

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:** _____ Apr.,2004

2. **Country:** Japan

3. **Name of wetland:** Fujimae-Higata

4. **Geographical coordinates:** 35 ° 04' N, 136 ° 50' E

5. **Elevation:** (average and/or max. & min.) +0.8 - -4.0 meters

6. **Area:** (in hectares) 323 ha

7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Fujimae-Higata is a tidal flat at river mouth of Shonai River, Shinkawa River and Nikko River that flow into the port of Nagoya. This site is one of the staging sites of East Asia - Australia Flyway. A lot of migratory shorebirds, ducks and herons also use this site as feeding and resting area. The number of shorebirds that visit this site is one of the largest in Japan.

8. **Wetland Type** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Appendix A of the Strategic Framework.)

marine-coastal: A•, B•, C•, D•, E•, F•, G•, H•, I•,
J•, K•, Zk(a)

inland: L•, M•, N•, O•, P•, Q•, R•, Sp•,
Ss•, Tp
Ts•, U•, Va•, Vt•, W•, Xf•, Xp•, Y•,
Zg•, Zk(b)

human-made: 1•2•3•4•5•6•7•8•9•, Zk(c)

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

G-A-F

9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 5

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:

Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Kasumigaseki 1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975, JAPAN

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document).

Ramsar Criteria 2: Fujimae-Higata is visited by endangered species such as *Tringa guttifer* [critically endangered species (CR)*1, Domestic Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2], *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Himantopus himantopus himantopus* [endangered species (EN)*1], and *Sterna albifrons sinensis* [vulnerable species (VU)*1, International Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2].

Ramsar Criteria4: This site is one of the important staging sites for shorebirds, which migrate from breeding sites in northern hemisphere (ex.Siberia) to wintering sites in southern hemisphere (ex.Oceania). It is considered to support shorebird species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

Ramsar Criteria 5: Fujimae-Higata regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds. 21,000 birds were counted in November 1999 and 31,000 in March 2000.

note: *1 Red List of Threatened Wildlife of Japan. Ministry of the Environment

*2 Designated under the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Species Conservation Law)

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

It is located on the boundary of Nagoya City (the capital of Aichi prefecture, population: c. 2.18 million, area: c. 326km²) and Asuka - village, Kaifu – county (population: c. 4,500, area: c. 22.5km²).

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

geology, geomorphology: It is a tidal flat at a river mouth, characterized by sandy – muddy soil.

origins: natural

hydrology: Fujimae-higata is a remnant of once an extensive tidal flat in the northern part of Ise-Bay. Surrounding areas of the site have been transformed into other land use by reclamation. However, part of the large tidal flat at the river mouth has been remained without artificial alteration, and it has been maintained by sedimentation from the river.

Average of flow rate of the river per year is as follows (from 1996 to 1998),

Syonai-river: 29.1 m³/s, Shinkawa-river: 16.9 m³/s, Nikko-river: 40.8 m³/s

soil type: sandy – muddy soil

water quality: BOD 1.3 – 3.7 mg/l, pH 6.6 – 7.8, DO 4.1 – 13 mg/l, SS 6 – 27 mg/l (reference: data of research at Shinkawa-bridge of Syonai river)

water depth: 0 - 4m

tidal variations: M.S.L. +1.21 - -1.36m

water permanence, fluctuations in water level: effected by above tidal variations

catchment area: 1,306km² (total of catchment area of Syonai River and Shinkawa River which flow into Fujimae tidal flat.)

climate: temperate region; annual mean temperature; 15.1 degree Celsius,

annual precipitation; 1,535mm.,

difference of mean temperature for each month; 3.7-27.1 degree Celsius.

(average of Nagoya City from 1961 to 1990)

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc)

The wetland provides valuable water purification function for the inner part of Ise-Bay.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Fujimae-Higata is a tidal flat with brackish-water. There is no vegetation in intertidal, infralittoral and supralittoral zones. Benthos, such as GASTROPODA, BIVALVIA, POLYCHAETA, CRUSTACEA, and fishes are lived in this site, and the large number of shorebirds visit here to feed them and rest during their migration. The number of shorebirds that visit the site is one of the largest in Japan. Endangered species also visit it. Shorebirds such as *Calidris alpina* use it as a wintering site.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

None

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

[Birds]

Tringa guttifer [critically endangered species (CR)*1, Domestic Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2]

Platalea minor [critically endangered species (CR)*1]

Botaurus stellaris stellaris, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Himantopus himantopus himantopus*
[endangered species (EN)*1]

Sterna albifrons sinensis [vulnerable species (VU)*1, International Endangered Species of Wild
Fauna and Flora*2]

Accipiter gentilis fujiiyamae, *Falco peregrinus japonensis* [vulnerable species (VU)*1, Domestic
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*2]

Anser fabalis serrirostris, *A. formosa*, *Circus spilonotus spilonotus*, *Tringa totanus ussuriensis*,
Numenius madagascariensis, *Larus saundersi* [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

[Fishes]

Chaenogobius macrognathos [endangered species (EN)*1]

note: *1 Red List of Threatened Wildlife of Japan. Ministry of the Environment

*2 The Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Species
Conservation Law)

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

- Many bird-watchers visit the site and people visit the site to observe the tidal flat.
- Once there was a plan to reclaim the tidal flat for a dumping site for Nagoya City. Conservation
movements made the city council abandon the plan. The site became a symbol of wetland
conservation movement in Japan.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

- (a) Wetland: Part of the area is private and the other is owned by Governments (Nagoya City and the
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport).
- (b) Surrounding area: Some of the area are private and public, and others are owned by Japanese
Government.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

- (a) Wetland: navigation; exists, fishing rights; none, population; none
- (b) Surrounding area: It is used as harbor, industrial site, city park, agricultural field, residential
quarters.

**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including
changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site (b) around the site

(present and/or potential)

- (a) Wetland: Dredging, and poor oxygen watermass occurred by such activity.
- (b) Surrounding area: Almost all of it has been reclaimed, and domestic wastewater flowed into the area.

23. 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)

It is designated as a Special Protection zone of National Wildlife Protection Area (323ha) under the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law. (come into effect in November 1, 2002)

Capture of wildlife is in principle prohibited in the area. It is required to obtain permission from the Minister of the Environment when installation of artificial structure, reclamation of the water body and tree felling.

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

None

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

[Scientific Research]

Survey on the shorebird population changes (monitoring) conducted by Ministry of the Environment.

Research on the tidal flat at river mouth of Syonai River and Sinkawa River conducted by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Aichi Prefecture.

Research on population status of birds conducted by Aichi Prefecture.

Research on population status of birds conducted by Nagoya City.

[Facilities for Research]

Ministry of the Environment will construct a center for environment education and conservation of wetland in 2003 - 2004.

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

[conservation education]

Bird-watching and observation activities are conducted by NGOs.

Ministry of the Environment is developing the policy for "Conservation and wise use of Fujimae-higata" in the committee of this subject.

[facilities]

Wildbird Observaion Center (Constructed by Nagoya City)

Ministry of the Environment will construct a center for environment education and conservation of wetland in 2003 - 2004.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

none

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: Water area; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Terrestrial area; Nagoya City

Functional: Ministry of the Environment (National Wildlife Protection Area)

Aichi Prefecture (Area of Shinkawa-river and Nikko-river)

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (Area of Shonai-river)

Management Association for Port of Nagoya (Port area)

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Nagoya Wildlife Branch, Chubu Regional Office for Nature Conservation,
Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

Marunouchi 2-2-15, Naka-ku, Nagoya city, Aichi prefecture 460-0002, JAPAN

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Report on Research for promote conservation and wise use of Fujimae-higata.(2002; Ministry of the Environment)

Tidal Flat stands at the mouth of Syonai River, Shinkawa River and Nikko River; functions and the characteristic of geographical features of the Tidal Flat. (1999; Nagoya City and Management Association for Port of Nagoya.)

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