

# 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: Giske  
(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:**

There are signs of overgrowing in the central part, around Sumpen.

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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.

Boundary is the same as for Giske Bird Sanctuary

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

62° 30'N 06° 01'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.

Giske Vestside is situated on the island Giske in Giske municipality, Møre og Romsdal county, approximately 8 km northwest of Ålesund.

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

0-5 m.a.s.l.

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

145,7 ha of which 129,4 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.

Giske Bird Sanctuary is on the west side of Giske, exposed to the sea, and with a long boulder covered point (Kvalneset) jutting out to sea in the north-west. The area consists of shallow waters, tidal zone, walls of seaweed, saltmarsh and damp meadows. The area is considered to be the county's most varied shore environment, and its botanical importance is therefore high. The site is also one of the most important staging sites for waders along the Norwegian coast, with several species present in concentrations of several thousand. The area is also important for breeding and wintering 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).

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

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### 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 has varied, representative and quite well developed coastal habitats – see point 20. .

Criterion 2. Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (VU, Ann. II Berne Convention) occurs throughout the year, and up to 100 individuals have been recorded. It is also an important staging area for Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU, Annex III Berne Convention). Red-list status is given according to the national red list 2010

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 site is also one important staging sites for waders along the Norwegian coast, with several species present in concentrations of several thousand. The area is also important for breeding and wintering wetland birds. See point 22.

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### 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
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### 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. Some gabbro from the same period is present in the north-east. Quartergeologically there are marine deposits.
Geomorphology	Part of a large flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass.
Substrate / soil type	Large stones and rocks are a characteristic feature of the western and south-western parts, whereas the central part of the site, Makkevika, is flat with clay and silt. Sand dominates in the north. Kvalneset is made up of boulders.
Water depth / fluctuations	There are large varied areas of shallow water. The variation between high and low tides measured at Ålesund averages annually 123 cm.
Climate	The area has a very oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers.

Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.
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### 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 area is on the west side of Giske, and part of a flat coastal landscape formed by rising land mass. Towards the west and south there are marine deposits, whereas in the north sand, sand dunes and some rocky shore dominate. There are scattered buildings nearby with traditional (intensive) agricultural, mainly grass production and grazing.

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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.

There are no known sources which promote the areas importance in this context. However, there is reason to believe that Kvalneset and the shallow area off the spit are important in reducing the force of waves striking the coast.

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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.

A, G, H, D, E

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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 site is varied with saltmarsh, brackish water communities, large seaweed wall communities, and sand dune communities make up most of the vegetation types in various shape and form. The tidal zone is large and varied with large rocks, stones, gravel, sand, clay and silt. In the north the tidal zone is comprised of sandy beaches. In the northwest is a bouldery beach which stretches a long way into the shallow water zone.

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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 locally uncommon species occur including *Veronica arvensis*, *Carex otrubae*, *Luzula campestris*, *Cakile maritima* 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 RLS.*

#### **Mammals:**

Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* occurs throughout the year, and up to 100 individuals have been recorded.

#### **Birds:**

A large number of bird species have been observed in the area, including many rare species. Several species occur in large numbers, and concentrations can be impressive during autumn and part of winter. Among the species are: up to 50 red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena* wintering/spring, Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* wintering/spring, Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* wintering/spring, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* wintering, European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* wintering, Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*, Eurasian Pigeon *Anas penelope*, probably the best wintering site for Eurasian Teal and Eurasian Pigeon in this County. 200 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, 230 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 5000 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, 750 Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, several thousand Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, important for Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, several thousand Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU), 500 dabbling duck *Anas ssp.*, and over 5000 gulls *Larus ssp.* In summer the area is an important breeding site. Previously Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* bred, but these have disappeared. There are good numbers of breeding Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

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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:

At Kvalneset in the north-west are remains of a site for drying fish. This site is looked after by local school children.

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: Private
- (b) in the surrounding area: Private

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

(a) within the Ramsar site:

The bird sanctuary is used for walking, hobby fishing and birdwatching. Giske Ornithological Station is beside the site and is of importance for ringing and other research on waders in particular and also for other groups of birds. There is some sparse grazing in the middle and in the south of the site.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Nearby there are scattered buildings and traditional (intensive) agriculture, with grass production and grazing.

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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:

There are signs of overgrowing in the central part, around Sumpen, and grazing intensity ought to be increased.

(b) in the surrounding area:

The special rocky shore in the north ought to be grazed as there is a tendency towards overgrowing.

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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.

Giske was designated as a bird protection area (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.

This is the oldest and probably most important ringing site in Møre og Romsdal and perhaps the most important to date for ringing of waders in Norway. The level of ringing activity has varied, and is continuing. A new ringing hut was set up a few years ago. Several scientific studies on migratory waders have been carried out.

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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.

This is an important site for members of the Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF) and is visited regularly throughout the 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 71 25 84 43, 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 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. Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. (In Norwegian – on vegetation and areas of conservation value on the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

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 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 Ornithologically important wetlands in Norway).

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

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

Follestad, A. 1983. Morfologiske variasjoner hjå myrsnipe *Calidris alpina* (L.) under hausttrekk.

Hovudfagsoppgåve i zoologi, Univ. i Trondheim. (In Norwegian – on Morphology of dunlin in autumn). 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).

Michaelsen, T.C. 1997. Antipredator-adferd hjå rastende sandlo (*Charadrius hiaticula*) og myrsnipe (*Calidris alpina*) på høsttrekk. Hovedfagsoppgåve, Univ. Bergen. 43 s. (In Norwegian – on anti-predator behaviour in waders).

Rabben, J. 1984. Makkevika – Rasteplassen ved havet. Grøndahl & Søn Forslag A/S. 112 s. (In Norwegian – on staging in Makkevika).

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)