

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

World
Wetlands Day
2 February 2022



Wetlands Action for
People and Nature

WETLANDS

VALUE - MANAGE - RESTORE - LOVE

#ActForWetlands
#WorldWetlandsDay



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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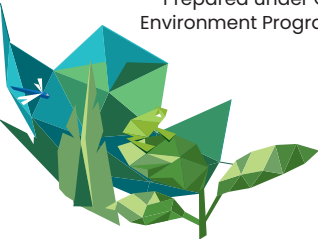


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February 2, 2022
Sultanpur National Park



Prepared under Global Environment Facility – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – UN Environment Programme funded Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services Project



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SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK

Sultanpur National Park is an intermittent freshwater wetland, located 45 km southwest of Delhi, off Gurugram–Farrukhnagar Road in Gurugram District, Haryana.

Sultanpur has been carved out from the land of adjoining villages namely Sadharana, Chandu, Sultanpur, and Saidpur Mohmadpur. This shallow wetland, with depth ranging between 0.4 m – 1.4 m is fed by the overflows from neighbouring canals and agricultural fields and is replenished by saline groundwater. The region is a mosaic of shallow inundated areas, grasslands and tree groves, which have developed over vast alluvial and sandy tracts of recent to sub-recent age.

Till late 19th century, Sultanpur was the center of salt production, supported by brine extracted from shallow borewells, for use in Delhi and surrounding regions.

AREA
142 ha

LOCATION
28°27'14" to 28°28'15" N Latitude
and 76°52'50" to 76°54'2" E Longitude

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL
605 mm

ELEVATION
220 metre

NEAREST TOWN
Gurugram (15 km)

PARK TIMINGS
7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

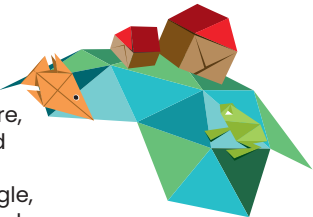
The mosaic of habitats underpins spectacular diversity of species that can be found in Sultanpur. The National Park falls in the Central Asian Migratory Flyway and teems with thousands of waterbirds in winter from Central Asia and Western Palearctic region.

Migratory bird species reach the wetland after covering an incredible distance and use the wetland as a stopover site. About 325 species of birds have been sighted to date here; of which 226 are resident while others are migratory birds. Sultanpur National Park regularly supports more than 1% threshold population of 2 avian species (Bar-headed Goose and Greylag Goose).

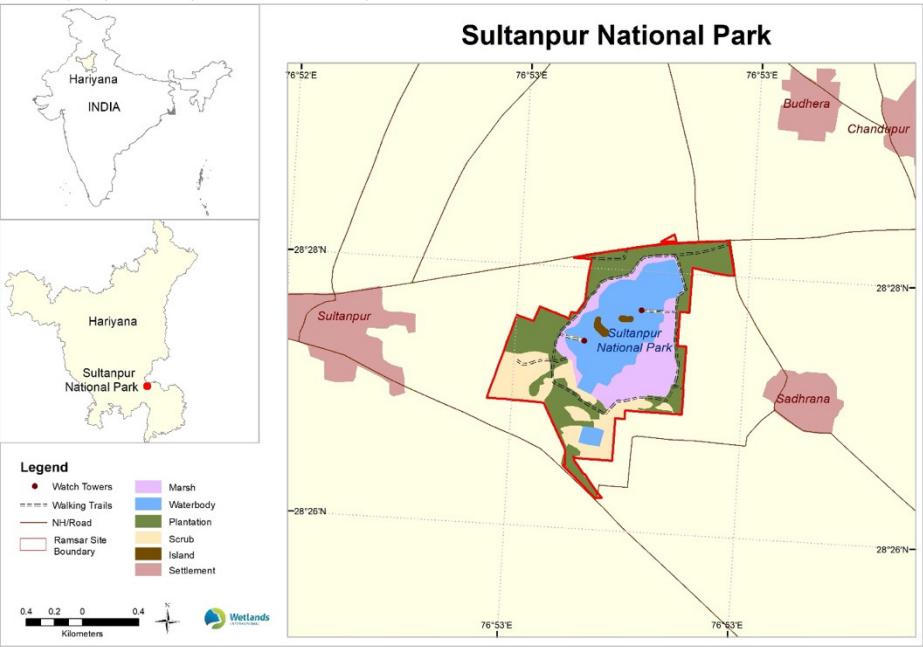
The wetland also supports globally threatened species, such critically endangered Sociable Lapwing,

Endangered species Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern, and Vulnerable species such as Greater spotted Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Indian spotted Eagle, Asian Woollyneck, Common Pochard, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, Kashmir Flycatcher, and Asian Woollyneck.

The wetland is known for its nature-based recreation and educational value. On average around thirty thousand visitors, both Indian and foreigners, visit the National Park per year. For the benefit of tourists, an interpretation center, library and four watchtowers have been developed.



Boundary Map of Sultanpur National Park, Haryana



THREATS

Despite the rich biodiversity, Sultanpur National Park is facing large-scale habitat fragmentation, disturbance, and degradation due to agricultural activities in the vicinity, expansion of National Capital Region (NCR), and spread of invasive species like *Prosopis juliflora*. *Prosopis juliflora*, though an invasive (and often considered undesirable) species, provides nesting, roosting, and perching sites in an area that is otherwise devoid of any tree species.

SULTANPUR WAS DECLARED AS A BIRD SANCTUARY IN 1972 AND AS A NATIONAL PARK IN 1991. AN ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE OF 5 KM RADIUS FROM THE PERIPHERY OF THE NATIONAL PARK HAS BEEN DEMARCATED TO REGULATE DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS. IN MAY 2021, SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK WAS DESIGNATED AS WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR SITE) UNDER THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

