

33. 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:**
September 1997

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. **Country:** Russian Federation

3. **Name of wetland:** Area between the Pura and Mokoritto Rivers

4. **Geographical coordinates:** Confluence of the Mokhovaya and Pura Rivers: 72°05'N, 85°30'E; confluence of the Pura and Pyasina Rivers: 73°03'N, 86°45'E; confluence of Mokoritto and Pyasina Rivers: 73°06'N, 89°25'E; Purinskiye Lakes: 71°55'N, 88°05'E.

5. **Altitude:** 130-250 m a.s.l.

6. **Area:** c. 1,125,000 ha

7. **Overview:** The site comprises a hilly plain with an extensive network of rivers, streams and lakes. The area is occupied by the diverse Arctic tundra communities, including the moss-cotton-grass tundras, dwarf shrub bogs, hummocky, 'spotty' and polygonal tundras. Floodplain alluvial communities are also typical for the area. These habitats support breeding and moulting populations of waterbirds, in particular white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, bean goose *A. fabalis* and red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*. The site is important for the Taimyr population of reindeer *Rangifer tarandus*, which is considered to be the largest in Eurasia.

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: Vt, Tp, O, Ts, M, N.

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: 3a & 2a.

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:** V.G.Krivenko, I.O.Kostin, V.G.Vinogradov.
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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 3a - the wetlands support large populations of waterfowl; 2a - the site provides important habitats for red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*.

13. General location: In Taimyr (Dolgano-Nenets) Autonomous Area. The center of the site is located 350 km north of the city of Norilsk. The borders of the site are formed by the valleys of the Pura and Mokoritto Rivers, and by the Pyasina River and Purinskiye Lakes on the north.

14. Physical features: The site is situated on the Taimyr lowland, on the marine and glacial Quaternary clays and loams, underlain by the Mesozoic deposits. The area has a severe continental climate, with hot summers and cold winters. The mean air temperatures in January are between -28° and -32°C, with a minimum of -61°C. Annual precipitation is 300-350 mm. The soils are of the humus, gley, soddy-calcium, floodplain and peat types. The tundra gley soils underlain by clays and loams feature high humus content and a high pH in the top layers. The wetlands in the area are natural and relatively intact.

15. Hydrological values: The Pura and Mokoritto Rivers supply the Pyasina River with water, mineral and organic matter, and thus provide the biological productivity and natural functioning of the major river basin on the Taimyr Peninsula.

16. Ecological features: The site comprises a hilly plain with an extensive network of rivers and streams, the total length of which exceeds 1,500 km. There are a large number of lakes between the rivers. The vegetation communities are represented by tundras with sedges, mosses, dwarf shrubs, cotton grass, dwarf willows and birches, 'spotty' and hummocky tundras. On the tops of the hills, communities of petrophytes occur, which are similar to those found in the alpine belts of higher mountains. These sites differ considerably from the adjacent monotonous tundras, and feature a rich diversity of grasses and herbs. They are important as feeding places of raptors and provide breeding habitats for Arctic fox *Alopex lagopus* and lemmings.

Polygonal bogs occur in the valleys. These present the complexes of wet or waterlogged flats overgrown with cotton grass and sedges, which are fringed with ridges. While the permafrost processes develop, the polygonal bogs become hummocky, with peat mounds covered by mosses, sphagnum, dwarf birch, willows and ledum.

The vegetation in the river valleys is 90 percent composed of flowering plants. The hypoarctic and boreal species expand northward along the river valleys. However, diverse mosses and lichens dominate in the vegetation at the site, as well as in the whole Siberian tundra region.

17. Noteworthy flora: The flora of the area is represented by the following common species of vascular plants: *Equisetum arvense*, *Poa angustifolia*, *P. arctica*, *Deschampsia arctica*, *Hierochloa alpina*, *Carex stans*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *E. polystachyon*, *Salix polaris*, *S. glauca*, *S. lanata*, *Betula exilis*, *Rumex arcticus*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Oxyria digyna*, *Stellaria ciliatisepala*, *Cerastium arvense*, *Caltha arctica*, *Ranunculus Gmelini*, *R. lapponica*, *Papaver lapponicum*, *Saxifraga hirculus*, *S. punctata*, *S. hieracifolia*, *Potentilla hyperarctica*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Astragalus subpolaris*, *Hedysarum arcticum*, *Oxytropis sordida*, *Ledum decumbens*, *Cassiope tetragona*, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, *Polemonium boreale*, *Myosotis asiatica*, *Pedicularis lapponica*, *P. sudetica*, *P. oederi* and *Senecio arctica*.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Birds

The area between the Pura and Mokoritto Rivers is the second most important (after the Pyasina Delta) breeding area of geese on the Taimyr Peninsula. According to the 1978-1979 counts, the breeding population of white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* and bean goose *A. fabalis* comprises 4,000-5,500 pairs. For the end of summer, the total number of geese (*i.e.* breeding and moulting at the site) is estimated at 180,000 birds, which accounts for 20-25% of the whole Taimyr population. Of these, *Anser albifrons* comprises 63-70% and *A. fabalis* 30-33% (Krivenko, Ivanov & Kostin, 1984). The site is of importance for red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*; the total number of breeding and moulting birds comprises 6,100. Other breeding species include: *Gavia stellata*, *G. arctica*, *G. adamsii*, *Cygnus bewickii*, *Anser erythropus*, *Anas crecca*, *A. formosa*, *A. penelope*, *A. acuta*, *Somateria spectabilis*, *Aythya marila*, *Melanitta nigra*, *Clangula hyemalis*, *Mergus serrator*, *Buteo lagopus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Lagopus mutus*, *L. lagopus*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *P. dominica*, *P. apricaria*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Ph. fulicarius*, *Arenaria interpres*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Calidris minuta*, *C. temmincki*, *C. alpina*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Limosa lapponica*, *Stercorarius pomarinus*, *S. parasiticus*, *S. longicaudus*, *Larus canus*, *L. argentatus*, *L. hyperboreus*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Eremophila alpestris*, *Anthus gustavi*, *A. cervinus*, *Motacilla citreola*, *M. alba*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Emberiza pallasi*, and *Calcarius lapponicus*.

Three species of birds are listed in the Russian Red Data Book. These are:

- Red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*: a breeding and moulting species (6,100 individuals);
- Lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*: a breeding and moulting species; and
- Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*; a breeding species (about 10 pairs).

Branta ruficollis and *Anser erythropus* are also listed in the IUCN Red Data Book.

Mammals

The area plays an extremely important role as the major summer habitat for about 80% of the Taimyr population of wild reindeer *Rangifer tarandus*. This population is the largest in Eurasia. The other mammal fauna is not rich and includes the following species: *Alopex lagopus*, *Lemmus sibiricus*, *Dicrostonyx torquatus*, *Lepus timidus*, *Mustela erminea*, *M. nivalis*, *Canis lupus*, *Gulo gulo* and *Ursus arctos* (the former is a rare visitor).

19. Social and cultural values: The area has no human population and offers a rare opportunity to conserve an intact wetland complex large enough to allow natural hydrological and ecological processes to occur.

20. Land tenure/ownership: State owned.

21. Current land use: Commercial hunting for Arctic fox *Alopex lagopus* in winter and waterfowl shooting for sports and food in spring are carried out at the site. Small-scale fishing takes place in the rivers.

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

23. Conservation measures taken: The site includes the Purinsky Nature Reserve ('zakaznik'). Hunting for Arctic fox is allowed during the hunting season. The site is difficult to access and its practical protection does not create a problem.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: No information

25. Current scientific research and facilities: The Research Institute for Northern Agriculture has a biological station at the site. The institute has collected a large amount of data on the animal populations. The Central Research Laboratory of the Hunting Management Office (Moscow) implemented the project of 'Rare bird species on Taimyr' in 1978-1979. In the last seven years, practically no research has been conducted. It is very important to resume monitoring work at the site on the base of the existing biological station.

26. Current conservation education: None at present

27. Current recreation and tourism: None at present, but the area has good potential for development of eco-tourism.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Administration of Taimyr (Dolgano-Nenets) Autonomous Area (35 Sovetskaya Street, Dudinka, Taimyr AO 663210, 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 (29 Lenin Street, Dudinka, Taimyr AO 663210, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references: Biogeocenoses of the Taimyr tundras (1973, 1980); Krivenko, Ivanov & Azarov (1983); Krivenko, Ivanov & Kostin (1984)
