

**IBA CODE:** MN068**IBA NAME:** BUIR LAKE**Aimag(s):** DORNOD **Criteria:** A1, A3, A4i, A4iii **Area:** 90,476 ha**Coordinates:** 47°46'N 117°48'E **Altitude:** 583-609 m

### Protection status

Unprotected

### Site description

Buir Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Mongolia. The lake is located on the border with China, with a narrow band of the lake extending into Chinese territory. There are extensive areas of wet grassland, reed beds and willows in the Khalkh River delta. There is only one outflow from the lake: the Orshuun River. The lake is frozen between November and the end of April. There are sand dunes at the southern end of the lake, containing several small lakes, and with steppe habitat beyond them. The site is an important area for fishing, and illegal fishing from the Chinese side is often reported. There are some recreational and tourism activities at the site, which is located along the main road from Choibalsan to Khalkhgol soum, and the number of visitors is increasing. Buir Lake and its surrounding wetlands were nominated as a Ramsar Site in 2004.

### Importance for birds

Globally Threatened species found at Buir Lake comprise Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* (EN), Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* (EN; in summer 2002, over half of the global population was recorded on the lake), Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (VU), Pallas's Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (VU), Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* (CR), White-naped Crane *G. vipio* (VU), Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (VU) and Relict

Gull *Larus relictus* (VU). The site supports an assemblage of species restricted to the Eurasian steppe and desert biome. The site also supports at least 1% of the flyway populations of Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, Common Shelduck *T. tadorna* and Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

### Importance for other fauna and flora

Mongolian Gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* and Taimen *Hucho taimen* are a few of the nationally threatened species that inhabit the site. Large herds of Mongolian Gazelle frequent the area south of the lake all year around.

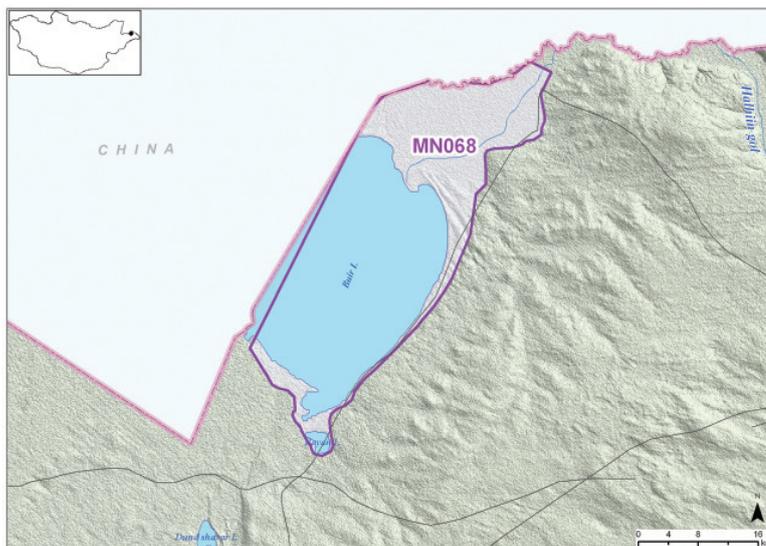


Photo: N. Tseveenmyadag