

# 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.

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date

Site Reference Number

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

May 2002

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### 2. Country:

Denmark (Greenland)

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### 3. Name of wetland:

Heden (Jameson Land)

International No. 389

National No. 9

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### 4. Geographical coordinates:

70°58'N, 24°4'W

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**5. Altitude:** (min. & max.) 0-250 m

**6. Area:** 252.390 hectares

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### 7. Overview:

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

Terrestrial/marine habitat area: 95/5%

An extensive level tundra area, which gently slopes from a plateau at about 400 m asl. towards the sea.

Today the single most important moulting area for barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) with c. 7% of flyway population.

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### 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 ! Q ! 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:

Approximate ranking: Vt G E A M Tp O

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9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12 below)

1      2       3       4      5       6      7      8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

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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).

As print and Word file on CD-rom.

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

Inge Thaulow, Ministry of Environment and Nature, Greenland Home Rule Government, P.O. Box 1614, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland. Ph.: + 299 34 67 18, fax + 299 32 52 86, e-mail: inth@gh.gl

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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.**

(Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. For the extensive level tundra with numerous wetlands
3. For the high diversity of breeding waterbirds.
4. Jamson Land is considered the most important moulting area for Barnacle geese (*Branta leycopsis*) (c.7% of flyway pop.) and one of the most important for Pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (c.2% of flyway pop.) in Greenland.
6. For the number of Pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (e.g. up to 3600 specimens (in 1988) which constitutes 1,6% of the E Greenland/Iceland/UK population) and Barnacle geese (*Branta leycopsis*) (e.g. 7,3% of E Greenland/Scotland/Ireland population) utilising the area.

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

The site is located in East Greenland in the municipality of Ittoqqortoormiit within Scorebysund Fjord at Jameson Land. The site is located c. 60 km from the town Ittoqqortoormiit with 600 people.

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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)

Many traversing rivers, some in deep canyons, with numerous lakes and ponds. The coast has extensive salt marshes and large mudflats that are exposed at low tide. Elsewhere, there are narrow beaches with more or less coarse sediments.

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

*No information available.*

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

Dwarf shrub heath, grassland and large areas of bare ground dominate the higher parts while moist dwarf shrub heath and marshes are found in the lower parts and along rivers and lake shores.

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**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)  
No detailed information available for R.I.S. at this point.

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

To species are present with numbers over the 1% threshold -Pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (e.g. up to 3600 specimens which constitutes 1,6% of the E Greenland/Iceland/UK population) and Barnacle geese (*Branta leycopsis*) (e.g. up to 2350 in 1988 which constitutes 7,3% of E Greenland/Scotland/Ireland population).

Sabine's gull (*Larus sabini*) (4 breeding pairs in 1982-84) and Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)(11 breeding pairs in 1982-84 -*probably the only known breeding area in Greenland*) have been record in the area.

Jameson Land holds a large population of muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) estimated at 3,000-3,600 animals. Other mammal includes: Arctic fox (*Alopex lagopus*), Stoat (*Mustela erminea*), Collared lemming (*Dicrostonyx torquatus*) and Arctic wolf (*Canis lupus*).

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**19. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The site is situated just south of the North and Northeast Greenland National Park. Some hunting takes place along the coast.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area  
a and b: Territorial ownership. No privately owned land.

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment  
a and b: As described in point 19.

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**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) and (b) past:

There has neither been any human induced changes' adversely affecting the physical structure of the site nor of the surroundings of the site. So the ecological potential of the site is expected to be preserved. Changes in the composition of the bird species using the site, might have been caused by factors affecting the birds in the whole of their distribution areas. During the 1980ies extensive oil exploration including seismic surveys was carried out. The area is still promoted by Greenlandic authorities for oil exploration activities. Traditional hunting have taken place since 1925 when people were allocated to this part of Greenland.

(a) and (b) present:

The same as in the past, including hunting mainly along the coast.

(a) and (b) potential:

An increase in hunting and traffic may reduce the present quality of the site as a moulting area for geese. There are no planned activities, which will change the physical structure of the site or the surroundings of the site. Any future activities will be regulated. See point 23 and 24.

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**23. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Areas in the site has been designated "Areas important to wildlife" (seabird breeding colonies\*, the entire area important to geese\*\* and the northern part to calving muskoxen\*\*) by the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum. In general the regulation apply only to activities in relation to mineral exploration. Fixed-wing aircrafts flying more than 500 m above the ground is not regulated.

\*In an area within 200 m from the colony, activities need approval in the period 1 June- 15 Sept. However navigating does not need any approval. Staying in the colony is not permitted.

\*\*In areas designated for staging, breeding and moulting geese all activities need approval in the periods 1-20 May, 15-31 May and 15 June – 10 Aug. (except from some single helicopter flights and navigation with motorised vessels with a maximum speed of 10 knots).

\*\*\* In areas designated for calving muskoxen activities need approval in the period 15 April-31. Maj. Helicopter flights more than 500 m above the ground is not regulated (Egevang & Boertmann 2001, Anonymous 2000).

The site is situated just south of the Greenland National Park in North and Northeast.

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

No management plan in preparation. However, within a 2-4 year time frame specific conservation measures of this Ramsar area could be expected following a new Nature protection act planned to enter into force in 2002. The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) recommends that a monitoring programme is relevant with a 10-20 years interval at this site.

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

NERI has published a status report for this an all other Ramsar areas in Greenland.

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

None.

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

Some hunting. No tourism activities.

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

The Greenland Home Rule Government. Ministry of Environment and Nature.

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

Ministry of Environment and Nature, Greenland Homerule Government, P.O. Box 1614, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland. Ph.: + 299 34 67 01, fax + 299 32 52 86

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Danish Report 1996 on the Ramsar Convention, Denmark and Greenland.

Ministry of Environment and Energy, The National Forest and Nature Agency  
Ramsar Areas in Greenland.

Department of Environment and Nature, Greenland. Unpublished report 1998.

Anonymous 2000. Rules for fieldwork and reporting regarding mineral resources (excluding hydrocarbons) in Greenland. Government of Greenland, Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum.

Egevang, C. & Boertmann, D. 2001. The Greenland Ramsar Sites, a status report. - National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Denmark. NERI Technical Report No. 346, 96 pp.

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Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**  
Telephone: **+41 22 999 0170** ! Fax: **+41 22 999 0169** ! e-mail: **ramsar@hq.iucn.org**