

IBA CODE: MN016

IBA NAME: KHAR LAKE

Aimag(s): KHOVD, ZAVKHAN **Criteria:** A1, A4i **Area:** 83,798 ha

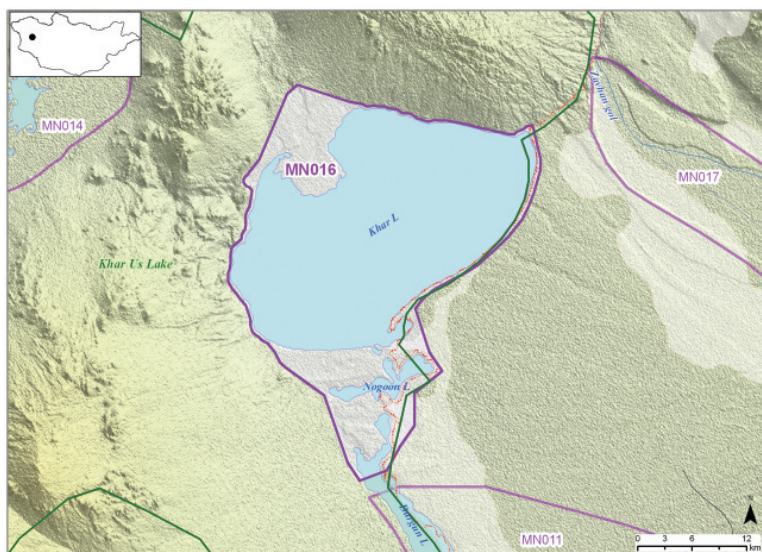
Coordinates: 48°10'N 93°05'E **Altitude:** 1,132-1,254 m

Protection status

Fully protected by Khar Us Lake National Park

Site description

Khar Lake is a freshwater lake, located at the boundary of Khovd and Zavkhan aimags, in the Great Lakes Depression. The Chono Kharah River flows into the lake. Khar Lake drains into the Zavkhan River via the Tatakhan-Teel River, and it is connected to Durgun Lake through the Khom Channel and Nagoon Lake. There are marshes and reed beds around the Shuwuun Aral peninsula. The lake is frozen from November until April. The lake is surrounded by semi-desert vegetation. Livestock grazing is the main land use at the site, with some hay meadows, and a commercial Potanin's Osman *Oreoleuciscus potanini* fishery. Commercial fishing is unregulated and fish stocks are not well assessed. There are also concerns about the growth of poisonous algae in the lake and an introduced fish species. The IBA overlaps with Khar Us Lake National Park Ramsar Site.



Importance for birds

Khar Lake regularly supports the following Globally Threatened species: Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (VU); White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN); Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* (EN); and Pallas's Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU). The lake regularly supports at least 1% of the flyway populations of Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus*

crispus, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Bar-headed Goose *A. indicus*, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*, Common Crane *Grus grus*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*.

Importance for other fauna and flora

Two nationally threatened fish species, Lake Osman *Oreoleuciscus angusticephalus* and Mongolian Grayling *Thymallus revirostris*, inhabit the lake. A small group of young saxaul trees is found in southwest of the area. This is the northernmost location of this plant species.



Photo: B.Nyambayar