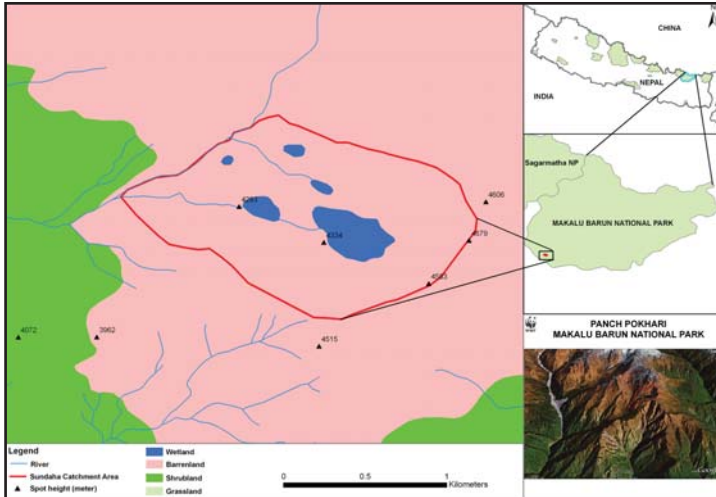


FACTSHEET

Panch Pokhari

Makalu Barun National Park



Coordinates: 27036'40" N,
86050'46" E

Area: 13.02 ha

Elevation: 4,190 to 4,120m

OVERVIEW

Panch Pokhari (Five Lakes) is an alpine freshwater oligotrophic lake series with alpine meadows, lakes, ponds and streams, situated in Makalu Barun National Park which illustrates unique natural wetland in high Himalayan Paleartic biogeographical region. Referring to the site name it represents 5 lakes- Bau (Father), Aamaa (Mother), Chora (Son), Buhari (Daughter –in –law) and Nati (Grandson). Fed by Konkeluchho peak at north and Hurhure peak at east, Hurhure ridge serves as outlet linking with Khola Kharka stream and finally draining into Inku River. These five lakes appear to be interconnected along with another elongated

glacial lake, Pangram Pokhari. The distance between Father Lake and Grandson Lake is 435m, making it longest among the series. The depth of the lakes ranges from 2m to 20 m.

HYDROLOGICAL VALUE:

The discharge from outlet is 0.0044 to 0.068 m³/sec and inlet is 0.0044 - 0.0061 m³/sec. Due to the harsh terrain, local people consume less water than the wildlife on site.

BIODIVERSITY VALUE

Flora: Altogether 32 plant species with 17 family and 26 genera have been recorded in the area. Rosaceae is the dominant family with 4 species, followed by Asteraceae, Ericaceae, Polygonaceae and Primulaceae with 3 species each. The potential endemic plants found in area are

Carex himalaica and *Ranunculus himalaicus*. Threatened species such as Bikh (*Aconitum spicatum*) - IUCN Redlist-VU, Pakhenved (*Bergenia ciliate*), Somlata (*Ephedra gerardiana*), Kakoli (*Fritillaria cirrhosa*) and Kyasar (*Meconopsis paniculata*) are also found in the area.



The alpine region is represented by



Rhododendron shrub and Juniperus shrub. The open pasture is dominated by species like Sunpati (*Rhododendron anthopogon*), Bhale sunpati (*Rhododendron lepidotum*) Bikh, (*Aconitum spicatum*), *Potentilla microphylla*, Marcha (Senacio species), Kyashar (*Meconopsis species*), Primula species, Pakhnved (*Bergenia ciliate*), Kakoli (*Fritillaria chirsoza*) etc.

Fauna: Although, previous studies recorded 421 species of birds in National Park, only 3 wetland species and 26 wetland dependent species were recorded. Bird species like Monal (*Satyr traogopon*), Blood Pheasant (*Ithaginis cruentus*), White winged Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythrogaster*), Himalayan Monal (*Lophorous impejanus*), Yellow-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*) harbor this site.

The lake area is the habitat for endangered species like Musk deer (*Moschus crysogaster*) IUCN Redlist –VU, Wild dog (*Cuon alpines*) IUCN Redlist-EN and Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) IUCN Redlist -VU. Site comprises mammals like Large eared Pika (*Ochotona macrotis*), Royle's Pika (*Ochotona roylei*), Himalayan fox (*Vulpes spp.*), Grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), Wild dog (*Cuon alpines*) etc.



Chanting Mundhum to obtain power

■ SOCIO CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS VALUE

Various ethnic groups worship this lake considering as Basuki Nag (Water God) for three times a year. Though five lakes exist, however culturally people worship only at Bau Pokhari (Son Lake). Religious importances of lake are categorized in two ways as power source and giver. Traditionally, local healers believe lake as source of power to

strengthen their medicinal and healing powers by singing, dancing and chanting Mundhum as well as visiting at least once in three year After this ritual, these selected healers are regarded as best in village. As donor, local people offer cucumber, potato and pear for descendant, maize as well as other crops for crop wealth, milk for cattle wealth and coin for wealth to fulfill their particular wishes. Around 300 pilgrims visit these lakes every year.



■ THREATS

1. Encroachment promoted by increasing tourism.
2. Fire initiated by travelers and herders
3. Pollution caused by hotel industry and pilgrims.
4. Inappropriate grazing practices
5. Extraction of Medicinal Aromatic Plants (MAPs)

■ CONSERVATION MEASURES

Makalu Barun National Park personnel visit the park regularly to monitor the site. Different level of meetings involving various stakeholders from Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC), Village Development Committee (VDC), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Park Authority were organized. Future activities for sustainable management of the site have been planned. BZMC has also allocated budget for awareness campaign on conservation values.