

FEREYDOON KENAR, EZBARAN & SORKH RUDS AB-BANDANS, Iran

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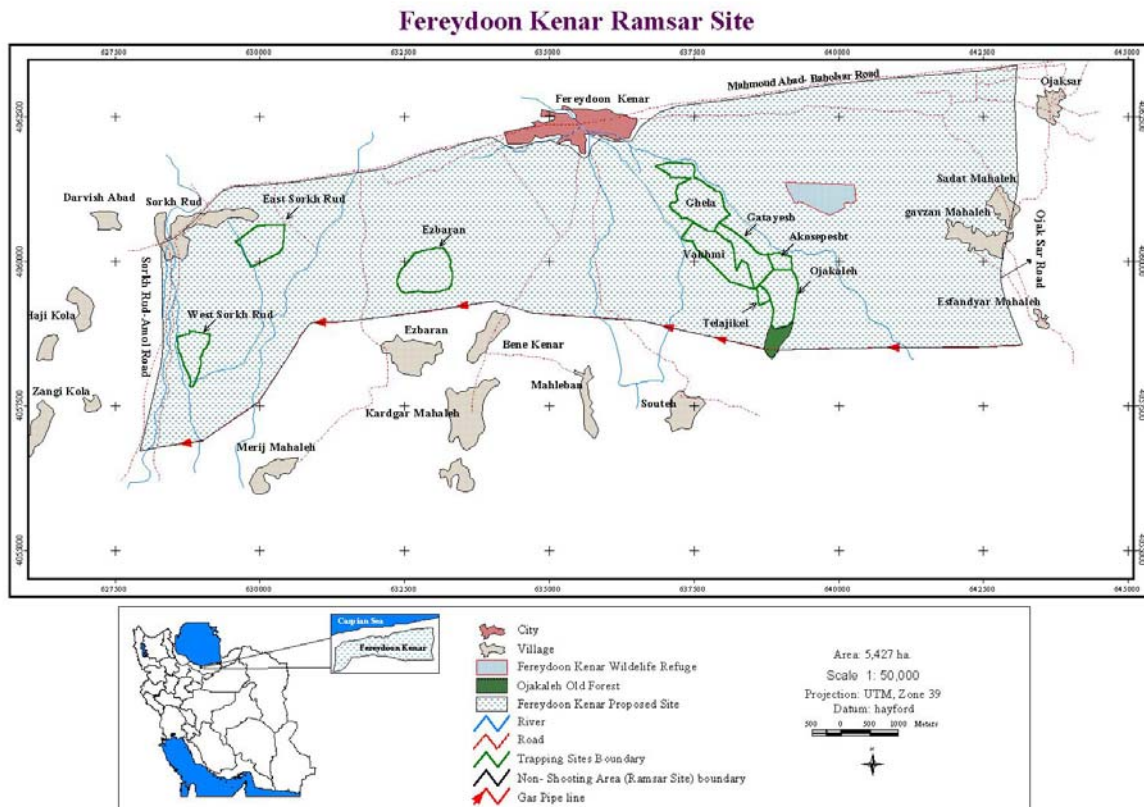
COUNTRY: Islamic Republic of Iran

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES: 36°40'N, 52°33'E

ALTITUDE: 23 m below sea level

AREA: 5,427 ha

MAP:



- 1 – Fereydoon Kenar Damgah
- 2 – Ezbaran Damgah
- 3 – Eastern Sorkh Rud Damgah
- 4 – Western Sorkh Rud Damgah

OVERVIEW: This site is a Non-Shooting Area designated within local rice fields. The area comprises four “Damgahs,” or duck trapping areas (Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran, Eastern and Western Sorkh Ruds), and Fereydoon Kenar Wildlife Refuge (48 ha), located in the northeastern part of the damgah. Each damgah is comprised of a complex of shallow freshwater impoundments situated in harvested rice paddies. The damgahs are developed as duck-hunting areas, surrounded by forest strips and reed enclosures. The site is located in the southeast Caspian lowlands, and is of outstanding importance as the wintering area for the entire western Siberian Crane population, along with many other species of waterfowl, notably dabbling ducks (*Anas spp.*) and geese (*Anser spp.*).

WCASN CRITERION AND QUALIFIERS

Criterion 1: Site's Importance for Siberian Cranes

Sub-criterion 1.1: *Siberian Crane(s) were recorded at the site at least five times during the last 10 years. This should not include records within the same season or repeated sightings of the same individual birds.*

Based on current information, the site appears to support the entire western population of the Siberian Crane. The rediscovery of this species in the South Caspian, after an absence of records for 60 years, has been described by Ashtiani (1987).

Siberian Cranes have been recorded at the Fereydoon Kenar every year since 1979.

Table 1. The number of Siberian Cranes wintering in Fereydoon Kenar, Iran

Year (winter)	Number	Reference	Year (winter)	Number	Reference
1977-78	11-14	Department of Environment*	1994-95	8-10	Department of Environment
1981-82	8	-"-'	1995-96	9	-"-
1982-83	5	-"-	1996-97	7-8 (+2 released birds)	-"-
1983-84	7	-"-	1997-98	7-9	-"-
1984-85	10	-"-	1998-99	6-14*	-"-
1985-86	11	-"-	1999-2000	7	-"-
1986-87	11	-"-	2000-2001	5-6	Markin, 2001
1987-88	10-11	-"-	2001-2002	3	Sadeghi Zadehan et al, 2001
1988-89	11-14	-"-	2002-2003	3 (+3 released birds)	Markin, Sadeghi Zadehan, 2003
1989-90	8-10	-"-	2003-2004	4 (+2 released birds)	Sadeghi Zadehan, 2004
1990-91	9	-"-	2004-2005	3	Sadeghi Zadehan, 2005
1991-92	10	-"-	2005-2006	2 (+1 released bird)	Zadehan, 2005
1992-93	11	-"-	2006-2007	2 (+1 released bird)	SCF News #8
1993-94	10	-"-	2007-2008	2 (+1 released bird)	SCF News #9

(According to various reports)

Qualifier 2: Site's importance for other waterbird species

Sub-qualifier 2.1: *A site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds during migration periods.*

The artificially-maintained shallow impoundments and extensive rice fields at Fereydoon Kenar provide excellent feeding and roosting habitat for large numbers of wintering waterbirds, and regularly holds well in excess of tens of thousands of waterfowl in winter, with up to 100,000 birds at any one time.

Sub-qualifier 2.3: *A site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.*

The wintering waterfowl includes over 1% of the regional populations of Great Cormorant, (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) (maximum 10,200); Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) (maximum 1,700 in January 1988); Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) (maximum 80,000 in

January 2001); Common Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) (maximum 16,000 in January 1991); and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) (maximum 9,000 in January 2003).

Sub-qualifier 2.4: *A site should be considered internationally important if it supports migratory waterbird species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.*

The site is a particularly important area for migratory waterfowl, regularly supporting large numbers of birds and over 30 species. It is therefore of importance for conservation of the region's biodiversity.

WETLAND TYPES (according to Ramsar classification):

Human-made:

- 2 Ponds; includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks; (generally below 8 ha)
- 3 Irrigated land; includes irrigation channels and rice fields
- 4 Seasonally flooded agricultural land

JURISDICTION:

a) territorial jurisdiction: Mazandaran Province, Islamic Republic of Iran

b) functional jurisdiction: Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, PO Box: 14155-7383, Tehran, I. R. Iran.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY: DoE's Mazandaran Provincial Office, PO Box: 48185-679, Rudaki Street, Amir Mazandarani Boulevard, Sari, Mazandaran Province, Iran. E-mail: mazandaran@environment.ir; website: <http://mazandaran.environment.ir>. This authority is responsible for "Fereydoon Kenar Wildlife Refuge" which was created in 1975 by DoE on the base "Lapoo-ye Fereydoon Kenar Reservoir" because of its high importance in order to attraction of migratory waterbirds.

According to an official newspaper, published in June 2001, Fereydoon Kenar was introduced as a "Non-Shooting Area". Since the introduction of this area as non-shooting area in 2001, and in order to guaranty the safety of this habitat, no licenses were given for hunting by gun.

This wetland complex has also a local management system. In this system, local trappers who own or rent some stations around the Damgah, guaranty the safety and tranquillity of the area besides trapping birds. Also, DoE cooperates with several land owners in the region, in order to fight against illegal shooting.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPILER:

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