

# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 8 May 2023 Update version, previously published on : 17 April 2018

# **Norway** Laukvikøyene



Designation date 27 May 2013 Site number 2160

Coordinates 68°21'47"N 14°24'45"E

Area 1 084,00 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

Laukvikøyene is a diverse wetland area located on the western coast of Lofoten in northern Norway. The south-western part of the Site consists of large areas with permanent shallow marine water with eelgrass meadows, intertidal flats, islands and islets. The north-eastern part of the Site belongs to the main island Austvågøya and contains large areas with mires and fresh water ponds. There are also fresh water ponds on many of the small islands within the Site. The Site is of importance for conservation of both flora and fauna. Vegetation on the islands and islets is characterized by heather, mires and birch forests, and the area between the islands and islets hosts large shallow areas that are exposed during low tide. There are large areas with sublittoral vegetation, especially around Årvika on the main island. The sublittoral vegetation consists of interesting and different vegetation types with representative flora.

Many seabirds and waterfowl breed here, and the area is also a staging area for migrating species. A variation of seabird species also overwinter in this wetland.

The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers and traditionally used by local residents for collecting seabird eggs. Potential factors adversely affecting the Site are overgrazing and bird disturbance caused by a quarry situated close to the border of the Ramsar Site.

# 2 - Data & location

# 2.1 - Formal data

zir i ormai data	
2.1.1 - Name and address of the com	piler of this RIS
Responsible compiler	
Institution/agency	Norwegian Environment Agency
Postal address	Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
National Ramsar Administrati	ve Authority
Postal address	Postboks 5672 Sluppen Trondheim Norway
2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and	d information used to compile the RIS
From year	1988
To year	2021
2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site	
Official name (in English, French or	Laukvikøyene
Spanish)	
2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries an	d area of the Site since its designation or earlier update
(Update) A.	Changes to Site boundary Yes O No ●
(Updat	e) B. Changes to Site area No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: T	nis update is an extension
2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological cha	racter of the Site
(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of t	
applicable Criteria) change	
2.2 - Site location	
2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries	
o) Digital map/image <1 file(s) uploaded>	
Former maps	0
Boundaries description	
The boundary is the same as for the	existing Laukvikøyene Nature Reserve.
2.2.2 - General location	
a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Nordland
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Svolvær
2.2.3 - For wetlands on national bound	daries only
	rritary of one or more other
a) Does the wetland extend onto the ter	countries? Yes O No ●
b) Is the site adjacent to another design territory of a	nated Ramsar Site on the Yes O No  on the another Contracting Party?

Data & location, S2 - Page 1

Official area, in hectares (ha): 1084

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 1084.585 GIS boundaries

# 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

The southern part of the site is a botanically valuable area with large areas of permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats and islands and islets, typical and representative for the Northern coast. The Northern part of the site consists of well-developed wet saline-influenced meadows with permanent saline and brackish pools.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

The wetland supports breeding populations of the Eurasian otter (Ann. Il Berne Convention). Arctic skua Optional text box to provide further (NRL: VU), Mew gull (NRL: VU), Common eider (NRL: VU), Curlew (NRL: EN) and Common tern (NRL: information EN) are among the red listed species that are observed breeding in the area in the recent years (Artskart.no).

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

Optional text box to provide further

The permanent shallow marine waters, intertidal flats and islands and islets are important staging areas during migration. Additionally, many seabirds and waterfowl breed here, and a variation of seabird species also overwinter in this wetland.

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

<no data available>

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

5.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site											
Phylum	Scientific name		Species contributes under criterion 3 5 7 8		Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Others											
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	.utra lutra						NT	V		Ann. Il Berne Convention	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
Birds											
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas acuta						LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas crecca						LC				Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA / A AVES p	Anas olatyrhynchos		0000				LC				Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA / AVES	Anser anser		0000				LC				Criterion 4: This speices stage here during migration, some also moult.
CHORDATA / A	Anser orachyrhynchus						LC				Criterion 4: This speices stage here during migration.

Phylum	Scientific name	qualifies under co	Spec ontrib er cr 5	utes iterio	on Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES	Calidris alpina							LC			Ann. Il Berne Convention	
CHORDATA / AVES	Calidris maritima							LC			Ann. Il Berne Convention	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cepphus grylle							LC				Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Charadrius hiaticula							LC			Ann. Il Berne Convention	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Clangula hyemalis							VU				Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cygnus cygnus			<u> </u>				LC			Ann. II Berne Convention, Emerald Network	Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia adamsii							NT			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia arctica							LC				Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia immer							LC				Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Haematopus ostralegus							NT				Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA / AVES	Larus argentatus							LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species breeds in this wetland area.
CHORDATA / AVES	Larus canus							LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species breeds in this wetland area.
CHORDATA / AVES	Larus marinus							LC				Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Melanitta fusca							VU			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Melanitta nigra							LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Mergus serrator							LC				Criterion 4: This species breeds in this wetland area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Numenius arquata							NT			National Red List: Considered as EN	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Podiceps auritus							VU			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Somateria mollissima							NT			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Somateria spectabilis							LC				Criterion 4: The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for this species.

RIS	for	Site	no.	2160,	Laukvikøyene, Norv	vav

Phylum	Scientific name	Species   Species   contributes   Contribu	Period of pop. Est. % occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES	Stercorarius parasiticus			LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sterna hirundo	ØØ00000		LC			National Red List: Considered as EN	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sterna paradisaea	8000000		LC			Ann. Il Berne Convention, Emerald Network	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Tadorna tadorna	<b>2 2 0 0 0 0 1 0</b>		LC			Ann. II Berne Convention	5 breeding pairs. Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Vanellus vanellus			NT			National Red List: Considered as CR	Criterion 4: The wetland supports breeding populations of this species.

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	<b>2</b>		Considered as EN on the Norwegian red list for nature types 2018.
Semi-natural grassland	<b>2</b>		Considered as VU on the Norwegian red list for nature types 2018.
Tidal meadow	<b>2</b>		Considered as VU on the Norwegian red list for nature types 2018.
Boreal heath	<b>2</b>		Considered as VU on the Norwegian red list for nature types 2018.

Onti	onol	toxt h	ov to	provide	further	inform	otion
Opti	onai	text b	OX TO	nrovide	Turtner	intorm	atior

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Eelgrass meadow: Important ecological community for foraging waterfowl.

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

# 4.1 - Ecological character

Laukvikøyene is situated in the boreal vegetational zone, and the different vegetation types together constitute an important and representative wetland type for this region:

- Sublittoral sea-grass beds extensive eelgrass beds around the islands with Zostera marina and marine algae.
- Intertidal marshes saline and brackish pans e.g. typically with Puccinellia and Spergularia salina
- Wet salt-influenced meadows, e.g. typically with Puccinellia and Carex.
- · Rocky and pebble shores, e.g. typically with Sagina maritima and Armeria maritime
- Around Årvika in the north there are both large areas with shingle shores and some ponds with Charales Nitella sp. The area also contains permanent saline and brackish pools and marshes.
- The site around Arvika also contains mires.

## 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		2		Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)		3		
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores				
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		1		Representative
H: Intertidal marshes		4		

#### 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 > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		3		
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Marshes & pools >> Sp: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools		2		
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1		

# 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

#### Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Alopecurus arundinaceus	The species grows on the islands Knutsøya and Litje Lågværet, close to its southern limit in Norway.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Atriplex littoralis	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Sagina maritima	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Thalictrum flavum	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Tripolium pannonicum	The area represents the northern limit in Norway for this species.

## 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/AVES	Anas penelope				
CHORDATAVAVES	Lagopus lagopus				
CHORDATAVAVES	Gallinago gallinago				
CHORDATAVAVES	Numenius phaeopus				
CHORDATAVAVES	Tringa totanus				

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Neovison vison	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

# 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 Site has an oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively wet and cold summers. Annual average temperature: 4-6° C. Average July temperature: 12-16° C. Average January temperature: -4-0° C. Annual precipitation: 1000-1500 mm.

#### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in 0
a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in
metres) 28
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.

The river basin comprises of the alpine mountains Delpen, Matmora, Torskmannen, Rundfjellet and Blålyngen. A stream water system in the northeastern part of the site drains out in many small lakes and mires, and then into the Vatnfjorden and the Norwegian Sea.

### 4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral &	<u>√</u>
(Update) Changes at RIS update	No change <b>⊚</b> Increase O Decrease O Unknown O
No available information	
Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?	yes O No <b>⊚</b>

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The substrate is varied. In the eastern part, peat covers the inner parts and clay, silt and gravel dominate along the shoreline. In the west sand and gravel dominates.

The bedrock in the Site consists mostly of gneiss (a metamorphic rock) and volcanic rock like gabbro, amfiobolitt and mangeritt. There are small areas with marine deposits.

#### 4.4.4 - Water regime

#### Water permanence

Water permanence	
Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water		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.

Water depth varies between 0,5-40 meters. The Site contains large areas of intertidal flats. The variation between high and low tide measured at Andenes (the closest measure station) averages 134 cm on an annual basis.

4.4.5			

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 **②** Increase O Decrease O Unknown O

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 O ii) significantly different o site itself:

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development  $\square$ 

Surrounding area has higher human population density  $\square$ 

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use  $\Box$ 

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types  $\hfill\Box$ 

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

## 4.5 - Ecosystem services

### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Not known

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

Regulating Services

9		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and	Medium
	storm protection	

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium

Supporting Services

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

()ther	ecosy	<i>u</i> stem	service	S	) not	inc	hul	ed	ahove

	The sheltered form of the shorelines reduce the impact of waves coming from the open ocean and no particular erosion problems have been noted.						
	Locally used for traditional collection of seabird eggs.						
	Close to the NW border of the Ramsar area is an old, automatically protected tumulus on the island called Røssøya.						
	The area is to some extent used by tourists and residents. The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers.						
	Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes O No O Unknown ●						
2	1.5.2 - 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 available="" data=""></no>						

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

Priva	te	OW	/ne	rs	hi	n

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	✓	✓

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any | County Governor of Nordland agency or organization responsible for managing the site

Statsforvalteren i Nordland

Postal address: Pb. 1405

N-8002 BODØ

E-mail address: sfnopost@statsforvalteren.no

# 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	unknown impact	Medium impact		No change	✓	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	<b>✓</b>	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

and the state of t						
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Medium impact	<b>&gt;</b>	No change	<b>/</b>	No change

#### Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:

When the area was protected there were some grazing (sheep). The status now is unknown.

In the surrounding area:

There are some agricultural activities.

In 2008 there was established an illegal quarry close to the border of the Nature reserve during the breeding season. The breeding birds were reported to be disturbed.

#### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Reserve	Laukvikøyene		whole

# 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

lb Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness  $\hfill\Box$ 

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

RIS for Site no. 2160, La	aukvikøyene, Norway	
III Natural Monument: protec		r conservation atural features
IV Habitat/Species Managem	nent Area: protected area ma ervation through manageme	
V Protected Landscape/Seas	scape: protected area mana ape/seascape conservation a	
VI Managed Resource Protection for t	cted Area: protected area ma he sustainable use of natura	
5.2.4 - Key conservation	measures	
Legal protection		
Measures	Status	
Legal protection	Implemented	
Other:	one of the protected a	reas where it is necessary to get a management plan.
	<u> </u>	
5.2.5 - Management plar	nning	
Is there a s	ite-specific management pla	in for the site? No
Has a management effectiven	ness assessment been und	ertaken for the site? Yes O No
and location > Site location	boundary site as indicated in n, are there shared manager processes with another Con	ment planning Yes O No
Please indicate if a Ramsar o	entre, other educational or vi	sitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:
Two posters with inform	nation about the area, e	ecological and biological facts and information of the regulations of activities have been put up.
5.2.6 - Planning for resto	ration	
0.2.0 1 Mining for 1000		toration plan? No need identified
	is there a site-specific les	with part. 112 11300 toolsaids
5.2.7 - Monitoring implen	nented or proposed	
None reported		

None reported		
Inone reported		

# 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/rodlisteforarter/2021

Elven, R., Alm, T., Edvardsen, H., Fjelland, M., Fredriksen, K. E. & Johansen, V. 1988. Botaniske verneverdier på havstrender i Nordland. C: Beskrivelser for regionene Ofoten og Lofoten/Vesterålen.

Moen, A. 1998. National Atlas of Norway, Vegetation. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss.

# 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

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

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

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

v. site management plan

vi. other published literature

<1 file(s) uploaded>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Laukvikøvene ( Raanhilo



Laukvikøy ene ( Ragnhild



Laukvikøyene ( Mia Husdal



Laukvikøy ene ( *Mia Husdal*, 10-10-2012 )



Laukvikøyene ( *Mia Husdal*, 10-10-2012 )



Laukvikøy ene ( Mia Husda 10-10-2012 )



Laukvikøy ene ( *Mia Husdal*, 10-10-2012 )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

Date of Designation 2013-05-27