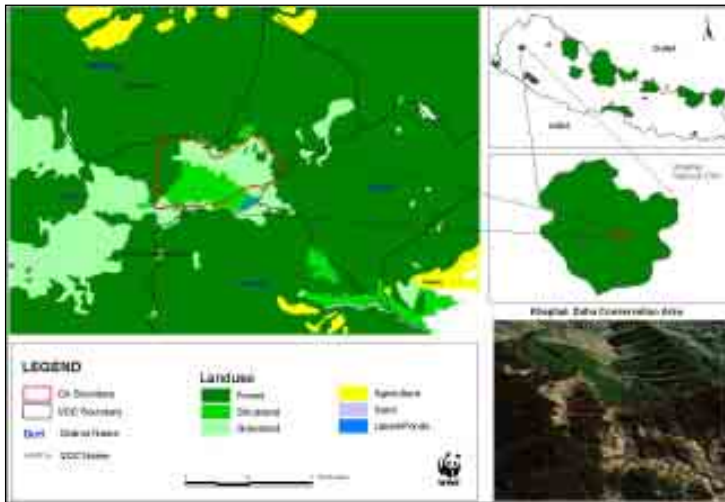




# FACTSHEET



## Khaptad Daha & Tribeni Wetland system



### Coordinates:

Khaptad daha: 29° 23' North Latitude  
81° 10' 05" East Longitude  
Tribeni wetland: 29° 22'35" North Latitude  
81° 8'15" East Longitude

**Area:** Khaptad daha: 2.5ha

**Elevation:** Khaptad daha: 2900m

### OVERVIEW:

Khaptad Daha is an important snow-fed freshwater pond situated in the eastern part of the Khaptad plateau. The oval shaped pond has stagnant water as there is no inlet and outlet. The Daha is bordered by Khaptadmando Danda and Ghudekomela Danda in the northern and southern sides respectively, whereas, the western side is bordered by Ballejodi Danda and Daha

patan in the eastern side. The forest litter and cattle defecation have accumulated in the pond thereby causing sedimentation and eutrophic conditions in the pond.

Tribeni wetland system is riverine in nature and is surrounded by the Sailung Khola and Ekle Patan in the south, Khelaune Patan and Kedar Dunga in the north, Lukeshi Khola and Chhedi Patan Khola in the east and Dudali Patan and Ghat Khola in the west.

### HYDROLOGICAL VALUE:

The winter snow and monsoon rainfall are the main sources of water to feed the pond and water also percolates from the surrounding forest. Tribeni lies at the confluence of Lukeshi khola, Sailung khola and Chhedi Patan khola which are snow-fed perennial streams.





## ■ BIODIVERSITY VALUE:

**Flora:** A total of over 87 and 54 species of flowering plant of pre-monsoon season from Khaptad Daha and Tribeni wetland respectively have been collected. The Khaptad Daha area houses a high number of angiospermic floras in and around the forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems, in comparison to grassland and wetland ecosystems of Tribeni. The dense forest of fir-oak rhododendron surrounds the Khaptad Daha from the north-south and western sides. *Abies spectabilis*, *Quercus semicarpifolia* and *Rhododendron arboreum*, are the dominant species in the forest and associated species include *Taxus wallichiana*, *Sorbus microphylla*, *Sorbus lanata*, *Prunus cornuta*, *Acer caesium*, *A. pectinatum*, etc. The eastern side of the daha is linked with the Daha Patan meadow consisting with *Rumex nepalensis*, *Euphorbia wallichiana*, *Anemone* sp, *Ranunculus* sp, *Berberis* sp, *Potentilla*



sp, *Rosa sericea*, etc. The Tribeni wetland is riverine and marshy area and is dominated by herbaceous vegetation. The top of the hillock lying adjoining the Tribeni area is dominated by *Abies- Quercus* mixed forest. The species composition is more or less similar to Khaptad Daha.

### Protected plants

Among the collected species, 4 species occurred around the Khaptad Daha and Tribeni are Government protected species under Forest Act, 1993. Of these, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* is banned by the Government of

Nepal under the 1993 Forest Act for collection, use, sale, distribution, transport and export, whereas, *Valeriana jatamansii*, *Taxus wallichiana* and *Abies spectabilis* are banned under the same Forest Act for export except when processed with the permission of the Department of Forests.

### Economic plants

The Khaptad Daha and Tribeni area house several species of economically important plants including medicinal and aromatic (*Fritillaria cirrhosa*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Parmelia* sp, *Bergenia ciliata*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Selinium tenuifolium*, *Valeriana jatamansii*, *Angelica glauca*, *Skimmia angueticum* etc), wild edibles (*Arisaema* sp, *Allium wallichii*, *Aconogonum molle*, *Rosa serica*, *Angelica glauca*, *Trillidium govanianum*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Smilacina purpurea*, etc) and many other economic plants (*Daphne bholua*, *Thamnocalamus spathiflorus*, etc.).

**Fauna:** Khaptad National Park houses 23 species of mammals, 287 species of birds and 23 herpeto species. A wide variety of colorful butterflies, moths and insects is also an important feature of the park ecosystem. The wetland area of Khaptad supports over 20 species of wetland dependant birds and 9 species of mammals.

Above 50 species of birds, 2 species of mammals (*Ochotona roylei* and *Semnopithecus entellus*), 2 species of herpeto-fauna; Bajhang frog (*Paa ercepeae*) and Himalayan ground skink (*Asymblepharus himalayanus*) have recently been observed in these wetlands. Among the avian species, 4 species of birds are added in the checklist of the areas such as Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), Black-faced Laughing thrush (*Garrulax affinis*) and Rufous-vented Yuhina (*Yuhina occipitalis*).



### Protected fauna

The government protected mammals found in the area are Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Musk Deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*). CITES Appendix I includes 4 species such as Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Musk Deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*). Similarly, Appendix II and III include Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) respectively. There is also a record of 1 species of *Moschus chrysogaster* endangered and 1 species of vulnerable *Ursus thibetanus* and 3 near threatened species as per the IUCN Red List Categories. Among the birds, the government protected and CITES Appendix I includes species *Lophophorus impejanus* and CITES Appendix II includes 5 species viz. *Asio flammeus*, *Gyps himalayensis*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Neophron percnopterus* and *Falco tinnunculus*.

### Endemic fauna

The Bajhang frog (*Paa ercepeae*) is an endemic species which has been found in Khaptad Daha. The species is reported only in the Bajhang district of Nepal. The Khaptad Daha also lies in the same district, therefore, the species is strictly restricted to that area. It is gregarious in nature and the total population is estimated to be approximately 1,000 in the pond.

### ■ SOCIO-CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS VALUES:

Khaptad Daha is also considered as a sacred site. A temple of Khaparjagannath (Shiva) is situated along the south east corner of the pond. Many people from Khaparmando village (Bajhang) and adjoining areas visit this temple during Rishitarpani (Janaipurnima) and Annantpurnima to worship Lord Shiva and Parvati (Musarani). The idol of god and goddess is brought to this temple on Rishitarpani from the Khaparmando village and installed there till Annantpurnima (about 1 month) and returned back to Khaparmando village. During the day of Annantpurnima, thousands of people from adjoining districts visit there to take a holy dip and pay homage to the god and goddess. Perhaps, it is the only temple in the country where Dalit (Sarki) perform the first ritual then only Brahmin and other upper caste people take over the worship. But there are two different temples, one for Sarki and other for upper caste people. According to the legend, the ancestor of Ghuite Sarki first enlightens God Shiva in that place. Thereafter, the descendents of Ghuite Sarki have been conducting the first puja (worship) in the temple.

The daha is a source of water for about 3000 cattle (cow, buffalo, horse, and goat) which graze near the





pond and the cattle herders where more than 50 cattle sheds are erected adjoining the pond. Cattle grazing continues for about 4 months (May-August).

The Tribeni wetland is also a most sacred site where thousands of pilgrims visit from the adjoining districts, mainly Doti, Achham, Bajhang and Bajura, during the Ganga Dashara mela (festival) to take holy bath in the river where Sainle Kholo and Kausiya Kholo meet. This festival is usually held during the month of May and over 5000 people gather for the celebration. The festival is also important for cultural exchange between the far west population of Nepal where people enjoy Deuda dance and other cultural activities.

### ■ THREATS:

- Deforestation
- Unsustainable harvesting and over-exploitation of medicinal and aromatic plants, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and animal resources
- Poaching of wildlife for illegal trade
- Overgrazing

### ■ CONSERVATION MEASURES:

Both the Khaptad Daha and Tribeni area are parts of the Khaptad National Park. The land is owned by the Government of Nepal and the local authority is Khaptad National Park. The territorial jurisdiction is owned by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation is a management authority. The headquarters of the Khaptad National Park is located in Chhedipatan, Bajura and Conservation Officer is the responsible person of the park. Buffer zone has been declared in the Khaptad National Park. A KNP-BZ management Plan and pre-feasibility report on tourism development in Khaptad region has been drafted.

The area fulfills some criteria listed by Ramsar Convention, and nomination of this site by the government to declare as a Ramsar site would provide further support in the conservation of this high altitude wetland.

