

17. 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:**

August 1997

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. **Country:** Russian Federation

3. **Name of wetland:** Wetlands in the Lower Bagan area

4. **Geographical coordinates:** 54°09'N, 78°23'E

5. **Altitude:** 106-107 m, watershed areas: 116-117 m a.s.l. **Area:** 26,880 ha

7. **Overview:** Freshwater and brackish lakes with variable water level, presenting the remaining parts of the Bagan steppic river. The area supports breeding and migrating populations of waterbirds. The importance of the site varies from year to year, depending on the level of inundation, and is very high when Lake Chany sinks.

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,R,P,N.

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

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

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 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: 3a - the site supports large populations of waterbirds.

13. General location: In Novosibirsk Region, 35 km of the village of Bagan (administrative centre of Bagansky District), 50 km of the town of Karasuk (centre of Karasuksky District), and 50 km of the village of Krasnozerskoye (centre of Krasnozersky District). The villages of Paletskoye and Kukarka are located at the site border.

14. Physical features: The site is situated in the southern portion of the Barabinsky alluvial lowland, on the Pleistocene and modern lacustrine deposits. Loess-like loams are found on higher places.

The area has a continental climate. The mean air temperatures are -21°C in January and +20°C in July. The warm period when the temperature is above zero lasts for 115-120 days. Annual precipitation is 350 mm, 60% of these fall during the growing season. The average depth of snow is 20-30 cm. The wetlands are mainly fed by snow melt.

The soils are predominantly of the meadow and saline types.

15. Hydrological values: No information

16. Ecological features: The level and salinity of water in the lakes varies greatly from year to year. Freshwater lakes dominate in the cool and humid periods and brackish ones in the dry and hot periods. The area is situated within the biogeographical zone of herb and feather grass steppes, the most part of which has been ploughed (Lapshin & Lavrenko, 1985). In the depressions (i.e. at the site itself) halophyte steppe communities dominate at dry places. These include *Festuca valesiaca*, *Stipa capillata* and *Kaeleria cristata*. Sagebrush species (such as *Artemisia frigida*, *A. glauca* and *A. campestris*) dominate the herbs. Halophytes (*Galatella hauptii*, *G. macrosciadia* and *Polygonum patulum*) occur widely.

The lakes are overgrown with reed *Phragmites australis*. At high water, the lakes have littoral belts of reeds. *Typha* sp. are also widespread. Subaquatic vegetation is mainly represented by *Potamogeton* species, with *P. pectinatus* dominating. Floating islands occur at the freshwater lakes. In dry years, reedbeds develop practically over the whole water bodies.

17. Noteworthy flora: Along the shores of the lakes, meadows on saline soils develop. These are dominated by *Alopecurus*, *Calamagrostis* and *Hordeum* sp. Meadows with *Limonium* and *Plantago* also occur widely. At higher places, meadows with *Calamagrostis epigeios* and *Artemisia* are found. Aquatic vegetation is dominated by *Ceratophyllum* and *Potamogeton* sp. Reed, *Typha angustifolia*, *T. latifolia* and *Calamagrostis* sp. occur at the edge of the water.

18. Noteworthy fauna: The avifauna of the Lower Bagan area has not been investigated for over 20 years, and the numbers given below are only rough estimations.

Breeding waterbirds include greylag goose *Anser anser* (100-200 pairs), diving ducks (500-800 pairs), dabbling ducks (up to 1,000 pairs), grebes (200-300 pairs), coot *Fulica atra* (up to 1,500 pairs) and many waders. In the 1970s, 30 pairs of mute swan *Cygnus olor* have been registered (Koshelev, 1987). The 1970s were very favourable years for breeding waterbirds and their total population reached 50,000 individuals by August.

Species that occur during migrations include greylag goose *Anser anser* (5,000-6,000 individuals), ducks (10,000-12,000), coot *Fulica atra* (to 15,000), waders (10,000-15,000), gulls (20,000-40,000) and sometimes crane *Grus grus* (up to 100-200 individuals). The number of moulting ducks reaches 10,000-20,000 in wet years. The spring migration through the area begins in early April, and the

mass migration occurs from mid-April till May. The passage of waders, mainly northern species, occurs from May till early June. The summer and autumn migrations begin in late June, when the moult passage takes place, and continue until October. Concentrations of cranes *Grus grus* (up to 200-400 individuals) have been registered in August (Yurlov *et al.*, 1982).

Breeding species listed in the Russian Red Data Book include avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (10-50 pairs), black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (the population reached 100-150 pairs in favourable years, *e.g.* in 1970 and 1971 (Gordienko *et al.*, 1986)). Amongst the migrating species are avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (100-150 individuals) and white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

19. Social and cultural values: The local people set traps for muskrat, shoot waterfowl and fish in the lakes. The farmers use the area for grazing and hay harvesting.

20. Land tenure/ownership: The land is owned by users with collective proprietary rights.

21. Current land use: Activities include agriculture, grazing, hay harvesting, hunting for fur animals, shooting for waterfowl and fishing.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: No information

23. Conservation measures taken: The area has no protection status. There are some limitations on grazing and hay harvesting. Shooting for waders and construction of dams are prohibited.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: It has been proposed to establish a nature reserve ('zakaznik') in the area.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: The wetlands in the Lower Bagan area have not received adequate study. At present, it is difficult through the lack of funds, despite the area is easily accessible.

26. Current conservation education: None at present.

27. Current recreation and tourism: None at present.

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: Gorgienko, Drobovtsev & Koshelev (1986); Koshelev (1987); Yurlov *et al.* (1982)
