

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:

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Designation date

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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.

Pirttimysvuoma

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.

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.

68°16'N 20°44'E (central point)

68°18'N 20°50'E (northeast corner)

68°13'N 20°44'E (southwest corner)

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.

Pirttimysvuoma is situated in the very north of Sweden, about 23 km southwest of the village Pulsujärvi, 50 km northeast of the town Kiruna, in the county of Norrbotten (population 248 400), municipality of Kiruna (population 23 000).

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

Average 575 metres

11. Area: (in hectares)

2 587 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.

Pirttimysvuoma is a large, unexploited mire complex represented by several types of wetlands, vegetation and morphological structures which varies even among different species. Pirttimysvuoma is characterised by its palsa mires. The vegetation at these palsa mires is very distinctive. The mix of palsas with the surrounding fens and open waters create a landscape mosaic where plants of highly varied habitat grow closely.

Fens which are rich in brown mosses and the mire contains large areas of string-mixed mires and string- and flark fens. Topogenous fens and damp dwarf shrub heaths rich in species are also represented within the site and bog iron occurs in several places.

The mires harbour a rich birdlife. But there are also good conditions for other animal communities.

The critically endangered Lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus* has been observed near the lake Kärkejaure in the year 1993.

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: Pirttimysvuoma is a diverse wetland complex which contains representative examples of natural wetland types for the Scandinavian part of the EU alpine region. The most well developed types are open mires (O) and tundra wetlands (Vt). There are also good examples of forested peatlands (Xp), Shrub-dominated wetlands (W), Freshwater tree-dominated wetlands (Xf), Permanent freshwater marshes and pools (Tp) and Permanent rivers and streams (M). Especially noteworthy are the palsa mires and the large stringed mixed mires and the rich fens. The mires in the area have good possibilities to continue function as a carbon sink and storage.

Criterion 2: The site supports species which are nationally threatened or red-listed including Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) as well as other bird species listed in the Annex I of the EU Bird Directive (see 21 – 22 below).

Criterion 3: The site support birdlife typical for the northern boreal mires. The site has an interesting bryophyte flora with about 75 species in the mires and in the springs.

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:

Alpine

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.

Pirttimysvuoma is drained by several watercourses that finally flow off into Vittangijärvi, which, in its turn is drained by Vittangi river into Torne river. The bedrock consists of granite and pegmatite in the western part of the area and gabbro-diorite in the eastern part. As for the soil type, it constitutes of peat, but there are also parts with till and glaciofluvial sediments. Precipitation is low with an annual rainfall of approximately 500 mm in average. Average temperature on an annual basis is -3 ° C and the vegetation period is approximately 110 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 catchment area is of 19 148 ha. Approximately 55% consists of shrub heaths, 30 % of mires and lakes and 15 % deciduous forest or scrubs. The bedrock in the catchments area mainly consists of granite and pegmatite. The primary soil type is peat, but there are also parts with till and glaciofluvial sediments.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The area is undisturbed from hydrological point of view. There aren't any investigations done about hydrological values in the area. The peatlands store and sequestrates carbon.

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, Vt, W, Xp, Xf, O, Tp, 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.

Pirttimysvuoma is situated in a sub-arctic area characterised by flat, rounded hill terrain with altitudes around 700 metres above the sea level. The surrounding hills are characterized by dry and fresh brushwood heaths. The landscape in this area is characterised by the impact of thermal frost. Pirttimysvuoma contains mainly mire complexes and heaths. Fens varies from transitional poor fens to intermediate fens, but there are also smaller areas with transitional rich fens.

Important habitats in the EU Habitats Directive present at the site are: Palsa mires (7320), Aapa mires (7310), Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), Alkaline fens (7230) and Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds (3160).

The flora is sparse in alpine and forest species. There are more than 70 bryophyte species living in mires and springs at the site. The birdlife is rich.

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.*

The species list include Slender Green Feather-moss *Hamatocaulis vernicosus* (NT), Capitiate sedge *Carex capitata* (rare), Northern Golden-carpet *Chrysosplenium tetrandrum* (rare), *Oncophorus virens* (grows in alkaline fens) and *Warnstorfia tundrae* (grows in alkaline fens).

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 support bird species which are nationally red-listed and/or included in Annex 1 of the EU Bird Directive (marked with *), such as Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT), Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT), Bluethroat* *Luscinia svecica*, Whooper swan* *Cygnus Cygnus*, Wood sandpiper* *Tringa glareola*, Arctic tern* *Sterna paradisaea*, Black-throated diver* *Gavia arctica*, Red-throated Diver* *Gavia Stellata* (NT), Red-necked Phalarope* *Phalaropus lobatus* and Eurasian Golden Plover* *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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 area is frequently used for reindeer grazing.

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:

State-owned

b) in the surrounding area:

State-owned

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Reindeer farming.

b) in the surroundings/catchments:

The only human activity in the area is reindeer farming. The area is very remote and visited by few people.

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:

The area is vulnerable to damage by off-road vehicles, especially when there is no protective snow cover.

b) in the surrounding area:

The area is vulnerable to damage by off-road vehicles, especially when there is no protective snow cover

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 Torneträsk-Soppero fjällurskog Nature Reserve that was established in 2000 and is also included in the Natura 2000 network, SCI-site SE0820282.

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 April 2000. The conservation plan for the Natura 2000 site, SE0820282 Torneträsk-Soppero fjällurskog was officially approved in 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 and it is forbidden to drain or dam without the County Administrative Board's permission.

There is also the general Environmental Code that includes fundamental provisions for the management of land and water areas. One of the provisions is about how areas of national interest due to their natural value should be taken care of when there are development plan and applications for permits etc under a large number of Acts are considered.

This Ramsar site has the status of being of National Interest.

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 protected, both a nature reserve and a Natura 2000 site. There is a plan to make drainage forbidden at the Ramsar site.

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.

There are no significant recreation or tourist activities in the area

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

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. 2000. Kiruna fjällurskogsreservat- Torneträsk-Soppero Fjällurskog. Länsstyrelsen beslut 231-4716-99.
- Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län. 2000. Skötselplan för Torneträsk-Soppero Fjällurskog. Länsstyrelsen beslut 231-4716-99.
- Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län. 2007. Bevarandeplan för Natura 2000 Torneträsk-Soppero Fjällurskog SE0820282
- Molau, U. and Paterson, L. 1985. Pirttimysvuoma. – Vår Fågelv. 44: 185–188.
- Sjörs, H. 1995: Pirttimysvuoma och dess kärlväxtflora. Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift 89: 37-43.
- Sjörs, H. & Marklund, E. 1996. Pirttimysvuomaområdets våtmarksmossor. Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift 90: 87-97.

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