

Fish Museum and Biodiversity Information Centre (FMBIC)

Bharatpur Metropolitan City-11, Bhojad, Chitwan



Dedhuwa



Mara



Pothi

The **Fish Museum and Biodiversity Information Centre (FMBIC)** is located in Bhojad of Bharatpur Metropolitan City-11, Chitwan Nepal, in a space provided by Division Forest Office, Chitwan. This centre is one of the newly established centres and is confined in a small scale given the size and diversity of its exhibits and collections. The centre was established in 2020 and developed with financial support of UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme of Nepal. Its goal is to encourage sustainable fishing.



Objectives

The objective of the FMBIC is to create an educational centre using interactive exhibits that focuses on Chitwan's rich diversity of freshwater fishes and in raising local and national awareness of the need to change fishing practices to conserve and ensure the sustainability of Nepal's aquatic fauna. FMBIC hopes to achieve this through inspiring educational exhibits, by maintaining and developing scientific collections for display and by fostering links with other museums and research centres nationally and internationally.

Exhibits

A total of 34 freshwater fish species were recorded from four collection sites of Chitwan i.e. from Tiger Lake, Rhino Lake, Khageri Khola and Rampur Ghole. All these species have been preserved and displayed in the centre. These are found as impressive collections where, among others, some nutrient dense species like Mara, Dedhuwa and Pothi have been collected for the first time in Chitwan. There is only one room renovated to keep these 34 species.

Further exhibits are planned and the MDI and DFO staffs are working to secure supporting funds and further specimens for exhibiting. In future, the museum will include interactive public aquaria and customized systems for research purposes for conservation-based initiatives. It is intended that research facilities will include aquaria for maintaining large and small indigenous fish species collected from entire aquatic habitats from Chitwan district. If possible, FMBIC will establish a cryogenic gene bank and DNA collection unit in the future.

Visiting Hours

The Centre can be visited regularly on every Friday and Saturday (10.00-12.00 morning and 14.00-16.00 afternoon) for general public. A prior contact may be necessary beyond this specific opening time for any groups or organizations willing to visit this centre. You are welcome to contact at 9855047297 (MDI Nepal) or at 9855087331 (Division Forest Office) for any enquiries regarding to this centre during office hours (10:00 AM-05:00 PM).

- Division Forest Office, Chitwan