Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Completed in August 2007/ updated in April 2009

3. Country:

Islamic Republic of Iran

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Bujagh National Park previously referred as: Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon and mouth of Sefid Rood

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only)**:**

a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ❑; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ■

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6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ❑
or
If the site boundary has changed:
i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ■; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted** ❑

and/or
If the site area has changed:
i) the area has been measured more accurately ❑; or
ii) the area has been extended ■; or
iii) the area has been reduced** ❑

** **Important note**: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

Establishment of fish ponds by Fisheries Department (Shilot) on eastern side of Sefid Rood River. The fishponds lie inside the former Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon Ramsar site

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7. Map of site:
Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ■;
ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ■;
iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables ❑;.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:
The boundary is the same as the existing Bujagh National Park boundary.

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8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):
E 49° 55' 20"
N 37° 26' 55"

9. General location:

Bujagh National Park is located in the Province of Gilan, about 2 km north of Kiashahr city, 20 km from Amirkelayeh, 15 km from Lashtenesha and 35 km northwest of the town of Rasht. Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon (formerly Bandar Farahnaz) lies immediately to the east of the mouth of the Sefid Rood River.

10. Elevation: 21m below sea level

11. Area: 3,177 ha

12. General overview of the site:

Bujagh National Park is located on the Caspian Lowlands and on the Delta of the Sefid Rood River. This deltaic system is the largest delta on the south Caspian region with an area of 1350 km^2. Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon, which is one of the oldest lagoons in Gilan province, is located within this national park. Historically fishing has been the common activity in the area. There are some villages surrounding the national park and some of the farmlands lie within the park (about 0.44% of the park is farmland).

Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon is a shallow sea bay associated freshwater and brackish marshes and the nearby riverine marshes at the mouth of the Sefid Rood in the south-west Caspian. There are also open grassy areas and dunes near the mouth of the river. The site is important as spawning and nursery grounds for fishes, and as breeding, staging and wintering areas for a wide variety of waterfowl. The 3,177 hectare coastal National Park meets the required conditions as the potential wintering habitat for the Siberian Cranes *Grus leucogeranus* and hosts more than 100,000 migratory waterbirds annually.

According to land use map of the national park, 43% of the park is marine ecosystem (located on the north), 28% is grassland (on the west and east of the Sefid Rood River), 15% is wetlands and reedbeds, 9.4% is sand dunes and marshlands and the rest is small patches of forest and some farmlands. Also 2.39% is the river basin of Sefid Rood.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
■	■	❑	❑	■	■	❑	■	❑

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1: Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon and the mouth of Sefid Rood within the national park are good representative examples of natural wetlands characteristic of the South Caspian Lowlands. The national park is located on the Caspian Lowland between two other important Ramsar sites which are Anzali and Amirkelayeh wetlands. Sefid Rood River which runs through the middle of the national park and finally enters the Caspian Sea; divides the park into two parts of western and eastern sides of the river. The national park has high ecological values and diverse plant and animal species. The park includes different

types of important ecosystems having two large lagoons namely Bujagh and Kiashahr, Sefid Rood River and its flooded plains as well as the deltaic system and all the way to the sandy shoreline and marine ecosystem.

Criterion 2: The site provides important wintering habitat for a number of threatened species (see table below):

English name	Scientific name	International status			National Status
		IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix	CMS Appendix	
Caspian Seal	*Phoca (Pusa) caspica*	EN			Endangered of Extinction
Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelecanus crispus*	VU	I	I/II	Endangered of Extinction
Lesser White-fronted Goose	*Anser erythropus*	VU		I/II	Protected
Sociable Lapwing	*Vanellus gregarius*	CR		I/II	Protected
White-headed Duck	*Oxyura leucocephala*	EN	II	I/II	Endangered of Extinction
Greater Spotted Eagle	*Aquila clanga*	VU	II	I/II	Protected
Stellate Sturgeon	*Acipenser stellatus*	EN	II	II	Endangered of Extinction

IUCN Red List Status: CR = critically endangered; EN = endangered; VU = vulnerable;

Criterion 5: The site regularly supports over 20,000 waterbirds. The count data on the type and number of waterbirds species using the site each year over the last five years is attached.

Criterion 6: The area supports large colonies of several species of waterfowl, amongst which over 1% of the Caspian Iran, Iraq wintering population of *Anser albifrons*. It also hosts over 1% of the Caspian, Central Asian wintering populations of *Cygnus cygnus, and* 1% of the South Asia, North Africa *Anas strepera*. [1]

English Name	Scientific Name	Subspecies/Population (if applicable)	Count (min-max)	1% Threshold
Greater White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*	Caspian – Iran, Iraq	2-242	150
Whooper Swan	*Cygnus Cygnus*	Caspian – Central Asian	378 – 1,443	200
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	SW Asia – NE Africa	500 – 6,144	1,300

Criterion 8: The national park is an important breeding and nursery ground for various fish species. The list of fish species and the average frequency is attached.

[1] Waterbird Population Estimates (Wetlands International 2006)

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) *biogeographic region:*

The Palaearctic Biogeographic Realm, Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forest

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Udvardy, M. D. F. (1975). *A classification of the biogeographical provinces of the world*. IUCN Occasional Paper, Vol. 18

Olson et al., (2001). Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World: a new map of life on Earth.

16. Physical features of the site:

The National Park comprises a shallow sea bay (formerly an enclosed lagoon), the nearby mouth of the main channel of the Sefid Rood, and the associated fresh to brackish marshes. ***Bujagh National Park*** is situated in an area of coastal sand dunes and grassland about 1.5 km east of the mouth of the Sefid Rood. In the 1960s and 1970s, this wetland was a shallow, brackish coastal lagoon, 3.75 km long by 1.5 km wide, with fringing *Juncus* marshes and about 140 ha of *Phragmites* and *Typha* reed-beds at its west end. The lagoon was fed by two streams from the Sefid Rood and local run-off, and drained northeast through a narrow channel into the Caspian Sea. The bottom was a mixture of sand and mud, and the waters were predominantly oligotrophic, except towards the marshy western extremity. The lagoon was formed in 1960 as a result of the falling level of the Caspian Sea and development of coastal sand spits. The 1.8 m rise in the level of the Caspian Sea since 1978 has obliterated the sand barrier between the lagoon and the sea, with the result that the wetland now constitutes a sea bay with broad entrance to the sea (similar to the situation in the 1950s). The marshy grassland and sand dune areas at the mouth of the Sefid Rood have, however, remained more or less unchanged, while new wetland habitats have been created to the west of the river mouth.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

The Sefid Rood is the second largest river in Iran; it has a catchment area of over 54,000 sq.km in the western Alborz Mountains, and a natural flood discharge of 3,400 to 4,200 cubic metres per second. This diminishes to a minimum flow of less than 20 cubic metres per second during late summer. The river divides into several distributary channels on the plains of Gilan, the main channel entering the Caspian at Bandar Kiashar.

18. Hydrological values:

Reviewing the running rivers in the national park and considering the special topographical condition of the area which is almost 'Flat' with low inclination it should be mentioned that the study of the catchment and river branches in hydrology is not of highest priority. The most important river which is in the national park is *Sefid Rood River* which starts from the high mountains of Alborz and Zagros in five provinces of the country and after going through a long and curvy path it finally enters the Caspian Sea. Therefore the national park is located on the deltaic system of this river. There are two other small and local rivers in the national park with very small catchment area.

Within the national park there is a main wetland which has the same name as the national park and it is called Bujagh wetland. Sefid Rood River divides this wetland into two parts and during flood season in the deltaic ecosystem, freshwater enters the wetland. Of course the wetland is still connected to the sea by streams. The average depth of the wetland is 70 cm and the average volume of water within the wetland is 381,000 m^3. Because this wetland is fed by the river freshwater therefore its depth and area is dependent on Sefid Rood River and during flood and dry season the area of the wetland changes. When the wetland's water level is high during wet seasons, some parts of the wetland reach the sea. Studies show that the wetland area has decreased during years.

In terms of water quality and erosion because *Sefid Rood River* starts from the high mountains of four neighbouring provinces; in many parts due to lack of efficient management and fragile and unstable land, the river causes erosion and carries huge amount of sediments, which is retained behind the dams and enters the deltaic system. This erosion is higher during spring when there is more rain, the snow is melting and grazing is taking place and therefore the sedimentation is higher. In summer, because it is dry, there is less sedimentation.

Sefid Rood River in the national park is drainage for ground waters and leads ground water into the river and the sea. Of course the national park is not a closed system and its hydrological condition is dependent on the surrounding lands.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:
Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

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
Human-made: **1** • **2** • **3** • **4** • **5** • **6** • **7** • **8** • **9** •

b) dominance:
The important wetland types in order of dominance include:

Deltaic system; Permanent shallow marine waters; Coastal lagoons; Permanent rivers and streams; Permanent brackish marshes; sand dunes; freshwater marshes; and agricultural lands.

The National Park includes a shallow sea bay in the southwest Caspian, with associated permanent freshwater and brackish marshes. The mouth of the Sefid Rood River comprises an estuary with freshwater riverine marshes. Sandy areas to the west and northwest of the site are covered in shrubs and grassland, while there is sand-dune vegetation near the Caspian shore. Grassland along the banks of Sefid Rood floods seasonally.

20. General ecological features:

The National Park covers different types of habitats including river and deltaic; marine- coastal areas; marshlands; sand dunes, grasslands and some rice fields. Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon is a bay with broad entrance to the sea. At the mouth of Sefid Rood there are marshy grasslands and

sand dunes. The lagoon supports relatively little vegetation other than algae. Freshwater marshes at the extreme west end of the lagoon support some beds of *Phragmites* and *Typha*, while the southern and eastern shores are dominated by *Juncus* and grasses. Sandy areas to the west and north-west are covered in shrub and grassland which give way to sand-dune vegetation near the Caspian shore. Grassland along the banks of Sefid Rood floods seasonally.

21. Noteworthy flora:

In Bujagh National Park there are 248 plant species of which 24 species are endemic. *Caryophyllaceae, Poaceae, Fabaceae, Cyperaceae* and *Asteraceae* are the most common plant families in the park. One rare plant species in the national park *is Centella asiatica (L.) Urban*.

Some plants of the park have been traditionally used for medical treatments these include *Tribulus terrestris, Solanum nigrum, Plantage* and *Mentha*.

Other important plant species of the park are *Glaucium contorpublicatum* and *Papaver chelidonifolium Bioss. & Bushe*.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

An important staging and wintering area for a wide variety of migratory waterfowl. In addition to the species mention in Section 14 (above), the site also supports Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca,* Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax and* Corncrake *Crex crex.* In addition to these, other species include Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* (up to 300), ducks, shorebirds, gulls and terns, and for the raptors Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and Merlin *Falco columbarius*. A flock of Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (usually 30-40 birds) wintered at the mouth of the Sefid Rood in the 1970s but apparently disappeared by about 1980, probably because of increased disturbance. Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* was also an occasional winter visitor to the area in the 1970s. The open grassy areas and dunes near the river mouth provide breeding habitat for 20-30 pairs of Common Pratincole *Glareola pratincola,* Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus,* Little-ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius,* while a small patch of woodland to the south of the lagoon supports a large breeding colony of herons and egrets. A list of the birds species of the National Park is attached. *Tetrax Tetrax, Crex Crex* and *Glareola pratincola* are not included in this list.

The Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) is common in the area and Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is an important mammal species of the National Park.

The national park is also a rich ecosystem considering its fish diversity. Stellate Sturgeon, *Acipenseridae (Acipenser stellatus),* is the most important fish species of the national park because it is endangered of extinction. Also Southern Caspian kutum *Rutilus frisii kutum* and Vimba *Vimba vimba* are important fish species. These species are migratory and they enter freshwater (Sefid Rood River) by the end of winter and beginning of spring for breeding and laying eggs; therefore they are in the area only during the breeding season and it is very important to control fishing during this time.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc.

Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

Through the years the national park has been a recreational site for the people and livelihood of the people is critically dependent on the wetlands, grassland, river and sea. Local communities have for long had a close involvement in fisheries, grazing and hunting at the site. The fishery and grazing remain important.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box ■ and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

The site is currently used for fishing, fisheries and livestock grazing.

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site: The National Park belongs to the Department of Environment (DoE); however there are still some lands located within the national park (2%) that are still owned by the local community. Some parts of these lands have been purchased by the provincial DoE and the remaining parts are being negotiated with the land-owners.

b) in the surrounding area: Mostly agricultural fields belonging to local people. Local people ownership (80%), army (10%) and fisheries (10%).

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25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site: Fishing in the lagoon, river and adjacent coastal waters; grazing by domestic livestock, reed-cutting and wildfowl hunting in the marshes. Grazing of livestock, reed-cutting and wildfowl hunting (both for sport and recreation) occur. The National Park is an important centre for commercial fishing, and there is a large fisheries station on the shore (Aquaculture). Tourism/Recreation is also important on the beach on the Eastern side of the park. Rice fields within the National Park: The farmers work in the rice fields from April to September and do other jobs for the rest of the year. Chemical use is low. The government is promoting biological pest control (*Trichodrama*). There are approximately 120 rice farmers at Bujagh, up to

1ha each, total 200ha. The rice fields were established about 18 years ago (after the revolution), when the emphasis was on social support. No further expansion of agriculture will be allowed. One area of rice fields is not well legally defined – used for 4 months / year by 4 farmers

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: Fishing and some fishing settlements. Other activities include forestry, aquaculture, army, and recreation.

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

a) Within the Ramsar site: Some hunting pressure on waterfowl (mainly in winter), and heavy transport pressure by boats from the extensive commercial fisheries and its cooperating industries. There is also considerable disturbance from recreational activities during weekends and holidays, mainly during summer. The great decrease in the numbers of wintering birds in the last decades have been attributed to the increasing disturbance from fishing activities and heavy hunting pressure. Main activities currently affecting the site include:

Illegal fishery: Local population is practicing lucrative fishery, mostly on sturgeon and white fish (mullet), for food and/or profit.

Grazing: There is very little control over grazing at present (the site is heavily grazed in summer, ~10,000 animals). But only a few horses graze in the area during the winter.

Illegal hunting: Some local population is engaged in waterfowl poaching for food and/or profit.

b) in the surrounding area:

Army Camp: Army camp located next to the site. This has caused disturbance to the waterfowl.

Agriculture and urban waste

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27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

The area was designated as a National Park in 2003 and it is being physically patrolled. The extended Ramsar Site will share the same boundaries as the National Park. There are two guard stations, one rather temporary in nature. The number of staff is 19 guards working in different shifts. Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon and the mouth of Sefid Rood were designated as a Ramsar Site on 23 June 1975. The existing Ramsar Site (500 ha) included the whole of the lagoon area, its associated marshes and the marshes and sand flats at the mouth of the Sefid Rood to the west. The site has been identified as an "Important Bird Area" by BirdLife International (Evans, 1994).

The site was also recently designated to join the West/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other Waterbirds at the launch of this network during the 6th CMS MoU meeting on conservation of Siberian Crane in May 2007.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ❑;Ib ❑; II ■; III ❑; IV ❑; V ❑; VI ❑

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?

Comprehensive management plan for the national park is under development by the Department of Environment; however it is not approved or at the implementation stage.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Closure and restriction of hunting

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Further investigations are required to assess the ecological changes which have occurred at the wetland, and to identify ways of reducing the disturbance to waterfowl from fishing activities. Monitoring as part of the UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project, and monitoring of Caspian Seal mortality are very important.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

- A considerable amount of fisheries research has been carried out by the National Fisheries Organization (Shilot).
- Annual mid-winter waterfowl censuses have been carried out by the Ornithology Unit, Department of the Environment, since 1968. Many ornithological surveys have been undertaken at other times of the year, including comprehensive waterfowl censuses in mid-November in 1972, 1973 and 1974.
- The DoE is developing comprehensive management plans for all protected areas of Iran, including Bujagh National Park (first phase of the comprehensive management plan has been developed). It has been recognized that the lack of a management plan is the main cause of major problems. Hence identifying management targets and objectives including restoration and rehabilitation activities is important for conservation of the values of the site. Through the development of the comprehensive management plan some general recommendations have been proposed, however detailed objectives and activities should be developed and discussed with the local community for management of the site. There should be a general agreement with stakeholders.
- Under the UNEP/GEF project “Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia”, several outcomes were achieved at the national park (one of the main sites included in the project) which included the following:

Establishment of site management committee; stakeholder participation in development of management plans, grazing management study, construction of multi-purpose building, equipment and vehicles, boundary demarcation, GIS mapping, etc.

- CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): Iran and nine other countries "Range States" have joined an international effort through the adoption, in 1993, of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (MoU) under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to help further protect and conserve this important endangered species. Under the CMS MoU (updated in 1998), the participating Range States have committed to identify and conserve wetland habitats essential to the survival of Siberian Cranes, to co-operate with international organizations and other Range States and to develop a long-term Conservation Plan. A Conservation Plan is developed for each population of Siberian Cranes at each meeting of the Range States (most recently in May 2007). The West Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane & Other Waterbirds has also been set up under this CMS MoU in May 2007. Bujagh National Park has been designated under this site network as a potential site for reintroduction efforts for the Siberian Crane.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

Under the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project, a training and awareness raising strategy was developed for this site. In this strategy the activities address specific key groups and stakeholders, including resource users, decision-makers, and communication focal points on awareness issues that have been identified during the threat analysis. This Awareness Strategy and related Action Plan was prepared to formulate and guide the implementation of necessary public awareness activities. Public Awareness and Training/Education were found to be the two pillars upon which the knowledge and capacity of decision makers, key stakeholders and community members can be raised. Therefore most education and public awareness activities have been conducted through DoE Gilan and the UNEP/GEF SCWP. Some of these related activities include:

Education/Awareness/ Capacity Building:
Produce educational/awareness materials through the project from 2004 onwards.

Monitoring/ Enforcement/Training:

- Conduct at least one local meeting each year
- Discussions with local young groups to assist with establishment of local NGOs for conservation.
- Visit and study alternate wintering areas before northward migration. Conduct additional PTT research and verification of data through site visits (DoE to continuously check staging areas in October and March, and possible alternative wintering sites from October to March.)
- Agree with stakeholders (land users) on management plan. Manage buffer zones. Monitor agricultural pollution and develop guidelines for environmentally friendly agriculture. Monitor water pollution.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

The wetland is used for recreational purposes during weekends and holidays and a few informal visits by local and foreign birdwatchers only. Recently a student project was conducted entitled *Sustainable Recreational Design of Bujagh National Park for Tourism Development*. This study can help in planning for development of tourism activities within the national park.

32. Jurisdiction:

a) Territorial jurisdiction: Kiashahr town government
b) Functional jurisdiction: Department of Environment; the National Park is administered by the Department of the Environment.

33. Management authority: Gilan DoE Provincial Office

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34. Bibliographical references:

Department of Environment, Habitat and Protected Areas Bureau. (2007). *Comprehensive Management Plan for Bujagh National Park.* Tehran, available from the Department of Environment.

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