

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Ref: 7SE018

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Name of wetland: Laidaure

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 67°07'N 17°45'E

General location: About 90 km north-west of the town of Jokkmokk and on the south-eastern border of Sarek National Park, in the county of Norrbotten.

Area: 4,150 ha

Wetland type: L M Q W

Altitude: Average of 507 m above sea level.

Overview: The site lies between the mountainous region of Sarek National Park and a zone of coniferous forests. It comprises Lake Laidaure, into which the delta of the River Rapa is rapidly expanding. The delta is the most important bird locality in the Sarek region and is especially important as a breeding ground for duck.

Physical features: The site comprises Lake Laidaure, into which the delta of the River Rapa is rapidly expanding at the eastern end. The river transports high quantities of mud from the glaciers of the Sarek region. Lagoons and levees are common in the delta, which mainly consists of sandy soils.

Ecological features: *Salix* thickets grow on the levees, and on higher levels there are woods of *Betula*.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) **site:** Ownership is divided between the State, the Swedish nature Conservation Society and private owners.

b) **surrounding area:** no information supplied.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation.

Part of the designated site (300 ha) in the region of the River Rapa delta is included in Sarek National Park, established 24 May 1909.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: no

information supplied.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature conservation; hiking (the King's Trail passes through the site); fishing.

b) surroundings/catchment: Reindeer farming.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: There is increasing tourist pressure in the area, mainly from canoeing. Proposals for water regulation for hydroelectrical purposes have so far been turned down.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: no information supplied.

Hydrological and physical values: The natural delta of River Rapa is unique by Swedish standards and represents a landscape of great scenic value.

Social and cultural values: no information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: Breeding: *Anas penelope*, *A. acuta*, *A. crecca*, *Aythya fuligula*, *A. marila*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Tringa hypoleucos*, *T. glareola*, *Phalaropus lobatus*.

Resting and moulting: *Cygnus cygnus*.

Other fauna: *Alces alces*, *Ursus arctos* and *Gulo gulo*.

Noteworthy flora: There are several tall flower species to be found in the meadow birch forest - e.g. *Trollius europaeus*, *Aconitum septentrionale* and *Lactuca alpina*. Normally, however, the birch forest is fairly thin with a ground cover consisting mostly of *Empetrum hermaphroditum* and *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Current scientific research and facilities: no information supplied.

Current conservation education: There is an information leaflet for Sarek National Park.

Current recreation and tourism: The site, especially the delta and surrounding area, is very popular among mountain hikers, many of which use the King's Trail.

Management authority: The manager of Sarek National Park is the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The areas outside the National Park are managed by the landowners themselves.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Norrbotten.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas of Europe. ICBP.

- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA information. (English summary).

- Thornback, J. & Jenkins, M. (1982). IUCN Mammal Red Data Book, Part I. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Reasons for inclusion: 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b

Map of site: enclosed.