

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 Wetland System: Roaldsand
(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:

Today the site has a dune system with poor dynamics due to shelterbelt planting, and perhaps also due to the nearby runway, which has affected wind conditions. Whether building of the runway has affected water currents is uncertain, although stone has been used to protect agricultural land from erosion from waves and wind. Both planting of shelter belts and building work has considerably reduced the site's value botanically and ornithologically, as well as reducing the value of the habitat itself.

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 Roaldsand Bird Sanctuary

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62° 34'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.

Roaldsand is situated on the east side of Vigra in Giske municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, about 12 km north of Ålesund.

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

0 – 4 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

84.4 ha of which 83.2 is sea

12. General overview of the site:

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

Roaldsand Bird Sanctuary is a long stretch of sandy beaches and extensive shallow areas, exposed to the east. The sea area is important during migration and in winter for e.g. ducks and grebes, and the beaches are important for waders. The sand dunes are considered among the best developed in Møre og Romsdal, although exploitation has greatly reduced their value. There are several demanding and interesting plant species.

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 1. There are still some sand dunes, which are representative for this habitat type in the area. In addition there are large areas of sandy beach and shallow waters.

Criterion 2. The site has some red listed species like *Urtica urens* (VU) and Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU; Ann. II Berne Convention). Red list categories are given according to the national red list 2010.

Criterion 4. The site is an important part of the wetland system of Vigra and Giske, in that it is of importance for many bird species throughout the year. The sea area is important during migration and in winter for e.g. ducks and grebes, and the beaches are important for waders. See pt 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 EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

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. Quaternary geologically the area is dominated by windborne sand, whilst marine deposits are found in the north.
Geomorphology	The site is part of a larger sand dune system, with sand banks, sandy beaches and dune systems.
Substrate/ soil type	Sand (as well as some clay and silt amongst stone and rock) makes up most of the east-facing part, and there are sediments of silt and clay amongst stone and rock in the north.
Water depth / fluctuations	The shallow areas are probably very shallow with exposed sandbanks at low tide. 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).

Roaldsanden and the nearby areas are composed of windborne sand. The flat coastal landscape and areas of raised land are mainly of marine deposits and some peat. There is a small hill (Molnesfjellet) towards the north with mica schist (metamorphosed surface rock types from the Cambrian period), gabbro and gneiss from the earth's prehistory (autochthonous or mainly autochthonous rock types). In the north the site borders a road, a small settlement and breakwater with industry relating to fishery and a fishing harbour. There are spread buildings and farmland to the west, and the area is bordered by productive grasslands, cornfields and unfertilised dune meadows. Between the cultivated land and the reserve coniferous trees and willow have been planted to stop erosion and movement of sand. The site is close to an airport and is divided into two by the runway.

18. Hydrological values:

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

Extensive use of stone has reduced the erosion dynamics of the sandy beaches and sand dunes at the site. Planting of conifers as shelter belts on the sand dunes has also altered the natural dynamic processes.

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, E

20. General ecological features:

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

At Roaldsand there are large areas of shallow water and tidal areas of value to staging and wintering waterbirds. Gulls, cormorants, divers, grebes and seaducks use the shallow waters, whilst waders use the tidal zone. A few waders also breed. Otter *Lutra lutra* probably occurs in the area. On the landward side there are sand dunes with morphological primary dunes that have well established vegetation. A relatively wide belt of orache drift-wall and some fore dunes are present as well as a couple of smaller dune slacks.

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 and some threatened species occur including *Gentianella amarella*, *Gentianella campestris*, *Catabrosa aquatica* (NT), *Botrychium lunaria*, *Urtica urens* (VU), *Carex flacca*, *Luzula campestris*, *Carex arenaria*, and *Cakile maritima*. The Norwegian Red List is used.

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.*

Mammals:

Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU, Norwegian Red List 2010) is resident.

Birds:

The area is important as a staging and wintering site for various divers, grebes, diving ducks and waders. Good counts are lacking. Anyway some registration is done. It is registered approximate 100 breeding terns, mostly Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

Among the wintering species we find: approximate 10 Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, 100 individuals of Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT). 50 individuals of Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* 15-20 Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*,

In the migration we find the following species (among other): Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT), Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The area is also important during the breeding season, although it's importance has been reduced due to human exploitation

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 area is used for recreational activities such as walking, bathing, riding, birdwatching, and fishing using nets (not commercial). These activities occur on a small scale and do not affect the protected area adversely. A nearby school uses the area for educational purposes, and also help to clean the area.

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, although the state aviation authority (Avinor) own parts.

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

25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Used for recreational activities, albeit on a small scale.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Scattered dwellings and agricultural activities. There is a nearby airport, and the runway splits the site in two.

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:

Today the site has a dune system with poor dynamics due to shelterbelt planting, and perhaps also due to the nearby runway, which has affected wind conditions. Whether building of the runway has affected water currents is uncertain, although stone has been used to protect agricultural land from erosion from waves and wind. Both planting of shelter belts and building work has considerably reduced the site's value botanically and ornithologically, as well as reducing the value of the habitat itself.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Drainage from agricultural land flow into the site, although it would appear that seepage of nutrient-rich water is minimal. The nearby 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.

Roaldsand received status as a bird protection area (bird sanctuary) on 27th May 1988, as part of the Giske Wetlands System.

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

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

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

Røsberg, I. 1974. Inventering av område sør for flyplassen, Giske. Landsplan for verneverdige områder/forekomster. Miljøverndepartementet. Upubl. Rapport, delrapport 5. (In Norwegian – cataloguing of valuable sites south of the airport).

Søvik, N. 1945. Om vegetasjonen på flygesandfelt på Vigra, Sandøya og Gossen. Blyttia 3: 53-70. (In Norwegian – on Vegetation at Vigra, Sandøya and Gossen).

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).

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
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