

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

Zharsor-Urkash Lake System Kazakhstan



Date of Designation

18 May 2007

Coordinates

51°22'N, 62°48'E

Area

41,250 ha

Overview

Zharsor-Urkash Lake System is a group of salt and fresh water lakes surrounded by typical steppe landscapes of Sapsynagash Depression. It was recently designated as a national-level protected area.



Photo by Crawford Prentice

Importance for the Siberian Crane

Zharsor Lake is a regular stop-over site of the Siberian Crane. In 1997-2006 at least four sightings of the Siberian Crane in the spring and autumn migration period are known.



Photo by Evgeni Bragin

Importance for other cranes and waterbirds

The site is of great importance for pre-migratory flocks of Eurasian Cranes, as well as during the migration period. The number of Eurasian Cranes ranges from 7 to 20 thousand birds in different years.

The lake system supports more than 20 thousand migratory waterbirds during seasonal migrations, mainly sandpipers and geese. During autumn migration the site supports more than 1% of the global populations of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, the Red-breasted Goose, the White-headed Duck, and the Sociable Lapwing.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Maps of Zharsor-Urkash Lake System

