



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 8 May 2023

Update version, previously published on : 9 July 2018

Norway

Horta



Designation date	27 May 2013
Site number	2158
Coordinates	65°12'38"N 11°25'54"E
Area	3 158,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The Site includes the Horta archipelago consisting of small islands, long fjords, skerries and islets with shallow marine waters in the coastal zone. Marine shallow waters with a large production of marine invertebrates and fish, combined with seaweed beds and kelp forests sustain a rich animal life. The skerries and islands in the outermost coastal zone are partly devoid of vegetation due to the rough seas. The coastal zone is characterized by rock, stone and gravel-dominated shores. The vegetation is dominated by common species on coastal shores, bogs and heathland, with different sedges and heather species. This vegetation is formed through many years of grazing and harvesting. The vegetation in several places is influenced by seabird guano. A total of 171 different vascular plant species are recorded in this area.

The large area of shallow waters with high biological production makes it very important as a breeding and staging area for a large number of seabird species. Horta is the most important breeding area in the county for the Baltic lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*). The large breeding colonies exist within the borders of the Site, on Langdraget and Sør-Stokkholmen. The Site is also an important breeding area for species such as the black guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*), the red-throated loon (*Gavia stellata*), the Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), the common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Moreover, the Site hosts stable populations of the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), the harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*).

The vegetation and landscape have been shaped through many years of grazing, harvesting, collection of eider down and seabird eggs as well as peat harvesting. The two main islands in the archipelago are Burøya and Vågøya, both inhabited prior to 1965. The Site is currently used by scientists for seabird monitoring and geological research and as a vacation site for private landowners. Fishing activities take place in the surrounding areas.

Horta is an old fishing village, and up to 120 people lived there. Burøya and Vågøya contain buildings from the time Horta was inhabited, and which are now mainly used as holiday homes.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency

Postal address

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Postal address

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year

To year

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from
GIS boundaries

3159.532

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other ecosystem services provided

The western coastline of Norway is characterized by long fjords and numerous islands. This holds true also for the coastline of Trøndelag and Nordland. The coastal heathlands in Norway represent one-third of the total European Atlantic heathland belt. Even at the northern brink of their distribution, the ocean currents cause a mild coastal climate, dominated by high precipitation. *Calluna vulgaris* is usually the dominant plant species in these heaths. Characteristically, moisture dependent, northern and alpine species tend to blend in with the typical heathland vegetation. These landscapes have been an important resource for the maintenance of livestock, both in terms of grazing and harvesting grounds. Heathland with a genuine maritime influence is very limited and the northern coastal heaths found in Norway today typically occur on islands and islets, often in mosaic with bogs and ponds. Mainly due to changes in agriculture the habitat type is highly threatened. Horta exhibit excellent examples of this internationally valuable and endangered habitat.

Other reasons

The site consists of a marine archipelago with shallow waters dotted with numerous skerries, islets and islands. This kind of archipelago is representative of the North-European coast in this part of the Atlantic region. Horta exhibits interesting examples of coastal heathland. Coastal heathland is endangered and has become a rare habitat.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

The Site host important areas for rare/threatened species.

- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

Horta is important for seabirds and waterfowl at different critical phases in their life cycle as it is used as resting area for migratory and moulting waterfowl and as a breeding site for different common and rare/threatened bird species. Horta is the most important breeding area in the county for the Baltic lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*). Large breeding colonies exist within the borders of this Ramsar-site, on Langdraget and Sør-Stokkholmen. The Site is also an important breeding area for species such as the black guillemot, the red-throated loon, the Arctic tern, the common eider and cormorants.

A recent analysis of GPS trackers attached to the European shag indicates Horta as an important foraging location for birds from Sklinna (another Norwegian Ramsar-Site) during the breeding season (S-H Lorentsen 2010, pers. comm., 21 Dec.). Common eider and greylag goose are breeding and moulting in the area in considerable numbers.

Horta is also an important nursing and resting area for the grey seal and breeding area for harbour seals.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	Horta is frequently used as a breeding-, molting- or staging area by this species. Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Horta is frequently used as a breeding-, molting- or staging area by this species. Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anser anser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species is breeding and molting in the area in considerable numbers.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: Horta is frequently used as a breeding-, molting- or staging area by this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species forage and overwinter in this area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gavia immer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species forage and overwinter in this area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: The species is breeding regularly in this site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species is an assumed breeder in the area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Larus canus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species is a frequent breeder in this site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: In this region Horta is the an very important breeding site for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Larus marinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species forage and overwinter in this area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 4: The site is an important foraging and breeding area for the individuals from Sklinna (Ramsar site) during breeding season.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This site is an important breeding area for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species is breeding and molting in the area in considerable numbers.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Horta is frequently used as a breeding-, molting- or staging area by this species. Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Uria aalge</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as CR	This species is sometimes feeding/wintering in the area. Criterion 4: This species uses the site for breeding.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2021.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Coastal heath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The coastal heathlands in Norway represent one third of the total European Atlantic heathland belt. Even at the northern brink of their distribution, the ocean currents cause a mild coastal climate, dominated by high precipitation.	National Red List: Considered as EN. Mainly due to changes in agriculture the habitat type is highly threatened. Horta exhibits excellent examples of this internationally valuable and endangered habitat.

Optional text box to provide further information

Capitalized letters shows the habitats' status on the National Red List for Ecosystems and Habitat types 2018.

Drift lines: Important foraging community for waterfowl.

Coastal bogs are present within the Ramsar-site.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The skerries and islands in the outermost coastal zone are partly devoid of vegetation due to the rough seas. Marine shallow waters with a large production of marine invertebrates and fish, combined with seaweed beds and kelp forests sustain a rich animal life. The coastal zone is characterized by rock, stone and gravel-dominated shores. The vegetation is dominated by common species on coastal shores, bogs and heathland, with different sedges and heather species. This vegetation is formed through many years of grazing and harvesting. In several places the vegetation is influenced by the droppings of seabirds. The large area of shallow waters with high biological production makes it very important as a breeding and staging area for a large number of seabird species, the dominant groups being cormorants, eiders, divers, gulls, terns and auks. The two Norwegian coastal seal species have breeding grounds in the area.

The vegetation is dominated by common species on coastal shores, mires/bogs and meadows, such as various sedge and heather species. Seashore vegetation and aquatic vegetation appear scattered. Birds heavily fertilize some islands. On Burøya and Vågøya there are still remnants of cultivated farmland from the time the islands were inhabited. Moisturized moor and coastal heathland are common vegetation types. Ceased grazing is about to change much of the vegetation. Invasion of scrubs and woodlands is not very common at Horta, but some scrubs have established on some of the islands. Many common species lack at Horta, probably because the islands are small and isolated, and relatively young. Common moonwort is found here. Red Champion is one of the common species. In the gulls and cormorants colonies, the droppings give nitrous substrate which benefits plants such as the common scurvy weed and the common sorrel.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		2		Rare

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		3		Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/PSILOTOPSIDA	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	This species is found in the site.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Usually the dominant plant species in coastal heathland habitat.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	In the gulls and cormorants colonies the droppings give nitrogenous substrate which benefits this species.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	In the gulls and cormorants colonies the droppings give nitrogenous substrate which benefit this species.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Silene dioica</i>	This species is found in the site.

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Potential	No change

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range / endemism / other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfc: Subarctic (Severe winter, no dry season, cool summer)

The climate is typical Atlantic with high annual precipitation (>1500mm and average about 200 days with precipitation pr. year), wet summer and mild winters.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Norwegian Sea

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Due to the fact that most of the shoreline consists of hard granite rocks, erosion is minimal despite a harsh winter climate.

There are three main types of bedrock found in Horta - gabbro (Burøya, Vågøya, Klungholmene, Bøverøya, Dribilene and Kleppan), syenite with granite (Langdraget, Storfomøya, Kvåholmen, Onholmen, Stokkøya, Sandøya, Rørsholmen and Båsen) and gneiss (the islands from Store Måsøya and towards north-west).

The granite in Horta was formed during the Caledonian orogeny. Horta igneous complex is a part of the Bindal Batholith, a sequence of late Ordovician to Silurian plutons emplaced into the Helgeland Nappe Complex of the uppermost Allochthon of the Norwegian Caledonides. The bedrock is characteristic for Horta and is called hortitt.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

The site consists mostly of shallow marine waters less than 30 meters deep at low tide. However, some deeper areas occur in the outer edges of the Site and in the catchment area.

The archipelago is parts of a larger shallow area of approximately 15km² were the water depth ranges from 0-50 meters.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Fishing

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The site is used by scientists (biological and geological research) and as vacation homes for private landowners. Horta has been an important site for seabird monitoring since the early 1980s, especially for monitoring the Baltic lesser black-backed gull population. A geological science program is also ongoing in the area. On the two main islands there are some remaining buildings which are used as vacation homes, especially in the summer.

Horta was settled until 1965. Fishing was the main trade, but the land resources were also heavily utilized for grazing, scything and cultivation (potatoes and vegetables).

Traces of early settlements and cultural influences in the landscape dating back to the Stone Age are found in the area. The anthropogenic heathlands in the coastal regions of Central and Northern Norway are thus a part of a prehistoric cultural landscape formed 3-4000 years ago.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) 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

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

County Governor of Trøndelag

Postal address:

Statsforvalteren i Trøndelag
Pb. 2600
N-7734 STEINKJER

E-mail address:

sftlpost@statsforvalteren.no

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	High impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar area:

Invasive species such as *rosa rugosa* are registered within the Ramsar Site.

In the surrounding area:

There has been some kelp trawling just outside the boundaries of the Ramsar-site. This could possibly affect seabirds that breed within the area and feed in the sea areas found just outside the borders.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Bird Protection Area	Horta		whole
Nature Reserve	Horta		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

Horta has been an important site for seabird monitoring since the early 1980s, especially for monitoring the Baltic lesser black-backed gull population. A geological science program is also ongoing in the area in association with Texas Tech University and University of Wyoming.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

- Artsdatabanken (2021, 24. november). Norsk rødliste for arter 2021. <https://www.artsdatabanken.no/lister/rodlisterforarter/2021>
- Artsdatabanken (2018). Norsk rødliste for naturtyper 2018. Hentet (July 2022) fra <https://www.artsdatabanken.no/rodlisterformaturtyper>
- Hafstad, I. 2005. Forvaltningsplan for Horta verneområde, Leka kommune, 2006-2010. Fylkesmannen i Nord-Trøndelag, Miljøvernavdelingen. Rapport 2-2005. 40s.
- Barnes, C.G., Prestvik, T., Sundvoll, B. & Surratt, D. 2004. Pervasive assimilation of carbonate and silicate rocks in the Hortavær igneous complex, north-central Norway. Lithos.
- Hafstad, I. 2005. Forvaltningsplan for Horta verneområde, Leka kommune, 2006-2010. Fylkesmannen i Nord-Trøndelag, Miljøvernavdelingen. Rapport 2-2005. 40s.
- Kaspersen, T.E. 1997. Utkast til verneplan for sjøfuglområder i Nord-Trøndelag. - Fylkesmannen i Nord-Trøndelag, Miljøvernavdelingen. Rapport 3-1997. 1-221.
- Lorentsen, S.-H. & Christensen-Dalsgaard, S. 2009. Det nasjonale overvåkingsprogrammet for sjøfugl. Resultater til og med hekkesesongen 2008. Norsk institutt for naturforskning (NINA), Rapport 439: 53 pp.
- Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens Kartverk, Hønefoss
- Nilsen, L.S. & Moen, A. 2004. Botanical mapping and management plan for Hortavær in Leka. NTNU Vitensk.mus. Rapp. Bot. Ser. 2004-1: 1-22.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Aerial view of Horta (Norwegian Environment Agency, 04-12-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2013-05-27