

*Western/Central Asian Site Network
for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds*

Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkh Ruds Ab-Bandans Islamic Republic of Iran



Date of Designation

18 May 2007

Coordinates

36°40'N, 52°33'E

Area

5,427 ha

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.



Photo by Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan



Photo by Yuri Markin

Importance for the Siberian Crane

The rediscovery of this species in the South Caspian, after an absence of records for 60 years, has been described by Dr. Ali Ashtiani. Based on current information, the site appears to support the entire western Siberian Crane flock. During the last four years only one wild Siberian Crane has wintered at this site.

Importance for other waterbirds

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. The wintering waterfowl includes over 1% of the regional populations of Great Cormorant (up to 10,200); Greater White-fronted Goose (up to 1,700); Greylag Goose (up to 80,000); Common Lapwing (up to 16,000); and Black-tailed Godwit (up to 9,000).



Photo by Yuri Markin

Maps of Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkh Ruds Ab-Bandans



Fereydoon Kenar Ramsar Site

