

# 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:

Inge Hafstad, County Governor Nord-Trøndelag  
Statens Hus, N-7734 Steinkjer.  
e-mail: [postmottak@fmnt.no](mailto:postmottak@fmnt.no)  
Phone +47 74 16 80 00

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.  
Ulendeltaet

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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 boundaries are the same as for the existing Ulendeltaet 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.

64° 09'N 13° 49'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.

Ulendeltaet is a freshwater river delta situated in Lierne municipality, Nord-Trøndelag County. The nearest town being Steinkjer (approx. 20,500 inhabitants), which also is the administration centre of the County. Steinkjer is approx. 114 km west-south-west of the Ulendeltaet.

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

346 – 360 m.a.s.l.

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

280.0 ha (80.0 ha freshwater)

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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.

Ulendeltaet is a freshwater river delta built up by the sediments from the river. The whole area within the nature reserve is flat with only approx. 15 meter difference in meters above water level. The waterway is going east towards Sweden and further to the Baltic Sea.

### 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).

#### Criterion 1.

The Ulendeltaet represents a rare example of a freshwater delta, found in the mid boreal vegetation zone. It is one of the best preserved deltas in mid Norway, where the river running into the delta is unregulated. The delta includes stretches of a meandering river, islands, old river courses and pools.

#### Criterion 4

The site is important for breeding bird species. For details please see points 20 and 22.

#### Criterion 8

Lake Ulen and the delta have large numbers of Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* and Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus* among the eastern species Burbot *Lota lota* and Common Minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*. The delta is important source of food for this species. Is` also important as spawning ground for Brown Trout.

### 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, indifferent section (Mb-OC, between slightly continental and slightly oceanic section).
2. Alpine

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

1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland Moen 1998 *National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation*. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss.
2. Biogeographical Regions, 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	Augen gneiss and schist formed during the Caledonian orogeny, but the composition of the bedrock is of less importance as it is covered with deep layers of fluvial deposits and peat and mire.
Geomorphology	Fluvial deposits from the river Inderdalsåa have formed the delta.
Water depth/	The delta area overflows regularly, especially during snow melt in the spring. The

fluctuations	nature reserve also includes shallow fresh water areas from the lake Ulen build up by sediments from the river.
Climate	Ulendeltaet lies in an area of relatively cool and humid summers (700 mm annual precipitation), and relatively cold winters. The area receives precipitation 190-200 days a year (Moen 1998).

### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Geologically the ground consists mainly of rapakivi granite and mica schist from the Caledonian mountain range. The water catchment area for the river Innerdalsåa is a wide valley consisting mostly of continuous morainal ground and vast areas of marshes. The upper part of the river course has partly branched courses, but also locations with calm water. The lower parts of the river are meandering with ponds formed from former river course. By the different river courses dikes have been created by the sediments from the river. Except for the flooding periods the transport of sediments are considered to be low. The river delta is classified as a digitate delta formed as a bird's feet characterized by a main channel that has divided itself into several distribution channels. However, you can also find an element of marsh delta in the area.

### 18. Hydrological values:

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

The sediment transport of Inderdalsåa (river) creates the delta. The area functions as a sediment trap and is important for nutrient fixing. Together with other areas of mires in the watershed the mires in the delta help to reduce flooding.

## 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.

U, Xf, L

## 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.

Ulendelta is distinguished by moist forest of spruce and birch, especially as edge vegetation along the riverbank. There are also vast and well developed Salix scrubs, which gives the area a distinctive character. The river delta is partially overflowed especially during snow melt in spring. The marshes within the site are varied, with both poor and rich marshes. The site is also important for breeding bird species. Ulendelta represents a rare nature type in Norway. Undisturbed freshwater deltas of this size are unique for the mid parts of Norway and rare also in the south of Norway.

The area has a stable population of beaver *Castor fiber* and moose *Alces alces*.

The edge of the forest and the rich Salix scrubs are important areas for different passerines. The Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* is one of the characteristic species in the area together with the Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. Other common breeding species in the Ulendeltaet are the Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Common Gull *Larus canus*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* and Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

Lake Ulen and the delta have large numbers of Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* and Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus* among the eastern species Burbot *Lota lota* and Common Minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*.

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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.*

There are different kinds of marshes with some noteworthy flora. One of the species we can find here is *Dactylorhiza incarnate* (LC).

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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.*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (NT) have a breeding couple in the delta, and from one year to another you have registrations of the Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (EN) and Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* (VU) among others.

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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:

The Lierne municipality has a long and traditional hunting history, also within the Ramsar site. After the establishment of the nature reserve, traditional hunting is forbidden, except for large herbivores such as moose.

**b)** Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

No

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former 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

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

- a) within the Ramsar site:  
Locally used for outdoor recreation, sports fishing and moose hunting
- b) in the surroundings/catchment:  
Locally used for outdoor recreation, sports fishing and moose hunting

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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:  
Boat sightseeing for tourists during the summer.

- b) in the surrounding area:  
In the surrounding area there are some old buildings not in regular use.

One small local road crosses the river about 2 km west of the river delta and goes further south in a distance of approximately 1 km from the delta. East of the site marsh areas have been ditched in the purpose of planted spruce.

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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:

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.

Ulendeltaet was designated as nature reserve on 14th December 1984. The boundaries for the Ramsar site are the same as for the Ulendeltaet 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 will be given high priority by the management authority.

- d) Describe any other current management practices:

The area is by Royal Resolution given the status as nature reserve (Norw. Naturreservat), which is the strongest form of nature conservation in Norway. All kinds of human activity in the nature reserve is regulated by an official set of detailed regulations specific for this nature reserve. The aim of the nature reserve is to conserve a distinctive and little influenced delta in the mid Norwegian mountain region in its natural condition, so that the area can preserve its value as breeding area for several species of birds and its distinctive nature type for research and recreation. The whole waterway, including the delta Ulen, is a permanent protected waterway.

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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.

The Osprey breeding couple is included in the Nord-Trøndelag Osprey program run by the Nord-Trøndelag University College.

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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.

A National Park Center is located in the vicinity, and has the potential to be used for CEPA activities related to the Ramsar site.

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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 area is to some extent used by tourists and residents, mainly for fishing and moose hunting, but also canoe trips. The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers, mostly members of Nord- and Sør-Trøndelag branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF).

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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](mailto: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 Nord-Trøndelag, which is under the instruction of DN.

Address: County Governor of Nord-Trøndelag, Statens Hus, N-7734 Steinkjer, Norway.

e-mail: [Postmottak@fmnt.no](mailto:Postmottak@fmnt.no)

Phone: +47 74 16 80 00

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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.

Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å. og Bakken, T. (red.) 2006. Norsk Rødlister 2006 – 2006 Norwegian Red List.

Artsdatabanken, Norway

Moen, A. 1998. *Nasjonalatlas for Norge*; vegetasjon. Statens Kartverk, Hønefoss

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

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