



### Accommodation and other facilities

There is one lodge and 10 home stay with 40 Beds operating just at the edge of park boundary near park headquarter. Other hotels are available in Mahendranagar. The Elephant camp (Hattisar) is located in Pipriya near the famous Mahakali suspension bridge and anybody can enjoy for elephant riding. Blackbuck sighting and jungle driving facilities is available in Arjuni check posts for the visitors.

### Use of Park's revenue

30-50 percent of the Park's revenue goes directly to the Buffer Zone Communities for:

- Biodiversity Conservation Programme
- Community Development
- Conservation Education
- Income Generation and Skill Development

### How to Get Park

The Park is accessible by road from any part of the country and India. A night bus from Kathmandu takes about 18 hours to get there (Mahendranagar). Flights can be taken from Kathmandu to Dhangadi. It takes 1.5 hours from Dhangadi to Mahendranagar by bus. The Park headquarter is 8 km south-west of Mahendranagar. There is no regular public transportation to the headquarters but auto rikshaws or sometimes jeeps are available.

### Safety precaution

- First aid kit is recommended to carry by the visitors for their own safety.
- Visitors should be alert from the wildlife inside the core area.

### Stop Pollution

- Carry out what you carry in.
- Buy only what won't pollute, or carry it out.
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints.
- Do not use polythene/ plastic materials.

## Park Regulations to follow or things to remember

- An entry fee of Rs. 1,500 (Foreigners), Rs. 750 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 100 (Nepali) visitor should be paid at designated ticket counter per person per day.
- Valid entry permits are available at entrance gate of ShNP.
- The entry permit is non-refundable, non-transferable and is for a single entry only.
- Entering the park without a permit is illegal. Park personnel may ask for the permit, so visitors are requested to keep the permit with them.
- Get special permit for documentary/filming from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC).
- Documentary/filming fee of US\$ 1,500 (Foreigners), Rs. 50,000 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 10,000 (Nepali) should be paid at DNPWC. Additional 25% should be paid while using drone for documentary/filming.
- Drone (UAV) fee is same as documentary/filming fee while using it for other purposes.
- One has to pay additional fees for Elephant ride, jeep drive, camping, boating, rafting etc.
- Don't remove or damage plants and animals. All flora and fauna are fully protected and must not be disturbed.
- Rubbish must be placed out, buried or disposed off in designated areas.
- No one should walk within the park between sunset and sunrise.
- Do respect the cultural and religious sites.
- Carry out non biodegradable items such as batteries, plastic bags and bottles.
- A guide is must for jungle walk.



# SHUKLAPHANTA NATIONAL PARK



*Wish you a very happy and memorable experience*

2019



## Background

Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) is located in the Sudur-Paschim Province of Nepal. Initially, the Park served as a hunting ground and in 1969, it was declared as a Royal Hunting Reserve. Later on, an area of 155 sq km was officially gazetted as Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve in 1976 to protect Nepal's last remaining herd of Swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*). It was extended to its current size of 305 sq km incorporating grassland, wetland and mixed forest that create mosaic of wildlife habitats and serve as a biological corridor from lowland grassland to Churia region. In 2017, the reserve was declared as a National Park. In 1996, the area of 243.5 km<sup>2</sup>, surrounding the park was declared as a buffer zone.

Shuklaphanta National park harbours the largest grassland inside the park which is known as Shuklaphanta. When the grass blooms in winter the seed head appear as glorious white. In winter (January to April); the largest herd of Swamp deer of the world (more than thousands in a herd) can be seen from different machans located at different sites. To the north on a clear day, the Nanda Devi Himal can be seen. This is a very good place for Jungle drive, as there are several small ponds that draw wildlife to them. This phanta is managed by cutting of grass, uprooting of trees and controlled burning for the maintenance of the succession stages of the grass land especially to make a suitable habitat for the Swamp deer.

Singpur Phanta is the former location of a small Tharu village and is now flourishing grassland. Tharus are the main indigenous ethnic group of the area. This area is good for sighting wild elephant and other wildlife.

Within the park, there are number of man made waterholes which are created to attract animals prone Mahakali River and other natural waterholes in the boundary are the prone habitat of wildlife. Most of park's wildlife visits these areas as these waterholes are vital for sighting of wildlife and its sign such as footprints, scats and others. Salgaudi Tal (lake) is extremely pretty and has an abundance of birdlife. There is a Machan (view tower) from which egrets, herons, storks, eagles, and many of the animals can be seen including elephants, rhinos and tigers. Rani Tal (lake) is another beautiful lake that is nestled in the forest. It provides excellent habitat for a truly impressive variety of birdlife. Many of the park's wildlife and mosaic of different wildlife habitat can be observed around the lake from the machan. Near Rani Tal, there is an ancient Temple Singphal, devoted to Lord Shiva. During the Dasain festival, Hindus come here to worship Sigphal.



## Major Flora and Fauna

The Park is the most rich terai protected area in terms of floral diversity. It protects more than 665 species of plants. Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is the predominant species in the park. The habitat can be categorized into three main types namely, forest, grassland and aquatic habitat. The riverine forest is composed of sissou (*Dalbergia sissoo*) and khayar (*Acacia catechu*).

Marsh vegetation dominates the wetland areas. The main grass species of the phantas include *Imperata cylindrica* and *Heteropogon contortus*, which are used for thatching.

The park is equally rich in faunal diversity. It is supporting more than 53 species of mammals among which Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*) is prominent species. Other important mammals are Asian Wild Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), One horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and Hispid Hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*).



The herd of Swamp Deer currently stands at 2246 individuals (2019 Census data, ShNP). This is the largest herd of this species in the world. The park is home to about 25-30 migratory Asian Wild Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), an endangered species. About 16 individual adult Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), an endangered species, inhabit the Park preying on the abundant Spotted Deer and Swamp Deer (2016 Census, ShNP). In 2000 and 2018 A D, four and five rhinos were translocated to Shuklaphanta National Park respectively to create a viable population of Rhinoceros in this area. Currently seventeen individuals of Rhinoceros are residing in the Park. The second population of the Blackbuck was introduced in ShNP and now its population is 82 increasing in satisfactory condition.



The Park is also home to Golden Monitor Lizard (*Varanus flavescens*), Hispid Hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*), Blue Bull (*Boselaphus tragocamellus*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Jackals (*Canis aureus*), Langur (*Presbytis entellus*), and Rhesus Monkey (*Maccaca mulatta*) and different species of small mammals.

The Park provides habitat for about 424 species of birds, including Bengal Florican, Park provides habitat for 21 species of fishes including Mahaseer, Rohu and Tenger. The Park also the home of a diverse population of reptiles like Marsh Mugger Crocodile, Cobra and Python.

## Fact Sheet

Shuklaphanta National Park and its Buffer zone	
Declared year	In 1976 AD declared as a Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and In 2017 AD declared as a Shuklaphanta National Park.
National Park area	305 km <sup>2</sup>
Location	Latitude: 28°45'48" - 29°03'15" Longitude: 80° 05'57"-80° 23'19" (Kanchanpur District of Sudur Paschim Province)
Physiographic Region	Terai-Silwalik
Bio-climatic zone	Tropical to sub-tropical
Elevation	174m -1386m from msl
Major Rivers	Mahakali, Syali river
Main Mammals	Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian Wild Elephant, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Swamp Deer, Four-horned Antelope, Pangolin, Hispid Hare etc.
Main Birds	Bengal Florican, Lesser Florican, Gyps Bengalensis
Major tree species	<i>Shorea robusta</i> , <i>Adinia cardifolia</i> , <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> , <i>Acacia catechu</i> , <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i> , <i>Lagerstromia parviflora</i> , <i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> etc.
Buffer zone declared	2004 AD
Buffer zone area	243.5 km <sup>2</sup>
Municipality	5 (Mahakali, Bhimdatta, Bedkot, Shuklaphant, Berauri)
Rural Municipality	2 (Beldandi, Laljhadi)
Buffer zone user committee	9
Population	1,43,395
Major caste groups	Tharu, Brahmin, Chhetri, Thakuri
Economy	Agriculture, animal husbandry, tourism, trade and labour

## Major Attractions

- Shuklaphanta grassland.
- Largest herd of swamp deer of the world.
- Endangered species Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian Wild Elephant, One-horned Rhinoceros.
- Tharu culture.
- Blackbuck sighting.

## Best season

The park has three seasons. From October to early April the weather is dry. The days are warm and pleasant, and the nights are cool. From April to June, the temperature warms up to 40° C.



80°0'0"E

80°10'0"E

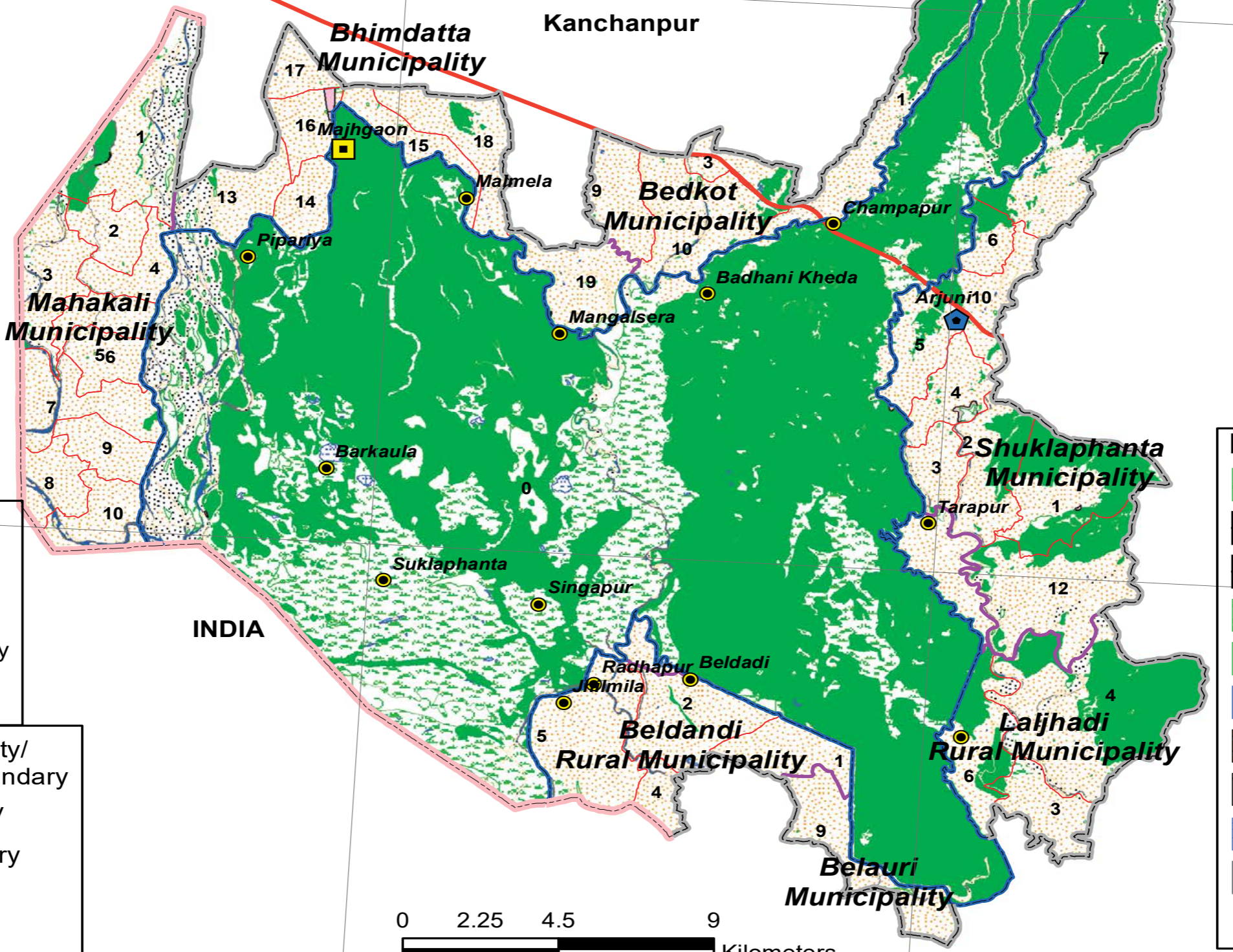
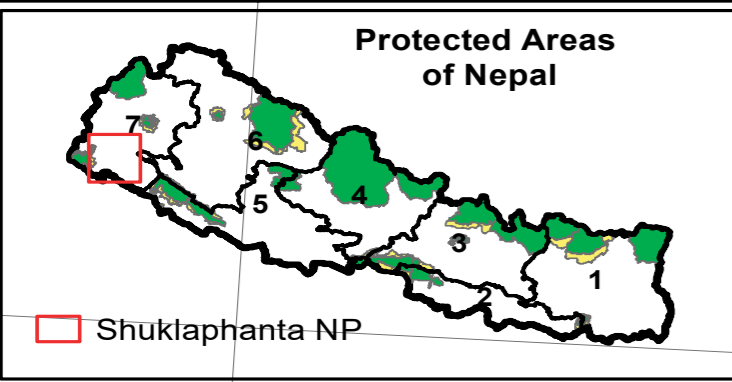
80°20'0"E

80°30'0"E

# Shuklaphanta National Park(ShNP) and its Buffer Zone

## Location and Landcover

Dadeldhura



### LEGEND

- Park HQ
- Sector Office
- Other Posts
- East West Highway
- Ward boundary
- Rural Municipality/ Municipality boundary
- District boundary
- National boundary
- Park boundary
- BZ boundary

- ### Landcover class
- Bush/Shrub land
  - Cultivated land
  - Forest land
  - Grass land
  - Orchard
  - Pond or lakes
  - River cutting/cliffs
  - Sandy area
  - Swamp area
  - Waterbodies
  - Barren land



Source : DoS, MoFAGA and ShNP/DNPWC, GoN

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29°0'0"N  
28°50'0"N  
Designed by: Bhola N. Dhakal