

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).
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 wetland-dependent 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.

- 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.

