

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes 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. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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

August 2008

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### 3. Country:

Russian Federation

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Upper Dvuobje (No. 678)

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### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or

b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

**“This updated version of the RIS has been accepted under the condition that the Secretariat’s comments originally provided on this RIS will be taken into account during the preparation of the next update. Cartographic materials provided are schematic maps.”**

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6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or

ii) the boundary has been extended ; or

iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

If the site area has changed:

i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or

ii) the area has been extended ; or

iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

\*\* **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

No major changes to the ecological character are identified.

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7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;

ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;

iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The border follows physical boundaries of natural objects.

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8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

62°27'N, 66°03'E – northernmost point; 60°57'N, 68°18'E – southernmost point.

Approximate center: 61°42'N, 67°10'E

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9. General location:

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

The Ob River valley between the villages of Belogorye and Oktyabrsky, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area. The upper part of the site belongs to the Khanty-Mansi rayon (district), with the administrative center in the town of Khanty-Mansiisk. Central and lower part of the site belong to the Oktyabrsky rayon, with the administrative center in the village of Oktyabrskoye.

**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Heights of the right, bedrock bank of the Ob vary from 125 to 181 m a.s.l. Crests and other elevations in the Ob valley rise to just a few meters above the brink of water. Within the site's borders, the water level in the Ob changes between 17 to 13 m a.s.l.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

470,000 ha

**12. General overview of the site:**

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

The site is located in the Ob River valley and a unique network of large and small channels, islands, permanent and seasonal water bodies. A pronounced patterned structure and high biological productivity of habitats in combination with good protective properties and a favorable geographic situation created a unique area that is a very important stopover site of migratory waterbirds. It is also a breeding and moulting area of many waterbird species; as well as spawning grounds and a spawning migration route of most commercial fish species of the Ob catchment.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under 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). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 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 2.** The wetland lies on a flyway and supports stopover sites of the following rare passage migrants included in the IUCN Red Data List: the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*; Siberian White Crane *Grus leucogeranus*; in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation: the Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*, Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*; White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*; in the Red Data Book of the Yamalo-Nenets and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Areas: the Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis*. On territory of the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik* alone, up to 45 breeding pairs and 15-20 non-breeding birds of the White-tailed Eagle were registered, as well as 30-50 ind. of Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

**Criterion 4.** Large numbers of waterbirds concentrate at the site during the moulting period. The Wigeon *Anas Penelope* is the predominating species; less numerous is the Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*; other common species are the Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Pintail *Anas acuta*. Huge

flocks of geese, swans, ducks, shorebirds, and gulls gather at the site before their departure to moulting and wintering areas. In September 2007, 10,812 waterbirds were counted during one day only on a 243-km transect in the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik*.

**Criterion 5.** The bird aggregations are not associated with any particular time. The greatest numbers of birds are observed in spring and in the first half of the summer. Local species and passage migrants heading north are the earliest to arrive. In June, males begin to gather at the site arriving from expansive areas; some then leave for moulting areas in other regions, others stay to moult here. In the second half of July, shorebirds return from their breeding grounds. September is marked with the arrival of the above-listed duck species and the White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* from Yamal, Gydan, and Taimyr. The local population knows feeding grounds of geese that the birds use every year. Despite the steady rotation of the bird population, the site supports over 20,000 individuals; according to rough estimation, the total number of waterbirds may reach several million.

**Criterion 6.** The Ob population of the Siberian White Crane *Grus leucogeranus* numbers just a few birds (no more than 3-5); occasional birds were observed in the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik* in autumn 2006 and spring 2007.

**Criteria 7 and 8.** The Ob River stretch of the Upper Dvuobye is of great importance as a migration route of valuable fish species, such as whitefish *Coregonus mucusun*, *Coregonus peled*, *Stenodus leucichtys nelma* that go up the river to spawn in August, and, the next spring after the ice break, their young descend along the same route to the Obskaya Guba bay to feed and winter. The Ob is also used for spawning migrations by the Siberian sturgeon *Acipenser baeri* that used to be common, but is now listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation as an endangered species. In the summer, fish concentrate in channels and on shallows. An extensive *sor* system serves as feeding grounds of both young and shotten fish. The fish fauna is extremely diverse. The whitefish are represented by *Stenodus leucichtys nelma* and *Coregonus peled*. The sturgeons are *Acipenser ruthenus* that is relatively common and *Acipenser baeri* that is found occasionally. However, ordinary fish are the most diverse. They are: *Leuciscus idus*, *Esox lucius*, *Rutilus lacustris*, *Leuciscus baicalensis*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Acerina cernua*, *Lota lota*, *Carassius carassius*, *C. auratus ghiblo*. It is possible to encounter *Abramis brama*, *Gabio gobio cynicephalus*, and *Cyprinus carpio*.

**15. 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:** Typical taiga

b) **biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

A.A. Tishkov. Biosphere functions of natural ecosystems in Russia. 2005. 309 p.p. in Russian

**16. 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.

The broad Ob floodplain is dissected at the site by a series of river channels. The main watercourse is the Ob (2-3 km wide) that forms the eastern boundary of the site. Channels of various sizes cut through the floodplain in all directions thus dividing it to numerous differently sized islands. Lateral parts of floodplain massifs and islands are usually higher than the inner portions, and have a more uneven relief.

Typical landmarks in the central floodplain are *sor* depressions. They are generally oblong in shape, extending to 2 or 3 km (up to 4-5 km) and very graded; they are located 4 to 4.5 m above the

low-water level of the river, covering the lowest parts of the floodplain. Soil and vegetation cover are poorly developed there because of the annual inundation in spring and summer.

Characteristic of the hydrological regime of the Ob are broad variations of the annual discharge, which results in a maximal, medium, and low watering of the floodplain. Mean long-term discharge reaches 394 km<sup>3</sup>/year.

The duration of flooding differs depending on a floodplain portion, with the highest parts inundated for 20 days on the average. Lower spots remain waterlogged for a longer time, up to 90 days.

Stretches of a high hypsometric level develop a sod soil formation process, while medium-level ones are predominated by a meadow formation process. Large hollows in the central portion of the floodplain show earliest stages of soil development. The formation of bog soils is not very common and bound to overgrowing oxbow lakes.

The following soil types are widespread in this stretch of the Ob floodplain:

- alluvial silty-loam meadow veil humus gleyed soil;
- alluvial sod soil;
- alluvial silty gleyed soil;
- alluvial silty peat gleyed soil;
- alluvial silty peat soil;
- peaty gleyed bog soil;
- peat gleyed bog soil;
- eluvial gleyed soil;
- surface gley or gleyey podzol soil;

The climate is severe continental. The winter lasts for 6-6.5 months, with mean air temperature of January reaching -18 to -20 °C. The spring is usually rapid (30 days), cold, with abrupt weather changes and frequent frosts. The vegetation period lasts for 130 days. Mean air temperature of July is +12 to +14 °C. The autumn is usually warm, but short, with an unstable atmospheric pressure gradient, abrupt temperature changes and frequent early frosts (Алисов 1969).

Dvuobye is situated in a humid zone. Mean annual precipitation is 450 mm. Precipitation is 2-2.5 times greater in summer than it is in winter.

### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The catchment of the Ob-Irtysh river system covers an area of 2,990,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The Ob River catchment is clearly asymmetrical. The left-bank part covers 67% of the total catchment area, while the right-bank part covers a mere 33%. The Ob is mainly fed by snowmelt that comprises 70% of the total annual discharge. The flood begins in May, with a peak between mid June and beginning of July. Then the water level decreases till the end of August, or, in the lower reaches of the river, till the formation of an ice cover. There is virtually no summer low-water period. The autumn ice formation begins in the lower reaches of the Ob, from where it gradually expands up the river. The stable ice cover lasts for 190-200 days.

### 18. Hydrological values:

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

The Ob catchment is one of the largest in Eurasia. Ob river transports heat and dissolved matter that affects the climate and vegetation of the area, as well as ice cover of northern seas neighboring the river's mouth.

### 19. 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.

**P • Ts • M • Tp • Xp • Xf • U • W • O • N • 4**

#### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Typical taiga forest-shrub-*sor*-meadow series of vegetation communities are predominating habitats at the site. The largest area is covered by a series of *sor*-meadow and willow-mire-meadow communities, as well as willow groves, birch, birch-stone pine and birch-pine forests. It embraces the Ob River valley from the town of Khanty-Mansiisk to the village of Berezovo.

E.E. Rodnyanskaya (1958, 1968) distinguished four ecological zones for this stretch of the floodplain:

- 1) low-level floodplain annually flooded for a long time. It comprises *sor* depressions and surfaces slightly tilted towards the *sors*. They are flooded for 2.5 to 3 months.
- 2) lower medium-level floodplain annually flooded for a relatively long time. These plots are flooded for one or two months (up to 2.5 months).
- 3) higher medium-level floodplain that is flooded periodically for a shorter time. It occupies ridges 6 to 7 m high that are flooded once in 2-4 years for 1.5 to 2 months.
- 4) high-level floodplain that is sometimes flooded for a short time. These sites are flooded once in 7-8 years for a period of 1 to 1.5 weeks.

The Upper Dvuobye area can be regarded as an island-dominated flow-through floodplain, though here, in contrast to more northerly parts of the floodplain, most channels and distributaries that divide floodplain islands are considerably narrower.

Stretches of the lowest ecological level develop a number of *sor* communities as well as hummock-forming sedge and reed-grass meadows. The *sor* depressions are widespread all over the site, but they are smaller than those in more northerly parts of the floodplain. Most of the *sors* dry out quickly after the water level drops and become occupied by typical *sor*-forbs meadow communities.

The *sors* are surrounded by the meadow communities of *Carex aquatilis* and *C. acuta*. These meadows are mostly hummocky, in particular those predominated by *Carex aquatilis*. Common species on these meadows are *Achillea ptarmica*, *Sium* sp., *Galium palustre*, *Equisetum fluviatilis*, and *Inula britannica*.

The low-level floodplain also includes sedge-reedgrass large hummock meadows. They are often found in small patches on inundated flats around *sor* depressions. Hummocks about 50 cm in height are formed by *Calamagrostis neglecta*, *Carex cespitosa*, and *Poa palustris*.

The second most widespread dynamic group of ecological communities at this stretch of the Ob floodplain is that of the medium-level floodplain. The vegetation cover is absolutely predominated by sedge and sedge-*Phalaroides* meadows. The following ecological-dynamic succession of these vegetation communities is typical for the site: *Carex aquatilis* + *Carex acuta* → *Carex acuta* →

*Carex acuta* + *Calamagrostis* sp. → *Carex acuta* + *Phalaroides arundinacea* → *Calamagrostis* sp. + *Phalaroides arundinacea*.

Meadows of *Carex aquatilis* and *Carex acuta* occupied the lowest and graded patches at this ecological level. These meadows near the village of Oktyabrskoye have grass stands 70-80 cm tall and covering up to 100% of the surface. The grass stands are predominated by *Carex acuta*, *C. aquatilis*, and *Phalaroides arundinacea*. Occasional findings are *Stellaria graminea*, *Myosotis palustris*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Lathyrus palustris*, *Galium palustre*, *Stachys palustris*, *Ranunculus repens*.

Meadows of reedgrass and *Phalaroides arundinacea* are confined to the highest places, such as crests of small ridges and upper slopes. The stands cover 80 to 90% of the surface and are up to 100 cm tall. Predominant species are *Phalaroides arundinacea* and *Calamagrostis langsdorffii*; common is also *Calamagrostis canescens*; other species present are *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Cirsium heterophyllum*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Myosotis palustris*, and *Galium palustre*.

Meadows of the lower medium-level floodplain are mostly found on low ridges with long, gentle slopes. The ridges are divided by shallow hollows occupied by hummocky meadows of *Carex aquatilis* and *Calamagrostis neglecta*.

Predominant vegetation communities of the higher medium-level floodplain are true meadows, wet meadows, and brushwood (Шенников 1941).

Herb meadows in these habitats occupy gently sloping areas and crests of ridges 5 to 6 m high. The stands are always dense, with a projective cover of 80 to 100%. Heights of reproductive shoots reach 170 cm, while those of vegetative shoots are 100-110 cm. The meadows are dominated by *Phalaroides arundinacea* and *Calamagrostis langsdorffii*; other species are found in small numbers: *Poa pratensis*, *Carex acuta*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Thalictrum simplex*, *Inula Britannica*, *Stachys palustris*, *Galium palustre*, *Lactuca sibirica*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, and *Myosotis palustris*.

Pure reed-grass meadows of *Calamagrostis langsdorffii* are found on tops and upper slopes of ridges located along small channels and close to their watercourses. These meadows often alternate with willow groves. Bushes of *Salix viminalis*, *S. pentandra*, and *S. cinerea* form groups of communities with a projective cover of 0.7 to 0.8 and heights varying from 1.5 to 4 m.

The higher medium-level floodplain with meadows and brushwood comprises some patches of lower levels that occupy ridge slopes and hollows between the ridges. These patches cover about 20% of the area.

The high-level floodplain of the Ob is occupied by tree vegetation: small-leaved and mixed forests. These forests do not cover a large area, but they are characteristic of the floodplain landscape.

The time series begins with willow parklands on flattened slopes and tops of higher channel ridges. The groves are thinned, with a crown closure of no more than 0.1 to 0.2. The trees are often many-stemmed and look like immense bushes 8 to 12 m high; one-stemmed willows reach 40 cm in diameter, while bushy ones have stems 10 to 15 cm across. Willow parklands are usually dominated by *Salix alba* and have an admixture of shrub willows *Salix cinerea*, *S. bebbiana*, and *S. lapponum*. A well-developed herb story consists of either reedgrass communities (*Calamagrostis langsdorffii*) or herb communities that include reedgrass with considerable admixtures of *Phalaroides arundinacea*, *Trifolium medium*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Vicia cracca* etc. Usually, meadow massifs of the willow parklands are actively used for cattle grazing, because they have good herbage and are flooded for a shorter time compared with other parts of the floodplain.

The succeeding stage of this ecological time series is willow-birch floodplain forests. These forests cover the highest areas of ridges stretched along large channels and the mainstream Ob. Forests located on ridge tops have a timber stand composition of 7 birches per 3 willows and stand densities

of 0.5-0.6; predominating trees are *Betula pendula* (17-18 m in height and 20-25 cm in diameter) and *Salix alba* (14-15 m in height and 15-18 cm in diameter). The regrowth consists of coppice birches and occasional willows. The dense understory consists of *Rosa cinnamomea*, *Ribes nigrum*, *Padus avium*, and *Swida alba*. The herb story with a projective density of 70-80% is predominated by *Calamagrostis langsdorffii*, *Poa pratensis*, *Anemonidium dichotomum*, *Linaria vilgaris*, and *Stellaria graminea*. Less numerous are *Veronica longifolia*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Vicia cracca*, *Lactuca sibirica*, *Cirsium heterophyllum*, *Galium palustre*, and *Stachys palustris*.

Willow-birch forests of the upper-level floodplain are in some places superseded by willow-birch-aspen (*Populus tremula*) forests with a richer herb cover dominated by forbs (*Thalictrum simplex*, *Aconitum* sp., *Anemone dichotoma*, *Geranium pretense*, *Veronica* sp.), but, in general, aspen forests are rare at this stretch of the Ob floodplain and are found mainly in its southern portion. Mixed conifer-small-leaf forest associations occur only on highest sandy ridges; floodplain forests dominated by pines and stone pines are sometimes found in small patches.

Small-leaf – conifer and pure conifer forests with floodplain elements cover large areas on remnant upper floodplain terraces. They have a higher timber productivity and well-developed low stories of the forest. For example, the tree stand on a remnant upper floodplain terrace had the following timber composition: 35-44% of birches, 15-24% of aspens, 25-34% of stone pines, and 5-9% of pines. The birches were 20-25 m in height, 25-30 cm in diameter; aspens 22-28 m in height, 35-40 cm in diameter; stone pines 18-20 m in height, 18-20 cm in diameter; pines 16-18 m in height, 20-25 cm in diameter. The regrowth is formed by coppice birches, aspens, and occasional stone pines; the understory consists of mountain ashes and dog roses. Soil cover is well developed, covering 80% of the surface. Widespread in the soil cover are *Vaccinium vitis-idea*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Oxalis acetocella*, *Rubus saxatilis*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, *Majanthemum bifolium*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Cacalia* sp., *Millium effusum*, and *Anemone dichotoma*.

The moss cover is patchy, with a projective cover of 10-30%. It consists of *Ptilium crista-castrensis*, and *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*.

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## 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, 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.*

*Allium angulosum* L. - a valuable food plant listed in the Red Data Book of the Khanty-Mansi AA.

(*Iris sibirica* L., *Cypripedium guttatum* Sw., *Paeonia anomala* L., *Veronica spicata* L., *Cotoneaster melanocarpus* M. Pop. are ornamental plants that became globally rare and listed in the Red Data Book of the Khanty-Mansi AA.

*Pulmonaria mollis* Wulf. ex Hornem., *Chimaphilla umbellata* (L.) W. Barton are medicinal plants listed in the Red Data Book of the Khanty-Mansi AA.

*Nymphoides peltata* (S.G. Gmel.) O. Kuntze, *Astragalus uliginosus* L., *Coleanthus subtilis* (Tratt.) Seidel, *Elatine hydropiper* L., *Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh. are rare plants listed in the Red Data Book of the Khanty-Mansi AA.

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## 22. 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.*

Red-breasted Diver *Gavia stellata* is a rare species listed in the Red Data Book of the Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional passage migrant.



Red-breasted Goose *Rufibrenta ruficollis* is included in the IUCN Red List as a vulnerable species (VU); in Annex 2 of CITES; in Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention; in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. It stages at the site on migration, more often in spring than in autumn.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* is included in the IUCN Red List as a vulnerable species (Category VU); in Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention; in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. According to the latest satellite surveillance data, this species stages at the site for 1.5 to 2 weeks to restore fat reserves before the migration.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii* is a rare species included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation, Red Data Books of Yamalo-Nenets AA and Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional stopover visitor on migration.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* is included in the Red Data Book of the Khanty-Mansi AA. The site provides very favorable habitats for the species. Swans are numerous here: several tens (up to 80) of breeding pairs and over a hundred aestivating juveniles have been registered in the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik* alone.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetos* is a rare species included in Annex 2 of the CITES, Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention, and the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. It visits the area for foraging arriving from its nearby mire habitats.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* is a rare species included in Annex 2 of the CITES, Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention, and the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. A rare visitor in winter.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* is included in the IUCN Red List as a nearly threatened species (Category NT); in Annex 1 of CITES; in Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention; in the Red Data Books of the Russian Federation and Khanty-Mansi AA. The site provides favorable habitats for the White-tailed Eagle. It occurs in considerable numbers here. Within the boundaries of the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik* (Zakaznik) alone, 45 nests of the species have been registered, most of which are used every year. Moreover, 15 to 20 juveniles have been found aestivating in the Zakaznik every year.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* is a rare species included in Annex 1 of the CITES, Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention, and the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. Occasionally seen in winter.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* is a rare species included in Annex 1 of the CITES, Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention, and the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional passage migrant.

Siberian White Crane *Grus leucogeranus* is included in the IUCN Red List as a critically endangered species (Category CR); in Annex 1 of CITES; in Annex 1 of the Bonn Convention; in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional passage migrant.

Corncrake *Crex crex* is a globally declining species included in the IUCN Red List as a vulnerable species (Category VU). Fairly common during summer.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* is a rare species included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional stopover visitor on migration.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* is a rare species included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation, Red Data Books of Yamalo-Nenets AA and Khanty-Mansi AA. Breeds at the site.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* is a rare species included in Annex 2 of the Bonn Convention, and the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional passage migrant.

Arctic Squa *Stercorarius parasiticus* is a rare species included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. An occasional passage migrant.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* is a rare species included in Annex 2 of the CITES, Annex 2 of the Bern Convention, and the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation and the Red Data Book Khanty-Mansi AA. Several pairs of eagle owls (up to 7) breed every year in the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik*.

Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baeri*) is a rare species included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation, Red Data Books of Yamalo-Nenets AA and Khanty-Mansi AA.

Whitefish: *Stenodus leucichthys*, *Coregonus sardinella*, *Coregonus tugun*, *Coregonus peled*, *Coregonus nasus*, *Coregonus lavaretus*, and *Coregonus muksun* are valuable commercial species.

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### 23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or 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:

The site and adjacent areas are important for fish production. It supports migration routes and feeding grounds of most commercial species of the Ob catchment. Commercial fishing is practiced here.

The site comprises a unique geological monument of nature: The Lugovskoye Mammoths. First findings of mammoth remains were made in the late 1950s. From then on, over 4500 fossil remains of mammals were collected in the area (mammoths, hairy rhinoceroses, bison, reindeer, and wolves). The data obtained prove that the toponymy in Lugovskoye is not typical for most other mammoth locations. Lugovskoye is one of the northernmost Late Paleolithic sites in West Siberia. Its being so unusual, because of a salt lick found at the site. Moreover, it's a massive aggregation of mammoth bones. And, finally, splits, flakes, and irregularly-shaped plates retouched along their proximal edges were found among the mammoth bones. The stone findings were considered artifacts dating back to Paleolithic times. According to rough estimations, the artifacts are from the Sartan times (22,000 to 10,000 years ago). A sensational finding of 2002 was a dorsal vertebra of a female mammoth pierced by a stone arrowhead.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

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**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

Private ownership, state ownership (forest land fund, water fund, and land reserve fund), and municipal ownership (settlements).

b) in the surrounding area:

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

Some industrial works, grazing grounds, hay fields, fisheries and game management facilities, settlements and roads are located within the Ramsar site. There are several licensed plots of oil and gas deposits.

The mainstream Ob and all large channels are used for navigation in the frost-free season.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

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**26. 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:

The human factors are illegal hunting and fishing; disturbance from visitors to the site.

Major technogenic risks within the site are associated with oil extraction on licensed plots. The area of oil prospecting and production close to the site has been expanding, which increases the risk of environmental pollution.

Natural negative factors are floods. Floods on the Ob can be disastrously high and protracted, like they were, for example, in spring and summer 2007. All clutches of birds breeding on the ground, on floating islands or in the bushes were inundated. As a result, the breeding success was extremely low in Whooper Swans and most ducks. Even eagles were affected, because the high water level made fish less available; many chicks died in nests, while their parents and juveniles left the area.

b) in the surrounding area:

Most of the adjacent area to the west of the site, especially near Nyagan, is a developed oil-production area of the Khanty-Mansi AA. Waters of the Ob and Irtysh carry diverse chemical pollutants and plastic trash. Road construction has been intensively developing in the region.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The site comprises the Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik* of federal level with an area of 76,600 ha that was established in 1982. The reserve is aimed at the conservation, restoration, and reproduction of wildlife (populations of mammals, birds, valuable commercial fishes) as well as the protection of their habitats, rare and important plant species.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?: No.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The Statute of the wetland was adopted by the Governor of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area on 31/08/1995 (Decree No. 176).

The special requirements for geophysical and prospecting work, development and extraction of oil and gas deposits in territories equal to specially valuable nature areas on territory of Khanty-Mansi AA were developed.

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

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

It would be wise to coordinate and strengthen conservation and land use supervision measures on the wetland and approve these at the federal and regional levels.

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Research has been carried out sporadically, by staff of various institutions: Braude, Dubovik 1979; Antipov, Nazarov 1983; Strelnikov 2002; Taran et al. 2004.

In 2003, the study "Eco-biological investigation of The Ramsar wetland Upper Dvuobye: research into natural character of the site to determine further functional zoning and possible forms of economic activities on its territory" was carried out by order of the Environment Conservation Department of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area (Yugra). The action agency: The Institute of Development Problems of the North, Siberian Branch RAS (Tyumen).

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

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

The Elizarovsky state nature *zakaznik* of federal level (Zakaznik) comprises 3 ranger stations: Zarucheiny, Bogdashka, and Elizarovsky.

The Zarucheiny station has its own nature museum, with a small collection of stuffed mammals and birds. Young naturalists from the Khanty-Mansi AA have their field practices at the Bogdashka station. A new hard road that connected the village of Yaguryakh with the town of Khanty-Mansiisk made the Zarucheiny Station and its museum easier approachable. Large open areas facilitate observations over inhabitants of the Zakaznik without disturbing them: one can watch through binoculars female elks feeding their young; swans walking with their broods; playing young foxes and badgers. Regional TV and radio companies have regularly covered work of the Zakaznik. A few short films were made about the inhabitants of the Zakaznik. Booklets have not been published in recent years for financial reasons.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

No organized recreation or tourism is practiced. In summer, young naturalists from Khanty-Mansiisk come to the Zakaznik for field practice. In recent years, the Zakaznik have hosted various environmental meetings and workshops.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

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

Government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation

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**33. 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.

Government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service (*Rosprirodnadzor*).

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or

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Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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