

# **Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands**

**(RIS)**

Name of the Site: Maidika

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

---

## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Song Jinbo

Forest Survey and Design Institute of Tibet Autonomous  
Region; Zip : 850000; Telephone (office):

(86) 891 6818732

EMAIL: jinbos@china.com

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

---

## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

October 12, 2004

---

## 3. Country:

The People's Republic of China

---

## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Maidika

---

## 5. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.

a) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes  -or- no

b) **digital (electronic) format** (optional): yes  -or- no

---

## 6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

31°08'N, 93°00'E

---

## 7. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Maidika Wetland is in Chali County of Nakchu District. Chali County is in the southeast of Nakchu and between Mt. Tangla and Mt. Nojin Tangla. The total area of the county is 13,200 square kilometers. Maidika Wetland is located at the source of Maidicangbu, a tributary stream of Lhasa River in the north of Chali, and close to the Maidika Township.

---

**8. Elevation:** (average and/or max. & min.)

Mean elevation: 4,900m; max. elevation: 5,000m; min. elevation: 4,800m

**9. Area:** (in hectares)

43,496 hectares

---

**10. Overview:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

It is an important wetlands in Chali County of China Tibet and a typical marsh in south Tibet, which is key staging and breeding habitats for the migrate waterfowl, like rare endangered Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*, Ruddy Shelducks *Tadorna ferruginea*, and Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*.

The wetland probably is the highest altitude wetlands with the coexistence of man and nature. Ecosystem here is fragile and vulnerable to the high altitude (above 4800 m) weather condition, but important to native people and wildlife relying on the resources. Snowstorm in winter is usually threat to wildlife living here.

---

**11. Ramsar Criteria:**

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

---

**12. Criterion for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:**

Provide Criterion for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of Criterion).

**Criterion 1:** Maidika Wetland supports vast area swamp meadow which is above 4900 meter high, with vulnerable grassland growing just for four months. Permafrost layer beneath the meadow contain large amount of fresh water. But the grassland are necessary staging place for Black Neck Crane on Tibetan-India migration flyway, and it is a typical sample of wet meadow in the river valley.

**Criterion 2:** The wetland supports rare endangered species, Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), listed as vulnerable in IUCN Red List 2004 and is an important migration passage and breeding place for water birds.

---

**13. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Semi-humid monsoon meadow-grassland in Southern Tibetan Plateau.

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

The biogeographic region was delineated from the scheme in the “Physical Geographical Atlas of China” (p95), edited by the Department of Geography, North-western China Normal University and the Atlas Press, published by the Atlas Press of China in 1984.

---

**14. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geologically, Maidika Wetland is situated at the plateau mountain between North Tibetan Plateau and mountains and valleys in East Tibet. The major part of Maidika Wetland is the headwater region of Maidicangbu, a tributary stream of Lhasa River, and it is a natural wetland that gives priority to high mountain swamps, high mountain steppes and lakes.

The soil types mainly include alpine meadow soil and subalpine meadow soil. The alpine meadow soil is a zonal soil.

The degree of mineralization of the water is low, which is about 120- 200 mg/L. The water is bicarbonate water, and the positive ions are mostly calcium ions. The wetland water is mainly from high mountain thawing water, thus, the water is clear with less sediment concentration. Besides the main stream, other parts have shallow water, and the maximum water depth is less than 3 meters. The water surface and the major surface flow are not subjected to freezing during winter except having only land ice.

The annual average temperature is -0.9°C, with the warmest month at 8.2°C. The extremely low temperature was recorded as -36.8°C, while the highest was recorded as 21.0°C. The annual average precipitation is 659.5mm, with 92% of which falls from June to September. Therefore 2 typical seasons are distinguished for this area: dry and wet.

---

**15. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The general surface feature of the catchment area is declines from northwest to southeast with Ayila Mountain, Lugongla Mountain, Jielala Mountain, Gangbala Mountain, Chula Mountain, Bengxila Mountain, etc. around, which are all branch ranges of Mt. Nojin Tangla. The higher regions at the periphery are covered with alpine frost desert soil.

This wetland is on the upper course of Maidicangbu, a tributary stream of Rezhencangbu, and there is no concrete figure for the drainage area. If the line from which Maidicangbu flows southward to leave Chali County is taken as the limit, the drainage area is about 4,000 square kilometers. The lower course of Maidicangbu returns to Chali County via Nakchu County and flows into Rezhencangbu, a famous tributary stream of Lhasa river. The lower course of Rezhencangbu is an important zone for wintering of *Grus nigricollis*.

---

**16. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

This wetland plays a direct role for the control of water and soil erosion, prevention of seasonal floods, interception of sediment from the upper stream and formation of a productive wetland with meadows and swamps.

---

## 17. Wetland Types

### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar “Classification System for Wetland Type” present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

**Marine/coastal:** A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

**Inland:** L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

**Human-made:** 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

### b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Permanent freshwater marshes/pools Tp, Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes /pools on inorganic soils Ts, Permanent freshwater lakes O, Alpine wetlands Va, Shrub-dominated wetlands W.

---

## 18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

The vegetation at the site mainly includes the plateau meadows and swamps that give priority to the protein rich alpine grassland, *Kobresia Littledale*.

As mentioned above, the wetland is ecologically important as the migration routes and provide breeding ground for *Grus nigricollis*, *Tadorna ferruginea* and *Anser indicu*.

The wetland is approximately above 4500 m high with permafrost beneath. The wildlife and native Tibetan people rely on them for water and energy materials.

---

## 19. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Criterion for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The plant species are not abundant due to the restriction of climate conditions, and the grass family is more prosperous here, followed by aster family and bean family. The major plants are *Kobresia littledale*, *K. rogleana* (Nees)Boott, *K. microgloch* (Ness) Tang et Wang *Carex*

*moorcroftii* (a sedge), *Primula tibetica*, *Gentiana leucomelaena*, *Ranunculus tanguticus*, *Ottelia acuminata*, etc., which are typical mesophytia in south Tibet.

---

**20. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Criterion for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The major rare wildlife includes Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*, Tibetan Bharal *Pseudois nayaur*, Argali sheep *Ovis ammon*. Some species of wolf, lynx, brown bear, as well as water birds are found in the area. However, statistics is unavailable as there is no corresponding scientific expedition conducted to date.

---

**21. Social and cultural values:**

e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

The fishery is not developed.

There is no forestry.

The wetland area is not used for production of crops and most part of the wetland is used as pasture land. Therefore, the land is important for the local herdsman.

---

**22. Land tenure/ownership:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

State-owned.

(b) in the surrounding area:

State-owned and partly contracted.

---

**23. Current land (including water) use:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

For pasturage and domestic water source.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Pasturage.

---

**24. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Overgrazing is one reason for grasslands and wetland degradation, since the livestock has increased from nearly 2000 to 3400.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Climate change and more and more tourists coming.

---

**25. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Measures were taken once to declare the region as a national nature reserve with wetland in order to protect the water birds in particular. Failure of this plan resulted interim management of the wetland by the local forestry department. Presently, the protection and management of wild animals (water birds in particular) are emphasized without any management scheme.

---

**26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No.

---

**27. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

There is no adequate in-depth and long-term field study on the Maidika Wetland and deficient of local data. This is mainly due to the restricted capital and man power. Presently, there is no special field station for the wetland protection, and the local forestry working station is entitled to protect the wetland.

---

**28. Current conservation education:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

No such activities present.

---

**29. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

There is no tourism activity at present, but it has great potentials for tourism development.

---

**30. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Territorially, it is managed by Tibet Chali County. However, management functions are carried out by the Bureau of Forestry of Tibet Autonomous Region.

---

**31. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Wetland Administrative Agency of Tibet Autonomous Region: Wide Life Preservation Section of the Bureau of Forestry, No. 25, Linkuo North Road, Lhasa City.

Director: **Zholma Yangtseong**.

---

**32. Bibliographical references:**

scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

1. Tibetan Plateau Integrated Scientific Expedition Team, 1984, *Tibet Rivers and Lakes*. Beijing: Science Press.
2. Tibetan Plateau Integrated Scientific Expedition Team, 1985, *Tibet Climate*. Beijing: Science Press.
3. Tibetan Plateau Integrated Scientific Expedition Team, 1986, *Tibet Mammalia*. Beijing: Science Press.
4. Tibetan Plateau Integrated Scientific Expedition Team, 1983, *Tibet Avifauna*. Beijing: Science Press.
5. Tibetan Plateau Integrated Science Expedition Team of CAS, 1985, *Tibet Soil*. Beijing: Science Press.
6. *Wetlands in China*, by Lu Jianjian. Shanghai: East China Normal University Press.
7. Department of Geography, North-western China Normal University and the Atlas Press (eds.), 1984. *Physical Geographical Atlas of China*. Atlas Press. (in Chinese)

---

Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)