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:

Maria Aastum,
County Governor of Møre og Romsdal,
Fylkeshuset, 6404
Molde

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date | 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.

Runde

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:

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7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ☒;

ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ☒;

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** ❑.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundaries are the same as for five existing protected areas: Four bird protection areas and one nature reserve. Three of the bird protection areas are on the Runde Island (A in the following text): Runde Westside, Runde Northside and Hellestien-Blåfjellet-Kløfjellet-Geita. The fourth bird protected area, Grasøyane (B in the following text), is situated northeast of Runde. The nature reserve, Goksøyrmyrane (C in the following tekst), is situated on Runde Island.

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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.

Runde (A): 62°23' N 05°36'E
Grasøyane (B): 62°25' N 05° 45'E
Goksøyrmyrane (C): 62°23'N 05°37'E

Central coordinate: 62°24' N 05°60'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.

Runde is an island on the northwest coast of Norway, in Møre og Romsdal county in Herøy and Ulstein municipalities. Runde lies exposed to the Norwegian Sea. The island is approx 4,4 km long and 2,6 km wide. The nearest town is Ålesund, which has about 40,000 inhabitants. Ålesund is situated approx. 30 km east-northeast of Runde.

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

Runde and Grasøyane (A+B): 0-295 m.a.s.l.
Goksøyrmyrane (C): 155-295 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

Runde and Grasøyane (A+B): 1265.5 ha (155.5 ha land area)
Goksøyrmyrane (C): 84,5 ha
Total Area: 1350.55ha

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12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The mountain sides rise steeply around the island Runde (A), and the island is the southernmost and third largest bird cliff nesting site in Norway. A total of 230 species have been registered here.

Grasøyane (B) is made up by Grasøya, and numerous smaller islets. The island and islets are nesting and moulting sites for numerous bird species.

Goksøyrmyrane (C) is located on the northwestern part of the mountain plateau on Runde Island, and consists of mires. The mires are protected as a nature reserve and are important in the context of the surrounding bird sanctuaries. The mires provide nesting sites for species such as Great skua *Stercorarius skua*.

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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
☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	❑	❑	❑

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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:
Runde is a unique island on the northwest coast of Norway. Runde is the southernmost bird cliff nesting site in Norway, and has a rich avian community, especially cliff nesting species.

Criterion 2:
Runde is an important breeding site for several threatened species, for names and numbers see table under criterion 3.

Criterion 3:
Runde supports populations of bird species important for maintaining the biological diversity in the region. Runde is the most southerly bird cliff in Norway and is important for the expansion of breeding seabirds in the region.

Important breeding birds are:

Species	Red list status [1)]	Latin	Numbers	Year of estimate
Black-legged Kittiwake	EN	*Rissa tridactyla*	17000 pairs	2010
Atlantic Puffin	VU	*Fratercula arctica*	81000 pairs	2010
Common Guillemot	CR	*Uria aalge*	7500 pairs	2010
Black Guillemot	VU	*Cepphus grylle*	50 pairs	2008
Northern Gannet		*Sula bassana*	3000 pairs	2010
Common Shag		*Phalacrocorax artistotelis*	1300 pairs	2010
Great Skua		*Stercorarius skua*	25 pairs	2010
Razorbill	VU	*Alca torda*	3000 pairs	2010
Fulmar		*Fulmarus glacialis*	5.500 pairs	2010

1) Red list status is according to the national red list 2010.

Criterion 4:
Runde supports bird species in a critical stage of their life cycle, i.e. the breeding season. For species and numbers see table under criterion 3.

Criterion 5:
Cliff nesting birds dominate the wildlife on the island. Runde regularly supports more than 120,000 breeding pairs. Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN), approximately 40,000 breeding pairs in 2005 and approx. 17.000 in 2010, and Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (VU), approximately 100,000 breeding pairs in 2005 and 81.000 in 2010, are the most abundant. Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*, approx 7,500 pairs, Northern Gannet *Sula bassana*, approx 3,000 pairs, Common Shag *Phalacrocorax artistotelis,* approx 1,300 pairs, and Great Skua *Stercorarius skua,* approx 25 pairs, also occur here. The numbers are quite uncertain for some species, but it is assumed that approx 3,000 pairs of Razorbill *Alca torda* and 5,500 pairs of Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* nest at Runde. (Folkestad 2008, Folkestad og Lorentsen 2010)

Criterion 6:
Runde supports approx. 17.000 breeding pairs (40.000 in 2005) of Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (Folkestad and Lorentsen 2010). The 1%-level is 20000 individuals (Waterbird Population Estimates, Fourth edition, 2006).

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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. Atlantic.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):
1. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC.

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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.

(A, B+C)

Geology	The bedrock is mainly composed of layered gneiss. Grasøyane (B) is made up of gneiss and on the east side of Grasøya are rock and shell sand shores.

Geomorphology	The island is 4.4 km long and 2.6 km wide and covers an area of 6,4 km². The mountain sides rise steeply from the ocean around most of the island. The top of the island is a flat plateau with mires and a few small fresh-water ponds. Grasøyane (B) is made up by Grasøya, and numerous smaller islets. The sea around Runde is shallow (less than 100 m deep)
Hydrology	On the plateau of the island Runde there are three small fresh-water ponds.
Soil type	The soil is poor in nutrients and mainly acidic.
General climate	Typically oceanic with mild winters and cool summers. Annual mean temperature is 7,6°C and the annual mean precipitation is 1254 mm, with more than 200 days of precipitation each year.

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 shores below the steep cliffs are mostly in the intertidal zone and sparsely vegetated.

The vegetation on the hillsides and the plateau of the island Runde is dominated by open heathland, mires and grassland which reflects the strong impact of the oceanic climate with mild winters and cool summers. Annual mean temperature is 7.6°C and the annual mean precipitation is 1254 mm.
Grasøyane (B) are vegetated only on the east side of Grasøya. Because of the erosion effect of the wind and waves the rest of the islets are not vegetated.

The island is located in a highly productive area. The main spawning grounds for many of the most important fish populations in The North East Atlantic are found off Runde.

18. Hydrological values:

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

There are three small fresh-water ponds on the plateau of the island Runde. The ocean waves and the wind have an erosion effect on the islets and the coastal areas. The mires store organic carbon.

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 • <u>D</u> • <u>E</u> • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • <u>Tp</u> 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: Rocky marine shores
E: Sand, shingle and pebble shores
Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/pools

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.

- Island with several bird nesting cliffs. Rock and sand shores and small islets.
- Open heathland, mires and grassland. Nesting site for a few bird species.
- Three small fresh-water ponds. Supplies nest materials

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 site is in the southern boreonemoral vegetation zone and strongly oceanic section (Bn-O3t) (Moen, A. 1998).Zonal divisions show the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (Moen, A. 1998).

On the plateau of Runde Island there is an area covered with blanket bog, which is a bog type that used to be abundant along the Norwegian coast. The blanket bog is becoming rare due to different kinds of human activities, and is seldom found in a good condition. Plant societies of *Trichophorum cespitosum* and *Eriphorum vaginatum* cover large areas of the bog. Interesting sub-oceanic plant species are *Polygala serpyllifolia, Carex pulicaris, Carex demissa* and *Trichophorum cespitosum.*

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

The most important breeding birds is mentioned under point 14 (criteria). Other species that occurs in the site are different seabirds like: Common gull *Larus canus* (NT) 50 breeding pairs, Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus,* 100 breeding pairs, Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* 1-2 breeding pairs.

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:

- More than 32,000 tourists visited Runde in 2009, and the numbers are expected to rise
- SEAPOP (seabird populations) is a holistic and long term program for monitoring and mapping Norwegian seabirds. Runde is one of the monitoring key-sites (www.seapop.no)
- There are sheep grazing occurring on the island
- Runde is a famous bird cliff nesting site in Norway
- As a historical association the Runde-treasure can be mentioned. In 1725 a Dutch ship carrying tons of gold and silver coins sank outside Runde. The treasure, which was discovered in 1972, is the biggest finding of coins in Norway

All of these values are consistent with the maintenance of the ecological character of Runde. The tourists are canalized to areas and along paths where disturbance of the birds are minimal. The visitors mainly stay on the paths, which minimize the negative impact on the vegetation outside the paths.

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

No.

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

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

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

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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24. Land tenure/ownership:
a) within the Ramsar site:

A+B: approximately 15% state owned, 85% private
(A+B including C: approximately 20% state owned, 80% private)

b) in the surrounding area:

approximately 2% state owned, 98% private

If Goksøymyrane (C) is included in the Ramsar site:
approximately 2% state owned, 98% private

The private property is common uncultivated land used as sheep grazing land.

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25. Current land (including water) use:
a) within the Ramsar site:

There are no humans living inside the protected areas, however, the area is used for

- Grazing (sheep)
- Scientific projects

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The human population in the municipality Herøy is 8,400.

- Grazing (sheep)
- Meteorology station in the village Runde
- Runde Environmental centre
- Businesses related to tourism such as cafés and camping sites
- Fishing in the open sea outside of Runde

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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:

- none

b) in the surrounding area:
- excessive fishing
- climate changes that can affect the food source, i.e. the fish population
- oil spill from ships
- trawling for kelp.

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.

Runde (A) and Grasøyane (B) were designated as bird protection areas April 30th, 1984 (according to the Nature Conservation Act) by a Royal Decree.

Goksøyrmyrane (C) was designated as a nature reserve December 13th, 1996 (according to the Nature Conservation Act) by a Royal Decree.

Runde is on BirdLife International's list of important bird areas in Europe.

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?:
Management plan is under preparation and is expected to be finalized in 2013/2014.

d) Describe any other current management practices:
All kind of human activities in the protected areas are regulated by an official set of detailed regulations.

All birds and mammals, except for the invasive species American mink *Mustela vison*, are protected in the surrounding area of the Ramsarsite.

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.

SEAPOP (seabird populations) is a holistic and long term program for monitoring and mapping Norwegian seabirds. Runde is one of the monitoring key-sites of the program (www.seapop.no)

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.

- Runde Environmental Centre

- The facilities and infrastructure at the centre supports various scientific disciplines, including biology, oceanography, meteorology, pollution research and environmental technology. Key roles for the centre consist of providing infrastructure for environmental research, monitoring and education (www.rundecenter.no)
- There are several nature trails/paths and information boards at Runde
- The government authority has published a information booklet
- In addition there are several commercial internet sites providing information on Runde (not listed)

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

Tourism: 30,000 tourists visited Runde in 2009.

32. Jurisdiction:
Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

The 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 Møre og Romsdal, which is under the instruction of DN. Address:

Maria Aastum

County Governor of Møre og Romsdal,

Fylkeshuset, N-6404 Molde, Norway

(phone: + 47 71 25 84 43)

E-mail: Postmottak@fmmr.no

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

Anker-Nilssen, T., Lorentsen, S-H., Folkestad, A. O., Olsen, O. & Valde, K. 2009. Key-site monitoring on Runde in 2008. Short SEAPOP Report 12-2009.

Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge: Vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss

Personal communication, 2010. Folkestad, A.O. and Lorentsen, S-H., SEAPOP

Folkestad, A.O., 2008. Notat Runde Situasjon og utvikling for fuglefjellet 1956-2008.