India adds Haiderpur Wetland to the List of Wetlands of International Importance

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India

India has designated Haiderpur Wetland as a Wetland of International Importance (no. 2463 on the “Ramsar List” and its 47th “Ramsar Site”).

This human-made wetland covering an area of 6,908 hectares in the Bijnor District of Uttar Pradesh was formed in 1984 by the construction of the Madhya Ganga Barrage on a floodplain of the River Ganga. It is located within the boundaries of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.

Haiderpur Wetland provides habitat for numerous animal and plant species, including more than 30 species of plants, over 300 species of birds including 102 waterbirds, more than 40 fish and more than ten mammal species. This diverse habitat supports more than 15 globally threatened species, such as the critically endangered gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) and the endangered hog deer (Axis porcinus), black-bellied tern (Sterna acuticauda), steppe eagle (Aquila nipalensis), Indian skimmer (Rynchops albicollis) and gold mahseer (Tor putitora). The Site supports more than 25,000 waterbirds, serves as a breeding site for the near-threatened Indian grassbird (Gruminicola bengalensis) and provides refuge to the northern subspecies population of the vulnerable swamp deer (Rucervus duvaucelii) during its seasonal flood-driven migration. The Site also regularly supports more than 1% of the population of greylag goose (Anser anser) and bar-headed goose (Anser indicus).

Haiderpur Wetland also helps to support the livelihoods of the local communities, and contributes to the maintenance of hydrological regimes and to hazard reduction. It is used for recreation and tourism, and scientific and educational activities are also associated with the Site.

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