

21. Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:**
August 1997

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DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. **Country:** Russian Federation

3. **Name of wetland:** Zeya-Bureya Plains

4. **Geographical coordinates:** 49°55'N, 127°39'E.

5. **Altitude:** min 110 m, max 120 m a.s.l.

6. **Area:** 31,600 ha

7. **Overview:** Extensive floodplains of the rivers Zeya and Bureya, with plentiful lakes and marshes. The area is important for migrating and breeding populations of waterfowl, including rare species.

8. **Wetland Type** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: Ts,O,M.

9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a . 1b . 1c . 1d . ³ 2a . 2b . 2c . 2d . ³ 3a . 3b . 3c . ³ 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2a

10. **Map of site included?** Please tick *yes* or *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

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135 Lenin Street, Blagoveshchensk 675023, Russia

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 2a - the wetlands support rare species of waterfowl.

13. General location: In Amur Region, 43 km northwest of the city of Blagoveshchensk (regional centre), 33 km east of the village of Tambovka.

14. Physical features: The plains are composed of the Neogene and Pleistocene silty-loam lacustrine sediments. The floodplain of the Zeya River is about five km wide within the site, and the floodplain of the Bureya is up to 10 km wide. The lower portions of the floodplains include islands and beaches; the higher-level floodplains contain a complex of levees, oxbow lakes and marshes. Above the floodplains, there are two terraces.

The Zeya and Bureya Rivers are left tributaries of the Amur River. The Zeya is 1,208 km long and has a catchment area of 230,000 km². The Bureya is 630 km long and has a catchment of 69,800 km². The rivers are fed mainly by rain. The spring flood is not high, the level of water may rise considerably after monsoon rains in summer.

The area has a monsoon temperate climate (a continental variant). The summers in the area are the hottest in the Russian Far East. The mean air temperatures are +20.5°C in July and -25.5°C in January. The warm period, when the temperature is above zero, lasts for 100-110 days. The growing period for vegetation is 140-160 days. Annual precipitation varies from 550 to 600 mm, with only 15% falling in winter. The snow cover is not deep, and the ground freezes to 1.5-2 m. The soils are predominantly of the meadow types, with a high humus content (5-12%). The humus horizon is 20-60 cm deep. At lower places, gley soils occur, with an underlying layer of clay. The high-level floodplain is covered by forests on soddy-alluvial and brown soils.

15. Hydrological values: No information

16. Ecological features: Wet meadows with herbs, *Calamagrostis* sp. and *Carex* sp. are the most widespread. The herbs are dominated by *Calamagrostis purpurascens*, *Lycopus* sp., *Lythrum* sp., *Valeriana* sp. and *Sanguisorba* sp. Meadows at the high-level floodplain show a rich diversity (c. 60 species) and abundance of flowering plants, such as *Lilium* sp., *Nyripedium* sp., *Iris ensata* and *Paeonia lactiflora*. On the terraces, dry meadows with *Calamagrostis epigeios* and various herbs are found. These are not large in area. Patches of oak forests occur along the Bureya River. Grass fens are situated in depressions underlain by clays. The herbage is 40-50 cm high. These communities are dominated by *Calamagrostis neglecta*, *Carex lasiocarpa* and *Carex meyerana*. The mouths of the rivers and shores of the lakes are overgrown with reed *Phragmites*, which is up to two metres high, as well as with *Typha* sp., *Sagittaria* sp., *Acorus calamus*, *Menyanthes* sp. and *Lycopus* sp. Aquatic plants include *Potamogeton* sp., *Lemna* sp., *Nimphaea tetragona* and *Trapa natans*.

17. Noteworthy flora: The flora of the Zeya-Bureya Plains includes 280 species of plants, three of these are listed in the Russian Red Data Book and seven species are listed in the Red Book of the Russian Far East.

18. Noteworthy fauna: About 15,000 geese and 1,500 ducks migrate through the area in spring; up to 8,000 migrating ducks and 50-60 cranes have been registered in autumn. Breeding waterbirds include c. 300 pairs of ducks. Rare bird species, that occur at the site, include Japanese crane *Grus japonensis* (8-9 breeding pairs), white-naped crane *Grus vipio* (8-9 pairs) and oriental white stork *Ciconia boyciana* (5-6 pairs).

19. Social and cultural values: No information

20. Land tenure/ownership: The majority of the land belongs to the users with collective proprietary rights (agricultural farms). Part of the area is taken on lease by the Social-Ecological Union.

21. Current land use: Agriculture, grazing and sport fishing.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: None

23. Conservation measures taken: The borders of the Ramsar site coincide with those of the Muravjevsky Wildlife Refuge ('zakaznik'). Within the refuge borders, the Muravjevsky Nature Park has been established by the Social-Ecological Union, which gives great emphasis to education matters.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: It has been proposed to increase the staff of the zakaznik to four rangers.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: No information.

26. Current conservation education: The Social-Ecological Union gives great emphasis to education matters. A number of educational actions have been carried out with the help of international conservation organizations.

27. Current recreation and tourism: No information.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Administration of Amur Region (135 Lenin Street, Blagoveshchensk 675023, Russia).

Functional: State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection (4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, Moscow 123812, Russia).

29. Management authority: Regional Environmental Committee (135 Lenin Street, Blagoveshchensk 675023, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references:
