



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 4 June 2025

India

Khichan wetland



| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Designation date | 19 February 2025 |
| Site number | 2568 |
| Coordinates | 27°08'28"N 72°25'E |
| Area | 54,19 ha |

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Khichan, a quaint village situated in the newly created Phalodi district of Rajasthan, India, is known for its remarkable coexistence with many demoiselle cranes that visit the village every winter. This site (54.187 ha) is located 150 km north of Jodhpur in the northern part of the Thar Desert in India. The site comprises of two waterbodies the Vijayasgara Talab (19 ha) and Ratri Nadi with an area of 18 ha, while the remaining 17 ha is characterized by presence of other habitat types including scrub land and riparian areas which provides mosaic ecosystem to the biodiversity of proposed site. These rivers and ponds are used by the cranes as resting sites in the evening and a source of drinking water for wildlife.

Khichan has gained recognition as a tourist spot by the Rajasthan Tourist Development Corporation, primarily due to the presence of large wintering flocks of Demoiselle cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*). The village is characterized by its sandy desert landscape, highlighting typical xerophytic vegetation of the Thar, with Mesquite (*Prosopis cineraria*) being one of the common tree species.

The site supports a variety of lifeforms that are ecologically adapted to desert ecosystem. Khichan has been declared as Kuranja Conservation Reserve, by the Rajasthan Forest Department in April 2023 under Wildlife Protection Act. The area is actively managed by the forest division and has become a destination for birders, students, tourists, and scientists, who regularly visit the village to witness the unique wildlife and ecosystem.

The site is important of safeguarding biodiversity in this region. The site supports 159 species of birds out of which 43 species are water birds. It is home to threatened birds which includes two (02) critically endangered, two (02) endangered, three (03) vulnerable and three (03) near threatened species of water birds. This site is important habitat for Demoiselle Cranes (population size: 22667; 2017 - 2022). During winter, thousands of Demoiselle Cranes migrate to Khichan, creating a remarkable example of harmonious coexistence between the wildlife and the local community.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Institution/agency | Department of Forests, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Rajasthan |
| Postal address | Room No. 8325 SSO Building, Government Secretariat, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India Pin Code -302005 |

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Institution/agency | Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India |
| Postal address | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003 INDIA |

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

| | |
|-----------|------|
| From year | 2017 |
| To year | 2022 |

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Official name (in English, French or Spanish) | Khichan wetland |
|---|-----------------|

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Former maps | 0 |
|-------------|---|

Boundaries description

The Khichan wetland (54 ha) comprises of "Vijaysagar Talab" (Pond) 19 ha Latitude 27° 08' 40.8" N, longitude 72° 24' 37.2" E and "Ratri Nadi" (River) 18 ha, Latitude 27° 08' 36.7" N, longitude 72° 24' 46.5" E with scrub land and riparian habitats characterized by typical xerophytic vegetation areas (17.187 ha). The northern boundary of the wetland is marked by the peripheral agricultural fields of Phalodi, the southern boundary is marked by the Khichan village and the eastern boundary is marked by the peripheral agricultural fields of Phalodi. In the west, the wetland boundary is marked by the Phalodi Chakhu road.

2.2.2 - General location

| | |
|--|---|
| a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? | Jodhpur and Phalodi District, Rajasthan, India. |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|------------------|
| b) What is the nearest town or population centre? | Phalodi District |
|---|------------------|

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 54.187

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 54.187

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

| Regionalisation scheme(s) | Biogeographic region |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Freshwater Ecoregions of the World (FEOW) | Lower and Middle Indus (ID 703) |

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

The Khichan wetland represents a sustainable human-wildlife coexistence within desert ecosystems. The Khichan wetland, is a hydrologically important site within the arid Thar Desert, exemplifies fresh water ecosystem in desert habitat under the biogeographic zone Lower and middle Indus Delta. Characterized by two adjacent satellite water bodies – Vijaysagar Talab and Ratdi Nadi – the wetland displays a remarkable adaptation of life to extreme aridity, supports the water security in the region and also providing water for drinking purpose to the wildlife. The site acts as a natural recharge zone for the underlying aquifers and the infiltration of water during the wet season helps sustain the groundwater levels, which are crucial for local agriculture.

Other ecosystem services provided

This site exhibits harmonious coexistence between the local community and the thriving bird populations, particularly the thousands of Demoiselle Cranes that visit annually, is a unique feature of this site. The villagers have actively participated in conservation efforts, demonstrating a remarkable model of human-wildlife coexistence within a fragile desert ecosystem.

The Thar region in Rajasthan provides a habitat for a diverse range of migratory avian species, with the Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) being prominent among them. Demoiselle cranes are migratory birds that travel between breeding grounds in Eurasia and wintering grounds in India and the African continent. The area of Khichan, in Rajasthan, is a well - known wintering site for thousands of Demoiselle cranes. These birds are attracted to the salt pans and other open habitats near the village. The shallow waters and open habitats of the salt pans, known as "Khatiya" locally, provide essential roosting and resting grounds for migrating cranes. These birds spend night in a salty landscape called Mallhar Rinn, about 25 kms from Khichan and use the wetland as foraging ground. Key habitats of this bird in and around Khichan village include waterbodies such as Vijaysagar Talab, Ratri Nadi, Nibli Nadi, and Teejaniyo Ki Nadi, while the 'Chugga Ghar (bird feeding centre in Khichan village)' serves as a vital feeding ground.

Other reasons

This wetland represents a wide variety of habitats, communities and landscape values in Thar Desert ecosystem. All these habitats shelter a high diversity of flora and fauna and make the relevant area one of the most diverse and abundant, as well as representative site in northern part of Thar Desert, India under the biogeographic zone Lower and middle Indus Delta.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

This site is home to a large number of birds included in the IUCN Red List and Wild Life Protection Act of India, 1972. This includes two critically endangered – Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) and White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), two endangered – Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), three (03) vulnerable water bird species- Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) and Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*).

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Site is rich in biodiversity and comprises threatened species, which contribute to maintain the biodiversity of the entire biogeographic region. The Site supports 159 species of birds out of which 43 species are water birds and are widely distributed in the site and the regional landscape. Some of the important species include the Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) and the Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*). It is also home to eight plant species adapted to desert ecosystem.

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

The Khichan is highly significant for as its supports wintering grounds for several water birds that uses Central Asian Flyway and provides suitable habitat for considerable population of juveniles birds of Demoiselle cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*). The site supports 10 species of birds during breeding cycle or in adverse condition. This includes Demoiselle Cranes (*Grus virgo*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*), Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Indian Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*), Cattle Egret (*Bulbucus ibis*), Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*), Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus Indicus*) and Yellow-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*).

Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

22667

Start year

2017

End year

2022

Source of data:

<https://www.irjet.net/archives/V10/i11/IRJET-V10i1172.pdf>

Optional text box to provide further information

Annual Bird Count 2017-2018: 15000; 2018-2019: 20000; 2019-2020: 20000; 2020-2021: 23000; 2021-2022:18000; 2022 – 2023:40000

The total bird population for 6 years is 1,36,000 and the average is 22667. More than 20,000 individuals of single species Demoiselle Crane spend winter in Khichan every year (annual average 22667).

Source: <https://www.irjet.net/archives/V10/i11/IRJET-V10i1172.pdf>

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

| Phylum | Scientific name | Criterion 2 | Criterion 3 | Criterion 4 | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | Other status | Justification |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| Plantae | | | | | | | | |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Azadirachta indica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | supports habitat for birds |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Capparis decidua</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Supports habitat for birds and this is a drought-resistant plant species. |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA | <i>Cenchrus ciliatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | This species is a drought-tolerant grass and control erosion in the site. |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA | <i>Dactyloctenium scindicum</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Develops foraging ground for bird species and other animals in the site. |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Prosopis cineraria</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | this species grows around the site and is a perennial and multipurpose tree that provides useful fodder for livestock in the drier areas. Provides a wide range of environmental services and is much valued in ethnomedicine. |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Senegalia senegal</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Supports habitat for birds.. |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Vachellia nilotica indica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Supports habitat for birds. |
| TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Ziziphus nummularia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Supports habitat for birds and this is a drought-resistant plant species |

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

| Phylum | Scientific name | Species qualifies under criterion | | | | Species contributes under criterion | | | | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| Birds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anas acuta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anas crecca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anastomus oscitans</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anser indicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |

| Phylum | Scientific name | Species qualifies under criterion | | | | Species contributes under criterion | | | | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Anthropoides virgo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22667 | 2017-2022 | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cranes have mythological and culture significance. Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity. Site supports this species during the migratory season. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | EN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Aquila rapax</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | VU | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Ardeola grayii</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | VU | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | NT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Calidris pugnax</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Fulica atra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | CR | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides feeding ground, suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Gyps indicus</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | CR | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides feeding ground, suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |

| Phylum | Scientific name | Species qualifies under criterion | | | | Species contributes under criterion | | | | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | NT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Mareca penelope</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Mareca strepera</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Microcarbo niger</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | EN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Pseudibis papillosa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Spatula clypeata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Spatula querquedula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Sterna aurantia</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | VU | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | The site provides suitable habitat and refuge for survival of this threatened species |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |

| Phylum | Scientific name | Species qualifies under criterion | | | | Species contributes under criterion | | | | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Largely distributed across the site, spread across the entire landscape and thus characterizing its biodiversity |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Vanellus indicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Vanellus leucurus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Vanellus malabaricus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | LC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |
| CHORDATA / AVES | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | NT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cri. 3, 4: The Site provides habitat for roosting and nesting |

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The Khichan wetland, spanning 54.187 hectares is situated in newly created Phalodi district of Rajasthan, India. This site is located 150 kilometers from the popular tourist destination of Jodhpur, Rajasthan amidst Thar Desert ecosystem at an elevation of 219 meter. The Khichan wetland area comprises two adjacent satellite water bodies, namely Vijaysagar Talab (18 ha) and Ratdi Nadi (19 ha), along with their surrounding areas (17.187 ha). The wetland receives water mainly through rainfall and important for hydrology and water security in the region. This site is crucial for waterbirds, providing essential feeding and roosting sites.

This site is notified as a Bird conservation reserve in the year 2023 and supports biodiversity that include 159 species of birds. This is home to a total of 43 species of water birds. The wetland is important habitat for River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*) Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*), Indian Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), Common Crane (*Grus grus*) and the Demoiselle cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*).

Khichan wetland is an important habitat for Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*). The villagers have taken proactive measures to mitigate threats to the cranes' survival, such as reducing crane mortalities caused by collisions with power lines, attacks by stray dogs, and injuries from Chinese manja (kite-flying thread). To address the issue of stray dog attacks, the villagers, in collaboration with the local administration, have created boundaries around the site with chain-linked fencing, effectively minimizing mortality of the birds over time. The Khichan wetland is best-protected conservation areas in Jodhpur region where community are safeguarding habitats for diverse lifeforms that are adapted to desert ecosystem.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

| Wetland types (code and name) | Local name | Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least) | Area (ha) of wetland type | Justification of Criterion 1 |
|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> P: Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes | Ratdi nadi , Vijay sagar | 1 | 37 | Representative |

Other non-wetland habitat

| Other non-wetland habitats within the site | Area (ha) if known |
|--|--------------------|
| Scrub land and riparian habitats | 17.187 |

(ECD) Habitat connectivity

The river and ponds are connected in North east side with the upstream drainage and the wildlife including birds use these habitats for roosting and as a source of drinking water.

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Invasive alien plant species

| Phylum | Scientific name | Impacts |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| TRACHEOPHYTAMAGNOLIOPSIDA | <i>Vachellia nilotica</i> | Potential |

Optional text box to provide further information

Non- Endemic, This species was initially introduced to tropical areas for shading and forage. It forms dense stands that limit access to water for livestock, diminish the quality of pasture and compete with native plants in the site.

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

| Climatic region | Subregion |
|-----------------|---|
| B: Dry climate | BWh: Subtropical desert (Low-latitude desert) |

Climate change impacts in the Thar Desert, including the Jodhpur region, include shifting rainfall patterns, increased temperatures, and potential for desert greening due to an expanding Indian Ocean Warm Pool (IOWP) and westward extension of the Indian monsoon. Long-term trends in annual rainfall and temperatures for the Thar region, including Jodhpur, show that air temperatures are likely to increase by +2.9°C by the end of the 21st century whereas the annual rainfall is likely to decrease by -40 mm in which may affect the ecological characters of the site.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral
- Organic
- No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

| Presence? | |
|---|-----------|
| Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present | No change |

Source of water that maintains character of the site

| Presence? | Predominant water source | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Water inputs from precipitation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No change |

Water destination

| Presence? | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| To downstream catchment | No change |

Stability of water regime

| Presence? | |
|--|-----------|
| Water levels fluctuating (including tidal) | No change |

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

- Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site
- Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site
- Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site
- Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually
- Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

- Acid (pH<5.5)
- Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)
- Alkaline (pH>7.4)
- Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

- Fresh (<0.5 g/l)
- Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)
- Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)
- Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)
- Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

- Eutrophic
- Mesotrophic
- Oligotrophic
- Dystrophic
- Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself:
 i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Fresh water | Drinking water for humans and/or livestock | High |

Regulating Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Pollution control and detoxification | Water purification/waste treatment or dilution | Medium |
| Climate regulation | Local climate regulation/buffering of change | Medium |

Cultural Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Spiritual and inspirational | Inspiration | High |
| Scientific and educational | Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site) | High |

Supporting Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part | High |
| Nutrient cycling | Carbon storage/sequestration | Medium |

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

Fencing was done with 6 feet of wire mesh channeling to protect the foraging birds. The Khichan village is five kilometres east of the Phalodi city. Phalodi has become a separate district now). The village is situated 140 kilometres north of the district headquarters. Khichan gained popularity in the 19th century as most of its inhabitants were traders from the Jain Community. Recently the village of Khichan has been recognized by the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) as a tourist hot spot.

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

The story of a positive interaction between humans and wildlife in Khichan dates back 40 years. A young man Ratanlal Maloo (a recipient of the Salim Ali Nature Conservation Award in 2009 by BNHS), is returning from Orissa on a note from his uncle to look after his ailing mother. Mr. Maloo and his wife Sundarbai considered it their duty to feed the birds. Mr. Maloo saw how cranes increased from September to peak in December-January and moved in search of food. Ratanlal approached the Gram Panchayat (village council) to allot some land for the Kurjan, as the cranes are known locally. He raised funds from the high-income families of the village to get the allotted land, fenced it, and called it a feeding spot or Chuggah Ghar. The Khichan is highly significant for many bird species as it supports them in critical stages of their life cycle. The Khichan is home to Demoiselle Crane.

The annual bird migration began in the 1970s with about a hundred storks, when a local couple began feeding the pigeons. Other villagers joined their efforts, and as of 2014, Khichan now hosts over ~2530,000 demoiselle cranes each year from the beginning of August to the end of March of the following year.

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

Description if applicable

The villagers have taken proactive measures to mitigate threats to the cranes' survival, such as reducing crane mortalities caused by collisions with power lines, attacks by stray dogs, and injuries from Chinese manja (kite-flying thread). To address the issue of stray dog attacks, the villagers, in collaboration with the local administration, have created boundaries around the site with chain-linked fencing, effectively minimizing mortality of the birds over time.

The Khichan wetland functions as a valuable model for other communities in the region and beyond, highlighting how local participation can play a crucial role in conserving biodiversity. The Khichan wetland's unique ecological characteristics, its role as a crucial habitat for threatened species, and the successful example of community-based conservation make it a highly significant wetland of international importance.

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

| Category | Within the Ramsar Site | In the surrounding area |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Provincial/region/state government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Private ownership

| Category | Within the Ramsar Site | In the surrounding area |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other types of private/individual owner(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Forest Department, Rajasthan Government

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Jodhpur, Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan

Postal address:

Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Jodhpur, Wildlife, Machiya Biological Park Kayalana Road, Jodhpur Rajasthan, PIN: 342008

E-mail address:

dcfwl.jdpr.forest@rajasthan.gov.in

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tourism and recreation areas | Low impact | Low impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Water regulation

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Drainage | Low impact | Low impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Agriculture and aquaculture

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Non specified | unknown impact | unknown impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Human intrusions and disturbance

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Recreational and tourism activities | unknown impact | unknown impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unspecified | unknown impact | unknown impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Pollution

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Unspecified | unknown impact | unknown impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Climate change and severe weather

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | In the surrounding area |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Temperature extremes | High impact | High impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The agriculture in the peripheral region is causing nutrient enrichment in the wetland potentially leading to eutrophication. *Acacia nilotica*, which is growing in the site which is an invasive species can negatively impact the wetland.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Global legal designations

| Designation type | Name of area | Online information url | Overlap with Ramsar Site |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Other global designation | Khichan | | whole |

Non-statutory designations

| Designation type | Name of area | Online information url | Overlap with Ramsar Site |
|---------------------|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Important Bird Area | Khichan | https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/khichan-iba-india/refs | whole |

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

| Measures | Status |
|------------------|-------------|
| Legal protection | Implemented |

Habitat

| Measures | Status |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Habitat manipulation/enhancement | Implemented |

Species

| Measures | Status |
|---|-------------|
| Threatened/rare species management programmes | Implemented |

Human Activities

| Measures | Status |
|--|-------------|
| Regulation/management of recreational activities | Implemented |

5.2.5 - Management planning

- Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation
- Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No
- If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

- Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified
- Further information

Regulation/management of recreational activities | Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities |

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

| Monitoring | Status |
|------------------|-------------|
| Water quality | Implemented |
| Plant community | Implemented |
| Animal community | Implemented |

Bird count, habitat restoration, controlling impact of free-ranging dogs, testing of food grains being supplied for the birds

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

BirdLife International (2024) Important Bird Area factsheet: Khichan. Downloaded from <https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/khichan-iba-india> on 01/06/2024.

Sevaram Mali, Bhagirath Soni, Neelkanth Bora and Sujit Narwade (2023). High congregation of demoiselle cranes at a wintering site in Khichan, Rajasthan, India. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 120(3), Sept-Dec 2023.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<1 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Demoiselle Crane in Khinchan (Ashley Chiu, 24-10-2024)



Demoiselle Crane in Khinchan (Sujit Narwade BNHS, 25-10-2023)



Water Spread area in Khinchan (DCF WL Jodhpur, 08-11-2024)



Vijay Sagar in Khinchan (DCF WL Jodhpur, 16-11-2023)



Migratory water birds in Khinchan wetland (Sujit Narwade BNHS, 10-02-2023)



Demoiselle cranes in Khinchan wetland (Sujit Narwade BNHS, 23-02-2019)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation | 2025-02-19