



# 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: office use only NO 010

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5. Name of wetland: FORLANDSØYANE Bird Sanctuary

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 24 July 1985

7. Geographical coordinates: 78°20'N, 11°30'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town).  
Situated on the west side of Spitsbergen

9. Area: (in hectares)  
60 ha

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

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

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)  
The reserve consists of three islands and a few skerries. One island is completely bare, the two others are grass covered with small ponds. Important breeding area for arctic geese and Common Eider

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)

The coastline around the islands consists partly of cliffs, partly of sandy shores. The surrounding sea area is shallow and nutrient rich.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Breeding area for all three goose species occurring on Svalbard. The rich bird life makes this area one of the most important bird habitat of this kind on Svalbard.  
Arctic grass vegetation, and several ponds on the islands.

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

(a) site *State owned*

(b) surrounding area *State owned*

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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 bird sanctuary in June 1973 (1.6.73)*

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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.)

*None*

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

(a) site *None*

(b) surroundings/catchment *None*

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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

*None*

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

*None*

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**20. Hydrological and physical values:** (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.)

Breeding site for three goose species, Branta leucopsis, (500-600 pairs), B. bernicla (5-10 pairs) and Anser brachyrynchos (20-30 pairs), and a large colony of Somateria mollissima (500-1000 pairs)

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

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

Some zoological research has been carried out in the sanctuary - No facilities available

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

None

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

None

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

Sysselmannen på Svalbard (The Governor of Svalbard)  
N-9170 Longyearbyen  
SVALBARD, NORWAY

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

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

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

3b

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)

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

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