

Turkmenistan Country Report on State of Central Asian Migratory Way

A. Brief Introduction

The territory of independent Turkmenistan entirely belongs to region of Central Asian flyway (CAF). From 178 species of birds of CAF – 120 species occurs in national fauna, from which sandpipers and geese most represented. Most of species of water-marsh birds, which are nesting in Kazakhstan and Russia and wintering in Middle East, are migrating through the territory of our country. At the same time, on Caspian wintering and internal reservoirs of Turkmenistan a hundred thousands of ducks, bald-coots and other water-fowl birds are wintering.

B. National administrative structures for migratory waterbirds and wetlands

This section provides a brief overview of the national and subnational (provincial/state) administrative agencies and structures that are responsible for migratory waterbird and wetland management and conservation.

Matters of studying and conservation of water-marsh birds in Turkmenistan are in competence of Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

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
1. Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan (744000, Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, Kemine str., 102 Fax: +(99312) 39-31-84 Phone: +(99312) 35-43-17, 39-54-07 e-mail: makhtum@untuk.org	National level	Control and management on protection of nature on state level	Monitoring, calculation of quantity, control and management of conservation territories, control and management of hunting resources, fulfilment of engagements of international conventions and agreements
2. Regional administrations of nature protection	Regional level	State control and management on protection of nature on regional level	Monitoring, calculation of quantity, control and management of conservation territories, control and management of hunting resources

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

This section provides a brief overview of the national and subnational policies and legislation that relate to migratory waterbird and wetlands. A list of regulations that relate to hunting or take of migratory species should be provided.

Conservation and sustainable use of water-marsh birds, including migratory species, are fulfilled with use of this normative-legal documents:

- Law of Turkmenistan on Nature Protection (1991);
- Law of Turkmenistan on State Special Protected Territories (1992);
- Law of Turkmenistan on the Protection and Rational Use of Fauna (1997);
- Law of Turkmenistan on Hunting and the Hunting Reserves Management (1998);
- Order of Minister of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan about opening of hunting season in Turkmenistan, which is issued annually, taking into account condition of species of birds.

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

This section provides a brief overview of the government institutions whose scope includes research, management, awareness-raising and conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands. This information will provide the basis for identification of institutions that could lead or be involved in cooperative projects.

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
National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna under the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan	National	Scientific-theoretical support of activities of Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan on studying and conservation of water-marsh birds	Making annual calculation of waterbirds on winterings and monitoring wetlands
Khazar State Nature Reserve (on Caspian Sea) under the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan	East coast of Caspian Sea	Assistance to Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan on studying water-marsh birds of Caspian Sea	Making annual calculations of migrating and wintering waterbirds and monitoring wetlands on East coast of Caspian Sea

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

This section provides a brief overview of the non-government organizations and academic bodies involved in research, management, awareness-raising and conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands. This information will provide the basis for identification of organizations that could lead or be involved in cooperative projects.

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
Turkmen Society on Nature Protection	National	Popularization of protecting water-marsh and other birds	Assistance for realizing IBA program in Turkmenistan
Turkmen Union of Hunters and Fishers	National	Planning and control of hunting periods for water birds	Hunting services on managing water birds are functioning

F. International Instruments

This discussion and table will highlight those international (Treaties/Agreements) that are relevant to your country's list of breeding waterbirds documented in Table 6. It is envisioned that bilateral and multilateral bird treaties and informal agreements would be described. As indicated in the Table 4, the scope, bird themes or focuses, and whether there is an implementing Action Plan associated with the instrument will be reported.

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 Biological Diversity	National	Conservation of biodiversity	Realization of “Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation of Turkmenistan” (2002) and “National Environmental Action Plan of President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Turkmenbashi” (2002)
Memorandum on protection of crane	National	Search for alternative wintering places of white and grey cranes	Realizing in accordance with adopted action plan

G. International Programs and Activities

This discussion and table highlights each country's international waterbird program/activities/actions/projects. It should indicate the applicable geographic region, cooperating country, instrument and partners, and whether there are reports available (See Table 5).

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
Participating in International calculations of wintering water birds	Anitidae	Wetlands International	Calculations for last three years were made
Central Asian IBA Programme	All groups	RSPB, BirdLife International	Programme was began from the end of 2004
CEP – Caspian Environmental Programme	All groups	GEF, UNEP, UNDP, TACIS	Main regulations on protecting biodiversity (including water birds) of water-marsh grounds of East Caspian Sea are developed

H. List of Regular Breeding and Migratory Waterbirds

To accomplish this section, each country's author needs to compile a table of regular waterbird breeders (not vagrants) that migrate outside the legal jurisdiction of the country. In addition, the table will need to specify regular migratory waterbird species (not vagrants) that visit the country. The information in these tables should be summarized in a short narrative. This table will form the foundation of the report. A master reference list of CAF migratory waterbirds and their population estimates will be provided by Wetlands International.

Species which are found within the bounds of Turkmenistan (population level) are shown in Action Plan on CAF offered by CMS. Refinement of this list at present time is performed by experts of Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan.

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

This section is a description and table of the key breeding areas, key staging areas and non-breeding areas of the country's waterbirds.

Where specific information on the migration routes of waterbirds is available, a brief description may be provided, supported by references to published or unpublished literature and maps.

This information would provide a basis to highlight those regions/countries that your country needs to communicate/coordinate/collaborate with to ensure their conservation. With this information it will be possible to indicate those non-breeding regions/countries that are of highest priority. It also serves to connect with the discussion concerning International instruments.

At present time interpretation of this paragraph is impossible, even though existing results shown in Table 4. and 5.

J. Waterbirds of CAF Conservation Concern (WCC)

This section will provide an opportunity to recognize those waterbird species that are of the highest priority in the country. Criteria to make that determination will be developed and used by each country. If a country has already done this exercise it is not recommended to invent a new list just for this report. Suggested criteria will be: breeding distribution; non-breeding distribution; relative abundance; population trends; threats on the breeding and non-breeding grounds; and country or area importance to the species (percentage of the breeding population in your country). Each country should describe, in adequate detail, how the WCC list was developed.

The next step will be to develop a list of priority species called the "Waterbirds of CAF Conservation Concern" on criteria that will be discussed at the CAF meeting.

From 178 species of CAF in Red Data Book of Turkmenistan (1999) are included following ones:

<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i>	Greater Flamingo
<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Lesser White-fronted Goose
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Teal
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck
<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Siberian Crane
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Plover

Moreover, in the Red Data Book of Turkmenistan (1999) there are some species, which are not included into a list of priority species of CAF, such as: *Porphyrio porphyrio*, *Burhinus oedicneus*, *Lobivanellus indicus*, *Cursorius cursor*.

K. Recommendations to Improve International Migratory Waterbird Conservation

The section will include a discussion summarizing the key information in the tables and discussions; and then list the recommended improvements (new instruments/projects/working groups) needed to improve the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the country and flyway.

Problem of conservation and management of migrating water-marsh birds can be solved generally by attraction of international cooperation, because birds are crossing different countries and they are especially vulnerable in places of concentration – during resting on flight and wintering places. Territory of Turkmenistan is crossed by ample quantity of water-marsh birds, which have threatened status. Besides, country gives ample quantity of wintering places, where birds form concentrations with high number and where they become especially vulnerable to any exterior influences.

In accordance to aforesaid Turkmenistan considers its necessity and actuality of development of actions of international cooperation, which should include elaboration of coordinated action plans, development of network of secured territories, information exchange, mutual voluntary efforts on protecting of habitats. Proposed variants of development of instruments of international cooperation in document of CMS secretariat CMS/CAF/6 17 March 2005 “Juridical an institutional frameworks for support of application of proposed action plan on Central Asian Flyway for conservation of migrating water-marsh birds and their habitats: (Variants for consideration)” has both positive and negative sides. With admitting positive aspects of possible development of African-Eurasian Agreement on conservation of migrating species (AEWA), at present day we need time for studying juridical (legislation accordance) and institutional resources on realization of Action Plan and specific action plans of AEWA.

In this connexion, matter of joining of Turkmenistan to AEWA remains open. At the same time, development of new Agreement (equivalent to AEWA agreement) is least preferably, because it will take much time, which is impossible if we take into consideration situation with condition of rare disappearing species of CAF and intensive development of countries of region. So, most preferable, in our opinion, is cooperation in realizing general coordinated Action Plan.