



THE HOKKAIDO PILOT PROJECT

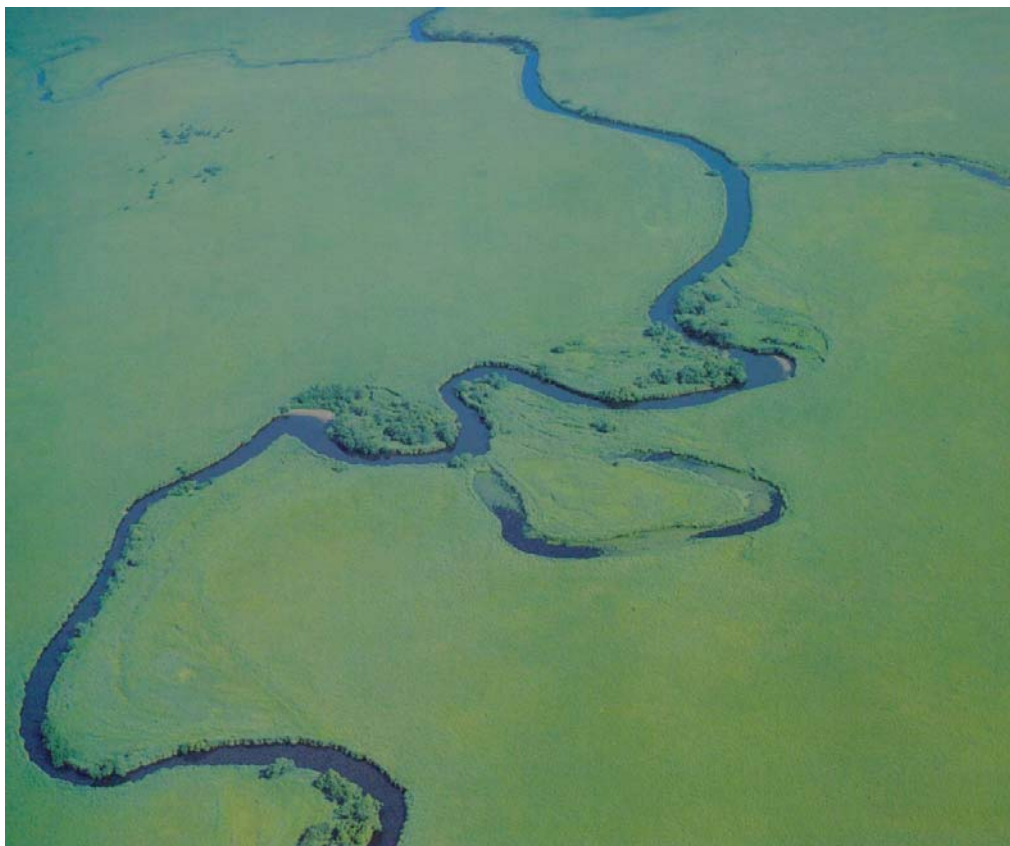
Supported by



Ministry of the Environment, Japan

A pilot project on the Asian Wetland Inventory is being implemented in Hokkaido, Japan. The project is being coordinated by Wetlands International Japan in collaboration with the Hokkaido Institute of Environmental Studies and the National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan. The Ministry of Environment Japan has been instrumental in providing financial support for the implementation of the Hokkaido pilot project.

Hokkaido is located between longitudes $139^{\circ}20'$ East and $148^{\circ}53'$ East; and between latitudes $41^{\circ}21'$ North and $45^{\circ}33'$ North. Hokkaido covers an area of approximately 83,000 km². This represents 22% of the land area of Japan and it is the second largest island in Japan. The island is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean to the south and east, the Sea of Japan to the south-west and the Sea of Okhotsk to the north. In the center of the island, there are volcanic mountain chains. Hokkaido has remained comparatively undeveloped.



Aerial view of Kushiro marsh, Hokkaido. (Photographed by Tsuneo Hayashida)



Hokkaido holds a wide variety of wetlands, including five Ramsar sites, namely the Akkeshiko Bekanbeushi Marshes, the Kiritappu Marshes, the Kushiro Marshes, Lake Utonai and Lake Kutcharo. A wide variety of high quality information on the wetlands is available in Hokkaido from municipal governments, institutional organisations and local NGOs.

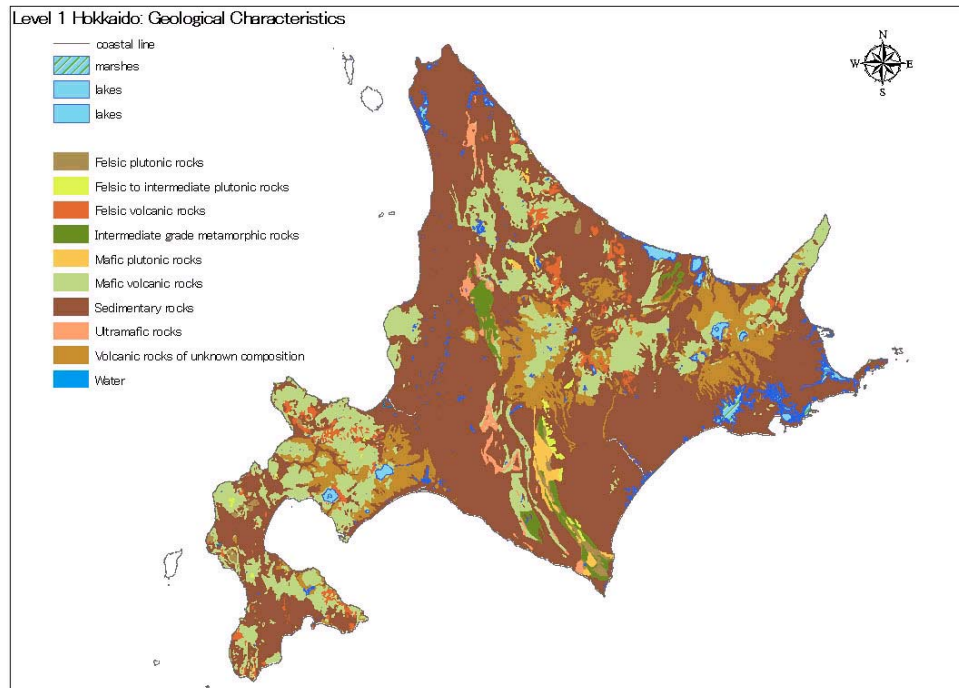


Red crowned cranes *Grus japonensis* with chicks, Kushiro marsh, Hokkaido (Photographed by Tsuneo Hayashida)

To date, information for the AWI levels 1 and 2 have been compiled and is available on the website whilst levels 3 and 4 are in progress.

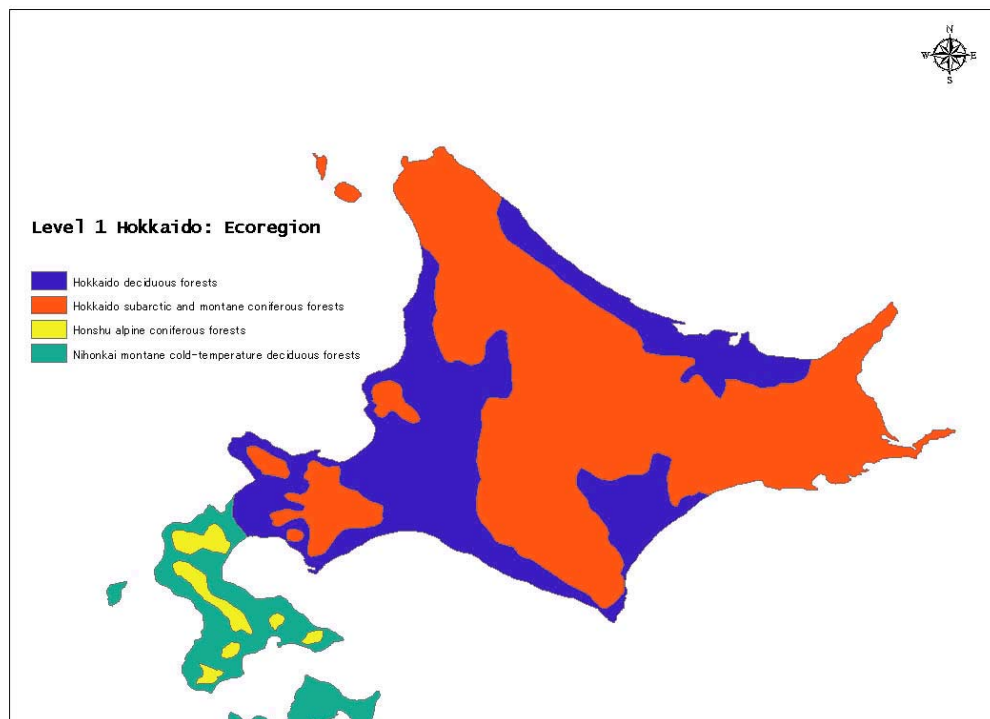
The information presented below illustrates some of the outputs of the pilot project that have been achieved to date. More information on the Hokkaido pilot project is accessible online at <http://www.wetlands.org/awi/>

FIGURE 1: Geological Information of Hokkaido



Source: Hokkaido Geology Guide: <http://www.aist.go.jp/GSJ/bHOK/gguide/Index.html>

FIGURE 2: Eco-regions of Hokkaido



Adapted from <http://www.wwfus.org/ecoregions/index.htm>