



# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.  
Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: NORWAY 2. Date: 24/6-92 3. Ref: N0002 office use only

4. Name and address of compiler: STEINAR ELDEY  
Directorate for Nature Management  
Tungasletta 2, N-7005 Trondheim  
NORWAY

5. Name of wetland: ØRA Nature Reserve

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 24 July 1985

7. Geographical coordinates: 59°10'N, 11°00'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)  
Situated at the outlet of River Glomma near Fredrikstad in the  
county of Østfold

9. Area: (in hectares)  
1.560 ha (230 ha land area)

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)  
(A) F

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)  
A large estuary with many small granitic islands surrounded by  
fluvial sediments. Except for a few deep channels, most of the area has shallow  
waters and extensive ~~bead~~ areas. The site is internationally important for  
waterfowl

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)  
Granitic islands surrounded by fluvial sediments.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)  
Estuary with extensive areas covered by reed (Phragmites),  
and some small islands. Potamogeton perfoliatus or  
constitutes Gansrødbukka is important for feeding waterfowl,  
but has decreased because of increasing salinity (see  
19.)

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**15. Land tenure /ownership of:**

(a) site Mostly municipally, partly private

(b) surrounding area Partly private, partly municipally

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**16. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Established as a nature reserve in September 1979.

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**17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

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**18. Current land use: principal human activities in:**

(a) site Nature conservation  
Recreation

(b) surroundings/catchment Urban, industrial and agricultural

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**19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:**

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site Extensive filling in the area before Dia was protected in 1979 lead to a reduction in freshwater input to Grausadbukta, and the water in this important part of the reserve got a higher salinity. A channel was built in order to increase the freshwater flow into the reserve, but this does not seem to have been sufficient to prevent increase in salinity of the water in the reserve. Potamogeton pectinatus have gradually more or less disappeared from the area because of this. This has also led to a gradual decrease in number of swans and ducks wintering in the area.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

The estuary is subjected to pollution from River Glomma.

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**20. Hydrological and physical values:** (e.g. groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

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**21. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

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**22. Noteworthy fauna:** (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

More than 500 *Gallus squab* and *C. alor* have been observed in one day. Large numbers of *Anas platyrhynchos* and *A. crecca*, *Bucephala clangula* and *Calidris alpina*.

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**23. Noteworthy flora:** (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

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24. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

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25. **Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

A plan for a visitor centre near the reserve is prepared

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26. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

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27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Fylkesmannen i Østfold (The County Governor of Østfold)  
P.O. Box 325  
N-1501 Moss  
NORWAY

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28. **Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

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29. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Krohn, O. (ed) (1981). Østlandske Naturvesenat. Østlandske  
Naturvernforenings småskifter 11: 1-60

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30. **Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

2c  
3b, 3c

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31. **Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

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Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

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