

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:

January 1999

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Designation date

2 m n 0 0 5

Site Reference Number

2. Country: Mongolia

3. Name of wetland: Har Us Nuur National Park

4. Geographical coordinates: Whole Area: 92°50'E / 47°58'N

Har Us Nuur Lake: 92°19'E / 48°05'N; Har Nuur/Dorgon Nuur Lakes: 93°17'E / 47°51'N

5. Altitude: Har Us Nuur: 1160m

6. Area: 3213.6 km²

Har Nuur/Dorgon Nuur: 1106 m

7. Overview: The area belongs to the Central Asian Internal Drainage Basin. It is characterized by the three large but shallow lakes Har Us Nuur, Har Nuur and Dorgon Nuur and their tributaries from the surrounding Altai mountains. Vast reed beds and numerous water plant communities offer various habitats for a large number of waterfowl. It is a regular breeding site or at least summer resting site for 9 nationally and 4 globally endangered waterbird species. Three fish species occur here that are endemic to Western Mongolia.

8. Wetland Type: Inland wetland, L, M, O, Q, Sp, Ss, Tp,

9. Ramsar Criteria: 1a, 1c / 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d / 3a, 3b, 3c / 4a

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

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Carmen Liegl,
WWF-consultant
c/o German Embassy, P.O. Box 708
Ulaanbaatar / Mongolia
Tel./Fax: 00976-1-312100
E-mail: wwfmon@magicnet.mn

B. Nyambayar,
WWF Project Office in Mongolia
c/o Hydrometeorol. & Environm. Monitoring
Agency 309
Khudaldaany str. 5, Ulaanbaatar 46 / Mongolia
Tel./Fax: 00976-1-311659
E-mail: wwfmon@magicnet.mn

N.Odonchimeg,
Officer Special Protected Areas Bureau
of Environmental Protection Agency of Mongolia
Government bld No 3,
Baga toiruu - 44
Ulaanbaatar- 11, Mongolia
Tel: 976-1-326617
Fax: 976-1-328620
E-mail: epa@magicnet.mn

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.

Criteria 1a and 1c: The lakes of Har Us Nuur National Park are a substantial part of the biogeographical region of the Great Lakes Basin in West Mongolia and highly representative for this area.

Criteria 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d: The area is home to a large number of rare and endangered plants, birds and mammals (2a). A number of endemic plants and fish occur here (2d). The ecological diversity is extremely high as is reflected in the list of observed waterfowl in two short time periods (2b). Many of the species breed our moult in the area (2c).

Criteria 3a, 3b, 3c: The wetland regularly supports more than 20,000 waterfowl (3a). It regularly supports 11 nationally and 5 globally endangered waterbird species or wetland related raptors and some other occur in substantial numbers. The diversity is very high (3b). The area regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of 9 waterbird species (3c). Especially for the application of criterion 3 see the report of LIEGL (1998).

Criteria 4a: The diversity of fish species is with only five quite low, but they are all endemic to West Mongolia.

13. General location: The site is located in the northwest of Mongolia. It belongs to the Hovd province, the capital, Hovd City, is situated 30 km west of the area.

14. Physical features:

Please note the following Mongolian words: nuur = lake, gol = river

The area is part of the Hyargas depression, which is the center part of the West Mongolian Great Lakes Basin. The Mongolian Altai in the west, the Saján Mountains in the north, the Khangay Mountain range in the east and the Gobi Altai in the south surround the basin. The mountains rise up to 3000 and 4000 masl, while the elevation of the basin is between 1000 and 1200 masl. The main water inflow comes from the Mongolian Altai by the permanent rivers Hovd Gol and Bujant Gol. They drain into Har Us Nuur Lake, which has an outflow -Chono Khariakhin Gol - at its northeastern end into Har Nuur Lake. From here on the water feeds the saline Dorgon Nuur, while Har Us Nuur and Har Nuur are freshwater lakes. The lakes are shallow with maximum depth from 4.5 m (Har Us Nuur), 7 m (Har Nuur) to 27 m (Dorgon Nuur). The water level of the lakes is slightly changing during the year due to summer rainfalls and is highest in the months of August to October (Data for Har Us Nuur in BRÄUNLICH (1995).

Average temperatures are low with the coldest month in January (mean monthly temperature -25.5°C) and the warmest in July (mean monthly temperatures 19.1°C). The winters are long and cold and keep the lakes covered with ice from mid of November