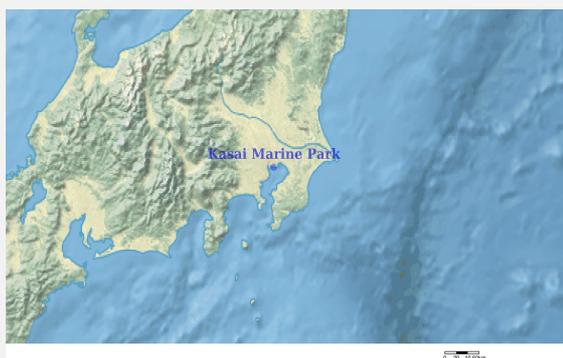




Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 17 October 2018

Japan Kasai Marine Park



Designation date	18 October 2018
Site number	2357
Coordinates	35°37'40"N 139°51'31"E
Area	366,91 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Kasai Marine Park is located in estuaries of rivers flowing into Tokyo Bay, where fresh water mixes with seawater. This area used to be an extensive tidal flat with a prosperous coastal fishing ground for laver culture, clams, and gobies. However, due to development activities such as land reclamation, the tidal flat was lost except for small remnant shallows, called Sanmaizu.

Kasai Marine Park was built in 1976 as a ground to conserve, restore and observe abundant natural ecosystems. This park features human-made beaches constructed from the placement of U-shaped training dikes. The human-made beaches consist of two beaches, Nishi Nagisa (west beach) and Higashi Nagisa (east beach), both of which are foreshore tidal flats. Higashi Nagisa is connected to Sanmaizu, a natural tidal flat that is included in the marine park. Nishi Nagisa is designated as a beach for recreation, while Higashi Nagisa serves as a habitat for birds and animals as National Wildlife Protection Area. The human-made beach structure meant that additional soil was brought in when it was constructed (pit sand for Nishi Nagisa, and dredged mud and sand for Higashi Nagisa).

Kasai Marine Park has become core to conserving coastal biodiversity of organisms such as fish and birds within Tokyo Bay. Higashi Nagisa, in particular, serves as an important wild bird sanctuary and habitat, given the admission restrictions into the area. The site now serves as wintering grounds for Greater Scaups and Great Crested Grebes as well as key habitats for Anatidae species and Little Terns. Moreover, it is assumed that this shallow tidal flat in the park plays an important role as spawning and nursing ground for fish, and further study is needed.

Tokyo Bay, which harbors this site, is the northernmost habitat for Mudskippers.

Furthermore, the expansion in the coastal bay area of Higashi Nagisa, which has roughly doubled to 8.1ha from 4.2ha between 1986 and 2008, has led to an increase in the number of coastal plant species in the area, accordingly.

Kasai Marine Park has become an important wetland for biodiversity conservation in a highly developed urban city, and can serve as an important role model of coexistence between nature and the urban environment.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Kuniaki Makiya
Institution/agency	Kanto Regional Environment Office, Ministry of the Environment of Japan
Postal address	18F, Meiji Yasuda Seimei Saitama-Shintoshin Bldg., 11-2 Shintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama Prefecture, 330-6018, JAPAN
E-mail	reo-kanto@env.go.jp
Phone	+81 48 600 0817
Fax	+81 48 600 0521

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	1973
To year	2017

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Kasai Marine Park
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

The site will share the border with the Special Protection Area of Kasai-oki Sanmaizu National Wildlife Protection Area.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Tokyo Metropolis
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b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Tokyo Metropolis
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2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 366.91

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 366.99

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Warm Temperate Northwest Pacific Central Kuroshio Current

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

<no data available>

<no data available>

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	25150 (Average maximum number in a season)
Start year	2010
Source of data:	Monitoring Sites 1000 Project, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (http://www.biodic.go.jp/moni1000/moni1000/)

Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aythya marila</i> 	Greater Scaup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22424	January 2010 – January 2014	9.3	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red List, Tokyo Metropolitan Government	Crit 4: Migration (wintering ground); Crit 6: 1 % threshold for E. Asia is 2400 as of 2012. Monitoring Sites 1000 Project, Ministry of the Environment of Japan
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> 	Great Crested Grebe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1146	January 2010 – January 2014	3.3	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red List, Tokyo Metropolitan Government	Crit 4: Migration (wintering ground); Crit 6: 1% threshold for E. Asia is 350 as of 2012. Monitoring Sites 1000 Project, Ministry of the Environment of Japan

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Kasai Marine Park is located in estuaries of rivers flowing into Tokyo Bay, where fresh water mixes with seawater. It consists of tidal flats, human-made beaches and the sea.

Human-made beaches were constructed in the park with the placement of U-shaped training dikes. The area consists of two beaches, Nishi Nagisa (west beach) and Higashi Nagisa (east beach), both of which are foreshore tidal flats. Higashi Nagisa includes salt marshes, and is connected to Sanmaizu, a natural tidal flat within the marine park. Nishi Nagisa is designated as a beach for recreation, while Higashi Nagisa serves as a habitat and reserve for wild birds and other wildlife.

Kasai Marine Park consists of a tidal flat ecosystem, making it core to conserving coastal biodiversity of organisms such as fish and birds within Tokyo Bay. More than 126 species of birds have been observed on site, as the site is also home to abundant organisms such as bivalves and crustaceans, as water depth falls below four meters during the low tide, creating extensive tidal flats in the area. This has made the site an important wintering ground for migratory birds, such as Mallards, Eurasian Wigeons, and Tufted Ducks, who feed, rest and roost in the area. The site serves as wintering grounds for Greater Scaups and Great Crested Grebes as well as key habitats for Anatidae species and Little Terns. For Greater Scaups and Great Crested Grebes, in particular, the site is an internationally important habitat, as more than 1% of Asian local population of the species migrate to the area.

The shallowness of the tidal flat, spanning far into the sea, is assumed to play an important role in providing spawning and nursing grounds for fish, with Tokyo Bay (which harbors this site), serving as the northernmost habitat for Mudskippers. Located at an estuary, the proposed site is also home to fresh-water fish species such as Maruta dace and Japanese Barbel, as well as migratory fish species, such as Japanese Sea Bass and Ayu fish.

The proposed Ramsar site is a confirmed habitat for various plant species, including arboreous plants such as *Rosa luciae* and coastal vegetation such as *Fimbristylis ferruginea*. Higashi Nagisa, in particular, is home to emergent plants such as Common Reed.

With the expansion of the coastal bay area from 4.2 to 8.1 ha between 1986 and 2008, the site has seen a further expansion in the number of coastal plant species.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		1	366.91256	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Fimbristylis sieboldii</i>		On the coast of Higashi Nagisa
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	On the coast of Higashi Nagisa

Invasive alien plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Impacts
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>		Actually (minor impacts)
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping Lovegrass	Actually (minor impacts)
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Glossy Privet	Actually (minor impacts)
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	Canada Goldenrod	Actually (minor impacts)
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Wandering Jew	Actually (minor impacts)

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk				Near Threatened (NT) in the National Red List, Critically Endangered (CR) in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk				Near Threatened (NT) in the National Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin				Near Threatened (NT) in the National Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot				Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Red-necked Stint				Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Yellow Bittern				Near Threatened (NT) in the National Red List, Critically Endangered (CR) in the TMG Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Long-billed Dowitcher				Critically Endangered (CR) in the TMG Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit				Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit				Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew				Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey				Near Threatened (NT) in the National Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Gray-tailed Tattler; Grey-tailed Tattler				Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Spotted Redshank				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper				

Optional text box to provide further information

The followings are other noteworthy animal species that are not found on dropdown list of Scientific name, or whose distributions in the wetland are not yet clear and requires further monitoring.
 Ardea intermedia, Intermediate Egret, Near Threatened (NT) in the National Red List. Sibirionetta formosa, Baikal Teal, Vulnerable (VU) in the National Red List, Critically Endangered (CR) in the TMG Red List. Mareca falcata, Falcated Duck, Critically Endangered (CR) in the TMG Red List. Ruff, Critically Endangered (CR) in the TMG Red List. Calidris falcinellus, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Critically Endangered (CR) in the TMG Red List.
 Aythya ferina, Common Pochard. Calidris tenuirostris, Great Knot. Charadrius alexandrinus, Kentish Plover. Saundersilarus saundersi, Saunders's Gull. Circus spilonotus, Eastern Marsh Harrier. Egretta eulophotes, Chinese Egret. Falco peregrinus. Peregrine Falcon. Numenius madagascariensis, Far Eastern Curlew. Podiceps auritus, Horned Grebe. Rostratula benghalensis, Greater Painted Snipe. Sternula albifrons, Little Tern. Tringa tetanus, Common Redshank. Haematopus ostralegus, Eurasian Oystercatcher.

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Mbist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfa: Humid subtropical (Mid with no dry season, hot summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin

Not in river basin

Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Pacific Ocean (Tokyo Bay)

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

Organic

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Higashi Nagisa was filled with dredged soil and Nishi Nagisa was filled with pit sand. Sandy particles occupy more than half of the soil, which contains silt and sandy silt.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water destination

Presence?
Marine

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

This site is a foreshore tidal flat, where fresh water mixes with seawater, as water flows in from adjacent rivers such as Edogawa river and Arakawa river. As the tidal flat itself is located in the sea, the water ends up in the sea. As a tidal flat, the water level fluctuates in accordance with the ebb and rising of tides.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The bay area of Higashi Nagisa has increased from 4.2 ha to 8.1 ha, doubling in size between 1986 and 2008. This is likely due to the effect of the construction of U-shaped training dikes that traps and accumulates drift sand.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

As of July 2017, ph 8.4 was recorded in Nishi Nagisa.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

Mxohaline (brackish)/Mxosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)

Unknown

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

The site is a foreshore tidal flat, a brackish water area. Salinity in June 2017 was 13.9-20.8 in Nishi Nagisa.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

- Eutrophic
- Mesotrophic
- Oligotrophic
- Dystrophic
- Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

As of July 2017, T-N (total nitrogen) was recorded as 1.23-2.01mg/l, and T-P (total phosphorous) was recorded as 0.225-0.261mg/l in Nishi Nagisa.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

- Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development
- Surrounding area has higher human population density
- Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use
- Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The site is adjacent to local residential communities and developments.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

Where economic studies or assessments of economic valuation have been undertaken at the site, it would be helpful to provide information on where the results of such studies may be located (e.g. website links, citation of published literature):

International Collaborative Research on the Management of Wetland Ecosystems, a special research report from the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan (published 2003)

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

- i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

Offshore of Kasai used to be one of the largest tidal flats in Japan, where a large amount of laver was harvested as a local specialty. However, during the period of high economic growth in the 1960s, tidal flats in Tokyo Bay were reclaimed one after another, resulting in a reduction in fishing grounds, accompanied by a loss of traditional sea culture. Subsequently, organic ocean contamination accelerated, and water quality deteriorated rapidly in the Tokyo Bay. In order to rectify the situation, there has been a growing movement to promote water purification through the restoration of traditional sea culture, such as making dry laver, a former local specialty. Currently, the Kasai Marine Park hosts programmes to enable visitors to experience laver making. Currently, there are no regulations imposed on clam digging and gathering, except for on tools and amount of harvest, and many people including locals still enjoy this traditional activity.

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Kanto Regional Environment Office, Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Kuniaki Makiya, Director of Kanto Regional Environment Office

Postal address:

18F, Meiji Yasuda Seimei Saitama-Shintoshin Bldg., 11-2 Shin-toshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama-shi, Saitama Prefecture, 330-6018, JAPAN

E-mail address:

reo-kanto@env.go.jp

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Wildlife Protection Area, Special Protection Zone	Kasai-oki Sanmaizu National Wildlife Protection Area, Kasai-oki Sanmaizu Special Protection Zone		whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Inner Tokyo bay Important Bird Area	https://www.wbsj.org/nature/hogo/others/iba/search/sites/kanto/7-4-tokyo.htm	whole
Other non-statutory designation	Tidal flats and shallows in Tokyo Bay	http://www.env.go.jp/nature/important_wetland/wetland/w200.html	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant):

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but a plan is being prepared

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

http://www.biodic.go.jp/moni1000/site_list_tokyo_map.html

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Higashi Nagisa of the Kasai Marine Park that is located near city area (Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 17-11-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2018-10-18