

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:

Lakes Heinä-Suvanto and Hetejärvi

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):

63°09' N / 26°08' 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 two separate areas are situated in northern part the provinces of Eastern Finland and Western Finland, in the municipalities of Viitasaari city and Keitele, 16–20 km northeast of Viitasaari city centre. The distance between the areas is 1 km. The municipalities (1 732 sq.km of land) have ca. 10 900 residents.

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

139–133 m, mean 135 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

1 224 ha

10. Overview:

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

The lakes form the most valuable area for both breeding and migrating wetland birds in Central Finland.

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

<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 (shallow freshwater lakes, peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, including 1 priority natural wetland habitat type of the EU habitats directive (bog woodland).

2) Threatened birds include at the national level at least Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) (VU in Finnish Red List). About 21 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with ca. 20 pairs, Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) with 18 pairs, Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) with >10 pairs Crane (*Grus grus*) with 10 pairs and Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) with five pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Ural Owl (*Strix uralensis*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 130 pairs of 12–14 species and the breeding waders include about 80 pairs of nine species.

Threatened mammals include Russian Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys volans*) (VU).

4) The lakes are important staging areas for waterfowl and waders during migration periods. The highest daily counts in spring may reach >150 individuals of Whooper Swans and >100 of Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis*) (Finland's responsibility species) with smaller numbers of Smews (*Mergus albellus*), Wood Sandpipers and Ruffs.

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 Central Finland granitoid area. Bedrock is composed of mica schists, intercalated arkosites and conglomerates, granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite.

Origins: Natural

Soil type: Mainly peat with smaller areas of glacial ground moraine, silt and clay.

Water quality: General quality good. Mesotrophic. Mire waters dystrophic.

Depth of water: <1.5 m. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 155 days, mean annual temperature ca. +2 °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: Ts, U, Xp, O, M, Xf & Tp

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

1	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.

Ts – Seasonally flooded meadows and sedge marshes

U – Non-forested peatlands

Xp – Forested peatlands

O – Permanent freshwater lakes

Tp – Permanent freshwater pools

Xf – Seasonally flooded forests

M – Permanent rivers and streams

18. General ecological features:

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

Heinä-Suvanto covers 965 ha and Hetejärvi 259 ha. The area includes ca. 600 ha of mires and ca. 450 ha of water. Heinä-Suvanto is an alluvium restricted to Lake Suvantojärvi. An open water area of ca. 45 ha is formed by a canal traversing Heinä-

Suvanto. Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) is dominating, but also sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows and bush (e.g. *Salix* spp.) zones are extensive. On the western part there is a mire zone of various types. The wetland is surrounded by forests and ditched mires.

Hetejärvi is an overgrowing lake with extensive growths of Water Horsetail. Open-water area is composed of a series of small ponds. Wide sedge-meadows and quaking bogs occur on shore areas. Mesotrophic vegetation occurs in certain places. The lake is surrounded by ditched mires.

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 flora includes the regionally threatened Sceptred Lousewort (*Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum*).

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 at least Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) (VU in Finnish Red List). Ca. 21 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with ca. 20 pairs, Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) with 18 pairs, Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) with >10 pairs Crane (*Grus grus*) with 10 pairs and Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) with five pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Ural Owl (*Strix uralensis*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 130 pairs of 12–14 species and the breeding waders include ca. 80 pairs of nine species.

Threatened mammals include Russian Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys volans*) (VU).

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.

None significant.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Private-owned and state-owned (10 %).

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned.

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry is 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:

The natural state of Hetejärvi is influenced by the earlier lowering of water-level. Lake Heinä-Suvanto was drained with the dredging of River Suvantojoki in the early 19th century. Overgrowing is a major problem in both lakes.

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn affects negatively on the site. 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 site is included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI, and in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme. A private protected area of 389 ha was established at Heinä-Suvanto in 1995. Private protected areas at Lake Hetejärvi cover the whole site.

A restoration plan for Heinä-Suvanto was established in 1986 and renewed in the 1990s. New areas of open water have been dredged since 1996 in an area of five hectares.

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 outside the already protected areas will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act and Water Act. A management and land use plan for Heinä-Suvanto will be established in the near future and water-level will be raised by 0.5 m. A restoration plan for Hetejärvi is in the making and plans include raising of water-level.

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 of Heinä-Suvanto was surveyed in 1986 and 1999 and of Hetejärvi in 1973, 1992 and 2000. The effects of restoration on bird fauna are monitored. The vegetation of Heinä-Suvanto was surveyed in 1985 and 1999. The restoration measures are monitored.

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.

Only few visitors. Two birdwatching towers and one nature trail have been constructed.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

a) Central Finland 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.

Central Finland Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 110, FIN-40101 Jyväskylä, 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.

Hakkari, T. 1999. Heinä-Suvannon lintuvesi – haaste kunnostajalle. Ympäristörakentaja 1/99.

Keski-Suomen lintutieteellinen yhdistys ry. 1999. Viitasaaren Heinä-Suvannon linnustaselvitys 1999. Manuscript. Keski-Suomen lintutieteellinen yhdistys ry.

Kärki, S. 1986. Heinäsuvannon lintuveden kunnostus, Viitasaari. Keski-Suomen vesipiiri 370.

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.

Ruokolainen, K. 2000. Keiteleen Hetejärven vesi- ja rantalinnuston seuranta kesällä 2000. Manuscript. Pohjois-Savon ympäristökeskus.

Väänänen, V-M. 1992. Lintuvesiohjelman kohteiden kunnostuksen ja suojelun tarve ja kiireellisyys Kuopion läänissä. Manuscript. Kuopion lääninhallitus.

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