

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note 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. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date Site Reference Number

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

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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2005

3. Country:

Finland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Bird-lakes of Rantasalmi

5. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.

a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List):

Yes.

b) digital (electronic) format (optional):

Yes.

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62°01' N / 28°24' E

7. General location:

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

The four separate areas are situated in southern part of the province of Eastern Finland, in the municipality of Rantasalmi, 0.5–8 km southeast–northwest of Rantasalmi village and 26–38 km northwest of Savonlinna city centre. The municipality (563 sq.km of land) has ca. 4 600 residents. Savonlinna city (822 sq.km of land) has ca. 27 800 residents.

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

85–76 m, mean 76 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

1 109 ha

10. Overview:

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

The wetlands form a diverse and representative complex, characterized by flood meadows, reedbeds and partly a range of different mire types, for breeding and migrating wetland bird species.

11. 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 & 4, 8

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	3	<u>4</u>	5	6	7	8
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12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. 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).

1) A representative example of near-natural wetland types (dominated by shallow freshwater lakes) in the EU Boreal region, including 1 priority natural wetland habitat type of the EU Habitat Directive (bog woodland).

2) The vegetation of Kosulanlampi–Pieni Raudanvesi includes a few threatened and rare species, such as sedge species *Carex bohemica* (VU in Finnish Red List)

Threatened birds include White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*) (CR in Finnish Red List and Bird Directive Annex I), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus f. fuscus*) (VU) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*D. minor*) (VU). (see also criteria 4)

4) The importance of the lakes is considerable also in migration periods. About 15 further species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including e.g. several pairs of Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*), Crane (*Grus grus*) and Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*). Scarce species include e.g. Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*), Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) and Corncrake (*Crex crex*) (globally VU in IUCN Red List). Mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include Otter (*Lutra lutra*) at Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä.

13. 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:

Southern boreal forest vegetation zone.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmä. Puheenjohtaja: Ruuhijärvi, R., Sihteerit: Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Metsien suojelun tarve Etelä-Suomessa ja Pohjanmaalla. Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmän mietintö. Suomen ympäristö 437. Ympäristöministeriö. Helsinki.

Working group on the need for forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. Chairman Ruuhijärvi, R., Secretaries Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. The Finnish Environment 437. Ministry of the Environment.

14. 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: Geochemically included in Svecokarelian schist belt and in Ladoga – Bothnian Bay belt. Bedrock is composed of mica gneiss and mica schist, gabbro and diorite, granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite.

Origins: Natural

Soil type: Mainly peat and glacial ground moraine with a small area of glacial gravel and sand.

Water quality: General quality varies from excellent in Vaahersalonlampi to passable in Pieni Raudanvesi. Eutrophic; mesotrophic in Vaahersalonlampi.

Depth of water: Shallow, 0.5–3 m in most areas. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 155 days, mean annual temperature ca. +3 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 600 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from mid November to late April. Southern boreal forest vegetation zone.

15. 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 climate and general geological features are much the same in the catchment areas as in the Ramsar sites. Look partly chapter 14.

16. Hydrological values:

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

None significant.

17. 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)
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Inland: O, W, Ts, Xp, U & Xf

L	M	N	<u>Q</u>	P	Q	R	Sp	Ss	Tp	<u>Ts</u>	<u>U</u>	Va	Vt	<u>W</u>	<u>Xf</u>	<u>Xp</u>	Y	<u>Zg</u>	Zk(b)
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Human-made:

<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Zk(c)
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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.

O – Permanent freshwater lakes

W – Shrub-dominated wetlands

Ts – Seasonally flooded meadows

Xp – Forested peatlands

Xf – Seasonally flooded forests

U – Non-forested peatlands

18. General ecological features:

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

The area includes ca. 630 ha of water and ca. 170 ha of mires. Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä covers 698 ha, Kosulanlampi 119 ha, Pieni Raudanvesi 143 ha and Vaahersalonlampi 149 ha. The wetlands are connected to Lake Haukivesi.

Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä is a shallow lake with extensive growths of Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The southern and northern parts are characterized by flood meadows and poor fens of ca. 20 different mire types. The lake is connected to Putkilahti Bay through a narrow sound, which has been dredged.

Kosulanlampi and Pieni Raudanvesi are luxuriant and overgrowing lakes with extensive growths of Common Reed and Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*). The vegetation is diverse and representative. Pieni Raudanvesi is the head of a long and narrow inlet of Suuri Raudanvesi. The centre of Rantasalmi village situates between the wetlands.

Vaahersalonlampi is a narrow sound of Lake Haukivesi, dominated by growths of Common Reed. It is bordered by extensive sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows and an Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) zone, which gradually transforms into a pasturage of Vaahersalo with diverse meadows and an old-growth Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) forest.

19. 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.***

The vegetation of Kosulanlampi–Pieni Raudanvesi includes a few threatened and rare species, such as sedge species *Carex bohemica* (VU in Finnish Red List) and *Crassula* (*Crassula aquatica*) (NT). Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä includes a few rare species, such as stitchwort species *Stellaria fennica* (NT). Many demanding plant species of herb-rich forests occur in the pasturage of Vaahersalo, such as Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Wood Stichwort (*Stellaria nemorum*) and violet species *Viola selkirkii*.

20. 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.***

Threatened birds include White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*) (CR in Finnish Red List), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus f. fuscus*) (VU) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*D. minor*) (VU). About 15 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including e.g. several pairs of Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*), Crane (*Grus grus*) and Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*). Scarce species include e.g. Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*), Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) and Corncrake (*Crex crex*) (globally VU). The importance of the lakes is considerable also in migration periods.

Mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include Otter (*Lutra lutra*) at Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä. Vaahersalonlampi is also an important spawning area for several fish species.

21. Social and 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.

Vaahersalo pasturage (110 ha) is a valuable area of traditional landscape.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Private-owned and state-owned (5 %).

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned.

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Fishing occurs in certain areas.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry and agriculture are carried out in the surroundings.

24. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

All the lakes are in the process of overgrowing. The discharge of effluent waters from the centre of Rantasalmi into Pieni Raudanvesi has increased eutrophication and the quality of water has worsened. A peat mining area northwest of Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä increases the humus contents of the lake. American Mink (*Mustela vison*) and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) may cause damage to the breeding of birds.

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

The whole site is included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated as SPA and Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä also as SCI. The wetlands are included in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme and the mires of Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä are included in the Mire Conservation Programme. A management plan for Pieni Raudanvesi was established in 1993. A biomanipulation program concerning the fish-management was started at Pieni Raudanvesi in the 1990s to reduce the eutrophication. Private protected areas cover 124 ha at Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä.

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Conservation of the Natura 2000 sites will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act and Water Act. A preliminary restoration plan for Kosulanlampi was drafted in 1994 and for Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä in 1996. A management plan for Vaahersalonlampi is under preparation.

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The breeding bird fauna was surveyed in the 1970s and during the 1990s. The aquatic vegetation of Vaahersalonlampi was mapped in 1994 and 1998. The water quality is monitored especially at Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä because of the neighbouring peat mining area.

28. Current conservation education:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None significant.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

A birdwatching tower has been constructed both at Putkilahti–Ruskeaperä and Vaahersalonlampi.

30. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

a) South Savo Regional Environment Centre, **b)** Ministry of the Environment.

31. 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.

South Savo Regional Environment Centre, Jääkärintie 14, FIN-50100 Mikkeli, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:

scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Rassi, P., Alanen, A., Kanerva, T. & Mannerkoski, I. (eds.) 2001: The 2000 Red List of Finnish Species. Ministry of the Environment & Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki.

Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus 1991. Pienen Raudanveden pesivä kosteikkolinnusto 1991. Manuscript. Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus.

Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus 1994. Vaahersalonlammen vesikasvikartoitus 1994. Manuscript. Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus.

Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus 1998. Vaahersalonlammen vesilintujen piste- ja kiertolaskenta sekä yölaulajien laskenta 1998. Manuscript. Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus.

Hiltunen, P. 1993. Pienen Raudanveden hoitosuunnitelma; Rantasalmi. Mikkelin vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri 0593A025.

Hiltunen, P. 1994. Kosulanlammen kunnostus; Rantasalmi. Mikkelin vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri 0593A240.

Laakso, J. 1996. Putkilahti-Ruskeaperän linnustolaskennat 1996. Manuscript. Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus.

Leivo, M., Asanti, T., Koskimies, P., Lammi, E., Lampolahti, J., Mikkola-Roos, M. & Virolainen, E. 2002. Suomen tärkeät lintualueet FINIBA. BirdLife Suomen julkaisuja 4, Suomen graafiset palvelut, Kuopio.

Ustinov, A. 1996. Putkilahti-Ruskeaperän kunnostussuunnitelma. Manuscript. Etelä-Savon ympäristökeskus.

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