

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

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

Miljøfaglig Utredning AS commissioned by Norwegian  
Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, 7485  
Trondheim  
Tlf +47 73580500  
Fax: +47 73580501  
E-mail: [postmottak@dirnat.no](mailto:postmottak@dirnat.no)

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 2012

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### 3. Country:

NORWAY

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Giske Wetlands System: Blindheimsvik  
(International No. 805, National No. 18)

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### 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

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### 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 Blindheimsvik Bird Sanctuary

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**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

62° 33' N 06° 05' E

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**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Blindheimsvik is situated on the west side of Vigra in Giske municipality in Møre og Romsdal county.

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**10. Elevation:** (average and/or max. & min.)

0 – 4 m a.s.l.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

113.9 ha, of which 103 is sea

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**12. Overview:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

This is a shallow bay with large areas of sandbanks and mudbanks, which are exposed at low tide. There are wide drift walls and some salt marshes within the inner parts. The area is important as a staging and wintering site for wetland birds such as divers, grebes, ducks and waders.

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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 2. The area is used by Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU, Ann. II Berne Convention), European Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU, Ann. II Berne Convention) and Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU, Ann. III Berne Convention). (Norwegian red list, 2010)

Criterion 4. The area is an important part of the wetland system of Vigra and Giske, which means that the area is of importance in maintaining several populations of wetland birds throughout the year. The area is important as a staging and wintering site for wetland birds such as divers, grebes, ducks and waders. Of particular note is the moulting flock of red-breasted mergansers in the area. See also point 22.

**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	Partly unconsolidated sediments of younger rock types cover the site. Quartergeologically there are marine coastal deposits.
Geomorphology	The site is part of a large flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass.
Substrate / soil type	Marine coastal deposits dominate in the east with gravel, stone and stone blocks as well as some clay and silt. In the north, which is more sheltered sediments of gravel, sand, clay and silt dominate.
Water depth / fluctuations	The shallow areas are probably very shallow, and the tidal zone is vast. The difference between high and low water is 123 cm on average, measured at Ålesund.
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 lies on the south-west side of Vigra and is part of a large flat area formed by rising landmass with marine deposits and peat formations. Towards the east there are the remains of a large mire, which is today fragmented due to roads and shelter belt planting.

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### 18. Hydrological values:

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

No special hydrological values are known for this site.

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### 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, A, H

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### 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 landward part of this site comprises salt marshes, brackish meadows, drift wall communities, and coastal swamp. The tidal zone dominates much of the protected area and is varied with stone blocks, gravel, sand, clay and silt. Both the landward parts and the tidal zone are important for breeding, staging and wintering waders and other bird groups dependent upon these habitats. The shallow waters are also of importance for staging divers, grebes and ducks and also sea mammals such as Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* and probably Otter *Lutra lutra*.

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### 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 unusual species occur including *Schoenoplectus maritimus* and *Ranunculus sceleratus*, as well as *Senecio aquaticus*.

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### 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 number of species are recorded, including several which are rare. Good data is however lacking, but there is reason to highlight a concentration of up to 550 moulting red-breasted mergansers *Mergus serrator*.

We also find Black Headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (NT), Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU), Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT, 10 breeding pair, approx 50 ind during migration), Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (NT), Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT), Common

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (approximate 100 ind during migration and approximate 12 breeding couples), Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

Mammals:

European Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU), Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU).

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### 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:

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### 24. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site: Mainly private. The state aviation authority (Avinor) owns a little part.

(b) in the surrounding area: Private and state

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### 25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

The bird sanctuary is used for recreational activities such as walking, hobby fishing, and birdwatching, but only to a lesser degree. Hunting is not permitted. A small part in the north and north-east is grazed by livestock.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Traditional (intensive) agriculture in the north, and a little peat cutting takes place in the east.

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### 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 and subsequent vegetational succession is probably the most important factor, which results in a reduction of the area's value as a breeding site for waterbirds. A power line crosses the site.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Planting of shelter belts within and just outside the area boundary probably has a negative effect on wetland birds in the area. There is a breakwater immediately west of the site, although it is uncertain as to

how this may affect currents and sedimentation in the area. The airport to the north poses a pollution threat. Seepage is possible from an old rubbish dump just outside the site boundary.

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**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.

Blindheimsvik was designated as a bird sanctuary 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:

None

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**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.

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

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

None are known.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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](mailto:postmottak@dirnat.no)

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**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](mailto:postmottak@fmmr.no)

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### **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 a re-evaluation of six protected areas 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 vegetation and areas of conservation value on 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 – descriptions of coastal sites in Møre og Romsdal).

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

### **Birds:**

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

Folkestad, A. O., 1995. Kommunepresentasjonen: Giske kommune. Rallus 25:85-96. ((In Norwegian – a presentation of 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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