

BUJAGH NATIONAL PARK, Iran

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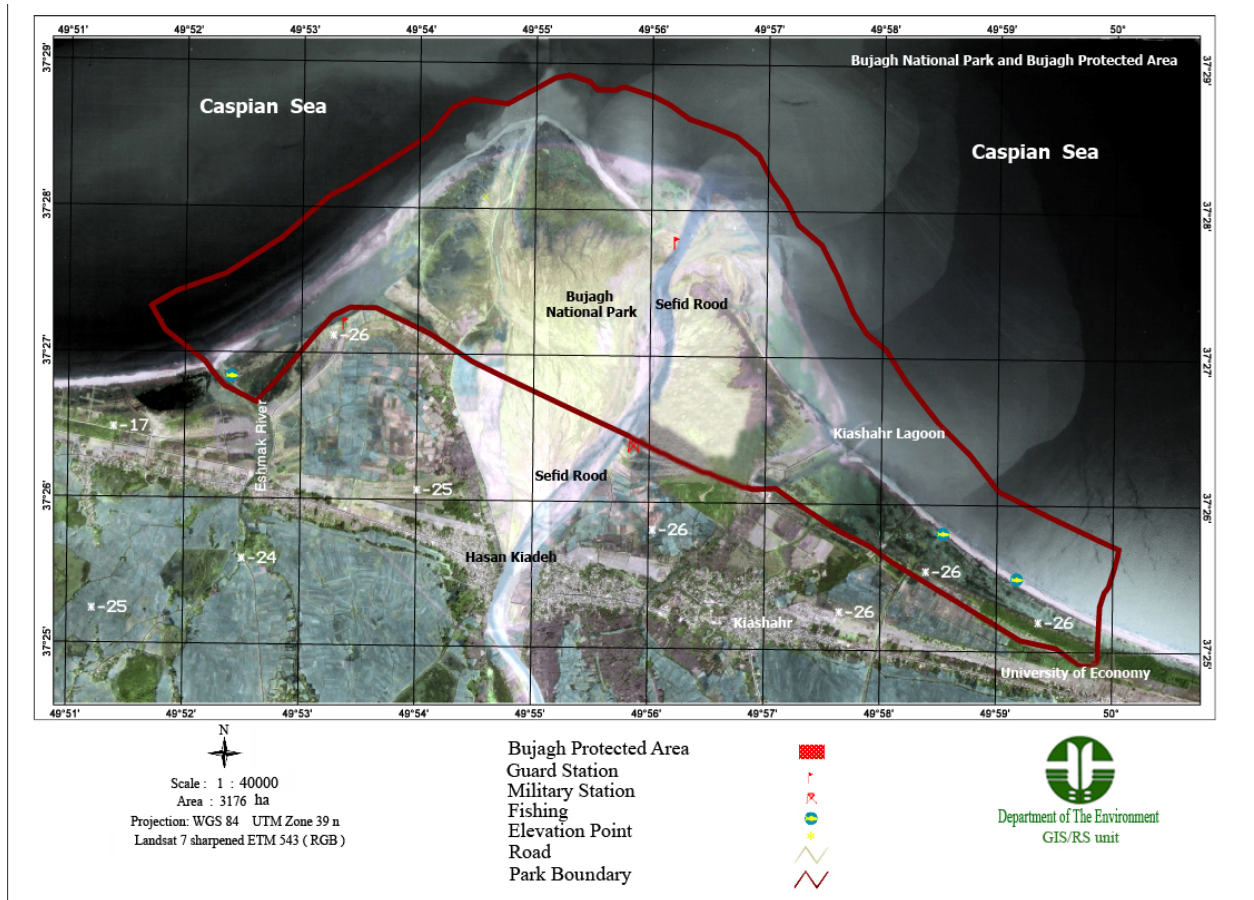
COUNTRY: Islamic Republic of Iran

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES: 37°25'N; 049°29'E

ALTITUDE: 23 m below sea level

AREA: 3,260 ha

MAP:



OVERVIEW: A shallow sea bay with associated permanent freshwater and brackish marshes and nearby riverine marshes at the mouth of the Sefid Rud in the southwest Caspian form Bujagh National Park. 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 3260 hectare coastal National Park meets the required conditions as the wintering habitat for the Siberian Crane and hosts more than 100,000 migratory waterbirds annually.

WCASN CRITERION AND QUALIFIERS:

Criterion 1: Site's Importance for Siberian Cranes

Sub-criterion 1.4: *There are no records of Siberian Crane at a site, but it is considered to contain appropriate habitat for the species (wide expanses of shallow water containing appropriate food*

resources, and with low levels of disturbance) and it is suitable for release and reintroduction projects (e.g., safety of the site is secured, a management regime is in place, etc.).

Bandar Kiashahr Lagoon and the mouth of Sefid Rud within the national park are good representative examples of natural wetlands characteristic of the South Caspian Lowlands. This territory can be considered as a potential wintering site of the Siberian Crane.

Qualifier 2: Site's importance for other waterbird species

Sub-qualifier 2.3: *The site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.*

They provide important wintering habitat for Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), a globally threatened species. It supports large breeding colonies of several species of waterfowl, including over 1% of the Middle East breeding population of Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). It also hosts over 1% of the regional wintering populations of Black-necked Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*), Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*). The lagoon is an important breeding and nursery ground for various fish species.

WETLAND TYPES:

Marine/Coastal

- A** Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six meters deep at low tide; including sea bays and straits.
- E** Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sand bars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks.
- F** Estuarine waters; permanent water of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas.
- J** Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea.

Inland Wetlands

- M** Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls
- Sp** Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools
- Tp** Permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic

JURISDICTION

a) Territorial jurisdiction: Gilan Province, Islamic Republic of Iran

b) Functional jurisdiction: 1) Kiashahr Town Government; 2) Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, PO Box: 14155-7383, Tehran, I. R. Iran.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

DoE Gilan Provincial Office, PO Box: 1433, Resalat Str., Rasht, Gilan Province, Iran.
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