

Designation date: 06/08/02 Ramsar Site no. 1187

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes 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. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 2012

3. Country:

Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Bliksvær

(International No. 1187, National No: 25)

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

- a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

Only minor adjustments of data and management is performed in the RIS

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundaries are the same as the nature reserve Bliksvær which was extended on 6th of December 2002 and now consists of 8 separate areas instead of previously 5.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

67° 17' N 14° 00' E

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

Bliksvær is an archipelago in the ocean approximately 20 km west of the Bodø city, which also is the administration centre of the county of Nordland. Bodø has approx. 34 000 inhabitants (2006).

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

0 m – 89,52 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

4316 ha of which approx. 3735 ha is sea area

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland. One of the largest coastal conservation areas in Norway. Typified with numerous skerries, islets and larger island, with shallow marine waters, rocky shores and some sandy beaches. The area also consists of large tidal zones, narrow bays, some sand dunes and salt influenced meadows on protected shorelines. The area is considered to be on of the county's most important botanical areas. The site is of great importance for staging, moulting and breeding seabirds.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under 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). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 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).

Criterion 1. This is a marine archipelago area with shallow waters dotted with numerous skerries, islets and islands. This kind of archipelago is typical of the North-European coast. The shoreline consists mainly of hard rock, but wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks and brackish marshes occur on a smaller part of the area. The area also includes a wide variety of regionally rare vegetation types, and the area represents the northern boarder for one vegetation type and numerous vascular plant species.

Criterion 2. The archipelago has stable populations of Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) and Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (VU). Both species are breeding here every year. Other breeding species are Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU) and Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU) 100-150 ind. We also find *Urtica urens* (VU) in the site. Red list categories are given according to the national red list 2010.

Criterion 3. The area is a traditional breeding site for numbers of seabirds, e.g. Herring Gull *Larus argentus*, Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, and two pairs of White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), all characteristic species for this kind of archipelago in the biogeographic region.

Criterion 4. The area is one of several important areas along the coast for staging, breeding, moulting (especially Greylag Goose *Anser anser* and Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*) and wintering seabirds from large parts of the Arctic coasts and alpine areas. Wintering area for Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* and White Billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*.

15. 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:

1. Middle boreal zone (MbO2 – clear oceanic section)
2. Arctic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. *Nasjonalatlas for Norge*; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).
2. Biogeographical regions, Europe 2005, European Environment Agency,

16. 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.

The southern part of the archipelago and the majority of the main island is characterised by outcrops of hard bedrock (granite and granodiorite). In the northern part of the main island an east west bound narrow intrusive is found, consisting of mica gneiss, mica slate that forms a boarder towards an area with mainly marble. The northernmost skerries (Terra) consist mainly of gabbros and amphibolites. The lower elevated areas are covered with marine deposits. Typified by shallow marine waters with numerous islets and skerries. In protected coves sandy shores, wet salt influenced meadows and even at a few places smaller dune systems. The main island contains a smaller brackish/freshwater wetland (0,5km²). Middle tidal amplitude is approx. 174 cm (Bodø harbour). The climate is typical Atlantic with high annual precipitation (>1500mm and average 200-220 days with precipitation pr. year), wet summers and mild winters.

Due to the fact that most of the shoreline consists of hard granite rocks, erosion is minimal / none existing in spite of a very harsh winter climate. All fresh water in the area originates from precipitation.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Shallow marine waters mostly less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits. Some deeper areas (>100 m).

18. Hydrological values:

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

19. 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: 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. A, D, E, H

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Situated in the boreal zone, and characterized by:

- Coastal zone with stone or gravel dominated shores. Inland some dune-system and larger areas of foreshore meadows.
- Numerous skerries and islands, and shallow lagoon-like areas. Highly differentiated vegetation types, depending of influence from saltwater. E.g. foreshore with kelp-drifts, salt meadows, brackish meadows, herb rich meadows, and brackish pools and marshes.
- Brackish vegetation includes *Hippuris*, *Potamogeton* and *Myriophyllum*.
- Botanically one of the most interesting areas in the county. Typical flora contains *Puccinellia* spp., Hoppner Sedge *Carex subspathacea*, Arctic Rush *Juncus arcticus* spp. *balticus*, Saltmarsh Flat-sedge *Blysmus rufus* and a large occurrence of the less common Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. 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 occurrence of Woad *Isatis tinctoria* on calcareous deposits is of particular interest and nationally a rare plant community. Of interest on a European scale is the occurrence of e.g. False Musk-orchid *Chamorchis alpine* and Lapland Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza lapponica*. Other species of interest for the region is Blue Sedge *Carex flacca*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, White Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria officinalis*, Red Dead-nettle *Lamium purpureum* and Small Nettle *Urtica urens*.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. 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.*

Mammals:

The archipelago has a stable population of Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*. Also the Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* is breeding in the area. The Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* is present but breeding is not known. The mink *Mustela vison* is fortunately not present in the archipelago.

Birds:

Nationally rare or internationally rare or interesting species: The local population of White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (50-100 individuals, 10-15 breeding pairs) have contributed with eaglets towards the Scottish reintroduction programme. Other breeding species include Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* (1-2 pairs).

Nationally common species: Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (150 pairs), European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (>100 pairs), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (50-100 pairs), Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (2-4 pairs), Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (2 pairs), Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* (5-10 pairs), Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (>200 pairs) and Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (5-10 pairs).

Staging and wintering site for 1000-2000 seabirds, including *Gavia* spp., Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (1000 individuals), King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (100 ind.), Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (200 ind.), European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (100 ind.), and Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (150 ind.). Moulting area for Common Eider (1000-1500 ind.) and Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (50-100 ind.). Terra is the most important wintering and moulting area within the site. Little research and counts on birds have so far been conducted in the area.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or 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:

Traditionally the breeding population of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* were exploited for down- and egg collecting. The close relation between man and bird along the northern coast contributed to a high population of Eider, and it gained from predator protection and erection of breeding-houses. This tradition has gradually faltered and is today only evident at a few revived sites (outside this site). In relation to the protection regime (and Ramsar-status) plans have been made to re-start these activities, including increase of traditional scything of the meadows.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

No

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site: Private

b) in the surrounding area: Private/State (marine areas)

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Mainly leisure activities like fishing and the use of local cabins/houses, also traditionally used for collecting seabird eggs. Smaller populations of sheep graze in the area

b) in the surroundings/catchment: Fishing

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

The cessation of traditional agriculture with grazing animals and haymaking has led to an abandonment of the unique collaboration between man and seabirds (predator control, building of houses for the Common Eider, and also to a succeeding overgrowing of the landscape).

b) in the surrounding area:

Generally low today

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The Ramsar site was established as a national nature conservancy area the 6th of December 2002. As the nature reserve, the Ramsar site consists of 8 separate areas. These areas are enclosed/connected by a large bird and seal protection zone of app. 10.300 ha (app. 100 km²).

The bird protection zone only enforces a prohibition against bird and seal hunting and does not provide protection of the land or water therein, and is consequently not a part of the Ramsar site.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

A management plan was finalized in 2011, and is being implemented.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Except from a few remote islands the Ramsar area is fully surrounded by a larger area where hunting of all species of birds and seals is permanently prohibited. (A bird and seal reserve was originally established in 1970.)

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The marine site was earlier included in the national monitoring program for seabirds (SEAPOP).

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

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

A new information folder is produced by the management authorities.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

The area is to a low degree used by residents and tourists, mainly for fishing.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim

Ph +47 73580500

Fax +47 73580501

Email: postmottak@dirnat.no

33. 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.

The site is managed by the County Governor of Nordland, which is under the instruction of DN.
Address: County Governor of Nordland, Moloveien 10, N- 8002 Bodø. Phone: +47 755 31580. E-mail:
postmottak@fmno.no

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Ulsund, C., Fylkesmannen i Nordland 2011. Forvaltningsplan for Bliksvær naturreservat. Bodø kommune, Nordland. (In Norw. Management plan for Bliksvær nature reserve in Bodø municipality, Nordland County)

Flora:

Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K. E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. B: Beskrivelser for regionene Nord-Helgeland og Salten. Økoforsk rapport 1988:2B, pages 206-213. In Norwegian - botanical survey of beaches in northern parts of Norway).

Birds:

Birkeland, I. 2011. Kartlegging av ornitologiske verdier i Bliksvær naturreservat - Kartlegging i hht. DN's håndbok 11. Ecofact rapport 137. 47 s

Eggen, M. 1998. Avifaunistisk liste for Bliksvær naturreservat, Bodø per februar 1998. *Havørna* 9: 8-14.

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