

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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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 2012

3. Country:

Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Giske Wetlands System: Rørvikvatnet
(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
ii) 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:

The area was formerly a breeding and staging site for wetland birds, and was of importance as one of two freshwater bodies on the island. Several regionally threatened bird species occur more or less regularly. Planting of shelter belts and overgrowing has reduced the areas value. At present there are only common bird species, whereas the more demanding species have become scarcer. Several rare and demanding species of duck were formerly present on an irregular basis, including suspected breeding, such as Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT), Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (NT) and Garganey *Anas querquedula* (EN), as well as a colony of the regional rarity Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus* which is normally a bird of uplands. All these species seem to have abandoned the site. The management plan (under preparation) has some actions for restoration of the site. After the plan this will be done in 2012.

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 Rørvikvatnet Nature Reserve

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62° 33' N 06° 07' E

9. General location:

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

Rørvikvatnet is situated on the island of Vigra in Giske municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, about 10 km north of Ålesund.

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

7,5 – 12,5 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

38.9 ha

12. General overview of the site:

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

Rørvikvatnet is a small and divided waterpool, surrounded by mire, shelter belts and some moor with drifting sand. The area was formerly a breeding and staging site for wetland birds, and was of importance

as one of two freshwater bodies on the island. Several regionally threatened bird species occur more or less regularly. Planting of shelter belts and overgrowing has reduced the areas value. At present there are only common bird species, whereas the more demanding species have become scarcer. Otherwise there is both botanical and quartergeological interest in the area of drifting sand.

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

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 4. A few common duck and wader species nest here, and the area is used by bathing gulls *Larus spp.* and resting grey heron *Ardea cinerea*. Breeding species are: Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Common Teal *Anas crecca*, Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT), Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (NT).

(National Red List is used).

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 from the earth's younger periods cover the site. Quartergeologically there are windborne sand in the east and peat and mires in the west. |
| Geomorphology | The site is part of a large flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass. |
| Substrate / soil type | Peat covers most of the site, although there is also some sand and bogs. |
| Water quality | Rørvikvatnet appears to be little affected by humus. |
| Water depth / fluctuations | Rørvikvatnet is shallow and with stable water levels. |
| 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 nature reserve is part of a large mire complex, probably of Atlantic raised bog type, although towards the east is the edge of a large sand dune landscape. Ålesund airport is in the north, with scattered buildings in the east.

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, although the site may be of interest in relation to the area's ground water.

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 • Ip • 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.

U, Ip

20. General ecological features:

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

Peat and poor mire (rainwater mires and mires poor in minerals) comprise most of the site. The sand dunes are the type with dune heath, and an artificial dune slack is found here. Rørvikvatnet is shallow, and surrounded by damp meadow and is important for staging waders, gulls, grey heron *Ardea cinerea*, skuas and wildfowl. Otter *Lutra lutra* is also found in the area.

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 RLS.*

Several regionally rare and to some extent threatened species occur such as *Carex flacca*, *Carex arenaria*, *Botrychium lunaria*, *Luzula campestris*, and *Senecio aquaticus*.

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.*

Birds:

Several rare and demanding species of duck were formerly present on an irregular basis, including suspected breeding, such as Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT), Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (NT) and Garganey *Anas querquedula* (EN), as well as a colony of the regional rarity Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus* which is normally a bird of uplands. All these species seem to have abandoned the site. A few

common duck and wader species do still nest, and the area is used by bathing gulls *Larus spp.* and resting Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (EN) was heard here around 2000. The Whooper Swan is wintering here (20 ind in 2009). The Norwegian Red List is used.

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:

The site is used for recreational purposes in winter.

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: Mainly private, although the state aviation authority (Avinor) owns a small part

(b) in the surrounding area: Private and state (Avinor).

25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Access is forbidden during the breeding season (from 1st April to 31st August). Rørvikvatnet is used for ice-skating in winter. The reserve paragraphs allow the landowners extraction of sand for personal use.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

There are scattered buildings and some farming in the east. The north is influenced by activities around the airport.

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:

Shelter belts cross the parts of the mire at a couple of spots, and Rørvikvatnet is surrounded by shelter belts and there is some self-seeding in the area. The shelter belts are probably a major contributing factor in the reduction of wetland birds in the area, and ought to have been removed some time ago. Sand extraction takes place in the west, which must surely have a negative impact on the protection of the sand dune system. Dumping of garden waste in the same area has led to establishment of alien plant species.

(b) in the surrounding area:

The airport may pose a pollution threat.

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.

Rørvikvatnet 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 are known.

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 take place, although members of the Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society probably visit the site several times per 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:

Froland, 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).

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

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. 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).

Ørskog, D. 1981. Lappspurven – påvist som rugefugl på Sunnmøre. Rallus 11: 80-81. (In Norwegian – on Breeding Lapland Longspur).

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