31. 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:
June 1997

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date

Site Reference Number

2. Country: Russian Federation

3. Name of wetland: Moroshechnaya River

4. Geographical coordinates: 56°21'N, 156°15'E

5. Altitude: max 434 m a.s.l.

6. Area: 219,000 ha

7. Overview: The site comprises the step-like valley of the Moroshechnaya River, with a large number of oxbow-lakes, and a saline lagoon of the Sea of Okhotsk. The area is important for migrating, breeding and moulting populations of waterbirds.

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: U,J,O,Tp,W,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: 3b

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:
I.V.Rudkovsky: Regional Environmental Committee (8 Proletarsky Per., Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).
E.S.Gusakov: Central Research Laboratory, Hunting Management Office
Losinoostrovskaya Lesnaya Dacha-18, Moscow 129347, Russia

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 3b - the wetland supports the population of *Anser fabalis,* which is the largest in the region.

13. General location: The western coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula, Koryak Autonomous Area, Tigilsky District, 60 km south of the village of Ust-Khairyuzovo.

14. Physical features: The site comprises the step-like valley of the Moroshechnaya River and a saline lagoon of the Sea of Okhotsk. This wetland complex contains a mixture of various lakes and oxbow-lakes over peat and peat-gley soils. The valley is composed from the Neogene loose rocks, overlain by the Upper Pleistocene and Holocene marine sediments. The mean air temperature of the hottest month (July) is between +8° and +12°C. The warm period, when the temperature is above zero, lasts for over 100 days.

15. Hydrological values: No data

16. Ecological features: The principal formations are non-forested raised bogs with pools and ridges, overgrown with *Sphagnum, Empetrum nigrum* and *Salix middendorfi*. The estuarine lagoon is an important feeding and staging area for waterfowl.

17. Noteworthy flora: The vegetation is primarily represented by the floodplain tundra, mire and meadow communities. Small sites are occupied by mixed forests with *Betula ermanii*, *Pinus pumila* and *Salix* sp. Rare plants include *Rhodiola rosea*.

18. Noteworthy fauna: The catchment area of the Moroshechnaya River comprises important habitats for migrating, breeding and moulting populations of waterbirds. Breeding species include various ducks and colonial sea birds. The breeding population of bean goose *Anser fabalis*, including the taiga subspecies *A.f.middendorfi*, is the largest on the Kamchatka Peninsula (over 250 pairs). Migrating waterbirds include Anseriformes (*c.* 500,000 individuals) and several thousands of Charadriiformes. In spring, the migrating population of *Anser fabalis* has been estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 individuals. In summer, up to 5,000 *A.fabalis* concentrate at the site for moulting. Species listed in the Russian Red Data Book, that occur at the site, include Steller's sea eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, white-tailed eagle *H.albicilla* and gyr falcon *Falco gyrfalco;* Armstrong's sandpiper *Tringa guttifer* and Aleutian tern *Sterna aleutica* have also been noted.

The wetland provides important spawning areas for *Salmo mykiss*.

19. Social and cultural values: The wetlands support traditional activities, such as reindeer grazing, fisheries, hunting and collection of food plants (except for the nature reserve area).

20. Land tenure/ownership: State owned ('Goslesfund')

21. Current land use: Activities at the site (excepting the protected area) include reindeer grazing in winter, commercial hunting and fishing.

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

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23. Conservation measures taken: The site include the Moroshechnaya River reserve ('zakaznik'). At the reserve, the following activities are forbidden: waterfowl shooting, forest felling, hay harvesting, drainage work, mining for minerals, use of pesticides for any purpose, vehicles with caterpillar-tractors and motor-boats to enter the area, house construction and tourism. Practical protection is carried out by two rangers.

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

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25. Current scientific research and facilities: Monitoring of waterbird populations was conducted from 1975 to 1990. Since 1986, ringing of geese has been carried out. Joint Russian-Japanese research project on the local population of *Anser fabalis* was carried out in 1995.

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26. Current conservation education: None

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27. Current recreation and tourism: None

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28. Jurisdiction:
Territorial: Administration of Koryak Autonomous Area (22 Porotova Street, Palana, Kamchatka 684620, Russia).
Functional: State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection (4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, Moscow 123812, Russia).

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29. Management authority: Regional Environmental Committee (8 Proletarsky Per., Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).
Regional Hunting Management Office (Obuhova Street, Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).

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30. Bibliographical references: N.N.Gerasimov (1988); N.N.Gerasimov & Yu.N.Gerasimov (1984); Yu.N.Gerasimov (1995).