

16. Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

June 1997

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| DD | MM | YY |
| | | |

Designation date

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Site Reference Number

2. Country: Russian Federation

3. Name of wetland: Chany Lakes

4. Geographical coordinates: Lake Chany: 55°05'-54°28'N, 76°42'-78°25'E
Shchuchy lakes: 55°16'30"N, 77°42'30"E

5. Altitude:

Lake Chany: water area 106.7 m;
islands 108-113 m; shore 116-120m.
Shchuchy lakes: 116-118 m

6. Area:

Lake Chany: 357,600 ha
Shchuchy lakes: 7,248 ha

7. Overview: The site consists of two separate areas: Lake Chany with adjacent land and Shchuchy lakes. These wetlands present a large lacustrine system, characteristic of the Western Siberian forest-steppe. Lake Chany is an enclosed water body, which varies several-fold in area following climatic fluctuations and comprises two parts: freshwater (Maly Chany) and brackish (Bolshiye Chany), with the mean depth of 1.5 m. The area supports large breeding and migrating populations of waterbirds.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: Q,O,R,Tp,M.

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a . 1b . 1c . 1d . 2a . 2b . 2c . 2d . 3a . 3b . 3c . 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1a & 3a

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form: N.E.Ogurtsov, A.K.Yurlov:

Biological Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Frunze 11, Novosibirsk 630091, Russia).

V.G.Vinogradov (vavy@aha.ru).

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 1a - Lakes Chany is a good representative example of the Siberian forest-steppe; 3a - the site supports large populations of waterbirds (See Section 18).

13. General location: In the Barabinskaya lowland, the southern portion of Western Siberia; in Novosibirsk Region, 50 km of the town of Chany (the centre of Chany administrative district), 50 km of the town of Barabinsk, 8 km of the village of Chistoozernoye, 30 km of the village of Kupino and 20 km of the village of Zdvinsk.

14. Physical features: The Barabinskaya plain is mainly composed of Pleistocene alluvial deposits, but the Chany depression is filled by Holocene sediments, resulted from the pulsation of the lake. The relief is predominantly a dissected plain with district ridges. The ridges are built up from loess deposits and are extended in the northeastern-southwestern direction.

The lake is of post-glacial age. It is enclosed, shallow, with a flat bottom. The level of water varies over wide limits (within two meters in the 20th century). At present, the level of water is high, close to the maximum registered, but it is expected to fall in the beginning of the 21st century. There are a few freshwater lakes in the group but most lakes are brackish. The salinity of water varies depending on the level of inundation.

The climate is continental. The mean air temperatures are +18.3°C in July and -19.7°C in December. Annual precipitation is 380 mm. The warm period lasts for 115-120 days.

15. Hydrological values: The wetland represents the largest lacustrine system in the Western Siberian forest-steppe.

16. Ecological features: The following habitat types, which are of importance for waterbirds, are found at the site:

- Waters of Lake Bolshiye Chany: important for breeding dabbling ducks, gulls and waders; staging areas for migrating populations of dabbling ducks, geese, gulls and waders;
 - Reed beds: nesting areas of diving ducks, geese and swans;
 - Small shallow bays of lakes Bolshiye Chany and Maly Chany: staging areas of migrating ducks, gulls and waders;
 - Small insular groves of aspen and birch between the ridges and on the shores: important for breeding dabbling ducks;
 - Forest-steppic lakes: nesting areas of dabbling and diving ducks, gulls and waders;
 - Hummocks: nesting areas of dabbling and diving ducks, gulls and waders;
 - Meadows with reedbeds at the river mouths and along the lake shores: nesting areas of dabbling ducks and waders; and
 - Ridges between the lakes: breeding areas of dabbling ducks, shelducks and waders between April and July.
-

17. Noteworthy flora: The vegetation is dominated by the mire, meadow, meadow-solonchak and, less frequently, meadow-forest associations. *Phragmites* and *Typha* reedbeds occupy 15% of the total area. The aquatic vegetation in the rivers Chulym, Kargat and their tributaries is dominated by *Ceratophyllum* sp., and that in the lakes, by *Potamogeton* sp. Rapid algal growth (eutrophication) occurs often in the small lakes, due to pollution from the cattle-breeding farms. Along the shorelines of the lakes, reed associations with *Typha angustifolia* and *T.latifolia* are found; some higher places are overgrown with *Calamagrostis*. Between the reed beds and slopes of the ridges, sites with saline soils are found, overgrown with *Salicornia* sp. The slopes are covered by very diverse steppe vegetation, including *Stipa*

and *Glycyrrhiza* sp. At the ridges subjected to grazing, the vegetation is poorer and is mainly represented by *Artemisia* and *Achillea* sp. Small insular groves of aspen and birch are situated at lower places between the ridges, on the slopes and in the dried riverbeds. These are seriously affected by grazing.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Birds

Breeding species include: avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (40-100 pairs), black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (10-15 pairs), great black-headed gull *Larus ichthyaetus* (300-400), Caspian tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (300-500) and white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (1 pair).

During migrations, the following species have been registered: golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis* (noted once), snipe-billed godwit *Macrorhamphus semipalmatus*, sociable lapwing *Chettusia gregaria*, avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. The waterbirds concentrate on the lakes in the spring and autumn migration seasons, and also during the summer moulting passage. Some birds moult at the site.

The abundance of waterbirds depends on the level of inundation. This question has not received adequate study so far. In the summer-autumn period, the numbers of waterbirds by group are:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Swans: | 50-300 individuals |
| Geese: | 1,500-5,000 |
| Coot: | 20,000-40,000 |
| Dabbling ducks: | 15,000-40,000 |
| Diving ducks: | 10,000-30,000 |
| Waders: | 5,000-15,000 |
| Gulls and terns: | 20,000-40,000 |
| Cranes: | 500-700 |

Species listed in the Russian Red Data Book include white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (an occasional breeding species), black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (a breeding species) and slender-billed curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* (a rare passage migrant).

19. Social and cultural values: The wetlands of the area provide diverse amenity opportunities. Outdoor recreation is developed. Traditional activities include fishing, hunting, hay harvesting and grazing.

20. Land tenure/ownership: Shchuchy lakes and Lake Chany are national property. The adjacent land and islands are owned by users with collective proprietary rights.

21. Current land use: Principal activities at the site include agriculture, grazing, hay harvesting, commercial and sport hunting and fishing.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: Threats at the site are mainly connected with overgrazing on the islands and shore areas. This results in the loss of many nests and colonies of birds.

23. Conservation measures taken: The Shchuchy lakes site is a federal nature reserve/wildlife refuge (the Kirzinsky Zakaznik). The other site of Lake Chany includes the Chanovsky Zakaznik, established at

the local level.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: A project has been developed to establish a strict nature reserve (the Barabinsky Zapovednik), which will include both existing reserves (zakazniks). It has been proposed to establish two or three new wildlife refuges (zakazniks) in the area so that all important wetlands may be covered by protected areas.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: A biological station of the Research Institute for Animal Ecology and Systematics, the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, is located in the area.

26. Current conservation education: No data

27. Current recreation and tourism: Recreational activities include sport fishing, waterfowl shooting and outdoor recreation of locals. The area has good potential for developing eco-tourism.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Administration of the Novosibirsk Region (18 Krasny Prospect, Novosibirsk 630011, Russia).

Functional: State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection (4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, Moscow 123812, Russia).

29. Management authority: Regional Committee for Environmental Protection (82 Krasny Prospect, Novosibirsk 630081, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references:

Ecology and biocenotic links of migratory birds in Western Siberia. 1981. Novosibirsk, Nauka Publishers.

Tarasov, P.E. 1995. Lake Chany. Pages 124-131 *in* History of Lakes in Northern Asia. S-Petersburg, Nauka Publishers.
