

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 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.

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:

April 2011

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.

Evenes wetland system: Nautå

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:

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 is the same as for the existing 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.

68°29' N, 16°42' 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 Nature Reserve is located in Evenes municipality in Nordland County, the nearest town being Harstad situated 44 km north from Nautå. Harstad has a population of approximately 23.000 inhabitants.

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

17 -24 m.a.s.l

11. Area: (in hectares)

41 ha (34 ha freshwater)

12. General overview of the site:

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

This site must be seen in context with Tennvatn and Myrvatn in Troms County. The site must also be considered in connection with Kjerkvatnet and Sommervatnet (see RIS for these areas). The sites belong to water systems that have much the same characteristics. The wetland system is considered to be one of the only remaining naturally nutrient rich systems in the northernmost part of the world, and is therefore of international importance both botanically and limnologically. The sub-site comprises of four (mostly) shallow and eutrophic lakes (Nautåvatnet and Svanvatnet in addition to the southernmost parts of the lakes Langvatnet and Kjerkhaugvatnet). Rivers and creeks connect these four lakes.

Nautå Nature Reserve is of high importance for waterfowl. In particular, the population of breeding Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* is high. There are also several other species of waterfowl. The botanical values in the *Chara*- lakes are also significant, with several rare and threatened species of algae.

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).

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

Criterion 1: A diverse and productive wetlands system which is representative for this region. It is also rare since many mires have been drained and cultivated. One of the northernmost locations of *Chara*-lakes are found here, a nature type that is one of the rarest and most distinctive nature types in Norway. This nature type is also highly threatened by eutrophication due to higher levels of nutrients in the water.

The combination of marble in the bedrock and marine deposits gives nutrition to a botanical diversity that is unique to the Northern parts of Norway. The site has many various nature- and vegetation types, some of which are classified as rare and/or threatened in Norway:

Hard eutrophic lakes with different rare vegetation types

Elodeid vegetation; lime-rich pondweed *Potamogeton* subtype, water-milfoil – pondweed *Myriophyllum* – *Potamogeton* subtype.

Chara lake-bottom vegetation; species-rich *Chara* subtype, *Chara rudis* subtype

Rich fens that surround the lakes.

Watercourses on calcium carbonate rich bedrock. In the surrounding areas there are;

Rich swamp woodland

Tall herb, downy birch forest

Tall herb, ostrich fern woodland

Criterion 2: The site has solid populations of *Chara contraria* (VU) and *Chara rudis* (EN). Northern Water-starwort *Callitriche hermaphroditica* (VU) is also found. The Smew *Mergus albellus* (VU) is using the area (see also points 20, 21 and 22).

Criterion 4:

A diverse and productive wetlands system of great importance for ducks and other waterfowl in different life stages. Nautåvatnet and the southern parts of Langvatnet and Kjerkhaugvatnet are important breeding sites for waterbirds, especially for the Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. Kjerkhaugvatnet is also important as a staging area for migratory birds and also for some moulting waterfowl.

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:

Middle boreal vegetation zone, slightly oceanic section (Mb – O1)¹.
Arctic region ².

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.

Geology	The bedrock consists of marble (calcium carbonate).
Geomorphology	Four (mostly) shallow and eutrophic lakes (Nautåvatnet and Svanvatnet in addition to the southernmost parts of the lakes Langvatnet and Kjerkhaugvatnet). Rivers and creeks connects these four lakes
Substrate / soil type	Most of the area is covered by till and marine deposits.
Water depth / fluctuations	Shallow and naturally eutrophic lakes rich in calciumcarbonate, up to 50 mg/l. Slow floating rivers, varying through the year depending on precipitation, snow melting and draught.
Climate	The climate is slightly atlantic with wet summers and mild winters. Average annual precipitation is 900- 1100 mm at sea level. There are 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 is approx. 107 km² and the northern parts of the catchment lies in Skånland municipality in the county of Troms. 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 whole area is characterized as “rich in calcium-carbonate” with Ca-concentrations > 4 mg/l.

The water system consists of slowly flowing rivers and streams between 12 larger and smaller lakes. The area close to the watercourse varies between wetlands, bogs, birch forests, agricultural land and built-up areas.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The mires represent an important carbon reservoir.

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.

O, Tp, M, Xf, Ts

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.

Characterized by:

A diverse and productive wetland system of great importance for ducks and other waterfowl in different life stages. The bird species present are typical for highly productive lakes. Nautåvatnet and the southern parts of Langvatnet and Kjerkhaugvatnet are important breeding sites for different waterbirds, e.g. Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. Though not well documented, it is known that Kjerkhaugvatnet is important as a staging area for migratory birds and also for some moulting waterfowl. Svanvatnet is important as a grazing site for birds that breed in other locations within the water system.

More than 70 % of the area within the Nature Reserve is characterized as very important. Approx. 10 % is characterized as important (Direktoratet for naturforvaltning 2007).

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.*

Of particular interest is the occurrence of different *Chara*-species and other robust species in the hard eutrophic lakes: *C. contraria* (VU), *C. aspera* (NT), *C. rudis* (EN), *C. strigosa* (NT), *Tolypella canadensis* (NT) and Northern Water-starwort *Callitriche hermaphroditica* (VU)

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

The Early Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnate* (NT) is found in the alkaline fens

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.*

This site is important as staging and grazing site for many nationally common species, for instance Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* and Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*.

The site is a breeding site for not very common species like the Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* (5 – 10 couples) and Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

The site is also important as a grazing site for bird species that breed in other parts of the water system such as Gadwall *Anas strepera* (NT) and Northern Shoveler *Anas chrypeata* (NT).

The Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (NT) and Smew *Mergus albellus* (VU) is observed 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 watercourse and the surrounding area are used for various outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing, bird watching and sports fishing.

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 known.

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:

The site is mostly used for outdoor activities as described in 23 a). Even though the Nature Reserve is close to roads and the airport the site in itself is quite intact.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The Evenes/Harstad Airport is situated west of the southernmost part of Langvatnet, with high avian activity as well as activities conducted by the Norwegian Airforce.

There is extensive agricultural activity within the catchment area (grazing by livestock and harvesting of grass). There are also farms and other houses located within the area.

The main road from Narvik to Lofoten, E10, crosses the site twice, and is quite close to the border of the protected area for approx. 1.5 km. The road from E10 to Evenes goes on the east side of the site for approx. 600 metres.

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:

Chemicals from the de-icing have been found in Langvatnet. The chemicals used are mainly glycol with different additives.

b) in the surrounding area:

The airport and its activities represent a threat with regards to pollution. The platform where de-icing of airplanes is done is close to Langvatnet. The run-off from the de-icing is supposed to be led into the municipal wastewater system. This system does not always have enough capacity to deal with the run-off. Close to Langvatnet there is also an area which is used for the "storage" snow that is removed from the runway. This snow can contain different chemicals like formiat and acetat used for de-icing of the runway, which from time to time seeps through the ground and ends up in the water system. The size and frequency of this problem is not known yet. There are also hangars and garages with oil- and fuel emissions. In addition, dust and particles are released through the exhaust from airplanes. The emissions are regulated through an emission permit given by the County Government of Nordland.

In the catchment area there is quite extensive agricultural activity, which leads to erosion and nutrient run-off. There have also been some incidents where manure and ensilages have not been stored according to set regulations and therefore may contribute to the pollution of the water system. This leads to an excessive amount of nutrients, which in turn leads to eutrophication and anaerobic water. 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.

Established as a Nature Reserve December 19th 1997. The boundaries for the Ramsar site are the same as for Nautå Nature Reserve.

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 by the management authority.

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 as one of the protected areas where it is necessary to get a management plan. A management plan will also include the other protected areas in the vicinity.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

The Norwegian Institute for Water Research has been given a permit to undertake an inventory of water plants and, if necessary, collect water plant species.

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 the Nature Reserve, ecological and biological facts and information on the regulations of activities within the site has been put up.

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 some extent used by residents and tourists.

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, Molovn. 10, 8002 Bodø. Phone: + 47 75 53 15 80. 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.

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

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Moen, A. 1998. *National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation*. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss

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Naturbasen, www.naturbase.no , nedlastet 24.08.09

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