

Islamic Republic of Iran

National Report for Central Asian Flyway Meeting (10-13 June 2005, New Delhi, India)

A. Brief Introduction:

The Islamic Republic of Iran is located in southwest Asia, bordering in the south with Persian Gulf and Oman Sea and from the north with the Caspian Sea. Iran possesses a very rich and diverse bird fauna, despite the fact that large portions of the country are arid to semi-arid; 492 species have been recorded. Two main factors are responsible for this; the great range of habitats—from permanent snows to deep deserts and from lush deciduous forest in the north to palm groves and mangrove in the south – and Iran's position at a crossroads between three major faunal regions. The bulk of the country lies within the Palearctic realm. Lying along the southern edge of this region, Iran's bird fauna includes a large western Palearctic faunal element, reaching its eastern extremity in the central Alborz and Zagros mountains, and a smaller, which extends into north-east Iran in the highlands of Khorasan. In southern Iran, two other faunal regions have a pronounced influence on the avifauna: the Indo-Malayan realm in the south-west.

B. National administrative structures for migratory waterbirds and wetlands:

According to the year 2005 division of the country there are 30 provinces (Ostan in Farsi) and 252 townships in Iran. Each has a DOE provincial directorate that monitors all aspects of environmental protection and the implementation of Department programs.

- Department of the Environment

Protection and enhancement of the environment; management of wildlife and fisheries in inland waters; jurisdiction and management of protected areas and wetlands; prevention of pollution and environmental degradation; promulgation of emission and quality standards and criteria for air, water, soil, wastes and noise.

The Department of the Environment, established in March 1972, is the only organization responsible for the investigation, management and conservation of wetlands and waterbirds in Iran. Under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act of 1974, this Department superseded the Game and Fish Department (created in 1967), which itself superseded the Game Council of Iran (created in 1956). The Department is responsible for the protection of wildlife, hunting and fishing in inland waters, as well as protection of the natural environment. The Department undertakes long-term environmental studies and management projects, with responsibilities which include the conservation and enhancement of wildlife resources and prevention of pollution. It puts forward regulations on habitat management, and has introduced environmental legislation regarding pollution. Long-term programmes include the cleaning of the Caspian Sea and Iranian rivers, and prevention of air pollution (IUCN, 1992).

**** Structure of the Department of Environment:**

DoE has four main divisions as:

- Division of Education and Planning

The department consists of three Bureaus:

- Bureau of Environmental Education and Training
- Bureau of Public Participation
- Bureau of Planning and Information

- Division of the Human Environment

The division consists of the following Bureaus:

- Bureau of Environmental Impact Assessment
- Bureau of Air Pollution Control
- Bureau of Water and Soil Pollution
- Bureau of Laboratories

- Division of the Natural Environment and Biodiversity

Given the wide variety and expanse of Iran's geographical biomes, and the region's importance in terms of natural habitats and extensive biodiversity, this department has been entrusted with the task of planning and adopting measures necessary for preservation of the country's natural diversity. Utilizing the services provided by its four Bureaus, the division carries out executive and research activities within Iran's many special ecosystems, especially in the areas under direct DOE supervision. Presently, the secretariat for the Iranian Wetlands Comprehensive Management Project is affiliated with this division. In the near future, a secretariat will be set up for the Siberian Crane Project. The division consists of the following Bureaus:

- Museum of Natural History
- Bureau of Wildlife and Aquatic Affaires
- Bureau of the Habitats and Protected Areas.
- Bureau of Marine Environment

- Division of Administrative and Parliamentarian Affairs

The division consists of the following units

- Bureau of the Legislation and Parliamentarian Affairs
- Bureau of Budget and Organization
- Directorate of the Financial Affairs and Auditing
- Directorate of the Administration
- Technical and Engineering Supervisory group

*****Other relevant institutes:****- Ministry of Water and Power**

Enforcement of water quality standards and criteria; water treatment plants and sewage systems; dam construction and irrigation; hydrobiological and hydrochemical research.

- Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Management and conservation of forests and rangelands, including watershed and soil conservation.

-National Fisheries Organization (Shilat)

Management of fisheries in the Caspian region; limnological, hydrological and fisheries research.

-National Centre for Marine Science

Marine research.

-Tehran University

Research on wetland fauna and flora.

-University of Tabriz

Research on wetland fauna and flora.

-University of Shiraz

Research on the wetlands of Fars Province.

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
Department of Environment www.irandoe.org contact: enfo@irandoe.org	Entire country	Bird conservation through protected areas network, enforce protection law through safeguarding system, bird study and monitoring through the research offices	* Bird protection * Bird Monitoring * Bird banding * International cooperation

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

The establishment of hunting reserves in Iran dates back to ancient Persian times, but it was not until the creation of the Game Council in 1956 that the foundations for the present system of protected areas were laid. The Game Council was created with a policy to set up hunting centers for the protection of endangered species and the control of hunting. In 1967, the newly created Game and Fish Department was empowered by law to declare certain areas for the protection of flora and fauna. Two types of designated area were established: Protected Regions in which hunting and land-use activities were subject to certain controls, and Wildlife Parks in which wildlife and their habitats were strictly protected. These sites were re-classified in 1974 following the introduction of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, which defined four categories of protected natural area: National Park, Wildlife Refuge, Protected Area and National Natural Monument (Firouz & Harrington, 1976). These four categories are described by IUCN (1992) and Evans (1994).

The Game and Fish Law of 1967 also provided for the establishment of Protected Rivers and Fishing Refuges. Protected Rivers are areas designated to protect natural habitats from fishing. By the end of 1991, there were five Protected Rivers under the jurisdiction of the

Department of the Environment: the Chalus, Karadj, Lar/Haraz, Sardab and Jajerud. Other specified areas include all marshes, wetlands, waterways and bays along the Caspian Sea, all of which are declared protected in so far as fishing is concerned (IUCN, 1992).

The environmental protection law enacted in 1974 is the major legal instrument for environmental conservation in Iran. According to this act four categories of natural protected areas have been established in Iran, which are managed by the Department of Environment. By May 20005, the system of protected areas in Iran included 19 National Parks, 34 Wildlife Refuges, 93 Protected Areas, 19 National Nature Monuments and five Protected Rivers, totaling at least 11,877,572 hectares covered over 6.8% of the country. In addition, until now there are 88 Non-Hunting areas under management of DoE, with a total area of 5,205,212 hectares.

According to Article 50 of the Constitution, environmental protection is deemed a public duty in order to safeguard the quality of life for both the present and future generations, and any activities, economic or otherwise, that cause pollution or irreparable damage to the environment are prohibited.

Hunting and Fishing Policy in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

When carried out using correct methods and principles in compliance with the existing laws and regulation, hunting can contribute to an increased animal population. It is through observing such laws and rules, that the environmental aspects of hunting and fishing such as wildlife preservation and averting the extinction or endangerment of species are assured.

Thus hunting and fishing is done under a specific set of laws and regulations in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Department of the Environment (DOE) is charged with drafting and enforcement of the necessary legal guidelines in this respect.

Every year, following a national wildlife census, a limited number of hunting and fishing permits are issued for certain game (the hunting of which has not been banned under international game-keeping laws). The number of permits issued is set so that it would not harm nature or impinge on bio-diversity. Hence it provides a useful option for hunting and fishing aficionados and those who depend on these skills for their livelihood.

Hunting and fishing permits designate the hunting range, the permitted type of game, legal number of game and the specific hunting period.

According to chapter three of the executive directive pertaining to the Game and Fishing Law, there are three classes of permits: ordinary, special and commercial. The ordinary permit is subject to the following restrictions:

- *Time limits and constraints (seasons and hours)*
- *Local constraints and limitations (national parks, protected areas and private preserves)*
- *Game constraints (protected species)*
- *Hunting constraints (types of weapons, ammunition and traps)*

Ordinary permits are issued to the applicants for hunting of wild mammals, fowl, reptiles and fish that are classified as game animals. The permit identifies the class or classes of game animal that could be hunted.

Hunting in national parks, reservations and special sanctuaries, as well as hunting of protected species requires a special permit. Foreign tourists can apply for one through tourist agencies in contact with DOE.

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

Nature Reserves:

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, those areas being, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas and natural national monuments. In 1997, the DOE held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas. By May 2005, the size of the DOE supervised areas reached 11,877,572 hectares.

- **National Parks:** National parks are designated parts of Iran's environment, including forests, rangelands, woodlands, prairies, water or mountains, that is an outstanding representation of Iranian nature. As such, it is brought under protection in order to permanently preserve its natural ecology and to create a suitable environment for the flourishing of wildlife and growth of flora under natural conditions. The national parks system currently covers 1,751,429 hectares.

- **National Natural Monuments:** This is applied to exemplary and rare instances of flora, fauna or remarkable land formations or landscapes or even ancient trees, which are brought under protection by designating a suitable perimeter. There are 18,449 hectares of such monuments.

- **Wildlife Refuges:** A Wild Life Refuge applies to an area of Iranian natural resources, such as forests rangelands, prairies, water and mountains that has natural habitats and special climate qualifications. These habitats brought under protection in order to protect and revive wild animals. Total area of regions protected as Wild Life Refuge is 3,600,066 hectares.

- **Protected Areas:** A Protected Area applies to an area of Iranian natural resources, such as forests, rangelands, prairies, water or mountains that is significantly important due to its impact on wildlife breeding, preservation of plant life or its natural state. Total area of regions protected as Protected Areas is 6,507,476 hectares.

Environmental Guard:

The Environmental Guard are properly trained and then charged with the actual monitoring and control of developmental activities that may impact on the environment. They are also responsible for enforcing all gaming laws and regulations. At the provincial level their ranks include the environment warden, environment officer, environment patrolmen, game warden, riflemen, environment specialists and technicians.

Given the heavy burden of their duties, the Environmental Guardsmen are selected from among those individuals who are well qualified and fit an overall profile that matches their ability to perform their various tasks. In order to maintain and boost their job performance abilities, a multi-tiered training program has been drafted, tailored and implemented by the DOE.

Every year, exemplary guardsmen who have diligently and efficiently imparted their duties are awarded with an [Environment] Service Medal. Of those who have received the medal in consecutive years, some will be nominated to receive the Order of Merit from the head of the DOE. When a guardsman or guards woman has displayed a level of selflessness that has

preserved wildlife or otherwise been of important service to the protection of the environment there is another honor. When that person has been grievously injured or otherwise impaired in the line of duty, the Medal of Honor by the President of the Islamic Republic is presented them.

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

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

The need for downsizing government at this juncture of history, as well as the importance of public partnership for promotion of civic duties has secured public participation in management, formation and reinforcement of civil institutions. A civil society encompasses all grass-root, not-for-profit and philanthropic groups working towards national development.

In 1998 the Department of Environment formed a “Participation Bureau” to assist environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The bureau provides legal counseling and logistical support for NGOs. According to the bureau’s data bank more than 460 environmental NGOs were formed during 1998-2003. The establishment of this bureau is in the direction of new government policies to promote public participation in environmental affairs. The number of environmental NGOs and the score of their activities at the local and national scale has had a very positive trend. Besides one of the most important responsibilities of this deputy is to promote public participation, which is some of the major activities, can be summarized as follows:

- Providing legal and financial counseling for non-governmental Organizations.
- Initiation of interactive relations with environmental NGOs, obtaining their views and suggestions through reciprocal dialogue as well as supporting them and encouraging the establishment of new NGOs covering a wider range of interests.
- Implementation of the project “Registration of Environmental NGOs in the Data Bank” for more dynamic and constructive relations and to facilitate their activities.
- Preparation and implementation of the “Green City” project in 28 districts in 28 pilot cities in different provinces aimed at enhancing their environmental conditions through public participation.
- Holding a meeting on the “Green City” scheme with participation of government organizations and NGOs for briefing them on the project and environmental issues in general.
- Establishment of an Internet site for introduction of Iranian NGOs.
- Convening educational workshops on environmental issues and the role of public participation.
- Preparation and implementation of the “Environmental Cooperation House” in a number of municipalities.

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

F. International Instruments:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly played a significant role in regional and international activities in order to protect the environment. Iran hosted an international conference in the city of Ramsar in 1971, which adopted an important, environmental instruments on wetlands so called: “**Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.**” By the end of 2004, a total of 22 wetlands with an area about 1.5 million hectares were included in the Ramsar List. Iran participates in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program, and in 1976 had designated nine Biosphere Reserves covering a total of 2,775,096 hectares. Four of these Biosphere Reserves namely: Arjan, Hara, Uromiyeh and Miankaleh are of international importance. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also acceded to the Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment so called ROPME in the Persian Gulf, and accepted its Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas. Iran also signed an agreement with the Caspian Sea littoral states (CEP) to combat pollution in the Caspian Sea in 1992. The Iranian government is happy to announce that during the 7th meeting of the littoral states of the Caspian Sea, held in July 2002 Tehran, the text of Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea was finalized and the coastal states prepare themselves to hold signing ceremony in the near future.

In order to pave the way for accession to the CMS and related agreements such as AEW, The Iranian government has rendered several endeavors. According to the constitution, accession to any multilateral agreement requires adequate justifications and needs legal proceedings, such as signing the instrument by a high-level governmental official and ratification by the parliament. To this end, the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have prepared and presented necessary reports to the cabinet for its approval. It is hoped that in 2005 the Convention on Migratory species will be ratified by the Parliament and therefore Iran joins the other parties to the CMS.

- Caspian Sea Environment Program (CEP)

Among the main DOE activities regarding the Caspian Sea Environment Program are: active presence and participation in the Program as one of its five Caspian Sea-neighbouring member parties, planning for Launching marine-environment studies, controlling the excessive exploitation of the resources of this land-locked marine ecosystem.

- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Given the growing importance of environmental issues and the similar environmental structure characterizing the countries in the region, cooperation among the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states is of prime importance. Regional environmental issues must be resolved through coordination, collective effort, political will and cooperation of government and private entities of the countries within the region

- ROPME Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment.

ROPME undertakes promotion of environmental policy, research and the implementation of joint projects in the Persian Gulf area. Pollution prevention, emergency response, biodiversity conservation and improved coastal zone management are major policies pursued. Iran has performed 2 regional research cruise programs for ROPME.

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 Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)	Worldwide	Provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.	Convention's Strategic Plan 2001-2005
Convention on Biological Diversity (1993)	Worldwide	A global, comprehensive agreement addressing all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species, and ecosystems	Biodiversity strategy and action plan
CITES	Worldwide	International agreement between Governments to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival	Species covered by CITES are listed in three appendices, according to the degree of protection they need
Wetlands International (WI)	Worldwide	Provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.	To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations through research, information exchange and conservation activities, worldwide
Caspian Sea Environment Program (CEP)	Caspian Sea Region	Planning for Launching marine-environment studies, controlling the excessive exploitation of the resources of marine ecosystem	Strategic Action Programme for the Caspian Sea; National Caspian Action Plan
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine	Persian Gulf Region	Pollution prevention, emergency response, biodiversity conservation and	The Convention consists of thirty Articles broadly dealing with

Environment (ROPME)		improved coastal zone management	responsibilities of the Contracting States for the protection and preservation of the marine environment which is under constant threat of pollution from offshore and land-based activities as well as marine transport
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	All Central Asia Countries, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey	An intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States.	Regional cooperation for drug abuse control, ecological and environmental protection and strengthening of historical and cultural ties among the peoples of the ECO region; and Mutually beneficial cooperation with regional and international organizations

G. International Programs and Activities:

- Iran has joined, a *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (MoU) in 1993* and another MoU for *Slender-billed Curlew*, both, under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to help further protect and conserve these important endangered species. Under the CMS MoU (updated in 1998), the participating Range States have committed to identify and conserve wetland habitats essential to the survival of Siberian Cranes, to co-operate with international organizations and other Range States and to develop a long-term Conservation Plan (updated at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the MoU in May 2001). Since the MoU entered into force, the CMS Secretariat has convened four fruitful meetings of experts from the Range States in Russia (May 1995), India (November 1996), Iran (December 1998) and USA (May 2001) respectively. The Governments requested CMS and ICF to co-ordinate implementation of the Conservation Plan, and to undertake the necessary preparatory work for a study of the environmental situation in the ecosystems inhabited by this migratory species. To date, resources allocated for implementation of the Conservation Plan have been inadequate to include the broader aspects of wetland ecosystem management, a shortfall that this project seeks to address.

- GEF project on Wetlands for Siberian Cranes

Following a period of intensive preparation led by the International Crane Foundation (ICF), a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on the Conservation of the Globally Significant Wetlands and Migratory Corridors required by Siberian Cranes and other Globally Significant Migratory Water birds began in March 2000. Project proposal discussed at the third Siberian Crane range country meeting held at Ramsar, I.R. Iran in December 1998, and

a preliminary draft of work plan approved by the meeting and appended to the proposal. The PDF B phase of the project, which covers China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, completed in March 2001 with the submission of a comprehensive six-year Full Project proposal. The project is being implemented through UNEP, and is being coordinated by ICF and the Convention on Migratory Species. The Project aims at conserving the critical sites that are used by Siberian Cranes for breeding (in Russia), staging during migration (all four countries), and the main wintering grounds (in China and Iran). Plans will be developed to conserve the overall biodiversity at selected wetlands, most of which are of international importance for a variety of reasons. The project will focus on specific management activities at these sites, and will also strengthen coordination of the flyway site networks used by the Siberian Cranes in Eastern and Central Asia, in cooperation with existing initiatives including the CMS MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane, North East Asia Crane Site Network, and the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Strategy.

Four years ago, a new national project namely, **National Project on Wetlands** have been launched in Iran with the financial assistance of the GEF and cooperation of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNDP. The document project is at the stage of finalization. It covers 4 sites so called: Orumyeh, Miankaleh, Arjan and Parishan, and Khour-e-Khouran which will be managed in 2 phases.

- The project for Development of Strategies and the National Action Plan for Biodiversity Preservation

This project, leading to the encouragement of inter-organizational collaboration and the adoption of strategic policies for the preservation of biodiversity, has as its accomplishments the following:

Preparation of the First and Second National Biodiversity Reports for submission to the Biodiversity Convention Secretariat; Preparation of 23 volumes of reports on the present state of various national biodiversity resources; Holding 13 educational-consultative workshops and seminars; Building up the capacity for the technical facilities required through the equipping of the Project Secretariat and increasing the scientific experience and knowledge among the Project's colleagues and experts; Authoring, translating and publishing a number of professional texts and Follow-up on the implementation of the Project for Facilitating the Exchange of Information on Biodiversity (CHM).

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
UNEP / GEF Siberian Crane Project	Siberian Crane, Other groups	UNEP, UNDP, CMS, ICF, WI	
UNEP/GEF Wetlands Project	Wetlands, Waterbirds	UNEP, UNDP, Ramsar Convention	
DoE / WIWO Mid-Winter Waterbird Census	All groups	WI, WIWO	

H. List of Regular Breeding and Migratory Waterbirds:

Over 324 breeding species (a total of 492 species), 131 occur widely in the Palearctic region. Eighty-one are western Palearctic species, reaching the easternmost extremities of their ranges in Iran, while 19 are typically eastern Palearctic species, reaching the westernmost tip of their ranges in Iran. A further 25 species are characteristic of the great Saharo-Sindian desert belt which stretches along the southern adage of the Palearctic region from North Africa through the Middle East to Mongolia, while another 24 are Palearctic species with restricted ranges in the Middle East. The bird fauna of southern Iranian Baluchistan and the southern Persian Gulf coast is predominantly Indo-Malayan, origin reaching the north-west Iran there is a small Afrotropical influence with six breeding species of African origin. Finally, there are nine species of seabird and shorebird of the Indian Ocean, which breed on islands in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormoz.

Iran is a country home to 128 migratory species currently listed on CMS [Appendix II](#) and 15 species listed on [Appendix I & II](#). Iran also has important staging, breeding and wintering sites for a considerable number of bird species migrating across between Eurasia and Africa. These include the Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* and the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, both listed in Appendix I and II

Table 6: Full list of main breeding and migratory waterbirds in Iran:

	Species	English name	Breeder	Migratory
	GAVIIDAE	DIVERS		
1	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver		*
2	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated Diver		*
	PODICIPEDIDAE	GREBES		
3	<i>Tachibaptus ruficollis*</i>	Little Grebe	*	*
4	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked Grebe	*	*
5	<i>Podiceps cristatus*</i>	Great Crested Grebe	*	*
6	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Slavonian Grebe		*
7	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe	*	*
	PHAETHONTIDAE			
8	<i>Paeton aethereus</i>	Red-billed Tropicbird		*
	PELECANIDAE	PELICANS		
9	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican	*	*
10	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican	*	*
	PHALACROCORACIDAE	CORMORANTS & DARTERS		
11	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo*</i>	Great Cormorant	*	*

	Species	English name	Breeder	Migratory
12	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant	*	*
13	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	Socotra Cormorant	*	*
	ARDEIDAE	HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNs		
14	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> *	Grey Heron	*	*
15	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	Goliath Heron		*
16	<i>Ardea alba</i> *	Great (White) Egret	*	*
17	<i>Ardea purpurea</i> *	Purple Heron	*	*
18	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> *	Cattle Egret	*	*
19	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	*	*
20	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Indian Pond Heron	*	*
21	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Striated Heron	*	*
22	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> *	Little Egret	*	*
23	<i>Egretta garzetta schistacea</i> *	Western Reef Egret	*	*
24	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> *	Black-crowned Night-heron	*	*
25	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	*	*
26	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> *	Little Bittern	*	
	CICONIIDAE	STORKS		
27	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	*	*
28	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	European White Stork	*	*
	THRESKIORNITHIDAE	IBISES & SPOONBILLS		
29	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> *	Sacred Ibis		*
30	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> *	Glossy Ibis	*	*
31	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> *	Eurasian Spoonbill	*	*
	PHOENICOPTERIDAE	FLAMINGOS		
32	<i>Phoenicopus ruber roseus</i> *	Greater Flamingo	*	*
33	<i>Phoenicopus minor</i> *	Lesser Flamingo		*
	ANATIDAE	SWANS, GEES & DUCKS		
34	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan		*
35	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan		*
36	<i>Cygnus (columbianus) bewickii</i>	Bewick's Swan		*
37	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose		

	Species	English name	Breeder	Migratory
38	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	White-fronted Goose		*
39	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Lesser White-fronted Goose		*
40	<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose		*
41	<i>Branta ruficolis</i>	Red-breasted Goose		*
42	<i>Tadorna ferruginea*</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	*	*
43	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck	*	*
44	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon		*
45	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall		*
46	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged Teal		*
47	<i>Anas platyrhynchos*</i>	Mallard	*	*
48	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail		*
49	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	*	*
50	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler		*
51	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Teal	*	*
52	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Red-crested Pochard		*
53	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard		*
54	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	*	*
55	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck		*
56	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup		*
57	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye		*
58	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Smew		*
59	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser		*
60	<i>Mergus merganser*</i>	Goosander		*
61	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck	*	*
	GRUIDAE	CRANES		
62	<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane		*
63	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Siberian Crane		*
64	<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	*	*
	RALLIDAE	RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS		
65	<i>Rallus aquaticus*</i>	Water Rail	*	*
66	<i>Crex crex</i>	Corncrake	*	*
67	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Little Crake		*
68	<i>Porzana pusilla*</i>	Baillon's Crake	*	*
69	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Spotted Crake	*	*

	Species	English name	Breeder	Migratory
70	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> *	Moorhen	*	*
71	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Purple Gallinule	*	*
72	<i>Fulica atra</i> *	Common Coot	*	*
	DROMADIDAE	CRAB PLOVER		
73	<i>Dromas ardeola</i>	Crab Plover	*	*
	HEMATOPODIDAE	OYSTERCATCHERS		
74	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> *	Eurasian Oystercatcher		*
	RECURVIROSTRIDAE	STILTS & AVOCETS		
75	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> *	Black-winged Stilt	*	*
76	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> *	Pied Avocet	*	*
	GLAREOLIDAE	COURSERS & PRATINCOLES		
77	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Collared Pratincole	*	
78	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	Black-winged Pratincole		*
	CHARADRIIDAE	PLOVERS		
79	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	*	*
80	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Plover		*
81	<i>Vanallus leucurus</i> *	White-tailed Plover	*	
82	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Eurasian Golden Plover		*
83	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover		*
84	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover		*
85	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover		*
86	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> *	Little Ringed Plover		*
87	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> *	Kentish Plover		*
88	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser (Mongolian) Plover		*
89	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sandplover	*	*
90	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	Caspian Plover		*
91	<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Eurasian Dotterel		*
	SCOLOPACIDAE	SNIPES, SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES		
92	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Eurasian Woodcock		*

	Species	English name	Breeder	Migratory
93	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe		*
94	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe		*
95	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit		*
96	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit		*
97	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel		*
98	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Curlew		Rare
99	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew		*
100	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Spotted Redshank		*
101	<i>Tringa totanus*</i>	Common Redshank	*	*
102	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper	*	*
103	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank		*
104	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper		*
105	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper		*
106	<i>Tringa (Xenus) cinerea</i>	Terek Sandpiper		*
107	<i>Tringa (Actitis) hypoleucos*</i>	Common Sandpiper	*	*
108	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone		*
109	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling		*
110	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint		*
111	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temminck's Stint		*
112	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper		*
113	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin		*
114	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper		*
115	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff		*
116	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope		*
	LARIDAE	GULLS & TERNS		
117	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>	White-eyed Gull		*
118	<i>Larus canus</i>	Common Gull		*
119	<i>Larus argentatus*</i>	Herring Gull		*
120	<i>Larus armenicus*</i>	Armenian Gull	*	*
121	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Yellow-legged Gull		*
122	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull		*
123	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	Great Black-headed Gull		*
124	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	*	*
125	<i>Larus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull	*	*
126	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Little Gull		*

	Species	English name	Breeder	Migratory
127	<i>Sterna (Gelochelidon) nilotica</i> *	Gull-billed Tern	*	*
128	<i>Sterna caspia</i> *	Caspian Tern	*	*
129	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i> *	Lesser Crested Tern	*	*
130	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	*	*
131	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Crested Tern	*	*
132	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> *	Common Tern	*	*
133	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	Bridled Tern	*	*
134	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> *	Little Tern	*	*
135	<i>Sterna saundersii</i>	Saunders' Tern		*
136	<i>Sterna repressa</i>	White-cheeked Tern	*	*
137	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> *	Whiskered Tern	*	*
138	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern	*	*
139	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern		*

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

"Map is sent separately"

J. Waterbirds of CAF Conservation Concern (WCC):

Threatened waterbirds: IUCN's 2004 Red List of Threatened Animals gives for Iran 20 threatened birds. Of this, 12 are ecologically dependent on wetlands. Three are listed as critically endangered "CR", Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*, Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* and Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*; one species as endangered "EN", White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and eight species as vulnerable "VU", Dalmatian Pelican *Pelicanus crispus*; Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*; Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*; Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*; Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*; Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*; Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*; and Corncrake *Crex crex*. Other threatened birds are: Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*; Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*; and Great Bustard *Otis tarda*.

Also eight species are classified as "Lower risk: near threatened": Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Corn Crake *Crex crex*, Great Snipe *Gallinago media*, White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, White-eyed Gull *Larus leucopthalmus*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, Lesser Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus minor* and Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus*.

Table 7: Full list of threatened waterbirds in Iran:

#	Scientific Name	Common Name	[Red List]	Trend
1	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Plover	CR	↓

2	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Siberian Crane	CR	↓
3	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Curlew	CR	↓
4	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck	EN	↓
5	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Lesser White-fronted Goose	VU	↓
6	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican	VU	→
7	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Duck	VU	↓
8	<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	Indian Skimmer	VU	↓
9	<i>Phalacrocorax nigrogularis</i>	Socotra Cormorant	VU	↓
10	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Red-breasted Goose	VU	?
11	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	↓
12	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Band-tailed Fish Eagle	VU	↓
13	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	NT	
14	<i>Crex crex</i>	Corn Crake	NT	↓
15	<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	NT	↓
16	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Grey Sea Eagle	NT	
17	<i>Larus leucophthalmus</i>	White-eyed Gull	NT	→
18	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pygmy cormorant	NT	
19	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	Lesser Flamingo	NT	
20	<i>Puffinus persicus</i>	Persian Shearwater	NT	?
21	<i>Glareola normanni</i>	Black-winged Pratincole	DD	

K. Recommendations to Improve International Migratory Waterbird Conservation:

1. Develop coordinated ringing and monitoring schemes among the flyway countries
2. Develop joint projects among the flyway countries
3. Establish transboundary protected areas
4. Establishment of regional / Asian waterbird union with species working groups
5. Integrated monitoring of migratory waterbirds through AWC (Asian Waterbird Census) and develop flyway database
6. Develop a system on information exchange through clearinghouse mechanisms.
7. To organize of training courses on waterbirds and wetland management

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