

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 for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd 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.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Miljøfaglig Utredning AS commissioned by Norwegian
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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 2012

3. Country:

Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Harøya Wetlands System (includes the sub-sites: Selvikvågen, Lomstjønnå, Malesanden og Huse, Lyngholman)
(International No. 806, National No. 19)

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:

The greatest interest is the former occurrence of the subspecies of dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, but which probably no longer occurs in the area. Other regionally rare upland species which have nested include Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* and Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*, although these species have also disappeared, probably due to conifer planting. Previously there was a large gull colony *Larus spp.*, but recent counts reveal that numbers have declined.

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.

Boundaries of the Harøya Wetland System is the same as the boundaries of the four protected areas; Lomtjønnå, Lyngholman, Selvikvågen and Malesanden&Huse.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62° 46`N 06° 28`E

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Harøya Wetland System is situated on Harøya and Finnøya in Sandøy municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, 35 km north-east of Ålesund and 33 - 36 km west of Molde.

10. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

11. Area: (in hectares)

0 – 32 m.a.s.l.

190 ha, of which 119.2 is sea

12. General overview of the site:

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

Harøya Wetlands System consists of 4 sub-sites of various types and whose function is linked and which also supplement one another. The four sub-sites are all collected in Sandøya municipality and have much of the same ecological function. Lyngholman, Selvikvågen and Malesanden&Huse are all important sites for wintering and migrating birds. Especially during migration much of the birds use several of the sites. Lomtjønna is a different kind of wetland with a small mire pool surrounded by poor, typical lowland fen and is an important breeding site for wetland birds which partly utilise sea and coastal areas for foraging. Selvikvågen is a much larger area with shallow water and large, relatively intact saltmarshes, rather exposed to the west. The area is of importance during passage and also as a breeding and wintering site for ducks and waders. Lyngholman is, as Selvikvågen, a large area of saltmarsh and shallow water, which is important for breeding, passage and wintering. Both areas are important botanically. Malesanden and Huse are more sheltered on the east side of Harøya and here there are large areas of shallow shore of importance in winter. In addition are small belts of seashore which are important nesting sites, during migration and valuable from a botanical viewpoint.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline 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).

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

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).

Note: more detailed information is provided in RIS for individual sub-sites.

Criterion 1. Harøya Wetlands System is representative for various forms of shallow waters and saltmarshes in the region. Some of the sub-sites are relatively little influenced by man and with well-developed wetlands, especially shallow waters and large, saltmarsh zones. Parts of the meadows at Huse are still in a good traditional state (used for grazing), something which increases the value as a reference site.

Criterion 2. Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU, Ann. II Berne Conv.), which is included on the Norwegian red-list is found at several of the sub-sites. The same applies to Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU, Ann. III Berne Conv.). Also, several red listed bird species use the site. Among them we find Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN, Ann. III Berne Convention), Common guillemot *Uria aalge* (CR, Ann. III Berne Conv.), Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* (VU, Ann. III Berne Conv.), Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* (VU, Annex III Berne Convention), Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* (VU, Ann. III Berne Conv.). Red list categories are given according to the national red list 2010. Also see point 22 for further details.

Criterion 4. Harøya wetland system is considered as a hotspot for migrating and wintering birds. During migration there are a few places along the Norwegian coast of great importance for migrating birds, Harøya wetland system is considered to be one of them. See also pt. 22

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. Southern boreal vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Sb – O3).
2. Atlantic

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

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.

Geology	The bedrock is composed of autochthonous or almost autochthonous gneiss from primitive times, deformed and metamorphosed during the Caledonian mountain chain folding. Huse is composed of amphibolites of metamorphosed surface bedrocks from the Proterozoic and/or Cambrian period. Lyngholman and Selvikvågen er mainly composed of micas, metamorphosed due to high pressure and or temperature during the Proterozoic and/or Cambrian period.
Geomorphology	All the subsites are part a large flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass, and both Selvikvågen and Lyngholman are surrounded by small knolls.
Substrate / Soil type	sub-sites bordering the sea have a varied substrate of rocks, stones, gravel, sand, clay and silt as well as som bare rock with raw humus and peat formation. Lomtjønna probably has a substrate made up entirely of peat.
Water quality	Atlantic seawater with exchange of large amounts of water affects all the sub-sites bordering the sea. Lomtjønna is probably slightly dystrophic.
Water depth / fluctuations	The depth of Lomtjønna is unknown and the second southernmost pool is connected to a little pipeline and is subject to fluctuations. The shallow coastal waters are no deeper than around 5 metres during the lowest low tides. The variation between high and low tides measured at Ålesund averages annually 123 cm.
Climate	The area has a very oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Sandøy is an island municipality of which Harøya is the largest of three sub-sites within Harøya Wetlands System. One sub-site is on the island of Finnøya which is connected to Harøya by a bridge and causeway. All the islands are flat, and Harøya's highest point is Harøyburet at 156 m a.s.l. The whole municipality is composed of marine deposits and peat, although there are some rocky outcrops. The inner part of Harøya includes many mires, some large and some of which are cultivated. The town of Steinshamn is on the north side of Harøya, and the town is close to three of the sub-sites. The municipality has a very oceanic climate with relatively cool summers and mild winters.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The hydrological condition in most of the site is considered stable. The dunes at Malesanden have a dynamic and natural fluctuation of sand, although overgrowing and planting of sitka spruce may have affected this a little.

The rocky shore is important for shoreline stabilization.

See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

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.

A, G, H, B, D, U, E

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

Selvikvågen, Lyngholman, Huse and Malesanden comprise of saltmarsh, brackish communities, seaweed communities and coastal marshes. These border mires and cultural habitats. At Malesanden there are areas of drifting sand and dune heath. Lomtjønnå is an area of ombrotrophic mire with five dystrophic pools with little vegetation. There are large tidal and shallow areas at all of these sites which border the sea, and depth at low water is barely five metres. The sites are used by staging and wintering species such as divers, grebes, waders, cormorants, grey heron *Ardea cinerea*, ducks and gulls and for breeding divers, waders, ducks, gulls and passerines associated with wetlands. Otter *Lutra lutra* and Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* also occur in the area. See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. 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.*

Two national red-listed fungi species are found at Lyngholman, namely *Geoglossum cookeianum* (NT) and *Geoglossum fallax*, both of which are associated with natural grazing land. Several rare and to some extent threatened species are recorded in the area such as *Veronica arvensis*, *Aira praecox*, *Luzula campestris*, *Carex arenaria*, *Ranunculus sceleratus*, and the national responsibility species *Senecio aquaticus*. See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. 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.*

Mammals:

Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU), which is included on the Norwegian red-list and is a national responsibility species, is found at several of the sub-sites. The same applies to Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU).

Birds:

As for breeding birds, the occurrence of the rare subspecies of Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* is of special interest. Dunlin bred formerly at all four sub-sites, but has disappeared from Lomtjønna and the status is uncertain for the other sub-sites. Another rare subspecies of Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava, flava* formerly bred at Huse, although the status today is unknown. Previously there were large colonies of gulls around Lomtjønna, but their numbers are now reduced.

The large concentrations of passage and wintering birds are of importance. Several wader species have occurred in large numbers during passage, such as 500 Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 200 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 150 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 200-300 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, 75 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and 170 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. In winter the shallow areas are important and the following counts are noteworthy; 180 Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*, 5300 Great Cormorant/European Shag, 1000 Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, 900 Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT), 1225 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, 500 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* and 300 Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU). There is reason to believe that these counts cover a larger area than those protected as nature reserve or bird protection area. In particular divers, grebes, cormorants and diving ducks use areas outside the Ramsar site, especially the wildlife preservation area on the east side of Harøya. The Norwegian Red List is used.

See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

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:

Harøya Wetland System is important for recreational activities.

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 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

- (a) within the Ramsar site: Private.
- (b) in the surrounding area: Private.

25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

The area is probably used for walking, hobby fishing and birdwatching. There is a holiday cabin at Huse and a few small boathouses. There is some grazing at Huse, as well as at Lyngholman and Selvikvågen. See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

With the exception of Malesanden, all the sub-sites have scattered buildings and modern agricultural activities nearby. A bird observation tower is situated beside Huse. See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

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:

Overgrowing and changes in agriculture are potential threats to the area. Planting of shelter belts is hardly positive for the natural values within the bird protection areas.

Information of factors specific for particular sub-sites is also provided in RIS for individual sub-sites.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Planting of shelter belts is hardly positive for the natural values within the bird protection areas. There is some disturbance from boats in and near the bird sanctuaries.

Information of factors specific for particular sub-sites is also provided in RIS for individual sub-sites.

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.

Harøya Wetland System received protection on 27th May 1988. Lomtjønnna, Selvikvågen and Lyngholman are nature reserves, whereas there are two smaller bird protection areas at Huse and Malesanden (comprise one sub-site). The large wildlife protection area surrounding Huse and Malesanden is not part of the Ramsar site.

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?:

A management plan was approved in 2010

d) Describe any other current management practices:

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.

None

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 bird observation tower is situated beside Huse. An information booklet is produced by the management authorities, comprising all the Ramsar sites in Møre and Romsdal county.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

The area is visited from by birdwatchers, in particular by members of the Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF)

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

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: County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, Fylkeshusa, 6404 Molde, Norway. Phone +47

71258443. E-mail: postmottak@fmmr.no

34. Bibliographical references:

scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å., Henriksen, S. and Skjelseth, S. (eds.). 2010. The 2010 Norwegian Red-list for Species. Norwegian Biodiversity Information centre, Norway.

Botanical and management plans:

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Lokalitetsbeskrivelser. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3B. (In Norwegian – descriptions of coastal sites in Møre og Romsdal).

Jordal, J. B. 2005. Kartlegging av naturtyper i Sandøy kommune. Ressurscenteret i Tingvoll, rapport nr. 1-2005. 73 s. (In Norwegian – on mapping of vegetation types in Sandøy municipality).

Birds:

Folkestad, A. O. 1978. Fylkesvis oversikt over ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Norge. Møre og Romsdal. Miljøverndepartementet juni 1978. (In Norwegian – on important wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga, 1982. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga. 224 s. (In Norwegian – draft management plan for wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Solbakken, K. A. under arbeid. Status for fuglelivet i norske Ramsarområder. NOF-rapport. (In Norwegian – on Birdlife in Norwegian Ramsar sites).

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