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2JP003

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: 2. Date: 3 December 1992 3. Ref: 2 JP003 office use only

4. Name and address of compiler:
Yoshihiro Natori, Wildlife Protection Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Environment Agency
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, TOKYO 100 JAPAN

5. Name of wetland: Kutcharo-ko

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 6 July 1989

7. Geographical coordinates: 45° 09'N 142° 20'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)
In the northern Hokkaido, approximately 50km southeast of Wakkanai city

9. Area: (in hectares)
1,607 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
Q S U

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
The entire area lies between 1m and 2m (above sea level).

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
The site locates near the Okhotsk Sea coast.
The area contains two lakes which are connected.
The central area of the each lakes studded with *Scirpus tabernaemontani* community and the surrounding area of the lakes is reed swamp including dotted alder swamp forest.
The site is the most important rest place for wintering waterfowls from Siberia, especially swans which drop in here first when they reach Japan.

13 wa
Hillsides of the northern and western area are 10-40m above sea level.
The lakes were established about 6,000 years ago by the sand-dune which blocked the way out of ancient gulf.
The upper lake, Ko-numa has 6 rivers and the lower lake, Oh-numa has 3 rivers and one river from the lower lake flows through the sand-dune toward the sea.
The potential of hydrogen of water in the each lakes indicates between 6.5 and 9.5 and the water of the lower lake, Oh-numa contains a lot of chlorine because the water of sea flows backward the lake during high tide.

1.
The northern Hokkaido belongs to the subarctic zone, the average temperature of the year is 4.7° C and the average precipitation of the year is 1,106mm and the snowfall is between 1m and 1.5m deep.

The swamp forest consists of *Alnus japonica, Ulmus japonica, Fraxinus mandshurica* var.*japonica, Spiraea salicifolia, Carex rhynchophysa* and *Lysichiton camtschatcense.*
The evergreen coniferous forest whose dominant species is *Picea glehnii* locates nearby the swamp forest.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

National Government owned land 205 ha
Non-private owned lake 1,402 ha

(b) surrounding area

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area
Hokkaido Prefectural Natural Park
In this area, construction, modification of land, mining, reclamation, changing of the water level, tree felling, taking of wildlife are prohibited without the permission of the Environment Agency and Hokkaido Prefectural Government.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

None

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

Hokkaido Prefectural Natural Park
Fishing (pond smelt, shrimp and other shellfish)

(b) surroundings/catchment

Pasture land has been reclaimed in the upper area of the site.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:
(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

None

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

Agricultural chemical which is sprinkled over pasturage flows into the area.
Excreta of cattle flows into rivers in the catchment area.

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Purify the water which flows through the lakes.

Control the water level of rivers in the catchment area.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Water supply for living.
Swan festival for tourists who visit the Hokkaido Prefecture Natural Park.
Some observation event of swan and other waterfowls for people who live nearby the site.

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

One of the most important rest places for winter visitor *Anas penelope, Aythya marila, A. fuligula* etc. whose population is between approximately 50,000 and 60,000 and *Cygnus columbianus* whose population is approximately 10,000 every winter.
One of the important breeding habitat of *Haliaeetus albicilla.*

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Picea glehnii - Phragmites australis community and *Picea glehnii - Empetrum nigrum* var.*japonica* community which locate around the lakes are one of the typical boreal coniferous forest in the northern Japan.

24. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Research on annual change of the number of wild goose, wild duck and swan every winter.
First class birdbanding research station (data base, research)
Observatory center of swan (research, education)

25. **Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Nature observation and swan observation by Hokkaido Prefecture Government

26. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

Wind surfing, wind-sledding and canoeing are the most popular recreation of visitors at Hokkaido Prefectural Natural Park and people who live in Hamatonbetsu town.

27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Hamatonbetsu First class Birdbanding Research Station,
Wildlife Protection division,
Nature Conservation Bureau,
Environment Agency
Hamatonbetsu town
Esashi-county
Hokkaido 098-57 Japan

28. ...ient etc.)

Wildlife Protection Section
Nature Conservation Department
Health Environment Division
Hokkaido Prefecture Government

29 Functional conservation jurisdiction:

Wildlife Protection Division
Nature Conservation Bureau
Environment Agency
Japan

...eport on research in environmental
...ldbird habitat
... study on satellite tracking of the migration routes of swans

30. **Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

2(a)
3(b), 3(c)

31. **Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England
Telephone: 44 - (0)453 890634 **Telefax:** 44 - (0)453 890827 **Telex:** 43 71 45 WWF-G