

# BHITARKANIKA MANGROVES

## Wetland of International Importance

Location: Kendrapara, Odisha

Ramsar Area: 650 sq. km

Source of water : Rivers Brahmani – Baitarni, Rainfall, Tidal inflow



### Biodiversity and Habitat

500,000 Olive Ridley turtles  
World's largest mass nesting beach

280 Species of birds  
One of the largest heronry in Asia

1700 Saltwater Crocodiles  
Highest density in India

70 mangrove species  
One of the most diverse mangrove ecosystems in India



Reduced freshwater flow



Coastal erosion



Expansion of shrimp farms



### Livelihoods

- ▶ Supports 250,000 inhabitants in 410 villages
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Aquaculture



Protection from cyclones and tidal surges



Eco - tourism  
Attracts over 60,000 tourists annually



● Wetland values and benefits ● Threats - - - - - Ramsar site boundary