

# 5. ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF GANGES

There are about 248 **bird species** found in Sunderban national park including a large number of migratory birds from higher latitudes that visits the park in winter months Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, Storks, Green Pigeons, Sand Pipers, Large and Small Spoonbills, Darters, Seagulls, Teal, Partridges, great variety of Wild Geese and Ducks.



The mean annual flow in the river is estimated to be over 525 billion m<sup>3</sup>, with about 60 percent contributed from Himalayan Glaciers and 40 percent contribution from peninsular streams / tributaries. The Ganges Basin drains 1,000,000-square-kilometre (390,000 sq mi) and supports one of the world's highest densities of humans. The Ganga Basin has very fertile alluvial soil and the chief crops cultivated in the area are rice, sugarcane, lentils, oil seeds, potatoes and wheat.

