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 THIS STORY IS FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

‘Proposed solar park near Chari Dand threat to birds’

[Nimesh Khakhariya](#) / Sep 21, 2023, 09:15 IST



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Rajkot: As many as 50 people including wildlife activists, bird watchers and ornithologists have come together to oppose the proposed solar park near Chari Dand in Kutch district. They fear that the solar park proposed over 600-acre land by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) would pose a threat to the nesting ground of lakhs of migratory [birds](#).

According to activists, the land sought by the NTPC is near Banni grassland and the Rann of Kutch. The area becomes a wetland during monsoon and transforms into grassland as water recedes in summer. According to ornithologists, the wetland cum grassland is home to endangered species like dalmatian pelican, oriental darter, black-necked stork, Indian skimmer. It is also known for nest ground for flamingos, common cranes, painted storks, raptors spoonbills and is considered paradise by the bird watchers. The reserved area is also a good habitat for chinkaras, wolves, caracals, desert foxes etc. Navin Bapat member of the Gujarat Sahitya Akademi, Rajkot, said, "We have visited the Kutch district

or the group of 50 wildlife activists who met on Sunday in Bhuj said, "We have asked the Kutch district collector to provide us the exact location where they want to set up the solar park. The place is home to 2.5 lakh birds of 146 species and 40% of birds are migratory."The solar park will adversely impact the natural habitat of birds and other animals resulting in damage to the ecosystem there, he added.

Yuvrajsinh Jhala, deputy conservator of forest Kutch (west) said, "The area where the solar park is proposed is not an eco-sensitive zone under the law like a sanctuary or a national park. It is not forest land either. We have received a letter from the (Kutch) district collector seeking our opinion on the proposed project and it is under consideration." According to the wildlife activists, the proposed solar park site falls in the revenue area but during the monsoon it transforms into a wetland. The area becomes a grassland as water recedes after monsoon. This area is also used as grazing land for animals like cows and buffaloes, they added.

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Nimesh Khakhariya is an assistant editor with Times Of India.



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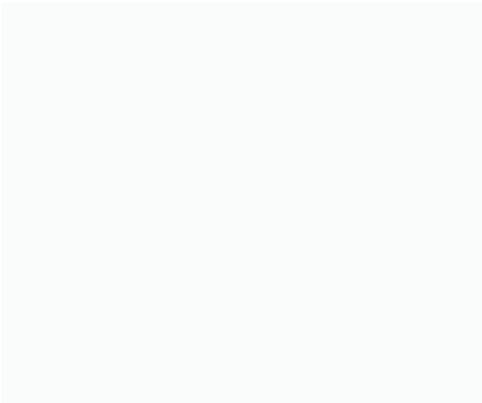
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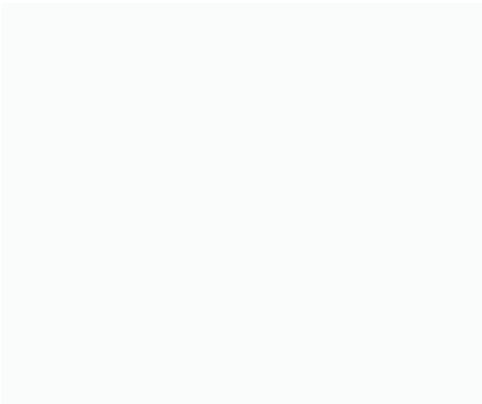
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