

# 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.

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## 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: +81-3-5521-8284 Fax: +81-3-3581-7090  
Email: [wildlife@env.go.jp](mailto:wildlife@env.go.jp)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

24 October, 2005

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## 3. Country:

JAPAN

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

**Uryunuma-shitsugen**

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## 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*

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## 6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

43°41'55"N, 141°36'17"E

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## 7. General location:

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

Hokkaido/ Hokkaido region

It is located in the eastern part of Uryu-cho (population: c. 34,000, area: c. 191 sq. km), approximately 70 km north of Sapporo City (the capital of Hokkaido Prefecture, population: c. 1.82 million, area: c. 1,121 sq. km).

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

max. 900 m; min. 850 m

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## 9. Area: (in hectares):

**624ha**

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**10. Overview:**

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

Uryunuma-shitsugen is located in the mid-western part of Hokkaido prefecture. It is one of the largest mountain wetlands in Japan. Penkepetan-gawa River meanders through the center of high moor where clusters of small pools and floating islands of waterweed are scattered. The site provides splendid scenery of natural beauty which consists of aquatic, swamp, and alpine plant communities.

**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 3:** Uryunuma-shitsugen is one of the largest mountain high moors in Japan. The most diverse plant communities are developed in the site, among Japan's northern marshlands where *Sphagnum* spp. and *Moliniopsis japonica* are typically observed.

**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 belongs to Green tuff region distributed along the Sea of Japan.

**Geomorphology:** It is located on the lava plateau 850 m above sea level which stretches between Mt. Gunma-dake and Etai-dake at the east side of Minami-shokan-dake. Around 700 marsh ponds of different sizes and numerous floating islands of waterweed are found in the moor which covers about 100ha.

**Soil type:** peat soil, the peat accumulation is 3-4 m on average.

**Origins:** Natural

**Hydrology:** Penkepetan-gawa, the only inflow stream meanders through the numerous marsh ponds and floating islands. The marsh is fed by river, melted snow, and rain water.

**Water quality:** Marsh pond: pH5.1, DO9.2mg/L

**Water depth:** Marsh pond: 0.7 m on average, 4.0 m at maximum

**Water level fluctuation:** None

**Climate:** Severe mountainous climate. Heavy snowfall. Annual precipitation: 1,755mm, annual mean temperature: 2 degrees Celsius, fluctuation of mean temperature in each month: -12.9 – 15.7 degrees Celsius, maximum snow accumulation: 4 m

**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:** 1,600 ha

**General geology and geomorphological features:** basalt

**General soil types:** dark brown forest soil, podzol soil

**General land use:** natural forest, secondary forest, marsh

**Climate:** Severe mountainous climate. heavy snowfall. annual precipitation: 1,755 mm, annual mean temperature: 2 degrees Celsius, fluctuation of mean temperature in each month: -12.9 – 15.7 degrees Celsius, maximum snow accumulation: 4 m

**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.

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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.

It is an mountain high moor, and the vegetation consists of *Moliniopsis japonica* - *Sphagnum papillosum* community, *Moliniopsis japonica* - *Sphagnum compactum* community, *Moliniopsis japonica* - *Carex middendorffii* community, *Scheuchzeria palustris* - *Rhynchospora alba* community, and *Sphagnum pulchrum* community. In the marsh ponds and the rivers, there are varieties of aquatic plant communities including *Sparganium angustifolium* community, *S. gramineum* community, *Carex rostrata* community, *Menyanthes trifoliata* community, *Iris laevigata* community, *Equisetum fluviatile* community, *Carex thunbergii* v. *appendiculate* community, and *C. lyngbyei* community.

As to the insects, many species of dragonflies, *Erebia nipponica*, *Trechus (Epaphius) hashimotoi*, etc. inhabit in the site.

**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.*

*Sparganium angustifolium* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]

*Sparganium gramineum* [endangered species (EN)\*1]

*Carex rostrata* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]  
*Pogonia japonica* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]  
*Clematis fusca* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]  
*Iris laevigata* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]  
*Nuphar pumilum* var. *ozeense* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]  
*Nuphar pumilum* [vulnerable species (VU)\*1]  
*Nymphaea tetragona* var. *erythrostromatica* [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.*

None

## 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 resource for downstream rice paddies

## 22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Prefectural land (Hokkaido): 624ha

(b) in the surrounding area:

National land (Forestry Agency)

Prefectural land (Hokkaido)

## 23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Recreation (trekking and hiking)

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Recreation (trekking and hiking)

## 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:

None

(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.

From August 1, 1990, the site became the Special protection zone of Quasi-National Park covering 624 ha designated under the Natural Parks Law.

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

**26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

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

None

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**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)

**Facilities established for research:**

None

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**28. Current conservation education:**

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

None

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**29. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

There is a 3.5 km-long nature trail established and about 60,000 people visit annually (in 1998).

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**30. Jurisdiction:**

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

**Territorial:**

Hokkaido (Prefectural forest)

**Functional:**

Ministry of the Environment and Hokkaido (Quasi-National Park)

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**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

Hokkaido Regional Environment Office,  
Ministry of the Environment  
10-1, Kita-ichijo-nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo City,  
Hokkaido 060-0001, JAPAN

Tel: +81-11-251-8700

Fax: +81-11-219-7072

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**32. Bibliographical references:**

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

- Environment Agency 1990 Park Plan of Syokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri Quasi-National Park
- 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"
- Environment Agency 2000 "Threatened Wildlife of Japan -Red Data Book 2nd ed.- Volume 8, Vascular Plants"

- Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation Bureau 2002 “500 Important Wetlands in Japan”
  - NACS-J/ WWF Japan 1996 “RED DATA BOOK of PLANT COMMUNITIES IN JAPAN”
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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](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)