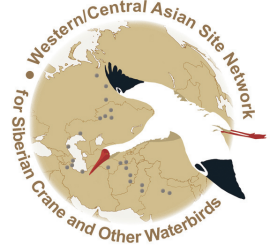


*Western/Central Asian Site Network  
for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds*

# Ural River Delta and Nearest Caspian Sea Coastal Zone Kazakhstan



## *Date of Designation*

18 May 2007

## *Coordinates*

51°50'N, 46°45'E

## *Area*

60,000 ha

## *Overview*

The site is a freshwater system of river channels and lakes with a dominant depth of 1.5-3.0 m. It includes wide delta, resulting in slightly saline water with a depth of up to 2.5-3.5 m. The site also includes a group of coastal peninsulas and the Peshnoy, Zyuydestova and Nordostova Shalygi Sea Islands. In the delta area the land and shoals overgrow abundantly with reed and cattail, and on the higher areas grow some border shrubby and woody vegetation.



## *Importance for the Siberian Crane*

In the past (the end of 19th to the beginning of 20th century) the site was a stopover for single birds and small groups of Siberian Cranes during spring and autumn migrations. At present, according to some information received from the local people, requiring verification and confirmation, Siberian Cranes stop at the site very rarely during the autumn migration.



## *Importance for other cranes and waterbirds*

On the adjacent desert territories of the site 2 - 5 pairs of Demoiselle Cranes nest annually.

The site regularly supports 150,000 breeding waterbirds, and near 3 millions during migration. General numbers of these species during the period of molting can reach about 30,000 – 50,000 birds. There is a group of especially protected nesting species – Dalmation Pelican – 250 pairs, Glossy Ibis - up to 350 pairs, Little Egret – 150 pairs, Squacco Heron – 10 pairs, White-headed Duck – up to 20 pairs, and Great Black-headed Gull – up to 250 pairs.



# Maps of Ural River Delta and Nearest Caspian Sea Coastal Zone

