

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:

Timo Asanti & Pekka Rusanen, Finnish Environment Institute, Nature Division,
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:

Torransuo 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):

60°44' N / 23°37' 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 western corner of the province of Southern Finland, in the municipality of Tammela, 8 km south of Tammela village and 6 km south of Forssa city. The municipality (642 sq.km of land) has ca. 6 400 residents. Forssa city (249 sq.km of land) has ca. 18 500 residents.

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

130 – 100 m, mean 107 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

3 093 ha

10. Overview:

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

Torransuo is the largest mire area in Southern Finland still in natural state and includes a valuable wetland 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).

1, 2 & 3

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | 3 | 4 | 5 | <u>6</u> | 7 | 8 |
|----------|----------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|

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 natural and near-natural wetland types (dominated by peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, including 2 priority natural wetland habitat types (active raised bogs, bog woodland).

2) The site supports 3 nationally threatened bird species, 1 nationally threatened mammal species, 1 nationally threatened lichen species and ca. 25 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including significant southern populations of Golden

Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) with more than 100 pairs and Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with more than 50 pairs. Common species also include Crane (*Grus grus*) with up to 30 pairs and Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) with fluctuating numbers up to 50 males at Lake Talpianjärvi. Scarce species include Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).

Threatened mammals in Finland include Russian Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys volans*-VU) and mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II also include Lynx (*Lynx lynx*).

6) The mires form an important staging area for Cranes during migration periods, peak counts reaching 1 000 individuals in autumn (1%=750).

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 South Finland high metamorphic area. Bedrock is composed mainly of microline granite, mica schist and mica gneiss.

Origins: Natural.

Hydrology: Raised bogs dependent on rain waters.

Soil type: Mainly peat with smaller areas of silt and clay, glacial ground moraine and glacial gravel and sand. Peat layer 6 m thick on average.

Water quality: Mire waters dystrophic.

Depth of water: Very shallow. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 170 days, mean annual temperature ca. +4 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 600 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from December to early 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).

Data not available.

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) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|

Inland: U, Xp, Ts & Tp + W

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

Human-made:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Zk(c) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|

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

Ts – Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils

Tp – Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools

W – Shrub-dominated wetlands

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 presents the mire vegetation region of concentric bogs in Southern Finland, including ca. 2 700 ha of mires. The 15 km long mire area is a complex of five interconnected active raised bogs. The middle parts are characterized by ombrotrophic *Sphagnum fuscum* bogs, Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) bogs and hollow bogs. Wet fenny strips alternate with elongated dry hummocks together with hundreds of small pools. Sedge (*Carex* spp.) fens and shrub-pine swamps occur on edges of mires and of forested islands. Only small areas of forest with mineral soil occur in the National Park. Lake Talpianjärvi is paludificated and overgrown by sedges and bulrushes (*Typha* spp.) with only few small ponds.

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 lichens include *Nephroma laevigatum* (EN in Finnish Red List). A few rare plant species occur in the mires, such as the regionally threatened Slender Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum gracile*).

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 Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) (EN in Finnish Red List), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) (VU) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) (VU).

Tens of Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) and Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis*) stage at Lake Talpianjärvi.

The mires form an important area for lepidopteran fauna, such as moth species *Aspitates gilvaria* (NT) and regionally threatened Frigga's Fritillary (*Clossiana frigga*).

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, outdoor recreation and birdwatching.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

State-owned for the major part (ca. 85 %).

(b) in the surrounding area:

private owned

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

None significant

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry and agriculture are carried out in the surroundings. A smallish peat-mining area is situated on northwestern side.

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

The earlier lowering of water-level, and nutrients leaching from surrounding fields have caused eutrophication and overgrowing of Lake Talpianjärvi. Forested islands and margins of Torronsuo Mire have been logged in many places.

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. Torronsuo National Park (2 947 ha) was established in 1990. Restoration of mires was carried out under the EU Life project in 1996–99, in an area of 150 ha, by filling up ditches and cutting trees.

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. Lake Talpianjärvi will be added on the National

Park. A management and land use plan for the National Park will be established in the near future.

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 1984–85 and 1991, and at Lake Talpianjärvi in 2000. The volume of bird populations was estimated in 1986 by using line transect censuses. The flora and lepidopteran fauna was surveyed in the 1990s. Detailed studies on the structure of mires were carried out already in the 1960s. The impact of restoration measures is monitored.

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 Visitor Centre.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Häme Visitor Centre is situated in the vicinity of the National Park. Two nature trails (12 km), a birdwatching tower and a campfire site have been constructed. In winter there are 45 km of maintained ski trails. The Park had ca. 20 000 visitors in 2003.

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, Southern 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, Southern Finland,
PO Box 94, FIN-01301 Vantaa, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:

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

Järventausta, K. 1996. Perhostutkimuksia eräillä Etelä-Suomen luonnonsuojelualueilla, osa I. Metsähallituksen luonnonsuojelujulkaisuja A 57.

Kotiluoto, R., Talvia, O. & Toivonen, H. 1996. Torronsuon kansallispuiston kasvillisuus. Metsähallituksen luonnonsuojelujulkaisuja A 60.

Leivo, M. 2000. Suomen kansainvälisesti tärkeät lintualueet. Linnut-vuosikirja 1999. (English summary: Important Bird Areas in Finland).

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.

Lounais-Hämeen Lintuharrastajat ry. 1991. Torronsuon kansallispuiston linnustaselvitys 1991. Manuscript. Metsähallitus.

Rusanen, P. 2000. Talpianjärven linnustaselvitys 2000. Manuscript. Hämeen ympäristökeskus.

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