

## ***DURNALY, Turkmenistan***

### **PART I.**

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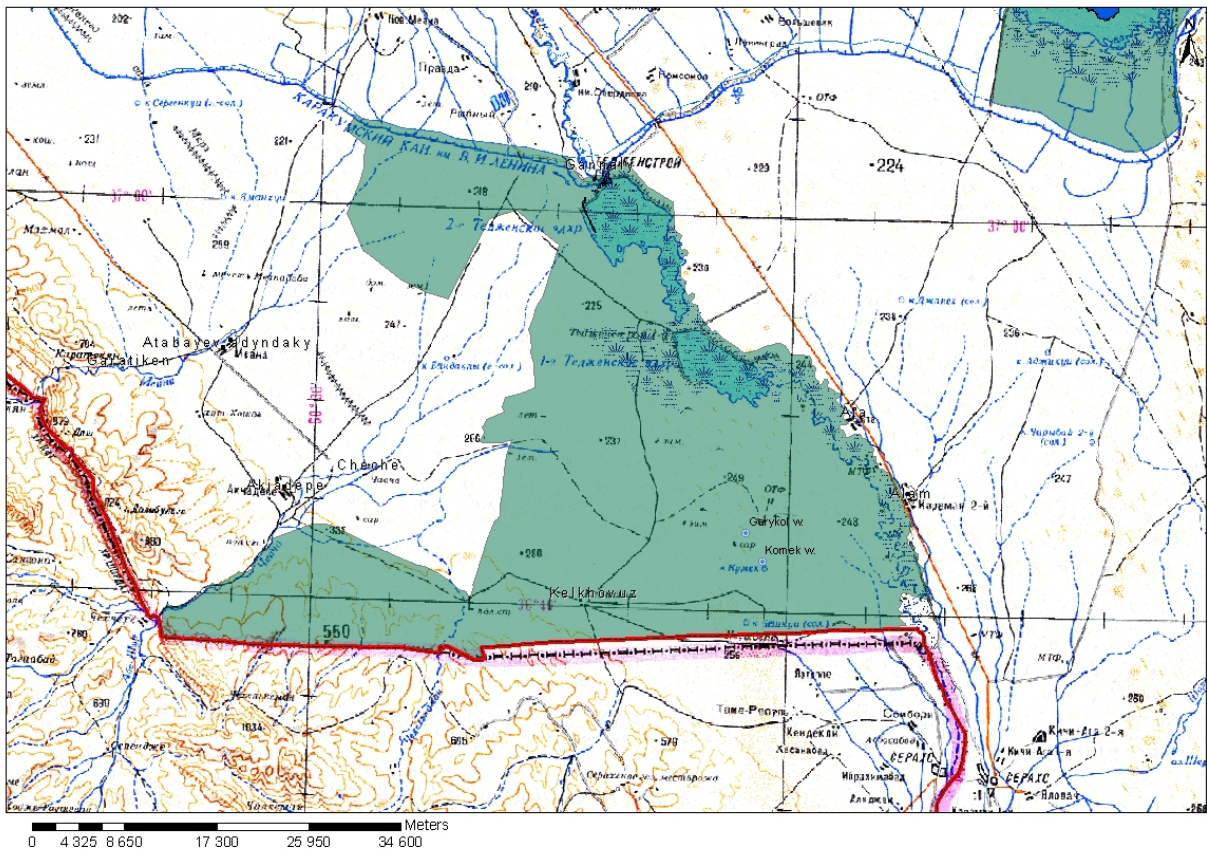
**COUNTRY:** Turkmenistan

**GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES:** 36°50'N; 60°45'E

**ALTITUDE:** min 218 m, max 500 m

**AREA:** 175,000 ha

**MAP:**



**OVERVIEW:** Clay pre-mountain plain of the Eastern Kopetdag Mountain Range, bordering on Tedzhen floodplains (in the East) and Karakumdaria (in the North), with rarified vegetation, partially developed for irrigation land cultivation: grain (wheat, barley) to less extent for forage cultures and cotton. Surface waters are created due to natural flow of the Meana-Chaacha short rivers, and also due to artificial watering along small canals from Tedzhen and Karakumdaria.

### **WCASN CRITERION AND QUALIFIERS**

**Criterion 1:** Site's Importance for Siberian Crane

**Sub-criterion 1.3:** *The site is historical habitat of the Siberian Crane, but there are less than five records during the last 50 years.*

Usually the Siberian Crane has not been recorded on this territory. For the period of more than 100 years only one sighting has been really registered – at a distance of 70 km northwestward (at Dushak railway station) of the nominated territory. However the territory should be considered as an appropriate habitat for this species.

**Qualifier 1:** Site's importance for other crane species

The site is important for other crane species when it is known to support a total of 25 or more migratory cranes (which can be of more than one species) at any stage of their life cycle (e.g., breeding, migration stop-over (staging), non-breeding birds (wintering), etc.).

The territory supports passage and wintering of Eurasian Cranes during migration periods and turned out to be a "bottle neck" of regular seasonal migration and wintering of Eurasian Cranes. The number of Eurasian Cranes during spring migration is from 1,319 to 8,950 (Korshunov 1989) and up to 11,975 (Yefimenko 1990) birds, during autumn migration – up to 8,220 birds (Yefimenko 1990), during wintering – from 600 to 1,300-1,700, no more than 2000 birds (Rustamov, Saparmuradov 2005).

**Qualifier 2:** Site's importance for other waterbird species

**Sub-qualifier 2.2:** *A site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds during migration periods.*

The territory regularly supports five thousand and more waterbirds at one count during this period of migration. The northern and eastern sites of the territory are crossed by waterbirds: Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Coots (*Fulica atra*), Red-crested Pochards (*Nettion rufina*), and Common Pochards (*Aythya ferina*), Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*), Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*) and Great Egrets (*Egretta alba*), grebes, gulls and sandpipers, with the total number of more than 20 thousand birds; some of them, Greylag Geese (*Anser anser*), Ruddy Shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Mallards, Cormorants and others, have wintering grounds here comprising five thousand and more birds (personal data of E. Rustamov and J. Saparmuradov).

**WETLAND TYPES (according to Ramsar classification):**

**Inland wetlands**

- L Permanent inland deltas
- N Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks
- Y Freshwater springs; oases

**Human-made wetlands**

- 3 Irrigated land; includes irrigation channels and rice fields
- 9 Canals and drainage channels, ditches

**JURISDICTION:**

**a) territorial jurisdiction:** Hakimlik (administration municipal authority), Etrapov (territorial unit of district range) Altyn Asyr and Saragt.

**b) functional jurisdiction:** 30% of the territory (southwest part) – under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan

**MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:**

Meana-Chaacha Zakaznik of Kopetdag State Nature Reserve; Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan. Address: Kopetdag State Nature Reserve, Bekreve Village, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

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