

Designation date: 19/03/96 Ramsar Site no. 803

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

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*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:

Ola Wergeland Krog, Wergeland Krog Naturkart,  
commissioned by Norwegian Directorate for Nature  
Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim  
Ph +47 73580500  
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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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

October 2011

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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.

Møsvasstangen

(International No. 803, National No: 16)

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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:**

None

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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 Møsvasstangen Landscape Protection Area.

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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.

59° 49' N – 08° 11' 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.

Telemark county, Vinje municipality, nearest town is Rjukan with approx. 3500 inhabitants, 25 km to the east.

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

919 – 988 m.a.s.l.

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

1440,9 ha of which approx. 202,5 ha is water area

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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.

Møsvasstangen is dominated by large areas of different types of mires that express a continuous change between water, bogs, and dry parts with mountainous birch forest. In the central part of the area there is a small watercourse with Kulingstjern as the largest lake.

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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. A large unspoilt area with a wide variety of mires. Unusually fine formations of string mires, the largest mire system in the county.

Criterion 2. Breeding area for the nationally threatened bird species Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU). Red list categories is given according to the national red list 2010.

Criterion 4. The area is an important breeding locality for waterbirds and among the breeding birds there are species with special habitat requirements. For some of the species this is the southernmost breeding area in Norway. See point 22 for more details.

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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. 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.

The area is dominated by extensive bogs and mires with several small lakes. Large quaternary deposits created by the movement of ice and melt water has formed drumlins, eskers and kames. These well formed quaternary deposits increase the protection value of the area. The climate is intermediary of an inland climate with relatively warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is relatively sparse with around 700 mm annually.

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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). 1

The Ramsar area is situated on a headland surrounded by a lake and the Ramsar area includes most of the land area on the headland. The area on the headland outside the Ramsar area has the same physical features as the Ramsar area.

### 18. Hydrological values:

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

No details

### 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 • Q • 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. U, Va, O, M

### 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 sloping face of the area has created one of the largest string-mire areas in southern Norway. These large unspoilt mixed string mires are a rare sight in the southern provinces. Different types of mires exist with a gradient from extremely poor to extremely rich. The area is covered with approx. 50% mires, 30% alpine meadow and 20% forest. Møsvasstangen is of special interest as a breeding site for water birds.

### 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.*

Mire plant societies are rich and varied with typical alpine species. On drier parts snow-bed flora dominate with Trailing Azalea *Loiseleuria procumbens*, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and Mat-grass *Nardus stricta* as characteristic species. Downy Birch *Betula pubescens* (ssp. *tortuosa*) forms the dominating tree cover. Floristically the lakes are dominated by stands of Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* and Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*.

### 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 area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 87 species have been recorded. Typical breeding birds include Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*, Common Teal *Anas crecca*, Common Crane *Grus grus*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* and Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*.

**Mammals:**

The area is known as an important area for Reindeers *Rangifer tarandus* in the calving period.

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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:

More than 100 sites for iron production from the period from the Viking age to the Middle age is discovered in the area. On these sites there is also remains from the houses that were used in this period, and remains of this type are nationally rare.

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 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: Private.
- b) in the surrounding area: Private.

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

- a) within the Ramsar site:  
Fishing and grazing.
- b) in the surroundings/catchment:  
Fishing and some grazing, agriculture and holiday homes.

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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:  
The nearby Lake Møsvatn is heavily regulated for hydropower, but this does not affect the nature protection area other than scenically with naked shores which can be seen from the reserve during parts of the year.

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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 Landscape Protection Area with protection of birdlife the 13th of October 1989.

**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 area was given by a Royal Decree status as a Landscape Protection Area. All kind of exploitation in the conservation area is regulated by an official set of regulations specific for the area. Visiting of the area is prohibited in the period 15<sup>th</sup> Mai to 15<sup>th</sup> July. Organized tourism, camping, photographing, etc. is restricted in the period 1<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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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.

None at present.

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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.

Information posters have 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 used by residents and some tourists 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

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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 Telemark , which is under the instruction of DN.  
Address: Fylkesmannen i Telemark, miljøvernavdelingen, Statens Hus, N-3708 Skien. Phone: +47  
35586100. E-mail: [postmottak@fmte.no](mailto:postmottak@fmte.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

#### Others:

Numerous reports (in Norwegian) and studies have been published on the natural and cultural history of the area, including quaternary studies, vegetation ecology, birdlife, archaeology and landscape studies, only a few are mentioned here:

Alvseike, T. 1984. *Møsvannstangen. Vurdering av behovet for fuglelivsfredning*. 24 s.

Fylkesmannen i Telemark , Miljøvernavdelingen 1986. *Forslag om vern av Møsvasstangen*. Notat. 9 s.

Jansen, I. J. 1987. *Kvartærgeologiske verneverdige områder i Telemark. Telemark - Kvartærgeologi II*. Institutt for naturanalyse 1987.

Moen, A. 1978. Registrering av verneverdige myrer i Telemark. Rapport til MD. Universitetet i Trondheim, Det Kgl. Norske Vitenskabers Selskab, Muséet.

Rask Arnesen, M. 1981. *Møsvannstangen rapport 1981*. Oppdrag fra naturvernkonsulenten i Telemark. 74 s.

Solvang, R. 1997. Ornitologiske registreringer i vernede våtmarksområder i Telemark 1997. Møsvasstangen, Vinje. *Fylkesmannen i Telemark, miljøvernavd. Rapport 05/97*. 16pp.

Telemark fylkeskommune. 1976. Verneplan for våtmarksområder i Telemark. Førebels oversikt 1976: 34-36.

Tvemyr, S. 1979. *Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Telemark fylke*. Fylkesmannen i Telemark. 70 s.

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