

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

06-01-1997

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Designation date

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Islamic Republic of Iran

3. Name of wetland: Lake Kobi

4. Geographical coordinates: 36°57'N 45°30'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 1240 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 1200 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

A fresh to brackish (?) lake with maximum depth of 1,5 m., eutrophic with associated fresh-brackish marshes that are seasonally flooded. The lake and marshes lie in a basin at about 1240 m above sea level. The lake is fed by rainfall and local runoff and may overflow to the north and west during very wet periods. The lake is surrounded by rolling steppe hills, with scattered human settlements and cultivation to the north and south. The site hosts a wide variety of breeding waterfowl, migrant waders and migrant and wintering ducks, geese and coots.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

O, Ss/Ts

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a . 1b . 1c . 1d | 2a . 2b . 2c . 2d | 3a . 3b . 3c | 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2a,3c

10. Map of site included? Please tick **yes** -or- **no**

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1a: Lake Kobi is a particularly good representative of a natural brackish lake characteristic of the uplands of North-western Iran.

2a: The lake supports the regionally threatened species *Aythya nyroca* and *Oxyura leucocephala* and 20 other vulnerable bird species.

3a: The area is an extremely important staging area for ducks and other shorebirds, according to BirdLife International. It regularly supports over 100,000 birds. Large numbers of ducks stay there during mild winters.

3c: The lake regularly supports more than 1% of 20 threatened bird species, among which *Anser anser*, *Anas clypeata*, *Aythya ferrina* and *Fulica atra*.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Situated 25 km Northeast of Mahabad, Azarbayjan, between the towns of Mahabad and Miandowab, 75 km Southeast of Lake Oroomiyeh.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Lake Kobi (or Ghopi Bob Ali) is a shallow, eutrophic, fresh to brackish lake with extensive seasonally flooded marshes. It receives its water from local rainfall, runoff, several springs, seepage's and temporary watercourses fed by snow-melt. The maximum depth is 1,5 m; the bottom is composed of mud. The lake overflows when full, flooding marshland to the north and west. It has no outlet channels. It regularly freezes in winter.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

since it traps runoff water, it is presumably important for the groundwater level in the area

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The lake supports an abundant growth of submerged vegetation; there are extensive sedge marshes around much of the shoreline, and *Phragmites communis* reedbeds occur in the south and to the Northwest, together with some grasslands. The whole area is surrounded by steppic hills, with scattered settlements and cultivation to the north and the south.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

Extensive reedbeds of *Phragmites communis*. No other information available.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Regionally endangered bird species are *Aythya nyroca*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and *Oxyura leucocephala*. Bird species of which the lake regularly supports over 1% of the population are *Otis tarda*, *Haliaeetus albicilla* (both few); *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Plegadis farcinellus* and *Vanellus vanellus* (all breeding); *Phoenicopterus ruber*, *Anser anser*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *T. tadorna*, *Anas querqueluda*, *A. clypeata*, *Aythya ferina*, *Fulica atra*, *Himantopus himantopus* and *Tringa totanus* (all wintering or passing). *Sterna albifrons* is present in summer and may breed.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

no information available

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: National Government

(b) surrounding area: no information available

21. Current land use:

(a) site: The site is only used for hunting of wildfowl (small scale) and grazing.

(b) surroundings/catchment: no information available

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

(a) at the site: The area is in a politically rather unstable area, which makes its future as a protected area rather insecure.

(b) around the site: same as at site (a)

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

no measures taken and no legal protection

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

no conservation measures proposed

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Mid-winter waterfowl censuses have been carried out by personnel of the Department of the Environment in most years since 1970, and there have been several surveys during the breeding season.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

none

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

no information available

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Department of the Environment

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Islamic Republic of Iran

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Department of the Environment, address as mentioned above (28).

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Mansoori, M. (1984). *National Report on Iran's Wetlands of International Importance as habitat for waterfowl*. Prepared for the Groningen Conference, Netherlands, in May 1984.
- Carp, E. (1980). *A Directory of Western Palearctic Wetlands*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
- Cornwallis, L. (1979). Some notes on the Wetlands of the Niriz Basin in Southwest Iran. Proc. Pp. 152-164 in *Technical Meeting on Wetland Conservation, Ankara-Bursa-Istanbul, 9-16 October 1967*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.
- Scott, D.A. (1976a). *A List of the Wetlands in Iran*. Internal Report. Department of the Environment, Teheran, Iran.
- Scott, D.A. (1976b). Iran National Report. Pp. 27-33 in M. Smart, ed., *Proc. International Conference on Conservation of Wetlands and Waterfowl, Heiligenhafen, Germany, 2-6 December 1974*. IWRB, Slimbridge, United Kingdom.
- Scott, D.A. (1978). *Colonial Breeding Birds in Iran*. Unpublished Report.

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**List of bird species including counting results
Lake Kobi (peak counts)**

waterfowl

- globally threatened species

<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	243 pairs
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	6600
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	16
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	100+

- 1% or more of Middle east population

<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	50 pairs
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	100 pairs
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	100 pairs
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	100 pairs
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	30 pairs
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	100-150 pairs
<i>Anser anser</i>	7,000
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	2,890
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1,300
<i>Anas penelope</i>	600
<i>Anas crecca</i>	6,000
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	6,300
<i>Anas acuta</i>	250
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	3,000
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	5,000
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	20,000
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	100+
<i>Fulica atra</i>	50,000
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	600
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	300
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	300
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	400
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	40
<i>Larus genei</i>	500
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	5-10 pairs
<i>Chlydonias leucopterus</i>	500