

VIBRANT GANGA 



Tributaries of the Ghaghara River Girwa, Kauriala and Babai



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

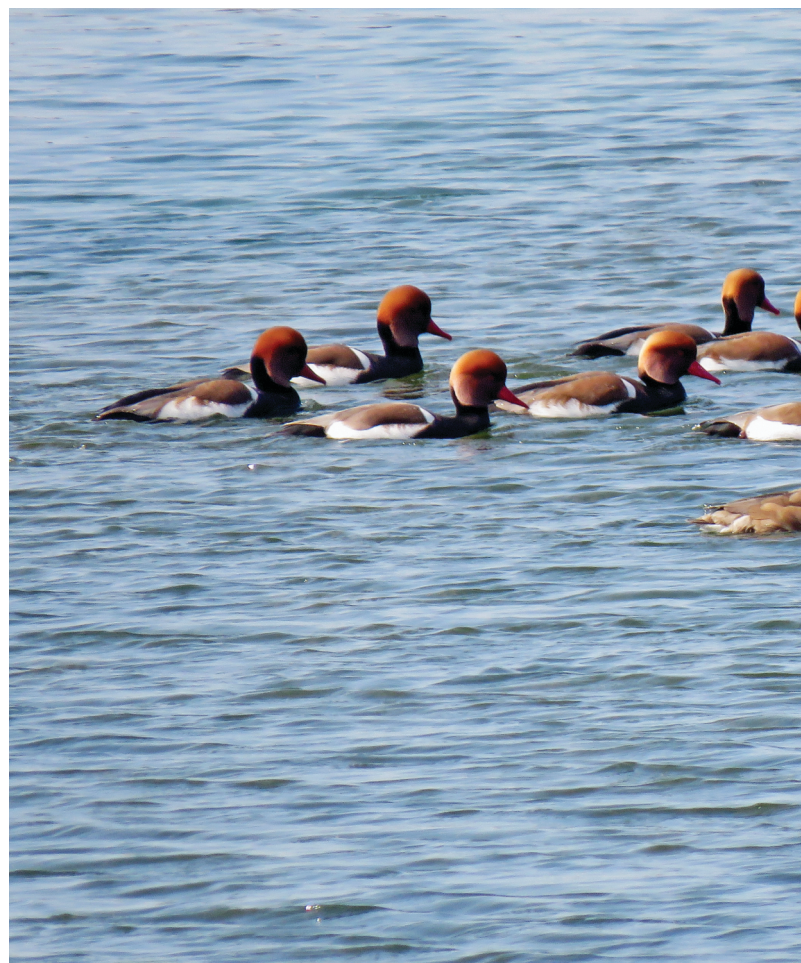
GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Karnali River, which originates in the Tibetan Plateau, flows through western Nepal and bifurcates into two channels, viz. Girwa and Kauriala, 1.5 km downstream of Chisapani Bridge in Nepal. These two channels join to form Ghaghra River in India.
- Eastern channel of the Karnali River is known as Girwa, River, which traverses about 35 km in Nepal and 52 km in India, before joining the Kauriala River to form Ghaghra River, in the Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh.
- Babai is a perennial river which originates in the Mahabharat hills in the Nepal Himalayas. It joins Ghaghra River after traversing around 85 km in India.



SALIENT FEATURES

- These Rivers support rich faunal diversity, including Gangetic dolphin, mugger, gharial, and 38 water and water-dependent bird species.
- The characteristic umbrella species include the Gangetic dolphin, smooth-coated otter, gharial, and mugger.
- The threatened bird species of these rivers include Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) and Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*).





THREATENED SPECIES

Mammals

Smooth-coated Otter
Gangetic dolphin

Avifauna

Sarus Crane
Indian Skimmer
Woolly-necked Stork
Painted Stork
Oriental Darter

Reptiles

Gharial
Mugger
Indian softshell turtle
Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle
Indian softshell turtle
Indian peacock softshell turtle
Indian flapshell turtle

National Park in Nepal and Katernaighat

- In low lands of Nepal, the Girwa and Babai rivers passes through the Bardia National Park, home of the charismatic flora and fauna.
- In India, Girwa River passes throug Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary at India - Nepal border.

INTERESTING FACTS

- The Girwa River is known as Geruwa or Gerua in Nepal.
- In 2010, a major flooding event resulted in shift in flow from the Girwa to the western Channel of Karnali River, viz, the Kauriala. This resulted in lower flow and depth in Girwa River and a complete shift in distribution of Gangetic dolphin from Girwa River to Kauriala River, in Nepal.

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Reduction in discharge due to extensive water abstraction from Babai River at Gopiya Barrage in the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Poaching of waterbirds, illegal fishing, and sand mining are the major issues affecting the habitat quality of the Babai River.
- Flow alterations in the upstream channels of Karnali River in Nepal are causing siltation and channel modifications in the Girwa and Kauriala Rivers.



NMCG

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