

Qurumbar National Park



General features

Country:	Pakistan
Date of establishment:	2011
Area:	740 km ²
Geographic location:	Latitude: 36°45'N; Longitude: 74°45'E
IUCN category:	NA

Overview

Qurumbar National Park (QNP) falls in the Western Tibetan Plateau Alpine Steppe and includes a high altitude lake of Gilgit-Baltistan, Lake Qurumbar. The Gilgit-Baltistan Government declared the national park in 2011. It borders the Hindu Kush and Karakoram ranges.

Lake Qurumbar is the second highest lake in Pakistan (4,304 masl) and supports rich biodiversity. The lake is fed by melt from surrounding mountain glaciers, and water from the lake flows into the Qurumbar valley. The lake is surrounded by mountains with lush green grass and flowers. The lake has crystal clear water with trout fish. There is no road access. Livestock are left to graze around the lake in the spring and summer.

People

Khawar, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Wakhi, Sheena, and Brushaski

Flora

Most of the area can be categorized as dry alpine grass type vegetation with species like *Poa bulbosa*, *Ephedra* spp., and *Festuca ovina*. The reserve supports broadleaf species, mainly *Salix* spp. and *Betula utilis*.

Fauna

A number of the flagship mammal species of the region have been observed in the QNP, including snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*), Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*). QNP is a staging ground for most migratory birds.

Threats

- Confined distribution of Marco Polo sheep and lack of knowledge about their movement.
- Rapid decline of the Marco Polo sheep population.
- Local dependence on natural resources, livestock herding, trade activities, and widening of the Karakoram Highway.
- Geographic constraints, including a trans-border fence and the exclusion of the Kilik Pass from the park.



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