



2JP004

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

3 December 1992

1. Country: Japan

2. Date:

3. Ref:

2JP004  
office use only

4. Name and address of compiler:

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Environment Agency

5. Name of wetland: Utonai-ko

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 12 December 1991

7. Geographical coordinates: 42° 42' N 141° 43' E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

In the western Hokkaido, approximately 12km north-eastern of Tomakomai city

9. Area: (in hectares)

510 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

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11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

The entire area lies around 5m (above sea level)

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

The lake locates in the lower part of Bibi-river

13. 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)

The northern area of the lake is alluvial fan and hillsides which is 10 - 50m above sea level.

The peat land which consists of reed-sedge peat extends over the western, the southern and the eastern area of the lake.

The site was an ancient gulf about 3,000 years ago and the lake established by sandbank and sand-dune which blocked the way out of the gulf. Bibi-river, Otarumappu-river and Tokisatamappu-river flow into the lake and Bibi-river is only one which flows out of the lake.

The pH of water in the lake indicates around 7 and the water does not contain much nitrogen and phosphorus.

The average depth of the lake is 37.8cm.

14. The western Hokkaido belongs to the cool temperate zone and the average temperature of the year is 7.0° C.

There is a lot of fog in spring and summer and snowfall is around 1m.

Carex lasiocarpa var. occultans community and Alnus japonica community, including studding with Zizania latifolia community and Trapa japonica community.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site	National Government owned land	107 ha
	Local Government owned land	127 ha
	Private owned land	1 ha
	Non-private owned lake	275 ha

(b) surrounding area

16. 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)

Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area

In this area, construction, modification of land, mining, reclamation, changing of the water level, tree felling, taking of wildlife are prohibited without the permission of the Environment Agency.

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

None

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site Fishing ( pond smelt, other fish and shellfish )

(b) surroundings/catchment Residential sections of town and pasture lands locate in northern and north-western parts of the catchment area.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

None

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

The construction of canal is planned in the upper course of Bibi-river.

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**20. Hydrological and physical values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Control the water level of the lower course of Bibi-river.  
Purify the water which flows through the lake.

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

Water supply for living and industry.  
Observation of wildbird and waterfowl for conservation education.

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**22. Noteworthy fauna:** (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

252 species of wildbird and waterfowl have been identified in this area.  
One of the most important rest place for waterfowl, especially *Anser albifrons* and *Anas acuta* whose each population is approximately 20,000 in the year.

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**23. Noteworthy flora:** (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Typical wetland waterplant communities of each stage of hydrarch succession in cool temperate zone, *Scirpus tabernaemontani* community and *Phragmites australis* - *Carex lyngbyei* community etc.

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

Research on annual change of the number of wild goose, wild duck and swan every winter.

Feeding swan to supplement natural food during winter.

Lake Utonai Sanctuary ( data base, research, education )

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25. **Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, trails, information boards, facilities for visitors)

Nature observation by Lake Utonai Sanctuary in summer

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26. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

Hike around the lake for bird-watching by Lake Utonai Sanctuary

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27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Lake Utonai Sanctuary

150-3 Uenae

Tomakomai-city

Hokkaido 059-13 Japan

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

Territorial conservation jurisdiction:

Wildlife Protection Section

Nature Conservation Department

Health Environment Division

Hokkaido Prefecture Government

Environment Agency

Japan

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Functional conservation jurisdiction:

Wildlife Protection Division

Nature Conservation Bureau

Report on research in environmental  
wildbird habitat

Report on research in Natural  
Environment of Utonai-ko.

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30. **Reasons for inclusion:**(state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

2(a)

3(a)

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31. **Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

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Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

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