

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
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8975, JAPAN

Phone: 03-5521-8284 Fax: 03-3581-7090
Email: wildlife@env.go.jp

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

24 October, 2005

3. Country:

JAPAN

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Oze

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):

[Ozegahara area]

Northeast corner: 36°56'35"N, 139°19'50"E

Southwest corner: 36°53'00"N, 139°11'05"E

[MiiKetashiro area]

Center: 36°58'36"N, 139°17'37"E

7. General location:

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

Fukushima prefecture/ Niigata prefecture/ Gunma prefecture

It is located at the boundary of Hienomata-mura, Fukushima Prefecture (population: c. 640, area: c. 391 sq. km), Uonuma City, Niigata Prefecture (population: c. 45,000, area: c. 946 sq. km), and Katashina-mura, Gunma Prefecture (population: c. 6,000, area: c. 392 sq. km), and located approximately 140 km north of Tokyo.

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

[Ozegahara]

max 1,400 m

min 1,420 m

[Oze-numa]

1,665 m

maximum elevation in the site: 2,356m

9. Area: (in hectares) 8,711 ha

[Around Ozegahara] 8,629 ha

[Around Miiketashiro] 82 ha

10. Overview:

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

Oze is located approximately 70 km north from Tokyo. Oze consists of Ozegahara Moor, Ozenuma Lake and surrounding mountains, forests and small moors. Ozegahara Moor is the largest high moor in Japan. Diversity of dragonflies and coleopterous are high. The site has outstanding landscape formed by vast moor and mountains, and also possess rich and valuable natural environment composed of diverse fauna and flora that are characteristic to moors.

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 the largest high moor in Japan. It has outstanding landscape formed by vast moor and mountains, and also possess rich and valuable natural environment composed of diverse fauna and flora that are characteristic to moors.

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: Older formation of Oze consist of Hinormata group, serpentinite and granite. Hinoemata group is considered to be Paleozoic formation or Jurassic formation. Serpentinite penetrates the Hinoemata group and forms Shihutu-san. Granite gives contact alteration to the Serpentinite.

Geomorphology: basin, Oze-numa is volcanic dammed lake.

Soil type: peat soil

Origins: Natural

Hydrology: 30 inflow streams, being fed by river, melted snow, spring water, and rain water

Water quality: Oze-numa: pH6.7(5.8 ~ 7.0)(1991), DO 7.0(2.7 ~ 8.1)ppm(1991), COD 1.47(1.08 ~ 2.42)ppm(1991), T-N 0.17(0.03 ~ 0.56)ppm(1991), NH₄-N 0.11(0.00 ~ 0.23)ppm(1991), NO₂-N 0 ~ 0.005ppm(1991), NO₃-N 0 ~ 0.045ppm(1991), P₀₄-P 0 ~ 0.005ppm(1991)

Water depth: 4.1 m on average, 9.5 m at maximum (Oze-numa)

Water level fluctuation: Ozenuma has fluctuation by water intake for electric power generation.

The range of fluctuation: 3.0 m

Climate: Covered with snow from November to May, snow depth is above 3m. Annual precipitation: 1,775 mm, annual mean temperature: 4.6 degrees Celsius, fluctuation of mean temperature in each month: -7.6-+17.2 degrees Celsius (average of Oze-yama no hana from 1989 to 1998)

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).

Surface area: 8,629 ha (Oze basin)

General geology and geomorphological features: basin

General soil types: peat soil

General land use: moor, forests

Climate: Covered with snow from November to May, snow depth is above 3m. Annual precipitation: 1,775 mm, annual mean temperature: 4.6 degrees Celsius, fluctuation of mean temperature in each month: -7.6-+17.2 degrees Celsius (average of Oze-yama no hana from 1989 to 1998)

16. Hydrological values:

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

Oze is situated at the origin of Tadami-gawa(Class A river). Particularly, Ozegahara has high water regulating function because of many *Sphagnum* spp growing in the moor, which has high water retention capacity.

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.

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18. General ecological features:

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

Due to heavy snow fall of 4-5m deep in winter and annual average temperature of 4degree Celsius, decay of plant is extremely slow and peat bed grow 1mm per year in the moor. Depth of peat layer of the moor is 6m, so 6000 years has passed since the beginning of formation. Since water supply is only rainfall and nutrient do not flow into moor from surrounding forests and acid is produced by Sphagnidae plant, peculiar vegetation mainly herb is grow in the moor. *Moliniopsis japonica-Sphagnum papillosum* community, *Carex omiana-Sphagnum compactum* community, *Caltha palustris v. nipponica-Lysichiton camtschaticense* community, *Sparganium glomeratum v. angustifolium-Nuphar pumilum var. ozeense* community and *Hippuris vulgaris* community are formed in the moor. Endangered algae *Chara globularis* is recorded in Ozenuma Pond.

Many coleopterous and dragonfly species such as *Nehalennia speciosa*, *Coenagrion terne* and *Enallagma boreale circulatum* live in the site.

In the moor, migratory wild birds which prefer grassland such as *Gallinago hardwickii* (Latham's Snipe), *Saxicola torquata* (Stonechat) and *Emberiza fucata* (Chestnut-eared Bunting) are observed in breeding season. Many wild bird species Columbiformes, Cuculiformes, Strigiformes, Caprimulgiformes, Apodiformes, Piciformes and Passeriformes live in the forest.

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.*

Nuphar pumilum [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Chara globularis [critically endangered species (CR)*1 + endangered species (EN)*1]

Amitostigma kinoshitae [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Iris laevigata [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Cirsium homolepis [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Pogonia japonica [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Habenaria sagittifera [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Drosera anglica [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Viola kamtschadalorum [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Carex nemurensis [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Utricularia uliginosa [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.*

[Birds]

Aquila chrysaetos japonica(Golden eagle)[endangered species (EN)*1],

Spizaetus nipalensis orientalis(Hodgson's hawk-eagle) [endangered species (EN)*1]

Accipiter gentilis (Goshawk) [vulnerable species (VU)*1],

Falco peregrinus japonensis (Peregrine falcon) [vulnerable species (VU)*1],

Pericrocotus divaricatus (Ashy minivet) [vulnerable species (VU)*1],

Lanius tigrinus Drapiez (Thick-billed shrike) [vulnerable species (VU)*1],

Emberiza yessoensis (Japanese reed bunting) [vulnerable species (VU)*1]

Gorsachius goisagi (Japanese night heron)[near threatened species (NT)*1],

Pandion haliaetus (Osprey) [near threatened species (NT)*1],
Pernis apivorus (Honey Buzzard) [near threatened species (NT)*1],
Accipiter nisus (Sparrow hawk) [near threatened species (NT)*1],
Lanius cristatus (Brown shrike) [near threatened species (NT)*1]

[Insects]

Nehalennia speciosa [near threatened species (NT)*1]

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

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.

Water resources for domestic use, agricultural use, industrial use
Attractive landscapes

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

National land (Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries): 2,425 ha

National land (Ministry of the Environment): 9 ha

Private land: 6.277 ha

(b) in the surrounding area:

National land, private land

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Recreation facilities (visitor centers, nature trails, accommodation facilities, camping sites)

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry, trekking

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:

- Human entry (stomp): board walls are installed to prevent stomp.
- Inflow of domestic wastewater: All domestic wastewater from mountain lodges is processed by wastewater treatment facilities and discharged to outside of the site or to the nearest river.
- Inflow of industrial wastewater (P)

(b) in the surrounding area:

None

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 Zone (8,702ha) and Special Protection Zone (9ha) of National Park: 8,711 ha
(The Natural Parks Law)

*Special Zone was designated in May 13, 1938. Special Protection Zone was designated in December 22, 1953. Nikko National Park Oze area management was amended in September 1997.

In the special zone, such activities as erecting structures, felling trees, mining minerals, and reclamation require permission from the Minister of the Environment. In the special protection zone, further activities such as planting trees and bamboos, grazing livestock, collecting and stocking products outside, firing, picking and catching plants and animals also require permission from the Minister of the Environment.

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)

Oze Comprehensive Scientific Research (Fukushima Prefecture, Gunma Prefecture, and Niigata Prefecture: 1994-1997)

[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.

Ozenuma Visitor Center and Oze-yamanohana Visitor Center function as a center of conservation education such as nature observation, nature interpretation activities, and slide shows. Other groups also use it as a base of nature interpretation activities.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Visitor centers, mountain huts, and nature trails were developed and approximately 300,000-600,000 people visit the site annually. About 340,000 visitors were recorded in 2004.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

[Territorial]

National land (Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Agency), Ministry of the Environment)

Publicly-owned water body (Fukushima Prefecture, Gunma Prefecture)

[Functional]

National park (Ministry of the Environment)

Special Natural Monument (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Agency of Cultural Affairs))

National forest reserves (Ministry of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Agency))

Class A river (Fukushima Prefecture, Gunma Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture)

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

Kanoto Regional Environment Office,

Ministry of the Environment
11-2 Shintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama city,
Saitama, 330-6018 JAPAN

Tel: +81-48-600-0516

Fax: +81-48-600-0517

32. Bibliographical references:

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

- Fukushima Prefecture, Gunma Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, "Oze Comprehensive Scientific Research (1994-1997)"
- Environment Agency 1993 "The Fourth National Surveys on the Natural Environment Report on Lake and Marsh Survey"
- Environment Agency 1995 "The Fifth National Survey on the Natural Environment Report on Wetland Survey"
- Ministry of the Environment Nature Conservation Bureau 2002 "500 Important Wetlands in Japan"
- Environment Agency 1997 Nikko National Park Oze Area Management Plan
- National Parks Association of Japan 1982"Materials for Nature Interpretation in Oze"
- Environment Agency 2000 "Threatened Wildlife of Japan -Red Data Book 2nd ed. - Volume 8, Vascular Plants
- Environment Agency of Japan 2000 "Threatened Wildlife of Japan -Red Data Book 2nd ed. - Volume 9, Bryophytes, Algae, Lichens, Fungi"
- Ministry of the Environment 2002 "Threatened Wildlife of Japan -Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 2, Aves"
- The Ornithological Society of Japan 2000 "Check-list of Japanese Birds Sixth Revised Edition"
- Environment Agency of Japan 2000 "Red List of Japan, Invertebrate"
- Japan Wildlife Research Center "Checklist of Species of Wildlife of Japan"

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