

Kazakhstan Republic Country Report for Central Asian Flyway Overview

A. Brief Introduction

Obviously Kazakhstan plays a key role in maintaining the populations of more than 150 waterbird species inhabiting the Central Asia. There are the most important places of nesting, moulting and summer concentration of them. The two greatest flyways of waterbirds are stretching across the territory of Kazakhstan – the Siberian-Black Sea–Eastern-African and the Central–Asian–Indian ones. The first one crosses mainly the northern and western oblasts of Kazakhstan in the direction from the Northwest to the Southwest, the second one crosses the eastern, central and southern oblasts in the direction from the North to the South. During the summer moulting the waterbirds from the Southern Ural, the Western and a part of the Eastern Siberia are concentrated in the wetlands of the Central and Northern Kazakhstan. More than 20 wetlands of Kazakhstan are correspond to the criteria if international significance: a one time number of waterbirds exceeds 20 000, and among them there are quite many of rare and especially protected ones. The total number of Kazakhstan waterbodies suitable for migratory waterbirds is more than 200, the most significant of them have the status of especially protected territories.

B. National administrative structures for migratory waterbirds and wetlands

In the Republic of Kazakhstan the authorised state structure responsible for management and waterbird resources and their habitat places protection is the Forestry and Hunting Committee which is in the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture RK. In the structure of the Committee there are two Departments the sphere of activity of which includes solution of the issues on reproduction , use, protection and study of waterbirds: the Department on Animal Species and the Department on Forestry and Especially Protected Territories. The Committee also has structural sub-units, each of the includes 14 administrative oblasts of Kazakhstan called the Oblast Territorial Departments on Forestry and Hunting.

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
The Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture RK. Chairman – Mr. E.Kelemseit. Address: Abai pros. 25, Asnata city, Republic of Kazakhstan Tel./fax: + 8 3172 328233	Within the state boundaries of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Management of animal species including migratory waterbirds	The “Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection, Reproduction and Use of Animal Species”, adopted 9 July 2004 (including waterbirds). The “Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Especially Protected Natural Territories”, (including waterbirds habitat places) adopted 15 July 1997
Department on Animal Species	Within the state boundaries of	Issues on reproduction, use, protection and study	The State Programme on Kazakhstan Wild Fauna

of the Forestry and Hunting Committee MA RK Head Mr. H. Mussabayev – Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana city, Abai str., 49, tel.: 317 2 935705, E-mail: mussabayev@minagri.kz	the Republic of Kazakhstan	of animal resources including waterbirds	Resources Management, 2003 Regularly maintaining of the Republic of Kazakhstan Red Data Book. Including Lesser White-Fronted Goose (<i>Anser Erythropus</i>) into the list of especially protected RK fauna species -2002 Preparation for the President Administration and Parliament documents on ratification of Convention on the migratory species of Animal. Annual development of limits for hunting species including waterbirds
Department on Forestry and especially Protected Natural Territories of the Forestry and Hunting Committee MA RK Head – Mr. K.Ustemirov Тел. + 7 3172 328256	Within the state boundaries of the Republic of Kazakhstan	The issues on management the existing especially protected natural territories and establishment of new ones waterbirds habitat places.	Establishment of especially protected natural territory at one of the key Kazakhstan WL – Alakol lakes – 1998. Development and introduction of a perspective state programme on development of especially protected natural territories in RK – 2005 – 2010.

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

The main political approaches to the conservation of biodiversity including Anatinae birds in Kazakhstan are determined by the Law “On Protection, Rehabilitation and Use of Fauna” (2004). In accordance with this law the Government of Kazakhstan have adopted the List of Rare and Endangered Animal Species which incorporates 11 Anatinae species. In 2002 the globally endangered Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) was included in this list. The special clause of the above-mentioned Law contains the provision of the Red Book of Kazakhstan. Another significant legal instrument is the Law “On Specially Protected Natural Territories” (1997) which enlists the most significant waterfowl habitats in a special SPNT category such as internationally significant wetlands. To date the highest protection status of reserve is assigned to only 3 wetlands of global significance, Tengiz-Kurgaljin wetlands, Naursum and Alakol lakes. The Tengiz-Kurgaljin lakes as well as the Irgiz-Turgai lakes are included in the Ramsar List (1977). By the decision of the government of Kazakhstan as of 2003 a special Fishery Committee has been established which will implement a more efficient regulation of fishery and reduce its negative effect on waterfowl. In 1999 the Government of Kazakhstan has developed and adopted the National Strategy and Action Plan of

Conservation and Balanced Utilization of Biological Diversity. The other priority measures foresee the establishment in Kazakhstan of the network of specially protected wetlands as habitats of waterfowl birds.

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

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of RK is an authorised governmental body responsible for implementation of the state policy in the sphere of environmental protection and its separate components. It provides protection and control over the state of environment through their territorial sub-units – the Oblast Territorial Departments on Environmental Protection.

The Ministry of Science and Education of RK is an authorised governmental body responsible for organisation and implementation of scientific research including the sphere of environmental protection and biodiversity.

The Water Resources Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of RK is an authorised governmental body responsible for rational use of water resources including establishment of the regime and limits for water resources use

The four state reserves: Korgalzhin, Alakol, Naursum and Markakol reserves are functioning to provide effective protection of nesting and migratory waterbirds.

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
The Ministry of Environmental Protection of RK	Within the state boundaries of the Republic of Kazakhstan	State policy in the sphere of environmental protection. Control over the state of the main components including water bodies. State environmental expertise. International cooperation in the sphere of environment	Implementation of the procedures on acceding Kazakhstan to the Ramsar Convention – 2005
The Ministry of Science and Education of RK	Within the state boundaries of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Organisation and implementation of scientific programmes in the sphere of biodiversity. Implementation of teaching and educational programmes on Kazakhstan biodiversity conservation	Establishment of the National Centre on biological researches including research of Kazakhstan wild fauna including waterbirds.
The Water Resources	Within the state boundaries of the	Rational water resources use. Quoting and	Sustainable provision of the

Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of RK	Republic of Kazakhstan	defining limits for water use	most important waterbird habitat places with water resources
The Korgalzhin State Natural Reserve	The Central Kazakhstan, the Akmolinsk oblast Tengiz-Korgalzhin lake system	Conservation of the unique waterbird nesting and moulting places	Nesting populations of globally endangered waterbird species: <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> , flamingo, <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> , <i>Chettusia gregaria</i>
The Alakol State Natural Reserve	The Eastern Kazakhstan, the Alamyt oblast lake system	Conservation of waterbird nesting places, first of all of globally endangered species. The place of mass waterbirds concentration in the period of migration	Nesting populations of a relict seagull <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> and <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> , <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> , <i>Larus icnthyaeus</i>
The Naurzum State Natural Reserve	The Northern Kazakhstan, the Kostanay oblast	Conservation of waterbird nesting and migratory populations	Nesting populations of <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> , <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> , <i>Larus icnthyaeus</i> , <i>Chettusia gregaria</i> . Migratory populations of the Siberian Crane, <i>Anser erythropus</i> , <i>Branta ruficollis</i> , a tundra swan
The Markakol State Natural Reserve	The Eastern Kazakhstan, The Eastern-Kazakhstan oblast.	Conservation of waterbird nesting and migratory populations, mainly river and diving ducks	The largest Kazakhstan nesting populations of <i>Anas penelope</i> , <i>Bucephala clanga</i> , migrating accumulation of <i>Larus icnthyaeus</i>

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

The leading scientific organisation implementing research programmes on waterbirds in Kazakhstan is the Institute of Zoology which is in the structure of the Ministry of Education and Science of RK. In the ornithological laboratory of this institute there is a special group which makes monitoring research at the main waterbird habitat places of Kazakhstan for a number of years. Also at the Institute of Zoology there is a Centre on Marking Animals, at the archive of which there is a Database on Ringing Waterbirds and a Database on the information about the ringed waterbirds which were found.

Among the non-governmental organisations actively working in the sphere of study and conservation of waterbirds there is “Naurzum” association in the Northern Kazakhstan of the Kostanay oblast. “Rodnik” NGO, the Central Kazakhstan, the Korgalzhin rayon of the Akmolinsk oblast. “Arlan” NGO, “Altay-Fund” NGO, the South-Eastern Kazakhstan, the Central Kazakhstan, the Karaganda oblast. “Zapovedniy Alakol” NGO, Usharal city the Eastern Kazakhstan. The main sphere of activity of the NGOs mentioned above is participation in scientific-research programmes on waterbirds and also wide scale educational and training activity in the sphere of conservation of Kazakhstan waterbirds. The “Altay-Fund” produced a number of short films on especially protected waterbird species and the most significant wetlands in Kazakhstan.

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

Name of non-governmental organisation/ University (with contact details)	Geographic scope	Thematic Focus or programmes	Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands
Institute of Zoology MES RK Al-Faraby pros.93, Almaty city Head of the group on study of waterbirds is Mr. S.Yerohov, syerokhov@nursat.kz	Waterbirds and their habitat places in the Northern, Southern and Western Kazakhstan	Monitoring of seasonal migrations, mainly autumn ones, wintering places. Development of projects on waterbirds and their habitat places conservation	Inclusion the rare species into the Kazakhstan Red data Book. Proposals on extension the boarders of EPNT at the key waterbird habitat and establishment of new places EPNT. UNDP/GEF and UNEP/GEF full scale projects
The “Naurzum” NGO, Kostanay city Head of the programmes on waterbirds Mr. E. Bragin naurzum@mail.kz	The Northern Kazakhstan	Participation in the projects on establishment the networks on especially protected natural territories on the flyways of waterbirds.	“The Most Significant Wetlands of the Northern Kazakhstan” Programme. Extension of the boarders of the existing EPNT and establishment of new ones which are located on the flyways of waterbirds.

F. International Instruments

The Republic of Kazakhstan takes a lot of efforts to make the environmental and biodiversity problem one of the main national priorities including in the international cooperation. Kazakhstan was one of the first countries to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1994). Today Kazakhstan is at the final stage of approving the necessary documents to accede to Ramsar Convention, Kazakhstan was also approved to accede Bonn Convention. For a long period of time Kazakhstan has been cooperating within the International Memoranda on the conservation of endangered species such as Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) and Sociable Plover (*Chettusia gregaria*).

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	All Kazakhstan territory	Conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity	National Strategy for Biodiversity and Action Plan
Ramsar Convention	Implementation of the procedure on acceding at the governmental level		
Convention on the migratory species of Animal	Implementation of the procedure on acceding at the governmental level		
Memoranda on the Conservation of the endangered species Siberian Crane	Migrating corridor, Kostanay region, especially	Protection of the species and habitats	Action Plan
Memoranda on the Conservation of the endangered species Slender Billed Curlew	Searching of the potential stopover places		Action Plan
Memoranda on the Conservation of the endangered species Sociable Plover	Breeding areas on Central Kazakhstan, Akmola Region especially	Protection of the species and habitats	Action Plan, Breeding Biology Programme

G. International Programs and Activities

Since 2005 Kazakhstan, among other regional partners (Russia, China, Islamic Republic of Iran) started implementing the GEF/UNEP/ICF Project «Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Water birds in Asia», envisaged for 6 years.

The joint full-scale project of the Government of Kazakhstan and the Global Environment Facility “Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Wetlands as Habitats of Migratory Birds. Demonstration in 3 Sites” is focused on the demonstration of comprehensive approaches to the conservation of waterfowl populations and their habitats.

The 3 globally significant wetlands of Kazakhstan: Tengis-Kurgaljin lakes, the Ural river Delta and the Alakol lakes system. located on the most significant migration flyways of waterfowl are selected by the project. The project envisioning 7 years term was commenced in 2004 within the UN Sustainable Development Program in Kazakhstan.

**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
<p>Project «Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Water birds in Asia»</p> <p>Mrs. Vera Inyutina Project Manager, Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana city, tel.: 317 2 29-56-34 mob.: 83005660405 e-mail: vera.inyutina@mail.ru</p>	<p>Cranes, Geese, Ducks, Waders, Gulls, Pelicans, etc</p>	<p>ICF, Russia, Chine. Iran</p>	<p>Established a new specially protected area and network on the Siberian Crane Flyway. Appropriate legal protection, clear regulations and identified enforcement responsibilities in place at selected project sites. Regional flyway networks developed in Western/Central Asia and Eastern Asia. Participatory management plans for the conservation of selected project sites developed and implemented. Improvements made to national and sectoral legislation, policies, plans, and financial mechanisms in support of the conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetland biodiversity.</p>
<p>“Integrated Conservation of Priority Globally Significant Wetlands as Habitats of Migratory Birds. Demonstration in</p>	<p>Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorans, Herons, Flamingo, Geese, Ducks, Waders, Gulls</p>	<p>UNDP Programme in Kazakhstan NABU (Germany) Agip (International Oil Consortium)</p>	<p>Established a new specially protected area on Northern Caspian Sea</p>

3 Sites” (2004) 7 years duration Mr. Talgat Kerteshev- Project Manager, Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana city, Bokeikhgan str. 38, tel.(83172)326360, fax 327847 www.carsed.net/wetlands			Region, The broaden of the two existing SPA territory
“Kazakhstan Important Bird Areas”, since 2003	All bird groups	RSPB. BirdLifeInternationa l NABU	Kazakhstan Important Bird Areas List, Monograph

H. List of Regular Breeding and Migratory Waterbirds in Kazakhstan

№	Species	Breed.	Bredd+migr.	Migr.
1	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		+	
2	<i>Tachibaptus ruficollis</i>		+	
3	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		+	
4	<i>P. auritus</i>		+	
5	<i>P. griseigena</i>		+	
6	<i>P. cristatus</i>		+	
7	<i>Pelicanus onocrotalus</i>	+		
8	<i>Pelicanus crispus</i>	+		
9	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	+		
10	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		+	
11	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		+	
12	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	+		
13	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	+		
14	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	+		
15	<i>Egretta alba</i>		+	
16	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	+		
17	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		+	
18	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	+		
19	<i>Platelea leucorodia</i>		+	
20	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	+		
21	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		+	
22	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		+	
23	<i>Branta bernicla</i>			+
24	<i>Rufibrenta ruficollis</i>			+
25	<i>Anser anser</i>		+	
26	<i>An. albifrons</i>			+
27	<i>An. erythropus</i>			+
28	<i>An. fabalis</i>			+
29	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		+	
30	<i>C. cygnus</i>		+	
31	<i>C. bewickii</i>			+

32	Tadorna tadorna		+	
33	T. ferruginea		+	
34	Anas platyrhynchos		+	
35	A.. crecca		+	
36	A. strepera		+	
37	A. penelope		+	
38	A. acuta		+	
39	A. querquedula		+	
40	A.clypeata		+	
41	Netta rufina		+	
42	Aythya ferina		+	
43	Ayt nyroca		+	
44	Ayt. fuligula		+	
45	Ayt. marila			+
46	Clangula hyemalis			+
47	Bucephala clangula		+	
48	Melanitta nigra			+
49	M. deglandi		+	
50	M. fusca	+?		+
51	Oxiura leucocephala		+	
52	Mergus albellus			+
53	M. serrator		+	
54	M.merganser		+	
55	Rallus aquaticus		+	
56	P. porzana		+	
57	P. parva		+	
58	P. pusilla		+	
59	Porphyrio porphyrio	+		
60	Gallinula chloropus		+	
61	Fulica atra		+	
62	Burhinus oedienemus		+	
63	Pluvialis squatarola			+
64	Pl. dominica			+
65	Pl. apricaria			+
66	Charadrius hiaticula			+
67	Ch. dubius		+	
68	Ch. leshenaultii	+		
69	Ch.asiaticus		+	
70	Ch. alexandrinus		+	
71	Eudromias morinellus		+	
72	Chettusia gregaria		+	
73	Vanellus vanellus		+	
74	Vanelochettusia leucura		+	
75	Arenaria interpres			+
76	Himantopus himantopus		+	
77	Recurvirostra avosetta		+	
78	Haematopus ostralegus		+	
79	Ibidorhyncha struthersii	+		
80	Tringa ochropus			+
81	T. glareola			+

82	<i>T. nebularia</i>			+
83	<i>T. totanus</i>		+	
84	<i>T. erythropus</i>			+
85	<i>T. stagnatilis</i>		+	
86	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		+	
87	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>			+
88	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			+
89	<i>Ph. fulicarius</i>			+
90	<i>Phylomachus pugnax</i>		+	
91	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			+
92	<i>C. ruficollis</i>			+
93	<i>C. subminuta</i>			+
94	<i>C. temminckii</i>			+
95	<i>C. ferruginea</i>			+
96	<i>C. alpina</i>			+
97	<i>C. acuminata</i>			+
98	<i>C. alba</i>			+
99	<i>Limocola falcinellus</i>			+
100	<i>Lymnocyrtes minimus</i>			+
101	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		+	
102	<i>G. megala</i>		+	
103	<i>G. stenura</i>			+
104	<i>G. solitaria</i>		+	
105	<i>G. media</i>		+	
106	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		+	
107	<i>Numenius minutus</i>			+
108	<i>N. tenuirostris</i>			?
109	<i>N. arquatus</i>		+	
110	<i>N. phaeopus</i>			+
111	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		+	
112	<i>L. laponica</i>			+
113	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>		+	
114	<i>G. nordmanni</i>		+	
115	<i>Larus ichthyæus</i>		+	
116	<i>L. relictus</i>	+		
117	<i>L. minutus</i>		+	
118	<i>L. ridibundus</i>		+	
119	<i>L. genei</i>		+	
120	<i>L. cachinans</i>		+	
121	<i>L. argentatus</i>			+
122	<i>L. canus</i>		+	
123	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		+	
124	<i>Ch. leucopterus</i>		+	
125	<i>Ch. hybrida</i>		+	
126	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		+	
127	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		+	
128	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	+		
129	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		+	
130	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		+	

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

Migratory waterbirds fly across the territory of Kazakhstan along the two largest in Eurasia flyways that are called the Siberian-Black Sea–Eastern-African and the Central–Asian–Indian ones. Podicipediformes, swans, geese, ducks, coots, seagulls, sandpipers fly the first way from the Northeast to the Southwest to wintering places and they make their nests in the northern areas of the Western and Central Siberia. The second way connects nesting places and summer location places of *Podicipediformes*, *Pelecaniformes*, *Ciconiiformes*, *Anseriformes*, *Gruiformes* and *Charadriiformes*, which populate the areas of the eastern Preduralye, the Western Siberia and also adjacent to Kazakhstan territory areas of Mongolia and China, and also the very territory of Kazakhstan, especially the eastern part of it. But there is no real boarder between these two ways. On the contrary, these flyways are considerably crossing each other on the territory of the Pavlodar, Northern-Kazakhstan, Akmolinsk and Kostanay oblasts. For this reason the period of migrations, especially autumn ones are key periods for sustaining the populations of *Podicipediformes*, *Anseriformes*, *Gruiformes* and *Charadriiformes*, millions of birds of which from the considerable part of the continent stay here. Using ringing method territorial connections of the waterbirds inhabiting Kazakhstan with the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Greece, Maraca, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, India, the western areas of China and Mongolia and also many areas of the Western, Central and Eastern Siberia have been made. (Gavrilov, Yerohov, 1993).

In the northern half of Kazakhstan there are mainly their nesting and moulting places: the Kamysh-Samar lake system, Naurzum and Tengiz-Kurgalzhin lakes, the Koibagar-Tyuntyugur lake group, the Sary-Kopa lake system, the lake group of the downstream of the Irgyz and Turgay rivers. In the southern half there are the most significant places of stay during migrations: the Northern and the North-Eastern coast of the Caspian, the Northern part of the Aral Sea– the Maliy Aral, the Ily-Balhash basin and the Alakol lake group.

J. Waterbirds of CAF Conservation Concern (WCC)

The highest priority species List:

1. Special protected waterbirds of Kazakhstan. It was published already – Red Data Book of Kazakhstan. (1996)
2. Game waterbirds of Kazakhstan – about 40 species. It is *Anseriformes* and *Rallidae* Groups, especially. (Kazakhstan Hunting Regulations, 2004)
3. Kazakhstan waterbirds of the ecological importance List. It was published in 1989 – The Book of the Genetic Foundation of the Vertebrate Animals of Kazakhstan

K. Recommendations to Improve International Migratory Waterbird Conservation

The materials for this section will be developed during discussions with country-partners representatives.

