

IBA CODE: MN017

IBA NAME: KHOMIIN TAL

Aimag(s): KHOVD, ZAVKHAN **Criteria:** A1, A3, A4i **Area:** 78,059 ha

Coordinates: 48°13'N 93°40'E **Altitude:** 1,132-1,249 m

Protection status

Partially protected by Khar Us Lake National Park

Site description

Khomiin Tal is a plain, surrounded by Khar and Durgun Lakes in the west, Zavkhan River and Teeliin River in the east and north, and by the great sand dunes of Mongol Els in the south. In the southern part of the site, there is the small Baga Lake, which is an important site for many breeding and migrating birds. At the centre of Khomiin Tal, desert and steppe vegetation dominates. However, there are reed beds along the shores of Khar and Durgun Lakes. In the northern part of the plain, along the Zavkhan River valley, there are wet grasslands and some reed beds. The extent of sand dunes is increasing in the area. Human habitation and livestock grazing are limited due to the harsh conditions, and past attempts at irrigated agriculture have failed. There has, however, been a small increase in people and livestock, and this is leading to degradation of pastures, destruction of nests along the lake shores, poaching and human disturbance. The IBA overlaps with Khar Us Lake National Park Ramsar Site.

Importance for birds

The site is important for the following Globally Threatened species: Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (VU); Pallas's Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU); Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (VU); and Relict Gull *Larus relictus* (VU). Dalmatian Pelicans bred at the site in 1997

and 1998, and continue to occur each summer. Other species that occur at the site include White Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*. The site supports an assemblage of species restricted to the Eurasian steppe and desert biome. The site regularly supports at least 1% of the flyway populations of Dalmatian Pelican, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* and Common Shelduck *T. tadorna*.

Importance for other fauna and flora

Mongolian Gazelle *Procapra gutturosa* and Przewalski's Wild Horse *Equus przewalskii* (CR) have been successfully introduced into the northern part of the site. Recently, a few herds of Saiga *Saiga tatarica* (CR) have been recorded.

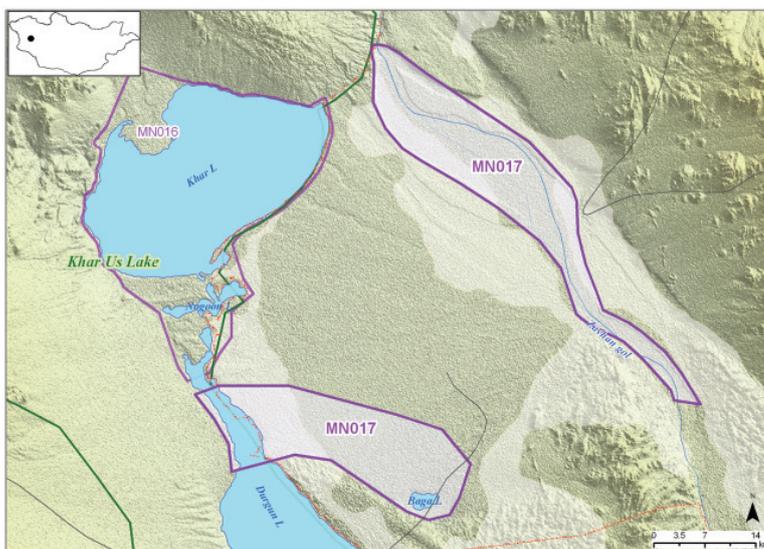


Photo: B.Nyambayar