

Conservation Value of Protected Area – Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary

The proposed project site lies in Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) and its Eco-sensitive Zone in Bhagalpur district. VGDS has been notified for the protection and conservation of Gangetic Dolphin in the stretch of Ganga River from Sultanganj (Ajgaibinath Temple) to Kahalgaon (three hillocks in the middle of the Ganga River) vide Notification No. S.O. 382, dated: 7th August, 1991 of the Forest Department, Government of Bihar under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. VGDS is the only protected area for the endangered Gangetic Dolphins in the Indian subcontinent.

During the monsoon season, most of the sandbanks are inundated. In the leaner months, the water level reduces and creates many sand banks and embankments which are inhabited or used by birds and wildlife for feeding, breeding and habitation.

Apart from Gangetic Dolphins, a variety of mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, etc. also inhabit the sanctuary. Together, they form a significant natural component of the aquatic ecosystem. The critically endangered Gharial is also found here along with the endangered Greater Adjutant stork. Over 250 species of birds and 6 species of turtles also depend on the river sanctuary. Out of the 8 species of storks that are found in India, 7 species are found in Bhagalpur in or around the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary.



Wildlife Warden
Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary