

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

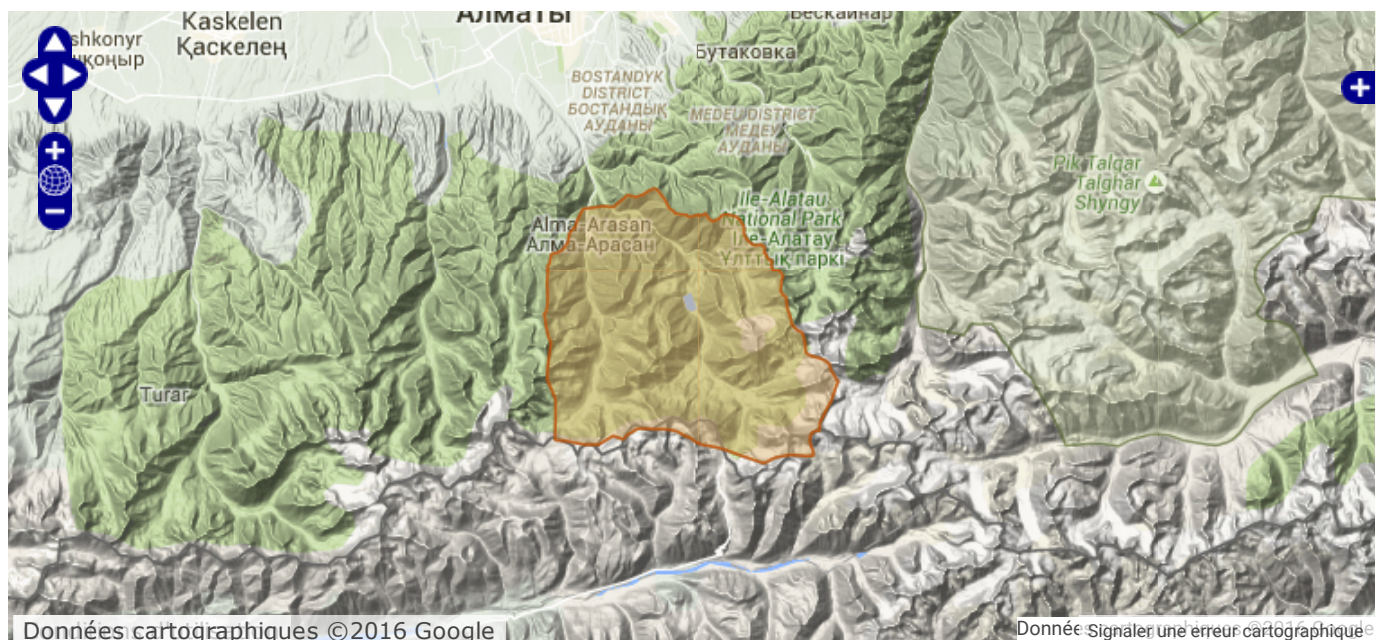
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KZ098	Big Almaty Gorge
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	76° 59.00' East 43° 4.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	22,305 ha
Altitude	1,500 - 4,200m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



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Site description The most typical and highest biodiversity central part of the northern slope of the Zailiyskiy Alatau ridge (Northern Tian Shan), 20 km to the south of Almaty (largest city of Kazakhstan). The IBA includes the whole of the Big Almaty Gorge with smaller gorges Alma-Arasan, Kumbel, Chukur (river basin of the Big Almatinka). In the gorge there are well developed spruce forest belts (with *Picea schrenkiana*), rocks in nival, alpine and sub-alpine belts, alpine and sub-alpine meadows, juniper stands, glaciers, and the high-mountain Big Almaty Lake (2500 m a.s.l.). The area is well-known among birdwatchers: several organized groups visit every year.

Key Biodiversity 140 bird species have been registered, including 48 residents (with local movements in winter), 48 breeding migrants and 44 observed on passage or wintering. Eight of the breeding species (*Gyps himalayensis*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Aquila chrysaetus*, *Falco pelegrinoides*, *Bubo bubo*, *Myophonus caeruleus*, *Carpodacus rubicilla*) and four of the passage species (*Aquila nipalensis*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Anthropoides virgo*) are included in the Red Data Book of Kazakhstan. The gorge is the only known breeding site in the world for *Carpodacus puniceus*, and supports breeding *Scolopax rusticola*, *Zoothera dauma* and *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* all very rare in the Tien Shan.

Non-bird biodiversity: Of large mammals, Siberian Ibex (*Capra sibirica*) and Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) are present. Additionally, the very rare Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) has also been recorded. *Marmota baibacina*, *Ochotona rutila*, *Martes foina* and *Mustela erminea* are common, as well as a number of species of rodents. Two species of snakes (*Agkistrodon halis*, *Elaphe dione*) and one lizard (*Ablepharus alaicus*) inhabit here. About 1000 plant species, including *Picea schrenkiana*, *Malus siversi*, *Betula tianschanica*, *Lonicera* spp., *Rosa* spp., *Berberis* spp., *Juniperus* spp. are also present.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category

Himalayan Snowcock <i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>	resident	2004	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	resident	2004	5-10 individuals	medium	A1	Near Threatened
Himalayan Griffon <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	resident	2004	10-20 individuals	medium	A3	Near Threatened
Ibisbill <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	resident	2004	1-2 breeding pairs	good	A3	Least Concern
Yellow-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
White-browed Tit-warbler <i>Leptopoeile sophiae</i>	resident	2004	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Sulphur-bellied Warbler <i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Hume's Leaf-warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	breeding	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	resident	2004	present	-	A3	Least Concern
White-tailed Rubythroat <i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Rufous-backed Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Blue-capped Redstart <i>Phoenicurus caeruleocephala</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>	breeding	2004	present	-	A3	Least Concern
Black-throated Accentor <i>Prunella atrogularis</i>	breeding	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Alpine Accentor <i>Prunella collaris</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Rufous-streaked Accentor <i>Prunella himalayana</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Brown Accentor <i>Prunella fulvescens</i>	breeding	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	breeding	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Fire-fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	resident	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Plain Mountain-finch <i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	breeding	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Black-headed Mountain-finch <i>Leucosticte brandti</i>	breeding	2004	present	-	A3	Least Concern
Red-mantled Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus rhodochlamys</i>	resident	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Great Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>	breeding	2004	< 50 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Red-fronted Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus puniceus</i>	breeding	2004	< 50 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas camipes</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2013	high	very unfavourable	not assessed
Was the whole site		State assessed by	Habitat

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

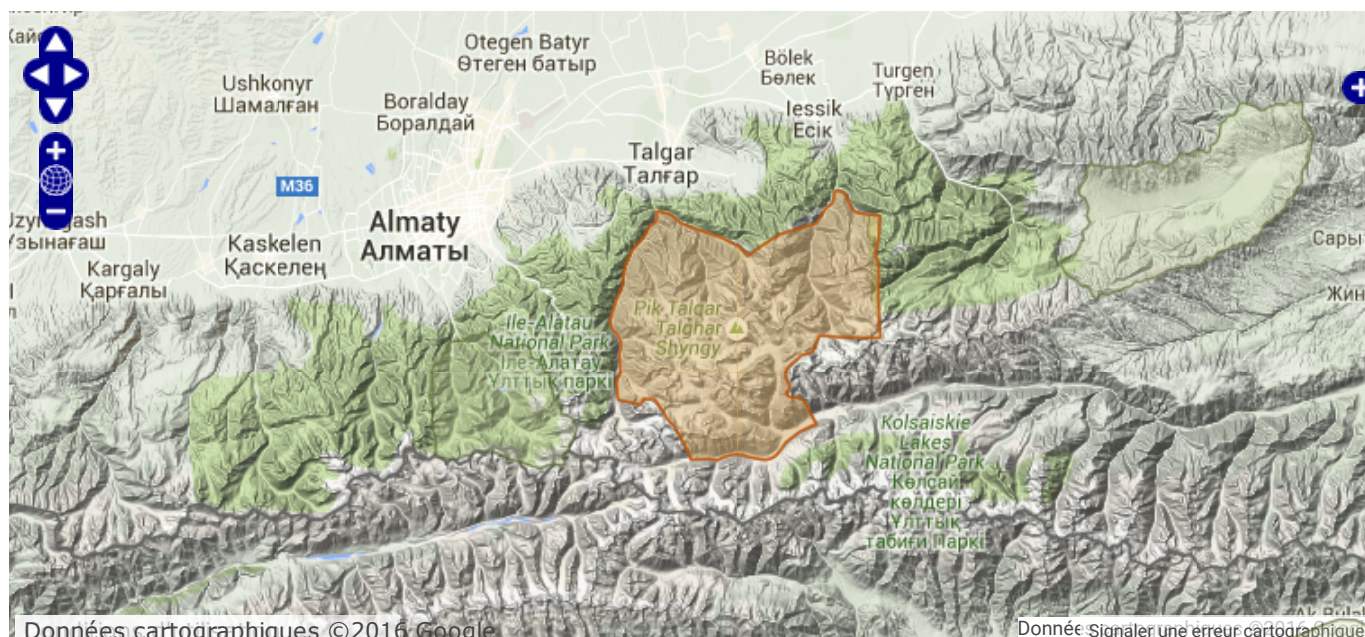
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KZ099	Almaty State Nature Reserve
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	77° 19.00' East 43° 6.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	71,700 ha
Altitude	1,200 - 4,973m
Year of IBA assessment	2006

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The IBA occupies an impressive portion of the Zailiysky Alatau mountain range that is a frontier unit of one of the heaviest glaciated branches of the great Tianshan mountain range (Northern Tianshan mountain province). The site lies in the highest part of the country, occupying all of the south-eastern flank of the Republic's territory. The southern border of the area lies at the converging massifs of the Zailiysky and Kungey Alatau, with the state border running along the ridge of the latter - the main part of the mountain belongs to Kyrgyzstan. Basically, the site runs north from this juncture, with the highest point being Talgar peak (4,979 m), towards that part of the Zailiysky Alatau range where the upper reaches of several major gorges are located (these gorges descend towards the semi-desert plains of the left bank of the Ily river). At lower levels, the Reserve covers the most substantial streams extending to within a few kilometres of the settlements of Talgar and Issyk. The IBA occupies a wide range of contrasting hydro-thermal regimes and exhibits the characteristic vertical climate zonality of high mountain regions. The distribution of natural complexes follows the altitudinal gradient and contains several main habitat types with an array of ecotones and a mosaic of patches of montane formations of vegetation resulting from the intricacies of the relief. Elevated foothills lie at 1,200-1,800 m and have a generally smooth relief with occasional rock outcrops at the upper margins. In general, this montane belt fits the biogeographical zone of relatively moist cool upland slopes below the timberline dominated by large coniferous trees. This physical stratum exhibits the widest range of habitats varying from dry steppes through narrow riverine mixed forests and fruit tree thickets to deciduous forests giving way ultimately to conifer forest (*Picea shrenkiana* stands on the northern slopes, *Juniperus sabina* on the southern). At heights of 2,700 m the fir tree belt is replaced by the sub-alpine zone that stretches up to 3,100 m. The soils of the exposed slopes support highly complex plant communities. The perennial herbage is intermixed with turf-forming grasses and allow, especially in the sub-alpine zone, the creation of an impressively tight sod structure in the upper layer of the soil. A plethora of tumultuous streams flow by the following river-beds: South-Eastern, Left, Middle and Right Talgars, and the Issyk and Southern Issyk. The northern part of the main mountain ridge contains 113 glaciers of various capacity rating, the southern one – 86. The grim aspect of gorges and canyons is enlivened by the presence of several small lakes created where there is obstructed drainage, more often than not by the side of a moraine. The biggest of these waterbodies, Muzkol, covers 4.65 ha.

Key Biodiversity The habitat complexes encompass a wide variety of biological stages and support about 172 species of birds, ten of which are included in the National Red Book. There are two major peculiarities about the local avifauna: the first remarkable part concerns the juxtaposition, though on a rather small scale, of bird populations from several bio-geographical zones, with the majority belonging to the Eurasian high-montane community; the second is the existence of vertical migrations of resident species, representing a behavioral adaptation in response to acute seasonal changes in climate. The heterogeneous nature of the bird assemblage is enhanced by the presence of two species of boreal origin (*Surnia ulula* and *Aegolius funereus*), though their biome-restricted status is regarded to be invalid in the given area on account of their obvious intra-zonal occurrence.

Non-bird biodiversity: Higher plants species number 1,100, of which 50 species are rare, including 26 listed in the Red Book of Kazakhstan. The invertebrate fauna is represented by 2,000 species of which insects number 600 species. Vertebrates number about 225 species of which 3 are fish, 2 amphibians, 6 reptiles and 42 mammals. Besides the common *Capra sibirica* sakeen, the area is renowned for such rare mammal species as *Ursus arctus isabellinus*, *Martes foina eixleben*, *Uncia uncia shreber* and *Lynx lynx isabellinus*, with the last two species being listed in both the National Red Book and by IUCN.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
Himalayan Snowcock <i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>	resident	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	breeding	2005	< 50 individuals	poor	A1	Near Threatened
Himalayan Griffon <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	resident	2005	8 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Near Threatened
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	breeding	2005	< 50 individuals	poor	A1	Least Concern
Ibisbill <i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	resident	2005	3 individuals	medium	A3	Least Concern
Yellow-billed Chough <i>Pyrhocorax graculus</i>	resident	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
White-browed Tit-warbler <i>Leptopoeile sophiae</i>	resident	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Sulphur-bellied Warbler <i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>	breeding	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Hume's Leaf-warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	breeding	2006	1,000-2,499 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	resident	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
White-tailed Rubythroat <i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	breeding	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Rufous-backed Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	resident	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Blue-capped Redstart <i>Phoenicurus caeruleocephala</i>	breeding	2007	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>	resident	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	resident	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Black-throated Accentor <i>Prunella atrogularis</i>	breeding	2006	1,000-2,499 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Alpine Accentor <i>Prunella collaris</i>	resident	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Rufous-streaked Accentor <i>Prunella himalayana</i>	resident	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Brown Accentor <i>Prunella fulvescens</i>	resident	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	breeding	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Fire-fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	resident	2006	1,000-2,499 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern

Plain Mountain-finch <i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	resident	2006	1,000-2,499 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Black-headed Mountain-finch <i>Leucosticte brandti</i>	resident	2006	50-249 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Red-mantled Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus rhodochlamys</i>	resident	2006	1,000-2,499 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Great Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>	resident	2006	< 50 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas caripes</i>	resident	2006	250-999 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2006	low	favourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?		State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Medium - based upon reliable but incomplete / partially representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Human intrusions and disturbance	recreational activities	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low

Condition of habitat (state)						
Habitat	Habitat Detail	Reference Area (ha)	Actual Area (ha)	% of habitat remaining	% of carrying capacity (overall)	Result
Forest		0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable
Grassland		0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable
Rocky areas		0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable
Shrubland		0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable
Wetlands (inland)		0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable

Protected areas

Protected area	Designation	Area (ha)	Relationship with IBA	Overlap with IBA (ha)	
Alma-Atinskiy	State Nature Reserve	73,342	is identical to site	71,700	i
Alma-Atinskiy	Zakaznik	724,000	protected area is adjacent to site	0	i
Ele Alatau	National Nature Park	164,450	protected area is adjacent to site	0	i
Kolsay Lakes	National Nature Park	161,045	protected area is adjacent to site	0	

Habitats

IUCN habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Forest		25%
Shrubland		10%
Grassland		45%
Wetlands (inland)		3%
Rocky areas		17%

Land use

Land-use	Extent (% of site)

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

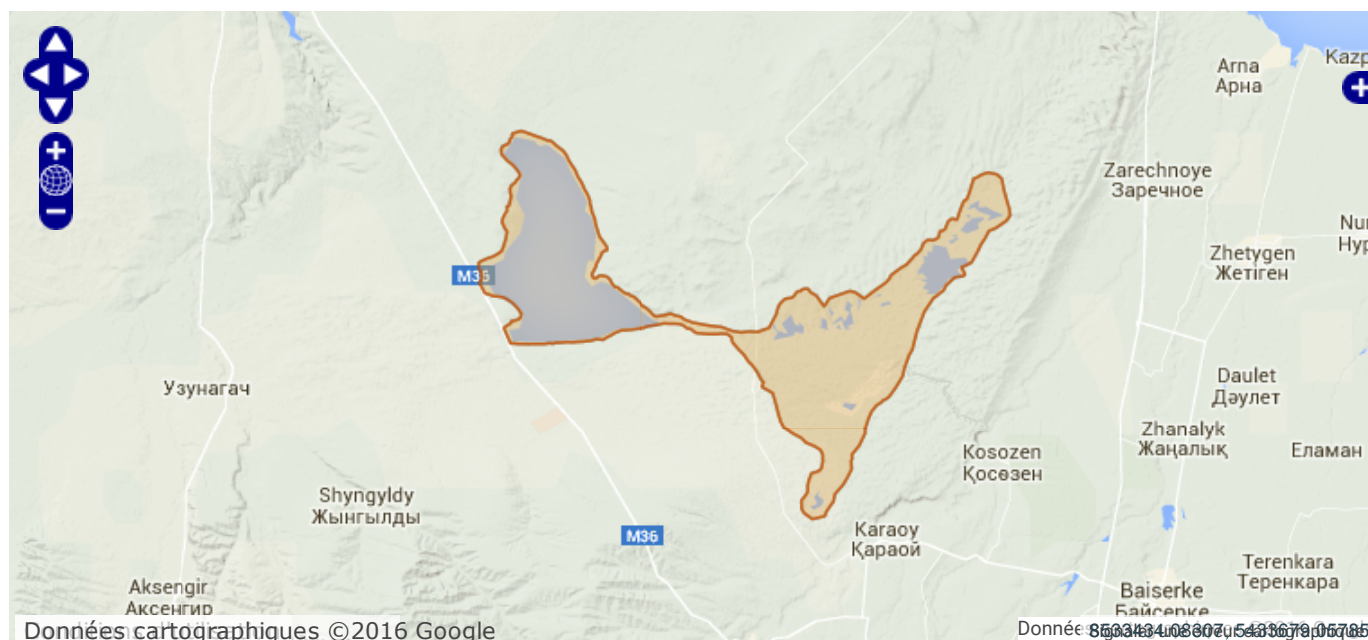
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KZ097	Sorbulak Lake System
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	76° 36.00' East 43° 40.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A4i, A4iii
Area	18,540 ha
Altitude	550 - 750m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The IBA is a system of sewage reservoirs situated in natural depressions of the Karaoi plateau, in the semi-desert zone, 80 km north of Almaty. It includes Sorbulak lake itself (formed in 1975-1985) and the line of small lakes with semi-running water with dykes and channels in the Zhamankum hollow. The maximum length of Sorbulak lake is 35 km, width up to 15 km, depth 22 m. The total length of the small lakes in the Zhamankum hollow is about 25 km, maximum width up to 3 km, average depth about 2 m. The lakes have indented coastlines, with many capes, spits, coves and a number of islands of different size. The water is fresh, but with a very high concentration of nitrates. In the second half of the summer it becomes brackish due to evaporation and drying out. It is an IBA for breeding, migrating and wintering waterbirds.

Key Biodiversity About 300 species of 18 orders have been recorded. Most typical are Anseriformes (28 species) and Charadriiformes (more than 50 species). In some years, the site held the largest SE Kazakhstan breeding colonies of the following species: *Larus ridibundus* - 8,000 pairs, *Sterna nilotica* - 2,500 pairs, *Phalacrocorax carbo* - 5,000 pairs, *Glaucolani pratincola* - 140 pairs and *Himantopus himantopus* - 70 pairs. On the coast, *Tadorna tadorna* and *T. ferruginea* breed - up to 100 pairs or more. At the end of the summer moulting flocks of *T. ferruginea* number up to 20,000. On passage, large numbers of wildfowl have been recorded including *Anas platyrhynchos* (up to 50,000), *Anas acuta* (35,000), *Netta rufina* (15,000) and *Fulica atra* (40,000). In some winters, *Mergellus albellus* numbers reach up to 12,000 and *Anas platyrhynchos* 20,000. During passage, large numbers of passerines - up to 50,000 or more - concentrate in the water fringe vegetation. These include *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Sturnus roseus*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Hirundo rupestris*, *Motacilla* sp etc.

Non-bird biodiversity: Around the lakes, there is typical semi-desert vegetation with low bushes (*Salsola*, *Calligonum*, *Rosa*, *Spirea* etc.) and grass. In the lakes, there are up to 10 species of fish, the most common are *Carassius auratus* and *Cyprinus carpio*. There are two species of amphibians *Rana ridibunda* and *Bufo viridis*, 8 species of snake, and one tortoise *Agryonemys horsfieldi*. Of mammals, there are fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), desert fox (*Vulpes corsac*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), and a number of rodents, the most common being *Spermophilus fulvus*.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	passage	1980-2003	500-35,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	winter	1980-2003	1,000-20,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	passage	1980-2003	1,500-50,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	passage	1980-2003	500-15,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	breeding	1980-2003	10-50 individuals	good	A1	Near Threatened
Smew <i>Mergellus albellus</i>	winter	1980-2003	600-12,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	passage	1980-2003	20-200 individuals	good	A1, A4i	Endangered
Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	non-breeding	1980-2003	10-300 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	breeding	1980-2003	80-300 individuals	good	A1, A4i	Vulnerable
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	breeding	1980-2003	300-5,000 breeding pairs	good	A4i	Least Concern
Common Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	passage	1980-2003	3,000-40,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	breeding	1980-2003	100-2,500 breeding pairs	medium	A4i	Not Recognised
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	breeding	1980-2003	200-8,000 breeding pairs	medium	A4i	Least Concern
A4iii Species group - waterbirds	passage	1980	20,000 individuals	-	A4iii	

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2013	high	favourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?	✓	State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Medium - based upon reliable but incomplete / partially representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Climate change and severe weather	drought	happening now	majority/most of area/population (50-90%)	slow but significant deterioration	high
Human intrusions and disturbance	work and other activities	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Pollution	domestic & urban waste water - type unknown/unrecorded	happening now	whole area/population (>90%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Transportation and service corridors	roads and railroads	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

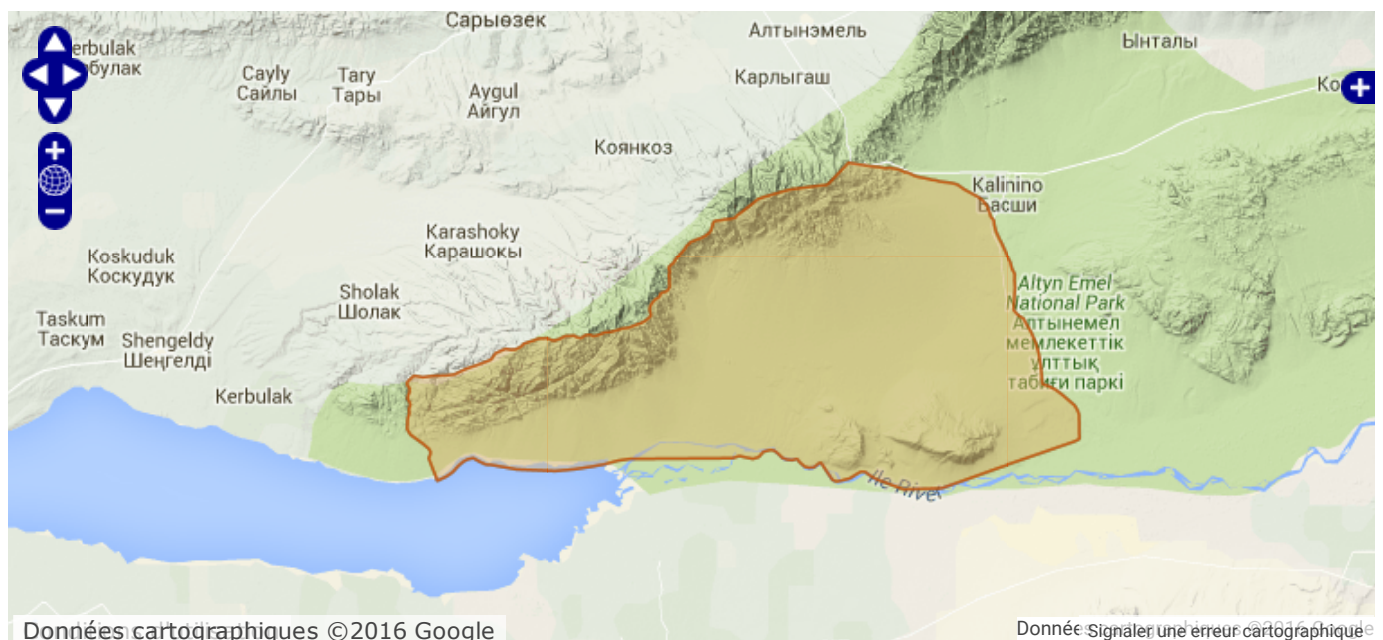
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KZ101	Altyn-Emel National Park
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	78° 25.00' East 44° 0.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	197,600 ha
Altitude	480 - 2,882m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



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Site description The IBA includes a large part of the Altyn-Emel National National Park, situated in the desert zone of South-East Kazakhstan. It includes desert and semi-desert stony- and clay plains, xerophytic rocky spurs of the Dzhungarskiy Alatau range - Sholak, Digeres, Matay and Kalkany mountains - the famous "Singing Dunes" with surrounding sands, as well as part of the waterbody and shores of the Kapchagay reservoir and Ily river. The western border of the IBA is the border of the Park, the northern the watershed of the mountains, the eastern the Bastchi-Araltobe road, and the southern the middle of the Ily river and water reservoir. There are plots of saxaul scrub on the plains, groups of trees near game-keepers houses and in mountain gorges, and Asiatic poplar groves along the Ily river. Most of the area is open, with scarce grassy vegetation. Besides the Ily river, there only a few water sources - springs and small rivers in gorges disappearing where they meet the plains. The climate is typical continental, with cold winters, but the southern mountain slopes are usually warmer and free from snow creating suitable conditions for a number of wintering bird species.

Key Biodiversity The site holds a combination of desert, dry rocky mountains and wetland avifaunas. Up to 280 species can be observed here, including up to 160 breeding species. In 2003-2004, 76 species were recorded during a short survey in July. Birds of prey are represented very well: *Falco cherrug*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Falco naumanni*, *F.tinnunculus*, *F.subbuteo* etc. Due to the large number of ungulates, scavengers are common - *Gyps himalayensis*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Neophron percnopterus*. Typical species for desert areas are: *Coracias garrulus*, *Hippolais rama*, larks, *Oenanthe isabellina*, *Oenanthe deserti*, *Sylvia nana*, *Emberiza bruniceps*, *Rhodospiza obsoleta*; for mountains: *Alectoris chukar*, *Oenanthe pleschanka*, *Sitta tephronota*, *Emberiza buchanani*, *Emberiza stewarti*, *Monticola saxatilis*, *M. solitarius*, *Sylvia curruca* etc. The complex of waterbirds is typical for Middle Asia wetlands.

Non-bird biodiversity: The territory plays a great role in the conservation of ungulates - *Gazella subgutturosa* (up to 5,000), *Ovis ammon* (about 220), *Capra sibirica* (3,100), introduced *Equus hemionus* (more than 1,100). *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Erinaceus auritus*, *Lepus tolai*, rodents - *Rhombomys opimus*, *jerboas* etc. are common. Common

reptiles are: *Trapelus sanquinolentus*, *Phrynocephalus helioscopus*, several *Eremias* sp., snakes - *Psammophis lineolatum*, *Agkistrodon halis*, *Erix miliaris*, *Elaphe dione*. The vegetation of the plains consists of short Graminea, *Artemisia* sp., *Astragalus* sp., *Nanophyton* sp., *Salsola* sp.; of bushes - *Haloxylon persicum*, *Salsola arbuscula*, *Calligonum aphyllum*, *Halimodendron halodendron*. In the mountains: *Festuca sulcata*, *Poa* sp., other herbs; of bushes - *Spirea* sp., *Ephedra strobilacea*, *Caragana frutex*, *Rosa* sp.. Near water: *Salix* sp., *Elaeagnus* sp.; along the Ily river – Asiatic poplar (*Populus diversifolia*) groves.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	non-breeding	2003	30 individuals	medium	A1	Vulnerable
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	breeding	2004	5-50 individuals	poor	A1	Least Concern
Saker Falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i>	breeding	2004	3-10 breeding pairs	medium	A1	Endangered
Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	breeding	2004	3-10 breeding pairs	medium	A1	Near Threatened
<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	breeding	2004	1 adults only	medium	A3	Not Recognised
Greater Sandplover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	breeding	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Pallas's Sandgrouse <i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	breeding	2004	50 individuals	poor	A3	Least Concern
Yellow-eyed Pigeon <i>Columba eversmanni</i>	breeding	2004	10-20 individuals	poor	A3	Vulnerable
European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	breeding	2004	100 individuals	medium	A1	Least Concern
White-winged Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>	resident	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
<i>Parus bokharensis</i>	resident	2004	unknown	-	A3	Not Recognised
Sykes's Warbler <i>Hippolais rama</i>	breeding	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Desert Warbler <i>Sylvia nana</i>	breeding	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Saxaul Sparrow <i>Passer ammodendri</i>	resident	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Desert Finch <i>Rhodopechys obsoletus</i>	breeding	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Red-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	breeding	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2013	high	unfavourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?	✓	State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Medium - based upon reliable but incomplete / partially representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological	fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -	happening	some of	slow but	medium

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

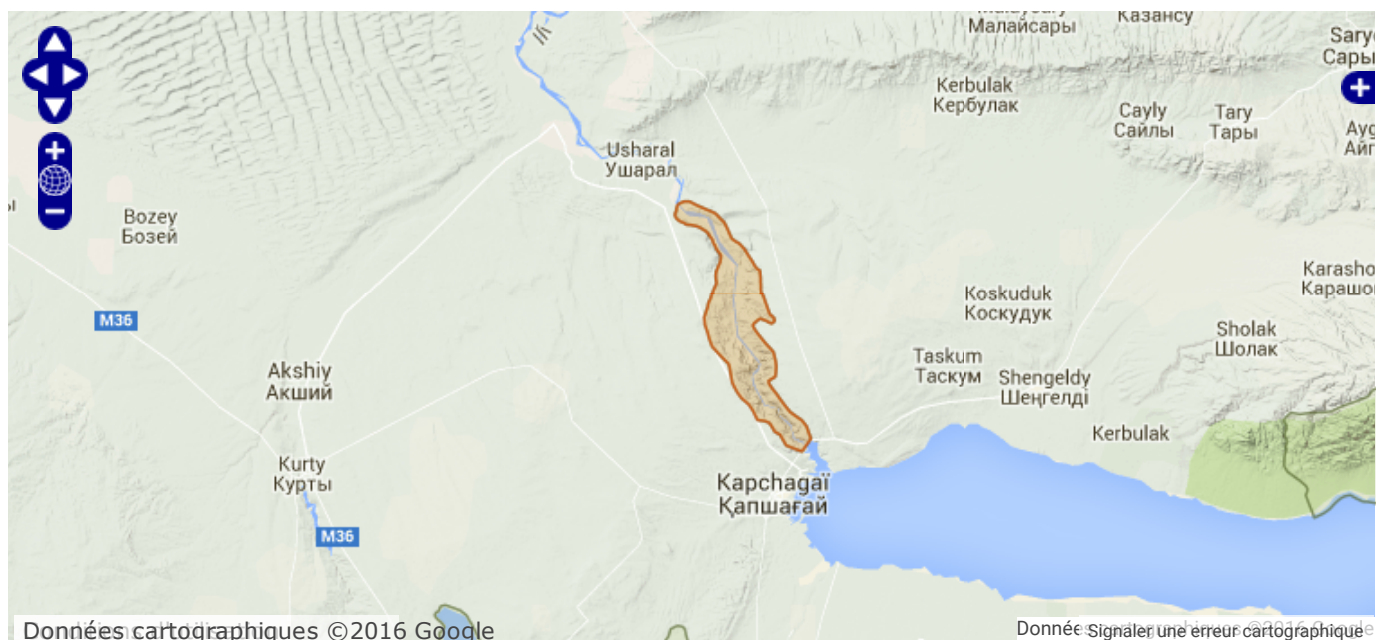
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KZ096	Карчагай Canyon
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	77° 0.00' East 44° 3.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3, A4i
Area	14,950 ha
Altitude	450 - 640m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The site is situated 50 km to the north of Almaty and comprises the middle section of the Ili river corresponding to the first 30 kms starting at the point where it discharges from the Karchagay Hydroelectric Power Station. The river is bordered on both sides by ranges of dry, low, rocky mountains. The concave northern slopes are often covered with patches of xerophyte bushes including *Spiraea* sp., *Cotoneaster* sp. and *Cerasus* sp. The river valley proper is a flat and narrow terrace (up to 500 m in width) with loams and sands underlying a typical South-Kazakhstan plains semi-desert landscape. There are frequent and lengthy belts of sparse riverine forest (tugai) consisting, predominantly, of *Elaeagnus* sp., *Populus diversifolia*, *Salix* sp., *Halimodendron argenteum* and *Tamarix* sp. Five elongated islands covered with thick tugai thickets and fringed with reeds gives the corresponding segments of the river a more conspicuous wild feel. In winter, owing to the turbulence created by the escaping waters from the power plant, the river does not freeze along the full length of the canyon.

Key Biodiversity The avifauna, including passage species, totals 200 species. Most of the nesting species are typical of the fauna of stark arid rocky hills; with such species as *Alectoris chukar*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *F. naumanni*, *Riparia rupestris*, *Oenanthe pleschanka*, *Emberiza buchanani* and *Sitta tephronota*. Water and/or tugai-dwelling species include *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Phasianus colchicus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Charadrius dubius* and *Motacilla feldegg*. The site also has several desert and semi-desert species such as *Athene noctua*, *Melanocorypha bimaculata*, *M. calandra*, *Eremophila alpestris*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Emberiza bruniceps*, and *Oenanthe isabellina*. The most numerous species in the breeding season is *Sturnus roseus*, the largest colonies of which often containing tens of thousand of individuals.

Non-bird biodiversity: The dense tugai is frequently augmented by a prolific growth of *Clematis orientalis*, a species common to the region.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population	Quality of	IBA	IUCN
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			estimate	estimate	Criteria	Category
<i>Common Goldeneye Bucephala clangula</i>	winter	2008	2-3,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
<i>Goosander Mergus merganser</i>	winter	2008	10-500 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
<i>Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni</i>	breeding	2007	20-40 breeding pairs	medium	A1	Least Concern
<i>Saker Falcon Falco cherrug</i>	breeding	2007	1-2 breeding pairs	medium	A1	Endangered
<i>European Roller Coracias garrulus</i>	breeding	2007	10-30 breeding pairs	medium	A1	Least Concern
<i>Parus bokharensis</i>	breeding	2007	5-10 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Not Recognised
<i>Sykes's Warbler Hippolais rama</i>	breeding	2007	20-50 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern
<i>Eastern Rock-nuthatch Sitta tephronota</i>	breeding	2007	10-30 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern
<i>Desert Finch Rhodopechys obsoletus</i>	breeding	2007	10-40 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern
<i>Grey-necked Bunting Emberiza buchanani</i>	breeding	2007	100-200 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern
<i>Red-headed Bunting Emberiza bruniceps</i>	breeding	2007	100-150 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2011	high	very unfavourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?	✓	State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Medium - based upon reliable but incomplete / partially representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	fishing & harvesting aquatic resources - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (species being assessed is the target)	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	moderate to rapid deterioration	high
Biological resource use	hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - unintentional effects (species is not the target)	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	logging & wood harvesting - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Climate change and severe weather	drought	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Human intrusions and disturbance	recreational activities	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	moderate to rapid deterioration	high
Human intrusions and	work and other activities	happening now	some of area/population	moderate to rapid	high

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

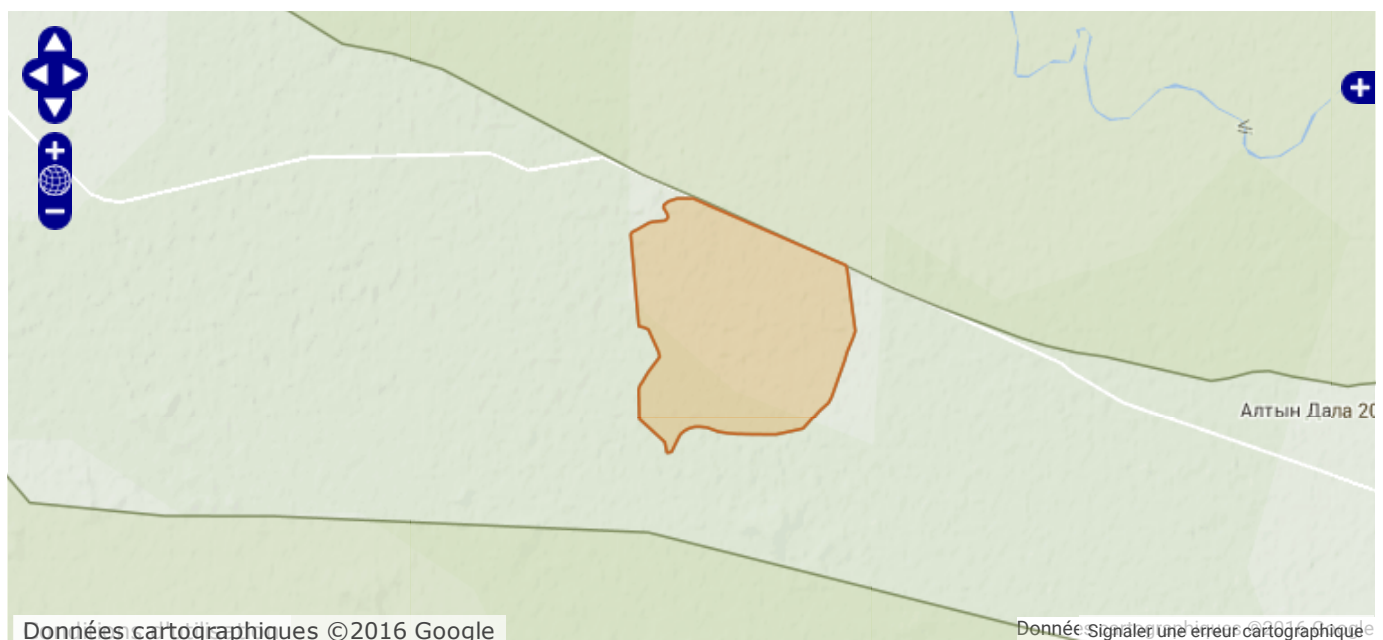
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KZ094	Zheltoranga
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	75° 18.00' East 45° 2.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	938 ha
Altitude	360 - 382m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



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Donnée signaler une erreur cartographique

Site description An area of Asiatic Poplar ("Turanga") in the desert zone, near the Topar stream of the Ily river, several hundred meters from Zheltoranga village. Open forest with different age trees, including many old ones with holes, and a complex of hole-breeding birds. About half of the territory is open, with low grass and patches of scrub. There are some sand dunes.

Key Biodiversity There is a complex of hole-breeding and tree & bush species of the desert zone here. Of the breeding species, the most typical are: *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Accipiter badius*, *Milvus migrans*, *Phasianus colchicus*, *Columba eversmanni*, *Otus brucei*, *Dendrocopus leucopterus*, *Upupa epops*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Sylvia curruca*, *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, *Luscinia megarhynchos*, *Parus bokharensis*, *Parus cyanus*, *Lanius phoenicuroides*, *Corvus monedula*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Acridotheres tristis*, *Passer ammodendri*, and periodically, *Buteo rufinus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Aquila heliaca* are observed.


Non-bird biodiversity: Main wood species is turanga - Asiatic Poplar (*Populus diversifolia*). The common bushes are *Halimodendron argenteum* (about 50%), *Tamarix* spp. (30%), *Saxaul* - *Arthrophytum acutifolium* (20%). Of grasses the most common is *Teresken* (*Eurotia ceratoides*), mainly on the sand hills; cereals are almost absent. The most common and numerous mammal is *Citellus fulvus*. Of reptiles the commonest are *Elaphe dione* and several species of *Eremias* spp.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
Yellow-eyed Pigeon <i>Columba eversmanni</i>	breeding	2004	20-50 breeding pairs	good	A1, A3	Vulnerable
Pallid Scops-owl <i>Otus brucei</i>	breeding	2004	5 breeding	medium	A3	Least

			pairs			Concern
White-winged Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>	breeding	2004	20-30 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern
<i>Parus bokharensis</i>	breeding	2004	20 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Not Recognised
Sykes's Warbler <i>Hippolais rama</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Saxaul Sparrow <i>Passer ammodendri</i>	breeding	2004	20 breeding pairs	medium	A3	Least Concern

Protected areas

Protected area	Designation	Area (ha)	Relationship with IBA	Overlap with IBA (ha)	
Pribalkhashskiy	Zakaznik	503,000	protected area contains site	938	

Habitats

IUCN habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Forest	Broadleaved deciduous woodland; Treeline ecotone; Wooded desert and semidesert	50%
Shrubland	Scrub	10%
Desert	Semidesert	40%

Land use

Land-use	Extent (% of site)
agriculture	100%
Notes: grazing area for sheep, goats, cows, horses from the nearest village	
urban/industrial/transport	minor
Notes: several field roads and two electric power lines cross the IBA	
other	50%
Notes: fire-wood collection by locals from the nearest village	

Protection status The forest is protected (not very strongly) by the local branch of the regional forest and hunting department. Incorporated into the area of Pribalkhashskiy Zakaznik.

Contribute Please click [here](#) to help BirdLife conserve the world's birds - your data for this IBA and others are vital for helping protect the environment.

Recommended citation BirdLife International (2016) Important Bird and Biodiversity Area factsheet: Zheltoranga. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 07/05/2016

To provide new information to update this factsheet or to correct any errors, please email [BirdLife](#)

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

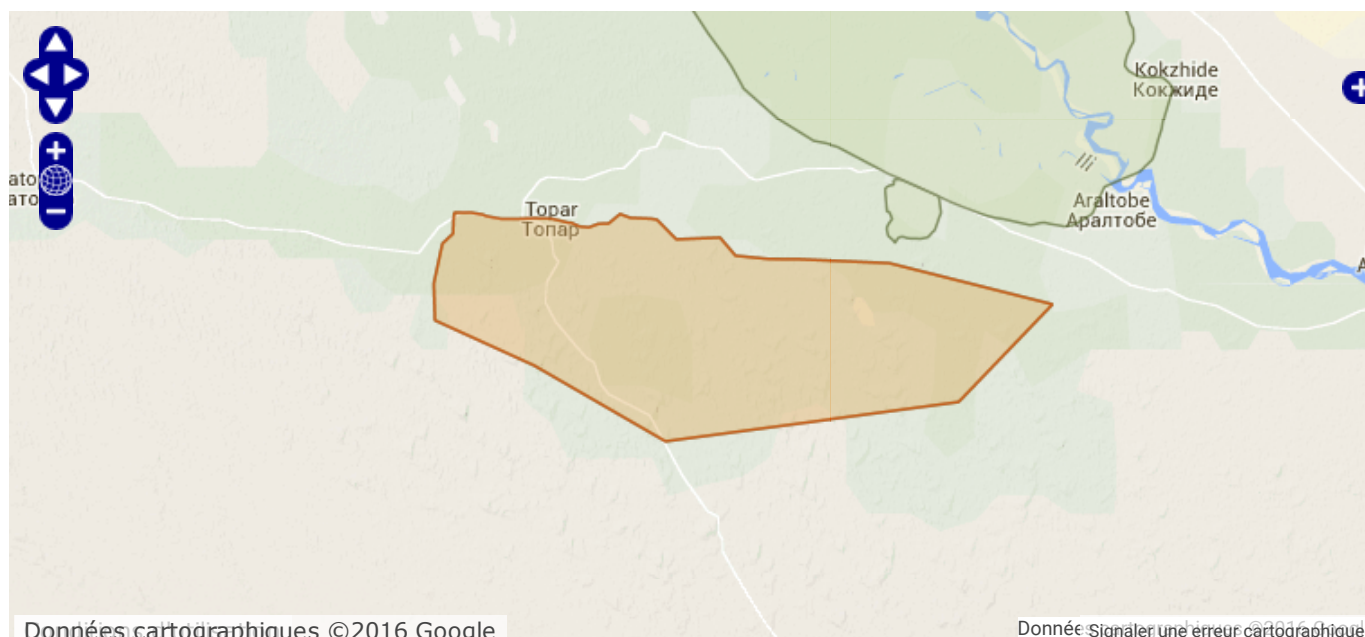
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KZ093	Topar Lake System
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	75° 9.00' East 44° 58.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	32,530 ha
Altitude	369 - 394m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the
Conservation of
Biodiversity of
Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The site is in Ilyisky district. Part of the northern area is in the Tay-Kum sandy desert and lies a short distance to the south of Topar village and approximately 20 km to the south-west of Zheltoranga. The IBA consists of a collection of salty or brackish lakes occupying innumerable depressions amid the low ridges of fixed sand dunes, representing the spreading network of waterbodies at the periphery of the branch of the Topar river that forms the south-western extremity of the Ili river delta. Most of the lakes are either small or medium sized, generally shallow, and have moderate aquatic and shoreline vegetation growth. The littoral vegetation consists mainly of scattered stands of reed mixed with patches of *Scirpus lacustris* and *Carex* sp. aggregations. The exposed slopes of the hillocks and dune ridges are covered by sparse ephemeral flora and several species of typical dwarf brush. Every significant hollow on the leeward side of these hillocks and dunes sustains enough moisture to allow the growth of more robust desert plants: *Lasiagrostis splendens*, *Halimodendron argenteum*, *Haloxylon* sp. and *Tamarix* sp. In a few, widely scattered patches of lowland there are small stunted stands of *Populus diversifolia*.

Key Biodiversity The avifauna is typical of the desert waterbodies of Southern Kazakhstan. The site is important, though, as it supports a sizable and stable breeding population of *Aythya nyroca*. Several other ducks, Coot and rails also breed. Numerous spits and islets provide potential nesting sites for colonial species: *Himantopus himantopus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Chlidonias niger* and others. The non-waterbird fauna includes some biome-restricted Passerines: *Parus bukharensis*, *Hippolais rama*, *Sylvia nana* and *Emberiza bruniceps*. 71 species were recorded between 15 and 17 June 2007.

Non-bird biodiversity: Reptiles include several species of snakes and lizards. Jerbils are prolific.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	breeding	2007	40-200	medium	A1	Near

			breeding pairs			Threatened
Yellow-eyed Pigeon <i>Columba eversmanni</i>	-	2007	< 50 individuals	poor	A3	Vulnerable
European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	breeding	2007	12-100 breeding pairs	medium	A1	Least Concern
White-winged Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>	breeding	2007	1 individuals	good	A3	Least Concern
Brown-necked Raven <i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	unknown	2007	rare	-	A3	Least Concern
<i>Parus bokharensis</i>	breeding	2007	6-10 individuals	good	A3	Not Recognised
Sykes's Warbler <i>Hippolais rama</i>	breeding	2007	150-200 individuals	good	A3	Least Concern
Desert Warbler <i>Sylvia nana</i>	breeding	2007	1 individuals	good	A3	Least Concern
Saxaul Sparrow <i>Passer ammodendri</i>	breeding	2007	50-249 individuals	medium	A3	Least Concern
Desert Finch <i>Rhodopechys obsoletus</i>	breeding	2007	250-999 individuals	medium	A3	Least Concern
Red-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	breeding	2007	20-30 individuals	good	A3	Least Concern

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2007	medium	unfavourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?		State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Poor - based on little, or potentially unreliable/unrepresentative, data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - nomadic grazing	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Biological resource use	fishing & harvesting aquatic resources - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Biological resource use	hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (species being assessed is the target)	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	logging & wood harvesting - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	slow but significant deterioration	low
Climate change and severe weather	drought	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Human intrusions and disturbance	recreational activities	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	slow but significant deterioration	low
Pollution	garbage & solid waste	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	slow but significant deterioration	low

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

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KZ092	Ili River Delta
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	74° 50.00' East 45° 25.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3, A4i, A4iii
Area	574,300 ha
Altitude	350 - 380m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the
Conservation of
Biodiversity of
Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The Ily River enters Lake Balkash creating a delta approximately 817,000 hectares in extent (Zhatkanbayev 1991, 1994a). This area consists of an extensive network of river channels, bordered by dense riparian scrub, lakes of standing and running water, reedbeds and desert areas. The wetland area of ca 168,000 hectares is the largest in Kazakhstan (Zhatkanbayev 1991, 1994a).

Key Biodiversity This almost completely natural area holds colonies of breeding Dalmatian and White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) Common, Little, Black and White-winged Black Terns (*Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Chlidonias niger* and *C. leucopterus*), Bitterns (*Botaurus stellaris*), White-headed Ducks and White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). The area supports a complex of waterbird species typical of the wetlands of Central Asia. 82 species of non-passerines and 58 species of passerines were recorded by the "Wings over Kazakhstan 1998" expedition during the breeding season of 1998 (Simon Busuttill et al.).

Non-bird biodiversity: Typical vegetation: extensive beds of Phragmites, riparian woodlands of *Populus diversifolia*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *E. orientalis*, *Salix wilhelmsiana*, *S. songarica* etc., *Tamarix hispida*, *T. ramosissima*, *Halimodendron halodendron*, with lianas - *Clematis orientalis*, *Cinanchum sibiricum*, *Calystegia sepium*. Typical mammals: *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Sus scrofa*, *Capreolus sibirica*, *Ondatra zibetica*, *Citellus fulvus* etc.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
<i>Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca</i>	breeding	1998	319 individuals	good	A1	Near Threatened
<i>White-headed Duck Oxyura leucocephala</i>	breeding	1998	1 individuals	medium	A1	Endangered

Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	breeding	1998	1,362 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	breeding	1998	559 individuals	good	A1, A4i	Vulnerable
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	breeding	1998	1,619 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
Pallas's Sandgrouse <i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Yellow-eyed Pigeon <i>Columba eversmanni</i>	breeding	1998	18 individuals	medium	A1, A3	Vulnerable
Pallid Scops-owl <i>Otus brucei</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A1	Least Concern
White-winged Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>	resident	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
<i>Parus bokharensis</i>	resident	2005	unknown	-	A3	Not Recognised
Sykes's Warbler <i>Hippolais rama</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Desert Warbler <i>Sylvia nana</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Saxaul Sparrow <i>Passer ammodendri</i>	resident	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Desert Finch <i>Rhodopechys obsoletus</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
Red-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	breeding	2005	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern
A4iii Species group - waterbirds	-	1998	20,000 individuals	-	A4iii	

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2006	high	very unfavourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?		State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Medium - based upon reliable but incomplete / partially representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	fishing & harvesting aquatic resources - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low
Biological resource use	hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (species being assessed is the target)	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	logging & wood harvesting - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	moderate to rapid deterioration	high
Human intrusions and disturbance	recreational activities	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Natural system	dams & water management/use - dams	happening	majority/most of	slow but	high

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

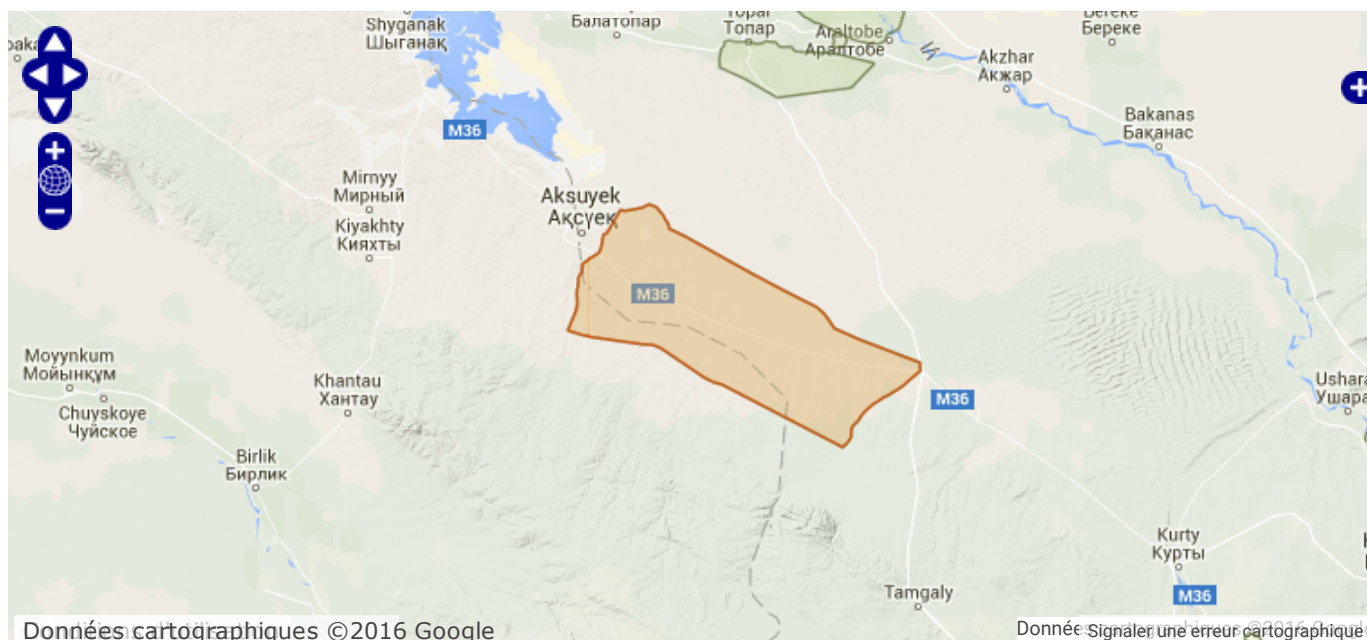
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KZ095	Zhusandala
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Location	Kazakhstan, Almaty region
Central coordinates	74° 57.00' East 44° 27.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	217,135 ha
Altitude	360 - 570m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The Zhusandala plain and edge of sand dunes is located between the Almaty-Karaganda road and the main part of the Taukum desert. At the territory, a stable, high density of breeding Houbara Bustards is observed as the site provides the optimum conditions for this species. The area is also used regularly as a stop-over site by Houbara migrating from other regions, this confirms the A1 criteria. The territory is a typical area of northern desert with the set of biome restricted species, so corresponds to A3 criteria too.

Key Biodiversity Ornithofauna includes about 200 species (Berezovikov et al., 1999), including 83 breeding species, and more than 100 migrants. Breeding species represent the typical complex of the northern Eurasian desert with such species as *Chlamydotis undulata*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Falco naumanni*, *Burchinus oedicnemus*, *Charadrius leschenaultia*, *Charadrius asiaticus*, *Syrhaptus paradoxus*, *Pterocles orientalis*, *Calandrella rufescens*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Hippolais rama*, *Sylvia nana*, *Oenanthe deserti*, *Cercotrichas galactotes*, *Lanius pallidirostris* (excubitor), *Corvus ruficollis*, *Rhodospiza obsolata* and *Emberiza bruniceps*.

Non-bird biodiversity: The fauna of the area includes 2 species of amphibian, up to 15 species of reptile and 40 species of mammal. Mammals represent the typical desert complex: wolf, fox, desert fox, *Rhombomys opimus* and *Rh. meridionalis*, jerboas, a number of species of Muridae, long-eared hedgehog, desert hare etc.; of ungulates, goitred gazelle is common but not numerous. Typical reptiles are steppe agama, steppe tortoise, several species of *Phrynocephalus* and *Eremias*, sand-boa, arrow-snake, *Agkistrodon halis* and *Elaphe dione*. Flora is represented by typical *salsola*-*arthemisia*, nanophyton-*arthemisia*, ephemera-gramineous associations, with patches of saxaul and tamarix, and with saxaul, *Calligonum*, *Salsola richteri* on sand dunes. In total, the flora consist of about 200 species of flowering plants, 5% of them are endemic to Kazakhstan (Osmanova et al., 1988).

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category

Eastern Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i>	breeding	2001-2006	10 individuals	medium	A1, A3	Vulnerable
<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	breeding	2005-2006	350-450 individuals	good	A1, A3	Not Recognised
Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	passage	2001-2006	250-999 individuals	medium	A1	Vulnerable
Demoiselle Crane <i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	breeding	2001-2006	10-20 individuals	good	A3	Least Concern
Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	breeding	2003	1 breeding pairs	good	A1, A3	Critically Endangered
Greater Sandplover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	breeding	2001-2006	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Caspian Plover <i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	breeding	2001-2006	20-50 individuals	medium	A3	Least Concern
Pallas's Sandgrouse <i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	resident	2001-2006	< 50 individuals	-	A3	Least Concern
European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	breeding	2001-2006	unknown	-	A1	Least Concern
Brown-necked Raven <i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	breeding	2001-2006	< 50	good	A3	Least Concern
Sykes's Warbler <i>Hippolais rama</i>	breeding	2001-2006	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Desert Warbler <i>Sylvia nana</i>	breeding	2001-2006	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Desert Finch <i>Rhodopechys obsoletus</i>	breeding	2001-2006	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Red-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	breeding	2001-2006	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2006	low	near favourable	low
Was the whole site covered?	✓	State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Good - based on reliable and complete / representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)						
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result	
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	slow but significant deterioration	low	
Biological resource use	hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (species being assessed is the target)	happening now	majority/most of area/population (50-90%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low	
Biological resource use	logging & wood harvesting - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	slow but significant deterioration	low	
Human intrusions and disturbance	recreational activities	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low	

Condition of habitat (state)						
Habitat	Habitat Detail	Reference Area (ha)	Actual Area (ha)	% of habitat remaining	% of carrying capacity (overall)	Result
Desert		0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

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KZ079	Ters-Ashchibulak Reservoir
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Location	Kazakhstan, Zhambyl region
Central coordinates	70° 54.00' East 42° 41.00' North
IBA criteria	A4i, A4iii
Area	3,310 ha
Altitude	930 - 955m
Year of IBA assessment	2005

Association for the
Conservation of
Biodiversity of
Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description The waterbody is situated close to the northern foothills of the Western Tian-Shen within the Dzhuvaly valley and abutting, from the north-east, the Chokpak Pass. This, in turn, straddles the Dzhabaglytau mountains which form the northern massif of the Talassky Alatau Range and Borolday mountains, themselves constituting the southern branch of the Karatau Range. Administratively the site lies in the most southerly part of the Zhambyl Region, just to the north of the international border between Kazakhstan and Kyrghyzstan. The site lies in an area between parallel sections of motorway and railway lines connecting the regional centres of Taraz and Shymkent. The waterbody has been created artificially at the upper middle flow of the Assa river that rises in the Karatau mountain range and drains eastwards through the Dzhuvaly valley. As water levels are controlled the size and shape of the reservoir shows significant alterations seasonally. Its maximum size (8.7 x 1.7 km) is reached in April-May, September-October and in winter. The dam occupies the whole of the eastern shore. The northern shore consists of various rock outcroppings and the southern and western shores are smooth and devoid of vegetation. The higher sections of the gently sloping shore are covered by dry meadows. All relatively level plots of the adjacent steppe have been converted to arable land. The major crops of the area are cereals, vegetables, safflower and alfalfa. Only a few slopes of the nearby hills retain their natural cover of steppe vegetation with *Agropyron-Festuca* predominant.

Key Biodiversity The site is an important resting area for large numbers of migrants crossing the Chokpak mountain pass. Most numerous are ducks, gulls, cranes and waders. In general birds of prey and Passerines tend not to linger due to the open nature of the site, the exception being several species of lark.

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
<i>Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea</i>	passage	2005	6,000-18,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern

Demoiselle Crane <i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	passage	2005	500-4,000 individuals	good	A4i	Least Concern
A4iii <i>Species group - waterbirds</i>	passage	2005	20,000-49,999 individuals	medium	A4iii	

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2005	high	unfavourable	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?		State assessed by	Habitat
Accuracy of information	Medium - based upon reliable but incomplete / partially representative data		

Threats to the site (pressure)					
Threat Level 1	Threat Level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
Agriculture and aquaculture	annual & perennial non-timber crops - small-holder farming	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Agriculture and aquaculture	livestock farming and ranching (includes forest grazing) - small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	slow but significant deterioration	low
Biological resource use	fishing & harvesting aquatic resources - unintentional effects: large scale	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Biological resource use	hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (species being assessed is the target)	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Human intrusions and disturbance	work and other activities	happening now	some of area/population (10-49%)	slow but significant deterioration	medium
Natural system modifications	dams & water management/use - abstraction of surface water (agricultural use)	happening now	majority/most of area/population (50-90%)	moderate to rapid deterioration	high
Natural system modifications	fire & fire suppression - increase in fire frequency/intensity	happening now	small area/few individuals (<10%)	no or imperceptible deterioration	low

Condition of habitat (state)						
Habitat	Habitat Detail	Reference Area (ha)	Actual Area (ha)	% of habitat remaining	% of carrying capacity (overall)	Result
Artificial - aquatic		0	0	good (> 90%)	moderate (70-90%)	near favourable
Artificial - terrestrial	Arable land	0	0	good (> 90%)	good (> 90%)	favourable
Coastline		0	0	good (> 90%)	moderate (70-90%)	near favourable
Grassland		0	0	moderate (70-90%)	moderate (70-90%)	unfavourable
Wetlands (inland)		0	0	good (> 90%)	moderate (70-90%)	near favourable

Habitats

IUCN habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Artificial - aquatic	Artificial water bodies	67%
Wetlands (inland)	Rivers & streams	3%
Grassland	Steppes & dry calcareous	5%

Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

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KZ077	Chokpak Pass
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Location	Kazakhstan, South-Kazakhstan region, Zhambyl region
Central coordinates	70° 38.00' East 42° 31.00' North
IBA criteria	A4iv
Area	10,160 ha
Altitude	1,000 - 1,200m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description Chokpak Pass is situated in the Western Tien Shan, between Zabaglytau (Talassky Alatau) and Boroldai (Karatau) ridges. Maximum altitudes of Zabaglytau are 2700-2900 m a.s.l., and Boroldai - 1500-1700 m a.s.l. The pass is the narrowest place between the Talassky Alatau and Karatau, the distance between their slopes being no more than 7-9 km. It is also the highest point of the inter-mountain valley. There is the densely populated Arys river valley to the west and the Dzyvalinsky valley to the east. At the pass, there are Shokpak-Baba (Vysokoe), Shokpak-Ata (Kremenevka) and Shokpak villages. Relatively plain steppe plots are used as arable land (90%) for cereals, vegetables, lucerne, etc. Original bunchgrass steppe covers much of the slopes of the smaller peaks. Forest plantations occur as lines along the borders of fields and roads.

Key Biodiversity 269 bird species of 17 orders were registered at Chokpak Pass during passage. Migration intensity depends mainly of weather conditions. The main groups are passerines and raptors. Several millions of birds migrate here. For example, 15,700 birds of prey were counted between 9-14 September 2003. The maximum intensity of their passage was up to 2,000 birds per hour. In autumn 1999, more than 100,000 Corvidae were observed during 2 hours.

Populations of IBA trigger species


Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
A4iv Species group - soaring birds/cranes	passage	2001-2003	92,000-115,000 individuals	medium	A4iv	

IBA Monitoring

Monitoring summary			
Year Of Assessment	Threat status score	Condition status score	Action status score

	(pressure)	(state)	(response)
2006	not assessed	not assessed	not assessed
Was the whole site covered?	✓	State assessed by	unset
Accuracy of information	Good - based on reliable and complete / representative data		

Protected areas

Protected area	Designation	Area (ha)	Relationship with IBA	Overlap with IBA (ha)	
Aksu-Dzhabagly	State Nature Reserve	75,094	protected area is adjacent to site	0	

Habitats

IUCN habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Grassland	Steppes & dry calcareous	5%
Artificial - terrestrial	Arable land; Forestry plantations; Other urban & industrial areas	95%

Land use

Land-use	Extent (% of site)
agriculture	90%
urban/industrial/transport	5%
Notes: Railway Almaty-Moskow crosses the pass.	
nature conservation and research	5%
Notes: Territory of Chokpak Ringing Station	

Protection status Adjacent territory - Aksu-Dzhabagly Natural Reserve.

References 1. Gavrilov, E.I. and Gistzov, A.P. (1985) Seasonal migration of birds at foothills of Western Tien Shan Alma-Ata (in Russian). 2. Gavrilov, E.I. (1999) Monitoring of number of some species of birds of prey during autumn passage at foothills of Western Tien Shan. Selevinia, 1996-1997: 134-142 (in Russian with English summary).

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Sites - Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

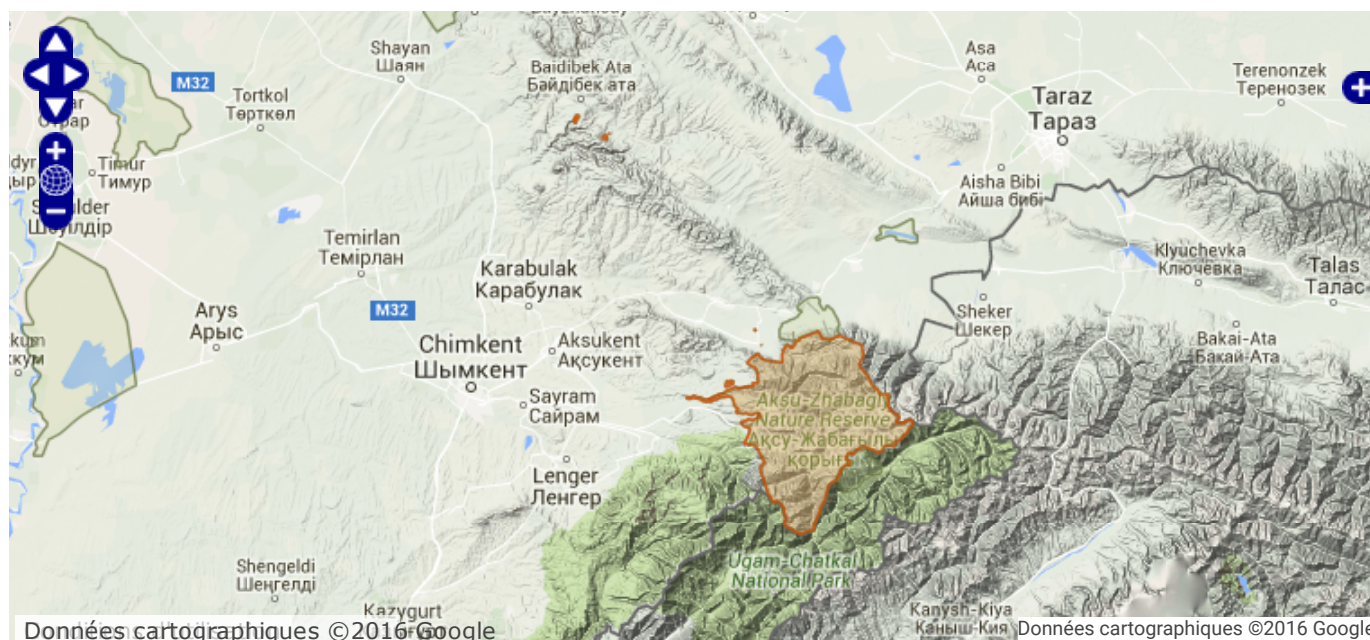
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KZ078	Aksu-Dzhabagly State Nature Reserve
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Location	Kazakhstan, South-Kazakhstan region, Zhambyl region
Central coordinates	70° 35.00' East 42° 20.00' North
IBA criteria	A1, A3
Area	131,934 ha
Altitude	1,300 - 4,200m
Year of IBA assessment	2007

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (Affiliate)



Site description This is a mountain area on the borders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The area includes the western part of the Talasskiy Alatau ridge and adjoining parts of the Ugamskiy ridge. Typical landscapes have a relief of deep valleys and canyons, the slopes covered with stands of juniper (both tree- and bush form). On the terraces there are high-grass dry meadows and high-mountain meadows. The highest peaks at the headwaters of the Aksu and Dzhabagly rivers are covered with glaciers and snow fields. This is the most representative area for Western Tien Shan landscapes because during the 70 years that the site has been a Zapovednik its ecosystems have become completely natural.

Key Biodiversity 240 bird species have been recorded here, including 125 breeding species. This represents 89.6% of the number of breeding species of all the Western Tien Shan. In addition to the globally threatened species, there are 9 species from the Red Data Book of Kazakhstan: *Ciconia nigra*, *Falco pelegrinoides*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Hieraetus pennatus*, *Circus gallicus*, *Bubo bubo* and *Myiophonus caeruleus*. Population sizes are thought to be low, but not known definitely. 115 species (including protected species such as *Falco cherrug*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Grus grus* and *Grus virgo*) visit the IBA during migration or in winter, staying for up to 4-5 months.

Non-bird biodiversity: 54 species of mammals, 11 reptiles, 2 amphibians, 2 fishes have been recorded. 2,124 species of invertebrates have been found but their total number is suspected to be around 5,500 species (Beskokotov, 1996). The most important mammals are Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*), Menzbir's Marmot (*Marmota menzbieri*), mountain sheep (*Ovis ammon karelini*), bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*), all included in the national Red Data Book. There is one rare species of reptiles - *Ophisaurus apodus*. Of insects, there are many endemics of the Tien Shan and Western Tien Shan. For example, of the 186 species (64 genus) of Carabidae beetles recorded, 114 species (62%) are endemics of Western Tien Shan and Middle Asia. The flora includes 1,679 species, about 10% of them are endemics. About 30 plant species are included in the Red Data Book of Kazakhstan, the most important being *Prenanthes mira*, *Tulipa dubia*, *Thesium minkwitzianum*, *Malus nezdwtziana*, *Sesli setiferum*, *Scutellaria flabellaria*, *Ugamia angrenica* and


Dryopteris mindshelkensis (Ivaschenko, 1996).

Populations of IBA trigger species

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	Quality of estimate	IBA Criteria	IUCN Category
Himalayan Snowcock <i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	passage	2004	common	-	A1	Least Concern
Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	resident	2004	rare	-	A1	Near Threatened
Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	passage	2004	uncommon	-	A1	Near Threatened
Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	passage	2004	rare	-	A1	Vulnerable
Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	unknown	2004	rare	-	A1	Near Threatened
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	breeding	2004	uncommon	-	A1	Least Concern
Yellow-eyed Pigeon <i>Columba eversmanni</i>	unknown	2004	rare	-	A1	Vulnerable
Yellow-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	resident	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Dark-grey Tit <i>Parus rufonuchalis</i>	resident	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
<i>Parus flavipectus</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Not Recognised
Hume's Lark <i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>	breeding	2005-2006	present	-	A3	Least Concern
Sulphur-bellied Warbler <i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Hume's Leaf-warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Eastern Rock-nuthatch <i>Sitta tephronota</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	resident	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Bar-tailed Treecreeper <i>Certhia himalayana</i>	resident	2004	uncommon	-	A3	Least Concern
White-tailed Rubythroat <i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
White-throated Robin <i>Irania gutturalis</i>	breeding	2004	uncommon	-	A3	Least Concern
Blue-capped Redstart <i>Phoenicurus caeruleocephala</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Redstart <i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Alpine Accentor <i>Prunella collaris</i>	breeding	2004	frequent	-	A3	Least Concern
Rufous-streaked Accentor <i>Prunella himalayana</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Brown Accentor <i>Prunella fulvescens</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	breeding	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Fire-fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	breeding	2005-	common	-	A3	Least

		2006				Concern
Plain Mountain-finch <i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	resident	2004	abundant	-	A3	Least Concern
Black-headed Mountain-finch <i>Leucosticte brandti</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	breeding	2004	uncommon	-	A3	Not Recognised
Red-mantled Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus rhodochlamys</i>	resident	2004	uncommon	-	A3	Least Concern
White-winged Grosbeak <i>Mycerobas camipes</i>	resident	2004	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Chestnut-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	breeding	2005	common	-	A3	Least Concern
Grey-necked Bunting <i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	breeding	2004	unknown	-	A3	Least Concern

Protected areas

Protected area	Designation	Area (ha)	Relationship with IBA	Overlap with IBA (ha)	
Aksu-Dzhabagly	State Nature Reserve	75,094	is identical to site	75,094	

Habitats

IUCN habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Rocky areas		27%
Forest	Broadleaved deciduous woodland; Native coniferous woodland; Treeline ecotone	6%
Shrubland		25%
Grassland	Alpine, subalpine and boreal grassland; Dry siliceous grassland; Humid grasslands; Mesophile grasslands; Steppes and dry calcareous grassland	33%
Other		minor

Land use

Land-use	Extent (% of site)
tourism/recreation	minor
Notes: There is regulated recreation, including birdwatching etc., without specially designated areas.	
nature conservation and research	100%

Protection status The IBA is identical to the Aksu-Dzhabagly Zapovednik (Nature Reserve).

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