

TYUNTYUGUR-ZHANSHURA LAKE SYSTEM, Kazakhstan

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COUNTRY: Kazakhstan

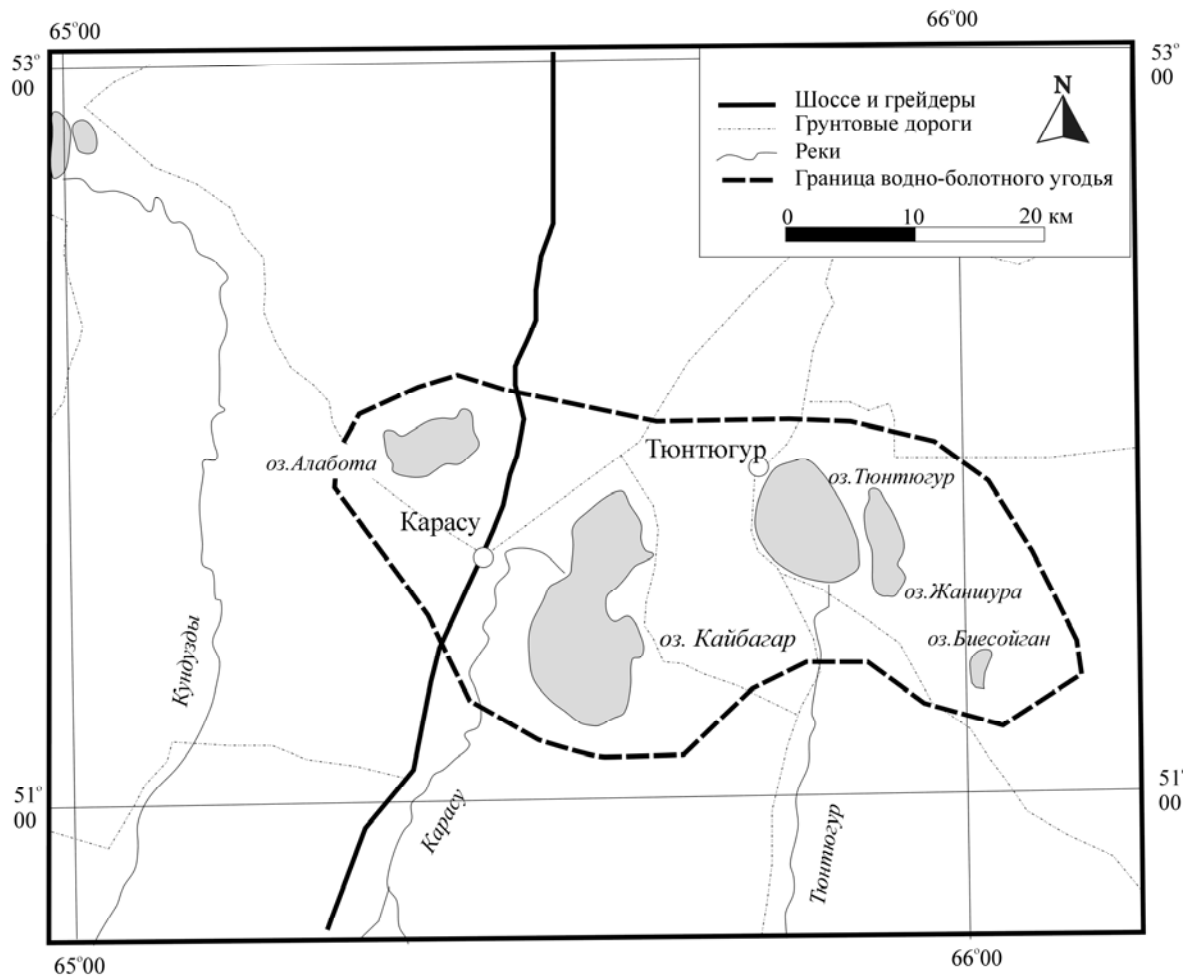
NAME OF SITE: Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura Lake System

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES: Tyuntyugur Lake - 52°40' N, 65°46' E; Zhanshura Lake - 52°36'N, 65° 52' E.

ALTITUDE: 200-210 m above sea level.

AREA: about 10 000 ha, including Tyuntyugur Lake – 5 430 ha, Zhanshura Lake – 1 570 ha

MAP:



OVERVIEW: These are fresh water lakes with a flood type of filling and cyclic hydrological regime. They are located within the large Koibagar-Tyuntyugur Lake group, and it is a place of mass nesting and moulting of waterbirds and wetland birds. In the period of seasonal migrations it is the most important place for the concentration of *Anseriformes*, *Rallidae*, *Limicolae* and other wetland birds, including rare and endangered species.

WCASN CRITERION AND QUALIFIERS

Criterion 1: Site's Importance for Siberian Crane

Sub-criterion 1.2: *The site has held one or more Siberian Cranes during the last 50 years, but there are less than five records during the 10 last years.*

The site was an important migration stop-over area for the Siberian Crane situated along its western and central flyways. The lakes of Koibagar-Tyuntyugur group are situated on the flyway of the western and central population of Siberian Cranes. Koibagar Lake, probably, is not suitable for cranes because it is rather deep and the shores are fully overgrown with vast thick reeds. The remaining lakes of the group, having smaller depths and partly opened shores, are quite suitable for Siberian Cranes as places of rest and feeding. As a result of questionnaire, two sightings have been identified for the last 10 years: two adult birds in September 1992 on Biesoygan Lake and two birds in April 2006 at Alabota Lake.

Qualifier 1: Site's importance for other crane species

In the periods, when the lakes are filled with water, Eurasian Cranes nest at Zhanshura Lake. Summer groups of Eurasian Cranes with the number up to 40-50 birds were recorded at Tyuntyugur Lake in some years. In the period of autumn migration the lake serves as a stop-over site for migratory birds (in 2002-2003 - 400-500 specimens).

Qualifier 2: Site's importance for other waterbird species

Sub-qualifier 2.1: *A site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds during migration periods.*

In the period of migration the site supports up to nearly 100 thousand waterbirds, including in 1996-1999 – up to 69.5 thousand geese, tens of thousands of ducks and sandpipers. Birds use Tyuntyugur - Zhanshura, Koibagar, Buisoigan, and Alabota Lakes. In 1996-2000, the number of geese in one count at the end of September – the beginning of October at Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura Lakes was from 8 to 69.5 thousand (S. Yerohov, N Berezovikov, E. Kellomaky, N Ripatty 2000; P.Tolvanen, K.Litvin & P.Lampila 1999; P.Tolvanen, T.Eskelin, T.Aarvak, G.Eichhorn, I.Oien, & E.Gurtovaya 2000). 16,228 geese were recorded in October 2006. The estimated number of ducks, coots, grebes and gulls at the end of September 2005 were 40,600 birds. In the period of spring migration tens of thousands of sandpipers stop over at the shores of Tyuntyugur Lake (on 30 May 2000 12-15 thousand birds were counted).

Sub-qualifier 2.3: *A site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.*

In the years with favorable ecological conditions Tyuntyugur and Zhanshura Lake support some endangered species, such as Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*) and Red-breasted Geese (*Branta ruficollis*). The maximum number of Lesser White-fronted Geese – 1600, that is more than 6% of the western population, recorded in 1997. The number of Red-breasted Geese in 1996-1997 reached 15-27 thousand birds, which is over 17% of the world population. In 2005-2006 the number of these species decreased due to changes in ecological conditions. In some years the number of Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) and some other waterbird species exceeds 1% of the populations.

WETLAND TYPES (according to Ramsar classification):

Inland Wetlands

- O Permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes large oxbow lakes.
- P Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (over 8 ha); includes floodplain lakes.

Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.

JURISDICTION:

a) territorial jurisdiction: Karasukskiy District, Kostanay Region, Kazakhstan

b) functional jurisdiction: Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Address: 25, Abay Prospect, Astana. Tel/Fax: +7 (7172) 32-82-33.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:

Kostanay Regional Society of Hunters and Fishermen: 181, Gogol Str., Kostanay. Tel/Fax: +7 (7142) 535-617. Chairman – A.E. Kovalenko

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPILER:

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