

Parsa Wildlife Reserve, located in the Central Terai, was declared in 1984 as an extension of the Royal Chitwan - Parsa's Park to provide additional coverage of the unique habitat for the increasing population of wild animals in the National Park. Since the reserve is primarily located in the Shebhera region south of the Terai hills, the area is covered with dense forest and has hardly any natural grassland. However, a small patch of grassland has been created by clearing the acetylas trees planted as a part of a reforestation project before the reserve was declared. There is a plan to create more grassland by clearing another acetylas patch and by relocating a small area of grassland inside the reserve. The newly created grassland has provided a good habitat for wild animals and a source of thatch grass for the local people. The plan is to create more grassland in the future to help in the conservation of biodiversity within the reserve.

Status of Grasslands in *Terai* Protected Areas: Management Issues and Gaps