

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

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
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.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Tor Egil Kaspersen, Norwegian Directorate for Nature  
Management, Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim  
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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

April 2011

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### 3. Country:

Norway

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### 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.

Evenes wetland system: Include the sub-sites: Nautå, Sommervatnet, Kjerkvatnet, Tennvatn, Myrvatn.

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### 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 ☐

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### 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:**

## 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 existing protected areas; Tennvatn Nature Reserve, Myrvatn Nature Reserve, Sommervatnet Nature Reserve, Kjerkvatnet Nature Reserve, and Nautå 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.

Tennvatn: 68°31' N, 16°41' E

Myrvatn: 68°32' N, 16°44' E

Sommervatnet: 68°31' N, 16°44' E

Kjerkvatnet: 68°28' N, 16°39' E

Nautå: 68°29' N, 16°42' E

Central point: 68°30' N, 16° 42' E

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**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 site is located in Skånland municipality in Troms County and in Evenes municipality in Nordland County. The nearest town being Harstad situated 30-45 km to the north and west. Harstad has a population of approximately 23.000 inhabitants.

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

0- 123 m.a.s.l

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

Tennvatn: 63 ha (40 ha freshwater)

Myrvatn: 91 ha (11 ha freshwater )

Sommervatnet: 15.5 ha (8.5 ha freshwater)

Kjerkvatnet: 223.5 ha (102 ha terrestrial)

Nautå: 41 ha (34 ha freshwater)

Total: 434 ha.

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**12. General overview of the site:**

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

Tennvatn, Myrvatn, Sommervatnet, Nautå and Kjerkvatnet belong to catchment and water systems that have similar characteristics. The wetland system is considered to be one of the few naturally nutrient rich system in the northernmost parts of the world, and is therefore of international importance both botanically and limnologically.

The area is important as breeding and feeding area for several species of waterfowl.

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**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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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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).

(Capitalized letters shows the species`status on the Norwegian Red List)

Criterion 1: A varied and productive wetland which is typical for this region with its small, calm rivers and freshwater ponds surrounded by marshes with forested islands. It is also rare, as the site comprises some of the northernmost *Chara*-lakes, which both regionally and nationally is amongst the rarest and most distinctive nature types in Norway. This nature is threatened by drainage and eutrophication.

Criterion 2: The site supports vulnerable plants, birds and invertebrates. The site has populations of *Chara contraria* (VU), *Stuckenia (Potamogeton) vaginata* (VU), Water Starwort *Callitriche hermaphrodita* (VU) and *Chara rudis* (EN). It is also breeding site for Garganey *Anas querquedula* (EN), Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* (VU),

and Smew *Mergus albellus* (VU). A dense population of the vulnerable Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* (VU) which is listed as endangered on a global scale according to the IUCN Red List is also found here.

Criterion 3: The site belongs to a wetland system with high biological diversity of both nationally common species of waterfowl and waders, and rare and/or threatened bird species. For this region, the site is a “hotspots” of biological diversity and is species-rich even though the number of species present is not accurately known. Some of the species are close to their northernmost expansion.

Criterion 4: The site is important for waterfowl in different critical phases of their life cycle. It is used as resting area for migratory and moulting waterfowl and as breeding site by different common and rare/threatened bird species. See point 22 for details.

**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, slightly oceanic section (Mb – O1)
2. Arctic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

1. Moen, A. 1998. *National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation*. Norwegian Mapping Authority, 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 composition of the bedrock varies from sub-site to sub-site, but is dominated by feldspar and marble
Geomorphology	The area close to the watercourse varies between wetlands, bogs, forests, agricultural land and built-up areas.
Substrate / soil type	The sediments are mostly from the kambro-silurian age, but in the lower areas there are younger marine deposits and till, while other areas are covered by moraine.
Water depth / fluctuations	The lakes are shallow, and mostly naturally eutrophic. Lake Kjerkvatnet is influenced by brackish water. The rivers and creeks are shallow and slowly flowing. The amount of water in the watercourse varies over the year and depends on precipitation, snow melting and draught.
Climate	The climate in the catchment area is northern costal. The annual precipitation varies from between 1000 – 1500 mm in the higher parts of the catchment and 900- 1100 mm at sea level. On average there are between 200 -220 days with precipitation per year. The summers are wet and the winters are mild.

**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 catchment area in the northern part of the site is approx. 107 km<sup>2</sup> and lies mainly in Skånland municipality in the county of Troms. The water system consists of slowly flowing rivers and brooks

between altogether 12 larger and smaller lakes. The area close to the watercourse varies between wetlands, bogs, birch forests, agricultural land and built-up areas.

The other catchment area is Kvitfors/Tårstad watercourse (area 82 km<sup>2</sup>) which is a small watercourse in a low-lying, undulating terrain dominated by birch forests, some agricultural areas and built-up areas. There are great waterfalls in the upper parts of the watercourse, whereas the lower part is characterised by calm rivers, small riffles, pools and smaller areas with swamp forest. Several of the nearby lakes and marshes are protected by nature preservation.

The bedrock is for the most part rich in calcium carbonate and there are large areas of marble, and most of the bedrock is alloktone layers. The sediments in the area are mostly from the kambro-silurian age, but in the lower areas there are younger marine deposits. The entire area is characterized as "rich in calcium-carbonate" with Ca-concentrations > 4 mg/l.

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### 18. Hydrological values:

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

The wetlands ability to clean itself is characterized as good. The water quality in some of the nearby lakes has been characterized as "moderate" due to the high concentrations of nutrients and natural O<sub>2</sub>- atrophy during winter. The water system delivers drinking water to app. 3000 persons. The mires represent an important carbon reservoir.

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### 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 • Q • 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.

Inland : O, M, Xf, Tp, Ts, W, U, G, H

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### 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.

A diverse and productive wetlands of great importance for ducks and other waterfowl in different life stages (breeding sites, staging areas for migratory birds and moulting areas for waterfowl).

The combination of marble in the bedrock and marine deposits gives nutrition to a botanical variation and diversity that is unique to the northern part of Norway. The site has several nature- and vegetation types that are classified as rare and/or threatened in Norway. 70-90 % of the area is characterized as very important. Most of the rest is characterized as important (Direktoratet for naturforvaltning 2007).

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### 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 area has a dense and rich vegetation of aquatic plants. Broad zones with vascular plants, such as Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* and Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*.

Of particular interest is the occurrence of different Chara- species in the hard eutrophic lakes and in the flooded ponds in the wetland. *Chara contraria* (VU), *C. aspera* (NT), *C. strigosa* (NT) and *C. rudis* (EN)

Orchids found on the alkaline fens: Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and The Early Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnate*.

Different pondweed-species: *Stuckenia pectinata* (NT), *Potamogeton rutilus* (NT) and *Potamogeton friesii* (NT)

Demanding species found on the alkaline sea-cliffs: Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris*, *Primula scandinavica* (NT).

Pondweed, some of which growing at their global northern limit, such as Sheathed Pondweed *Stuckenia vaginata* (VU). Another interesting species is the Water Starwort *Callitriche hermaphrodita* (VU) and *Tolypella canadensis* (NT).

Also on the list of species for which Norway has a special responsibility through the Emerald Network), are Common Moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* and Autumn Dwarf Gentian *Gentianella amarella* (NT).

## 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.*

The site is important for staging, grazing, breeding and moulting area for water birds in the region: Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*, Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Gadwall *Anas strepera* (NT), Smew *Mergus albellus* (VU), Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* (VU), Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT).

It is an important breeding site for species like the, Northern Shoveler *Anas chipeata* (NT), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT), Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT). Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (NA) might have been breeding in Sommervatnet. This species has never been documented breeding in Norway.

The Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (NT) and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* has been observed hunting in the area. Rare species such as Garganey *Anas querquedula* (EN) is observed.

Rivers and lakes in the area are important for fish such as the Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*, and stationary and anadromous Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* and Arctic Charr *Salvelinus alpinus*.

Dense populations of the duck leech *Theromyzon maculosum* (DD) and Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* (VU) occur.

## 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 watercourse and the surrounding area are used for different outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing, birdwatching, hunting (elk and roe deer) and sports fishing (salmon, anadromous trout and char).

The water system delivers drinking water to app. 3000 persons.

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?

None

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:

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#### 24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Private

b) in the surrounding area:

Private /State (marine area)

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#### 25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is used for outdoor activities as described in 23 a). In the summer season small herds of cattle and sheep are grazing.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Avian and other activities from Evenes/Harstad Airport. Agriculture, both grazing by reindeer, sheep and cattle and harvesting of grass. There are farms and other houses located in this area. The main road from Narvik to Lofoten, E10, is located quite close to the border of the site.

Outdoor recreation, sports fishing and hunting. Roads for common regional traffic.

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**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:

Diffuse runoff of defrost fluid, oil and particles from exhaust from Evenes airport. Different chemicals like formiat and acetat used for deicing the runway and planes are from time to time seeping through the soil and end up in the proposed site. There is also runoff from the surrounding agricultural areas. Due to the lakes' high nutrient levels they might become overgrown in the future.

b) in the surrounding area:

There are also hangars and garages with oil- and fuel emissions. In addition there is dust and particles in the exhaust from planes. The emissions are regulated through an emission permit given by the County Government of Nordland.

In the catchment the agricultural activity is fairly high, which leads to erosion and nutrient run-off. There have also been some incidents where manure and ensilages have not been stored by the rules and thereby contributed to pollute the watercourse. The number of farms and the area used for agriculture in the catchment are decreasing. The sewage and wastewater is led into the municipal wastewater system. Extraction of groundwater for water supply is not known, but there are some wells in the bedrock.

**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.

All sites are protected as Nature Reserve according to the Nature Conservation Act:

Tennvatn: December 8th 1995

Myrvatn: December 8th 1995

Sommervatnet: December 19th 1997

Kjerkvatnet: December 19th 1997

Nautå: December 19th 1997

The boundaries for the Ramsar site are the same as for the 5 sub sites.

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?:

No management plan exists, but the task has been given high priority in the management authority. For Tennvatn and Myrvatn sub-sites a draft management plan exists.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

None

**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

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

The site is identified by the management authority as an area where it is necessary to get a management plan.



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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

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

In Tennvatn, Kjerkvatnet and Nautå there are botanically investigation in progress by Norwegian institute for Water Research.

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**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.

Poster with information about some of the Nature Reserves, ecological and biological facts and information on the regulations of activities in the sites has been put up.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

The site is to a minor degree used by locals and tourist for recreation. Sports fishing occurs in the lakes.

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**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

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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 Troms, which is under the instruction of DN. Address: County Governor of Troms, Boks 6105, N-9291 Tromsø, Norway. Phone: +47 77642000. E-mail: postmottak@fmtr.no

and

County Governor of Nordland, which is under the instruction of DN. Address: County Governor of Nordland, Molovn. 10, 8002 Bodø. Phone: + 47 75 53 15 80. E-mail: postmottak@fmno.no

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

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

Direktoratet for naturforvaltning 2007. Kartlegging av naturtyper - Verdisetting av biologisk mangfold. DN-håndbok 13 2.utgave 2006 (oppdatert 2007).

<http://artsobservasjoner.no/fugler/>

Elven et al., 1988. *Botaniske verdier på havstrender i Nordland. C. Beskrivelser for regionene Ofoten og Lofoten/Vesterålen*. Økoforsk rapport 1988:2C.

EUs rammedirektiv for vann. *Karakterisering av vannområder I Nord-Norge. Del I, Kvitfjell/Tårstadvassdraget og Ofotfjorden 2004*. Rapport fra samarbeid mellom Sweco Grøner, NINA, Akvaplan og KM Miljøutredning.

- Granmo, A., Elven, R. & Edvardsen H. 1985. *Flora, plantegeografi og botaniske verneverdier I Kvitfjorsvassdraget, Evenes (Nordland) og Skånland (Troms)*. Polarflokken 9 (1) 6-73.
- Haugen, T.M.K & Heitmann A. 1998. *Fuglelivet i Sør-Troms*. Fugler i Troms 1 34-38.
- Langangen, A. 2004. *Alkaline lakes with Charophytes in Norway. III description of lakes in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark counties in Norway*. Blyttia 62: 198-211.
- Larsen, B.H. & Gaarder, G. 2009. *Biologisk mangfold i Evenes kommune*. Miljøfaglig Utredning Rapport 2009: 30
- Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å. og Bakken, T. (red.) 2006. *Norsk Rødliste 2006 – 2006 Norwegian Red List*. Artsdatabanken, Norway
- Moen, A. 1998. *National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation*. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss
- Naturbasen, [www.naturbase.no](http://www.naturbase.no) , nedlastet 24.08.09

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