

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Ms. Noriko Moriwake
Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment
Kasumigaseki 1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8975, JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-5521-8284 Fax: +81-3-3581-7090
E-mail: wildlife@env.go.jp

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

24 October , 2005

3. Country:

JAPAN

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan

5. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.

a) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* -or- *no*

b) **digital (electronic) format** (optional): *yes* -or- *no*

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

145°16' 14" E, 43°34' 33" N

7. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nemuro / Hokkaido region

It is located in Shibetsu-cho (population: c. 6,000, area: c.624 sq. km) and Betsukai-cho (population: c. 17,000, area: c.1,320 sq. km), about 320 km east-northeast of Sapporo City (population: c. 1.82million, area: 1,112 sq. km), the capital of Hokkaido Prefecture.

8. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

max.0 m

min. 10 m

9. Area: (in hectares) **6,053ha**

10. Overview:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan is located in the eastern part of Hokkaido. Notsuke-hanto is a fishhook shaped sand spit. It is the largest sand spit in Japan that extends 28 km out to the Nemuro-kaikyo channel. Notsuke-wan is a bay formed between the sand spit and mainland of Hokkaido. Since the average depth of the bay is 4m, wide-spread tidal flat and *Zostera* seagrass bed are formed in the bay. The site is a large-scale staging habitat for migratory birds and also a breeding habitat for *Grus japonensis* (Japanese Crane).

11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1: It is a representative wetland of low moors, salt marsh and seagrass/seaweed beds of Japan.

Criterion 2: *Grus japonensis* (Japanese Crane) [vulnerable species (VU)*1, endangered species (EN)*2, Domestic Endangered Species*3] inhabit and breed in the site.

Criterion 5: Maximum 66,935 waterbirds visit the site during migration season.

Criterion 6: 3,155 (5.26%) of *Cygnus cygnus* (Whooper Swan), 3,500 (70%) of *Branta bernicla* (Brent Goose), 11,323 (1.51%) of *Anas penelope* (Wigeon), 7,842 (2.61%) of *Aythya marila* (Scaup), 2,360 (3.15%) of *Bucephala clangula* (Goldeneye), 60-90 (7.5-11.25%) of *Grus japonensis* (Japanese Crane), and 1,600-1,700 (4-4.25%) of *Heteroscelus brevipes* (Grey-tailed Tattler) were recorded at the site.

The site regularly supports over 1% of the population of *Cygnus cygnus* (600), *Branta bernicla* (50), *Anas Penelope* (7,500), *Aythya marila*(3,000), *Bucephala clangula* (750), *Grus japonensis* (8), and *Heteroscelus brevipes* (400).

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

*2 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2004.

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

13. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Japan

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Japan is recognized as single biogeographic region, because Japan is an island country which has unique and rich biota with many endemic species.

14. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geology: It consist of Upper Cretaceous Nemuro group, Quaternary Furen-ko formation, coastal terrace stratum irregularity formed with gravel bed and sand bed, volcanic ash bed, floodplain, marsh sediment.

Geomorphology: It is the largest sand spit in Japan extending 28 km into the Sea of Okhotsk whose shape is like a fishhook. The sand spit was formed by sand carried by ocean stream and piled up over a long time, and many capes are formed inside the bay.

Soil type: muddy soil and sandy soil

Origins: Natural.

Water quality: chlorinity=15‰; DO= Summer: 130%-160% on fine day, Winter: 40%-50% under frozen water surface; pH= Summer: 8.4-8.7 Water inside Notsuke-wan shows higher pH than that of open sea, because seagrass species *Zostera marina* thrive thickly inside Notsuke-wan; Nutrient= both phosphoric acid and silicic acid are dissolved in seawater inside Notsuke-wan and they tend to increase in summer.

Water depth: 4.3 m at maximam, 2-3 m on average

Climate: Annual precipitation: 1,117 mm, annual mean temperature: 5.5 degrees Celsius, fluctuation of mean temperature in each month: -6.3- +17.7 degrees Celsius (average of Shibetsu from 1979 to 2000)

15. Physical features of the catchment area: Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Chashikotsu-gawa, Makunbetsu-gawa and Touhoro-gawa flow in to Notsuke-wan at the root of Notsuke-hanto peninsula. At the middle of Notsuke-wan, Tobikari-gawa, Syunbetsu-gawa, Komuniushi-gawa and Tosyunbetsu-gawa are flow into the bay. The main land use of the basin is agricultural land, forest and urban area.

16. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

17. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

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)

b) dominance: List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

A-B-E-G-H-U

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

Vegetation of seaside area in the site is mainly consist of *Elymus mollis* community where *Salsola komarovii*, *Glebnia littoralis*, *Mertensia maritima*, *Linaria japonica*, *Artemisia stelleriana*, *Ixeris repens* are observed.

In sand dune area, *Rosa rugosa* (Japanese rose) at shrub layer, *Agrostis alba* or *Trifolium repens* (white clover) at herbaceous layer are dominants.

Vegetation of tidal flat consists of *Triglochin asiaticum* - *Salicornia europaea* community and *Potentilla egedei* - *Carex ramenskii* community.

As for birds, 211 species are recorded.

Mammals such as *Cervus nippon yezoensis* (Yezo sika deer), *Vulpes vulpes schrencki* (Schrenk's red fox), *Tamias sibiricus lineatu* (Siberian chipmunk), *Lepus timidus ainu* (Mountain hare), *Phoca largha stejnegeri* (Spotted seal) are recorded.

Inside Notsuke-wan bay, there exist many species of crustacean such as shrimps and Gammaridea species, shellfish, fishes, and lugworms.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Triglochin maritimum [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Salicornia europaea [endangered species (EN)*1]

Carex ramenskii [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Triglochin asiaticum [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

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

20. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Grus japonensis (Japanese Crane) [vulnerable species (VU)*1, endangered species (EN)*2, Domestic Endangered Species*3]

Branta bernicla orientalis (Brent Goose) [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla (White-tailed Eagle) [endangered species (EN)*1, near threatened species (NT)*2]

Haliaeetus pelagicus pelagicus (Steller's Sea Eagle) [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Cephus carbo (Spectacled Guillemot) [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Emberiza aureola ornata (Yellow-breasted Bunting) [near threatened species (NT)*1]

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

*2 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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

21. Social and cultural values:

e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Fishery targeting shrimp *Pandalus kessleri* and righteye flounders using Utasebune, a traditional broadside sailing boat without any power source, is prosperous. Also, the site was once a base for trade with Russia.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

National land (publicly-owned water body): 5,408ha

Notsuke-hanto: National land (National forest, Ministry of Finance: 608ha

Prefectural land (Hokkaido Prefecture): 21ha

Private land: 16ha

Total: 6,053ha

(b) in the surrounding area:

National land, Prefectural land, Town-owned land, private land

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Fishery, tourism

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Agricultural land, urban area

24. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

There is a concern of erosion along the shoreline facing Nemuro-kaikyo channel of Okhotsk Sea

(b) in the surrounding area:

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area 6,053ha: (Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law) * From November 1, 2005

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.

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

None

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Scientific research

National Survey on the Natural Environment (Ministry of the Environment)

Survey on the state of wildlife of Notsuke-hanto, Birds (Hokkaido Wildlife Protection Public Corporation)

Facilities established for research: None

28. Current conservation education:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Nature observation programs are conducted at Notsuke-hanto Nature Center and the nature trails.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Sightseeing tour boats are cruising in two routes between Odaito fishing port and Notsuke-hanto peninsula. Carriages to enjoy flower beds at Todowara are operated at Notsuke-hanto Nature Center.

30. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

[Territorial]

Ministry of Land, Transportation and Infrastructure (Publicly-owned water body)

Forest Agency (National Forest)

Ministry of Finance (National Land)

Hokkaido Prefecture (Prefectural Land)

[Functional]

Ministry of the Environment (National Wildlife Protection Area)

31. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland

Kushiro Nature Conservation Office,
Hokkaido Regional Environment Office,
Ministry of the Environment
10-3 Saiwai-cho, Kushiro-shi,
Hokkaido 085-8639 JAPAN

Tel: +81-154-32-7500

Fax: +81-154-32-7575

32. Bibliographical references:

scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

- Ministry of the Environment 2002 “Threatened Wildlife of Japan –Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 2, Aves”
- Environment Agency of Japan 2000 “Threatened Wildlife of Japan -Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 8, Vascular Plants”
- Ministry of the Environment 2002 “Threatened Wildlife of Japan –Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 1, Mammalia”
- Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation Bureau 2002 “500 Important Wetlands in Japan”
- The IUCN Species Survival Commission "IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2004"
- HEIBONSYA “WILD FLOWERS OF JAPAN HERBACEOUS PLANTS”
- The Ornithological Society of Japan 2000 “Check-list of Japanese Birds Sixth Revised Edition”
- Environmental Agency of Japan 1987 "Check-list of Plants"
- Japan Wildlife Research Center "Checklist of Species of Wildlife of Japan"
- Ichthyological Society of Japan “DICTIONARY OF JAPANESE FISH NAMES AND THEIR FOREIGN EQUIVALENTS”

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org