

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2002

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Denmark

3. Name of wetland: Læsø

International No. 149; National No. 10

4. Geographical coordinates: 57° 12'N, 11° 10'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0-20 m

6. Area: 66,380 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Læsø in the northern part of Kattegat is a coastal site with extensive mudflats, shoals, sandbanks, islands and islets. Saltmarshes and coastal heathlands and a few cultivated areas with associated habitation. The site is the largest Danish tidal and saltmarsh area outside the Wadden Sea.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: **A** . B . C . D . **E** . F . G . **H** . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

AEH

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . **2** . 3 . 4 . 5 . **6** . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 6

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no* (Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

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

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

Criterion 1: The site is the largest Danish tidal and salt marsh area outside the Wadden Sea, a unique example of tidal and saltmarsh areas of the inner Danish waters.

Criterion 2: The site is a breeding area for bird species on the Danish red list, e.g. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Criterion 6: The site regularly supports more than 1% of the population of the Common Scooter (*Melanitta nigra*) 25,039 – 1,6% of the W Sib/W & N Eur/NW Afr population (count data 1999).

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is situated approx. 15 km east of Frederikshavn, Northern Jutland. Nearest town on the island of Læsø is Byrum. The administrative region is Nordjylland County.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

No specific information.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

No specific information.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

A coastal site with extensive mudflats, shoals, sandbanks, islands and islets. Saltmarshes and coastal heathland and a few cultivated areas with associated habitation. The site is the largest Danish tidal and saltmarsh area outside the Wadden Sea and of outstanding botanical interest.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

The salt meadows hold a rich flora since fertilizers have never been used. Grazing area for many centuries. In addition the site has a rich and varied algae flora .

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Resting and feeding area, especially for diving ducks, among others (count data 1999):

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*) 278

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) 1,100

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 2,418

Teal (*Anas crecca*) 826

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 1,755

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) 7,911

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) 3,225

The islands are breeding areas for:

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) – a decreasing species on the Danish “yellow” list

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) – a Danish red listed species until 1997

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – a Danish red listed species

19. Social and cultural values:

(e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

No specific information.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

Territorial waters, private, the State represented by the Ministry of Environment

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) grazing on the saltmarshes (b) farmland

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) A potential threat to the area is overgrowth due to a decrease in grazing pressure.

23. Conservation measures taken:

Nature conservation: Vester and Sønder Nyland, the southern Rønner of Læsø, Bovet, Sydodde-Knotterne cover a total of about 2,000 hectares of extensively grazed saltmarshes and meadows along the south coast of the island of Læsø. The islets of Knotterne form a scientific reserve. The saltmarshes of Rønnerne have been protected since 1980. The western area is closed to the public during the breeding period. In 1989 stricter conservation measures were introduced to reduce human disturbance and agricultural use for the benefit of both habitats and birds.

The site is identical with the EU Bird Protection Site No.10 and EU Habitat Protection Site No. 9.

An area inside the Ramsar site is a Wildlife reserve.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

No specific information.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

The University of Copenhagen has two field stations for research on the island of Læsø.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

No specific information.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Tours with horse-wagons along a certain route are regularly offered to tourists during summer.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Nature Conservation and administration of the Ramsar Convention and EU Bird and Habitat Directives: Ministry of Environment.

The legislation on Agriculture and Fisheries: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Nature Conservation Scheme: Nordjylland County.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Nordjylland County
Niels Bohrsvej 30
Postboks 8300
9220 Aalborg Ø

Telefon: 96 35 10 00
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Nordjyllands State Forest District
Sct. Laurentiivej 150
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30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Clausen, P. et al. 2001: Jagt- og forstyrrelsesfrie kerneområder for vandfugle: Status 1999. Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser. 84 pp. Arbejdsrapport fra DMU nr. 146.
 - Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1996: EF-fuglebeskyttelsesområder og Ramsarområder. Kort og områdebeskrivelser, status 1995. [With an English summary]. 273 pp.
 - Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1999: Birds of Danish SPAs – trends in occurrence. 119 pp.
 - Ministry of Environment and Energy, The National Forest and Nature Agency 1996: Danish Report 1996 on the Ramsar Convention, Denmark and Greenland. 105 pp. + 4 appendices.
 - Pihl, S. et al. 2001: Landsdækkende optælling af vandfugle, vinteren 1999/2000. [With an English summary]. Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser. 46 pp. Faglig rapport fra DMU nr. 356.
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