

# 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:

Ingvild Gabrielsen,  
County Governor of Nordland,  
Moloveien 10, 8002 Bodø  
Tlf: +47 75 53 15 00  
E-mail: [postmottak@fmno.no](mailto:postmottak@fmno.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:

May 2013

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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.

Laukvikøyene

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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 Laukvikøyene 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.

68°21'N, 14°23'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 Vågan municipality in Nordland County, the nearest town being Svolvær 34 km to the east. Svolvær has a population of approximately 5000 inhabitants.

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

0 – 28 m.a.s.l

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

1084 ha

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Laukvikøyene represents a varied wetland area on the west coast of Lofoten. The southwestern part of the site consists of large areas with permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets. The northeast 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. Many sea birds and waterfowls are breeding here, and the area is also a staging area for migrating water fowls. 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.

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

**Criterion 2:** The wetland supports breeding populations of Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU) 10 pair. Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) breeds in the area. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) is registered in the site.

**Criterion 4:** The permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration areas for many birds, e.g. Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* 171 ind., Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* 27 ind., Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* 42 ind., White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* 11 ind., Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* 5 ind., King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* 125 ind., and Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. The wetland supports breeding populations of Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (NT), Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT), Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT) 8 pair, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (NT) 4 pair. For other red listed species the marine part functions as a staging and wintering area, e.g. a large populations of Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT).

(Capitalized letters shows the species`status on the Norwegian Red List 2010)

**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:**

Atlantic

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

EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geology	The bedrock 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.
Geomorphology and landscape	The area is part of a coastal landscape characterized by alpine mountains and a narrow belt of flat coastland. Within the site there are many small islands with tidal marine zones between. On the inner coast there is a lagoon with deeper water.
Substrate/soil type	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.
Water depth/fluctuations	Water depth varies between 0.5-40 meters. The area contains large area of intertidal flats. The variation between high and low tide measured at Andenes (the closest measure station) averages 134 cm on an annual basis.
Climate (Summary of main climatic features)	The site has an oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively wet and cold summers. Annual average temperature: 6-4° C Average July temperature: 12-16° C Average January temperature: 0- -4° C Annual precipitation: 1000-1500 mm

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

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

The catchment area comprises of the alpine mountains Delpen, Matmora, Torskmannen, Rundfjellet and Blällyngen. A stream water system in the southeastern part of the site drains out in many small lakes and then into the Vestfjorden sea.

The catchment area is about 60 km<sup>2</sup>. The bedrock in this area consists mostly of gneiss.

**18. Hydrological values:**

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

The sheltered form of the shorelines reduce the impact of waves coming from the open ocean and no particular erosion problems have been noted.

**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.

Marine: G, A, B, H, E

Inland: Tp, Sp, M

### 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.

Laukvikøyene is situated in the boreal 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 Årvika also contains mires.

### 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.*

Creeping Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus arundinaceus* grows on the islands Knutsøya and Litje Lågværet, close to its southern limit in Norway. The area represents the northern limit in Norway for *Aster tripolum*. Other interesting plants are Grass-leaved Orache *Atriplex littoralis*, Sea Pearlwort *Sagina maritime* and Common Meadow Rue *Thalictrum flavum*.

### 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.*

The wetland support populations of many wetland birds. In the northeastern part of the site around Årvika there are breeding populations of e.g. Horned Grebe, Black-throated Diver, Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Curlew, Arctic Skua and Black Guillemot. Different ducks also breeds here e.g. Northern Pintail, Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 5 pairs, Common Teal *Anas crecca* 5 pairs and Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 6 pairs. Other characteristic species are Artic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* and Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Characteristic species breeding on the islands are Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Common Gull *Larus canus* (NT) and The Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

The large areas of permanent shallow marine water, intertidal flats, island and islets are important wintering and migration area for many birds, e.g. Velvet Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, White-billed Diver, Great Northern Diver, King Eider and Whooper Swan.

Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) breeds in the 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:

Close to the NW border of the Nature Reserve is an old, automatically protected tumulus on the island called Røssøya.

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

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

Locally used for traditional collection of seabird eggs.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Not known

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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:

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

b) 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 breeding season. The breeding birds were reported to be disturbed.

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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.

Laukvikøyene Nature Reserve was established December 6th 2002.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia  ; Ib  ; II  ; III  ; IV  ; V  ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

No management plan exists, but the task has been given high priority by the management authority.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

None

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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 reported

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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.

Two posters with information about the Nature Reserve, ecological and biological facts and information of the regulations of activities have been put up.

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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. The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers.

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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 proposed site is managed by the County Governor of Nordland, which is under the instruction of DN. Address:

Ingvild Gabrielsen

County Governor of Nordland,

Molovn. 10, 8002 Bodø.

Phone: + 47 75 53 15 00.

E-mail: [postmottak@fmno.no](mailto:postmottak@fmno.no)

[postmottak@fmno.no](mailto:postmottak@fmno.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.

Artsdatabankens homepage: <http://www.artsdatabanken.no/frontpage.aspx?m=2>. Observations in Artskart 9/9-09.

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.*

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

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

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