

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

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

April 2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

## 2. Country:

Sweden

## 3. Name of wetland:

(River) Dalälven - Färnebofjärden

## 4. Geographical coordinates:

60°13'N, 016°47'E

## 5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.)

56 - 75 m

## 6. Area: (in hectares)

17 300 ha

## 7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The site offers a large diversity in freshwater habitats, resulting in a very diverse birdlife, many fish species and rich flora. There are several rare species included in the Swedish Red List within the site.

## 8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A · B · C · D · E · F · G · H · I · J · K

inland: L · M · N · Q · P · Q · R · Sp · Ss · Tp · Ts  
· U · Va · Vt · W · Xf · Xp · Y · Zg · Zk

man-made: 1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: M, O, Tp, Xf, U, W, Xp

## 9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3

## 10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

## 11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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**Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):**

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**12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A rare example of a near-natural wetland type (river system) in the EU Boreal region
  2. Totally 160 nationally redlisted species have been recorded, including 4 mammals, 20 birds, 73 insects, 1 mollusc, 2 vascular plants, 4 mosses, 34 lichens and 22 fungi
  3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are rare of the EU Boreal region
  6. Supports 3% (max. 1200 specimens) of the north-west mainland European population of *Cygnus cygnus* and almost 1% (30 pairs) of the Fennoscandian population of *Pandion haliaetus*
  7. Supports a significant proportion of several fish species including *Salmo salar*, *Thymallus thymallus* and *Esox lucius*, that are representative of wetland benefits.
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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is situated in the lower part of River Dalälven. It is some 35 kilometres north-east of the town of Avesta, in the Counties of Västmanland, Gävleborg and Dalarna, central-eastern Sweden. Municipalities: Avesta, Gävle, Heby, Sala, Sandviken

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**14. 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)

River Dalälven runs through a valley in hilly landscape until it reaches the town of Avesta, where its surroundings change into a more flat and open landscape, resulting in a widening of the river and the formation of a series of broad and shallow pools. Short, often multi-branched rapids separate the pools. In this area, the river is bordered by a large number of wetlands. Because of the flat landscape, flooding is common, particularly in spring. The large number of unexploited rapids, along with the limited forestry and small human population in the immediate vicinity of the site, give an impression of untouched wilderness. Further downstream, the rapids are exploited to a larger extent.

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**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

Flood control is an important feature of the river system.

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**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

The lower part of River Dalälven coincides with *Limes Norrlandicus*, the ecological borderline between the vegetation types of northern and southern Sweden. Because of this, and because of the frequently flooding, a multitude of habitats and vegetation types is present. Among the vegetation types are mires, riverside meadows, birch and alder fens, marsh meadows, peat bogs and shore fens. The riverside meadows and broad mires long served as important sources of hay for nearby villages. The frequent flooding creates a clear zonation in the vegetation. A major part of the forests near the water body is either virgin or extensively managed, with a large number of deciduous trees, large pine trees, tall tree stumps, dead and dying trees. In the northern part of the site, vegetation is typical for northern Sweden with a mosaic of mires and coniferous trees. In the southern part of the site, vegetation is typical for central Sweden with broad-leaved trees and greater species richness. In the southern part of the site there is a huge complex of mires and virgin forests.

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

270 species of vascular plants have been found in the site. In addition, several rare lichens and fungi have been observed. Among those species included in the National Red List are marsh violet *Viola uliginosa*, the wolf lichen *Letharia vulpina*, the lichen *Leptogium rivulare*, the moss *Dichelyma capillaceum* and the moss feathered neckera *Neckera pennata* (grows on very old and broad aspens *Populus tremula*) are

found. The large amount of deciduous natural or semi-natural forests gives the area a special character. Huge and old aspens are important elements in many areas. Locally, riverine forests are identified.

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

The fauna is very diverse, particularly the birdlife. All seven species of woodpecker breeding in Sweden and several species of owls are nesting in the area. The area is a very important stopover site for migrating birds such as whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, which in early spring can number as many as 1 200 individuals. There are several nationally redlisted species such as the white-backed woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*, lesser spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*, three-toed woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*, Ural owl *Strix uralensis* (20-25 pairs) and white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (also globally redlisted). Other birds that up to recently were nationally redlisted are: capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (about 30 pairs) and black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*. All species mentioned except *Dendrocopos minor* are included in the EU Birds directive.

Among the mammals, lynx *Lynx lynx* and otter *Lutra lutra* (both nationally redlisted) should be mentioned. The site has a wide variety of fish (more than 20 species), some of which are very attractive for anglers, including salmon *Salmo salar* (nationally redlisted), greyling *Thymallus thymallus* and pike *Esox lucius*. Aspen (*Aspius aspius*) is a rare species (globally and nationally redlisted).

The mosquito *Aedes rossicus* is particularly common in the area, where it is believed to have its largest populations in Sweden. The wood-eating beetle *Cucujus cinnaberinus* (nationally redlisted) can be found on the large, broad-leaved trees.

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

Only a few minor areas in the immediate vicinity of the river are subject to modern forestry.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) Protected areas owned privately, by the state and by companies.

(b) The surrounding area is mainly privately owned.

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) Forestry (only locally).

(b) Forestry and agriculture.

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**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) Some ditches exist in the mires in the southern part of the site, and the regulation of the water flow outside the site affects the water level inside the site.

(b) If large-scale decimation of mosquitoes take place, the effect on other species will have to be studied

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**23. 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)

Färnebofjärden National Park - 10 100 ha. Protected since 1998 and owned by the state. Management plan exists.

2 333 ha bordering the national park are protected as nature reserves:

Hedesundaffjärden Nature Reserve - 920 ha. Protected since 1998 and owned privately and by the state.

Jordbärsmuren-Ålbo Nature Reserve - 950 ha. Protected since 1990 and owned privately and by the state.

Gysinge Nature Reserve – 463 ha protected since 1999 and owned by the state, by companies and by the Church.

Ista Nature Reserve – 770 ha. Protected since 2000. Owned by companies.

Management plans exist for all the reserves.

Parts of the site are included in the National Mire Protection Plan.

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

The following sites have been proposed as both pSCI- and SPA-sites to Natura 2000 within the County of Gävleborg:

SE0630190 Färnebofjärden - 10 100 ha.

SE0630189 Övre Hedesundafjärden – approximately 600 ha. A nature reserve covering the proposed Natura 2000 site is under negotiation with the landowners.

SE0630153 Jordbärsmuren-Ålbo - 950 ha.

SE0630192 Gysinge – 463 ha.

SE0630191 Ista – 770 ha.

There are plans to protect the Laggarboån-Fängsjön area as a nature reserve.

The following sites have been proposed to Natura 2000 within the County of Västmanland:

SE0250102 Hedesundafjärden (SPA)

SE0250126 Pellesberget (pSCI) (geographically identical with the area above, SE0250102)

SE0250174 Färnebofjärden Syd (pSCI and SPA)

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

There are several bird watching towers within the site.

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

There is a nature trail in the National Park and also information pamphlets available. Outdoor information is displayed at several places within the site.

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

Because of the wilderness character of the area, along with the highly diverse fauna and attractive landscape, the area is a well-known and important place for bird watching, hiking, canoeing and fishing.

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

Territorial: Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm (the national park).

Functional: County Administrative Boards of Västmanland, Gävleborg and Dalarna.

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

County Administrative Board of Västmanland

S-721 86 Västerås

Sweden

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

Holmstedt, S. 1996. Fåglar vid Färnebofjärden. 3:e uppl. Svenska Naturskyddsföreningen. [The bird fauna of Färnebofjärden. In Swedish].

Naturvårdsverket. 1999. Färnebofjärdens nationalpark. Skötselplan med föreskrifter. Allmänna råd 99: 3. Naturvårdsverket. [Management plan for the national park, published by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. In Swedish].

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