

## Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. Country: Japan

2. Date:

3. Ref: 2JP005

4. Name and address of compiler:

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5. Name of wetlands: *Kiritappu-shitsugen ((1) Kiritappu-shitsugen (2) Hichirippu-numa (3) Mochirippu-numa)*

6. Date of Ramsar designation: June 1993

7. Geographical coordinates:  
(1) 43°05'N and 145°05'E  
(2) 43 02° 45'N and 145 00° 30' E  
(3) 43° 01' N and 145 00° 30' E

8. General location: In the southeast of Hamanaka Town in east Hokkaido

9. Area: 2,504 ha

10. Wetland type: H, M, Q, S, U

11. Altitude: 0-20 metres above sea level

12. Overview:

Kiritappu Mire formed on a row of ancient sand-dunes, and is a bog mainly composed of sphagnum peat. Hichirippu Marsh and Mochirippu Marsh are brackish water lakes filled by sea water at high tide.

13. Physical features:

Hichirippu Marsh and Mochirippu Marsh, both surrounded by the plateau, are connected with the sea by a narrow channel. The sea water flows backward into the marshes at high tide. The water depth of both marshes is relatively shallow. The deepest point of Hichirippu Marsh is less than 3 metres. Kiritappu Mire is mainly composed of sphagnum bogs, and one unique point is that the configuration of the northern and southern sections are very different from each other. At the mouth of Biwase River running through the centre, the reverse flow of ocean water is visible. The temperature in the region is characterised by highly humid and cool summers. The average annual temperature is 5.5°C, two degrees lower than other regions at the same latitude.

14. Ecological features:

Kiritappu Mire is based on the sphagnum bogs and distributed with the association of *Moliniopsis japonica*-*Phragmites*, the community of *Phragmites*-*Calamagrostis canadensis*-*Carex* sp., and other wetland vegetation. Around Hichirippu Marsh and Mochirippu Marsh are seen the vegetation of wetlands and salt marshes, such as the community of *Phragmites*-*Calamagrostis canadensis*-*Carex* sp.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: National Government-owned land 1,231ha; Town-owned land 248ha; Private land 610ha; Public lake 415ha

(b) surrounding area: Private land; Prefectural land

16. Conservation measures taken:

Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area 2,504ha.

Special Zone of Akkeshi Prefectural Natural Park 6,780 ha; Natural Monument 803ha.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Hokkaido Wetland Protection Master Plan (in preparation).

18. Current land use:

(a) site: Kiritappu Mire - a highway across the area; Hichirippu Marsh, Mochirippu Marsh - Fishery; aquaculture.

(b) surroundings/catchment: forestry, fishery.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(a) at the site: There is a possibility that the wetlands will be damaged by the increased number of visitors. Waste water which flows into the wetlands and marshes can damage the area.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: Contaminated water flowing into the wetlands and marshes can deteriorate the area.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

Kiritappu Mire develops and supplies underground water and maintains and controls the water quality.

21. Social and cultural values:

In the recent trend of reassessing wetland values, Kiritappu Mire has attracted wide attention, and stands as an important resource for tourism and other local promotion projects. The mire has been designated as a Natural Monument, increasing its cultural values. Hichirippu and Mochirippu Marshes also provide fishing grounds for Clams, etc.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

*Podiceps cristatus*, *Anser fabalis*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas penelope*, *Aythya marila*, *Mergus serrator*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, *Grus japonensis*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Heteroscelus brevipes*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sciurus vulgaris*, *Vulpes vulpes schrencki*, *Cervus nippon vesoensis*, etc.

23. Noteworthy flora:

*Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Hemerocallis dumortierii*, *Thermopsis lupinoides*, *Iris setosa*, *Rosa rugosa*, *Lilium maculatum* etc.

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

Monitoring research on change of water level

25. Current conservation education:

Nature observation by Kiritappu Mire centre

26. Current recreation and tourism:

Nature (flora and fauna) observation of the mire

27. Management authority:

Wildlife Protection Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Environment Agency, Japan

28. Jurisdiction:

\*Territorial conservation jurisdiction: Game Management Section, Nature Preservation Division, Department of Health and Environment, Hokkaido Government; \*Functional conservation

jurisdiction: Wildlife Protection Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Environment Agency, Japan.

29. Bibliographical references:

Report of the Overall Investigation of Prefectural Natural Parks, Akkeshi Prefectural Natural Park, March 1986.

30. Reasons for inclusion: 1(a), 2(b), 2(d).