

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:

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.

Tanamunningen

(International No. 1197, National No: 35)

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 are 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 Tanamunningen 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.

70° 30' N – 28° 25' 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.

Finnmark county, Tana municipality, nearest village is Tana bru with approx. 500 inhabitants, 15 km south. Administrative town being Vadsø, 40km to the east.

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

0 m – 6 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

3409 ha of which approx. 200 ha is land 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.

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

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
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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 a river delta and large sand flats which is exposed at low tide. The area is one of the largest unspoilt river deltas in Europe.

Criterion 2. The river mouth has a small population of Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU), and this is the only place in Norway where the female seals give birth on sand banks. The site is used by Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU), Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN), Skylark *Alanda arvensis* (VU) and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU). National Red-List 2010 is used

Criterion 3. Plant communities of the area are typical of the northern Arctic and with eastern influence (absent elsewhere in Western Europe). Some of the species are: *Rumex graminifolius*, *Catabrosa aquatic* (NT), *Lathyrus palustris* ssp. *Pilosus* (NT). National Red-List is used (2010)

Criterion 4. The area is very productive and is extremely important as a foraging, moulting and wintering area for ducks and as resting area for waders, geese and divers. It is also breeding area for waterbirds. See point 22 and justification of criteria 5 and 6 for more details.

Criterion 5. The area regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. The most numerous species is Goosander *Mergus merganser* with up to 27.000 individuals recorded during the moulting period and after (August-september). In 2010 there were registered 21.000 individuals in October. Other numerous species are: Common Eider 4000 individuals (winter), Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 1500 individuals (passage), Purple sandpiper *Calidris maritime* (up to 500 in winter, the 1% level is 750 ind)

Criterion 6. The area is a moulting area for up to 27.000 ind. of Goosander *Mergus merganser*. This represents more than 10 % of the NW & C European population and includes most males from the NW European population. Resting area for up to 1.500 ind. of Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, which is close to the 1% level (1700, NW and C European population) for the species.

Criterion 8. The Tana river is the most important river for Atlantic Salmon *Salmo Salar* in Norway. The Tana river is pointed out as a nationally salmon river. Other fish species are Sea trout *Salmo trutta*, Greyling *Thymallus thymallus*, and Lavaret *Coregonus lavaretus*. In the river delta we also find Great sandeel *Hyperoplus lanceolatus* and European flounder *Platichthys flesus*.

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. Northern boreal zone (NbOC – transitional section)
2. Alpine

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 large river Tana carries huge amounts of fine silt and gravel into the estuary, in particular during the spring thawing. The geology in the outer part of the river system is dominated by sandstone, slate, quartzite and limestone, but the rock is mainly covered by large deposits of sand and gravel. At the river outlet in the fjord a delta plain is formed. Outside the delta plain a large delta platform is formed, and has tide water runs and wave formed sand banks. At the outlet there is an estuary where large sand and mud flats are exposed at low tide. Shifting forms of large silt- and sandbanks form important basis for resting birds as well as for plant communities. Large salt meadows are of particular interest. The climate is Arctic with cold winters and relatively warm and short summers, annual precipitation being <1000 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 river Tana drains a major part of the 300-800 m mountain plateau Finnmarksvidda and some part of the neighbour country Finland. The geology in the outer part of the river system is dominated by sandstone, slate, quartzite and limestone. Higher up in the river system there is old rock species like gneiss, quartz diorite, gabbro and amphibolite. The landscape is characterized of the mountainous plateau with some ridges and mountains. The climate is arctic with long cold winters and short warm summers. The precipitation is generally low (approx. 400 mm).

18. Hydrological values:

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

As a 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 significant transport of sediments and the continuously shifting estuary as a consequent of this is important in maintaining a natural ecosystem in the estuary.

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. F,G,E, U

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.

Tanamunningen has extensive sea meadows with a variety of interesting sub arctic vegetation. The riverside- and sand dune vegetation include distinctive eastern plant species.

The main feature is a huge estuary of shifting mud- and sand plains, both in and below the intertidal zone. The shifting sand and gravel islets have an especially sand adapted flora. The vegetation in the large pools with brackish water is of certain interest. The area is very productive and is extremely important as a foraging, moulting and wintering area for ducks and as resting area for waders, geese and divers. The nature reserve is one of the largest unspoilt river deltas in Europe.

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 riverside and sand dune vegetation include distinctive eastern plant species like Tana Thyme *Thymus serpyllum* ssp. *tanaënsis* and Fringed Pink *Dianthus superbus* (NT). Other common species are Sea Arrowgrass *Triglochin maritima*, Gravel Sedge *Carex glareosa*, Lyme-grass *Leymus arenarius*, Beach Lathyrus *Lathyrus maritimus*. In addition characteristic flora elements are Creeping Alkaligrass *Puccinellia phryganodes*, Low Starwort *Stellaria humifusa* and Common Scurvy Grass *Cochlearia officinalis*. In smaller ponds with brackish water we find Estuary Sedge *Carex halophila* and Fineleaf Pondweed *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 Downy Birch *Betula pubescens* gallery forests is another feature of high conservation value.

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 well known for its rich bird fauna and there are recordings of 19 species of ducks, 5 geese, 22 waders, 14 gulls and terns, and a variety of other wetland birds. Particularly important is the annual moulting of males of Goosander *Mergus merganser* from large parts of Europe (e.g. ring recoveries from Sweden and Switzerland). Maximum counts have reached 27.000 birds in the late 1980s (the number is probably lower today). Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* uses the area in winter (4000), Passage species include Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (NT) (40 in autumn), Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (1.500), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (2.000 in autumn), Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (80 in autumn), Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* and White Tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* are seen regularly in spring and summer

Among the breeding species to be found here is Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (10-20 pairs), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (10-20 pairs), Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* (100-200 pairs) and Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (10-20 pairs).

Mammals:

The river mouth has a small population of Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU), and this is the only place in Norway where mother seals give birth on sand banks. A few Grey Seals *Halichoerus grypus* are also seen regularly in the nature reserve.

Fish:

Tana river is the most important river for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* in Norway. In addition there are also populations of e.g. Sea-trout *Salmo trutta*, Greyling *Thymallus thymallus* and Common Whitefish *Coregonus lavaretus*.

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 river Tana is extremely important for the local Saami culture, both in the traditional way of transport and as a salmon river. The river is also very important for recreational Salmon fishing, both for residents and for tourists.

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:

The area is owned by Finnmarkseiendommen, a regional authority managing state property in Finnmark County.

b) in the surrounding area:

Finnmarkseiendommen.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

No particular use, except some tourist traffic and leisure activities (sunbathing etc)

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

A quartzite quarry to the east includes ship traffic through the protected site, otherwise little or no use of the surrounding areas.

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:

Ships that load quartzite from the quarry east of the river delta unloads ballast water in the area which lead to the introduction of unwanted species. This problem is dealt with in the proposed management plan.

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 an increase in the ship traffic.

b) in the surrounding area:

Intensive agriculture can be a potential source of pollution in the area, but the existing agriculture does not affect the ecological character adversely.

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 20th of December 1991, and was given status as Ramsar area the 6th of August 2002.

The site is also IBA.

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:

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.

A management plan consisting of prioritised actions has and is being implemented.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

None at present.

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.

Information posters have been established. Information booklet is under production.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

The area is used by residents and some tourists for fishing and bird watching. Sport fishing for salmon is the main recreation activity in the area.

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

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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 Finnmark, which is under the instruction of DN.

Address: Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Miljøvernavdelingen, Statens Hus, 9815 Vadsø. 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).

Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1985. Verneverdig havstrandvegetasjon - Tanamunningen, Tana kommune og Neiden- Munkefjord, Sør-Varanger kommune. *Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Rapport nr 20*.

Birds:

Fagermo, S.E. & Frantzen, B. 1983. Næringsøkologi og bestandsforhold hos laksand (*Mergus merganser*) i Tanamunningen, Finnmark. *Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, miljøvernavd. Rapport nr 2*.

Frantzen, B. 1984. Laksanda, *Mergus merganser*, myte- og næringstrekk i Finnmark. *Vår Fuglefauna* 7: 140-144.

Fylkesmannen i Finnmark. 1985. Verneverdige strandområder i Finnmark. Verneverdier knyttet til vegetasjon og fugleliv i strand-, fjære- og gruntvannsområder. *Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, miljøvernavd. Rapport nr.13*.

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

Mammals:

Henriksen, G., Ørjebu, A. & Haug, T. 1993. Steinkobbe og havert i Finnmark. *Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, miljøvernavdelingen. Rapport nr. 3* 1993.

Quaternary:

Corner, D.G., Andreassen, K., Rønning, J.S., Muring, 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).

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