

BARIDYA NATIONAL PARK

Bardiya National Park (968 km²) is Nepal's largest protected area in the Terai region. Its buffer zone is 328 km². The area is covered extensively with sal forest, grasslands and riveraine forests where over 264 bird species occur. Important wildlife include tiger, elephant, rhino, and five species of deer. Populations of two crocodile species, and some resident Gangetic dolphin, are found in the Karnali River system. A survey in 1993 estimated a population of 21 - 30 dolphins. Only these dolphins of the Karnali River have a chance for a long-term survival because of their close proximity to the park and the Karnali upstream which is relatively uncontaminated. However, this population is contained within the western end of the park and the Girijapuri Barrage, India, located approximately 20 km south of the Nepal - India border.

Five corridors between Nepal-India borders have been indentified where rhinos, elephants, tigers and other large mammals move to and for across the border. These movements involve not only crop damage, livestock depredation, property damage and loss of human lives, but also increase poaching activities and incidence. Poaching of endangered and rare species occur in the park primarily because the Chure Range, the northern boundary of the Park, which is topographically rugged and thus, relatively open.

