**Ramsar site Tärnasjön**

**Physical features of the site**

Lake Tärnasjön is a long, narrow lake occupying a stretch of the upper River Umeälven system. It is situated completely within a sub-alpine area, and lies in a flat marshy basin characterized by parallel moraine ridges. In the southern part of the lake these ridges form a distinctive landscape, with a very indented marshy shoreline and numerous small islands. The area is flooded during periods of high water levels, for example during the snow melting. In the south towards Ånkardalen there are extensive mire areas and a mosaic of mires, small lakes and moraine ridges. The River Tärnaån enters the lake in the north, forming a delta little modified by human activities. At Lake Laivajaure are the southernmost palsa mires in Sweden.

**Description of the catchment area**

The catchment area is 898 km2, mainly subalpine and alpine areas. It consists of bedrocks of the Scandinavian mountain range, formed some 300 million years ago. Schists and amphibolites dominate, with sparagmites and quartzites on the westernmost limits (Kulling 1953). The collision of plates in earth’s crust have caused large masses of bedrock to be overthrust from west to east over the Baltic shield in masses called nappes. The Köli nappe to the west has a lower and more rounded topography, while the Seve nappe to the east consists of harder, more highly metamorphosed schists resulting in steeper topography and higher mountains (Kulling 1953). The highest mountain in the catchment (Norra Storfjället) reaches 1 767 m above sea level.