

Physical characteristics

Chaghakhor international wetland and its periphery lands, with geographical characteristics from 31° 54' to 31° 56' north latitude and from 50° 52' to 50° 56' east longitude are located in the east of the Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province in a 60km distance from the south of Shahrkord (the province capital). The basin of this wetland extends between the 31° 50' 13.48" and 31°57'9.14" north latitude and 50° 48' 21.25" and 50° 57' 26.12" east longitude from the north to the south of the wetland. In a holistic view, the topographies of the lake and its surrounding lands show that it has developed the middle mountainous hole and plain, and the heights of Bar Aftab in the north, Shapornaz in the west, and Kalar in the south have surrounded it. The drainage divide of these heights shapes the basin of Chaghakhor wetland. These heights are located in the mountainous area of Zagros. Thus, tectonic activities have been shaped, and they have enclosed almost all sides of the lake surrounding.

The natural environment

This wetland is important since it maintains a considerable number of bird species that are exposed to life threats, one percent of the regional species of the environmental geography, or their immigration route. In the assessment of the 75 important wetland in the country, Chaghakhor has also been ranked as the 8th main wetland after Horalazim, Miankaleh, Gorgan Bay, Shadegan, Hilla Delta, Anzali, Parishan (Dasht-e-Arzhan), and Hamoun-e Puzak wetlands based on some criteria, including the birds, fish, threatening factors, economic-social components, and conservational conditions. However, Gandoman wetland in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province has been ranked as the 12th, and some important wetlands such as Khorkhoran, Lake Urmia, Lake Bakhtegan, and Gomishan have been qualitatively evaluated as the 11th, 13th, 14th, and 21st important wetlands, respectively. Chaghakhor wetland has been considered important among the 75-fold understudy wetlands since it encompasses 3 species of at-risk and low-populated birds, 2 species that are exposed to global threats, and bird diversity of over 20 species. Some fish criteria, including fish diversity, four-kind spawning and growing regions, the presence of two domestic fish kinds, the identification of two at-risk species, has made the wetland acquire 68% of its importance for its fish. In the scope of Chaghakhor wetland, the birds are the most crucial group among vertebrates. Likewise, among these birds, different bird kinds that are vulnerable, supported, and exposed to

extinction risk are observed. Temporally, they are in the wetland from the late autumn to the late winter.

With respect to the experiences in the Iranian wetlands' protection project, the comprehensive management programs of Chaghakhor wetland have been compiled based on the available instructions, by the participation of all beneficiaries, and according to the biome management principles. Emphasizing the participation of the beneficiaries with collective wisdom based on it, these principles have executed the program compilation phases prioritized in the following:

1. Compiling the long-term vision and general objectives of the wetland
2. Collecting the present base information and attempting to complete the deficiencies of it
3. Examining and prioritizing the values and functions of the wetland
4. Examining and prioritizing the problems and threats ahead of the wetland
5. Defining strategic goals for the attainment of the general objective
6. Defining long-term and short-term objectives based on the already identified values and threats
7. Compiling a practical program for the attainment of goals
8. Compiling a monitoring and evaluating plan for the program implementation

After the fulfillment of the above phases and compilation of the management program, the final program is approved by the competent authorities at the provincial level for being executed. Regarding the basin's properties and its temporal and local conditions, these phases can be replaced to some extent. Moreover, it is possible to add or deduct some activities concerning the decisions of the workgroup.