

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th 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.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Åsmund Andersen,
County Governor of Nordland, Moloveien 10,
8002 Bodø
Phone: +47 75531500
e-mail: Postmottak@fmno.no

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May 2013

3. Country:

Norway

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.

Måstadjellet

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

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:

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 Måstadjellet nature reserve and Måstadjellet protected landscape area (with Zoological protection of species).

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.

67°38'N 12°34'E

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 Værøy municipality, Nordland county; the nearest town being Bodø (46.638 inhabitants), 86km to the east.

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

0-439 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

801,6 ha of which 373,8 ha is sea.

12. General overview of the site:

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

Måstadjellet consists of the southernmost area of the Verøy Island. The western part of the site covers a steep area from the sea up to a relatively flat mountain plateau at about 400 m.a.s.l. Both the sides of the mountain and the mountain plateau are grass covered as a result of the large colonies of sea birds. The eastern part of the site consists of Måstadvika, an important landing site for sea birds, especially for the puffins in the spring. The site also contains a characteristic system of sand dunes with unique botanical values.

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: Måstadjellet consists of the sea cliffs at the southern and western part of the Måstadjellet mountain on Værøy Island. The site constitutes one of a few bird mountains for pelagic seabirds in Norway. The site is unique due to the location close to the birds feeding grounds and due to the steep topography providing necessary protection for nesting.

Criterion 2: Måstadjellet is breeding site for: Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* (CR), Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (VU) and Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (VU). Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU), and Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) occasionally uses the site. See also table under criterion 4.

Criterion 4: The bird cliffs are of critical importance for several bird species during breeding season.

The most important breeding populations are:

Species	Red list status	Latin	Estimate 2009 (pairs)
Atlantic Puffin	VU	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	42.540
Common Guillemot	CR	<i>Uria aalge</i>	309
Razorbill	VU	<i>Alca torda</i>	118
Black-legged Kittiwake	EN	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	5.089

Criterion 5: Måstadjellet is an important breeding site for pelagic seabirds. Population estimations were carried out in 1974, 1984, 1985 and 2006/2009. The most numerous species is Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* with approximately 42.500 breeding pairs, Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* with approximately 11.630 breeding pairs, the last estimate for Black-legged Kittiwake is from 2009 and the population was then estimated to 5089 pairs, Common Murre *Uria aalge* and Razorbill *Alca torda*. Although the numbers probably have decreased since 1984, the numbers are still high. See also point 22.

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. Arctic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

European Environmental Agency (EEA, 2012):

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/biogeographical-regions-in-europe-1>

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 of the site consists of monzonite and quartz monzonite gneiss.
Geomorphology	The nature reserve consists of a very steep area stretching from the sea up along the southern and western side of the more than 400 meter high Måstadjellet mountain. The top of the mountain is relatively flat.
Substrate/ soil type	The area consists mainly of rock, without any soil/surficial deposits, covered by a thin layer of grass-covered peat.
Water depth/ fluctuations	Water depth varies between 0-35 meters. The mean annual variation between low tide and high tide measured in Kabelvåg (the closest water level station) is 186 cm.
Climate	The area has a coastal climate with mild winters and relatively wet and cold summers.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

Måstadjellet is situated on the southern part of Værøy Island. The Island is situated between Røst Island and Lofotodden peninsula, on an underwater plateau in the extension of the Lofotodden peninsula. The water is very deep both on the outside and the inside of the underwater plateau.

18. Hydrological values:

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

Bird cliffs are considered to be important in the nutrient flow between the ocean and land. The site is also important for tourism.

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.

D, B, A

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.

Among the western part of Norway we find several islands with bird cliffs. This sea cliff is of essential importance for the seabird-population in the North Atlantic Ocean. They also play a role in the nutrient flow in this kind of ecosystem. The birds are foraging in the sea and bring nutrient to the bird cliffs and surrounding area by guano. This is also the reason for the rich vegetation on the island.

Måstadjellet is one of the large bird mountains along the Norwegian coast. The site is not as large as the bird mountains outside Røst Island, however, the site holds breeding colonies of several species listed on the national red list (2010), and is an important wintering site for several species. The vegetation at the site is typical “bird mountain vegetation”, and the habitat is considered vulnerable (VU) according to the national red list for ecosystems and habitat types. Typical bird mountain species are nitrogen loving plants like Common Scurvygrass *Cochlearia officinalis*, Roseroot *Rhodiola rosea*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The habitat “bird mountain vegetation” is considered a vulnerable (VU) habitat type. The sand dune system found in the Måstadbukta bay is also unique. No plant species on the red list are recorded at the site. Species characteristic for bird cliffs are observed like: Common Scurvy grass *Cochlearia officinalis*, Rose Root *Rhodiola rosea*, Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

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.*

Birds

Vital populations of species like Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Common Gull *Larus canus*, Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (20 ind) and Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* are found in the area. Under the project “The National Monitoring Programme for Seabirds” the bird populations in Måstadjellet were estimated in 1974, 1984, 1985 and 2006/2009. White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* uses the site regularly. The site is also an important winter site for several bird species.

See also point 14.

Mammals

Gray Seal *Halichoerus grypus* (NT) occasionally uses the site.

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:

According to the regulations for Måstadjellet protected landscape area; collection of eggs and down from some species is permitted. Collection of eggs is still practiced, but in small amounts. Eggs of the following species are collected: Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* and Common Gull *Larus canus*. Inside the nature reserve collection of eggs or down is not permitted.

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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site: Private property.

b) in the surrounding area: Private (land) and state owned (sea).

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

None

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The area around the Verøy Island is used for fishing

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:

None

b) in the surrounding area:

Reductions in the stock of Lesser Sand eel *Ammodytes marinus*, Capelin *Mallotus villosus*, and Herring *Clupea harengus* as a consequence of natural fluctuations, overfishing and climate change has an impact on the breeding success of the sea birds. The birds are further sensitive towards petrol pollution in their feeding areas.

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.

Måstadjellet was designated as a nature reserve and protected landscape (with Zoological protection of species) 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

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The site is protected as a nature reserve and a protected landscape area (with zoological protection of species).

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

None

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

None

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

None

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

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 Nordland, which is under the instruction of DN.
Address: County Governor of Nordland, Moloveien 10, N-8002 Bodø (phone: +4775531580). E-mail:
Postmottak@fmno.no

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Results from the Norwegian Sea Bird Monitoring and Mapping Programme. SEA POP's webpages.
(<http://seapop.nina.no/>)

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org