

Thol Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhwana wetland

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Thol Wildlife Sanctuary near Ahmedabad and **Wadhwana wetland** in Vadodara are among the four wetlands of the country that have been included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.



[Ref: Gujarat Forest Department]

- With this, the number of **Ramsar listed wetlands in Gujarat goes up to three** and the listings come nine year after Nalsarovar had earned the tag in 2012.
- Other two wetlands got recognition as Ramsar sites are Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.

Thol Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Thol was **constructed for irrigation in 1912**.
- In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary by the state government to protect the birdlife found in this open-water wetland site.
- It is on the **Central Asian Flyway** and more than 320 bird species can be found, making up some 57% of all the bird species of Gujarat.
- About 43% of India's waterbird species, with almost 30% of those species being migratory waterbirds found here.
- Threatened bird species such as the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), and the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), common pochard (*Aythya farina*) and lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) also found there.
- This wetland regularly hosts **more than 1% of the population of species including glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**.
- It is also essential during the dry seasons for a population of blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) and other mammals in the surrounding area.
- The Lake provides water for drinking and irrigation and enables groundwater recharge.

Wadhvana wetland:

- Wadhawana was also **created as an irrigation dam** in 1910 in Dabhoil taluka of Vadodara.
- The wetland is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides **wintering ground to migratory waterbirds**, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
- They **include some threatened or near-threatened species** such as the endangered Pallas's fish-eagle, the vulnerable common pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian pelican, grey-headed fish-eagle and ferruginous duck.
- In addition the **red-crested pochard**, a duck which is otherwise rare in Western India, is regularly recorded here during winter.