

■ NEPAL

RAMSAR CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE 1988

NUMBER OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) **4**

AREA OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) **23,488 ha**

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION **Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation**

RAMSAR DESIGNATION IS:

Complete in 1 IBA

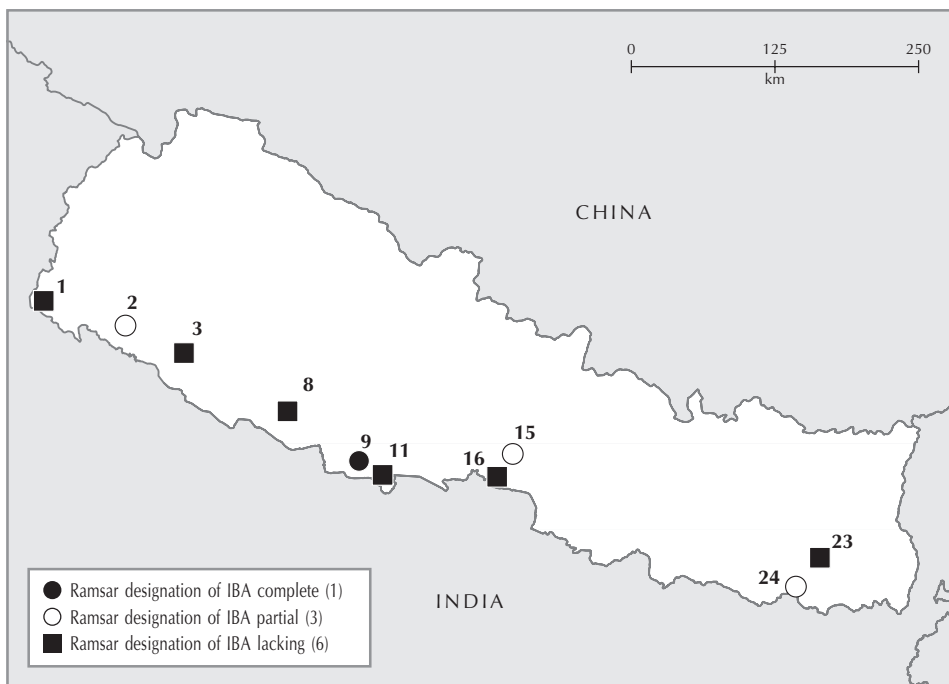
Partial in 3 IBAs

Lacking in 6 IBAs

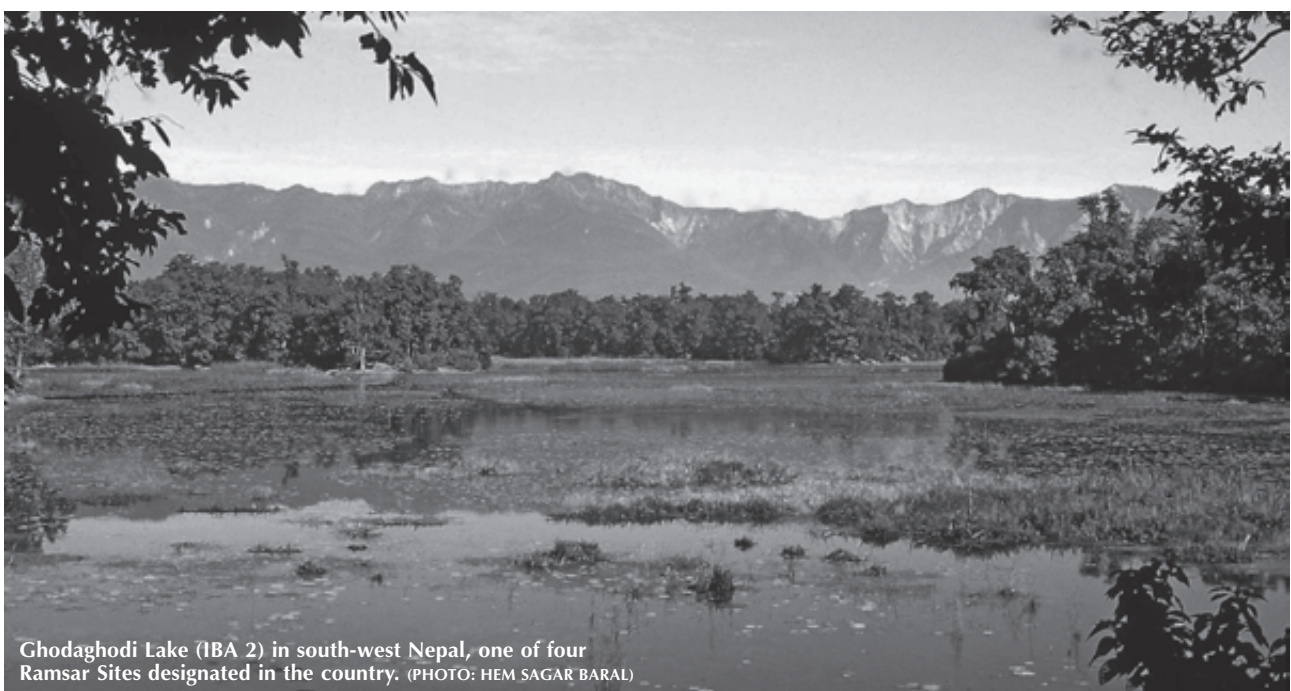
Only about 5% of the total area of the mountainous kingdom of Nepal is estimated to comprise wetlands, and almost half of this area is paddy fields, with natural lakes and marshlands only accounting for 17,000 ha or 2.3% of the total wetland area. The only extensive wetlands are in the densely populated southern lowlands of the country (the *terai*), mainly in the floodplains of

three major river systems: the Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali, and many of these wetlands are under intense pressure from human utilisation (Sah 1997).

Four Ramsar Sites have been designated in Nepal, all of which overlap with IBAs. An additional six potential Ramsar Sites have been identified, all located in the *terai* of southern Nepal.



Location of Important Bird Areas in Nepal that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites.



Chodaghodi Lake (IBA 2) in south-west Nepal, one of four Ramsar Sites designated in the country. (PHOTO: HEM SAGAR BARAL)

Summary of Important Bird Areas that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites in Nepal.

Ramsar designation of IBA complete (1 IBA)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
					2	4	5	6
9	Jagdishpur Reservoir	225	Jagdishpur Reservoir	225	✓			

Ramsar designation of IBA partial (3 IBAs)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
					2	4	5	6
2	Ghodaghodi Lake	5,000	Ghodaghodi Lake Area	2,563	✓	✓		✓
15	Barandabhar forests and wetlands	12,300	Beeshazar and Associated Lakes	3,200	✓	✓		✓
24	Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Koshi Barrage	21,000	Koshi Tappu	17,500	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (6 IBAs)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
			2	4	5	6
1	Royal Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve	30,500	✓	✓		✓
3	Royal Bardia National Park	96,800	✓	✓		✓
8	Dang Deukhuri foothill forests and west Rapti wetlands	150,000	✓			
11	Farmlands in Lumbini area	141,367	✓	✓		✓
16	Royal Chitwan National Park	93,200	✓	✓		✓
23	Dharan forests	50,000	✓	✓		✓

Summary of the occurrence of globally threatened wetland-dependent bird species within the selected IBAs in Nepal.

IBA	Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Greater Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	Baer's Pochard <i>Aythya baeri</i>	Pallas's Fish-eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucorhynchus</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>	Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Swamp Francolin <i>Francolinus gularis</i>	Sarus Crane <i>Grus antigone</i>	Bengal Florican <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	Indian Skimmer <i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	White-throated Bushchat <i>Saxicola insignis</i>	Jerdon's Babbler <i>Chrysomma altirostre</i>	Slender-billed Babbler <i>Turdoides longirostris</i>	Bristled Grass-warbler <i>Chaetomis striatus</i>	Finn's Weaver <i>Ploceus megarhynchus</i>	Total
1		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	10
2		✓															1
3		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							6
8		✓															1
9		✓															1
11		✓			✓				✓			✓				✓	5
15		✓			✓	✓											3
16		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		13
23		✓															1
24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		12
Total	1	10	2	1	6	5	2	4	4	4	2	4	2	1	4	1	