

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 and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
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:

Sture Westerberg, Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län,
S-971 86 Luleå, Sweden.
Sture.Westerberg@lansstyrelsen.se

Jenny Lonnstad, Naturvårdsverket (Swedish EPA),
S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden.
jenny.lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

July 2013

3. Country:

Sweden

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.

Mellerstön

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:

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 Arc View image) ;
 - iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .
- Included in the GIS file for all Swedish Ramsar sites version 2013.

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 catchments boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a water body, etc.

In general the boundary follows the boundary for a site in the national wetland inventory; ID-nr 23L9G01. There are a few exemptions, smaller adjustments to include some smaller wetlands and in the north the boundary follows the border the nature reserve. The Ramsar site also includes the shallow water (visible in aerial photographs) areas between the islands and some adjacent shores that are important for the bird life.

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.

65°12'N 21°51'E

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.

Mellerstön is situated in the northernmost part of Sweden, about 20 km southeast of the town Piteå in the county of Norrbotten (population 248 400), municipality of Piteå (population 41 000).

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

Average 5 metres

11. Area: (in hectares)

290 hectares

12. General overview of the site:

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

Mellerstön primarily makes up of flat coastal meadows, shallow areas with sand flats and mudflats, not covered by sea water when the water is low, a lagoon and damp fens. The banks on the eastern side are predominated by extended shore meadows with sand, gravel and boulders. The widely stretched bank is flooded when the water level is high. In this area we find species such as slender glasswort (*Salicornia europaea* L.), *Puccinellia capillaris* and seaside sand plant (*Honckenya peploides*). On the flat coastal meadow occurs a small habitat rich in Southern adderstongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*). There are larger shoreline fens that further inland exceed to birch fens.

The sea bottoms of the area are partly muddy and here we find Charales. A partly exposed, shallow area connects Mellerstön with the island Lill-Räbben. These shallow areas are occasionally dry during the summer. Along the southern bank we find moraine beach meadows rich in stone/pebble with small pools where *Nymphaea alba* ssp. *candida* and other species grow. Some of the stony nabs are rich in Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*). The seashore is in the west part of the island exposed stony banks.

The varied vegetation types of the bank harbour several rare plant species. The shallow sea areas and banks are important for staging and breeding birds. The sands and mud of the coast not covered by sea water at low tide are of particular importance as feeding grounds for wild fowl and waders.

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

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: Mellerstön contains a representative example of natural wetland complex in the archipelago of the Baltic sea in the EU boreal region. Ramsar Wetland types present at the site that fulfil the criteria are Permanent shallow marine waters (A), Rocky marine shores (D), Sand, shingle or pebble shores (E), Coastal brackish/saline lagoons (J) and Intertidal marshes (I). The intertidal

marshes mainly consist of wet meadows affected by brackish sea water. The area is highly valued in the national wetland inventory.

Criterion 2: The site supports species which are nationally threatened or red-listed including Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (VU) and Curlew *Numenius arquata* (VU).

Criterion 3: The endemic subspecies *Artemisia campestris ssp. bottnica* is present at the site (Länsstyrelsen 2007). This subspecies is only present along the shores in the northern part of the Baltic sea. This site contributes to the conservation of the subspecies as well as other localities for the taxa. The wet meadows and the shores are important for breeding and staging water birds, a lot of ducks, geese and waders have been seen, but thoroughly investigations or inventories of the bird life have not been made.

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) bio geographic region:

Boreal

b) bio geographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

European Environment Agency. 2003. Europe's environment: the third assessment, p 231. Environmental assessment report No 10. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European communities.

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 coast, archipelago and the sea in the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia is unique with its brackish water and elevation of the land. The bedrock of Mellerstön consists of granite and the soil constitute of till. Precipitation is low with an annual average rainfall of approximately 500 mm. Average temperature on an annual basis is 1° C and the vegetation period is approximately 140 days.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

The entire island Mellerstön is approximately 1140 ha. Mellerstön mainly comprises of forests, except for the open areas next to the sea and some wetlands (approximately 100 ha). The bedrock on the island mainly consists of granite and some pegmatite. The soil type is till, except in the north-east part where sand and gravel dominates.

18. Hydrological values:

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

There aren't any investigations done about hydrological values.

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, E, D, H, J, Xp, U

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 Ramsar site is situated in the Piteå archipelago and consists of part of two connected islands and the shallow brackish waters between them. The land area consists of a mosaic of mires, deciduous forests, swamp forests and old spruce dominated forests. Birch is the most common deciduous tree. The site provides examples of the succession that follows with the elevation of the land. Habitats in the EU habitats Directive present at the site are Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140), Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand (1310), Boreal Baltic coastal meadows (1630), Boreal Baltic sand beaches with perennial vegetation (1640), Coastal lagoons (1150), Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140) and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080).

The supply of coarse woody debris in the forest is good and there are scattered accumulations of logs and dead standing trees. Amongst threatened fungus species many are dependent on dead wood.

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.*

Artemisia campestris ssp. bottnica (endemic, vascular plant of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II), Water-mudwort *Limosella aquatica* (NT), Water pygmyweed *Crassula aquatica* (NT), Leathery grapefern *Botrychium multifidum* (NT).

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.*

The site regularly supports a numbers of birds species during the breeding and migration period. Nationally red-listed and/or included in Annex 1 of the EU Bird Directive (marked with *), species at the site are Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (VU), Curlew *Numenius arquata* (VU), Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT), Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT), Smew *Mergellus albellus* (NT), Little Gull* *Larus minutus*, Arctic tern* *Sterna paradisaea*, Common Tern* *Sterna hirundo*, and Crane* *Grus grus*. There are also Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (LC) and Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola Falcinellus* at the site.

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:

The site is part of a nature reserve and has local importance for tourism and open air 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:

Community-owned.

b) in the surrounding area:

Mainly community-owned land.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Nature protection

b) in the surroundings/catchments:

Fishing and forestry.

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:

There are no identified threats as the land-use activities are regulated.

b) in the surrounding area:

There are no identified threats.

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 whole site is included in Stor-räbben Nature Reserve that was established in August 2007 and is also included in the Natura 2000 network, SCI-site SE0820630 Mellerstön.

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?:

The management plan was officially approved in August 2007. The conservation plan for the Natura 2000 site, SE0820630 Mellerstön was officially approved in December 2007.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The management is based upon the nature reserve and its provisions and management plan. The nature reserve includes provisions against forestry, drainage, building, road constructions and hunting on land and close to land etc. The provisions are considered to be enough to protect the conservation values in the area.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

The site is well protected, both a nature reserve and a Natura 2000 site, no further conservation measures are proposed.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

There is no current scientific research.

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.

There are no current CEPA activities in the area.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

No significant activities.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, S-971 86 Luleå, Sweden

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.

County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, S-971 86 Luleå, Sweden
Tel. +46 920 960 00. E-mail: norrbotten@lansstyrelsen.se (to the registry).

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Gärdefors, U. (ed.) 2010. Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 - The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species. Artdatabanken, SLU, Uppsala.

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län. 2004. Våtmarker i Norrbottens län. Rapport 6/2004.

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län. 2007. Naturreservatet Stor-Räbben i Piteå kommun- utvidgning av reservatet samt revidering av föreskrifter. Länsstyrelsen beslut 511-15079-00.

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län. 2007. Skötselplan för naturreservatet Stor-Räbben. Länsstyrelsen beslut 511-15079-00.

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län. 2007. Bevarandeplan för Natura 2000 Mellerstön SE0820630.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org