

Designation date: 06/08/02 Ramsar Site no. 810

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.

Skogvoll

(International No. 1198, National No. 33)

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:

No special changes have taken place, but the Criterion 6 was incorrectly used on the Svalbard population of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachynchos*. Andøya is an important stop-over site for this population in spring, but the geese rarely uses the Ramsar site.

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 boundary for the Ramsar sites is the same as for the existing nature reserve.
The reserve is divided into two separate areas (one mire part and one marine part).

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.

69° 10'N 15° 50'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.

The Ramsar Site is situated in Andøy municipality in Nordland County, the nearest town being Harstad 16 km to the southeast with approx. 30.000 inhabitants.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)
0-45 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)
5544 ha

12. General overview of the site:

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

The mire area is one of the most extensive lowland Atlantic mire complexes in Norway, dotted with numerous ponds and lakes. The other half of the area consists of shallow marine waters, with islets and skerries, tidal flats and a rare lagoon system with brackish water and freshwater. Wet salt influenced meadows fringe the shorelines. The mire area is a Biogenetic reserve, cf. Council of Europe.

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. An intact locality with a characteristic large Atlantic mire and lake system, typical and representative for the northern coastal plains. Most of this kind of habitats elsewhere have today been cultivated or damaged by draining.

Criterion 2. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) breeds in the area, but numbers are not known. For other nationally threatened species the marine part functions as a staging and wintering area, e.g. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (EN), Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN) and Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* (CR). A large population of Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (VU) breeds on skerries in the marine part., whereas Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) probably breeds in the area (1-2 pairs). European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* (CR in national and IUCN red list) occurs in the area, but there is no knowledge about stock size and important areas. The National Red List 2010 is used.

Criterion 4. The larger lakes in the mire part of the reserve supports a relatively large breeding population of Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (NT), estimated between 8 and 12 pairs in 2005 and Great Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (130-140 pair) among other bird species. The marine part is important for moulting waterfowls. This applies in particular to Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (up to 140 individuals), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (up to 800 individuals) and Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (up to 1500 individuals). This part of the reserve is also an important staging area for migratory birds, mostly waders. Among them are Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Common redshank *Tringa tetanus* Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (up to 1800 ind.) The site is an important breeding area for a many wetland birds (see point 22 and justification of criterion 2 for more details).

The skerries have a large population of Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (up to 598 individuals reported in 2004), which also breeds in the area.

Criterion 8. Salmon *Salmo salar* and Sea Trout *Salmo trutta* is spawning in Staveelva/Måvatnet and Skogvollrelva/Skogvollvatnet. European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* (CR) also uses the lakes and rivers.

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 vegetation zone, marked oceanic section (Mb – O2).
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 of Europe, European Environment Agency, 2005

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.

Geology	The entire area is characterised by outcrops of hard bedrock, mostly rhyolite (a lava rock), in the lower elevated areas covered with deposits. In the southern parts of the mire area the bedrock consists of nutrient-rich Cambrosilurian rock.
Geomorphology	The area is part of a flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass, and is partly surrounded by smaller knolls and mountains. Tidal marine zones (ca. 4,5 km wide) with mud- and sandflats, sheltered bays, islets and skerries with shallow marine waters, including a kind of lagoon system with brackish water and freshwater. In the mire area we find moraine and seabed-deposits, overgrown with precipitation-mires and dotted with numerous ponds and lakes.
Substrate/soil type	Clay, silt, stone and rock dominate in the marine parts, whereas peat covers most of the mire area.
Water depth/ fluctuations	Large area of shallow water. The variation between high and low tides measured at Andenes averages annually 134 cm.
Climate	The site has a oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively wet and cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

The nature reserve is part of a large mire complex of an Atlantic type with a lot of small ponds and some larger lakes that covers most of the flat areas on Andøya. The higher levels of the catchment area consist of knolls and mountains. The western coast of Andøya is characterized by shallow mud- and sandflats with skerries outside a steep coastline. Cambrosilurian rock has greater coverage within the catchment area, than inside the Ramsar site. The climate is similar.

Most of the water in the area originates from precipitation and is characterized by acidic peat colouring the water brownish. The water in the area is no longer used for human consumption. The sheltered form of the shorelines reduces the impact of waves coming from the open ocean and together with rocks no particular erosion problems have been noted.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The deposit of piles of seaweed helps stabilizing the shoreline.

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.

Mire system: U, O, M

Marine system: G, A, E, D

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.

Skogvoll site is situated in the boreal zone, and are characterized by:

- Extensive *Sphagnum* spp. mires, usually poor in nutrients, with a number of smaller ponds and lakes.
- Marine tidal zones with mud- and sandflats, and shallow marine waters, including communities with *Zostera*, *Potamogeton* and *Salicornia*.
- A unique lagoon system have established in the tidal zones, where brackish or freshwater conditions occur with aquatic vegetation (e.g. *Potamogeton*, *Equisetum*).
- Wet salt-influenced meadows, e.g. typically with *Puccinellia* and *Carex*.
- Since the mire mostly receives water from precipitation the flora is characterised as poor, however, the unspoilt habitat itself is characterised as botanically interesting. In some smaller parts minerogenic waters from the bedrock contributes to a richer flora. For some species this area represents their northern limit in Norway.
- The mire landscape can be divided into different types: Stringmire, flatmire, blanket mire and in some places minerogenic water reaches the surface (spring sources).
- The western marine part is characterised by battered islets and skerries, and more sheltered bays and tidal zones.

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 system of brackish lagoons with freshwater flora (*Hippuris*, *Potamogeton*) in the tidal zones is most noteworthy and described by botanists as very rare. Some rare or geographical interesting species grows in the area, e.g. *Cakile maritime* spp. *islandica* and *Pyrola rotundifolia* spp. *norvegica*.

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 skerries have a large population of Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (up to 140 individuals reported recent years). The species also breeds in the area. Also Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* occurs in small numbers in the marine waters. A few pairs of Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* occurs throughout the year, and probably breeds here as well.

Birds:

The mire parts is an important breeding area for a many wetland birds, such as Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (3-4 pairs), Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (scattered pairs), Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (numerous), Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (30-40 pairs), Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (numerous) and Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (130-140 pairs). Other characteristic species in the mires are Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisica* (30-60 pairs), Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, and Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*. In ponds and lakes breeds 15-25 pairs of Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* and 8-12 pairs of Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*.

In the marine parts of the reserve we find large concentrations of breeding, moulting and wintering seabirds. The skerries are important moulting areas for Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (up to 700-800 individuals noted) and Common Eiders *Somateria mollissima* (1400-1500 individuals counted in July 1988), while the moulting population of Whooper Swans has increased the latter 10-15 years, now reaching 100-140 individuals. Especially Common Eider and King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* has large wintering populations in the reserve, with 1500-2000 and 900-1000 birds respectively counted between Nordmela and Stave in March 1989. The third Norwegian breeding colony of Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* was established at Skarvklakken in 1967. It reached a peak of app. 1000 pairs in the period 1990-1994, but has now decreased to only 50 pairs (2004). Skarvklakken also had a colony of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, which have been forced to move to Kvitholmene, also within the Ramsar site, by the gannets. Other breeding seabirds are Mew Gull *Larus canus*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, and Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*. Also Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* and Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (more than 20 pairs) is common breeding birds in the coastal part of the site.

Fish:

Salmon *Salmo salar* is spawning in Staveelva/Måvatnet and Skogvollrelva/Skogvollvatnet. Eel *Anguilla anguilla* (in summer/autumn) and Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus* is also present in the freshwater systems.

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:

Not known

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

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Locally used for traditional collecting of seabird eggs.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Adjacent lying mires are intensively extracted for horticultural use (peat extraction), and more extensively used for cloudberry production. The main road crosses through the area and a few dwelling-houses occur along the road, however, with little impact on the site.

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:

Low impact at the moment, but used more extensively in the past for hay production.

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.

- Established as a Biogenetic reserve (Telma mire) under the Council of Europe.
- Protected as a Nature Reserve December 16th 1983. The border for the Ramsar site is the same as for Skogvoll nature reserve.

IBA Skogvoll (including Skarvklakken) (2800 ha)

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 February 2011.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Not known.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

None

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 is included in the national monitoring programme for seabirds and seals; the breeding numbers of Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* and Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* being counted.

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 leaflet and some posters have been produced.

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 some extent used by tourists and residents, mainly for fishing and cloudberry picking. The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers, mostly members of Nordland branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF).

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.

Husdal, M. M. 2001, Fylkesmannen i Nordland. Forvaltningsplan for Skogvoll naturreservat, Andøy kommune, Nordland. (Management plan for Skogvoll nature reserve, Andøy municipality, Nordland County)

Botany:

Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K. E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. C: Beskrivelser for regionene Ofoten og Lofoten/Vesterålen. Økoforsk Rapport 1988:2C, pp 289-292. (In Norwegian - botanical survey of beaches in northern parts of Norway, including Andøy)

Hornburg, P. 1975. Registrering av bevaringsverdige myrer og våtmarker. III. Nordland fylke 45. Myrene i området Skogvollvatnet – Arnipa – Sauravatnet i Andøy kommune. Det norske myrselskap. 3pp. Bilag 2 kart/flybilde og planskisse. Rapport. Fauske. (In Norwegian, on the mire types in the nature reserve.)

Vorren, K.-D., Euroala, S. & Tveraabak, U. 1999. The lowland terrestrial mire vegetation about 69N lat. in northern Norway. Tromsø, naturvitenskap 84. 90 pp. + 13 tables. Tromsø.

Birds:

Barret, T. R. & Folkestad, A. O. 1996. The status of North Atlantic Gannet *Morus bassanus* after 50 years in Norway. Seabird 18: 30-37.

Bruun, E. 1967. Hekking av havsule, *Sula bassana*, i Nord-Norge. Sterna 7: 376-386. (In Norwegian with english summary. About the establishing of a breeding colony of Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* on Skarvklakken.)

Lorentsen, S-H. 2005. The national monitoring programme for seabirds. Reults including the breeding season 2005. NINA Oppdragsmelding 670. 55 pp. (In Norwegian with English summary. Last annual report, including the Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* and Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* colonies at Skarvklakken.)

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
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