

32. 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

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Site Reference Number

2. **Country:** Russian Federation

3. **Name of wetland:** Utkholok

4. **Geographical coordinates:** 57°40'N, 157°11'E

5. **Altitude:** min 0 m, max 850 m a.s.l.

6. **Area:** Utkholok Nature Reserve: 49,800 ha;
lowland wetlands: 146,000 ha; catchment of the
rivers Utkholok and Kvachina: 220,000 ha.

7. **Overview:** The site incorporates extensive tundra wetlands within the catchment areas of the rivers Utkholok and Kvachina, Cape Utkholoksky, which jut out into the sea and has higher relief, and coastal cliffs and islands. The site is important for waterbirds during the migrating, breeding and moulting seasons.

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: U,L,O,M.

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:**

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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 3a - the wetland supports large migrating, breeding and moulting populations of waterbirds.

13. General location: On the western coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula, in Koryak Autonomous Area, 100 km west of the village of Tigil (centre of Tigilsky administrative district).

14. Physical features: The site is situated on the flat, slightly tilted plains of the Western Kamchatsky lowland. The plains are composed of loose rocks and other continental deposits which are of Neogene age. Surrounding areas have hilly relief, grading into mountains on the east. There is a rock formation on Utkholoksky Cape, up to 446 m high.

The area has a temperate Pacific climate. The mean air temperature is between +8° and +12°C in July. The warm period, when the temperature is above zero, lasts for over 100 days. Annual precipitation is 600-700 mm. The rivers are fed mainly by snow and rain. The flood occurs in May-June. The soils are of the peat and peat-gley types on the lowland and the podzolic and humus-ferruginous illuvial on Cape Utkholoksky and surrounding hills.

15. Hydrological values: No information

16. Ecological features: The central lower areas of the site are dominated by patterned bogs with *Empetrum* sp. and *Carex middendorffii*. Surrounding areas are covered by light birch forests (*Betula ermanii*) and tall-herb meadows.

17. Noteworthy flora: The vegetation is mainly represented by the floodplain, meadow and tundra communities with a large number of graminea species. Terraces above the floodplains are occupied by birch forests (*Betula ermanii*) with patches of Siberian dwarf-pine elfin wood (*Pinus pumila*). *Phodiola rosea*, listed in the Red Data Book of Kamchatka, occurs on Cape Utkholoksky.

18. Noteworthy fauna: The catchment areas of the rivers Utkholok and Kvachina are intact and support unique natural habitats for breeding populations of waterbirds, in particular bean goose *Anser fabalis*. Various lakes attract moulting and migrating birds. Bird species that occur at the site include whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, common teal *A. crecca*, Eurasian wigeon *A. penelope*, Northern pintail *A. acuta*, garganey *A. querquedula*, Northern shoveler *A. clypeata*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*, goosander *M. merganser* and smew *M. albellus*. Over 3,000 moulting bean geese *Anser fabalis* have been counted at the lakes located between the rivers Utkholok and Kvachina in July. A few breeding pairs of Steller's sea eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus* have been registered.

The rivers also support important spawning areas of *Salmo mykiss* listed in the Russian Red Data Book.

19. Social and cultural values: The area provides very favourable conditions for traditional activities, such as reindeer grazing, fishing, hunting and collecting of berries and mushrooms, which are carried out at the most part of the site, except the nature reserve area.

20. Land tenure/ownership: State owned ('Goslesfund'- State Forest Lands).

21. Current land use: Land uses include reindeer grazing, fishing, hunting and collecting of berries and mushrooms (except for the nature reserve area).

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: None

23. Conservation measures taken: The site includes the 49,800 ha Utkholok Nature Reserve ('zakaznik'). In the reserve, the following activities are prohibited: waterfowl shooting, forest felling, drainage work, mining for minerals, use of pesticides for any purpose, disposal of wastes, use of motor boats, house construction and tourism. Practical protection is carried out by two rangers.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: It has been proposed to increase the staff of the reserve.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: Research into the Utkholok ecosystems was last carried out ten years ago. The local population of *Anser fabalis* is considered to be of great scientific interest, but is not studied presently through the lack of funds.

26. Current conservation education: None

27. Current recreation and tourism: No information

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Administration of Koryak Autonomous Area (22 Porotova Street, Palana, Kamchatka 684620, Russia).

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

29. Management authority: Regional Environmental Committee (8 Proletarsky Per., Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).

Regional Hunting Management Office (Obuhova Street, Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references: N.N.Gerasimov (1988); N.N.Gerasimov & Yu.N.Gerasimov (1984); Yu.N.Gerasimov (1995).
