Tajikistan joins the Ramsar Convention

4 September 2001

Tajikistan

Tajikistan joins the Ramsar Convention. Tajikistan has informed the Director-General of UNESCO of its accession to the Convention on Wetlands, as amended by the Paris Protocol of 1982, on 18 July 2001, so that the Convention will enter into force for Tajikistan on 18 November 2001. In accordance with Article 2.1 of the Convention, which requires the name and boundary map of at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, the "National Commission of Ramsar Convention in Republic of Tajikistan" has submitted maps for what appear to be five Ramsar sites, for which Ramsar Information Sheets have not yet been completed. Unofficially and based only upon information included on these maps, the five sites are: Karakul Lake (36,400 hectares, ca. 39°05’N 073°29’E) in the east part of the country; Kayrakum Reservoir (52,000 hectares, ca. 40°20’N 070°10’E), in the far northeast of the country; Lower part of Pyandj (or Pjandj) River (620km of river, shoreline, and islands, but no area given, ca. 37°10’N 068°30’E), in the far southwest of the country; Shorkul and Rangkul lakes (2,400 hectares, ca. 38°28’N 074°10’E), evidently very high altitude lakes in the far east of the country; and Zorkul Lake (3,800 hectares, ca. 37°23’N 073°20’E), also apparently at high altitude, in the southeast of the country. Tajikistan becomes the Convention’s 127th Contracting Party and brings the total number of Ramsar sites to 1085, totaling 82,223,877 hectares. The Convention heartily welcomes Tajikistan to the Ramsar family. [27/08/01]

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