

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

Available for download from <http://www.ramsar.org/RIS>

*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 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
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:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

September 2012

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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.

Stabburneset

(International No. 312, National No: 09)

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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:**

Only minor adjustments of data and management are performed in the RIS.

Ramsar Criteria 3 was used in previous RIS, after evaluation this criterion is not used this time. This is not an effect of changes in ecological character but a reconsidering because of new knowledge.

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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 the Stabbursneset 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.

70° 10' N – 24° 57' 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.

Situated at the outlet of the river Stabburselva on the west side of the inner part of the Porsanger Fjord at the coast of Finnmark county in Porsanger municipality. The nearest small city is the municipality centre Lakselv with a population of app. 3000 inhabitants.

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

0 m – 22 m.a.s.l.

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

1568 ha of which app. 1400 ha is sea area.

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

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

A large headland made up of glacial deposits from the river Stabburselva, mostly in the early postglacial period. The delta surface shows traces of old rivertracks and ancient shorelines, which documents the gradual upheaval of the land after the last glacial period. Below the headland some of the largest salt- and brackish marshes in northern Norway are situated. The inner part of the Porsanger fjord is one of the most important wetland areas in Fennoscandia and Stabbursneset is the most important part of this wetland area. The Valdak marshes in the south end of the reserve are internationally important resting and feeding areas for many species of wetland birds.

**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. An Arctic wetland system dominated by a river delta and large mudflats which is exposed at low tide. The area also has one of the largest salt- and brackish marshes in Northern Norway. The mudflats and marshes create an area unusually rich in birds.

Criterion 2. This is an extremely important area for the remaining Fennoscandian population of Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 56 ind in 2011 (CR). Resting and feeding area for a large numbers of migrating Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* (VU), up to 216 ind.. During migration we also find Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU), up to 150 ind., and Gargany *Anas querquedula* (EN) up to 31 ind. National Red-List is used 2010. See also pt. 22.

Criterion 4. The area is a moulting area for up to 10.000 ind. of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*. The inner part of the Porsangerfjord is covered by ice during the winter. Due to strong currents a large area in the reserve remains open and is an important wintering area for divers and ducks, especially Common Eider. This is internationally important area for resting and feeding species of migrating wetland birds; and this is also breeding area for waterbirds. See point 22 and justification of criteria 5 and 6 for more details.

Criterion 5. More than 20.000 waterbirds are regularly gathered in the area during spring migration, dominated species being Nearctic Red Knot *Calidris canutus* spp. *islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*.

Criterion 6. The area is a moulting area for up to 10.000 ind. of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*. This is more than 2% of the Norway – NW Russia population. Up to 30.000 ind. of Red Knot *Calidris canutus* represents more than 6% of the *islandica* population. Up to 1000 ind. of Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* is observed, which is close to the 1% level of 1 200 ind.

Criterion 8. The river Stabburselva is one of the most important rivers for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* in the county, and it also have vital populations of Sea Trout *Salmo trutta* and Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus*.

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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. Northern boreal zone (NbOC – transitional section)
2. Alpine

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

1. Zonal division showing 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 (In: Moen, A. 1998. *Nasjonalatlas for Norge*; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).
2. Biogeographical regions of Europe, European Environment Agency, 2005

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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 large river delta with mighty sand and gravel deposits from the river Stabburselva. The freshwater in the river has high quality. The area is a part of one of the largest shallow water areas in Fennoscandia (Indre Porsangerfjord), and major parts of the area within the reserve are exposed at low tide. Oceanic and alpine climate dominate, with long relatively mild winters. The area is arid with annual precipitation of app. 500 mm.

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**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 geology in the catchment area is dominated by phyllite, limestone, meta-sandstone, quartzite, slate and locally some dolomite and conglomerate. The landscape is characterized by an ancient river valley cut down in a mountain plateau at 400 – 500 m. The plateau is mainly covered by a thick layer of moraine. The melting glaciers from the end of the last Ice Age, 10 000 years ago, have left their marks in the landscape like melt water river trails and canyons. The climate is mainly equal to the climate in the site, but generally colder and more arid.

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**18. Hydrological values:**

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

Not known. The river holds drinking water quality, but for the very low population in the area this is no restricted resource.

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**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. G, H, A, E, U, F

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## 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.

The area has some of the largest salt and brackish marshes in Northern Norway with international importance as resting and feeding area for many species of migrating wetland birds. The reserve is also an important moulting area for many species of ducks and an important winter habitat, especially for Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*. The vegetation reflects the special ecological conditions in the zone where land and sea meets and large areas with sea meadow with salt tolerating plants is dominating.

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## 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 shore meadows have a near complete zoning. Of special interest are large areas with pools dominated by Mackenzie Sedge *Carex mackenziei*, other pools dominated by Four-leaved Mares Tail *Hippuris tetraphylla*, and one large pool with *Potamogeton* spp. In large areas the vegetation is dominated by Creeping Alkali Grass *Puccinellia phryganodes*.

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## 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:

Particularly numerous species during migration are e.g. Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *C. alpina* and Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. Flocks of up to 30 000 ind. of Red Knot *Calidris canutus* has been observed in the area. This is also an extremely important area for the remaining Fennoscandian population of Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (CR), and up to 50 ind. can be seen between 15<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June. A smaller number returns in August. The area is an important moulting area for many species, e.g. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*, Red-breasted Merganser *M. serrator*, Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, Common Scoter *M. nigra*, Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* (10 000 ind.) and a smaller amount of Steller's Eider *Polyictica stelleri*. Common breeding birds in the area are Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) and Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT). National Red-List 2010 is used.

### Fish:

The river Stabburselva is one of the most important rivers for Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* in the county, and it also have vital populations of Sea Trout *Salmo trutta* and Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus*.

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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:

The river Stabburselva is a well known and important river for sport fishing activities. The river is known for its big salmons with weights up to 29 kg.

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 civilisations 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: Partly private.
- b) in the surrounding area: Partly private.

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

- a) within the Ramsar site:  
Mainly sport fishing activities and some tourism.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

A major part of the catchment area to the river Stabburselva has the status as a National Park or Landscape Protected Area. Many visit the area to explore the world's northernmost pine forest. Guided tours are possible.

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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:  
Not known

- b) in the surrounding area:  
Not known

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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.

The area was established as a National Nature Reserve the December 16th 1983 and was given status as Ramsar area the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1985. The watercourse is to a great extent intact and is by its placement in protection plan I (Verneplan I) given the highest protection against exploration of the hydroelectric power resources. The conservation area is included in a planned larger marine conservation area Indre Porsangerfjord.

**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 has been given priority due to very little human activity in the area.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

To protect the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, all traffic is prohibited in one part of the area (the Valdak marshes) from 1<sup>st</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June, and from 10<sup>th</sup> August until 20<sup>th</sup> September. Hunting, dog training, camping or camouflage installations are prohibited.

The area is by a Royal Decree given the status as a National Nature Reserve, which is the strongest form of Nature conservation in Norway. All kind of human activity in the conservation area is regulated by an official set of detailed regulations specific for the area.

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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.

None

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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.

Monitoring of bird populations continue (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and Norwegian Ornithological Society).

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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.

A local Visitors Centre, Stabbursnes Naturhus og Museum, is situated close to the reserve. Information brochures are available and a booklet with info from the area can also be bought here.

A nature trail and information posters has also been established.

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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 a low degree used for fishing and bird watching.

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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 site is managed by the County Governor of Finnmark, which is under the instruction of DN.

Address: Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Miljøvern avdelingen, Statens Hus, 9815 Vadsø. Phone: +47

78950300. E-mail: [postmottak@fmfi.no](mailto:postmottak@fmfi.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.

#### Biogeographic regionalisation scheme:

Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss

#### Botany:

Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1983. Havstrand i Finnmark. Flora, vegetasjon og botaniske verneverdier. *Rapport T-541 Miljøverndepartementet*. 357pp. (in Norwegian – flora and vegetation of shores in Finnmark).

#### Birds:

A number of reports exists:

Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Miljøvernavdelingen. 1985. Verneverdige strandområder i Finnmark. Verneverdier knyttet til vegetasjon og fugleliv i strand-, fjære og gruntvannsområder. Rapport nr. 13.

Günther, M. (Ed.) 2004. Field Guide to Protected Areas in the Barents Region, Svanhovd Environmental Centre, Svanvik. 376 p.

Tolvanen, P., Øien, I.J. & Ruokolainen, K. 1998. Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation project - Annual report 1998. *NOF Rapportserie* nr. 1-1999.

Tolvanen, P., Øien, I.J. & Ruokolainen, K. 1999. Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation project - Annual report 1999. *NOF Rapportserie* nr. 1-2000.

Tolvanen, P., Øien, I.J. & Ruokolainen, K. 2000. Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation project - Annual report 2000. *NOF Rapportserie* nr. 1-2001.

Aarvak, T. & Øien, I.J. 2004. Monitoring of staging Lesser White-fronted Geese at the Valdak Marshes, Norway, in the years 2001-2003. Norsk Ornitologisk Forening. *NOF-rapport*. 1-2004.

Aarvak, T. & Brøseth, H. 1994. Prosjekt dverggås. Årsrapport 1994. *NOF Rapportserie* nr. 1-1994.

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