

CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY OVERVIEW
Country Report: Afghanistan

CAF Meeting, 10-13- jun 2005

A. Introduction

Afghanistan is an important element in the CAF for many migratory waterbirds, and contains a number of wetland areas which are also important sites for staging and breeding.

Key breeding areas, all of which have varying degrees of formal government protection, include Ab-i- Estada and Dashte Nawar in Gazni province, Hamun-i Pozak and Saber-i in Farah and Nimroz province, Kol-i Hashmat Khan in Kabul province, Big Pamir in Badakhshan province, and Band-i-Amir National Park in Bamian province.

These protected areas are threatened by human activities, 6-7 years of drought and more than two decades of conflict. Other threats include lack of technical capacity and resources, and lack of enforcement of existing laws.

The primary flyways enter Afghanistan's territory from the northern, western and eastern borders. Cranes in particular come from the Uzbek border following the Amu Daria River. The provinces of Samangan, Bamian and Gazni also serve as migration corridor routes. From the China border, species also come to the Big Pamir mountains in northeastern Afghanistan.

The staging breeding areas in the borders are located in the western border such as Hamun-I Puzak and Saberi, and in the north in Darqad which is located behind Amu Daria .

The Afghan administration now seeks to better conserve and protect migratory waterbird routes, as well as staging and breeding areas.

It proposes to do so by undertaking the following activities:

- adopt and ratify CMS and the Ramsar Convention;
- increase awareness regarding migratory waterbirds, particularly in communities that live and subsist in and around the wetlands in question;
- publish and distribute posters of endangered species of water birds, particularly within community centres and schools;
- establish alternative livelihood projects in the protected areas in question;
- establish an interministerial committee to encourage a prohibition on hunting and trade of the species in question through regional radio, TV and other media;
- establish two projects for management of Ab-e-Estada and Dasht-i-Nawar waterfowl sanctuaries;
- Develop appropriate national policy, including a regulatory framework. The Afghan administration is currently developing draft environmental framework legislation which

contains a chapter on biodiversity and protected areas, and which will be the basis for further regulatory activities.

B. National administrative structures for migratory waterbirds and wetlands

The primary institution responsible for migratory waterbirds and wetland management and conservation is the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in which institution the mandate for biodiversity vests. The Forest and Rangeland Department of the ministry contains the National Parks and Wildlife Directorate, the National Parks Directorate and the Wildlife Survey and Evaluation Directorate.

Other line institutions include those listed below.

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Geographic scope</i>	<i>Thematic Focus</i>	<i>Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands</i>
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	National (see provincial structure in table below)	Biodiversity, wildlife, protected areas, various convention secretariats	Protection and management of species and their habitats.
Department of Environment	National	Overarching regulatory and policy function, various convention secretariats	National policy and regulatory outputs
Ministry of Energy and Water	National	Water resource management	Activities relevant to wetlands
Kabul Municipality	Kabul Zoo	Showing some rare water birds specimens	Public awareness

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

<i>Province name</i>	<i>Technical staff</i>	<i>Number of guards</i>	<i>Protected area in question</i>
Badakshan	National Park Directorate	3	Big Pamir, Wakhan corridor
Gazni	National Park Directorate	*	Ab-i Estada and Dasht-i- Nawar water fowl sanctuaries
Farah	Employee of conservation birds	2	Haumun-i Puzak and Saberi water fowl sanctuaries
Parwan	Wild life Employee	*	Safe mount (Ghorband River)
Bamyan	*	*	Band-i Amir National Park
Kabul	- Kol-i Hashmat Khan Directorate - technical Employee	7	water fowl sanctuaries Kole Hashmat Khan water fowl sanctury

Table 1b : Provincial resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food regarding management of migratory waterbirds and wetlands

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

Afghanistan is in the process of developing new biodiversity and protected areas policy and legislation.

Until their repeal by the new legislation, certain existing laws are currently relevant. These include the Law for the Protection of Nature, 1365 and the Law for the Protection of Nature, 1421.

Other relevant legislation includes various decrees issued by the President banning the hunting of certain species. The most recent degree was issued on [19] March 2005. It forbids the hunting or taking of any bird or wildlife species for a period of 5 years.

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

Not many government institutions are involved in management or research outside the scope of those institutions listed in Table 1a above.

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Geographic scope</i>	<i>Thematic Focus</i>	<i>Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands</i>
Kabul Municipality	Kabul Zoo	Keeping rare water birds specimens	Public awareness
Agriculture Faculty	National level	Environment Management , Natural reasouces	Graduating Technical Personal
Science Faculty, Kabul university	National level	Biology & Physiology of all Animals	Graduating Technical Personal

Table 2: National Government Insitutions Involved In Migratory Waterbirds and wetlands research/ management.

E. Main NGOs and academic institutions involved in migratory waterbirds and wetlands research/ management

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Geographic scope</i>	<i>Thematic Focus</i>	<i>Principle outputs on waterbirds and wetlands</i>
Kabul University	National	Natural Resources Research	Graduating Educational personal
UNEP	Central government	Capacity building and institutional development	Policy and legislation, community based natural resource management projects, improved environmental education and awareness raising,

			improved compliance with MEAs
ADB	Band-e-Amir, Badakshan	Protected areas management, ecotourism	Conservation of Environment
GEF	National	NCSA	Improved compliance with MEAs at the country level
ICF	A: Herat / HariRod province B: Ab-i Estada C: Dashte Nawar D: Kapisa , Parwan , Baghlan , Takhar , Balkh ,Samangan provinces E: Band-e-Amir . F: Hamuni-Puzak G: Hamun i- Saberi. H: Kol-e- Hashmat Khan	A: To determine the location , and the number of Eurasian cranes in the area . B: To document the daily behavior of the cranes including description of their feeding and roosting areas . C: To determine the relationship between the cranes and people . D: To determine the number and location of cranes.	Equipment and facilities . A: Maps of the area showing roads, wetlands and agricultural land , binocular , spotscope camera and video camera . B: Hired 4x 4 jeep from Heart . C: Cranes poster Pamphlets and informative materials.
Save the Environment Afghanistan	National	Environmental issues, especially wildlife and protected areas	Conservation of Natural Resources and wild life

Table 3: Main non-government organizations and academic institution involved in migratory waterbirds and wetland research/ management.

F. Main international Instruments that are relevant to the migratory waterbirds and wetlands of the country

As already mentioned, Afghanistan is seeking to adopt and ratify CMS and the Ramsar Convention. However, at this point, it is a party to neither

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Geographic scope</i>	<i>Thematic Focus</i>	<i>Implementing strategy or action plan</i>
CBD	National	Biodiversity	None at present
CITES	National	Endangered species	None at present

Table 4: Main international instruments.

G. International programs and activities

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Waterbird group</i>	<i>International partner</i>	<i>Principle outputs</i>
Research , management, protection , development, awareness through Mass Media T.V, Radio, newspapers, magazines.	Siberian cranes Eurasian cranes Flamingo Waterfowl Other water birds	ADB UNEP GEF CBD CITES	Conservation of : Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Protected areas, National Parks, Wetlands, and identifying staging of cranes area in the country

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

I. List of Regular Breeding and Migratory Water birds

<i>English Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Breeding areas</i>	<i>Source</i>
Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber roseus	Hamun-i Pozak	Savage 1968 Green 1993
Common coot	Fulica atra		
Little grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		
Great crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus		
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurascens		
Purple Gallinule	Purpurascens purpurascens		
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		
White tailed plover	Vanelus leucurus		
Little Tern	Sterna albifrons		
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus		
Clamorous Reed warbler	Acrocephalus stentoreus		
Graylag Goose	Anser anser		
Mute swan	Cygnus olor		
Marbled Duck	Marmaronetta angustirostris		
Avocets	Recurvirostra avicetta	Ab-i Estada	G. niethammer (1971)
Black winged stilt	Himantopus Himantopus		
Slender billed gulls	Larus genei		
Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber roseus		
Gull billed terns	Gelochelidon nilotica		
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna		
Avocet	Recurvirostra avocetta		
Kentish plover	Charadrius alexandrinus		

Greater sand plover	Charadrius leschenaultii		
Redshank	Tringa tetanus		
common tern	Sterna hirundo		
Pochard	Aythya ferina	Kol-i Hashmat Khan	Rahim and Larsoon (1978)
Coot	Fulica atra		
Moorhen	Gallinule chloropus		
Black necked grebe	Podiceps nigricollis		
Lttle grebe	Tachybuptus ruficollis		
Pintal	Anas acuta		
Black kite	Milvus migrans		
Avosits	Recurvirostra avicita		
Redshank	Tringa tetanus		
Greater Sand plover	Charadrius leschenaultii		
Common tern	Sterna hirundo		
Great Flamingo	Phenicopterus ruber		

I: Migration Routes, Staging Sites, and Non-breeding areas .

<i>Migration Routes</i>	<i>Staging Sites</i>	<i>Non-breeding areas</i>
Hari Rod	Ab-i Estada, Dashnavat	Hari Rod
Kapisa	Kol-i Hashmat Khan	
Band - e Amir	Amu Daryariver	
Kunduz(Emam Sahib)	Takhar (Dargad)	
Baglan	Band - e Amir	
Takhar		
Samangan		
Parvan		

<i>English Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Key Breeding areas</i>	<i>Key staging areas</i>	<i>Available migration routes</i>
Flamingo	Phenicopterus ruber	Ab-i Estada and Dashte Nawar	Ab-i Estada, Hamun-i-Pozak and Kol-i-Hashmat Khan	From Iran to Afghanistan West to East
Common crane	Grus grus		Ab-i Estada Dashte Nawar Hamun-i-Pozak	From Uzbekistan to Afghanistan
Siberian crane	Grus leucogeranus		Ab-i Estada, Dasht-e- Nawar Amu Daria and other places	From north to south Uzbekistan to Afghanistan
Pintal	Anas acuta		Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Gurganey	Anas guerquedula		Kol-i-Hashamat	

Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Creste pochard	<i>Nitta rufina</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Common coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Kol-i-Hashamat Khan, Hamun-i-Pozak	Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Black winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Stone plover	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Common teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat Hamun-i Pozak	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar	
White pelean	<i>Pelecanus onocrotatus</i>		Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Carmorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinarea</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Wester reef heron	<i>Egretta egretta</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Heron	<i>Botanrus stellaris</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
White strok	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar , Hamun-i Pozak	

Spoon bill	Platalea lencorodia		Kol-i-Hashamat, Ab-i-Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Ruddy shelduck	Tadorn ferruginea		Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Eurasian wegeon	Anas Penelope		Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Gadwall	Anas strepera		Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar	
Rigastan Kandahar and Helmand North to south				

J. Water birds of CAF Conservation Concern (WCC)

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Trend areas</i>	<i>Breeding areas</i>	<i>Non Breeding Areas</i>	<i>The areas threats by</i>
Phenicopterus ruber	Ab-i- Estada , Dashte-Nawar Kol-i-Hashamat Khan Hamun-i - Pozak	Ab-i- Estada Dashte - Nawar	Kol-i-Hashamat Khan Hamun-i -Pozak	Droughts Agriculture land , Digging of deep wells Lands Irrigation Reed cutting and burring Overgrazing by domestic livestock
Grus leucogeranus	Ab-i- Estada		Ab-i- Estada	
Grus grus	Ab-i- Estada, Dashte Nawar Hamun-i - Pozak		Ab-i- Estada, Dashte Nawar Hamun-i Pozak	
Anthropoides virgo	Ab-i- Estada , Dashte Nawar		Ab-i- Estada, Dashte Nawar	
Netta rufina	Kol-i- Hashamat Hamun-i Pozak		Kol-i-Hashamat Hamun-i Pozak	
Pelecanus crispus	Hamun-i Pozak		Hamun-i Pozak	