

- Holy performance: Ganga Dashahara Mela and Janai purnima.
- Unique folk cultural performance: Deuda, Hudke, Chhaliya and Putala etc.
- Animal sighting: Musk Deer, Leopard cat and Himalayan Monal etc.



Best season

The seasons of spring (March-May) and autumn (October-November) are the best time to visit the park. During these seasons temperatures are pleasant for trekkers. The monsoon begins in June and lasts until September making the paths muddy and slippery. From December to February, chilling wind brings snow.

Accommodation

There are some hotels near the entrance gate Likhada and Jhigrana. Inside the Park there are two hotels and lodges with basic facilities. One 20 beds hotel at Khaptad and 10 beds hotel at Bichpani. Trekkers are advised to carry some foods, sleeping bags and warm wears during the visit.

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

Safety Precautions

High Altitude Sickness (HAS) can affect if elevation is gained too rapidly without proper acclimatization. The symptoms are headache, difficulty in sleeping, dizziness, nausea and general fatigue. If someone develops these signs and symptoms stop immediately; if symptoms persists descend to lower elevation.

How to Get The Park

The best way to reach the park is to fly to Dhangadi from Kathmandu (1 hr flight). There are public buses from Kathmandu to Dhangadhi (15 hrs).

There are two way to go to the Park:

1) Jhigrana entrance gate to Khaptad

Dhangadhi- to Silgadhi, Doti Via Syaule, Dadeldhura (6hrs) by public buses and Jeep.

Silgadhi - Jhigrana entrance gate (One and half hour) by public Jeep .

Jhigrana - Khaptad National Park's headquarter, 6-7 hrs treks.

2) Likhada entrance gate to Khaptad

Dhangadhi- Chainpur (Bajhang) Via. Syaule, Dadeldura (12hrs) by public buses and Jeep.

Chainpur-Tamel Bazar-Darugaun (2 hrs) by public Jeep.

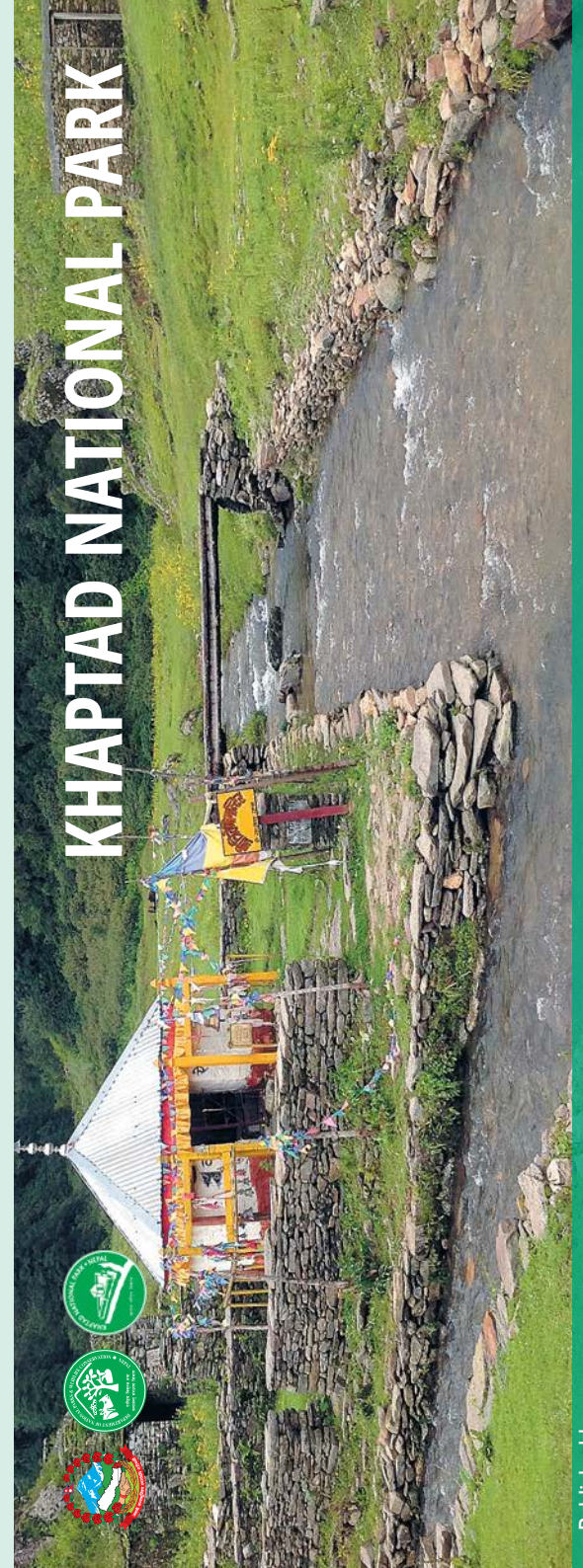
Darugaun-Likhada entrance gate- Khaptad National Park's headquarter 5hrs treks.

Park Regulations to follow or things to remember

- An entry fee of Rs. 1,500 (Foreigners), Rs. 500 (SAARC Nationals), and Rs. 100 (Nepali) visitor should be paid at designated ticket counter.
- Valid entry permits are available from the National Parks ticket counter at the Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu or park entrance gate.
- 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\$ 1500 (Foreigners), Rs. 50,000 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 10000 (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.
- 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.
- Camping inside the park should be made only at the designated areas.
- Carry out non biodegradable items such as batteries, plastic bags and bottles.
- Never trek alone, hire a local guide if you can't find a companion.

Wish you a very happy and memorable experience

2019



Background

Khaptad National Park (KNP) was declared in 1984 and located in the mid mountains of Sudur-paschim province of Nepal. It expands in an area of 225 km² representing a unique pastures intermixed with coniferous forest. The Park partially cover four districts viz. Bajura, Bajhang, Achham and Doti. It lies 29°17'41" N latitude and 81°13'43" E longitude at an average altitude of 3000m above mean sea level.

The Buffer Zone (BZ) of Khaptad National Park was declared in 2006 including 216 km² area of Bajura, Bajhang, Achham and Doti districts with fourteen Buffer Zone User Committees and one Buffer Zone Management committee constituted in accordance with law to balance the conservation and community development.

Features

KNP is one of the spectacular and pristine Park of Nepal with rich biodiversity. The Park is bestowed with 22 patches of grasslands on gentle hills which are locally called Patans in Nepal. In



summer, they support local livelihood by offering ample grazing ground for cattle. Patans are ornated with flowers during June to August. A small lake named as Khaptad Daha is situated at Daha Patan, which is the best place for aquatic and migratory birds.

Famous sites with religious as well and cultural importance incorporated by the park invites thousands of pilgrims each year. Among other, Khaptad Baba Ashram, Triveni and Sahasra Linga are most popular places of interest. Khaptad Baba Ashram is located close to the park headquarter which is named after the late Khaptad Swami who came to the area in 1940's. Ashram was used for meditation. He spent some 50 years as a hermit and became a renowned spiritual saint among Hinduism followers. On the way to the park headquarter, at the confluence of three rivers, known as Triveni a lord Shiva temple is located. The panorama of Triveni is amazing with other historical temples. Ganga Dashahara, a holy performance, is marked here during



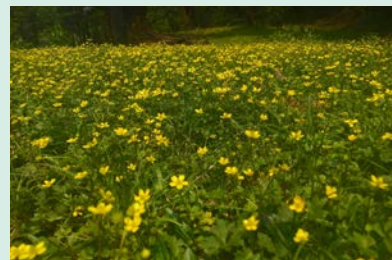
Janai Purnima (Full moon day). Many pilgrims make a holy visit to Triveni to Worship the God Shiva on this occasion. Another religious site is Sahshra Linga at 3,276 m above sea level which is the highest point in the park. Other religious areas include Ganesh temple, Nagdhunga, and Kedardhunga. As these areas are considered as places for meditation and tranquility, they should not be disturbed. Tobacco products, alcohol, and animal sacrifice is prohibited in these sites. A small museum at the head quarter introduces visitors to the park. Close to the headquarter a view tower offers beautiful landscape of Api- Saipal Himalayan range. On the other direction, the vast green mid hills of Nepal can be seen closer.

Major Flora & Fauna

KNP Corresponding to the variety of terrain of the Park, it is rich in floral and faunal diversity. The flora of the park can be divided into three basic vegetation zones: subtropical, temperate, and sub-alpine. In



lower altitudes (1000-2000m), subtropical vegetation dominates the landscape. Forest mainly consists of Sal, Pine and Alder species. From 1800-3000m temperate vegetation dominates the landscape. Here, forests are comprised of lower temperate mixed broad-leaved species (*Lindera nacusau*, *Cinnamomum tamala*. etc.) Temperate mixed evergreen species (*Spruce*, *Fir*, *Hemlock Oak*, etc.) and upper temperate broad-leaved species (*Aesculus indica*, maple, etc.). The Khaptad plateau, above 2,900m is dominated by sub-alpine vegetation -*Fir*, oak, birch, and rhododendron are the major species here. Tangled into the landscape of the Khaptad plateau are the patans (grasslands) which bloom in summer and late spring. The grassland flowers consist of primulas, buttercups, and wild berries. The park also harbors a wide variety of medicinal herbs. The park is reported to have 266 bird species when migratory birds join the residential ones. It supports about 287 bird species. Some of the common ones are the impeyan pheasant (Dhanphe), Nepal's national bird and many types of Partridges, Flycatchers, Bulbuls, Cuckoos, and Eagles. A wide variety of butterflies, moths, and insects are also pride of the Khaptad's ecosystem. The park provides habitat for some 23 different species of mammals. The common



ones include Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Ghoral, Himalayan Black Bear, Yellow-throated Marten, and Rhesus and Langur Monkey. Others include Common Leopard, Wolf, Wild Dog, Jackal and Musk Deer.

Fact sheet

Khaptad National Park and its Buffer Zone	
Declared year	1984
Natioanl Park Area	225 km ²
Location	29°17'41" N latitude and 81°13'43" E longitude of Sudur Pashchim province
Bio-climatic zone	Trans-himalayan zone
Major geophysical characteristics	Mid-Mountain, Khaptad patan
Main mammals	Musk Deer, Leopard Cat, Grey Wolf
Endemic Animals (2)	Khasre Bhyaguta (<i>Scutigera nepalensis</i>) and Bajhange Paha (<i>Paa erepeae</i>)
Main birds	Impeyan Pheasant, Crimson horned Pheasant, Cheer Pheasant
Major tree species	Pine, Oak, Betula, Fir, Spruce, Hemlock, Aesculus
Endemic Plants (4)	<i>Impatiens scullyi</i> , <i>Taraxacum nepalensis</i> , <i>Diplotaxis nepalensis</i> and <i>Cotoneaster bisramianus</i>
Buffer zone declared	2006 AD
Buffer zone area	216 km ²
Municipality	1 (Sanphebagar)
Rural Municipality	6 (Sayal, Purbachauki, Chaurpati, Thalara, Khaptad Chhana & Chhede Daha)
Buffer zone user committee	14
Population	33272
Major caste groups	Brahman, kshetri, Thakuri, Damai, Kami, Sarki & Sunar
Economy	Tourism, agriculture, animal husbandry, NTFP & Remittance

Major Attractions

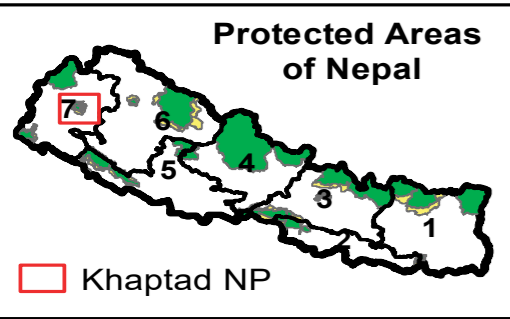
- Sacred hermitate of Late His Holiness Khaptad Baba Sri Paramhansa Swami Sachudananda Sarawati.
- Panoramic view of Saipal and Api Himalayan range and Khaptad patan.
- Famous religious sites of huge religious beliefs: Sahashralinga, Triveni Mandir, Malika Mandir, Ganesh Mandir, Valaune Bhagbati, Maikothan, Natteshwori, Tilikh Mandir and Sita Paila.
- Meditation sites of great importance: Kedar Dhunga, Nag Dhunga, Bhim Ghatta, Chhinte Dhunga, Jethi Baurani Dhunga and Roti Chelthre.



81°0'0"E

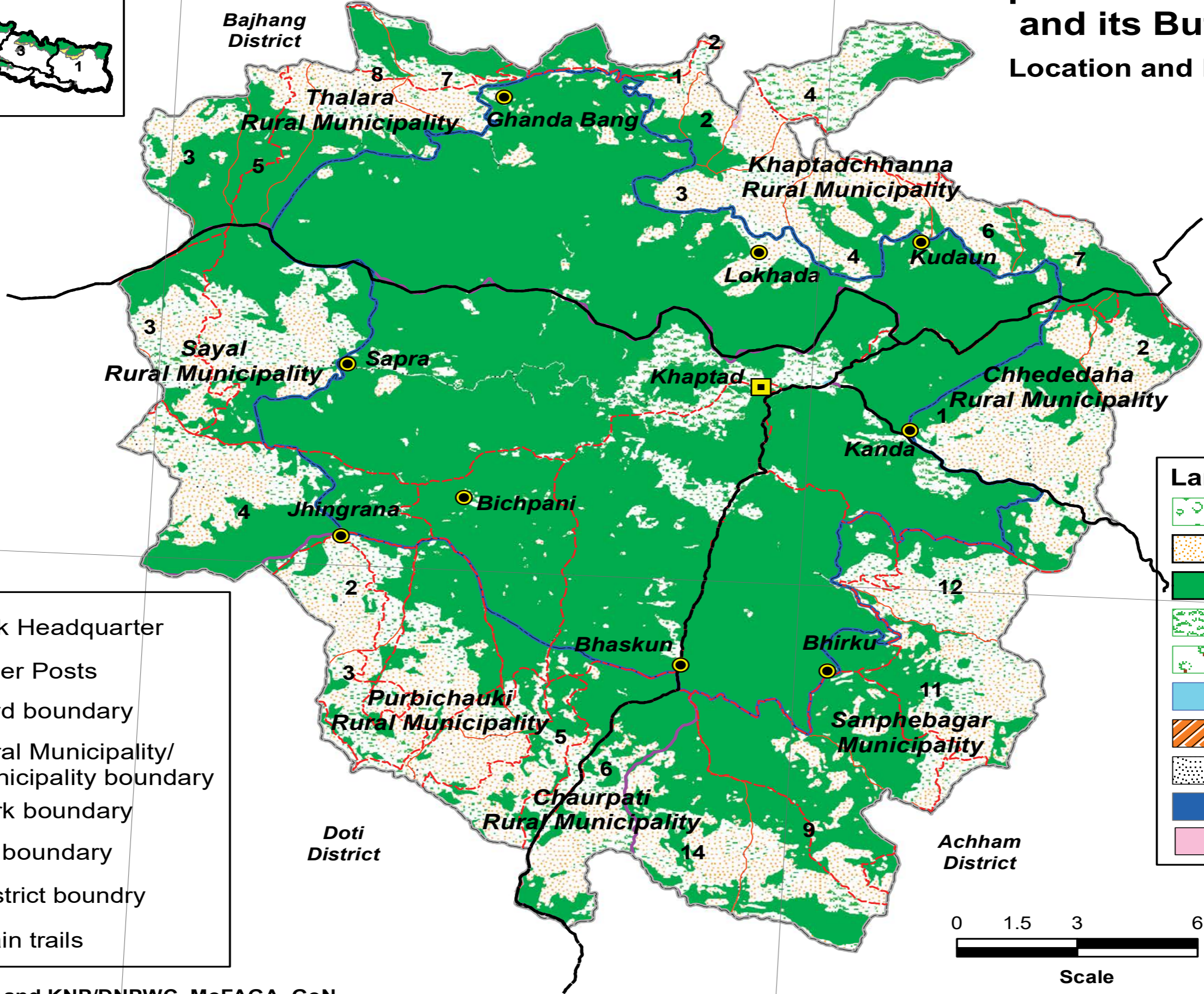
81°10'0"E

29°30'0"N



Khaptad National Park(KNP) and its Buffer Zone

Location and Landcover



LEGEND

- Park Headquarter
- Other Posts
- Ward boundary
- Rural Municipality/ Municipality boundary
- Park boundary
- BZ boundary
- District boundary
- Main trails

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



Source : DoS and KNP/DNPWC, MoFAGA, GoN.

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