



Biodiversity Heritage Site of Uttar Pradesh

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Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHSs)

Section 37 of The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

- 1) Without prejudice to any other law for the time being in force, based on the recommendations of the State Biodiversity Board, the State Government may, from time to time, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under this Act:

Provided that the State Biodiversity Board shall consult the local body and Biodiversity Management Committee concerned before making such recommendations.

- 2) The State Government, in consultation with the Central Government, may frame rules for the management and conservation of all the biodiversity heritage sites.
- 3) The State Government shall frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating any person or section of people economically affected by such notification.

“Biodiversity Heritage Sites” (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components: richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them. (Source: NBA, India)

Significance and objectives of BHS

- a) Biodiversity is closely linked to ecological security and therefore, human welfare. To strengthen the biodiversity conservation in traditionally managed areas and to stem the rapid loss of biodiversity in intensively managed areas, such areas need special attention.
- b) Such areas also often represent a positive interface between nature, culture, society, and technologies, such that both conservation and livelihood security are or can be achieved, and positive links between wild and domesticated biodiversity are enhanced.
- c) To have a BHS in or around a community should be a matter of pride and honour to such community and this virtuous act of community may work as an example to the entire nation apart from ensuring availability of the resources to their own future generation. The areas like existing sacred grooves in general and those existing in Western Ghats in particular can be straight away be declared and notified as BHS.

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- d) It is necessary to instill and nurture conservation ethics in all sections of the society. The creation of BHS will ensure bringing home these values in the society and thereby put an end to over-exploitation of natural resources and avoid environmental degradation.
- e) The creation of BHS shall not put any restriction on the prevailing practices and usages of the local communities, other than those voluntarily decided by them. The purpose is to enhance the quality of life of the local communities through this conservation measure.

Criteria for identification of BHS

The BHS may be identified in accordance with the definition in (2) above. Accordingly areas having any of the following characteristics may qualify for inclusion as BHS.

- a) Areas that contain a mosaic of natural, semi-natural, and manmade habitats, which together contain a significant diversity of life forms.
- b) Areas that contain significant domesticated biodiversity component and /or representative agro-ecosystems with ongoing agricultural practices that sustain this diversity.
- c) Areas that are significant from a biodiversity point of view as also are important cultural spaces such as sacred groves/trees and sites, or other large community conserved areas.
- d) Areas including very small ones that offer refuge or corridors for threatened and endemic fauna and flora, such as community conserved areas or urban greens and wetlands.
- e) All kinds of legal land uses whether government, community or private land could be considered under the above categories.
- f) As far as possible those sites may be considered which are not covered under Protected Area network under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 as amended.
- g) Areas that provide habitats, aquatic or terrestrial, for seasonal migrant species for feeding and breeding.
- h) Areas that are maintained as preservation plots by the research wing of Forest department.
- i) Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas.

Declaration of BHS in Uttar Pradesh

Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail, Lucknow is located in the East Block of Kukrail Reserved Forest adjoining the Kukrail Picnic Spot. Since, the area proposed is a forest area of State of Uttar Pradesh, the management structure and utilization of resources for BHS is determined by the U.P. Forest Department and the BHS is managed by the Conservator of Forests, Endangered Project, U.P., Lucknow.

The site is rich in floral biodiversity viz. Bael, Shahtoot (Mulberry), Ber, Amrood (Guava), Aam (Mango), Jacaranda, Jarul, Silver Oak, Casuarina, Kala Siris Arjun Kadamb Kanji Lasora Maulshri Arru Balam Kheera, Jharberry, various species of bamboos etc.

This Centre is also full of faunal biodiversity which includes Rhesus Monkey, Jackal, Fox, Common mongoose, Small Indian mongoose, Blue bull, Five striped squirrel, Common house rat, Indian mole rat, House mouse, Porcupine, Hare, Brown shrew, various snakes like- cobra, python, common Krait, Rat snake, Water Snake. Many species of fishes, viz., Chilwa, Katla, Mirla, Mangur, Rohu & Girai are found in the nearby Kukrail nala.

Besides the natural fauna, the Gharial Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail is now well-known for conserving (*Gavialis gangeticus*) the sole surviving member of the *Gavialidae*. This Centre has also contributed in conserving many species of turtle.

IN pursuance of the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of the Constitution the Governor is pleased to order the publication of the following English translation of notification No.-1348/XIV-5-2016- 15/2016, dated August 11, 2016.

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IN exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Act No.18 of 2003), the Governor, in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, is pleased to notify that the Ghariyal Rehabilitation Centre, Kukrail, Lucknow Reserve Forest described and detailed in the Schedule below shall be preserved as the Biodiversity Heritage Site of the State of Uttar Pradesh:-

Schedule

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area
1	2	3	4
1	Ghariyal Rehabilitation Centre,	Kukrail, Lucknow	
2	Boundary, 1250 Rm.	N-Kukrail Forest S-Kukrail Forest E- Kukrail Forest W-Kukrail Nala	10 ha. (Reserve Forest)

An Appeal

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board appeals to the local communities of Uttar Pradesh for declaring suitable biodiversity rich areas under their control as BHS. Declaration of BHS does not change the land ownership. It brings in deserving recognition to the conservation ethics and efforts of local communities. BHS tag ensures immediate recognition and attraction at the national as well as international level. It helps bringing in the much needed finances for conservation and associated community development.

By declaring an area as BHS, the communities set voluntary standards for conservation of biodiversity and for management of the bio resources therein, ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits. People in Uttar Pradesh are welcome to form Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in their villages and propose constitution of BHS through these BMCs. The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board will be pleased to assist them.



जहाँ है हरियाली ।
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥



U.P. State Biodiversity Board

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