

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

Ann Wahlström, Swedish Environmental Protection  
Agency, S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden  
Niklas Kemi, County administration board of  
Norrbotten, S-971 86 Luleå, Sweden

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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

22 December 2006

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### 3. Country:

Sweden

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### 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.

Gammelstadsviken

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### 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

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### 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:**

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**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.

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**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°38'N 022°00'E

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**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.

The site is situated in northeast Sweden at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, 5 km northwest of the town of Luleå, in the county of Norrbotten (population 253 254), municipality of Luleå (pop. 71 883).

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

Average 3 metres

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

436 hectares

(no boundary change, new calculation 2006)

**12. General overview of the site:**

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

The site includes a freshwater lake with areas of floating aquatic vegetation and extensive marshes. It is a 4 km long tied off bay of the Baltic sea which was relatively recently converted from a lagoon into a eutrophic lake by land uplift processes. The site forms a northern outpost for many southern plant and animal species. About 150 species of vascular plants have been noted to occur within the site, notably *Glaux maritima* and *Deschampsia bottnica*. The site is important for breeding and migratory birds. Some 200 species of birds have been observed in the area, including at least 12 species of breeding raptors.

**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
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**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).

1. Gammelstadsviken contains a representative example of natural wetland types in the boreal region, including the Natura 2000 wetland habitat *Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation* (3150). The site is a former bay separated from the sea due to isostatic rise.

2. Nationally threatened species include Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* (EN), Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* (VU), Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* (VU), Garganey *Anas querquedula* (VU), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU) as well as a number of near threatened (NT) species.

3. The site supports populations of animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the alpine region, including rich avian fauna with a number of nationally red-listed species and species of annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive (see item 22).

4. The site is important for breeding and migratory birds. These includes nationally redlisted species like Smew (*Mergus albellus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Little gull (*Larus minutus*). Other species found are coot (*Fulica atra*), Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) and Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), the last species probably breeding at the northernmost site of its distribution area.

**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:**

Boreal

**b) biogeographic 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 lake is a shallow and eutrophic freshwater lake formed when a 4 km-long coastal bay was isolated from the sea by land elevation due to isostatic recovery of the land after deglaciation. Fine-grained marine clay and sand, overlain by an increasing depth of lake mud, covers the bottom of the lake. The deepest parts are nearly 4 metres and large areas have a depth of less than 1 m. Any larger influx of water is lacking and due to this the turnover-rate is very low.

**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 bedrock in the area is mainly acid. The soil types consists of fine-grained sediment, sand, clay and moraine. The landscape is highly effected by human activities such as agriculture and forestry.

**18. Hydrological values:**

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

**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.

O, Tp

**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 Gammelstadsviken site is an important area for many plants and animal species. The vegetation on the bottom is limited. The main watersurface area is coated by floating vegetation where *Nymphaeae* spp. are dominating together with *Lemna* spp. Longsprout-plants are also common, and reeds dominate the shallow areas where also buckbean, reed mace and *Equisetum fluviatile* occur in patches. Near the shore different sedge and grass-

species take over. In the aspect of bird conservation it is a most important site for staging and breeding birds.

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### 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.*

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### 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 supports a rich avian fauna, including several bird species which are nationally red-listed (marked with *EN/VU/NT*), and/or included in Annex 1 of the EU Bird Directive (marked with \*), such as Merlin *Falco columbarius*(\*), Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*(\*EN), Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*(\*VU), Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*(\*), Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*(\*), Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*(\*), Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*(\*), Whooper swan *Cygnus Cygnus*(\*), Greylag goose *Anser anser*, Bean goose *Anser fabalis*, Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*(\*), Wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola*(\*), Spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*(\*VU), Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Lapland bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*, Crane *Grus grus*(\*), Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Garganey *Anas querquedula* (VU), Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*(\*VU), Great crested grebe *Podiceps grisegena*, Smew *Mergus albellus*(\*) and Red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*(\*).

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### 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:

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:

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**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is privately owned. Only two hectares of the area is state-owned.

b) in the surrounding area:

The surrounding areas are partly privately owned and partly by the municipality.

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The principal use of the wetland is nature conservation, and facilities for bird-watching and education are available at the site.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Woods make up the surrounding areas. A road and a railway strike the area at the south.

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**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 E4 highway was built across the northern section of the lake in the 1970s, however, it has not been possible to gauge the effect on the area. The lake is close to the town of Luleå, and some urbanisation is taking place close to the shoreline. The 1990 Swedish National Report referred to proposals for expansion of the nearby town of Luleå. The Swedish National Report to the Montreux Conference of Contracting Parties in 1990 referred to a planned exploitation project due to urban growth. The Environmental Protection Agency has stressed the need to incorporate buffer zones into the planning process. An environmental impact assessment was carried out in 1991.

b) in the surrounding area:

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**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 site is listed as being of national importance for nature conservation, and is a Biogenetic Reserve. The whole area is a nature reserve:

- Gammelstadsviken Nature Reserve – total area 440 ha, thereof 280 ha on land. The reserve was established in 1973 and is privately owned. The reserve has an approved management plan and is managed by the Regional Forestry Board. Public access is restricted in some areas during part of the year.

The site has been included in the Natura 2000 network:

- SE0820042 Gammelstadsviken (435 ha) – SPA, SCI

The site is covered by the special provisions in the Swedish Environmental Code, (Chapter 4, section 2: Special provisions concerning land and water management in certain areas in Sweden), which states that “special consideration shall be given to the interests of tourism and outdoor recreation, in particular outdoor recreational exercise, in connection with assessments of the permissibility of development projects or other environmental intrusion”.

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 reserve has an approved management plan and is managed by the Regional Forestry Board.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

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

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

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

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**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 is an information building including a tower for overlooking the site. In addition there is also a separate bird tower.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

Being one of the most well-known bird sites in the region, and situated close to an urban area, the area attracts many visitors.

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**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

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**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.

Address: Stationsgatan 5, S-971 86 Luleå.

Contact person Erik Eriksson,  
telephone + 46 920 96231

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

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

Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) 2005. *Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2005 – The 2005 Red List of Swedish Species*. ArtDatabanken, SLU; Uppsala.

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Please return to: Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

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