dependent birds can be identified with relative ease from IBA inventories. For the present report, this was done step-wise:

- 1. A list was compiled of all bird species that are ecologically dependent on wetlands and whose natural range includes areas of the region covered by this publication (see Appendix 2).
- Data on the 2,293 IBAs in Asia and their key bird populations were analysed to compile a preliminary list of all IBAs in the region that are internationally important for the wetlanddependent bird species under the IBA criteria shown in Figure 2.
- 3. All IBAs not containing wetland habitat (according to the Ramsar definition of 'wetland', for which see Appendix 1) were excluded from the site list (e.g. forest IBAs important for the globally threatened White-eared Night-heron *Gorsachius magnificus*).
- 4. Ramsar designation of wetland habitat within each qualifying IBA, as of March 2005, was categorised as:
 - Complete all wetland habitat important for key wetland birds (i.e. birds that trigger the IBA and Ramsar criteria

- listed in Figure 2) within the IBA is included currently within one Ramsar Site or more.
- O Partial some wetland habitat important for key wetland birds within the IBA is included currently within one Ramsar Site or more, but expansion of current (or designation of new) Ramsar Site(s) is needed to cover excluded areas within the IBA.
- Lacking no wetland habitat important for key wetland birds within the IBA is included within any Ramsar Site.

With regard to identifying key sites that hold 1% or more of the population of a wetland bird species, the IBA A4i criterion applies to biogeographic populations (e.g. East Asian) whereas the Ramsar Criterion 6 can be applied to smaller populations within Asia, such as subspecies or flyway populations. As a result, the numerical thresholds ('1% of population') for A4i tend to be higher than those for Ramsar Criterion 6. Thus, key sites chosen under A4i nearly always meet or exceed the 1% threshold for Ramsar Criterion 6.

Figure 2. Direct links between the IBA criteria and the Ramsar criteria.

IBA Criteria Ramsar Criteria The site regularly holds significant numbers of a A wetland should be considered internationally globally threatened species, or other species of important if it supports Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered species or global conservation concern threatened ecological communities A4i The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides basis, at least 1% of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species refuge during adverse conditions A4ii The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular A wetland should be considered internationally basis, at least 1% of the global population of a important if it regularly supports 20,000 or congregatory seabird or terrestrial species more waterbirds A4iii 6 A wetland should be considered internationally The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, at least 20,000 waterbirds or 10,000 pairs important if it regularly supports 1% or more of the individuals in a population of one species of seabird of one or more species or subspecies of waterbird