

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

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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:

September 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.

Slettnes

(International No. 1196, National No: 34)

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 for the Slettnes Nature Reserve.

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.

71° 5' N – 28° 12' 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.

Situated at the coast of Finnmark County in Gamvik municipality. The nearest village Gamvik lies adjacent to the eastern border of the reserve. Gamvik has a population of app. 150 inhabitants. Municipality centre is Mehamn app. 15 km west.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)
0 m – 130 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)
1230 ha of which approx. 20 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.

Treeless coastal meadows with mires and numerous ponds and lakes on the arctic shore of northernmost Norway. A number of "fossil" and elevated shorelines or shore displacement curves (several km long) is characteristic for the landscape.

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 Arctic wetland system dominated by mires and numerous freshwater bodies, which creates an area unusually rich in birds. The site is a rare coastal lowland plain on the extreme northern point of Europe. There is little coastal lowland plain left in Finnmark.

Criterion 2.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN) 2000 ind, Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* 190 ind. (VU), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) 27 ind. Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* (VU) 166 ind, Puffin *Fratervula arctica* (VU) Common Murre *Uria aalge* (CR), Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (VU). Some of the observation may be done outside the Ramsar site. There is an observation point inside the Ramsar site, looking north to the sea area (outside the site). In this point there have been some observations of high number of several of the species listed earlier, like several observations over 100.000 Black-legged Kittiwake and over 10.000 Puffin. There has been no good registration of what's observed inside and outside the Ramsar site. Red list categories is given according to the national red list 2010.

Criterion 3. Some bird species occur in unusual high densities, e.g. colonies (ca 300 pairs) of Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (a characteristic species of the biogeographical region) which probably is the largest colony in Norway. See point 22 for more details.

Criterion 4. The area is a rich breeding and resting area for a great number of bird species, and is considered as one of the most important breeding areas for waders in Scandinavia. See point 22 for more details. Approximate 2000 pairs are breeding in the site. The most common breeding birds are: Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (25-35 pairs), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (>60 pairs), Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (10-100 pairs), Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (30-50 pairs), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) (40-60 pairs), Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (15-20 pairs) and Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (48-55 pairs). We also find Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (NT) and Black throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (NT). National Red-List is used. See also pt. 21 and 22.

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. Alpine zone (AOC – transitional 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 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.

A coastal mire-system with geology dominated by sandstone and phyllite. Fossilized shorelines/moraine deposits are evident (ice front deposits/land raising). The mires are influenced by the arctic climate, and palsa bogs are common. Numerous ponds and lakes is typical for the area. Oceanic and alpine climate dominate, with long relatively mild winters and high annual precipitation of app. 1500 mm. The warmest month is august with an average of 9.6 °C.

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 Ramsar area is situated on a headland surrounded by ocean and includes most of the land area there. The not included land area has the same physical features as the conservation area.

18. Hydrological values:

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

Not known. The vicinity to the sea means that there are no flood problems in this area. The shorelines are characterized by hard stone and are not subject to erosion.

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. U, D, M, A, Tp, O

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.

The main feature for birds is as breeding and resting area. Characteristic for the area is that the alpine region directly meets oceanic region and alpine birds can be seen breeding beside seabirds. Main feature is

a relatively flat meadow with a mosaic of mires and ponds/lakes. In places with some protection against the weather, mires may have low shrubs with *Salix* sp. and *Betula nana*. The vegetation is dominated by typical alpine species like *Dryas octopétala* and *Silène acaulis*. The lakes are often fringed with *Carex rostrata* and *Equisetum fluviatile*. At places bedrock outcrops are evident. On the coastal side facing the Barents Sea rocky shores and some islets is a dominant feature.

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.*

Dominated by alpine species, of some interest is the rare, up to one meter tall *Veratrum album*.

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.*

Birds:

The area is a rich breeding and resting area for a great number of bird species, and is considered as one of the most important breeding areas for waders in Scandinavia. Of the 25 observed wader species, 12 species are breeding yearly, often in large numbers. More than 100 bird species have been recorded; of these are 66 typical wetland species. 96 species can be seen here regularly and a total of 53 species is breeding yearly. The area has probably Norway's largest breeding colony of Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (NT) with more than 300 pairs.

Of the 25 species of waders a few hundred pairs are breeding, of those the following is most common: Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (25-35 pairs), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (>60 pairs), Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (10-100 pairs), Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (30-50 pairs), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) (40-60 pairs), Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (15-20 pairs) and Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (48-55 pairs).

In addition more than 1200 pairs of Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* is breeding here. Thousands of Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* from the neighbouring colonies uses the freshwater pools to bathe. In rodent years up to 5 pairs of Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* breed. Among the passerines Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (>50 pairs), Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (40-50 pairs), Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* (50-100 pairs) and Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* (40-60 pairs) are particularly common. During the breeding season more than 100 King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* and 150 Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* (VU^w) over summers and moult in the area.

Among the rare or threatened species Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (EN) as an occasional breeder is noteworthy, so is the large number of breeding Black throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (NT) (8-9 pairs), and the Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT) (8-12 pairs), also the Red Throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, Common Eider *Somateria molissima* approximate 100 pairs, Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* and Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* breeds here. Even if Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* and Little Stint *Calidris minuta* both are common breeders in this region they do not breed anywhere else further south in Europe. Red list categories is given according to the national red list 2010.

Mammals:

Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) is breeding 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:

The traces of previous habitation on the peninsula tell us that people have lived here for more than 10.000 years. Fishing (and some agriculture) has always been the main occupation and the good harbour and the short distances to the fishing grounds were especially important.

Few other places in Finnmark include such rich traces of previous fishing communities as Slettnes. The ancient cultural landscape lies fallow today, and monuments from the past lie side by side: the foundations of houses gravesites, remains of Sami turf huts and of old stone fences.

The lighthouse of Slettnes is situated in the area and was protected by law in 1998. This is the most northerly mainland lighthouse in the world and is at the same latitude as the northern tip of Alaska.

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 civilisations 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: Area falls under Finnmarkseiendommen, a regional authority managing state property in Finnmark county.

b) in the surrounding area: falls under Finnmarkseiendommen.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The area has developed to a point of interest for tourists, especially for tourists with mobile homes.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Recreation area for the nearby village Gamvik.

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:

Increase in visits from birdwatchers and other tourists has created concerns for the breeding birds which (cf. the chicks) may at times be vulnerable due to the harsh climate conditions.

b) in the surrounding area:

Since the area recently was connected to the mainland via a new road, this has made an easy access for tourists and consequently increase in disturbance level.

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 area was established as a National Nature Reserve the 7th November 1996 and was given status as Ramsar area the 6th August 2002.

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 consisting of prioritised actions has and is being implemented.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Due to the increased tourist activity, primary mobile homes, a plan for organising the traffic has been implemented.

The area is by a Royal Decree given the status as a National Nature Reserve, which is the strongest form of Nature conservation in Norway. All kind of human activity in the conservation area is regulated by an official set of detailed regulations specific for the area.

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.

Monitoring of bird populations continue (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research).

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 research centre (WWF Slettnes Økostasjon) was established the 27nd of July 2001 by the Norwegian section of World Wildlife Fund for Nature. As a research centre it is not open for the public. Norwegian and foreign scientists are performing studies in and around the conservation area, especially on the avifauna.

A nature trail and information posters has also been established.

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 for fishing and bird watching. The tourism with mobile homes has strongly increased lately.

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

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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 Finnmark, which is under the instruction of DN.
Address: Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Miljøvernavdelingen, Statens Hus, 9815 Vadsø, Norway. Phone: +47 78950300. E-mail: postmottak@fmfi.no

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Biogeographic regionalisation scheme:

Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss

Botany:

Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1983. Havstrand i Finnmark. Flora, vegetasjon og botaniske verneverdier. *Rapport T-541 Miljøverndepartementet*. 357pp. (in Norwegian – flora and vegetation of shores in Finnmark).

Birds:

A number of reports exists:

Günther, M. (Ed.) 2004. Field Guide to Protected Areas in the Barents Region, Svanhovd Environmental Centre, Svanvik. 376 pp.

Strann, K.-B. & Nilsen, S. Ø. 1996. Verneverdige myrer og våtmarker i Finnmark. *Fylkesmannen i Finnmark. Rapport nr. 3-1996*. (in Norwegian - valuable wetlands and conservation of wetlands in the county).

Strann, K.B. 1996. Fuglefaunaen på Slettnes, Gamvik kommune 1989-1996. *NINA Oppdragsmelding 447:1-19*. (in Norwegian with an English summary - status report on the bird life 1989-1996).

Strann, K.-B. 2000. Fuglelivet på Slettnes, Gamvik kommune. *Lappmeisen* nr 1-1999.

Summers, R.W., Strann, K.B. & Young, J. 1989. Joint Norwegian Scottish field study of waders at Nordkynn-halvøya, Finnmark, summer 1989. Report. 28 pp.

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