

March 2008
Shiretoko Natural World Heritage Site, Japan

Report of the reactive monitoring mission
18-22 February 2008



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage Convention

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mission Team would like to thank the Government of Japan and in particular the Ministry of the Environment for its kind invitation, hospitality and assistance throughout the duration of the mission. It is grateful to the Minister of the Environment for meeting with the mission team at the start of the mission. The Mission appreciated the warm welcome from local government officials, in particular the Mayors of Shari and Rausu Councils and their staff. The Mission also appreciated the opportunity to meet with local stakeholders involved in fisheries management, tourism management and other activities relating to the Shiretoko World Heritage Site.

1. BACKGROUND

- (1) The Shiretoko World Heritage site was inscribed on the World Heritage (WH) List under natural criteria (ix) and (x) at the 2005 WH Committee Session. The decision from the 2005 WH Committee is attached as Annex A. In relation to criterion (ix), the Committee noted that Shiretoko provides an outstanding example of the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as extraordinary ecosystem productivity, largely influenced by the formation of seasonal sea ice at the lowest latitude in the northern hemisphere. In relation to criterion (x) the Committee noted that Shiretoko has particular importance for a number of marine and terrestrial species as well as being globally important for a number of salmonid species and for a number of marine mammals, including the Steller's Sea Lion and a number of cetacean species. The site has significance as a habitat for globally threatened sea birds and is a globally important area for migratory birds. Issues raised by the 2005 WH Committee included the need to: a) expedite development of a marine management plan; (b) develop a salmonid management plan; and (c) address other management issues included in the IUCN evaluation report.

- (2) This report responds directly to the issues raised in the 2005 World Heritage Committee decision. The Mission Team comprised Kishore Rao, Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and David Sheppard, Head of the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas. The mission was undertaken from 18 to 22 February, 2008; the detailed schedule is attached as Annex B.

2. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY

- (3) The Shiretoko World Heritage site is protected through a number of national laws and regulations, including the Nature Conservation Law (1972), the Natural Parks Law (1957), the Law on Administration and Management of National Forests (1951) and the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992). In addition there are other laws pertaining to the marine part of the property, covering issues such as fishing and marine pollution, and these are also relevant for the effective management of the property. A comprehensive administrative system for the park ensures integration of the various management objectives for the property and ensures coordinated management for the core and buffer zones. These laws and administrative systems provide an effective matrix of protection for the property. There are currently a number of plans developed or being developed for the property in relation to issues such as marine management and salmonid management and these are outlined below. The Mission Team recommends that these be combined into one integrated management plan for the property as quickly as possible.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

3.1 Management of marine resources

- (4) The IUCN Evaluation Report (2005) noted that a broad range of fishing activities occur within and adjacent to the property and specifically noted the need for stricter controls on fishing within the key breeding, spawning and nursery sites for important fish species within the nominated property and in adjacent areas as far as they are functionally related ecologically to the nominated property.
- (5) The State Party has noted the importance of maintaining a balance between the requirements of the fisheries sector and the need for marine conservation, and has established a number of strategies to achieve this. In particular, and positively, the State Party agreed with the request of the 2005 World Heritage Committee to extend the marine boundary of the property from 1 km to 3 km off the coastline and also agreed to develop a marine management plan to clearly identify measures for strengthening marine protection and the possibilities of extending the boundaries of the marine component of the property.
- (6) The Mission reviewed the Multiple Use Integrated Marine Management Plan and noted that its main aim is to ensure the conservation of the marine ecosystem and the proper use of the area for human activities in the future. The main policies outlined in the Marine Management Plan involve: (a) legal restrictions relating to the conservation of the marine environment; (b) autonomous management measures carried out by fishers; (c) voluntary restrictions on marine recreation; and (d) monitoring of marine resources. The Plan is based on the principle of adaptive management.

Recommendation 1

Explore with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) the obtaining of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) designation for the marine component of the property, with a view to giving it an added layer of protection.

- (7) The Mission noted the Marine Management Plan provides a good framework for management of marine resources and, importantly, builds on a solid base of local involvement and the best science currently available. However, the Mission Team feels that further detail and elaboration is required in a plan such as this, particularly in relation to the identification of priorities, responsibilities and time lines. The Mission Team also notes the need to combine this plan with the other plans currently being developed, to ensure one integrated Management Plan for the property.

Recommendation 2

The Management Plan should not only outline Objectives and Management Strategies, as contained in the Marine Management Plan, but also be action oriented with clear identification of activities, results and objectively verifiable indicators. The plan should also assign clear roles and responsibilities to the various implementation agencies and elaborate a time-frame for its implementation.

Recommendation 3

Complete the revision of the management plan for the property into one comprehensive site Management Plan, which should integrate all the other individual plans, including the Multiple Use Marine Management Plan. The site Management Plan should additionally deal with all key management issues, such as the management of Salmonids, Sikka Deer, key indicator species like Walleye Pollock, Stellar Seal Lion, Stellar Sea Eagle, etc and with ecotourism.

- (8) It is also important that the Marine Management Plan include clear targets and indicators for the conservation of the key indicator species, including Walleye Pollock and the Stellar Sea Lion. The Plan should also include a number of measures for ensuring the long term protection of fish species; such measures could include the identification of no take zones and adjustment to management practices to enhance fisheries conservation. It is important that the existing approach of identifying such measures in consultation with local fishermen continue, both to maximize the chance of such measures being successful and also to ensure that identified measures benefit, and are derived, from the knowledge and experience of local fishermen.

Recommendation 4

Consider identifying and designating locally relevant conservation zones, including no take zones, and practices within the marine habitat to ensure sustainable productivity of the marine biodiversity, including for sustainable production of

the fishery resource.

- (9) In relation to the management of key marine indicator species the Mission Team notes that fisheries resources are affected by activities which occur outside of the property, in particular from fisheries activities in the wider Sea of Okhotsk. This is reflected in fish stocks, where for example, the numbers of Walleye Pollock have been stable within the property for a number of years but have been generally declining throughout the Sea of Okhotsk. This requires action beyond the boundaries of the property and underlines the need for dialogue and consultation with relevant authorities and representatives of the fisheries sector from Russia to address the issue of declining stocks, such as the Walleye Pollock.

Recommendation 5

Continue the cooperation which has been initiated with the Russian Federation to find long-term solutions to resource use problems, particularly the unsustainable harvesting of the Walleye Pollock, and for regular exchange of scientific information.

- (10) The Mission notes the Stellar Sea Lion is an IUCN Red Listed Threatened species and its presence is an important component of the Outstanding Universal value (OUV) of the property. The Mission also notes there are conflicts with local fishers in relation to damage caused by stellar sea lions to fishing nets. Given the status of the Stellar Sea lion as a Threatened Species the Mission Team considers that the utmost effort must be made to protect the species in its natural range. This implies that efforts to avoid or minimize conflicts between stellar sea lions and fishers should be taken wherever possible. This could include measures such as the use of explosions to scare sea lions away and the use of strengthened or reinforced nets. Consumptive uses of the Stellar Sea Lion should not be encouraged.

Recommendation 6

Address the declining population trends of the two indicator species - Walleye Pollock and Stellar Sea Lion - through sound management interventions for their sustainable conservation within the property and through cooperative measures with relevant parties for areas outside the marine component of the property.

- (11) In summary the mission team supports the continuation and acceleration of efforts to protect fish species within the property and notes that this will involve a combination of measures. It is important that measures be developed in a cooperative manner with local fishers and that recommendations are based on the best science available.

3.2 Management of salmonids and dam construction within the property

- (12) The 2005 World Heritage Committee requested the State Party develop a Salmonid Management Plan to identify impacts of dams and strategies to address this impact on salmon species. This reflected the 2005 IUCN Evaluation Report which noted the nominated property has important values for salmonid species, including the Chum salmon, The Pink salmon, the Masu salmon and the Dolly Varden. These salmon species are an important food source for a number of important species within the property including the Stellar Sea Eagle and White Tailed Eagle which feed on salmon swimming upstream in winter. Thus, providing for the free movement of salmon species within the nominated property is an important element of the overall management of the property and a component of the area's Outstanding Universal Value. The mission team notes that it is also important to apply salmon management policies which lead to increased salmon escapement (i.e. allowing more fish to pass through the coastal fishery and enter rivers for spawning)
- (13) There are 44 streams in the Shiretoko World Heritage site and 14 of these have some form of artificial construction, mainly in the form of erosion control dams, concrete canals, and box culverts. Dams and associated structures on rivers have been constructed to provide mitigation against the effects of flooding or extreme weather events on people and structures, such as the town of Rausu downstream from the Rausu Stream and bridges in the lower Iwaubetsu Stream. These structures also pose a barrier to the free movement of salmon and the 2005 IUCN Evaluation report recommended a review of options for removal of some of these structures and the development of other measures, such as fish ladders, which could enhance the free movement of salmon within the property
- (14) The State Party established a River Construction Working Group after 2005 which reviewed structures on rivers and identified 13 structures which would be "reasonable to consider for modification as a matter of highest

priority". Following this the Working Group developed modification structures and began modification of seven (7) structures within rivers and streams in the property: 2 in Rurua, 3 in Iwauetsu, and 2 in Sashirui Stream.

- (15) The Mission noted with appreciation the measures taken to respond to the requests from the 2005 WH Committee in relation to modification of structures on rivers within the property. The Mission was able to inspect in the field the modification of dams on the Iwauetsu River and the positive impacts of this for salmon movement. The Mission Team notes that the modification of structures takes time and resources and that planning for such actions requires a longer term perspective. It is thus important to establish both short and long term goals for the management of salmon within the property.

Recommendation 7

Continue and accelerate measures to promote the free movement of salmon within the property and also to increase salmon escapement.

- (16) The Mission notes that the free movement of salmon is an important element of the OUV of the property and should be an integral element of overall management of the property. The mission also notes the particular importance of some rivers within the property for salmon, such as the Rurua River which has been identified by Salmon experts as the most important river for salmon conservation within the World Heritage property.

Recommendation 8

In the long-term perspective while continuing monitoring, give priority attention to the modification of structures on the Rurua River, given its importance for salmon species within the property.

- (17) The Mission notes the importance of rigorous and long term monitoring of the impacts of the modification of structures on salmon populations within the property. The Mission notes that there are currently programs in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the modifications in improving salmon runs and spawning habitats; this is based on inventories in relation to aspects such as the number of salmon migrating upstream and the velocity and discharge of streams. Monitoring should be used as a key element to guide the development of future strategies for salmon management.

Recommendation 9

Continue and accelerate monitoring efforts within the property, with particular attention to the impact of the modification of structures on the movement of salmon populations within and outside the property.

3.3 Management of Sika Deer

- (18) The 2005 IUCN Evaluation Report noted that the Sika deer is an abundant and high profile species at Shiretoko and that the deer population has been subject to major fluctuations. High deer densities within the property are affecting the native vegetation through overgrazing and control measures are clearly required. The debate centres on whether the effects of the deer are part of a natural process or are due to long term human imposed changes in the ecosystem.

Recommendation 10

Clear indicators should be developed to help define acceptable and unacceptable limits for the impact of grazing from Sika deer on natural vegetation in the property

- (19) Management of sika deer is guided by two key documents: (a) the Conservation and Management Plan for Sika Deer in Hokkaido; and (b) the Sika Deer Management Plan in the Shiretoko Peninsula. The plan for sika deer in Hokkaido aims to ensure a stable population level while reducing damage to agriculture and forestry activities. The plan for sika deer in the Shiretoko Peninsula aims to conserve the population of the sika deer within the context of conserving the ecosystems and biodiversity of the property as a whole. This management plan is also linked with an Action Plan which has included experimental density manipulation (culling) in the Shiretoko Cape Region.

Recommendation 11

Implementation of the Sika Deer Management Plan in the Shiretoko Peninsula, and the associated Action Plan should continue but the impacts of control measures on sika deer populations and the biodiversity and ecosystems of the property should be carefully monitored.

- (20) The Mission Team reviewed progress with the Sika Deer Management Plan in the Shiretoko Peninsula and noted efforts to define a reasonable population density for sika deer within the property. The Mission Team considers that the management of species in the core zone of the property should, as much as possible, be based on the principle of allowing natural process to occur without human intervention. However, the Mission Team also considers that measures to control the sika deer population should be undertaken when the deer grazing pressures are resulting in unacceptable impacts on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the property. There is potential for an irreversible negative impact of sika deer on the vegetation of the property if the situation is left to natural processes and no intervention is undertaken. The key challenge is to clearly define acceptable and unacceptable limits for these impacts, and also to ensure effective monitoring of the impacts of any control measures that are undertaken.

Recommendation 12

The management of sika deer within the World Heritage site should be carefully coordinated with the management of sika deer within Hokkaido in general.

Recommendation 13

Any control measures of deer populations in the property should be carefully, humanely and sensitively implemented.

3.4 Management of ecotourism

- (21) Tourism is an increasingly important issue within the nominated property. Summer is the high season for tourist use but an increasing number of tourists also visit the property in winter, particularly to view sea ice. The number of tourists increased immediately after the inscription of the property, reflecting increased media attention and interest within Japan.

Recommendation 14

Develop a consolidated ecotourism strategy for the property as quickly as possible. This strategy should be based on the protection of the natural values of the property, the promotion of high quality nature based experiences for visitors, and the promotion of local economic development.

- (22) Since the inscription there has been increasing emphasis on tourism planning and planning for “proper use” in general. “Proper use” has been guided by the “Basic Plan on the Proper Use of the Apical Region of the Peninsula Zone of the Shiretoko National Park”. This Plan sets out appropriate uses and policies, in relation to issues such as the management and maintenance of mountain trails and the regulation of boats to minimise impacts on seabird populations. The Mission Team notes the importance of building on and continuing the current approach to “proper use” and ecotourism.

Recommendation 15

Continue current activities in relation to “proper use” and “ecotourism” and consolidate them under one consolidated Working Group to ensure these matters are addressed in an integrated manner

- (23) There has been particular emphasis on ecotourism within the property and this has been guided by the Shiretoko Ecotourism Promotion Project, which is jointly supported by the Japan Ministry of the Environment, the Hokkaido Prefecture Government, and the Shari and Rausu Townships. The aims of this project include the development of appropriate ecotourism based on the natural features of Shiretoko and also using ecotourism as a tool for supporting the development and diversification of local economies. In particular there has been an emphasis on encouraging tourism as an element of diversifying the economy in Rausu and in “deepening the experience” at Shari, in particular by encouraging tourists to stay longer and in by developing a wider range of nature based tourism opportunities.
- (24) Emphasis is being placed on the development of local ecotourism industries which are sensitive to and protect the natural values of the property. Activities are underway in five specific areas: (1) the development of guidelines for Ecotourism specific to the Shiretoko World Heritage site; (2) collaboration with local industries, such as fishing and farming, to develop “hands on” tour programs adjacent to the property; (3) encouraging tourists to stay longer within the area, by working with travel agencies and by providing information to tourist regarding the variety of activities and options available; (4) training for tour guides, to improve skills and knowledge of nature guides; and (5) undertaking applied ecotourism research.
- (25) The Mission Team encourages the development of sensitive and appropriate ecotourism within and adjacent to

the Shiretoko World Heritage Site. The Mission considers the potential of such ecotourism to contribute to the strengthening and diversification of local economic development. It is the maintenance of natural features and values provide the basis for such development and accordingly such values must be enhanced and protected.

Recommendation 16

Ensure that the ecotourism strategy for Shiretoko is closely linked and integrated with regional strategies for tourism and economic development within Shiretoko.

3.5 Climate Change

- (26) The Outstanding Universal Value of Shiretoko is strongly related to the presence of sea ice at the lowest level in the Northern Hemisphere. This influences the productivity of the marine ecosystem which in turn influences the productivity and diversity of the terrestrial ecosystem. The impacts of long term climate change could have a significant impact on this property.
- (27) It is important that a Climate Change strategy be developed for Shiretoko, which could include: (a) development of a monitoring programme which identifies both long and short term impacts high of climate change and specifically monitors parameters such as the extent of sea ice and the impacts on populations of key indicators species; and (b) adaptive management strategies that could be applied to minimise any impacts of climate change on the values of the Shiretoko World Heritage site. The Mission Team notes there is an increasing body of experience and knowledge in relation to climate change as it relates to protected areas and natural World Heritage sites and this should be drawn on to inform and assist development of a climate change strategy for Shiretoko.

Recommendation 17

Develop a Climate Change Strategy for Shiretoko which includes: (a) development of a monitoring programme; and (b) adaptive management strategies to minimise any impacts of climate change on the values of the Shiretoko World Heritage site.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

- (28) The mission noted the good progress made by Japan in protecting the Shiretoko World Heritage Site and, in particular, addressing recommendations from the 2005 World Heritage Committee and the 2005 IUCN Evaluation Report. The mission was particularly impressed by the strong commitment of stakeholders at all levels to ensuring the Outstanding Universal Values of the property are maintained and passed intact to future generations. This is well reflected in the Shiretoko World Treasure Declaration signed by the Governor of Hokkaido and the Mayors of the two local towns, Shari and Rausu, in October 2005, which is attached as Annex C. The mission team also applauds the bottom up approach to management through the involvement of local communities and local stakeholders, and also the way in which scientific knowledge has been effectively applied to the management of the property through the overall scientific Committee and the specific Working Groups that have been set up. These provide an excellent model for the management of natural World Heritage Sites elsewhere.
- (29) Overall the Mission Team concludes that the State of Conservation is satisfactory. There are issues that need to be addressed, particularly in relation to marine management and salmonid management, and these are being worked on in a very constructive and effective way by the State Party. It is important that these efforts continue and accelerate. The long term effects of climate change are unclear but may be significant for this property. It is important that this issue be carefully monitored and that a strategy is developed to address and minimise future impacts of climate change.

5. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Mission Team are as follows:

Recommendation 1

Explore with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) the obtaining of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) designation for the marine component of the property, with a view to giving it an added layer of protection.

Recommendation 2

The Management Plan should not only outline Objectives and Management Strategies, as contained in the Marine Management Plan, but also be action oriented with clear identification of activities, results and objectively verifiable indicators. The plan should also assign clear roles and responsibilities to the various implementation agencies and elaborate a time-frame for its implementation.

Recommendation 3

Complete the revision of the management plan for the property into one comprehensive site Management Plan, which should integrate all the other individual plans, including the Multiple Use Marine Management Plan. The site Management Plan should additionally deal with all key management issues, such as the management of Salmonids, Sikka Deer, key indicator species like Walleye Pollock, Stellar Seal Lion, Stellar Sea Eagle, etc and with ecotourism.

Recommendation 4

Consider identifying and designating locally relevant conservation zones, including no take zones, and practices within the marine habitat to ensure sustainable productivity of the marine biodiversity, including for sustainable production of the fishery resource.

Recommendation 5

Continue the cooperation which has been initiated with the Russian Federation to find long-term solutions to resource use problems, particularly the unsustainable harvesting of the Walleye Pollock, and for regular exchange of scientific information.

Recommendation 6

Address the declining population trends of the two indicator species - Walleye Pollock and Stellar Sea Lion - through sound management interventions for their sustainable conservation within the property and through cooperative measures with relevant parties for areas outside the marine component of the property.

Recommendation 7

Continue and accelerate measures to promote the free movement of salmon within the property and also to increase salmon escapement.

Recommendation 8

In the long-term perspective while continuing monitoring, give priority attention to the modification of structures on the Rusha River, given its importance for salmon species within the property.

Recommendation 9

Continue and accelerate monitoring efforts within the property, with particular attention to the impact of the modification of structures on the movement of salmon populations within and outside the property.

Recommendation 10

Clear indicators should be developed to help define acceptable and unacceptable limits for the impact of grazing from Sika deer on natural vegetation in the property

Recommendation 11

Implementation of the Sika Deer Management Plan in the Shiretoko Peninsula, and the associated Action Plan should continue but the impacts of control measures on sika deer populations and the biodiversity and ecosystems of the property should be carefully monitored.

Recommendation 12

The management of sika deer within the World Heritage site should be carefully coordinated with the management of sika deer within Hokkaido in general.

Recommendation 13

Any control measures of deer populations in the property should be carefully, humanely and sensitively implemented.

Recommendation 14

Develop a consolidated ecotourism strategy for the property as quickly as possible. This strategy should be based on the protection of the natural values of the property, the promotion of high quality nature based experiences for visitors, and the promotion of local economic development.

Recommendation 15

Continue current activities in relation to “proper use” and “ecotourism” and consolidate them under one consolidated Working Group to ensure these matters are addressed in an integrated manner

Recommendation 16

Ensure that the ecotourism strategy for Shiretoko is closely linked and integrated with regional strategies for tourism and economic development within Shiretoko.

Recommendation 17

Develop a Climate Change Strategy for Shiretoko which includes: (a) development of a monitoring programme; and (b) adaptive management strategies to minimise any impacts of climate change on the values of the Shiretoko World Heritage site.

Annex A - Decision of the 2005 WH Committee in relation to the Shiretoko National Park

Decision Text

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-05/29.COM/8B, WHC-05/29.COM/8B.Add 2 and WHC-05/29.COM/INF.8B.2,
2. Inscribes Shiretoko (Japan) on the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria (ii) and (iv):
Criterion (ii): Shiretoko provides an outstanding example of the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as extraordinary ecosystem productivity, largely influenced by the formation of seasonal sea ice at the lowest latitude in the northern hemisphere.
Criterion (iv): Shiretoko has particular importance for a number of marine and terrestrial species. These include a number of endangered and endemic species, such as the Blackiston's Fish owl and the plant species *Viola kitamiana*. The site is globally important for a number of salmonid species and for a number of marine mammals, including the Steller's Sea Lion and a number of cetacean species. The site has significance as a habitat for globally threatened sea birds and is a globally important area for migratory birds.
3. Notes that the State Party of Japan has agreed to extend the marine boundary of the property from 1 km to 3 km off the coastline, and that such extension is "de facto" in place awaiting legal designation by the end of 2005;
4. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) expedite development of a marine management plan, to be completed by 2008, to clearly identify measures for strengthening marine protection and the possibilities of extending the boundaries of the marine component of the property;
 - b) send a map and details of the final boundaries of the property, as well as a copy of the law supporting them, to the World Heritage Centre once they have been confirmed in law;
 - c) develop a salmonid management plan to identify impacts of dams and strategies to address this impact; and
 - d) address other management issues included in the evaluation report, in particular in relation to tourism management and scientific research;
5. Encourages the State Party to invite a mission to the property in two years from its inscription to assess progress with the implementation of the marine management plan and its effectiveness in protecting the marine resources of the property;
6. Congratulates the State Party for the commendable process of public consultation involved in the preparation of the nomination documents, the preparation of an excellent nomination dossier; and for effectively addressing IUCN's recommendations to enhance the conservation and management of this property.

Annex B - Agenda for the 2008 Mission and people met during the mission

February 18 (Monday)

Time	Schedule	Remarks
	Arrive at Narita Airport Arrive at Royal Park Shiodome Tower (Check in)	
18:00	Short Meeting at the Hotel	Explanation about the schedule of the evaluation mission Accommodation "Royal Park Shiodome Tower" 1-6-3 Higashishinnbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8333 Tel: + 81 (3) 6253-1111 http://www.rps-tower.co.jp/english/index.html

February 19 (Tuesday)

Time	Schedule	Remarks
9:00	Courtesy Call to Mr. Ichiro Kamoshita, Minister of the Environment	
9:15	Meeting with relevant officials	Agenda (1) Opening Address (2) Updating "State of conservation report on Shiretoko World Heritage Site" submitted before (3) Question and Answer
12:50	Depart form Haneda Airport (JAL1147)	
14:25	Arrive at Kushiro Airport	
18:50	Small reception hosted by Hokkaido government, Shari town and Rausu town	Accommodation "Rausu Daiichi Hotel" 1 Yu-no-sawa, Rausu-machi, Shari-gun, Hokkaido Tel: +81-0153872259

February 20 (Wednesday)

Time	Schedule	Remarks
10:00	Opinion exchange meeting about the Multiple Use Integrated Marine Management Plan	Agenda (1) Opening of the meeting (2) Introduction of participants (3) Briefing 1. Background to the development of the Multiple Use Integrated Marine Management Plan for Shiretoko World Natural Site 2. Outline of the Multiple Use Integrated Marine Management Plan for Shiretoko World Natural Site 3. Institutional features of coastal fisheries management in Japan 4. On the autonomous management of walleye pollock fishing (4) Exchange of views
13:00	Inspection at the fishing port in Rausu	
13:30	Inspection around the town area of Rausu to observe eagles	
14:00	Inspection at the Rausu Visitor Center	

17:30	Arrive at Utoro and Shiretoko Daiichi Hotel (Check in)	Accommodation "Shireoko Daiichi Hotel" 306 Utoro onsen, Shari-cho, Sharigun, Hokkaido Tel: +81-01522-4-2334
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February 21 (Thursday)

Time	Schedule	Remarks
9:00	Briefing and Discussion on Activities after Inscription	Agenda 1. Opening of the meeting 2. Briefing and Discussion 1. Assessment and modification of the River construction 2. Proper management of Sika Deer in Shiretoko 3. Discussion towards the Proper Use of Shiretoko 4. Ecotourism Promotion in Shiretoko
13:30	Inspection at Iwaubetsu river moving to Akai river	
14:30	Inspection at Furepe Fall by snow hiking	
18:00	Discussion with related local organizations	Accommodation "Shireoko Daiichi Hotel" 306 Utoro onsen, Shari-cho, Sharigun, Hokkaido Tel: +81-01522-4-2334

February 22 (Friday)

Time	Schedule	Remarks
9:00	Briefing on Process after Inscription of Shiretoko World Heritage Site	Agenda 1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Briefing on the state of Activity 3. Exchange of views
11:00	Press conference (-11:30)	
15:15	Depart from Memambetsu Airport (JAL1186)	
17:05	Arrive at Haneda Airport	
18:00	Meeting with relevant officials	
19:00	Dinner party hosted by Mr. Yasuyoshi Sakurai, Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau and Mr Hisao Harihara, Director General, Private Forest Department	Accommodation "Hotel Pacific Tokyo" 1-6-3 Higashishinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8567 Tel: + 81 (3)3445-6711 http://www.pacific-tokyo.com/

Annex C - Shiretoko World Treasure Declaration signed by the Governor of Hokkaido and the Mayors of Shari and Rausu, in October 2005

October 30, 2005

Shiretoko is now recognized as one of the world natural heritages, with its unique biodiversity and ecosystem in both the land and the sea.

The Shiretoko coastline is the southernmost point that drift ice reaches in the northern hemisphere. The subtle ecosystem which spreads from the sea to the land supports various animals and vegetation, and is also a breeding place for an important internationally recognized rare species such as the Steller's sea eagle, and the white tailed sea eagle among others. Abundant marine life resources are carried to the forests by fish travelling up the rivers which helps sustain local animals like the brown bear. Many varieties of creatures have been flourishing in the natural environment of this great land, Shiretoko, since ancient days.

In order to responsibly hand down this world natural heritage to the next generation as a priceless asset of mankind, we, in unity together with the citizens of Hokkaido, hereby vow to make every effort towards proper use and conservation of this priceless world treasure, Shiretoko. At the same time, we will maintain the wisdom and skills that the region's ancestors, the Ainu, have passed on through the generations as well as conserve the valuable history and remember what the land has provided us.

Harumi Takahashi
Governor of Hokkaido

Sakae Gorai
Mayor of Shar Town

Kimio Waki
Mayor of Rausu Town"

Annex D – Photographs



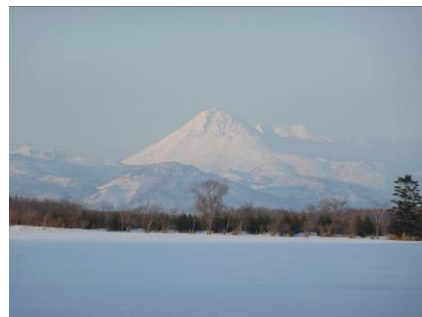
View of Rausu Port



Walleye Pollock



White-tailed Sea Eagle



View of the Mt. Rausu in Shiretoko



Modified dam on Iwauketsu River



Unmodified dam on Iwauketsu River



Sea-ice formation off Shari Town



Meeting with local stakeholders