

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:

Veneneva – Pelso Mires

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):

64°28' N / 26° 10' 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 part of the province of Oulu, in the municipalities of Kestilä, Liminka, Lumijoki, Rantsila and Tyrnävä, 44 km southeast of Liminka village and 64 km southeast of Oulu city. The municipalities (2 660 sq.km of land) have ca. 16 400 residents. Oulu city (328 sq.km of land) has ca. 120 800 residents.

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

134 – 90 m, mean 108 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

12 039 ha

10. Overview:

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

Veneneva–Pelso forms a representative and extensive unit of various types of aapa mire complexes. The breeding wetland bird fauna is valuable.

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 natural wetland types (peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, including 1 priority natural wetland habitat type of the Habitats Directive Annex II (aapa mires).

2) Threatened bryophytes include moss species *Hamatocaulis lapponicus* (EN) also included in the Habitats Directive Annex II.

Threatened birds include at least Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (EN in Finnish Red List) and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) (VU).

14 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix tetrix*), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and Crane (*Grus grus*). Scarce species include e.g. Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*), Black-throated Diver (*G. arctica*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*),

Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).
Mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include Otter (*Lutra lutra*).
4) 14 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area.

Criteria 4. Bird list (Status in Finnish Red List, BD=Birds Directive Annex I, FRS=Finland's Responsibility Species):

Breeding grouses, waders, wetland passerines and/or valuable species (woodpeckers–passerines), pairs, minimum estimation (based on line transect counts): Willow Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) >70, Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) >150 (NT, BD, FRS), Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) >30 (NT, BD, FRS), Crane (*Grus grus*) >50 (BD), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) >60 (BD), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) >30, Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) >10 (NT, FRS), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) >40 (NT, BD), Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*) >20 (FRS), Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) >150, Whimbler (*Numenius phaeopus*) >70 (FRS), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) >90 (FRS), Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) >3 (FRS), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) >80 (FRS), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) >340 (BD, FRS), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) >5 (FRS), Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) >90 (NT), Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) >8 (VU), Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) >1 600, Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) >520, Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) >110 (NT), Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) >6 (NT), Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) >10, Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) >8 (NT), Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*) >80, Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*) >6, Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) >570.

The bird lists are based on line transect counts. Waterfowl, raptors, gulls and terns are not included because the method does not fit for these bird groups. Some information of these groups is found on the original RIS sheets. Migration data is not available on these large areas.

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 Svecokarelian schist belt. Bedrock is composed of granite and granodiorite with gneissic inclusions, mica gneiss and mica schist with intercalated carbonate rocks.

Origins: Natural

Hydrology: Aapa mires dependent on ground or surface waters.

Soil type: Peat and glacial ground moraine.

Water quality: Ponds and mire waters dystrophic.

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

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 145 days, mean annual temperature ca. +2 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 550 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from late November to late 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.

16. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Virgin aapa mires play an important role in maintenance of water quality and in flood control.

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, Tp, M, Xf, Ts & O

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
- Tp – Permanent freshwater pools
- Ts – Seasonal freshwater pools
- O – Permanent freshwater lakes
- 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. 9 600 ha of mires and ca. 100 ha of water. Veneneva–Pelso is characterized by extensive flark fens and Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) bogs typical of Ostrobothnia aapa mires. Also Spruce (*Picea abies*) mires and patches of rich fens occur in the area. For the major part the mire types are mesotrophic and oligotrophic. The waters consist of small ponds and headwaters of rivers. In the middle of mires there are barren esker formations which are in the process of changing into 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.***

Threatened bryophytes include moss species *Hamatocaulis lapponicus* (EN).

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 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (EN in Finnish Red List) and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) (VU). 14 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 >100 pairs, Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) with >50 pairs, Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) with >30 pairs and Crane (*Grus grus*) with >20 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*), Black-throated Diver (*G. arctica*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).

Mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

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 scientific research.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

State-owned for the major part (89 %).

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned and state-owned

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

None significant.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Peat-mining and forestry are 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:

None significant. The possible effects caused by the peat-mining in the surroundings have not been examined. The peat-mining areas are concentrated to the east from the site. As the nearest peat-mining areas are less than 1 km from the site, there might be some effects. But at the moment, the waters running from peat-mining areas do not run to or through the Ramsar site, thus peat-mining not concerned to affect to the site in a severe way.

Some drainage ditches, especially near southeastern border, may effect negatively to the site.

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. A major part of the area is included in the Mire Conservation Programme. Pelso Strict Nature Reserve (1 813 ha) was established in 1982. Restoration of aapa mires was carried out in the 1980s in an area of ca. 100 ha.

In the Strict Nature Reserve visiting is prohibited all-year, except for local residents when concerning picking of mushrooms and berries. Special permits to visit the

Reserve are given in purposes of scientific research and education. Using of motor vehicles is prohibited.

Under the EU Life Nature project in 2002–2007 restoration of forests will be carried out in an area of 180 ha. Also artificial forest-fires will be carried out in an area of 150–200 ha during the next 50 years.

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.

Also artificial forest-fires will be carried out in an area of 150–200 ha during the next 50 years.

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 1970s and the volume of bird populations was estimated in 1985 and 1996–97 by using line transect censuses.

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.

None significant. No facilities.

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, Ostrobothnia-Kainuu, **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, Ostrobothnia-Kainuu, Torangintaival 2, FIN-93600 Kuusamo, 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.

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.

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