

# BANGLADESH

RAMSAR CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE 1992

NUMBER OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) 2

AREA OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) 611,200 ha

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION  
Ministry of Environment and Forest

RAMSAR DESIGNATION IS:

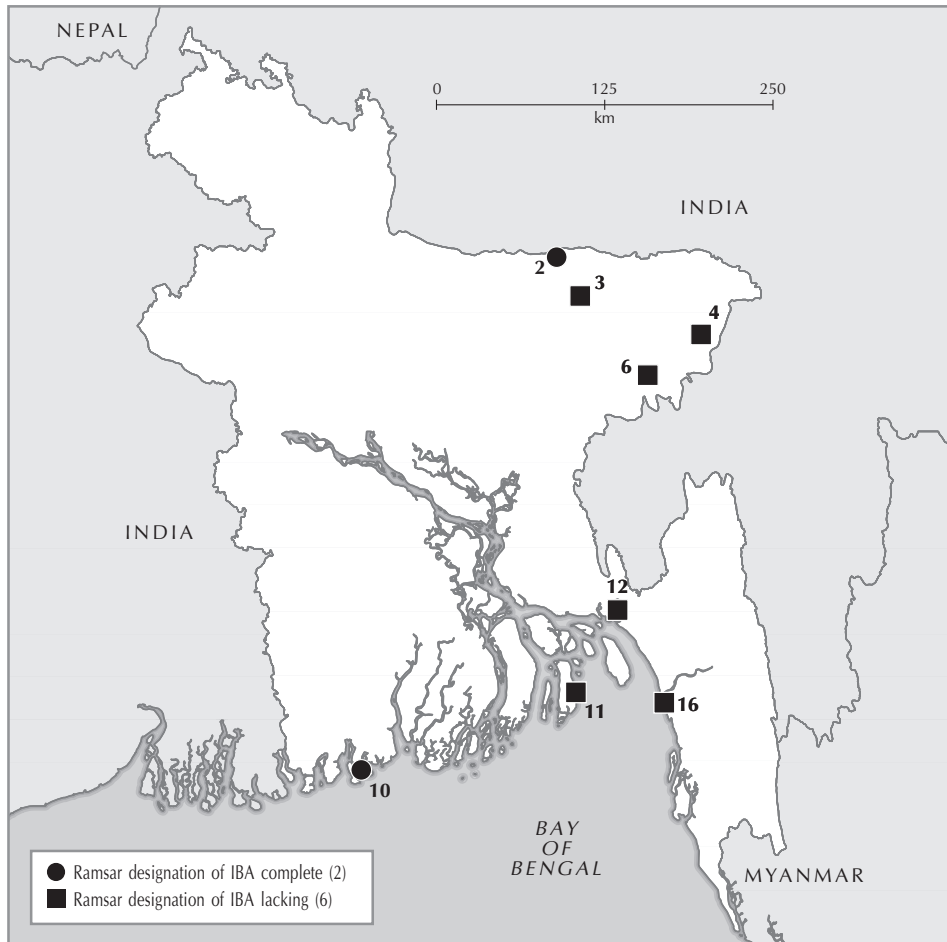
Complete in 2 IBAs

Lacking in 6 IBAs

Bangladesh has a low and flat topography and high rainfall, and about half of the country could be classified as wetland (Scott 1989). It includes the world's largest deltaic system (of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers) and shares the single largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, with India. The coastal wetlands of Bangladesh support the largest known concentrations of three globally threatened waterbirds: Spotted Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*, Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* and Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis*, and the *haor* wetlands in the north-east support important populations of many other wetland-dependent bird species, notably the threatened Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* and Pallas's Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*.

Two Ramsar Sites have been designated in Bangladesh, both of which overlap with IBAs, and an additional six potential

Ramsar Sites have been identified there. The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta (IBA 11) and the potential Ramsar Sites in the *haor* wetlands of north-east Bangladesh (IBAs 3, 4 and 6) are particularly notable because they support large concentrations of migratory and resident wetland-dependent bird species, including several that are globally threatened. Although partly threatened by reclamation proposals, there would be practical difficulties in the designation (and boundary definition) of any new Ramsar Site(s) in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta (IBA 11) because it comprises constantly-shifting intertidal flats. During the early 1990s, the Flood Action Plan Project for North-East Bangladesh completed Ramsar information sheets for several wetlands in that part of the country, including Hakaluki Haor (IBA 4), which would provide a useful basis for considering their designation as Ramsar Sites in the future.



Location of Important Bird Areas in Bangladesh that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites.

## Summary of Important Bird Areas that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites in Bangladesh.

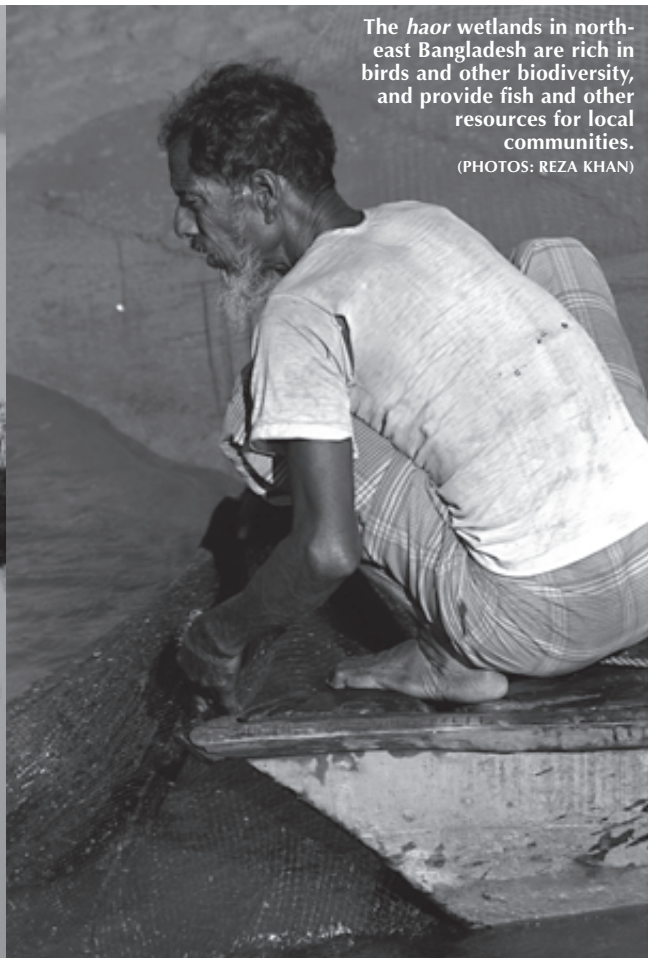
### Ramsar designation of IBA complete (2 IBAs)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
					2	4	5	6
2	Tangour Haor and Panabeel	1,566	Tangour Haor	9,500	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Sundarbans (East, South, West Wildlife Sanctuaries)	139,699	The Sundarbans Reserved Forest	601,700	✓		✓	✓

Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (6 IBAs)			Ramsar criteria			
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	2	4	5	6
3	Aila Beel	160	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Hakaluki Haor	20,400	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Hail Haor	8,906	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta	75,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Muhuri Dam	500		✓		✓
16	Patenga Beach	500	✓	✓		✓

Summary of the occurrence of globally threatened wetland-dependent bird species within the selected IBAs in Bangladesh.

IBA	Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Baer's Pochard <i>Aythya baeri</i>	Pallas's Fish-eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucorhynchus</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>	Masked Finfoot <i>Heliopais personata</i>	Spotted Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i>	Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Euryrhynchus pygmaeus</i>	Indian Skimmer <i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	Total
2	VU	✓	✓	✓					3
3		✓	✓						2
4	✓	✓	✓			✓			4
6		✓	✓	✓					3
10	✓				✓		✓		3
11						✓	✓	✓	3
16						✓	✓		2
Total	2	4	4	2	1	3	3	1	



The haor wetlands in north-east Bangladesh are rich in birds and other biodiversity, and provide fish and other resources for local communities.  
(PHOTOS: REZA KHAN)