

Kani Barazan Wetland

Geographical Features

Kani Barazan wetland is located in the northern part of Mahabad River's basin in the south of Lake Urmia. Geographically, this wetland has specifications of 46° 45' east longitude, 59° 36' north latitude, and almost 1270m altitude.

This wetland is a part of a wide wetland area at the downstream of Mahabad and Simine Rivers' basins. It has been spread in the north and east of Qara Dagh village and extended to Grous Wetland. The construction of the main drainage on the eastern coast of Mahabad's irrigation network and a dike at the tail of the northern side of the wetland has separated Kani Barazan wetland from the rest of the adjacent wetland lands.

Qara Dagh, Bafarvan, Ghale Hasan, and Khorkhore are the villages around the wetland. The wetland is located in the administrative domain of Mahabad town in West Azerbaijan province.

Topography

Kani Barazan wetland is located in the north of Qara Dagh mountain and extends toward the north in the coastal areas of Lake Urmia's south. Beside Qara Dagh mountain, there is a deeper wetland (with ≥ 1 meter depth), and its bed is rock-ribbed and, to some extent, rough. However, its depth reduces to the north (< 0.5 m). Due to the extension of foothill wrinkles toward the wetland inside, the topography of the wetland bed is rough where it contacts with the mountain; however, the wetland bed becomes less rough toward the north.

Geology

The region soils are formed by alluvial deposits accumulated at the downstream of the rivers' basins. Such soils have basically fine textures and are generally formed by clay and silt with very slow drainage capability. Close to the southern foothills, the small pieces of stones and gravels are mixed.

Climate

The climate of the region is semi-arid with cold winters and moderate summers. The average monthly maximum temperature is 32.6°C in August, and the average minimum temperature is -4°C in December.

The average annual rainfall is 410mm, and the maximum rainfall occurs in the time interval from the early autumn to the mid-spring. The rainfall in summer is less than 5% of the total annual rainfall. During the cold months of the winter, it generally snows. The average evaporation measured by the class A evaporation pan is 1861mm, which is four times of the raining rate.

Land use and ownership

The lands of the wetland are parts of natural resources and belong to the government. The wetland is also a part of four-fold regions under the management of the Department of Environment and is protected as the wildlife shelter of Kani Barazan. Thus, the lands of the wetland are not exploited. Sometimes, the buffalos and sheep of the adjacent villages pasture there, and, sometimes, the wetland straws are harvested for constructional purposes. The hills located in the southern periphery of the wetland are generally rainfed lands and employed for the cultivation of rainfed wheat. The inhabitants of the adjacent villages traditionally and usually use the surrounding water resources, too.

Management Plan

The ecosystem management program in sensitive ecosystems, especially Lake Urmia, is prepared and implemented. The Department of Environment, with the cooperation of Management and Planning Organization, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, have prepared the executive instructions of this Management Plan and have them approved by the board of ministers. Thus, the purpose of the current practice is to compile a general management program for sustainable conservation and exploitation from Kani Barazan wetland. It is approved by the first-order officials of the city, province, and others, if needed. Then, this management program will be executed through an inter-sectional organizational structure, which specifies the actions of every one of the beneficiary groups in detail.