

MACAO LAND AREA 27 km² HUMAN POPULATION 441,600 (16,360 per km²)
 NUMBER OF IBAs 1 TOTAL AREA OF IBAs 0.8 km² STATUS OF IBAs 1 partially protected

KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

- Macao lies on the Pearl River delta, and although the wetlands there are relatively small and are under pressure from development, they support an important wintering population of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

Two items of legislation are relevant to wildlife conservation in Macao: the Ordinance to Prohibit Hunting (1981) and Article 11 of the Legislation on Protection of Wildlife and its Environment (1991). These are generally enforced by the Police Department. In 2001, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government declared two protected areas with a total area of 55 ha.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

- The Taipa-Coloane wetland IBA is a tidal mudflat which formed after a reclamation project to connect the two offshore islands of

Macao (Taipa and Coloane) was completed in 1968. Black-faced Spoonbill was first recorded there in 1990, and now occurs every winter in significant numbers (40-50 birds, roughly 4% of the global population).

CONSERVATION ISSUES

- The Taipa-Coloane wetland IBA is threatened by urban development, pollution and disturbance. Although part of it is now a protected area, it is a long strip of coastal wetland between a main road and a busy shipping channel, and it is difficult to prevent disturbance and pollution (including oil leaks from boats).

SOURCES OF IBA DATA

Information on the Macao IBA was compiled by Mr Leung Va (Country Park Authority of Macao).

Table 1. Important Bird Areas in Macao (see Map 1, p. 89).

1	Taipa-Coloane Wetland	Partially protected	A1	A4i
Coordinates	22°06'N 113°32'E	Altitude	Sea-level	Area 80 ha
Habitats	Wetlands	Threatened species	<i>Platalea minor</i>	Congregatory waterbirds <i>Platalea minor</i>

The Taipa-Coloane Wetland IBA is small and surrounded by urban and industrial land, but it supports an important wintering population of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. (PHOTO: LEUNG VA)

