

# 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:

April 2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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

Site Reference Number

## 2. Country:

Sweden

## 3. Name of wetland:

Svartån (river)

## 4. Geographical coordinates:

59°57'N, 016°20'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 60 – 65 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2 230 ha

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

Svartån is a complex of four eutrophic, freshwater lakes: Fläcksjön, Gussjön, Gorgen and Rörbosjön. They are connected by the meandering river Svartån, and surrounded by low-lying, wet meadows. The site is listed as being of national importance for nature conservation, and it is internationally important for resting whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*. The whole site is also a Special Protection Area according to the EU Birds directive.

The site was classified as a Ramsar site in 1988 (1 990 ha) and was extended in 2001. There are two separate sites: Gorgen-Nötmyran (710 ha) and Fläcksjön-Gussjön (1 520 ha).

## 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 · Q · 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: O, W, Tp, 4, M

## 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

Eva Nohlgren, County Administrative Board of Gävleborg, S- 801 70 Gävle, 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 rare example of a near-natural wetland type (permanent freshwater lakes and marshes and connecting permanent river) in the EU Boreal region
  2. Supports 3 globally redlisted bird species, >nationally 30 nationally redlisted species, mainly birds (15)
  3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are rare of the EU Boreal region
  6. Supports about 4% of the north-west mainland European population of *Cygnus cygnus* (about 1 600 individuals)
- 

**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located at about 30 km north of the town of Västerås, in the county of Västmanland, central Sweden.

---

**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)

Soils are finely grained, mainly clays, but also fen-peat soils. The river still has its natural riverbed with meanders. Large parts of the alluvial meadows of Nötmyran and the shores of Lake Gorgen consist of former hay-fields that become flooded at spring. Parts of Nötmyran have continuity in mowing and other parts have recently been restored.

---

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

The river is unregulated within the site and is important in terms of flood control and trapping of nutrients.

---

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

The four lakes support emergent vegetation characterised by *Equisetum fluviatile*. Lakes Fläcksjön and Gussjön also support extensive stands of *Phragmites australis*. The submerged flora of the lakes includes *Potamogeton* spp., *Chara* spp. and *Ceratophyllum demersum*. The meadow vegetation is dominated by low-growing *Carex* spp., with isolated patches of taller species such as *Carex acuta*. Scrub and forest have invaded parts of the meadows and some areas have wet *Betula* forests. The main significance of the area is that of being a resting and breeding place for wetland birds.

---

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

Two of the most rare plant species are *Viola uliginosa* (nationally redlisted) and *Carex acutiformis*.

---

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

The area is used as a resting place for an internationally significant number of whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (EU Birds directive species, 1 000 - 1 800 a day during the peak of migration). The area is also important as a stopover site for e.g. the bean goose *Anser fabalis* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), pintail *Anas acuta* (nationally redlisted), smew *Mergus albellus* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), merlin *Falco columbarius* (EU Birds directive species), crane *Grus grus* (EU Birds directive species), golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (EU Birds directive species), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (EU Birds directive species), curlew *Numenius arquata*, wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (EU Birds directive species) and

bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. Breeding birds include the bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (EU Birds directive species), garganey *Anas querquedula* (nationally redlisted), shoveler *Anas clypeata* (nationally redlisted), white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (globally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (EU Birds directive species), crane *Grus grus* (EU Birds directive species), spotted crake *Porzana porzana* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), corncrake *Crex crex* (globally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (EU Birds directive species), possibly great snipe *Gallinago media* (globally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), curlew *Numenius arquata* (nationally redlisted), wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (EU Birds directive species), common tern *Sterna hirundo* (EU Birds directive species), black tern *Chlidonias niger* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species), yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (nationally redlisted) and red-backed shrike *Lanius collurio*.

---

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

Nothing significant

---

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

(a) The area is mostly owned privately, a minor part is owned by the state.

(b) The surrounding area is privately owned.

---

**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) The site is used for livestock grazing, hay making, hunting and fishing.

(b) The surrounding areas are used for agriculture and forestry.

---

**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) Mowing and grazing must be maintained if the area is not to be overgrown with *Salix* scrub.

Permanent lowering of the water level would have negative consequences for many bird species.

(b) Leaching of fertilisers into the wetland areas has accelerated growth of reeds and bushes.

---

**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)

Fläckebo Nature Reserve was established 1993. It covers 78 ha of the area and has a management plan. Maintenance of traditional hay-cutting is beneficial to nature conservation and is subsidised by the state. The Swedish Government turned down a proposal for extensive drainage in 1988. The remaining parts of the area are protected through a procedure of consultations between landowners and the County Administration.

---

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

The area is covered with sites that are proposed to the Natura 2000 network as both Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). The proposed sites are;

SE0250098 Nötmyran (337 ha)

SE0250104 Fläckebo (78 ha)

SE0250147 Gorgen (216 ha)

SE0250148 Gussjön (102 ha)

SE0250151 Vrenninge (80 ha)

SE0250153 Fläcksjön (925 ha)

SE0250154 Rörbosjön (212 ha)

Additional nature reserves and management plans are planned as well as hunting restrictions.

---

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

Svartån Field Station is mainly dealing with bird censuses of both breeding and resting birds. Special projects cover species such as corncrake *Crex crex*, crane *Grus grus* and black tern *Chlidonias niger*.

---

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

Plans for some kind of Nature School exists, by a private initiative. Facilities, information etc. will be included in the forthcoming nature reserves and their management plans.

---

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

Very low intensity, mainly birders during springtime.

---

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

County Administrative Board of Västmanland

---

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

County Administrative Board of Västmanland

S-721 86 Västerås

Sweden

---

**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Sala Fågelklubb. 1987. Fågelfauna och fågelbiotoper i Fläcksjöns skogar. Stencil. [Not published. A territory mapping of woodland birds in the surroundings of Fläcksjön. In Swedish.]

Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län. 1998. Svartåområdet inför 2000-talet – en faktasammanställning. Länsstyrelsen Nr 2/1998. [A compilation of known facts concerning breeding bird fauna, meadows and management tasks. In Swedish.]

---

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@hq.iucn.org](mailto:ramsar@hq.iucn.org)