

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:

Gunhild Dahle, County Governor of Nordland,
Moloveien 10, 8002 Bodø
Tlf: +47 75 53 15 00
E-mail: postmottak@fmno.no

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

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: Sommervatnet

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 Sommervatnet 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°31' N, 16°44' 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 Sommervatnet. Harstad has a population of approximately 23.000 inhabitants.

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

24 m.a.s.l

11. Area: (in hectares)

15.5 ha (8.5 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 Tennvatnet and Myrvatn in Troms County, which are Nature Reserves close to Sommervatnet. The site must also be considered together with Nautå and Kjerkvatnet (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. Sommervatnet is a shallow lake that is important as breeding and grazing area for many waterfowl species.

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

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: This sub site is a part of a diverse and productive wetlands system which is both representative and unique for the region. *Chara*- lakes are rare in Norway, and Sommervatnet represents one of the northernmost of these lakes in Norway. These naturally nutrient rich systems are highly threatened by eutrophication.

The combination of marble in the bedrock and marine deposits gives nutrition to a botanical variation and diversity that is unique to the northern parts of Norway. The site has many nature- and vegetation types that 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 fen.

Moderately rich lawn fen subtype.

Bottle sedge – slender sedge subtype.

Criterion 2: For this region this site has a dense and rich vegetation of aquatic plants, among them *Chara contraria* (VU) and Sheathed Pondweed *Stuckenia vaginata* (VU) and Water Starwort *Callitriche hermaphrodita* (VU). Rare species such as Garganey *Anas querquedula* (EN) have been observed in the lake. The site is also important for the conservation of several near threatened species. The site function as grazing

area for waterfowl that breeds in the nearby Tennvatn (see RIS Evenes wetland system: Tennvatn and points 20 and 22).

Criterion 4: The site is important as resting, grazing, moulting and breeding area for birds of passage (see also 20-22).

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:

Middle boreal vegetation zone, slightly oceanic section (Mb – O1)¹.
Arctic region².

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.

Geology	The bedrock consists of marble (calciumcarbonate).
Geomorphology	A small, shallow freshwater lake.
Substrate / soil type	Most of the area is covered by till and marine deposits. Sommervatnet borders to an open marsh in the northeast. The rest of the surrounding area is dominated by lush swamp forest.
Water depth / fluctuations	Sommervatnet is a shallow lake. Storelva, the river which runs from the outlet of Sommervatnet, is deep and slowly flowing. The amount of water in the river varies during the year depending on precipitation, snow melting and draught.
Climate	The climate is slightly atlantic with wet summers and mild winters. The annual precipitation varies from between 1000 – 1500 mm in the higher parts of the catchment and 900- 1100 mm at sea level. There are 200 -220 days with precipitation per year.

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 watercourse consists of slowly flowing rivers and brooks between altogether 12 larger and smaller lakes. The area close to the watercourse varies between rivers, lakes, coastal ecosystem, mires, bogs, birch forests, agricultural land and a few built-up areas.

The water quality in the nearby lakes (Svanevatnet and Langvatnet) has been characterized as “moderate” due to the high concentrations of nutrients and natural O₂- atrophy during winter.

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 • 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.

O, M, Xf, 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.

A diverse and productive wetland. Of great importance for ducks and other waterfowl in different life stages. As a breeding site it must be considered in context with the other parts of the site. Waterfowl that breed close to Tennvatn come to Sommervatnet to graze.

More than 85% of the area in the Nature Reserve is characterized as very important. The rest of the protected area 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.*

Sommervatnet has a dense and rich vegetation of aquatic plants. Of special interest is the occurrence of different *Chara* – species: *C. strigosa* (NT) and *C. contraria* (VU). Several species of Pondweed, some of which are growing at their northernmost distribution (Shetland Pondweed *Potamogeton rutilus* (NT) and Sheathed Pondweed *Stuckenia vaginata* (VU). Another interesting specie is the Water Starwort *Callitriche hermaphroditica* (VU), which occurs abundantly.

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.*

Sommervatnet is an important site for staging, grazing, breeding and moulting for many water birds. Waterfowl that breed in the nearby lakes and nature reserves (Tennvatn and Myrvatn) come to Sommervatnet to graze. Mew Gull *Larus canus* (NT), Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* (9-13 pair) and Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus* are found breeding here. Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (NA) might have been breeding in Sommervatnet. This species has never been documented breeding in Norway.

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:

Used for outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing, birdwatching and hunting.

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:

Waterhole for cattle and sheep.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Grazing by sheep and cattle and harvesting of grass. Other agricultural activities. Airport and avian activity and activity conducted by the Norwegian air force. Outdoor recreation, sports fishing and hunting. Roads for common regional traffic.

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:

The highly productive character of this shallow lake implies the possibility that it may be overgrown.

a) in the surrounding area:

There is runoff from the surrounding agricultural areas.

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

None known.

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 in 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 locals and tourist for recreation

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.

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.

Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å. og Bakken, T. (red.) 2006. *Norsk Rødliste 2006 – 2006 Norwegian Red List*. Artsdatabanken, Norway

Larsen, B.H. & Gaarder, G. 2009. *Biologisk mangfold i Evenes kommune*. Miljøfaglig Utredning Rapport 2009: 30

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.

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

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

Naturbasen, www.naturbase.no , nedlastet 24.08.09
