

RARA NATIONAL PARK

Rara National Park, gazetted in 1976 with an area of 106 km², is located in Mugu and Jumla Districts. The park also protects the 10.5 km² Rara Lake where 3 endemic species of Himalayan trout (schizothorax) occur. The lake is an important staging point for migratory birds. The park contains 1,074 plant species, of which, 16 are endemic to Nepal. Over 51 species of mammals and 212 species of birds including cheer pheasant, are found. Threats to biodiversity are uncontrolled grazing and wildlife poaching. Recent increase in the wild pig population has created a major problem for local residents. Forests in three village development committees (VDCs) namely, Rara, Pina and Karki are of great importance as they influence much on the Park's biodiversity. Therefore, well being of the buffer zone communities and their interrelationship with forest resources will remain central to develop a plan to safeguard biodiversity and to provide optimal benefits to the local community through conservation.

