

# 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:

Heidi-Marie Gabler, County Governor of Troms,  
box 6105, 9291 Tromsø  
n-9291 Tromsø  
Tlf: +47 77 64 20 00  
[postmottak@fmtr.no](mailto:postmottak@fmtr.no)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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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.

Målselvtløpet

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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:**

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#### 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 Målselvtløpet Nature Reserve.

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#### 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.

69°16' N, 18°31' 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 situated in the Målselv and Lenvik municipalities in the county of Troms – the nearest town being Tromsø located 50 km north-east. Tromsø city has a population of approximately 65,000 inhabitants.

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

0 m.a.s.l

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

1287.5 ha (1112.5 ha brackish water)

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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.

Outlet of a great river (Målselva) in the fjord (Malangen), and an active delta with sandy substrate, shore vegetation and small forested islands.

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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

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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. This site is representative for this region for a delta originated by the outlet of a large river in a narrow fjord and dynamics created by large tidal fluctuations in water level. This is one of the largest deltas in Troms County. Botanically this site demonstrates the succession of pioneer association to stable communities.

Criterion 3. This site is important for maintenance of biological diversity in the region. It is of general importance for birds of passage in Troms, and especially for wetland birds such as *Merganser* - ducks. Botanically the site is important as a special sea shore meadow that occurs on the islands and meadows along the coast. An important stock of Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* passes through this site through migration between river Målselva and the sea.

Criterion 4: This site is important for birds of passages in Troms, and for wintering ducks and swans during the critical winter stage. See point 22 for details.

Criterion 6

This site is internationally worthy of preservation in regards to Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) (LC) (8000 individuals).

Criterion 8. Important river stocks of Atlantic Salmon, and anadromous Arctic Char and Brown Trout migrate through the site.

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**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)<sup>1</sup>.

Alpine region<sup>2</sup>.

**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. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

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**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	Within this site the bedrock is mostly covered with seabed deposits, moraine and deposits from the river.
Geomorphology	This is one of the largest deltas in the Troms County. This is a classic delta with active eroding/depositing proceeding. The site includes large areas covered by deciduous wood and forested islets.
Substrate / soil type	These deposits are dominated by sand.
Water depth / fluctuations	Approximately 5 km of the 10 km wide delta is drained during the ebb tide.
Climate	The climate is northern coastal with relatively warm and short summers and long but relatively mild winters. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

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**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 geology is dominated by Caledonian bedrock, and bedrock of granite and quartz. Also some marble occur. The landscape varies between valleys, ridges and alpine mountain plateau and peaks. The valleys typically are covered by river deposits but some marine sediments and glacial originated deposits occur. The open country is mostly covered by moraine. There are many mountain tops with peaks approximately 1700 m.a.s.l. Some mountain hills are covered by permanent glaciers. Several great lakes occur in the catchment area. The river Måselva is the central nerve in the landscape and flows through small valleys, runs through great waterfalls and flows through the broad valley of Måselv, some places creating great meanders, before it empties into the proposed Ramsar-site. The lower part of the valley is narrower and subsequently the delta sediment has made up shallow banks extending far out in the sea. The climate near the coast is northern coastal. In the inland more continental climate proceed with warm summer, cold winter and less precipitation (700-1000 mm).

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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 large river Måselva empties into this site, additionally several smaller creeks discharge within the field. This is a classic delta with active eroding/depositing proceeding.

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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 • 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, A, B, M, E, G, Xf, D, I

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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.

This is a large delta. Vegetation established on islets and river bank varies between rich and poor vegetation types. Succession varies from pioneer communities to stable plant communities. Uppermost islets in delta are covered by forests some of which is inundated forests of birch and willow. A special meadow exists on the exterior islets. This is an important staging area for water birds especially Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* and breeding area for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* (LC).

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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 flora varies between rich and poor communities. No endangered species are observed but a special meadow exists on the exterior islets with Saltmars Rush *Juncus gerardii* and a lot of Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. Botanically this site also is interesting because it demonstrates the succession of pioneer communities to stable plant communities on an active delta. Uppermost islets in the delta are covered by forests, some of which is inundated forests of birch and willow.

The flora in Målselvtløpet is national worthy of preservation.

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**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.*

Målselva outlet is important as staging area for birds, particularly Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (LC) (800 individuals), and Common Merganser (LC) (8000 individuals).

Great numbers of seagulls and Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (LC) use this area both in spring and autumn. In winter this site is important for White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT) and Whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (LC).

The Lesser Spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* (LC) is breeding on the islets. Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (NT) is hunting in the area.

The watercourse hosts an important population of anadromous Atlantic Salmon which migrates through this site during migrating. Anadromous Brown Trout occur in the outlet area.

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**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:

Some sports fishing occurs in the sea.

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?

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

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

Sports fishing, Berry picking, outdoor recreation and boat traffic. Grass cutting and grazing on some islets. Spruce planting.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The catchment area is vast and includes many kinds of human activity as built up area, agriculture, forestry and grazing by sheep and cattle. Keeping reindeer. Airport and avian activity and activity conducted by the Norwegian air force. Outdoor recreation, sports fishing and hunting. Roads for common regional traffic.

Land use in the close surroundings to the proposed Ramsar site is agriculture, disperse built-up area and cottages.

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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:

Though not well documented there may be a decline in local stock of shoaling fish representing prey for the mergansers. Runoff from surrounding agriculture and built up area.

b) in the surrounding area:

There is a decline in local stocks of shoaling fish which are prey for the merganser. In the catchment area there is hydropower regulation, embankments, potential runoff from airport, surrounding agriculture areas, polluted ground and old garbage dump and local sewer.

The river Målselva is not heavy polluted but some enhanced values of nutrients occur due to run off from agriculture and built up surrounding area.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

Established as Nature Reserve December 8th 1995. The boundary for the Ramsar site is the same as for the Målselvtløpet Nature Reserve.

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.

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:

Management plan for some forested areas.

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**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.

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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.

None known.

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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.

None

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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.

Sports fishing in outlet area. Outdoor recreation.

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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

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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.

Cederløy, A. 1981. *Ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Troms*. Fylkesmannen i Troms. 62pp.

Fjelland, M. Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1983. *Havstrand i Troms, botaniske verneverdier*. Institutt for biologi og geologi, UiTø. Rapport T-551. 148-149 pp.

Fylkesmannen i Troms, 1989. *Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Troms fylke*.

Fylkesmannen i Troms, 2008. *Utkast til tiltaksprogram for Bardu-/Måselvassdraget – Malangen vannområde*. 52 pp.

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

Nortung, B. Xxxx. *Vegetasjonskartlegging og floraregistrering i Måselvutløpet naturreservat*.

Strann, K.-B. 1998. *Telling av vannfulg i Måselvutløpets Naturreservat*. NINA Oppdragsmelding 573. 12 pp.

Strann, K. B., Systad, G.H. & Tømmervik, H. 2000. *Flora og fauna registrering i Måselvutløpet naturreservat, samt revisjon av vegetasjonskart*. NINA Oppdragsmelding 658, 18 pp.

Wartena, E.M.M. 1998. *Vannkvalitet i vassdrag i Troms*. Akvaplan-niva, rapport nr APN512.814.1. 56 pp.

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