

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 2004

3. Country:

Finland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Valkmusa 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°34' N / 26°40' 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 is situated in southeastern part of the province of Southern Finland, in the municipalities of Kotka city and Pyhtää, 8 km northwest of Kotka city centre. The municipalities (557 sq.km of land) have ca. 60 100 residents.

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

64 – 18 m, mean 24 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

1 710 ha

10. Overview:

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

Munasuo Mire is the largest and the most valuable raised plateau bog in Finland. Kananiemensuo Mire is a representative unity composed of several mire types. The site is especially valuable for butterfly 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 & 3

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 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 a near-natural wetland types (peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, including 1 priority natural wetland habitat type (active raised bogs).

2) 11–17 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including e.g. Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), Crane (*Grus grus*) and southern populations of Golden Plover (*Pluvialis*

apricaria) and Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*). The site supports also 5 nationally threatened moth species (see section 20).

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 Rapakivi granites area. Bedrock is composed of rapakivi granite.

Origins: Natural.

Hydrology: Raised bogs dependent on rain water.

Soil type: Mainly peat with small areas of glacial hummocky moraine and glacial fluvial gravel and sand.

Water quality: Dystrophic.

Depth of water: Very shallow in ponds. 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. 650 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).

General land use includes mainly private forestry and agriculture.

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 & Xf, Tp & Ts

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|-------|
| L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | Sp | Ss | Tp | Ts | U | Va | Vt | W | Xf | Xp | 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

Xf – Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands

Tp – Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools

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

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 plateau bogs, including >1 400 ha of mires. The site is composed of three separate mire complexes, characterized by ombrotrophic active raised bogs, poor fens, numerous small ponds and flarks and small forested islands. >30 mire types have been classified in the area. Vegetation includes species of poor mire types of Southern Finland.

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.**

None significant.

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.**

In migration periods, several hundreds of Cranes and tens of Geese (*Anser* spp.) and Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) stage in the mires.

Mires form an important area for lepidopteran fauna including several threatened and near-threatened species, such as moth species (VU in Finnish Red List) *Gynaephora selenitica*, *Hypoxystis pluviaria*, *Lacanobia w-latinum*, *Spaelotis ravida* and *Thalera fimbrialis*.

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 outdoor recreation and birdwatching.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

State-owned.

(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 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:

Drainage ditches near the site may affect negatively on the site. Forested islands and margins of mires 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 as SCI. Munasuo Mire is included in the Mire Conservation Programme and Kananiemensuonharju in the Esker Conservation Programme. Valkmusa National Park (1 720 ha) was established in 1996 and after enlargements it covers the whole site at the moment.

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

A management and land use plan for the National Park was elaborated.

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 1985 and 1991. The flora was surveyed in 1968 and 1991. The lepidopteran fauna was studied in 1988–92. The morphology and evolution of Munasuo Mire was studied in 1991.

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 and a nature trail (2 km) have been constructed in the National Park. The Park had ca. 5 000 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.

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.

Seppä, H. 1991. Kananiemensuon ja Mustajärvensuon linnusto ja sen suojelu. Manuscript. Metsähallitus.

Seppä, H. 1991. Pyhtään Munasuon kasvillisuus, morfologia ja kehityshistoria. Pro gradu-tutkielma. Helsingin yliopisto, Maantieteen laitos.

Suoknuuti, M. & Seppä, H. 1991. Kananiemensuon ja Mustajärvensuon kasvillisuus selvitys. Manuscript. Metsähallitus.

Väisänen, R. 1992. Distribution and abundance of diurnal Lepidoptera on a raised bog in southern Finland. *Annales Zoologici Fennici* 29.

Väisänen, R. & Suoknuuti, M. 1989. Pyhtään Munasuon-Kananiemensuon suurperhoslajisto. *Baptia* 14.

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