COUNTRY REPORT FOR CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY OVERVIEW UZBEKISTAN, 2005

A. Brief Introduction

Uzbekistan is situated in Central Asia. There are over 400 bird species recorded in Uzbekistan, of which 200 are inhabitants of wetlands. Of these, twenty-six species are included into the national Red Data Book (Tashkent, 2003), while 3 species are under the global threat of extinction and 13 species are included in the Red Lists of IUCN (Gland, 2000).

B. National administrative structures for migratory waterbirds and wetlands

Table 1: National administrative structures responsible for managing migratory waterbirds and wetlands

Name of Agency (with contact details)	Geographic scope	Thematic Focus	Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands
State Committee for Nature Protection A.Temur str.,99. 700084, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871) 139 41 95 + 7 (99871) 135-16-65 + 7 (99871) 135-07-61 Fax: + 7 (99871) 135 79 20 E-mail: envconf@uzsci.net info@uznature.uz	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Protection	Legislation, setting up protected areas, control of resource use
Main administration for forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management F.Khojaev str., 2a, 700041, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871) 162-03.33, + 7 (99871) 162-08-88	State Forest Fund (over 8 thousand sq. km)	Protection, use	Setting up protected areas
Local administrations	Administrative districts of Uzbekistan	State Control of use	Management

C. National policy and legislation relating to migratory waterbirds and wetlands

Uzbekistan has a good normative-legal basis providing protection and regulating the use of migrating waterfowl and their habitats.

Uzbekistan has passed the laws "On Protection of Nature", "On Protection and Use of Fauna", "On Water and Water Use", "On Protected Natural Territories"; the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Strengthening Control of Sustainable Use of Biological Resources, their Import and Export from Uzbekistan"; international conventions (CBD, Ramsar, Bonn, CITES) and agreements (AIWA, Slender-billed Curlew, Siberian Crane); rules of hunting and fisheries.

D. National government institutions involved in migratory waterbirds and wetlands research/management

Table 2: National government institutions involved in migratory waterbirds and wetlands research/management

Name of Institution (with contact details)	Geographic scope	Thematic Focus or programmes	Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands
State Committee for Nature Protection A.Temur str.,99. 700084, Tashkent< Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871) 139 41 95 + 7 (99871) 135-16-65 + 7 (99871) 135-07-61 Fax: + 7 (99871) 135 79 20 E-mail: envconf@uzsci.net info@uznature.uz	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Control, management	Legislation, setting up protected areas, control of resource use
Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management F.Khojaev str., 2a, 700041, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871) 162-03.33, + 7 (99871) 162-08-88	Farmlands	Management and protection	Setting up protected areas
Local administrations	Administrative districts of Uzbekistan	Management	Management
Institute of Zoology of Uzbek Academy of Sciences A.Niyazov str.1., 700095, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871) 2460718	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Researches	Guidelines on protection and use
Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara Universities	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Propaganda	Training of specialists

E. Main non-government organizations and academic institutions involved in migratory waterbirds and wetlands research/management

Table 3: Main non-government organizations and academic institutions involved in migratory waterbirds and wetlands research/management

Name of non-government organization/ University (with contact details)	Geographic scope	Thematic Focus or programmes	Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands
Society of Hunters and Fishermen U.Yusupov (Polygraficheskiy tupik) str.Ташкент, 2 Tel: + 7 (99871) 41-29-36, + 7 (99871) 41-36-95	Wetlands of Uzbekistan	Protection, Use	Protection, reproduction
Uzbekistans Wetlands Working Grope (member of the Society	Republic of Uzbekistan	Researches, popularization	Determined key sites for supporting

of Uzbek Zoologists) A.Niyazov str.1., 700095, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871)2 460718 + 7 (99871) 1445979 e-mail:filatov@comuz.uz			waterbirds in Uzbekistan, prepared the Uzbekistan's Waterbird Guidelines for publication
Uzbekistan's Crane Working Grope (associative member of the Crane Working Grope of Eurasia) A.Niyazov str.1., 700095, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871)2 460718 + 7 (99871) 1445979 e-mail:filatov@comuz.uz	Republic of Uzbekistan	Field survey and public awarennes	Determined key sites for supporting cranes in Uzbekistan; created seminars and meetings with responsible persons and local people
Institute of Zoology of Uzbek Academy of Sciences A.Niyazov str.1., 700095, Tashkent, Uzbekistan Tel: + 7 (99871)2 460718	Republic of Uzbekistan	Researches, popularization	Guidelines

F. International Instruments

Table 4: Main International Instruments (Treaties/Agreements) that are relevant to the migratory waterbirds and wetlands of the country

Instruments – formal	Geographic scope	Thematic Focus	Implementing Strategy or Action Plan
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Signed by Uzbekistan in 1995	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Conservation of biological diversity	Strategy and Action Plan are carried out
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; signed by Uzbekistan on 30.08.2001.	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Revealing and conservation of wetlands of international importance	Strategy not developed, provisions of convention are carried out
Bonn Convention on Migratory Species. (CMS); signed by Uzbekistan in 1998.	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Implementation of agreements on conservation of Slender-billed Curlew, Siberian Crane; AEWA;	Strategy not developed; action plans on agreements are carried out
Memorandum of understanding … Slender-billed Curlew	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Protection of habitats	Strategy and Action Plan not developed.
Memorandum of understanding … Grus leucogeranus Signed on 7.07.96	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Studies, popularization, protection of habitats	Action plan is carried out

African-Eurasian Migratory Water Bird Agreement (AEWA)	The entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Protection of African-Eurasian waterfowl	Action plan carried out

G. International Programs and Activities

Table 5: International activities involving the countries migratory waterbirds (initiated in or since 2000, earlier programmes may also be included)

Activity	Waterbird Group	International partners	Principle outputs
Project: Protection of wetlands and waterfowl in Uzbekistan (1998-2000)	All waterfowl species	Bureau of Ramsar convention (SGF), Asia Pacific Wetlands International	Lake Dengizkul nominated and included in the Ramsar List. Other water bodies of international importance identified
Project: Rehabilitation of ecosystems of Lake Sudochie (1999-2002)	All waterfowl species	GEF and the World Bank	The ecosystem of Lake Sudochie in the Aral Sea region rehabilitated.
Project: Study of the current status of Marbled Teal in Uzbekistan.	Marbled Teal	Chicago Zoological Society (USA), Department of Agriculture of the Dutch embassy in Moscow	The current status of Marbled Teal in Uzbekistan identified.
Project: Developing a strategy for the conservation of waterfowl and wetlands on the Central Asian migratory route (2002-2003)	Wintering waterfowl	Wetlands International, WWF Russia	Water bodies of international importance were identified for the support of wintering waterfowl, current status of wintering grounds of waterfowl in Uzbekistan.
Project: Key ornithological territories in Uzbekistan	Nesting waterfowl of Uzbekistan	BirdLife International, RSPB	Beginning of project.
Project: Ecological survey and monitoring of the Common Crane in wintering grounds in Southern Uzbekistan (2004-2005)	Cranes	ICF, Crane Working Grope of Eurasia	Determine the ecological condition of Eurasian Crane's wintering place in Southern Uzbekistan and surveyed new key territories for wintering and migrating cranes

H. List of Regular Breeding and Migratory Waterbirds

The list of migrating birds regularly nesting in Uzbekistan includes 57 species (Table 6). Of them seven species are included in IUCN Red List as globally threatened: Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus Buch., 1832*), Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus Pall., 1773*), Marbled Teal (*Anas angustirostris Men., 1832*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca Guld., 1770*), White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala Scop., 1769*), White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla L., 1758*), Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni Nord., 1842*).

In Uzbekistan, White Stork is settled in large local colonies in the mid-course of the River Syr Darya: in the Ferghana Valley and in Syrdarya and Tashkent provinces. The basic nesting grounds of Mute Swan, Red-crested Pochard and Coot are located mainly on water bodies of southern Aral Sea region. In the last few years Caspian Tern has been recorded more seldom.

White-headed Duck, White-Tailed Eagle, Dolmatian Pelican, and Black-winged Pratincole nest in the Aral Sea region. In the south of Uzbekistan, Marbled Teal nests in the basin of the River Amu Darya. Pygmy cormorant has settled in the territory of Uzbekistan practically on all water bodies and in the collector-drainage network of the rivers Amudarya, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya, etc. Ferruginous Duck is reported from plain land water bodies of the entire territory of Uzbekistan.

The regular migratory birds in Uzbekistan comprise 102 species of waterfowl; of them 66 species are not regularly nesting in the territory of Uzbekistan. Of regular migratory birds globally threatened species are Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus L., 1758*), Red-breasted Goose (*Rufibrenta ruficollis Pall., 1769*), Corncrake (*Crex crex L., 1758*), Pallas' Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus Pall., 1771*), Sociable Plover (*Chettusia gregaria Pall., 1771*) and Asian Dowitsher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus Blyth, 1848*),

In the last few years, ornithologists marked such globally threatened species as Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus Pall., 1773*) and Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris Vieillot, 1817*), which are extremely rare migratory birds.

The most numerous migratory birds are Black-necked Grebe, Little Grebe, Greylag Goose, Mallard, Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-crested Pochard and Pochard, Demoisile Crane, Coot, Common Black-headed Gull and Slender-billed Gull.

The territory of Uzbekistan is of great importance for species, which come to winter on non-freezing water bodies in southern Uzbekistan. During the hard winter period, these water bodies support a significant number of birds such as Black-necked Grebe, Little Grebe, Greylag Goose, Mallard, Red-crested Pochard and Pochard and coot. They are important for White-headed Duck, Lesser White-fronted Goose and White-tailed Eagle as globally threatened species.

Table 6. List of regularly nesting and migrating waterfowl species in Uzbekistan

Species	Regularly Breeding species	Regularly Migrating species
Gavia arctica L., 1758		+
Podiceps ruficollis Pall., 1764	+	+
Podiceps nigricollis C.L.Brehm, 1831		+
Podiceps auritus L., 1758		+
Podiceps grisegena Bodd., 1783	+	+
Podiceps cristatus L., 1758	+	+
Pelecanus crispus Buch., 1832	+	+
Pelecanus onocrotalus L., 1758 *	+	+
Phalacrocorax carbo L., 1758	+	+

Phalacrocorax pygmaeus Pall., 1773 *	+	+
Botaurus stellaris L., 1758		+
Ixobrychus minutus L., 1766	+	
Nycticorax nyctycorax L., 1758	+	
Ardea cinerea L., 1758	+	
Ardea purpurea L., 1766	+	
Egretta alba L., 1758	+	+
Egretta garzetta L., 1766	+	
Ardeola ralloides Scopoli, 1769	+	+
Platalea leucorodia L., 1758	+	
Plegadis falcinellus L., 1766	+	
Ciconia ciconia L., 1758	+	+
Ciconia nigra L., 1758	+	
Phoenicopterus roseus Pall., 1811		+
Rufibrenta ruficollis Pall., 1769 *		+
Anser anser L., 1758	+	+
Anser albifrons Scop., 1769		+
Anser erythropus L., 1758 *		+
Anser fabalis Lath., 1833		+
Cygnopsis cygnoides L,,, 1758		+
Cygnus cygnus L., 1758		+
Cygnus bewickii Varr., 1830*		+
Cygnus olor Gm., 1789	+	+
Tadorna ferruginea Pall., 1764	+	+
Tadorna tadorna L., 1758	+	
Anas platyrhynchos L., 1758	+	+
Anas crecca L., 1758		+
Anas strepera L., 1758	+	+
Anas penelope L., 1758		+
Anas acuta L., 1758		+
Anas querquedula L., 1758		+
Anas clypeata L., 1758	+	+
Anas angustirostris Men., 1832 *	+	
Netta rufina Pall., 1773	+	+
Aythya ferina L., 1758		+
Aythya nyroca Guld., 1770 *	+	
Aythya fuligula L., 1758		+
Clangula hyemalis L., 1758		+
Bucephala clangula L., 1758		+
Oxyura leucocephala Scop., 1769 *	+	+
Mergus albellus L., 1758		+
Mergus serrator L., 1758		+
Mergus merganser L., 1758		+
Pandion haliaetus L., 1758		+
Circus aeruginosus L., 1758	+	+
Haliaeetus leucoryphus Pall., 1771 *		+
Haliaeetus albicilla L., 1758 *	+	+
Grus leucogeranus Pall., 1773**		+
Grus grus L., 1758		+
Anthropoides virgo L., 1758		+
Rallus aquaticus L., 1758	+	+
Porzana porzana L., 1766		+
Porzana parva Scop., 1769		+
Porzana pusilla Pall., 1776	+	+

Crex crex L., 1758*		+
Gallinula chloropus L.,1758	+	+
Fulica atra L., 1758	+	+
Burhinus oedicnemus L., 1758	+	
Pluvialis squatarola L., 1758		+
Charadrius hiaticula L., 1758		+
Charadrius dubius Scop., 1786	+	+
Charadrius leschenaultii Lesson, 1826	+	
Charadrius asiaticus Pall., 1773	+	
Charadrius alexandrinus L., 1758	+	
Eudromias morinellus L., 1758		+
Chettusia gregaria Pall., 1771 *		+
Vanellus vanellus L., 1758		+
Vanelochettusia leucura Licht., 1825	+	
Arenaria interpres L., 1758		+
Himantopus himantopus L., 1758	+	
Recurvirostra avosseta L., 1758	+	
Haematopus ostralegus L., 1758	+	
Tringa ochropus L., 1758		+
Tringa glareola L., 1758		+
Tringa nebularia Gunnerus., 1767		+
Tringa totanus L., 1758		+
Tringa erythropus Pallas, 1764		+
Tringa stagnatilis Bechst., 1803		+
Actitis hypoleucos L., 1758	+	+
Xenus cinereus Guldenstadt, 1775		+
Phalaropus lobatus L., 1758		+
Phylomachus pugnax L., 1758		+
Calidris minuta Leisler., 1812		+
Calidris temminckii Leisler, 1812		+
Calidris ferruginea Pontoppidan, 1763		+
Calidris alpina L., 1758		+
Calidris alba Pall., 1764		+
Limicola falcinellus Pontoppidan, 1763		+
Lymnocryptes minimus Brunnich, 1764		+
Gallinago gallinago L., 1758		+
Gallinago megala Swinhoe, 1861		+
Gallinago stenura Bonaparte, 1830		+
Gallinago solitaria Hodgson, 1831		+
Gallinago media Latham, 1787		+
Scolopax rusticola L. , 1758		+
Numenius tenuirostris Vieillot, 1817**		+
Numenius arquata L., 1758		+
Numenius phaeopus L., 1758		+
Limosa limosa L., 1758		+
Limosa lapponica L., 1758		+
Limnodromus semipalmatus Blyth., 1848		+
Glareola pratincola L., 1766	+	
Glareola nordmanni Nord., 1842 *	+	
Larus canus L. 1758		+
Larus cachinans Pall., 1811	+	+
Larus ichthyaetus Pall., 1773	+	+
Larus ridibundus L., 1766	+	+
Larus genei Breme, 1840	+	+

Chlidonias niger L., 1758	+	+
Chlidonias hybrida Pall., 1811	+	+
Chlidonias leucopterus Temm., 1815	+	+
Gelochelidon nilotica Gm., 1789	+	+
Hydroprogne caspia Pall., 1770	+	+
Sterna hirundo L., 1758	+	+
Sterna albifrons Pall., 1764	+	+

I. Migration Routes, Staging Sites, and Non-breeding Areas

The generalized scheme of major migratory routes (East-Asian and Central Asian) of Anatidae in Asia, which also covers the territory of Uzbekistan, is represented in Fig. 1, according to Yoshihiko Miyabayashi and Taej Mundkur (1999).

From literature it is also known that waterfowl from western Siberia and Kazakhstan migrate to Iran-Caspian and India-Pakistani wintering grounds through the territory of Uzbekistan (Isakov, 1965; Gavrilov, 1979). One of the routes, along which flamingoes and greebes migrate, crosses southern Aral Sea region westwards to southern Caspian Sea.

The second route, along which Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Common Shelduck, surface-feeding ducks (Gadwall, Nothern Pintail, Mallard, Eurasian Wigeon, Nothern Shoveler, Garganey, Common Teal) and bay ducks (Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Tufted Duck), and Smew migrate, crosses river valleys of the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers, stretches along the spurs of western Tien Shan and Pamyr-Alay for wintering grounds lying in the Indian direction.

The schemes showing geographic links of different geographic populations of specific waterfowl species with the territory of Uzbekistan are represented in figs. 2-5.

Studies conducted by the Institute of Zoology of Uzbek Academy of Sciences with the support of different international organizations (World Bank-GEF, Ramsar Small Grant fund, Wetlands International, WWF Russia) enabled receiving information on the most important wintering grounds and stays during migrations and nesting. These findings are summarized in Table 7. The location of these wetlands is given in fig.6.

Table 7. Key territories of waterfowl in Uzbekistan

Name of Wetland	Region	Key Areas		
		Breeding	Migrating	Wintering
Sudochie lake system	Southern Aral Sea region	+	+	-
Lake Tuzkan	South-eastern part of Kyzylkum desert	+	+	+
Lake Aydarkul	South-eastern part of Kyzylkum desert	?	+	+
Lake Ayakagitma	Southern part of Kyzylkum desert	?	+	+
Karakyr lake system	South-western part of Kyzylkum Desert	+	+	+

Name of Wetland	Region	Key Areas		
		Breeding	Migrating	Wintering
Tudakul water reservoir	Bukhara region, south-western part of Uzbekistan	+	+	+
Kuyumazar water reservoir	Bukhara region, South-western part of Uzbekistan	-	+	+
Lake Dengizkul	Bukhara region, South-western part of Uzbekistan	?	+	+
Talimarjan water reservoir	Kashkadarya region, Southern Uzbekistan	-	+	+
Aktepe water reservoir	Surkhandarya Region, Southern Uzbekistan	-	+	+
Kumkurgan water reservoir	Surkhandarya Region, Southern Uzbekistan	-	?	+
Flood-lands of Amudarya river	Surkhandarya Region, Southern Uzbekistan	-	+	+

J. Waterbirds of CAF Conservation Concern (WCC)

In the past few years, the most endangered birds comprise 12 species (Table 8). Measures of territorial protection in nesting and non-nesting grounds are necessary for the protection of the species included into this list. For two of these species (Siberian Crane and Slender-billed Curlew), which are under the threat of global extinction, only measures aimed at protection of their habitats on the flyway through Uzbekistan and adjoining states can be taken. The other species require different steps of protection. So, White Pelican and Dolmation Pelican, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, White-headed Duck, Black-winged Pratincole, and Great Black-headed Gall have been deprived of their major nesting grounds as a result of the drying up of the Aral Sea. Marbled Teal has lost nesting grounds due to the development of flood lands along the River Amudarya, while Ferruginous Duck as a result of the development of flood-lands along the rivers Amudarya and Syrdarya. Hunting poses a significant threat for Dolmation Pelican, Mute Swan, and White-headed Duck in non-breeding grounds, which has adversely affected the formation of wintering of these and other waterfowl species. Fishing nets are dangerous for White-headed Duck, in which the captured birds die.

Table 8. Top priority species requiring measures of protection

Species	Country or area importance to the species	Population trends (+ or -)	Threats:	
			Breeding grounds	Non-breeding grounds
Pelecanus crispus Buch., 1832	+	-	+	+
Pelecanus onocrotalus L., 1758 *	+	-	+	
Platalea leucorodia L., 1758	+	-	+	
Plegadis falcinellus L., 1766	+	-	+	
Cygnus olor Gm., 1789	+	-	+	+
Anas angustirostris Men., 1832 *	+	-	+	
Aythya nyroca Guld., 1770 *	+	-	+	
Oxyura leucocephala Scop., 1769 *	+	-	+	+
Grus leucogeranus Pall., 1773**	+	-		+
Numenius tenuirostris Vieillot, 1817**	+	-		+
Glareola nordmanni Nord., 1842 *	+	-	+	
Larus ichthyaetus Pall., 1773	+	-	+	

K. Recommendations to Improve International Migratory Waterbird Conservation

- Develop a new international agreement on the protection of waterfowl in CAF under the aegis of the Bonn Convention
- Prepare an international project on the rehabilitation of central population of Siberian Crane
- Set up working groups on White-headed Duck, Marbled Teal, Ferruginius Duck and other species.
- Develop a scheme of the network of wetlands most important for waterfowl in Central Asia, for which goal it will be necessary to set up a working group on wetlands in Central Asia.

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APPENDIX

List of illustrations:

Fig. 1. Generalized scheme of major migratory flyways for Anatidae in Asia (according to Yoshihiko Miyabayashi and Taej Mundkur, 1999).

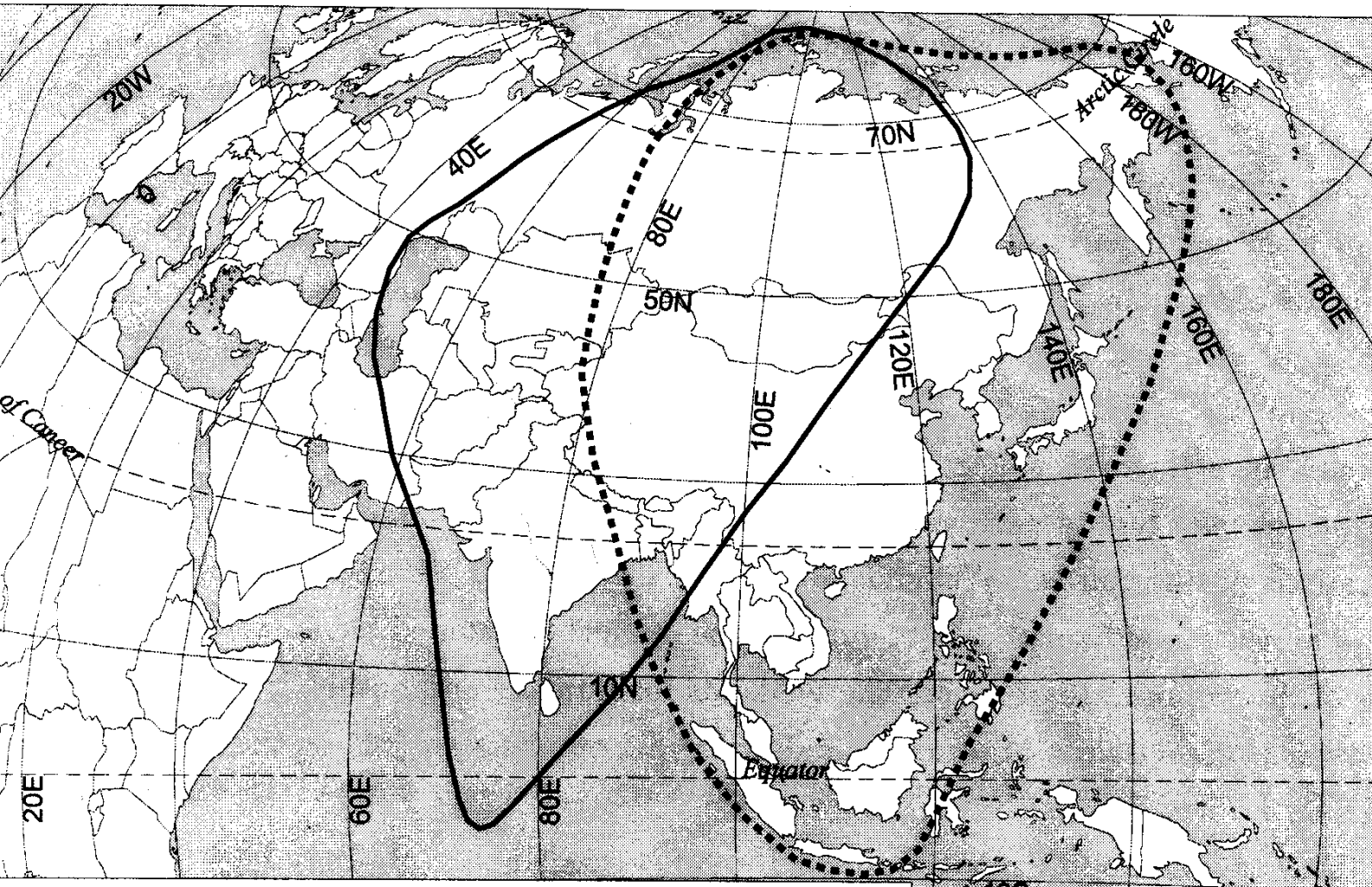
Fig. 2. Regions of migrations and wintering grounds of coots from different geographic populations (Blums, Litzbarski, 1982)

Fig. 3. Regions of migrations and wintering grounds if different geographic populations Grey Heron (Kistchinski, 1978)

Fig. 4. Regions of autumn flyways and wintering grounds of Glossy Ibis (Sapetin, 1978)

Fig. 5. Range of distribution of different geographic populations of Pochard in Eurasia (Blums, Kozellek, Hudec, 1989)

Fig.6. Scheme of key territories of waterfowl in Uzbekistan

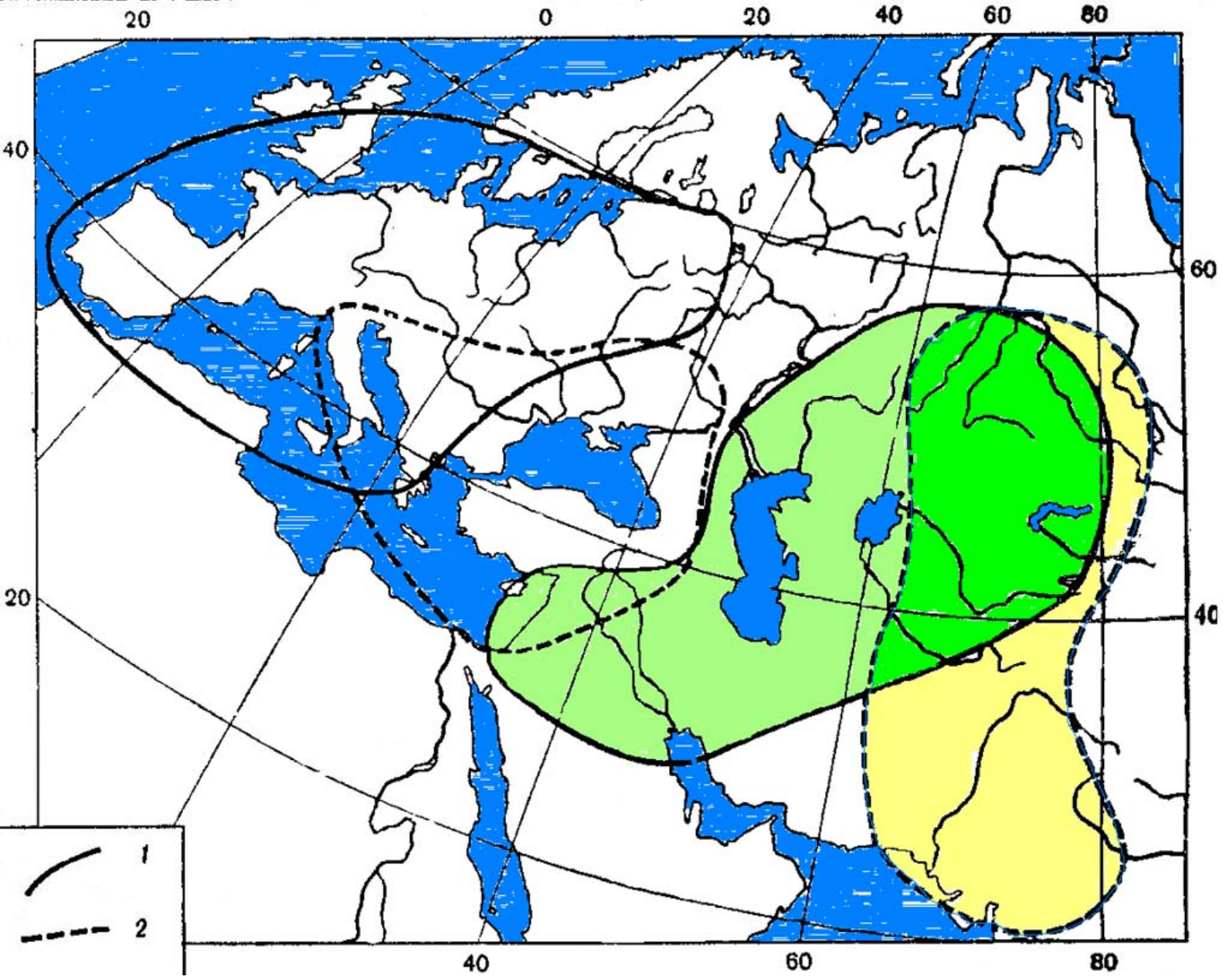


Generalised boundaries of Flyways for Anatidae in Eastern Eurasia

0 1,000 2,000 3,000

Kilometers

East Asian Flyway (...), Central Asian Flyway (—)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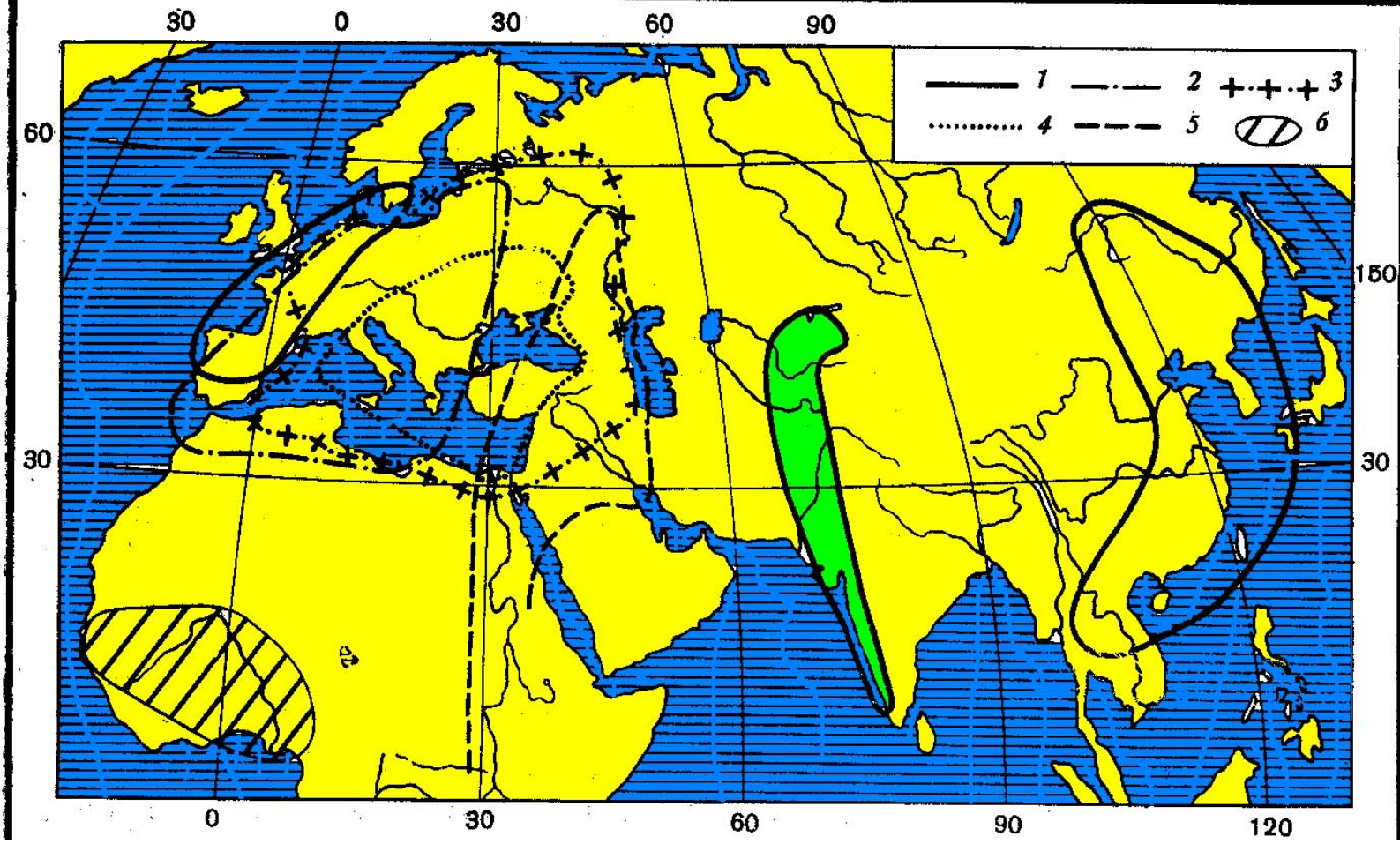
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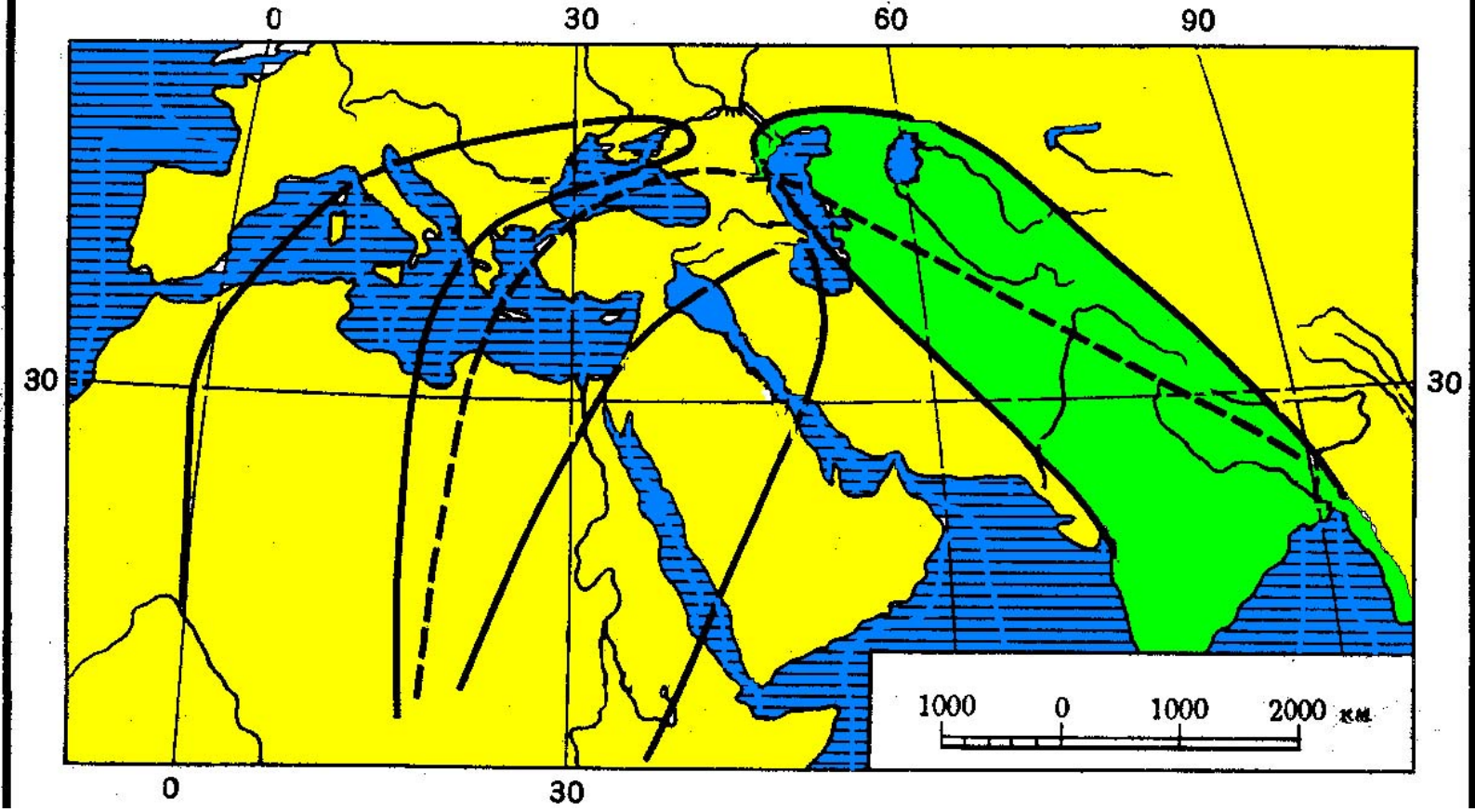
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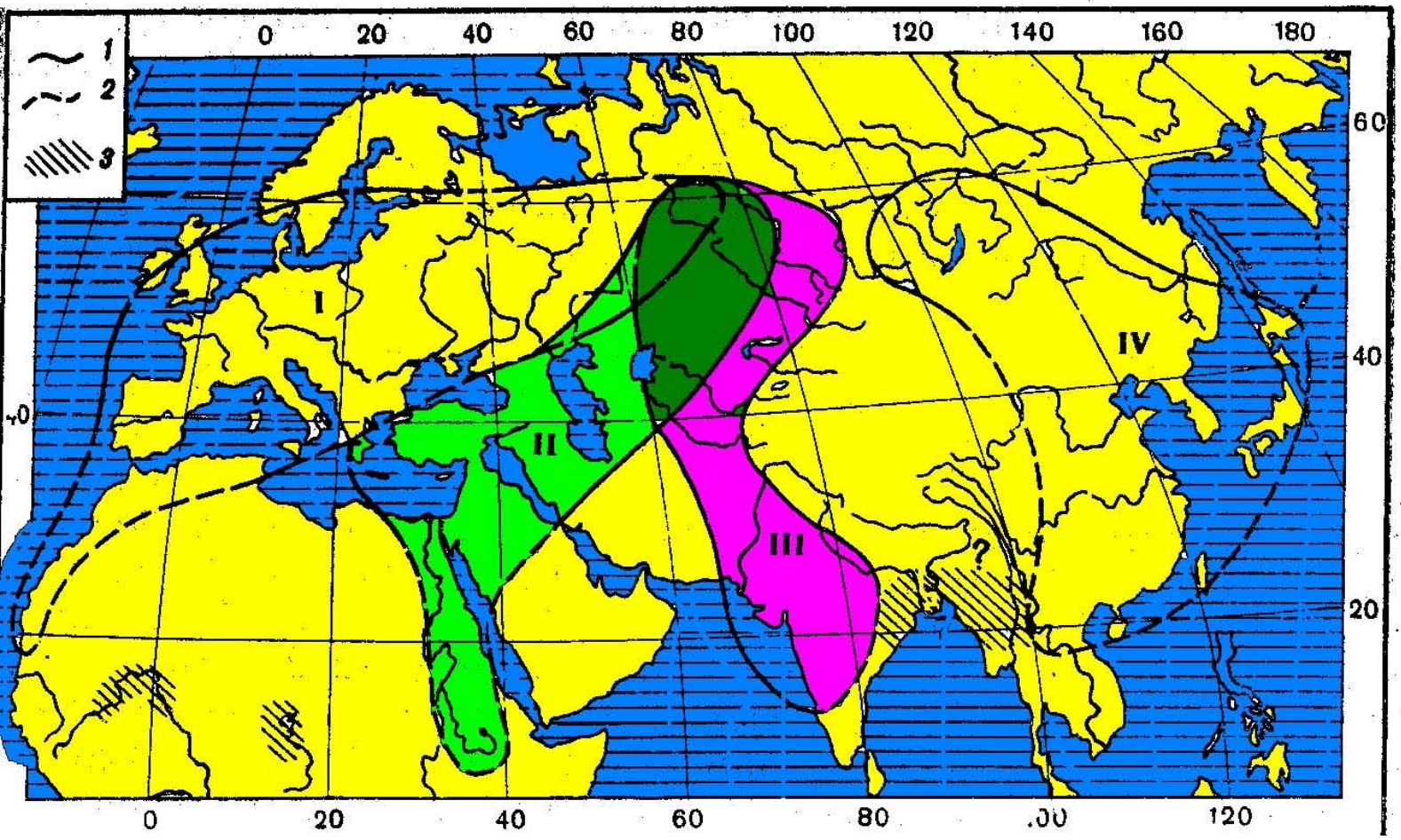
1000
2000 км


1
2
3
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180
60
40
20
I
II
III
IV
?
0
20
40
60
80
120

Ramsar Site

Wetlands of international value