

GEOLOGY, ROCK AND SOIL

Owing to its location in Upper Gangetic Plains, most common soil type is alluvial sediments of quaternary period deposited by drainage system of river Ganga. The area of adjacent districts can be divided into five units namely, sand bars, flood plain alluvium, younger alluvial plain, older alluvial plain & piedmont plain. The main four types of soil found in adjacent districts are namely (i) Bhur or Sandy soil, (ii) Bur Sewai or Sandy loam soil, (iii) Sawai or loam soil & (iv) Matiyar or clayey soil. In general or high grounds of upland areas, the soil is of sandy loam soil type and often it is pure sand. On level stretches it is a mixture of sand and clay i.e. from sandy loam to loam. In low areas Khadar/depression it is silty loam to silty clay. Here the sand disappears leaving argillaceous clay locally known as Matiyar.

VEGETATION

Haiderpur wetland is a seasonally flooded wetland with grasses and aquatic plants as the major vegetation types. Plant diversity of the wetland is represented *Sida acuta*, *Saccharum spontaneum* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*, *Cynodon dactylon*. The aquatic vegetation including *Typha*, *Phragmites*, *Ipomoea*, *Trapa*, *Nelumbo*, *Nymphaea* and several species of grasses and reeds are also found.



BIRDS

In Haiderpur wetland over 300 species of birds have been reported, which include 102 waterbird species. This site also supports numerous wetland-dependent species at a critical stage in their life cycles. Some of these are winter migratory bird species such as Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Common Pochard, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Black-necked Grebe, Red-crested Pochard and Ferruginous Duck. These birds use this site as one of their annual stopover destination. Haiderpur wetland is a breeding site of Indian Grassbird and a probable breeding site of Finn's Weaver.



MAMMALS

Swamp deer and blue bull, there is a huge variety of animals like sambar, cheetal, leopard and wildcat that inhabit this place. Dolphins in the main channel of the Ganga were split into two sub-populations in 1975 when the Farakka Barrage was commissioned. The Lower Ganga Barrage at Narora (1966) and the Middle Ganga Barrage at Bijnor (1984) further fragmented the Ganga main stem population into four sub-populations. Dolphins have now been extirpated above the Middle Ganga Barrage at Bijnor. Today they occur in three sub-populations bounded by the Bijnor, Narora and Farakka Barrages.

CONNECTIVITY

The nearest town to Haiderpur are Muzzafarnagar and Bijnor, these districts are well connected to the nearest airport in Dehradun and Delhi, Dehradun is 142 km away from Bijnor and Delhi 170 km. Bijnor is well connected to Muradabad and Delhi through train link and Muzaffarnagar is also well connected to Meerut and Delhi. Regular trains are between Lucknow to Delhi via Bijnor city and it is also well connected to Moradabad, Haridwar and Meerut city.

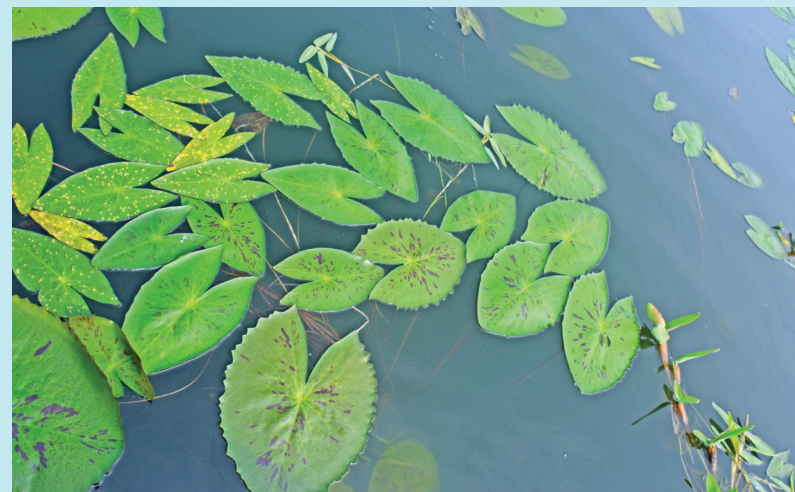
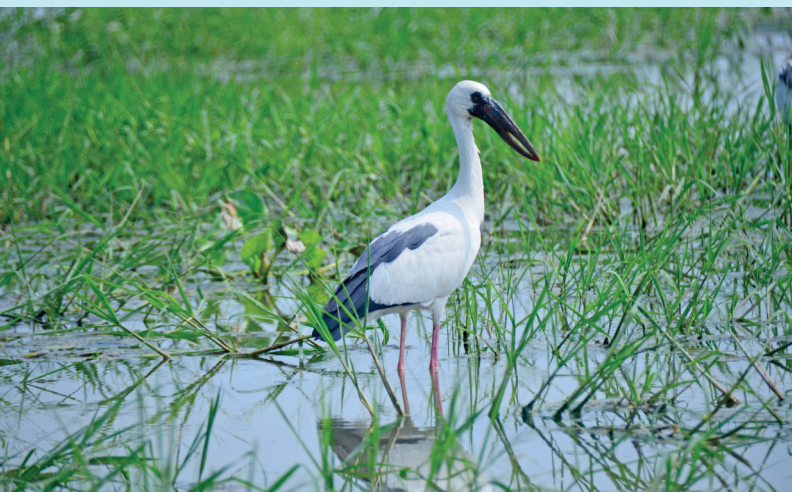


Photo Credit: Vipul Maurya



NMCG
National Mission for Clean Ganga,
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

GACMC
Ganga Aqualife Conservation
Monitoring Centre,
Wildlife Institute of India,
nmcg@wii.gov.in

Wildlife Institute of India
P.O. Box # 18, Chandrabani
Dehradun - 248002
Uttarakhand