

East Asian - Australasian Flyway Site Network Site Assessment Form



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<p>DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 18 October 2011</p>	<p>COUNTRY: Mongolia</p>
<p>NAME OF FLYWAY SITE (and year of designation by EAAFP):</p> <p>Ugtam Nature Reserve</p> <p>IBA name (and relationship to Flyway Site if they are defined differently): Ugtam Mountain Nature Reserve (MN065)</p> <p>Name of Ramsar site (if listed): Not a Ramsar Site</p> <p>Date of most recent RIS:</p>	
<p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE:</p> <p>The site is composed of small lakes and a section of the Ulz River valley to the north, together with mountain steppe, forest steppe and grassland steppe to the south. Willow trees in the river valley provide good habitat for various bird species. Although Ugtam Mountain Nature Reserve is relatively well protected and threats are relatively low, there is very little active management at present. Livestock husbandry and hay making are the main land uses. There is also an active monastery in the mountain. Local residents use wood from forest for firewood and building livestock shelters.</p> <p><i>Are the Flyway Site boundaries clearly defined, and is a map available?</i> Nature Reserve and IBA boundaries are defined and available</p>	
<p>1. Migratory waterbirds</p> <p>Information on internationally important waterbird populations as entered on EAAFP nomination form: Over 250 bird species have been recorded at the site. Threatened species include Swan Goose <i>Anser cygnoides</i> (EN), White-naped Crane <i>Grus vipio</i> (VU), and Hooded Crane <i>G. monacha</i> (VU). The site meets the 1% threshold for Black Storks <i>Ciconia nigra</i> White-napped Crane <i>Grus vipio</i> Demoiselle Crane <i>Anthropoides virgo</i>.</p> <p>Important breeding and staging ground for White-naped Cranes. Around 10 pairs of White-naped Cranes breed in this area and about 80-100 use this area as migratory stop-over.</p> <p>Changes since EAAFP Flyway Site nomination, including: (a) populations entered on EAAFP nomination form that no longer meet the FSN criteria (b) additional waterbird populations that meet the FSN criteria N.A.</p> <p>Comments on monitoring of the populations meeting the FSN criteria: <i>Types of monitoring [add tick boxes for categories]</i> General wildlife and ecosystem monitoring is carried out by the Administration for the Eastern Mongolia Special Protected Areas on irregular basis. But specific bird monitoring activity is absent. Basic cranes and waterbird monitoring observations are done regularly by researchers from the Institute of Biology of Mongolian Academy of Sciences.</p>	

Contact details for organization / individual leading the monitoring

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Administration for the Eastern Mongolia Special Protected Areas

Eastern Mongolian Protected area administration.

P.O. Box 401, Choibalsan city 000007 Dornod, Mongolia

How regularly is the site monitored? Irregular. 1-2 times per year.

What proportion of the site is covered by the monitoring? <2%

Is the monitoring data published or used only in internal reports?

Data from observations have been used to designate the site for IBA, Ramsar, and other legal documents.

Quality of monitoring information? [add tick boxes for categories] On a 0-5 point scale: 0-no data or not assessable, 1- very poor, 2- poor, 3- modest, 4- good, 5- excellent]

It is 2

2. Wetland/Habitats

Ramsar wetland types used by key populations:

Following major habitat types important for migratory birds have not been quantitatively assessed. Percentages given here are for pure approximation only. The site has been designated a year ago, and no update on habitat change is available.

Habitat type	Habitat extent (in ha, or % of site)	Significant changes in habitat extent or quality since year of EAAFP designation
N - Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks.	1%	
P - Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.	1%	
R - Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats.	1%	
W - Shrub-dominated wetlands; shrub swamps, shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thicket on inorganic soils.	3%	
Grassland	19%	
Temperate Forest	75%	

Other comments on major habitat types:

3. MAJOR THREATS

Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character and the waterbirds, their scope and their severity or potential impact

Threat name See below for a list of potential threats (following IUCN nomenclature). For each threat, please assign scores for the following three criteria, namely <i>when the threat is likely to happen (Timing)</i> , <i>how much of the site it covers (Scope)</i> and the <i>likely deterioration it will cause in bird populations and/or habitats (Severity)</i> .	Timing: In the past = 0 Long term (>4 yrs) = 1 Near future (<4 yrs) = 2 Happening now = 3	Scope: 0 = Negligible (<10%) 1 = Small area (10-50%) 2 = Most of area (50-90%) 3 = Whole of site (>90%)	Severity: Negligible = 0 Slow = 1 Moderate = 2 Rapid = 3
1.3 Tourism & Recreation Areas	0 2 3	0 0 0	1 1 1
2.1 Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops	0 2 3	1 1 1	0 1 1
2.3 Livestock Farming & Ranching	3	3	3
3.2 Mining & Quarrying	3	0	3
4.1 Roads & Railroads	2 3	0 0	3 0
4.2 Utility & Service Lines	2 3	0 0	3 1
5.1 Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	0 1 2 3	1 1 1 1	2 3 2 2
5.2 Gathering Terrestrial Plants	0 1 2 3	1 1 1 1	2 2 2 2
6.1 Recreational Activities	2 3	0 0	0 0
7.1 Fire & Fire Suppression	0 1 2 3	1 3 2 2	2 3 3 3
9.2 Industrial & Military Effluents	3	0	1
9.4 Garbage & Solid Waste	3	0	1
11.2 Droughts	2 3	3 3	3 3

Other comments on threats:

Forest fires occur frequently, and disturb the forest heavily.

Riparian tickets and forest regeneration is very slow due to frequent fire and grazing.

A government issued exploration licensed area overlaps with 20% (10,800 ha) of the Ugtam NR.

4. CONSERVATION MEASURES

CONSERVATION MEASURES Please answer the following three questions:

- (1) Is all or some of the Flyway Site legally protected? If so, what % and what is the designation?
Over 6100 ha area of the Ugtam Mountain IBA is outside State Protected Area.
- (2) Has a management plan been prepared for the Flyway Site, and if so is it up-to-date and comprehensive?
Yes. Not up to date.
- (3) What conservation activities are taking place at the Flyway Site, e.g. conservation or research projects, Local Conservation Groups, education centres, etc.?

UNDP Eastern Steppe Biodiversity Project carried out various educational, research, and management between 1998 and 2005. Through this project a wide variety of educational, conservation, and research projects implemented including activities focused on migratory birds. Local community groups were established and small grants were disseminated to them for their nature conservation and poverty reduction activities. Also research, conservation, and education activities for crane and wetland species took place through North East Asian Crane Sites Network.

Researchers from Mongolian Academy of Sciences is monitoring waterbirds in the area through avian influenza surveillance activities.