

## Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

1. Date this sheet was completed \ updated

June 1998

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06/07/98 ; 2MN002

2. Country: Mongolia

3. Name of wetland: Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur ( Khorgo-Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur Natural Park )

4. Geographical coordinates: 48° 10' N, 99° 43' E

5. Altitude: 2,060 m

6. Area: 6,110 ha 12 units

7. Overview: The Terhiym Tsagaan Nuur located in the valley of the Suman River, a tributary of the Selenge River in the central Khangai Mountains. 165 km SSW of Moron, Arkhangai Province. Freshwater and oligotrophic lake is formed by volcanic activity. The maximum depth of the lake 19,5 m. About 20% of the lake supports aquatic macrophytes. The aquatic vegetation is not as well developed as that of Ogi Nuur, but much the same species are present along with some *Butomus umbellatus*. Blue-green algae dominate the phytoplankton in summer. The lake is surrounded by grassy hills and mountains with some larch forest. The fish fauna is dominated by typically north Eurasian species of cyprinids, pike and perch, and is similar to that of Ogi Nuur. The marshes at the west end of the lake are an important breeding and staging area for migratory waterfowl. Birds recorded during a brief survey in June and July.

8. Wetland Type: Inland: (O), (Tp).

9. Ramsar Criteria: (1b), (3b).

10. Map of the including included? Yes

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

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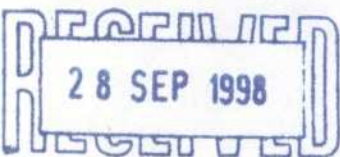
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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.

13. General location: In the valley of the Suman River, a tributary of the Selenge River in the central Khangai Mountains. 165 km SSW of Moron, Arkhangai Province.



**14. Physical features:**

**14.1. Geology and geomorphology:** This site including river, and lake is located in the valley of the Suman River, a tributary of the Selenge River in the central Khangai Mountains. Valley has been formed by volcanic activity.

**14.2. Hydrology:** Catchment area 7880 km<sup>2</sup>  
Water surface area 61.1 km<sup>2</sup>  
Length 16 km  
Width: Average 4.0 km  
Max 6.0 km  
Depth: Average 6.0 m  
Max 20.0 m  
Volume of water 0.37 km<sup>3</sup>  
Average temperature 8-9°C from May to September  
Mineralization 0.43 mg/l  
Transparencion 5.5 m

**14.3. Soils:** Dark chestnut, meadow scestnut soil, maedow with carbonaceous.

**14.4. Climate:** Extreme continental climate. The mean air temperatures vary from -38,8 C in January to + 33,2 C in July. The warm period, when the temperature is above zero, lasts for 150 to 160 days. The lakes freeze over in the period between late October and mid May. Annual precipitation varies from 100-150 mm, of which 80% fall between July and end of August.

**15. Hydrological values:** An oligotrophic, freshwater lake of volcanic origin, which has been built up behind a lava flow blocking the Suman valley to the east. Most of the shoreline is gravel, but in the west, there are extensive marshes with many pools. The maximum depth of the lake is 20 m. The shallow zone, up to 2 m deep, comprises 40% of the lake area. In summer, the surface water temperature reaches a maximum of 15°C.

**16. Ecological features:**

**17. Noteworthy flora:** About 20% of the lake supports aquatic macrophytes. The aquatic vegetation is not as well developed as that of Ogii Nuur, but much the same species are present along with some *Butomus umbellatus*. Blue-green algae dominate the phytoplankton in summer. The lake is surrounded by grassy hills and mountains with some larch forest.

Dominant species are *Betula rotundifolia*, *Dryas oxydontha*, *Koelaria cristata*, *Poa attenuota*, *Aster Alpinus*, *Oxytropis filiformis*, *Artemisia frigida*.

**18. Noteworthy fauna:** The benthos is comparatively poor. The zooplankton is dominated by copepods and cladocerans. The fish fauna is dominated by typically north Eurasian species of cyprinids, pike and perch, and is similar to that of Ogii Nuur. The marshes at the west end of the lake are an important breeding and staging area for migratory waterfowl. Birds recorded during a brief survey in June 1977 included two pairs of *Gavia arctica*, four pairs of *Cugnus cugnus*, 2,100 *Anser indicus* ( apparently a moulting flocks ), 30 *Tadorna ferruginea* ( breeding ), 10 *Mergus serrator* (possibly breeding ) and 15 *M. merganser*, along with small numbers of *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Aldea cinerea*, *Platalea leucorodia* and eight other species of ducks (Kitson, 1978).

**19. Social and cultural values:** The lake supports a small fishery with an annual yield of 50-100 metric tonnes ( Dulma, 1979 )

**20. Land tenure\ownership:** State ownership.



**21. Current land use:** Fishing and livestock grazing

**22. Factors:** -

**23. Conservation measures taken:** The site includes the 7,7267 her Khorgo-Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur Natural Park established in the Protected Areas system in 1995 and their Buffer zone established in 1996. Management of the Ramsar site is provided by Administration of Khangai Nuruu Natural Parks. 5-6 rangers of the administration are working on the site.

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** Current moment, Protected Areas Bureau and "Trust fund" for Nature and Environment, submitted proposal about some conservation measures and extension of this site.

**25. Current scientific research and facilities:** Basis limnological research has been carried out at the lake, and some observations have been made on the waterfowl.

**26. Current conservation education:** Information and awareness center is planned in Khorgo-Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur Natural Park

**27. Current research and tourism:** Recreational and touristical pressure is good.

**28. Jurisdiction: Territorial:** Administration of Tariat Sum of Arkhangai Province.

**Functional:** MNE of Mongolia and Environmental Protection Agency ( Government Building-3, Baga Toiruu-44, Ulaanbaatar-11, Tel: 976 1 326617, Fax: 976 1 328620, E-mail: epa@magicnet.mn

**29. Management authority:** Management of the Ramsar site is provided by the Administration of Kangai Huruu Natural Parks. Tsetserleg, Arkhangai Province. Tel: 976 ..... 2577

**30. Bibliographical references:**

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3. Ecosystems of Mongolia 1:1000000. The map is published with the assistance of UNEP. Russian-Mongolian complex biological expedition.

4. Biodiversity conservation action plan for Mongolia. (1996), The Ministry for Nature and Environment  
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5. National Atlas, (1990), MPR's Academy of Science and Academy of Science, USSR, Ulaanbaatar, Moscow.

6. A Directory of Asian Wetlands, (1989), IUCN, The World Convention Union.