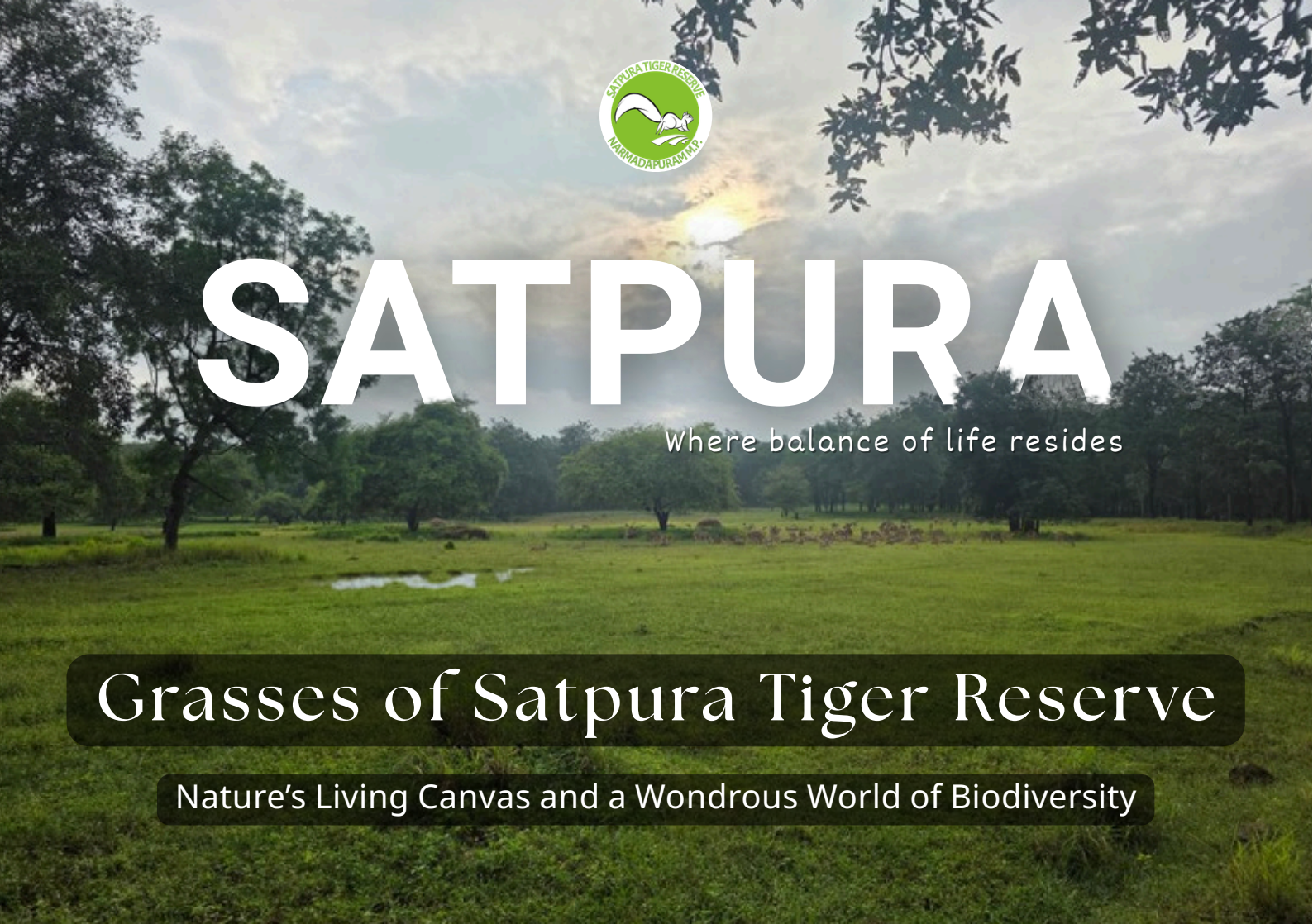
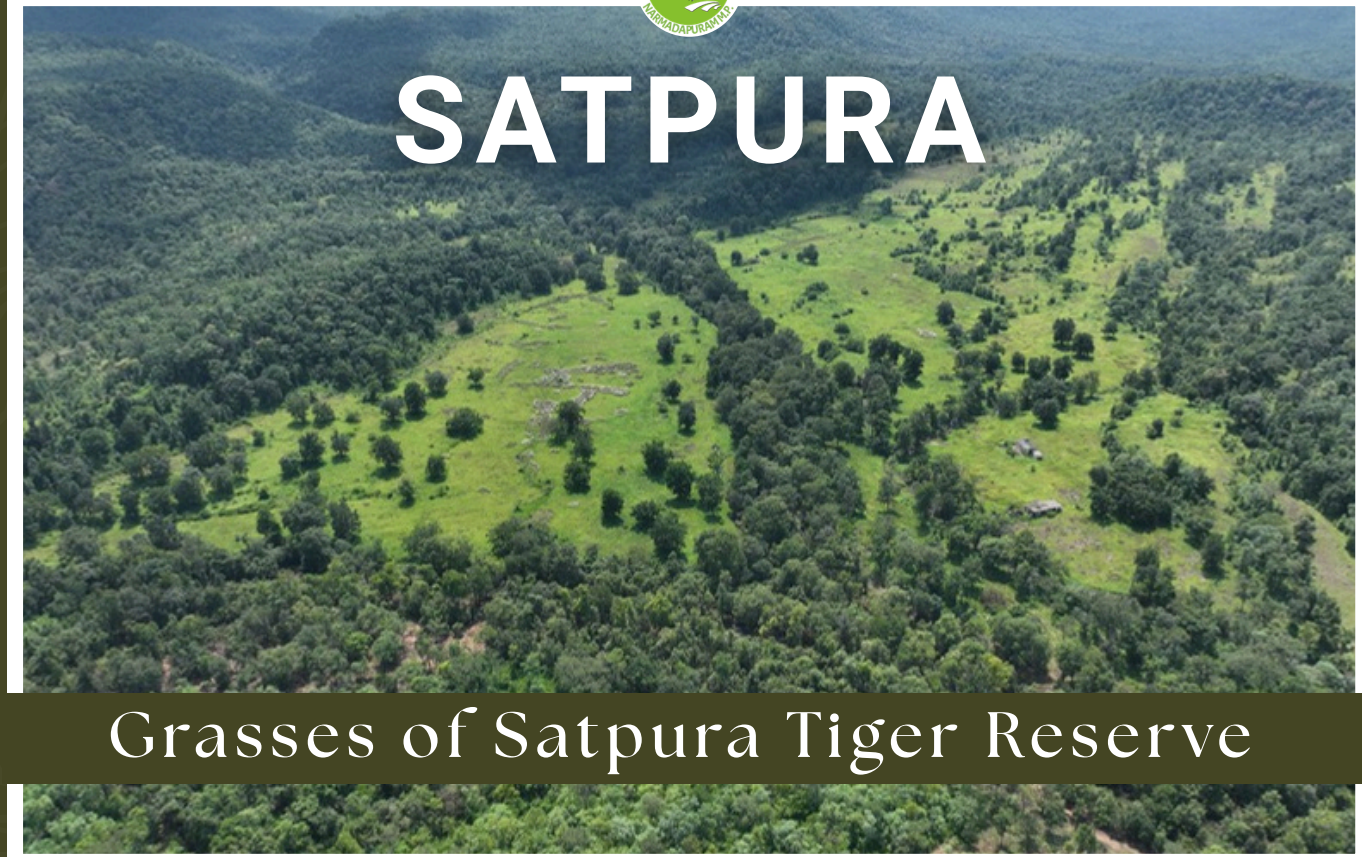

SATPURA TIGER RESERVE
NARMADAPURAM M.P.
SATPURA
Where balance of life resides
Grasses of Satpura Tiger Reserve
Nature's Living Canvas and a Wondrous World of Biodiversity



Grasses of Satpura Tiger Reserve

This booklet is intended for educational purpose only. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent and are not the responsibility of the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

First Edition: Year 2025

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FOREWORD



I am pleased to learn that Satpura Tiger Reserve has taken the initiative to bring out a booklet on the grasses of the landscape. Satpura, with its mosaic of forests, woodlands, wetlands and grasslands, is blessed with rich floral diversity. The grasslands of the Reserve, most of which have been developed on sites vacated after voluntary village relocation, now play a crucial role in supporting herbivores and maintaining ecological balance.

Grasses, though often overlooked, form the very foundation of the food chain in these ecosystems. Documenting and presenting the grass species of Satpura in a simple, accessible manner will be immensely useful not only to the field staff and researchers but also to students and nature enthusiasts. It will help foster greater appreciation for these silent but vital components of our biodiversity.

I congratulate the Field Director and her team for this commendable effort and hope that this booklet will inspire further studies on the lesser-known floral wealth of Madhya Pradesh.

Sh. Shubharanjan Sen, IFS
PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Madhya Pradesh

Message



I am delighted that Satpura Tiger Reserve is publishing a booklet on its grasses. Satpura is one of the finest landscapes of Central India, known for its wilderness, diverse habitats, and scientific conservation initiatives. The grasslands of Satpura, especially those developed after voluntary relocation of villages, are among its greatest conservation assets.

Grasses sustain herbivores, which in turn sustain carnivores, thus forming the backbone of the ecological pyramid. Yet, grasses are seldom documented or popularized among common readers. This compilation of the major grass species of Satpura is, therefore, a timely and praiseworthy step.

I am confident that this booklet will serve as a practical guide for frontline staff, students, and nature lovers, while also underlining the need for continued research on unexplored grass species of the region.

I extend my best wishes to the Field Director and the team behind this initiative.

Sh. L. Krishnamoorthy, IFS
APCCF (Wildlife), Madhya Pradesh

Preface

Grasses are often overlooked in the wilderness, yet they are the silent architects of ecosystems—shaping habitats, sustaining herbivores, and nurturing the entire food chain. Satpura Tiger Reserve, with its remarkable floral wealth, harbours diverse grass species spread across woodlands, wetlands, drawdown zones and thriving grasslands, many of which have naturally flourished on sites once occupied by villages before voluntary relocation.

This booklet brings together some of the prominent grasses of Satpura, serving as a handy field companion for frontline staff, a learning resource for students, and a window of discovery for all who wish to understand and appreciate the hidden richness of our grasslands.

How to read the symbols

Preferred by - Animal


Wild Boar

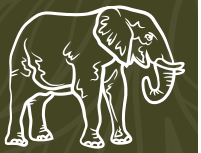

Nilgai


Swamp Deer


Cheetal


Sambhar


Gaur


Elephant

Edibility


Palatable


Initially palatable


Non palatable

Life cycle


Perennial


Annual

Grassland Calendar



Flowering



Fruiting

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Alloteropsis cimicina





Common name - Summer grass / Kira ghas

Habitat - Open plains, edges of fields, moist sandy loam soils.

Identification - A tufted annual or perennial herb with stems (culms) that grow up to 120 cm high. The leaf blades are lance-shaped to ovate, with a broad, heart-shaped base and rough, bristly margins. The flowering part of the plant consists of 3 to 10 spike-like racemes (flower clusters) that are arranged in a whorl at the top of the stalk.











Apluda mutica





Common name - Fulera ghas

Habitat - Open slopes, well drained sandy loamy soils.

Identification - It can grow up to 3 meters long. The culms are often erect or ascending from the base and are smooth and hairless. The leaf blades are long (up to 45 cm), flat, and linear-lanceolate in shape, with sheaths that are smooth and cylindrical.










Aristida setacea





Common name - Khadda ghas

Habitat - Dry, rocky & sandy grasslands.

Identification - It is a moderately tall herb, with stout, erect stems (culms) that can grow from 50 to 150 cm high. The leaves are linear, up to 34 cm long, and have rolled-up edges (convolute) with a tapering tip. The yellowish-green flowers are borne in a contracted, spiky panicle (a branched inflorescence) up to 35 cm long.













Arthraxon lanciofolius





Common name - Bansi ghas

Habitat - Moist plains, open grasslands, loamy to clay soils.

Identification - A slender, annual herb with trailing stems that typically grow from 5 to 30 cm long. The leaf blades are small, delicate, and flaccid, measuring 1 to 4 cm long and 3 to 10 mm wide. The flowers are arranged in a cluster of 2 to 9 racemes, each 1 to 2 cm long. The internodes of the racemes are fringed with long hairs.



Arundo donax





Common name - Junglee Baint

Habitat - Riverbanks, canal sides, moist alluvial soils.

Identification - This grass can grow to 20 feet tall and resembles an oversized common reed or bamboo. It has hollow, erect stems with flat, gray-green leaves. The leaves grow conspicuously in two opposing rows along the stem, giving the plant a distinct, flattened appearance. The flower plumes can be large, measuring 40–60 centimeters (16–24 inches) long.









Fruiting- Rarely produces viable seeds (propagates through rhizomes)

Arundinella pumila





Common name - Chhoti dab ghas

Habitat - Moist open grasslands, forest edges, loamy soils.

Identification - It is a small, herbaceous grass, typically growing between 0.5 and 1.5 feet tall. The leaves are hairless, lance-shaped, and somewhat flaccid. Their length varies greatly, from a few inches to over a foot long. The flowers are borne in open, branched panicles, which can be 2 to 10 inches long. Each panicle contains numerous spike-lets that are about 1–2 mm long.



Bothriochloa bladhii





Common name - Bhainskandi / Dhaman

Habitat - Degraded grasslands, Open plains & Forest patches.

Identification - This is an erect, warm-season grass that typically grows from 20 to 59 inches (50–150 cm) tall. The leaf blades are long and thin. When crushed, they release a strong, turpentine-like odor. The inflorescence is a reddish, branched panicle that grows at the top of the stem. It is composed of numerous spike-like structures (racemes) that hold small, greenish to purplish spikelets.



Bothriochloa intermedia





Common name - Bhainskandi / Karad ghas

Habitat - Degraded grasslands, Agricultural fields, Dry soil.

Identification - The leaves are typically mid to light green in colour but may take on a reddish tinge in the autumn. The erect or ascending stems typically grow between 20 and 59 inches (50–150 cm) high. The entire inflorescence can be up to 10 inches (24 cm) long and is composed of numerous smaller branches, or racemes, that are arranged along a central axis.



Bothriochloa kuntzeana





Common name - Bhainskandi / Kunta ghas

Habitat - Dry grasslands, forest fringes, gravelly soils.

Identification - A tufted, robust perennial grass that can grow up to 2.5 meters high. The leaves are linear-lanceolate, meaning they are long, narrow, and taper to a point. The flower head is a panicle of numerous racemes (spike-like branches) arranged in irregular whorls.



Bothriochloa pertusa





Common name - Bhainskandi / Dhaman ghas

Habitat - Open plains, grazing lands, degraded soils.

Identification - Stems are typically upright or ascending, growing from 60 to 100 cm tall. They can also spread along the ground, rooting at the nodes to create a dense mat. The leaves are green to gray-green, up to 30 cm long, and are often concentrated at the base of the plant. The flower head is composed of 3 to 13 purplish, hairy racemes, each up to 7 cm long.



Cenchrus pedicellatus





Common name - Deenanath grass

Habitat - Open plains, fallow fields, forest edges, sandy soils.

Identification - It is a moderately tall herb, with stout, erect stems (culms) that can grow from 50 to 150 cm high. The leaves are linear, up to 34 cm long, and have rolled-up edges(convolute) with a tapering tip. The yellowish-green flowers are borne in a contracted, spiky panicle (a branched inflorescence) up to 35 cm long.



Chloris barbata





Common name - Sikka / Kanki grass

Habitat - Open plains, wastelands, loamy to sandy soils.

Identification - Stems are erect, or sometimes bent at the base, and can grow up to 90 cm tall. They are strongly compressed, and the nodes (joints) may appear purplish. The leaves are long, linear, and can be up to 40 cm long. The most striking feature is the inflorescence, a cluster of 5 to 20 erect spikes arranged in a finger-like pattern at the top of the stem.













Chloris truncata





Common name - Sikka / Chhoti kanki ghas

Habitat - Open plains, field margins, dry, sandy soils.

Identification - It is a low-growing, tussocky grass that forms a small clump, typically about 30 cm in diameter. It grows to a height of 20–50 cm. The light green leaves are long, between 10 and 15 cm, with a prominent central vein and a blunt tip. The large, striking flowering heads can be up to 30 cm across. They consist of 6 to 9 spikes that radiate horizontally from a central point.













Chloris virgata





Common name - Gondli ghas / Rehwa ghas

Habitat - Open plains, wastelands, well drained sandy soils.

Identification - It typically grows in tufts, reaching a maximum height of 15 to 100 centimeters. The linear leaves are flat or folded, 5–30 cm long. The most distinctive feature is the inflorescence, an array of 4 to 20 finger like branches, each 2–10 cm long, that are erect or slightly slanted. It can be pale brown, pink, or purple in colour.













Chrysopogon fulvus





Common name - Sonali / Fulva ghas

Habitat - Dry tropical grasslands, open woodlands, loamy soils.

Identification - This perennial herb grows in dense, upright tufts, reaching heights of 30 to 120 cm. Its name comes from the golden or reddish hairs on its seed heads. The leaves are primarily at the base of the plant, are linear, flat, and often have hairy margins. The plant produces an ovate or oblong panicle with slender branches arranged in whorls.



Chrysopogon / Vetiveria zizanioides





Common name - Khas ghas

Habitat - Moist grasslands, riverbanks, moist alluvial soils.

Identification - Unlike most grasses with horizontal roots, vetiver has a downward-growing, fibrous root system that can reach depths of 2 to 4 meters. This deep system anchors the soil and makes the plant remarkably drought-tolerant. It grows in clumps up to 1.5 meters tall and wide, with tall, stiff stems and long, thin leaves.













Coix aquatica





Common name - Kodo ghas

Habitat - Marshes, seasonal wetlands, waterlogged soils.

Identification - The stems can grow up to 30 meters long, are spongy, and creep or float on the water's surface, rooting from the nodes at their base. The flowering stems are more erect and can reach up to 2 meters tall. The leaves are long and narrow, up to 1 meter in length and 1–2.5 centimeters wide. It has separate male and female flowers are found on the same plant.



Cymbopogon martini





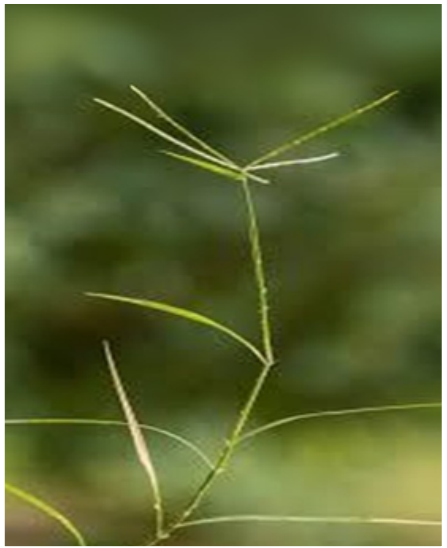
Common name - Rosha grass / Sugandhi ghas

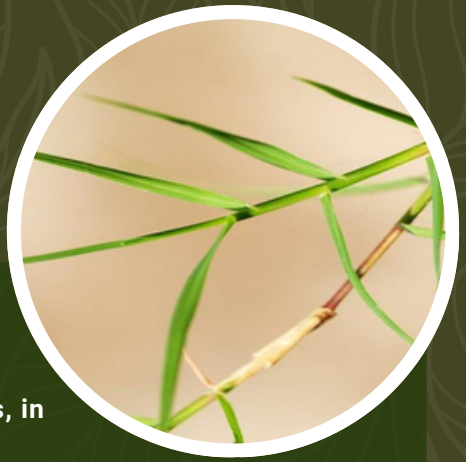
Habitat - Open dry slopes, rocky terrain, scrublands, loamy soils.

Identification - The stems, or culms, are erect and grow to a height of 1.3 to 3 meters (4 to 10 feet). The leaves are linear to lance-shaped, tapering to a fine, pointed tip. They can be quite long, reaching up to 50 cm in length and 10 to 30 mm in width. The flowers are borne on a terminal and axillary false panicle, which is linear-ob-long and can reach 30 cm long.



Cynodon dactylon





Common name - Doob ghas

Habitat - Open plains, village commons, in wide range of soils.

Identification - Features short, grey-green leaf blades with rough edges. Its stems, known as culms, are typically flattened and can be green, white, or purple-tinged. Produces seed heads with two to six purplish spikes arranged in a finger-like pattern at the tip of the stem.



Cyperus odoratus





Common name - Nagarmotha

Habitat - Wet, muddy, and marshy land

Identification - it is a perennial sedge recognized by its trigonal (3-sided), smooth culms, few, basal, linear leaves, and a distinctive umbrella-like inflorescence with long bracts. Key identifiers include its loosely clumping habit, broad, corymb inflorescence, and cylindrical spikelets that disarticulate (break apart) into segments at maturity, leaving behind winged fragments.









Desmostachya bipinnata





Common name - Kus ghas

Habitat - Dry plains, sandy soils, degraded grasslands.

Identification - Rigid, erect culms (stems) can reach heights of 30 to 150 cm. Coarse, narrow leaves can be flat or in-rolled, with tough margins. The inflorescence is a dense, erect, spike-like panicle, typically appearing between July and November.



Dichanthium annulatum





Common name - Chhoti Kandi ghas

Habitat - Open plains, village grazing areas, fertile loamy soil.

Identification - Typically reaches an erect height of 25 to 100 cm. The leaf blades are long and narrow, measuring 3 to 30 cm long and 2 to 7 mm wide, and can be hairless or loosely hairy. The seed head is a panicle of 2 to 15 purplish or green branches, each 3 to 7 cm long. The sessile spikelets have a twisted, geniculate (bent) awn that can be 8 to 25 mm long.



Dichanthium caricosum





Common name - Kandi ghas

Habitat - Open plains, dry grasslands, fertile loamy soils.

Identification - It typically grows in tufts, reaching a maximum height of 15 to 100 centimeters. The linear leaves are flat or folded, 5–30 cm long. The most distinctive feature is the inflorescence, an array of 4 to 20 finger-like branches, each 2–10 cm long, that are erect or slightly slanted. can be pale brown, pink, or purple in colour.



Digitaria abludens





Common name - Raie ghas / Raati ghas

Habitat - Open plains, cultivated field bunds, light soils.

Identification - It is an annual plant with erect or ascending stems (culms) that can grow between 15 and 90 cm tall. The leaves are linear to lance-shaped, ranging from 5–15 cm long and 2–5 mm wide. The inflorescence consists of 2 to 5 loosely arranged, finger-like branches (racemes) that are 3–8 cm long. The small, elliptic spikelets are arranged in pairs or threes along the racemes. They are 1.3–1.7 mm long and have hairs with club-shaped tips.









Digitaria bicornis





Common name - Raati ghas

Habitat - Open grasslands, degraded plains, sandy to loamy soils.

Identification - A stout annual, sometimes perennial, grass that grows in loose, erect clumps up to 1 meter tall. The leaves are a glaucous (bluish-green) color. Sheaths can be either smooth or have stiff, milky-based hairs. The leaf blades are linear, ranging from 3 to 15 cm long and 4 to 8 mm wide. The plant produces 2 to 9 obliquely erect, finger-like branches which can be 4 to 20 cm long.













Digitaria stricta





Common name - Raie ghas / Raati ghas

Habitat - Open grasslands, forest clearings, sandy to loamy soils.

Identification - The culms (stems) are slender and typically grow up to 40 cm high, though some can reach 110 cm. The leaves and sheaths are covered with fine, tubercle-based hairs. The flower head is composed of 3 to 6 finger-like racemes, or branches, that are 4–14 cm long. The spikelets are arranged in groups of three on a winged stalk. The spikelets are oblong or elliptic, 1.1–1.4 mm long.













Echinochloa colona





Common name - Samel / Sawan ghas

Habitat - Marshy fields, low-lying moist area, wet soils.

Identification - This tufted, annual grass typically grows 30–75 cm high, with stems that can be erect or sprawl along the ground. The leaves are linear and flat, measuring 10–25 cm long and 3–7 mm wide. The seedhead is an erect or nodding panicle, 5–15 cm long, and can be green or purple-tinged. The racemes are 2–4 cm long and may be branched.













Eleusine Iindica





Common name - Junglee Nachni

Habitat - Open plains, cultivated grasslands, sandy loamy soil.

Identification - It is a clump-forming, annual grass that grows 15 to 85 cm tall. The stems are flattened and whitish or sil very at the base. The seedhead is a "digitate" inflorescence composed of two to seven thick, flattened spikes arranged like fingers on top of the stem.













Enteropogon dolichostachya





Common name - Bada Sikka

Habitat - Open plains, well-drained sandy and loamy soils.

Identification - A perennial grass that grows to a height of 1 to 1.5 meters. The leaf blades are long and linear, measuring 15–45 cm in length and 4–15 mm in width. The grass produces several spike-like flower clusters, known as racemes, in a digitate (finger-like) arrangement. There are typically 3 to 10 racemes, each 10–20 cm long.













Eragrostis bifaria





Common name - Bhurbhusi / Jhunghania ghas

Habitat - Open plains, fallow fields, well drained loamy soil.

Identification - A densely tufted perennial grass with erect stems (culms) typically reaching 30–80 cm high. The leaves are mostly basal, linear, and hairless, growing up to 30 cm long. The flowers are found in a solitary raceme (unbranched, elongated flower cluster) that is 20–30 cm long.



Eragrostis japonica





Common name - Bhurbhusi / Jhunghania ghas

Habitat - Moist plains, cultivated fields, sandy loamy soils.

Identification - It grows in tufts, with hollow, soft, and erect stems (culms) that can reach heights of up to 1.5 meters. It is known to root from its lower nodes. The leaves are linear, up to 30 cm long and 6 mm wide. The plant has a loose, oblong panicle, which is often reddish or purplish in color, and can be up to 50 cm long.



Eragrostis nutans





Common name - Bhurbhusi / Jhunghaniya

Habitat - Open plains, sandy loam soils and roadsides

Identification - It is a densely tufted, perennial herb that grows 30–60 cm tall. The leaves are long, narrow, and stiff. The flowers are arranged in a panicle, which can be ovate, oblong, or linear and is either upright or nodding. The grayish spikelets can have up to 30 flowers, giving them a dense appearance.



Eragrostis tenella





Common name - · Banpoha

Habitat - Thrives in open, disturbed areas and can toleratea variety of soil types.

Identification - It grows in small, dense clumps, usually no more than 50 cm high. It is a prolific seed producer, with a rapid growth rate. The leaves are long, narrow, and linear. The ligule, located at the junction of the leaf blade and sheath, is a fringed ring of hairs. The flowers are arranged in an open, delicate, and often pyramidal panicle. The spikelets are small, ovate or oblong, and can be pale yellow, pinkish, or tinged with violet.















Eragrostis unioloides





Common name - Banpoha

Habitat - Plains, wastelands, dry and sandy loam soil.

Identification - It is a small, upright, tufted herb that can grow up to 80 cm tall. The linear leaves can be flat or in rolled, with a fringed, hairy ligule at the base of the leaf blade. This grass produces an open, ovate-shaped panicle. A no- table feature is its laterally compressed, oval-shaped spikelets that have a distinctive yellowish-green, pink, or purplish color. The spikelets often resemble small hearts.



Eragrostis viscosa





Common name - Bhurbhusi / Jhunghania ghas

Habitat - Moist plains, roadsides, moist sandy to loamy soil.

Identification - It is a loosely tufted grass with culms (stems) that grow erect and reach up to 40 cm in height. The leaf blades are linear, flat or with rolled-in margins, and measure 4 to 10 cm long and 2 to 5 mm wide. The flowers are arranged in a dense, ovate to narrowly oblong panicle that can be 4 to 15 cm long.













Eulaliopsis binata





Common name - Rope grass / Bhabar ghas

Habitat - ·Rocky slopes, well-drained sandy loams, forest margins.

Identification - The leaves are mostly basal, up to 60 cm long, and 2–3 mm wide. They are typically hairless, rigid, and wiry. The flowering stems can reach 60–90 cm tall. The plant produces rusty-hairy, feathery flower racemes.



Heteropogon contortus





Common name - Sukra / Bhuin kata ghas

Habitat - Dry plains,rocky slopes, well drained sandy soils.

Identification - A clump-forming grass that typically grows to a height of 30 to 100 cm, though it can reach up to 1.5 meters. Its leaves and stems range from green to blue-green and are usually hairless. The leaf blades are long (5–30 cm) and relatively narrow (2–8 mm). The flower is a single, spike-like raceme that emerges from the upper part of the plant.










Hydrilla verticillata





Common name - Underwater grass

Habitat - Lacustrine (in lakes or ponds)

Hydrilla is an aquatic plant with stems that grow 1–2 meters long. Its leaves appear in whorls of 2–8, each small, serrated, and often reddish along the midrib. The plant produces tiny flowers with transparent petals streaked in red, though it mainly reproduces vegetatively through fragments, rhizomes, and turions. It grows extremely fast—up to an inch per day—forming dense underwater mats several feet thick. With special air spaces that keep it upright and a high tolerance to salinity, Hydrilla is one of the most aggressive invasive freshwater plants.



Imperata cylindrica





Common name - Chir ghas

Habitat - Open grasslands, overgrazed areas, lateritic soil.

Identification - It has slender, flat, lance-shaped leaves with prominent white mid ribs that are slightly off-center. It grows up to 1.2 meters high and has a cylindrical, silky, white panicle of flowers.



Ischaemum indicum





Common name - Ber / Kunda ghas

Habitat - · Open plains,gently sloping grasslands, sandy-loam soil.

Identification - It grows between 20 and 90 cm tall. The leaves are crowded towards the base of the plant, with pilose (softly hairy) sheaths. Inflorescence consists of two closely opposed or slightly divergent spikelet branches (racemes). The spikelets are arranged in pairs, one stalkless and one stalked.



Ischaemum rugosum





Common name - Chakali / Kunda ghas

Habitat - Moist plains, waterlogged or seasonally moist soil.

Identification - A vigorous, clump-forming grass that can grow up to 1 meter high. The soft, linear, or lance-shaped leaf blades are 5–30 cm long and 3–15 mm wide, with rough or hairy margins. The flower head is composed of two spike- like racemes, which are pressed tightly together when young but separate at maturity.










Iseilema laxum





Common name - Muchhel ghas / Bluegrass

Habitat - Open plains, well-drained black cotton soils.

Identification - A tufted herb with stems (culms) that can reach up to 30 cm tall. The leaf sheaths are lax, and the blades are lance-shaped, measuring 2–10 cm long and up to 5 mm wide. The panicle, or flower cluster, is terminal and can reach up to 12 cm long. It features characteristic spikelets with long, hairy awns, which help distinguish it from other grasses like Themeda and Pseudanthistiria.



Oplismenus burmanni





Common name - Chhaya ghas

Habitat - Shady forest under storey, moist humous soils.

Identification - A low, creeping, annual grass with prostrate or trailing stems (culms) that grow up to 60 cm long. It often forms a dense mat or undergrowth. The leaves are lance-shaped to narrowly ovate, 1–9 cm long and 0.5–2 cm wide. The leaf blades are distinctly wavy (undulate). The flowering structure is a panicle, 2–11 cm long, which consists of several short, spike like branches (racemes).



Paspalidium flavidum





Common name - Junglee Sama

Habitat - Open plains, loamy soils with moderate moisture.

Identification - A tufted, perennial herb with culms (stems) that grow erect or ascending from a prostrate base. It can reach heights of 10–120 cm. The leaf blades are linear, either flat or folded, and can be 8–30 cm long and 4–13 mm wide. The inflorescence (flower cluster) is a panicle of spikes, which are typically spaced 2 to 4 times their own length apart along the main axis.













Pennisetum hohenackeri





Common name - Moua ghas / Small deenanath ghas

Habitat - Open dry grasslands, rocky slopes, shallow soils

Identification - Stems can reach a height of 3 to 5 feet (around 1 to 1.5 meters). The leaves are narrowly linear, stiff, tightly folded, and ribbed, measuring 15–40 cm long and 1–5 mm wide. The plant produces linear flower panicles, 10– 25 cm in length, with hairless bristles that can be up to 3 cm long.













Perotis indica





Common name - Machhlikata / Khopra ghas

Habitat - Open sandy plains, light grasslands, sandy loamy soil.

Identification - It is a small, erect, or sub erect tufted grass that can grow up to 40 cm tall. The lanceolate to narrowly ovate leaves are tough, with spiny margins. The plant produces a long, compact, violet-purple spikelets arranged on a single raceme or spike.













Phragmites karka





Common name - Reed ghas

Habitat - Marshy areas, riverbanks, moist alluvial soils.

Identification - The plant is robust and can grow to an impressive height of 4–10 meters, with stems (culms) that are 15–25 mm in diameter. The leaf blades are long (30–80 cm) and wide (12–40 mm). They are rough to the touch on the underside and have stiff, pointed tips. The plant produces a panicle of flowers that can be 30–50 cm long and 10–20 cm wide.










Rottboellia exaltata / cochinchinensis





Common name - Roul / Itch grass

Habitat - Open fields, disturbed soils, roadsides, moist soils.

Identification - Can reach impressive heights of up to 4 meters (13 feet). These are long, flat and linear, typically measuring 15–45 cm long and up to 2.5 cm wide. They are characterized by a prominent white or pale midrib and have very rough margins. The seedhead is a cylindrical, spike-like raceme typically 3–15 cm long and is enclosed at the base by a leaf-like sheath.













Saccharum munja





Common name - Munja / Sarkanda ghas

Habitat - Sandy riverbanks, alluvial plains, ravines, and field bunds.

Identification - This grass grows in thick, clumping tufts, and stalks can reach a height of up to 12 feet (about 3.6 meters). The leaves are long, linear, and narrow, often measuring over 3 feet (1 meter) in length. The plant produces large, flowering panicles (clusters) that have a silky texture. The flowers appear in greenish-brown to whitish or gray clustersthat add to the plant'sornamental appeal.



Saccharum spontaneum





Common name - Kans ghas

Habitat - Riverbanks, floodplains, moist grasslands, sandy soils.

Identification - This is a large grass that can reach up to 4 meters (about 13 feet) in height. The leaves are linear and long, measuring up to 1 meter in length, and have a harsh, tough texture. The panicles are a silky, bright white and appear from late summer to autumn and can range from 15 to 60 cm in length.



Sacciolepis indica





Common name - Nadi ghas

Habitat - Marshy areas, pond edges, very moist soils.

Identification - An annual grass that grows in tufts and can reach heights of 20 to 100 cm. Its culms (stems) can be erect or spread out, sometimes rooting at the lower nodes. The leaf blades are linear, measuring 5–20 cm long and 2–5 mm wide. The flowers are held in a dense, spike-like, cylindrical panicle, 1–13 cm long, and can be green or purplish.













Scleria levis





Common name - Chhuria ghas

Habitat - Marshy areas, seasonal wetlands, waterlogged soil.

Identification - The stems can grow 30–90 cm tall. The linear leaf blades are located along the stem, measuring 5–12 mm wide, with hairy, winged sheaths that can be green, reddish, or purplish-brown. The inflorescence is a narrow, branched, panicle-like structure, up to 13 cm long, that consists of clusters of unisexual spikelets.





Avoided by wild herbivores due to tough stem





Setaria glauca





Common name - Vanbajra / Nivri ghas

Habitat - Cultivated fields, field bunds, sandy loam to black soil.

Identification - This grows in small clumps, with stems that can reach up to 60 cm tall. The plant's most notable feature is its dense, cylindrical, and bristly flower cluster, or panicle, which resembles a fox's tail. Immature spikelets are shiny green, with bristles that start yellow and become tawny or golden-colored as they mature. There are typically 5 to 15 bristles at the base of each spikelet.













Sorghum halepense





Common name - Van Jwar

Habitat - forest edge, degraded land and open area

Identification - This Grass is a tall, perennial grass that grows up to 3.5 meters and spreads through strong rhizomes. It is a serious weed of crops like corn, cotton and sugarcane, now widespread across the world. The leaves are long (20–90 cm), broad (5–40 mm), and have slightly rough margins. Its flowers form large, open panicles (10–55 cm) that are lance-shaped to pyramidal with whorled branches. Native to eastern Europe, it is now regarded as one of the most invasive weeds in agriculture in many parts of the world.










Setaria intermedia





Common name - Chipka ghas

Habitat - Moist plains, open grasslands, fertile & loamy soil.

Identification - It typically reaches a height of 15 to 100 cm. The leaves are broadly linear with pointed tips and are covered with soft, long hairs, especially along the veins. The plant produces a contracted, lance-shaped panicle (a branched cluster of flowers) that is 3–17 cm long.



Setaria pumila





Common name - Van bajra / Yellow foxtail/Peeli ghas

Habitat - Cultivated fields, wastelands, fertile loamy soils.

Identification - A summer annual grass that grows in clumps, with variable height ranging from 5 to 130 cm tall. The leaves are broad and linear, up to 30 cm long and 1 cm wide. Seedhead is 2 to 15 cm long and is bristly in appearance due to numerous short, stiff bristles. The bristles are typically yellow, orange, or tawny, giving the plant its common name.



Themeda quadrivalvis





Common name - Guner ghas

Habitat - Open grasslands, forest clearings, sandy or loamy.

Identification - Themeda quadrivalvis is a large, annual herb that grows in loose, upright tufts, reaching up to 2 meters in height. The glaucous green leaves can grow up to 60 cm long and often become reddish-brown as they dry. The grass is a prolific seed producer, with a single seed head containing up to 1,000 seeds.



Themeda triandra





Common name - Guner ghas

Habitat - Open grasslands, forest edges, and hill slopes

Identification - It is a clump-forming perennial grass of variable size, ranging from 0.3 to 2 meters tall. The leaves are typically grey-green but characteristically turn an orange-brown or reddish-brown colour in the summer as they dry. The grass flowers in the summer, producing large, red-brown spikelets on branched stems. Each raceme is enclosed by a leaf-like bract.



Thysanolaena maxima / latifolia





Common name - Phulbahri / Jhadu ghas

Habitat - Hill slopes, forest edges, rocky and well-drained soils.

Identification - This grass grows in dense, clumping tussocks that resemble bamboo, reaching up to 4 meters tall. The dense clumps can spread up to 1.5–2 meters (5–6.5 feet) wide. They leaves are typically 30–60 cm long and 3–7 cm wide. The plant produces a very large, soft, bushy panicle that resembles a foxtail. These can grow to be 30–90 cm (1–3 feet) long and are covered with innumerable minute spikelets.













Typha angustifolia





Common name - Padhar grass

Habitat - Marshy wetlands, pond margins, slow-moving water.

Identification - Growing from extensive, creeping rhizomes, the narrow leaf typically reaches a height of 1.5 to 3 meters (5 to 10 feet). The long, slender, blade-like leaves which are 3 to 12 millimeters wide, emerge from the base of the plant. The plant's distinctive sausage-shaped flower spike, or "cattail," contains separate male and female sections. The male flowers are located above the female flowers, separated by a distinct gap of bare stem.











Urochloa ramosa





Common name - Makra murat

Habitat - Sloppy and dry area

Identification - It is an annual grass with stems ranging from 10–70 cm in height, forming loose clusters. Its leaves are broadly linear, measuring 2–25 cm long and 4–14 mm wide. The inflorescence consists of three racemes on an axis 3–10 cm long, with racemes 1–8 cm, sometimes branched at the base. Spikelets are mostly paired, elliptic to broadly elliptic, 2.5–3.5 mm long, either smooth or velvet-hairy, and pointed at the tip. Its widely distributed across the tropical world, thriving at altitudes between 200 and 1800 m.















Notes

Grasses of Satpura Tiger Reserve



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