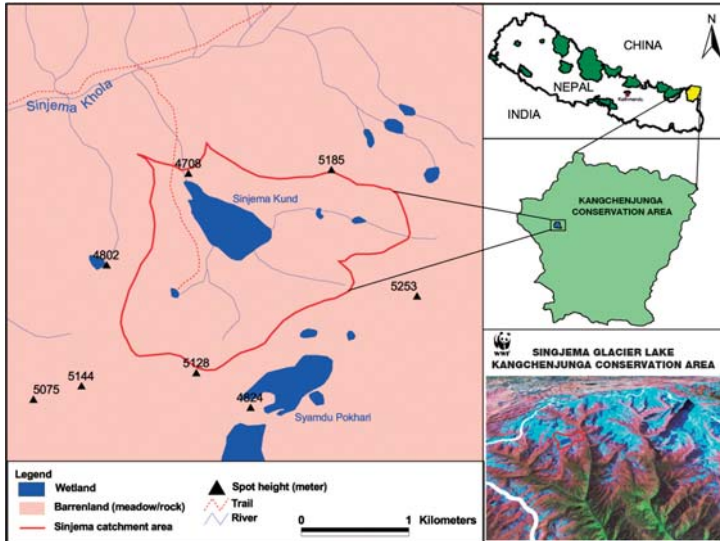




FACTSHEET

Singjema Wetland Series Kangchenjunga Conservation Area



Himalayan Eco-region complex. It is an important source of freshwater for Tamor River, one of the tributaries of Koshi river in Nepal feeding the Gangetic River basin.

■ BIODIVERSITY VALUES:

Flora: About 32 species of flowering plants have been recorded from the Singjema catchment including 3 endemic species of plants with rare, endangered and vulnerable species. Potential endemic plants found in this area include Lauener (*Aconitum staintonii*), Klotz (*Cotoneaster staintonii*), and Kitam (*Cremanthodium nepalense*). Other threatened species according to IUCN category are *Nardostachys grandiflora* (Vulnerable), *Neopicrorhiza scrophulariifolia* (Vulnerable), *Rheum australe* (Vulnerable), and *Swertia multicaulis* (Data Deficit).

Fauna: Brahminy Duck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) and common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) have been recorded from the wetlands of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area but needs further observation in Singjema. Other birds recorded in the catchment are snow pigeon, white capped redstart and finches. The catchment is habitat of snow leopard and lower section of the catchment is the winter habitat of red panda and musk deer.

Coordinates: 27°45.44' E
87°46.81' N
Area: 25.23 ha
Length: 835 m
Elevation: 4671 m

■ OVERVIEW:

Singjema lake, where people believe to see the reflection of their own future and fortune, is an alpine freshwater oligotrophic lake with steep slopes creating a unique and representative wetland in the high Eastern





■ SOCIO-CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS VALUES:

Singjema lake is considered by the local people and herders from Tibet as a wish-fulfilling lake. Unmarried women come to lake to worship in hope that they will get a handsome husband. People believe that slaughtering of animals within the vicinity of the lake angers the deity of the lake. Therefore, hunting is prohibited in the area and hunting musk deer is considered to deplete social status and property. The lake is also a freshwater source for cattle herders and down stream people.

■ THREATS:

- Unsustainable collection of NTFPs for trade
- Over grazing resulting in the growth of unpalatable and toxic plants
- Hunting of wildlife specially musk deer for cross-border trades



■ CONSERVATION MEASURES:

Singjema lake falls within the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA). The KCA Management Council and its associated institutions have been empowered to manage their conservation area. The KCA Management Council has also applied to the Government through the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation for community management of KCA. Currently, the Management Council together with user groups, mother groups and sub-committees like Snow Leopard Conservation Committee are actively managing the conservation area.