Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes 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. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

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DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
August 2012

3. Country:
Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:
Giske Wetlands System: Synesvågen
(International No. 805, National No. 18)

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only)**:**
a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ❑; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ☑

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ❑

or
If the site boundary has changed:
i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or
i) the boundary has been extended ❑; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted** ❑

and/or

If the site area has changed:
i) the area has been measured more accurately ☒; or
ii) the area has been extended ❑; or
iii) the area has been reduced** ❑

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:
None

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7. Map of site:
Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ☑;

ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ☑;

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** ❑;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:
e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary is the same as for Synesvågen Nature Reserve

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8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):
62° 32`N 06° 01`E

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9. General location:
Synesvågen is situated on the north-west side of Vigra in Giske municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, about 11 km north west of Ålesund.

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10. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)
0 – 11 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)
99.9 ha of which 67.4 ha is sea

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12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Synnesvågen is a south-west facing bay protected by several islands. There are large areas of shallow water, which are exposed at low tide. In addition there are salt marshes and brackish meadows in the inner parts. The area is of particular importance for waders on migration. The area is also important for other species and as a breeding and wintering site for wetland birds.

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13. 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).

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13. above:
Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1. The area is botanically valuable with well developed flora on the mudbanks and salt marshes. The site has representative coastal habitats – see point 20.

Criterion 2. Common tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU, Berne Convention, Annex II) uses the site during migration.

Criterion 4. The area is a central part of the wetland system of Vigra and Giske, and thus is of great importance in maintaining populations of waterbirds throughout the year. The area is of particular importance for waders on migration. The area is also important for other species and as a breeding and wintering site for wetland birds. See point 22 for more information.

15. 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:
1. Boreonemoral vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Bn – O3).
2. Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):
1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).
2. Biogeographical regions of Europe, European Environment Agency, 2005

16. 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.

Geology	The bedrock is composed of autochthonous or almost autochthonous gneiss from primitive times, deformed and metamorphosed during the Caledonian mountain chain folding. Quartergeologically there are continuous marine deposits.
Geomorphology	Synesvågen is part of a large flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass. Some smal knolls are present in the north and some rocky coast in the northwest.
Substrate/ soil type	Silt, clay, sand, gravel, stone and rock dominate. Peat and raw humus are present in the east and north. A small area of shellsand and shell is found in the north-west.
Water depth / fluctuations	There are large areas of shallow water. The variation between high and low tides measured at Ålesund averages annually 123 cm.
Climate	The site has a highly oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

17. 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 site is on the west side of Vigra and part of an extensive flat, coastal landscape formed by rising landmass. Towards the north are small hills with moor and mires (Synnesfjellet 90 m a.s.l.). There are

some scattered buildings and a little farming in the area. The reserve is situated along the flyway in and out of Ålesund airport.

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

There are no known special hydrological values in this context.

19. 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.
G, H, A, U, Ss

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

The site is varied with salt marshes, brackish water communities, seaweed wall communities and coastal marsh with breeding, staging and wintering waders, wildfowl and gulls. There are areas of mire, moor and bog in the east which are important for nesting, staging and wintering waders, wildfowl and gulls. The shallow waters and tidal areas are important for breeding, staging and wintering cormorants, divers, grebes, gulls and wildfowl, and seals are regular in the shallow waters. Otter *Lutra lutra (VU)* probably also occurs.

21. Noteworthy flora:
Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification 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*.

Several regionally uncommon species occur such as *Veronica arvensis*, *Carex flacca*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex otrubae*, *Luzula campestris*, *Veronica scutellata* and *Ranunculus sceleratus*, and *Senecio aquaticus*.

~~**20. Noteworthy fauna:**~~
22. Noteworthy fauna:
Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification 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*.

A large number of bird species have been recorded in the area, including several rarities. Good count data is lacking, although there may at times be large concentrations of geese, ducks and waders.

Some of the registered birds are: Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (7 breeding pairs), Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (up to 1000 wintering birds are registered earlier, the situation today is uncertain), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT) breeding/migration, European Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT)

breeding/migration, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU) uses the site during migration. It is possible the Common Tern breed in the site, but there is a lack of good data on this.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or 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:

None

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box ❑ and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:
(a) within the Ramsar site: Private
(b) in the surrounding area: Private and state (The state aviation authority - Avinor).

25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:
The area is grazed by horses in the north and the east, whereas sheep graze in the south. There are a few pleasure boats and boathouses within the site. There is also some hobby fishing, walking and birdwatching at the site.
(b) in the surroundings/catchment:
There are some buildings and a little farming nearby. There are a few boathouses outside the south-west part of the reserve.

26. 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:
Cessation of grazing in the south and south-west has resulted in overgrowing, with a negative effect on wetland birds. Grazing by cattle should help.
(b) in the surrounding area:
There are shelterbelts just outside the reserve in the north-east and south-east, which have negative effects for wetland birds.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:
In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Synnesvågen was designated as a nature reserve on 27th May 1988.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ☑;Ib ❑; II ❑; III ❑; IV ❑; V ❑; VI ❑

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

No

d) Describe any other current management practices:

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

A management plan is being developed by the management authority.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

None at the present time.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

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

An information booklet is produced by the management authorities, comprising all the Ramsar sites in Møre and Romsdal county.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

No organised activities, although members of the Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF) visit the area several times a year.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim
Ph +47 73580500
Fax +47 73580501
Email: postmottak@dirnat.no

33. 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.

The site is managed by the County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, which is under the instruction of DN. Address: County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, Fylkeshusa, 6404 Molde, Norway. Phone +47 71258443. E-mail: postmottak@fmmr.no

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å., Henriksen, S. and Skjelseth, S. (eds.). 2010. The 2010 Norwegian Red-list for Species. Norwegian Biodiversity Information centre, Norway.

Botanical and management plans:

Frøland, T. 2003. Re-evaluering av seks freda våtmarksområder i Giske. Rapport 2003-1. 13 s. + vedlegg. (In Norwegian – On re-evaluation of six protected wetlands in Giske).

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I., 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Flora, vegetasjon og verneverdier. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3A: 253 s. (In Norwegian – on flora and vegetation along the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Lokalitetsbeskrivelser. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3B: 184 s. (In Norwegian – on site descriptions along the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

Holtan, D. i trykk. Biologisk mangfald i Giske kommune. Rapport, Giske kommune. 69 s. (In Norwegian – on biodiversity in Giske).

Røsberg, I. 1974. Inventering av Synnes og Synnesvågen, Giske. Landsplan for verneverdige områder/forekomster. Miljøverndepartementet. Upubl. Rapport, delrapport 3. (In Norwegian – cataloguing of valuable sites at Synnes and Synnesvågen).

Birds:
Folkestad, A.O. 1978. Fylkesvis oversikt over ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Norge. Møre og Romsdal. Miljøverndepartementet juni 1978. (In Norwegian – on Ornithologically important wetlands in Norway).

Folkestad, A.O. 1978. Våtmarker i Møre og Romsdal. I. Giske vestside, Giske kommune. Rallus 8: 72-84. (In Norwegian – on Wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Folkestad, A. O., 1995. Kommunepresentasjonen: Giske kommune. Rallus 25:85-96. (In Norwegian – on birdlife in Giske municipality).

Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga, 1982. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga. 224 s. (In Norwegian – draft management plan for wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

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