

# 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.

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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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PO Box 140, FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland. Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

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

January 2005

## 3. Country:

Finland

## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Salamajärvi National Park

## 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° 15' N / 24° 45' 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 nearly unbroken area, consisting of one large area and two very small near by areas, is situated in northeastern part of the province of Western Finland, in the municipalities of Kinnula, Kivijärvi and Perho, 17 km east of Perho village. The municipalities (1 698 sq.km of land) have ca. 6 900 residents.

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

205–160 m, mean 183 m.

## 9. Area: (in hectares)

9 261 ha

## 10. Overview:

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

The mires and waterbodies form a diverse wetland complex with a wild, pristine character and from the most representative mire area in southern part of the aapa mire zone of Ostrobothnia.

## 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) It is a representative example of natural and near-natural wetland types, dominated by peatlands in the EU Boreal region, including 3 priority natural wetland habitat types of the European Habitat Directive (aapa mires, bog woodland, active raised bogs).

2) About 25 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with about 200 pairs, Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) with 90 pairs, both Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) and Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*) with about 50 pairs, and Crane (*Grus grus*) with ca. 20 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Red-throated and Black-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata* and *arctica*), Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*) as well as Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and Merlin (*F. columbarius*). These includes also 6 nationally threatened bird species.

Species of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II also include Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*, IUCN Red List: VU) and Wild Forest Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus fennicus*).

This includes.

2 nationally (1 globally) threatened mammal species, 1 threatened vascular plant species.

4) The breeding waterfowl is abundant at the watery mires and lakes, including several pairs of Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*). The breeding waders include more than 400 pairs of 13 species in the National Park.

### **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:**

Middle 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 mainly of granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite and granite with smaller areas of mica schists, intercalated arkosites and conglomerates.

**Origins:** Natural.

**Hydrology:** Raised bogs dependent on rain water and aapa mires on surface waters.

**Soil type:** Peat, glacial hummocky and ground moraine with small areas of glacial fluvial gravel and sand.

**Water quality:** Lakes and ponds oligotrophic–mesotrophic. Mire waters dystrophic.

**Depth of water:** Ca. 2–20 m in most lakes and ponds. 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. 550 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from late November to mid April. Middle 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.

Virgin mires play an important role in maintenance of water quality.

### 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: U, Xp, O, Tp, Ts & M, Xf

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.

U – Non-forested peatlands

Xp – Forested peatlands

Xf – Seasonally flooded forests

O – Permanent freshwater lakes

Tp – Permanent freshwater pools

Ts – Seasonal freshwater pools

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.

The site represents the Mire vegetation region of Southern aapa mires. The area includes ca. 5 100 ha of mires and ca. 500 ha of water. Salamajärvi National Park is a representative of the barren watershed area of Suomenselkä, characterized by mires, small waterbodies and forests. Mires are abundant with most of them representing the aapa mire type. The large and open *Sphagnum fuscum* bogs are noteworthy. The forests are mostly barren and stony, dominated by Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

## 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 vascular plants include Ghost Orchid (*Epipogium aphyllum*) (VU in Finnish Red List). Near-threatened species include e.g. Brown Beak Sedge (*Rhynchospora fusca*) and Early Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*). Near-threatened bryophytes include moss species *Sphagnum subnitens*.

## 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 (VU in Finnish Red List) include (6 species) e.g. Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Merlin (*F. columbarius*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*). Ca. 25 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with >200 pairs, Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) with 90 pairs, both Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) and Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*) with >50 pairs, and Crane (*Grus grus*) with >20 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Red-throated and Black-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata* and *arctica*), Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). The breeding waterfowl is abundant at the watery mires and lakes, including several pairs of Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*). The breeding waders include >400 pairs of 13 species in the National Park.

Threatened mammals include Wolf (*Canis lupus*) (EN) and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) (EN) (globally VU). Species of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II also include Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) (for both species Finnish populations are excepted), Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Wild Forest Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus fennicus*). The mires form a very important habitat for the near-threatened Wild Forest Reindeer, which is Finland's responsibility species. Re-introductions of the species

were carried out in the 1970s, and the population has increased up to ca. 1 000 individuals in Suomenselkä watershed area. Near-threatened insects include heteropteran bug species *Gerris sphagnetorum*.

**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.

Significant values include environmental education, scientific research and outdoor recreation.

**22. Land tenure/ownership:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

State-owned for the major part (98 %).

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned.

**23. Current land (including water) use:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Licensed recreation fishing is permitted with some restrictions. Picking of mushrooms and berries is permitted in non-restricted areas.

The national parks all have much the same regulations, with certain restrictions depending on site, and are important recreation areas also

(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:**

Ditches of drained areas (ca. 125 ha) influence to some extent on the quality of running waters, carried out in the past and is still effecting in some parts of the site. Forests have been very intensively logged in some areas before the establishment of the National Park.

**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 as SCI and Heikinjärvenneva Mire (313 ha) also as SPA. A major part of the mires is included in

the Mire Conservation Programme. Salamajärvi National Park (6 243 ha) was established in 1982. Salamaperä Strict Nature Reserve (1 271 ha) was established in 1956. Kirkkoneva–Juurikkasuo Mire Protection Area (356ha) is included in the site.

A master plan for the National Park was established in 1985. One Restricted Area has been established in the middle parts, where access is prohibited outside the marked trails from March to mid July. Hunting and use of motor boats is prohibited in the Park as well as use of motor vehicles outside the main roads. Restoration of mires was carried out under the EU Life project in 1996–99 by filling up ditches and cutting trees.

Re-introductions of the Wild Forest Reindeer were carried out in the 1970s, and the population has increased up to ca. 1 000 individuals in Suomenselkä watershed area. Suomenselkä (geographical) watershed area is a larger area around the site. A part of Reindeers of watershed area live in the Ramsar site.

In Salamanperä Strict Nature Reserve access is permitted only by foot on marked trails.

#### **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.

#### **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 studied in the 1960s and during 1981–83, and at Heikinjärvenneva Mire also in 1993. The flora was surveyed in the early 1960s and in the mid 1980s. The phytoplankton was studied in the 1990s.

The impact of restoration measures is monitored. The monitoring is an on-going process, started in 1996 and carried out in every ca. five years.

#### **28. Current conservation education:**

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

Various educational themes are carried out in the National Park.

#### **29. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

An information cabin with accommodation facilities, three nature trails (12 km), four camping sites, an observation tower and a network of trails (60 km) have been constructed in the National Park. The Park had ca. 7 000 visitors in 2003. Some of the lakes are important for recreation fishing.

### **30. Jurisdiction:**

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

**a)** Metsähallitus – Forest and Park Service, Natural Heritage Services, Western Finland, **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.

Metsähallitus – Forest and Park Service, Natural Heritage Services, Western Finland,  
PO Box 38, FIN-39701 Parkano, Finland.

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### **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.

Eloranta, P. 1995. Phytoplankton of the nationalpark lakes in central and southern Finland. *Annales Botanici Fennici* 32.

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.

Liedenpohja, M. & Luttinen, R. 1984. Salamajärven kansallispuiston ja Salamanperän luonnonpuiston kasvillisuus. Metsähallitus SU 4:59.

Metsähallitus 1985. Salamajärven kansallispuiston runkosuunnitelma. Metsähallitus SU 4:70.

Ryssy, J., Peurala, A., Rautiainen, S.E. & Sykkö, M. 1982. Salamajärven kansallispuiston linnuston perusinventointi kesällä 1982. Metsähallitus SU 4:43.

Salonen, H. 1985. Salamajärven kansallispuistossa sijaitsevan Koirajoen rantojen kasvillisuus ja kasvisto. Jyväskylän yliopiston biologian laitoksen tiedonantoja 41.

Vierimaa, J. 1993. Perhon Heikinjärvennevan linnustolaskenta. Manuscript. Metsähallitus, Länsi-Suomen puistoalue.

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