

30. 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

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DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country: Russian Federation

3. Name of wetland: Karaginsky Island, Bering Sea

4. Geographical coordinates: 58°25'-59°15'N, 163°25'-164°20'E

5. Altitude: max 912 m a.s.l.

6. Area: 193,597 ha

7. Overview: Karaginsky Island, surrounded by a 2-km protected zone of the Bering Sea shallow waters, is situated on a major migration route of waterbirds. The site supports large breeding populations of Alcidae, Laridae and Phalacrocoracidae and provides important moulting areas for many 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: A,D,F,G,E,M,O.

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.N.Kluyeva: Committee for Environmental Protection of the Koryak Autonomous Area (Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).

E.S. Gusakov: Central Research Laboratory, Hunting Management Office (Losinoostrovskaya Lesnaya Dacha-18, Moscow 129347, Russia).

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 3a - the site is important for migrating and breeding populations of waterbirds.

13. General location: The island is situated in the western Bering Sea, by the northeastern coast of the Kamchatsky Peninsula, in the Karaginsky administrative district of the Kamchatsky Region, 55 km northwest of the village of Ossora.

14. Physical features: Karaginsky Island is built up from Cretaceous and Neogene rocks. There are two major landform types: mountains on the east and plains on the west. The eastern and western parts of the island are almost equal in area. The mountain section consists of three low ranges, extended in the north-south direction. Rivers and lakes occupy 1% of the total area of the island; the river network is dense: 1 km per 1 km². The rivers are fed by rain and snow. The area has a temperate climate with influence from the Pacific. The soils are of the tundra and mountain tundra types, gley-podzolic and podzolic.

15. Hydrological values: Except for the staff of the meteorological station, there is no constant human population on the island. The site offers a rare opportunity for conserving an intact area large enough to allow natural hydrological processes to occur.

16. Ecological features: The major vegetation formations are elfin woods and low bush hummocky tundra. Birch forests cover approximately 1% of the area. Colonies of sea birds are frequent on the rocky shores. Large concentrations of waterbirds occur in the estuaries.

17. Noteworthy flora: There are over 500 species of plants on the island from 205 genera and 64 families. Woody plants are represented by birch, Siberian dwarf-pine and aspen elfin woods. Meadows of various types are widely developed. Alpine tundra communities occur in higher mountains. Sedges (over 40 species) are found throughout the island.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Birds

According to the spring counting data, waterbird populations on the island have been as follows:

- dabbling ducks (*Anas acuta*, *A. penelope* and *A. crecca*): 20,000-30,000 individuals;
- diving ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*, *Somateria mollissima*, *S. spectabilis*, *Melanitta* sp.): 150,000-200,000;
- mergansers (*Mergus merganser*, *M. serrator*): to 5,000 individuals.

Breeding waterbirds include: dabbling ducks (2,000-3,000 pairs); *Histrionicus histrionicus* (2,000-3,000), *Somateria mollissima* (300-400 pairs) and other diving ducks (1,000-2,000 pairs).

Counts of moulting birds have shown 2,000-3,000 individuals of *Histrionicus histrionicus*, 5,000 of *Polistica stelleri*, 2,500 of *Somateria mollissima*, 2,500-3,000 of *Mergus merganser* and 5,000 individuals of *Melanitta deglandi*.

There are 39 breeding colonies of sea birds on the island. The colonial bird population includes: *Larus schistisagus* (120,000 pairs), *Uria* spp. (60,000), other Alcidae (7,500) and *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* (7,500 pairs).

Species listed in the Russian Red Data Book, that occur on Karaginsky Island, include *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, *Falco gyrfalco*, *F. peregrinus*, *Rhodostethia resea* and *Sterna aleutica*.

19. Social and cultural values: The wetlands support such activities as fisheries, reindeer-breeding, hay harvesting, hunting for fur animals and collecting of mushrooms and berries. This intact natural area has a good potential for carrying out research on natural ecosystems and eco-tourism.

20. Land tenure/ownership: State ownership

21. Current land use: Traditional activities on the island include fisheries, reindeer-breeding, hay harvesting, hunting for fur animals and collecting of mushrooms and berries. A herd of reindeers numbers 1,100 individuals. The commercial fishing with sea-nets takes place at six sites near the coast. Hunting is allowed with licences.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: It is expected that the pressure from reindeer grazing and fishing may become more intense in the near future.

23. Conservation measures taken: A regional zoological reserve ('zakaznik') was established on the island in 1983. However, practical protection of the area is inadequate, ecosystem monitoring and bird counting work, provided in the reserve regulations, are not conducted.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: It has been proposed to upgrade the conservation status of the site. A project has been developed to establish the Ostrovnoi strict nature reserve ('zapovednik'), with funding from WWF.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: None at present

26. Current conservation education: None

27. Current recreation and tourism: None

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: Committee for Environmental Protection of the Koryak Autonomous Area (Palana, Koryak Autonomous Area 684620, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references: N.N.Gerasimov (1979, 1988); N.N.Gerasimov & Yu.N.Gerasimov (1984); Yu.N.Gerasimov (1995).

