

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:

Lake Lämpträsket

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):

60°02' N / 23° 39' 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 unbroken area is situated in southwestern part of the province of Southern Finland, in Karjaa city, 1.5 km south of the city centre. The city (197 sq.km of land) has ca. 8 900 residents.

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

12–5 m, mean 6 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

199 ha

10. Overview:

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

A natural eutrophic lake with valuable flora and both breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna. The lake is the westernmost known site in the world where the endangered naiad species *Najas tenuissima* exists. The large numbers of staging Smews emphasize the importance of the bird fauna.

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).

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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 a near-natural wetland type (shallow freshwater lake) in the EU Boreal region, including 2 priority natural wetland habitat types (bog woodland, Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods).
- 2) Threatened birds (VU in Finnish Red List) include Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*). 5–7 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including e.g. Bittern (*Botaurus*

stellaris), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) and Crane (*Grus grus*). The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 110–150 pairs of 10–13 species, e.g. Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*-regionally rare) with 10–15 pairs and Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) with 15–20 pairs, the only inland colony in Finland.

4) Lämpträsket is an important staging area for waterfowl during migration periods. In autumn, the highest daily counts reach >200 Smews (*Mergus albellus*-Birds Directive), representing the peak numbers in Finland. The counts also include e.g. >100 Whooper Swans (*Cygnus Cygnus*-Birds Directive), >150 Greylag Geese (*Anser anser*) and >400 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*-game birds) and >700 Wigeons (*Anas Penelope*- (Finland's responsibility species).

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:

Hemiboreal 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 South Finland high metamorphic area. Bedrock is composed of microcline granite, granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite.

Origins: Natural. Water-level was lowered in the 1930s.

Soil type: Mainly silt, clay and peat.

Water quality: General quality passable. Eutrophic.

Depth of water: 0.5–2 m. Water-level normally high in spring because of melting snow.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 175 days, mean annual temperature ca. +5 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 750 mm. Waters ice-covered normally from late November to early April. Hemiboreal 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).

General geology and geomorphological features as well as soil types and climate are of same type than in the site. General land use includes mainly private forestry and agriculture, and also one town with a surrounding suburban area.

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*.

Inland: O, Xf, Tp

Note: Several species characteristic of brackish water are mentioned in section 18 but they are rather a special feature of the flora as the lake itself is not (anymore) influenced by sea. The reason for the occurrence of these might lie in the prehistoric past when the area was covered by sea.

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 – Freshwater lakes

Xf – Wooded swamps and seasonally flooded forests

Tp – Freshwater pools

18. General ecological features:

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

Läppträsket is classified as a natural eutrophic lake of *Typha-Alisma* -type with comparatively clear waters and luxuriant aquatic vegetation. The area includes ca. 130 ha of water. >122 vascular plant species occur in the wetland area. Submerged vegetation is exceptionally rich with ca. 20 vascular plant species, including several species

characteristic of brackish water. Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) are abundant. Margins are covered by extensive reedbeds with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) as the dominant species, together with sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows and growths of Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*). Black Alder (*Alnus glutinosus*) swamps and bog woodland occur in certain areas. Most of the lake is surrounded by agricultural land.

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.***

Threatened submerged plants include naiad species *Najas tenuissima* (EN in Finnish Red List, Habitats Directive Annex II). Lämpträsket is known as the westernmost site in the world for this species. Ca. 20 demanding aquatic plant species occur in the lake.

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.***

See justification of criteria.

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.

The site is a part of a nationally important landscape area. An important prehistorical monument with provincially important rural biotopes (5 ha), is situated beside the lake. Significant values also include birdwatching and outdoor recreation.

The nationally important landscape areas and traditional landscapes have been analyzed by the Landscape Working Party in 1992, commissioned by Ministry of the Environment, to stress the urgency of organizing management for this type of landscape. Although the areas are classified, they are not officially protected by law.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site: Private-owned.

b) in the surrounding area: Private-owned

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Recreation fishing occurs regularly.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Agriculture is carried out in the surroundings. A main road passes the northern edge within 50 m.

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

Adverse factors affecting the ecological character of the site: Water-level was lowered by 0.5–1 m in 1930. Wastewaters of Karjaa city were discharged into the lake still in the 1970s. The further eutrophication has been accelerated by nutrients dissolving from clayfields. Recreation fishing causes disturbance to the breeding of some waterfowl species. 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 area is included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI, and in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme.

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 site will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act.

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 has been studied since the early 1920s and regularly since the 1990s. Observation of migratory waterfowl and other birds have been regular done since the 1970s. The flora was surveyed in 1936–39 and 1983–84. The benthic fauna was studied in 1984. The history of Lake Lappträsket was studied in 1976 with the help of pollen and diatom analysis. The oxygen regime is monitored in winter.

28. Current conservation education:

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

The area is an important education site for the schools of Karjaa city.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Läppträsket is a popular birdwatching site in spring and autumn. Two birdwatching towers and a nature trail have been constructed. Recreation fishing occurs especially in spring and summer.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

a) Uusimaa 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.

Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 36, FIN-00521 Helsinki, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:

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

Helminen, O. Walls, S. 1984. Förändringar i sjöfågelfaunan i Karistraktens sjöar under 40 år. Lintumies 19:3.

Kurto, A. 1985. Luonnoninventointi 1983–84. Karjaan Lepinjärven kasvillisuus, kasvisto ja pohjaeläimistö. Manuscript. Karjaan kaupungin ympäristönsuojelulautakunta.

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

Rusanen, P. 1999. Karjaan Läppträsketin Natura-alueen pesimälinnusto 1999. Manuscript. Uudenmaan ympäristökeskus.

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