

# Biodiversity in the Begnas and Rupa Watershed



Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

The Begnas and Rupa watershed covers an area of 49 km<sup>2</sup> with elevation ranging from 600- 1400 masl. Rich in floral and faunal diversity, the watersheds have great potential for local economic development through tourism.

## Floral and Faunal Diversity of Begnas and Rupa Watershed



**500** vascular plants belonging to **128** families

**128** plants with medicinal value



**34** mammal species eg. Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) & Leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis*)

## Agrobiodiversity in the Watershed Area

Lekhanath Municipality (wards 9, 10, 11) is an area for conservation of agricultural biodiversity.



**63** local varieties of **Rice**  
Navo (*Oryza rufipogon*) is a **Wild Rice** found in Rupa lake watershed area



**17** local varieties of **Finger Millet**

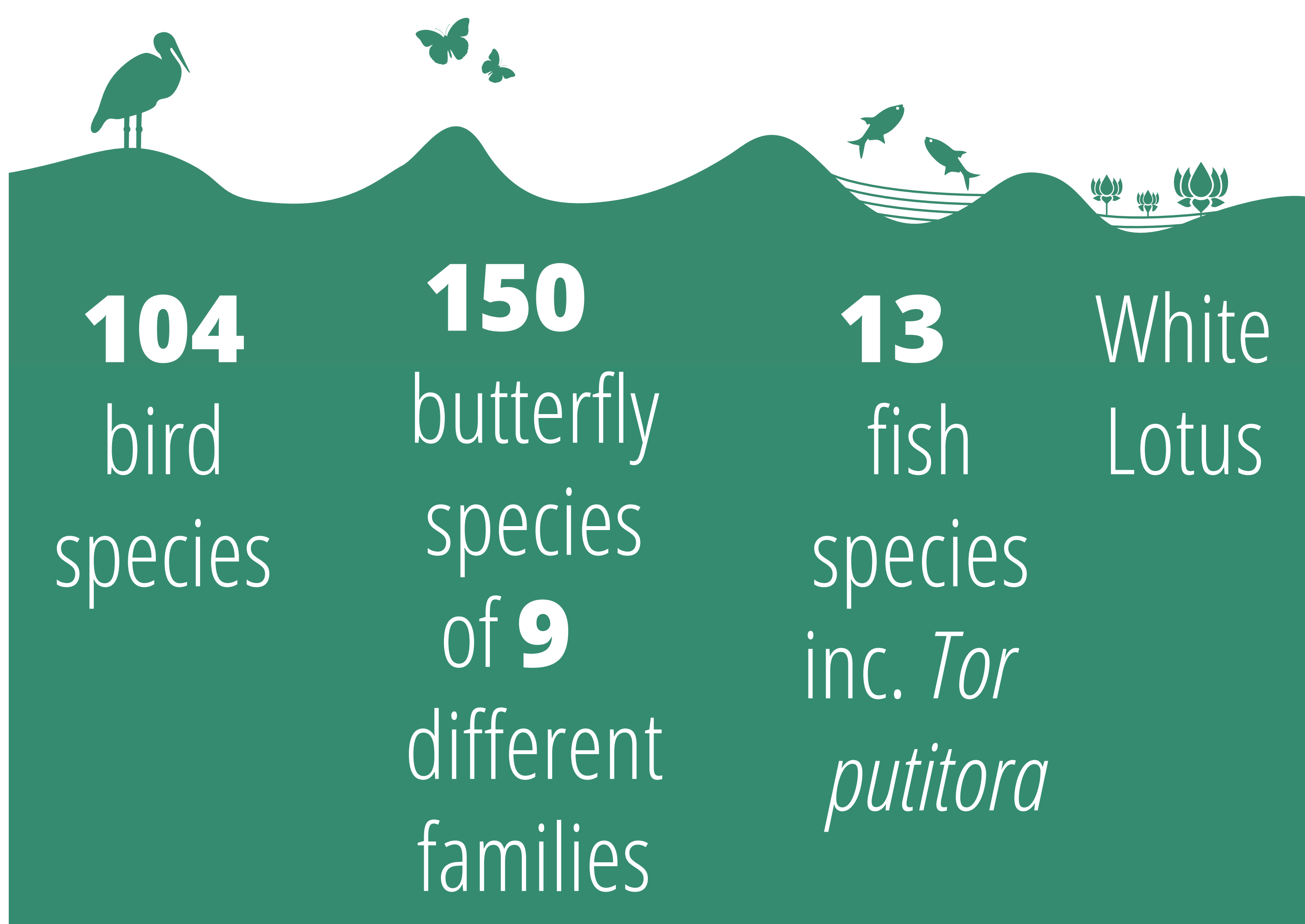


**12** local varieties of **Taro**



**95** local varieties of **Vegetables**

## Butterfly, Bird and Aquatic Diversity



## Community based Conservation Approaches

Community groups in Begnas and Rupa are active in conservation activities. Under the Bioresources Conservation Movement (*Jaibik Shrot*) 15 groups are involved in conservation of bird habitat, white lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), orchids, medicinal plants, and local sahar fish (*Tor* spp.). They maintain diversity blocks of taro, rice and finger millet for conservation awareness and manage revolving fund to support livelihoods.

**Source:** IUCN, LI-BIRD, Colin Smith