

NAURZUM LAKE SYSTEM, Kazakhstan

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 7.04.2007

COUNTRY: Kazakhstan

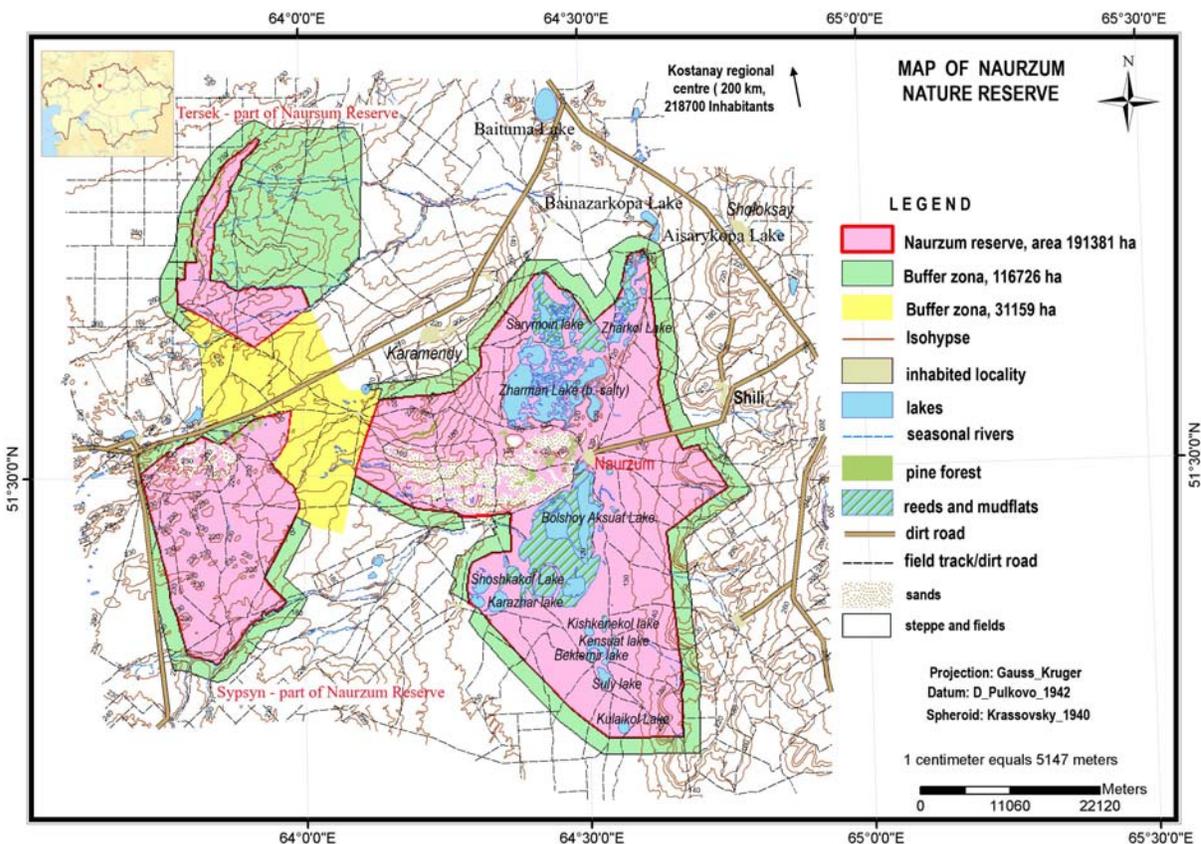
NAME OF SITE: Naurzum Lake System

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES: 51°12'-51°47' N; 64°17'-64°36' E; center of site: 51° 32' N; 64° 26' E

ALTITUDE: min – 115.4 m and, max – 120.1 m above sea level

AREA: total area – 191,381 ha, central site with the Naurzum Lake System – 139,714 ha

MAP:



OVERVIEW: It's a system with large and small lakes with cyclic hydrological regimes, comprising, according to hydro-chemical water composition, a whole number of water bodies – from fresh water lakes to bitter-salt ones. It's an area of mass nesting and moulting of waterbirds, and also a place of long-term stopping-over of hundreds of thousand of birds in the period of migration.

WCASN CRITERION AND QUALIFIERS

Criterion 1: Site's Importance for Siberian Crane

Sub-criterion 1.1: Siberian Crane(s) were recorded at the site at least five times during the last 10 years. This should not include records within the same season or repeated sightings of the same individual birds.

Naurzum Lake System is the most important site for Siberian Cranes of the Western and Central flyways within Kazakhstan. Siberian Cranes stop over at this territory both in the spring and autumn migration period, in the spring - for the period up to one month. In total 43-44 Siberian Cranes have been registered on the territory of the site in the last 10 years (1997-2006), of which six birds were observed in spring and 37-38 in autumn. The period of stopping-over of Siberian Cranes in autumn 2001 lasted for no less than three weeks. In 2002 a pair of Siberian Cranes stayed at the reserve for more than 15 days, and in 2006 two single birds stayed 18 days. Siberian Cranes have been recorded at Naurzum Lake System annually (see table 1) for this period except 2000. However, in 2000 they were recorded in the radius of 10-60 km from Naurzum Lakes. One young bird was observed on 3 May 2000 in a flock of Eurasian Cranes flying near Dokuchayevka village (Karamendy), a pair of adult birds was seen on 5 and 6 May 2000 at Baituma Lake, and in autumn on 8-14 September 2000, there was also a pair of adult birds at Sankebay Lake.

Table 1. Sightings of Siberian Cranes, recorded at Naurzum Nature Reserve for the last 10 years (1997-2006).

Year	Date and place	Observer, number of birds, other information
1997	11 May (?)	S.N. Yerohov, 4 adult birds (Kovshar, 2002)
1998	12-15 May, Sarymoin Lake	Ranger of the reserve, one adult Siberian Crane on the ware area near cordon (Bragin, 2002)
	5-6 September, Zharkol and Kulagol Lakes	According to the data of satellite transmitters it moved to Iran wintering grounds (Kovshar, 2002)
	13-15 September, Kulagol Lake	A.F. Kovshar, a pair (Kovshar, 2002)
	3 October, Sarymoin and Aksuat lakes	According to the data of satellite transmitters it moved to Iran wintering grounds.
	4 October, Kulagol Lake	V.G. Parastatov, 7 adult birds (Bragin, 2002)
1999	15-20 April, Aksuat Lake	Ranger E. Tokushev saw a reddish Siberian Crane with red beak and legs (Bragin, 2002)
	20-27 August, Zharkol Lake	Hunters Gorgulenko and Kulkov (independently), 4 adult birds (according to the words of the second person 3 and 2 flying adult birds) (Bragin, 2002).
2001	From 4 to 25 September, Kulagol Lake	Y.A. Bragin, 3 adult birds - a pair and a single bird (Брагин, 2001)
2002	From 9 to 24 September, Kemel and Aksuat Lakes	Y.A. Bragin, a pair (Bragin, 2002)
	18 September, Small Aksuat Lake	В.И. Pyshniy, M. Shaldibayev, an adult birds (Bragin, 2002)
2003	between 12 and 15 August, Zharkol Lake	Ranger of the reserve, 3 adult birds (Bragin, 2004)
2004	between 26-27 September, Kulagol Lake	Employee of the Scientific Department M. Shaldibayev, one adult bird
2005	28 April, Kulagol Lake	Ranger of the reserve, 7 adult birds on watered estuary northward of the lake.
	27 and 28 October, Aksuat Lake	Y.A. Bragin, a single adult bird.
2006	From 30 August to 20-22 September, Aksuat Lake	Y.A. Bragin, two single adult birds

	5 and 6 October, Aksuat Lake	Y.A. Bragin, a pair
--	------------------------------	---------------------

Qualifier 1: Site's importance for other crane species

The site is important for two other crane species: Eurasian and Demoiselle Cranes (as a breeding territory). The number of breeding Eurasian Cranes in 1998-2006 varied from 9 to 20 pairs depending on the water level in the lakes. The number of Demoiselle Cranes was 8-14 nesting pairs on the whole territory of the Naurzum Nature Reserve in 2004-2006. The site is characterized by stopping-over of migratory Eurasian Cranes, in some years summer groups of molting birds were recorded. In autumn pre-migratory congregations of Eurasian Cranes consisted of up to three thousand (1993), and of Demoiselle Cranes up to 132 (2005).

Qualifier 2: Site's importance for other waterbird species

Sub-qualifier 2.1: *The sight regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds during migration period.*

In the period of migration Naurzum Lake System supports the existence of a great number of waterfowl, including from 40 to 237 thousand ducks and coots. Depending on water level, the number of flying geese in 1966-2005 fluctuated from 20 to 500 thousand (see table 2).

Table 2. Number of Waterbirds at Naurzum lake System since middle of XX century

Year	Number of birds	Notes	References
June - beginning July 1966	45,967 ducks and geese	According to one count at two lakes	-
autumn migration in 1966-1967	100-150 to 500 thousand birds	At all lakes	Solomatin, 1968 and 1971
July 1971	40,600 birds	At three lakes	
September 1977	more than 26 thousand ducks, geese, coots and swans	at two lakes of total area of 1800 ha	Gordienko, 1978
August 1985	40,2 thousand swans, geese, ducks and coots	According to aerial survey at all lakes; low water level	Vinogradov, Auezov, 1995
1987	237 thousand		
1988	160,4 thousand		
1988-1993	26,000-30,000	At all lake system	-
2002	28,449 waterbirds	Ground survey of 30% of wetland area	Eugeniy Bragin
2003	21,200 geese	After the next depression of lakes which finished in 2002	Eugeniy Bragin
2004	34,000 waterbirds		
2005	about 60,000 waterbirds		
End of April 2006	36,800 waterbirds	Ground survey of 10% of wetland area	Eugeniy Bragin
September 2006	30,583 waterbirds		

Sub-qualifier 2.3: *The sight regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.*

At the beginning of the 21st century the Naurzum Lake System regularly supports more than 7% of the Black-Caspian Sea population of Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*); not less than 5% of the Siberian-Caspian population of Bewick's Swans (*Cygnus bewickii*); up to 2.5% of the Western population of Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*); up to 7% of the population of Red-breasted Geese (*Branta ruficollis*) in 2003-2006; more than 1% of the population of Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) of the Southwest and South Asia (nesting birds – up to 42 pairs, stopping-over and flying birds – 400 specimens) and White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) (nesting birds – up to 250 specimens, stopping-over and flying birds – 150-300 specimens); in the years with favorable ecological conditions not less than 1% of the Sociable Lapwing (*Shettusia gregarious*) population nest in the area.

WETLAND TYPES (according to Ramsar classification)

Inland Wetlands

- N** Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks
- O** Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes
- P** Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes
- R** Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats
- Ss** Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools
- Ts** Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes

Human-made wetlands

- 1** Aquaculture (e.g., fish/shrimp) ponds
- 2** Ponds; includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks (generally below 8 ha)

JURISDICTION:

- a) territorial jurisdiction:** Kazakhstan, Kostanay Oblast, Naurzum District
- b) functional jurisdiction:** Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:

Forestry and Hunting Committee MA RK. Address: 25, Abay Prospect, Astana. Tel/Fax: +7 (7172) 32-82-33.

Mr. K. Ustemirov, Head of the Department on Regulation and Control in the Sphere of Forestry and Especially Protected Natural Territories

Mr. B. Duisekeyev, Head of the Department on Regulation and Control in the Sphere of Protection, Reproduction and Use of Animal Species

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPILER:

Eugeniy A. Bragin, Senior scientific employee of the Naurzum National Natural Reserve. Address: apt. 12, 165, Taran Str., Kostanay, Kazakhstan. Tel/Fax: +7 (7142) 548-532. E-mail: naurzum@mail.ru