

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:

February 2002

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DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Sweden

3. Name of wetland:

Getterön

4. Geographical coordinates:

57°08'N, 012°14'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0 - 5 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 450 ha

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

The main part of Getterön consists of a bay, with freshwater inflow and brackish water basins, surrounded by wet coastal pastures. The area has a very rich breeding waterfowl fauna and is one of the most important resting places for waterfowl along the west coast of Sweden. The site is of national importance for nature conservation.

The site was classified as a Ramsar site in 1974 (340 ha) and was extended in 2001.

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 · O · 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: J, Sp, G, A, 4, 6

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:

Lilian Granlund and Torsten Larsson, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, S-106 48 Stockholm Sweden

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

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 representative example of a near-natural wetland type (shallow marine and brackish environment) in the EU Continental region
 2. >15 nationally redlisted species, included 10 bird species
 3. Support particular elements of biological diversity that are particularly characteristic for the EU Continental region
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located on the coast, about 60 km south-south-east of the city of Göteborg and 2 km north of the town of Varberg, in the County of Halland, south-western Sweden. Municipality: Varberg.

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)

Formerly an offshore island, Getterön was connected to the mainland by a road embankment in the 1930's. The main part of the site, Farehammarsviken bay, is an embankment, which was partly enclosed and desalinated by the construction of the road. The largest mean water depth does not exceed one metre. Earlier overgrowth of the salt marsh meadows is no longer a problem due to sufficient cattle grazing during the 1990's. In the south-eastern part an artificial pond with small islets was created in 1992.

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

Sediment trapping and prevention of coastal eutrophication are important qualities of the area.

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

The bay has a freshwater inflow and is composed of brackish water basins supporting beds of *Phragmites australis* and *Scirpus spp.* The site includes also grazed coastal meadows of varying degrees of wetness. The majority of the meadows are dominated by *Festuca rubra*, while the lower meadows are dominated by *Agrostis stolonifera* and in the most saline parts by *Puccinellia maritima*.

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

None known

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

The site supports a variety of breeding wetland birds, including the shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas spp.* (some nationally redlisted), eider *Somateria mollissima*, black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* (2 600 pairs in 2001), avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (130 pairs in 2001, nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), southern dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* (12 pairs in 2001, nationally redlisted), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (is not breeding regularly, EU Birds directive species), black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (5 pairs in 2001, nationally redlisted) and redshank *Tringa totanus* (about 40 pairs in 2001). Passage birds include the greylag goose *Anser anser* (maximum 1 500 individuals), black tern *Chlidonias niger* (nationally redlisted) and little gull *Larus minutus* (nationally redlisted). During migration period, >10 000 wetland birds can be seen, mainly ducks, geese and waders. The area is also used as a hunting ground by wetland raptors such as the peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* (redlisted, EU Birds directive species) and osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (EU Birds directive species).

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

Recreation, tourism and grazing of cattle.

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

- (a) Private and municipal ownership.
 - (b) Private and municipal ownership.
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21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

- (a) Recreation, bird-watching, tourism and cattle grazing.
 - (b) The surrounding area is used for agriculture and grazing, and there is a small airport, a harbour, a railroad and a rubbish dump adjacent to the nature reserve.
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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) The bay is undergoing vegetation succession as a result of gradual siltation due to the construction of a causeway.
 - (b) Leakage of toxic chemicals from an adjacent refuse dump is recognised as a potential management problem. There is a possibility that one day the airport will be expanded to accommodate more traffic, possibly encroaching on the reserve.
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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)

The Getterön Nature Reserve was established 1970. A management plan has been established for the Nature Reserve and measures to create artificial nesting habitats for wetland birds were completed in 1992. These measures included embankment, water-level manipulation, and vegetation clearance, increasing grazing pressure and construction of several islets. The management plan was extended to include new artificial islets in 1999. The purpose was to increase the potential breeding area, because older artificial islets were fully used by breeding birds. Five islets, which were stabilised by rocks to prevent rock erosion, were established in autumn 1999. To secure bird life, a decision was taken in 1998 in order to make trespassing beyond trails impossible at any time of the year (with an exception for skating in the artificial pond in wintertime).

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

Getteröns fågelreservat SE0510049, has been proposed to the Natura 2000 network as both a pSCI and SPA site.

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

The bird fauna is regularly surveyed.

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

There are facilities for bird-watchers including an observation tower, two observation hides and two observation huts. In 1995 a visitor's centre of 700 square meters was established with an exhibition of the wildlife of the nature reserve, a café, a naturalist's shop and a conference hall. In addition there is an education house for children and student groups. There is also a nursery house for injured birds. In close connection to the parking lot is a well-facilitated pick-nick area. The private enterprise that runs the visitor's centre offers guided tours to the public facilities in the reserve.

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

The area is used for recreation by large numbers of people. In 1999 the area had approximately 35 000 visitors (tourists and bird-watchers).

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

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

County Administrative Board of Halland
S-301 86 Halmstad
Sweden

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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- Pehrsson, O. & Unger, U. 1970. Inventering av häckande, rastande och övervintrande sjöfågel, vadare m.fl. utmed Hallandskusten. Stencil. Göteborg.
- Pehrsson, O., Stensson, J., Eriksson, M., Bengtsson, S.-O., Jacobsson, S. & Florén, R. 1973. Getteröns fågelreservat – skydd och vård. SNV PM 423.
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- Pettersson, G. 1976. Skärfläcken vid Getterön 1946-1975. Meddelande från Getteröns fågelstation 11:15-18.
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