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 18th, 2002

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2. **Country**:

NORWAY

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3. **Name of wetland**:

TANAMUNNINGEN

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4. **Geographical coordinates**:

70° 30'N - 28° 25'E

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

0-1 m.a.s.l.

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

3360 (ca. 34km^2)

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

The river Tana is one of the largest rivers in Norway and the most important for wild salmon *Salmo salar*. The mouth of the river as it enters the sea has created a shallow estuary, partly brackish, and huge underwater deposits of gravel etc. Some sandy islands, cf. Høgholmen, are situated in the middle of the area.

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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)**

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)**	

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: F, G, E

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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: 6

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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. Unspoilt river estuaries of this size is rare today, not only in Norway, but also in Europe.
3. Plant communities in the area are typical of the northern Arctic and with eastern influence (absent elsewhere in Western-Europe).
4. In particular the occurrence of moulting males of Goosander *Mergus merganser* from Western Europe
5. Concentrations of up to 27.000 specimens of Goosanders *Mergus merganser*.
6. The site supports up to 13,5% of the NW/Central European population of the Goosander *Mergus merganser*.

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13. **General location**: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Finnmark county, Tana municipality, nearest village of Tana bru lies to the south (distance 15 km), with a population of 500. Adminstrative town being Vadsø, 40km to the east.

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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)

The large river Tana carries huge amounts of fine silt and gravel into the estuary, in particular during the spring thawing. Besides shallow waters (partly brackish), at low tide a huge estuary of mud- and sandflats is exposed. Shifting forms of large silt- and sandbanks forms important basis for resting birds as well as for plant communities. The sides of the river is quite steep due to the digging of the watermasses into the loose moraine deposits. Large saltmeadows is of particular interest, as is the dynamics of the fluvial geomorphology of the entire river estuary. The climate is characterized by Arctic features, cold winters and relatively warm and short summers, with annual precipitation <1000mm.

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

The river Tana drains a huge geographical area (including a major part of Finland and constitutes (further south) the border river with Finland. A as flood control agent the river is of high importance since the volume of water during the spring floods is huge. Since the degradation of the wetlands in the northern regions is low, there are hardly any flooding problems except the normal situation. The siginificant transport of sediments and the continuously shifting estuary as a consequent of this is important in maintaining a natural ecosystem in the estuary.

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

Situated in the northern boreal and alpine region:

- Main feature is a huge estuary of shifting mud- and sandflats, both under and over the low level water mark.
- Wet meadows is of particular interest with flora of both Arctic and eastern kind.
- Shifting sand/shingle islets with sand adapted flora
- Ponds with brackish waters

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

On sand dominated areas the following nationally interesting species grows: *Leymus arenarius*, *Papaver dahlianum, Thymus serpyllum* ssp. *tanaensis, Carex halophila, Dianthus superbus* and *Lathyrus japonicus*. In addition characteristic flora elements are *Puccinellia phryganodes, Stellaria humifusa* and *Cochlearia officinalis.* In smaller ponds brackish waters exists, with *Carex halophila* and *Potamogeton filiformis.* Biogeographically many of the

Arctic and northern species are interesting due to the fact that in Western Europe the north of Norway constitutes their only West European growing areas.

The unspoilt and undisturbed successions from brackish waters across wet meadows into forested *Betula pubescens* gallery forests is another feature of high conservation value.

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

Common birds: The area is well known for its rich bird fauna. Particularly well known is the annual moulting of males of *Mergus merganser* from large parts of Europe (e.g. ring recoveries from Sweden and Switzerland). Maximum counts have reached 27.000 birds. Among the breeding species to be found here is *Calidris temminckii* (10-20), *Calidris alpina* (10-20), *Sterna paradisaea* (100-200 pairs) and *Anthus cervinus* (10-20 pairs).

Mammals: A small population of *Phoca vitulina*.

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

The river Tana is extremely important for the local sami culture, both in the traditional way of transport and as a salmon river.

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

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21. **Current land use**: (a) site No particular use, except some tourist traffic and leisure activities (sunbathing etc) (b) surroundings/catchment Quartsite quarry to the east includes ship traffic through the protected site, otherwise little or no use of the surrounding areas.

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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: (b) around the site:

Potential oil spills from the quarry or from the ships passing by. Plans for a new quarry on the western side exists and may cause increase in the ship traffic.

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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 a Nature reserve December 20th 1991.

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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 produced.

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

None at present.

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

The only information is a poster on display in the area.

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

Sportsfishing is the most popular activities in the area, and some leisure activities from birdwatchers, holiday makers etc.

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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 Finnmark, which is a subsidiary body of the Ministry of the Environment. Adress: County Governor of Finnmark, Statens Hus, N-9815 Vadsø.

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

Botany:

- Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1983. Havstrand i Finnmark. Flora, vegetasjon og botaniske verneverdier. Rapport T-542 Miljøverndepartementet. (in Norwegian - flora and vegetation of shores in Finnmark).

Birds:

A number of reports exists, ia:

- Frantzen, B. 1983. Fuglefaunaen i Nedre Tana med vekt på områdene rundt Tanaelvas munning. Report to the County Governor.

- Fagermo, S.E. & Frantzen, B. 1983. Næringsøkologi og bestandforhold hos laksand *Mergus merganser* i Tanamunningen, Finnmark. Rapport nr. 2:1-17. Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Miljøvernavdelingen. (in Norwegian - on the ecology and numbers of *Mergus merganser*).

Quaternary:

- Corner, D.G., Andreassen, K., Rønning, J.S., Mauring, E. & Kristoffersen, Y. 1995. Geology of the Tana delta - a morphological, sedimentological and geophysical study of a regressive, sandy Holocene fjord-delta. Project report to Norsk Hydro for the period 1992-1994. 145pp.
- Fjalstad, A. 1990. Tanadeltaet - en geomorforlogisk beskrivelse. Universitetet i tromsø, Institutt for museumsvirksomhet. Rapport 15pp. (in Norwegian - a geomorphology description).