

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties*

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**Note:** It is important that you read the accompanying Explanatory Note and Guidelines document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002

2. **Country:**

NORWAY

3. **Name of wetland:**

FOKSTUMYRA

4. **Geographical coordinates:**

62° 8'N - 9° 15'E

5. **Elevation:** (average and/or maximum and minimum)

940-960 m.a.s.l.

6. **Area:** (in hectares)

785 (ca. 8km<sup>2</sup>)

7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Wet mire system, interspersed with watercourses and lakes, with large tracts of shrubs and aquatic vegetation. Situated in the lower alpine region. This area is a Biogenetic reserve, cf. Council of Europe.

8. **Wetland Type:** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document)

**marine-coastal:**      **A**   **B**   **C**   **D**   **E**   **F**   **G**   **H**   **I**   **J**      **K**   **Zk(a)**

<b>inland:</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>Ss</b>	<b>Tp</b>	<b>Ts</b>
	<b>U</b>	<b>Va</b>	<b>Vt</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Xf</b>	<b>Xp</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Zg</b>	<b>Zk(b)</b>		
<b>human-made:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Zk(c)</b>	

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: W, U, M

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9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12 below)

**1**                      **2**                      **3**                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site: 1

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10. **Map of site included? YES**

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits.)

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11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

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***Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):***

12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. Characterized by flat alpine landscape with extensive mires (partly minerotrophic) interspersed with lakes and extensive scrub *Salix* spp, *Betula pubescens* and some drier parts covered with *Betula nana* and lichens etc. A particularly good example of an alpine wetland in North Europe.
2. The first site in Norway to be protected (in 1923), due to its rich birdlife. A number of wetland related bird species have made the site well known among birdwatchers. The species include 40 species of waterfowl (divers, crane, ducks, waders and gulls). In addition a number of alpine passerine species occur in the area in high densities. Several rare species occur, previously these included breeding Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (now only a rare visitor). Other regular breeding species are Arctic Diver *Gavia arctica*, Crane *Grus grus*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* and Great Snipe *Gallinago media*. Besides the extraordinary rich birdlife in this site, the population of Great Snipe is noteworthy. The population at this mountain plateau is probably the biggest in Norway, and consequently one of the largest in Europe, and constitutes a few hundred pairs (include adjacent areas).

3. The site has long been famed for its birdlife and holds high numbers of breeding alpine species, some of which are rare in other areas.
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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Oppland county, Dovre municipality, nearest village of Dombås lies to the south (distance 10 km), with population of 2.000. Close by (to the west and north) lies Dovre Nationalpark (characterised by alpine areas) and Rondane Nationalpark (also an alpine area).

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**14. Physical features:** (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Beneath the mire the bedrock is dominated by nutrient poor granite (trondhjemitt), however, surrounding areas have minerotrophic bedrock (Cambrosilurian). Moraine cover the entire area. A particular well developed drumline landscape dominates. Above the bedrock peat layers dominate some parts of the area, interspersed with permanent waters (rivers and lakes). The climate has the characteristics of an alpine area, with cool summers and long winters. The area has low annual precipitation (<1000mm) and the catchment area covers 124km<sup>2</sup>.

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**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.)

No survey has been made in regard to volume and flooding in the entire area. Watercourses drain both to the north and to the south. The area (both inside and outside the Ramsar site) has a great volume of freshwater and is important throughout the year in recharging watercourses flowing off the mountain. A large part of the site is flooded during spring and this is important to maintain the impenetrable wet mire system. The total catchment area constitutes ca. 100km<sup>2</sup> and due to the mires and continuous melt of snow the area supplies water to several rivers, and thus acts as a buffer. The water is of outstanding high quality.

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**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

Situated in the low alpine region:

- 17 different vegetation types have been described and a vegetation map has been produced.
- Mire, dominated with shrubs like *Salix* spp. On drier parts large tracts are dominated with *Betula pubescens* and *Betula nana*. *Carex* spp covers large areas in shallow waters. Mostly the mires are poor in nutrients, but locally minerogenic mires occur.
- On drier parts, where bedrock or moraine surfaces, the surface is covered with species like lichens *Alectoria*, *Cetraria*, *Cladonia* and *Stereocaulon* species; and *Vaccinium* and *Empetrum* spp.

- Palaeobotanical investigation documents how pine forests grew in the area in former warmer times (6000 BC).
- Shallow freshwater lakes, streams and permanent inundation (wide flood-like shallow swamps with slow running water) zones characterize the area. During spring thaw parts of the mire turns into a lake.

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17. **Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

Traditional Scandinavian alpine flora, with some species included on international lists, eg. Bern Convention and EUs Habitat Directive. Examples of local and relatively common alpine species: *Botrychium boreale*, *Montia Fontana*, *Pulsatilla vernalis*, *Astragalus norvegicus*, *Primula scandinavica*, *Pedicularis lapponica*, *Carex adelostoma* and *Coeloglossum viride*. See enclosed flora list in report 9/97 on the birdlife and flora (in Norwegian).

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18. **Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Birds: The site is famed for its rich birdlife and numerous films have been made. Very abundant and characteristic passerines are *Motacilla flava*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Emberiza schoeniclus*, *Turdus iliacus*, *Turdus pilaris*, *Calcarius lapponicus*, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, *Phylloscopus trochilus* and *Fringilla montifringilla*. 12 species of ducks occur, ia *Anas penelope* (5 pairs) and *Anas acuta*, *Aythya marila*, *Melanitta nigra*, *Melanitta fusca*, *Gallinago media* (lek), *Phalaropus lobatus* (17 pairs), *Tringa glareola* (31 pairs), *Tringa totanus* (33 pairs), *Tringa nebularia* (8 pairs), *Philomachus pugnax* (20 breeding females) and *Numenius phaeopus* (8 pairs). Counting shows a population of ca. 100 pairs ducks and 130 pairs waders, with densities of waterfowl between 9-14 pairs/km<sup>2</sup>. Birds of prey occur commonly in the area, in particular breeding species like *Falco columbarius*, *Falco tinnunculus* and *Buteo lagopus*.

Other nationally red listed species: *Gavia arctica* (1-3 pairs), *Grus grus* (min. 1-2 pairs), *Circus cyaneus* (1 pair + 1 outside the protected site), while *Falco rusticolus* and *Aquila chrysaetos* breed outside the protected site. In addition a number of rare birds have been recorded in the area, including *Anser erythropus*, which formerly bred at the site (1962-63 last time). This species has recently been recorded again.

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19. **Social and cultural values:** (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

The area are today only used for leisure activities, mainly walking (birdwatching) and fishing outside the period of no entry outside the path.

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20. **Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site State (b) surrounding area State/private

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21. **Current land use:** (a) site Low impact, used for fishing, a rail-line crosses the area (b) surroundings/catchment

A small mountain-farm lies adjacent to the site.

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**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site: Early last century (1920ies) a railroad line was constructed across the site. The impact of the line meant that some species declined and other disappeared (eg *Limicola falcinellus*). Further increase in visitors frequency and development of tourist industry may cause disturbance. (b) around the site: Little impact.

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**23. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented): Established as Norway's first Nature reserve November 9<sup>th</sup> 1923. Surrounded by Northern Europe's largest nature protection area (Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella nationalpark).

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**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g, management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area, etc.)

No management plan have been officially approved. A proposal to enlarge the protected area have been raised by the management authority.

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**25. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g., details of current projects; existence of field station, etc.)

Not known.

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**26. Current conservation education:** (e.g., visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits, etc.)

A 6-7 km pedestrian path has been constructed (small wooden bridges etc) and a bird observation tower. Information booklet can be found at the wardens house. Plans have been raised to construct an information centre for the site and the surrounding national parks.

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**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

The only facility for tourist are lodging possibility at the adjacent farm. Frequency of visitors numbers a few thousands each year. Apparently this traffic does not interfere with the birdlife, since all visitors are only allowed to walk along the path and not outside.

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**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial, e.g., state/region and functional, e.g., Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

The Ministry of the Environment.

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29. **Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

The site is managed by the County Governor of Oppland county, which is a subsidiary body of the Ministry of the Environment. Adress: County Governor of Oppland, Serviceboks, N-2626 Lillehammer.

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30. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Geology:

- Sørbel, L., Carlson, A.B., Kristiansen, K.J. & Sollid, J.L. 1988. Kvartærgeologisk verneverdige områder i Oppland fylke. *DN-rapport 4:1-97*. Direktoratet for naturforvaltning, Trondheim. (in Norwegian - description of quaternary important sites)

Birds:

- Østbye, T. 1987. Fokstummyra naturreservat, vegetasjon og fugl. Rapport nr. 9:1-80. Fylkesmannen i Oppland, Miljøvernavdelingen. (in Norwegian - description of geology, hydrology, vegetation and birdlife).
- Østbye, T. 1989. Fokstummyra naturreservat, fugleregistreringer 1989. Rapport nr. 23:1-38. Fylkesmannen i Oppland, Miljøvernavdelingen.