

Surfers for Wetlands



Why We Need to Protect the Sarobetsu-genya Wetlands?



What and Where are the Sarobetsu-genya Wetlands?

Sarobetsu-genya is a vast peatland located approximately 40km south of Wakkanai City, the northernmost city in Japan. The Ramsar site covers an area of 2560ha in the central area of this wetland including a high moor. The wetland is separated from the Sea of Japan by the sand dune that runs from north to south in the west.

Why are the Sarobetsu-genya Wetlands so Important?

The two lakes in this wetland are important habitats for breeding waterfowls and migratory birds. They constantly support 1% of the species' population of Middendorf's Bean Goose, and Tundra Swan in East Asia. The wetland is one of the few breeding grounds for Yellow-breasted Bunting as well.

What is Threatening the Sarobetsu-genya Wetlands?

A part of this wetland has become dry because of river improvement and declining ground water level, allowing a rapid spread of bamboo grass and other invasive plants. Therefore, a wetland restoration project has begun.

On November 1, 1992, the Sarobetsu-genya Wetlands became a Special Protection Area of National Wildlife Protection Area covering 2,560 ha designated under the Wildlife Protection and Appropriate Hunting Law. Capture of wildlife is in principle prohibited in the area. It is required to obtain permission from the Minister of the Environment for installation of artificial structure or reclamation of the water.

What Can You Do to Help?

You can volunteer by becoming a wetlands tour guide at the visitor center and educating the public about the importance of preserving these wetlands. Contact information is available through the Horonobe Town Office: www.town.horonobe.hokkaido.jp/



For more information visit www.surfersforwetlands.org



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