



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Finland

49 Ramsar Site(s) covering 799,518 ha

Aspskär Islands

Site number: 2 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland
Area: 728 ha | Coordinates: 60°15'24"N 26°23'32"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aspskär Islands. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 728 ha; 60°16'N 026°25'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Nature Reserve, Baltic Sea Protected Area. Characterized by six mostly treeless islands with occasional stands of Black Alders (*Alnus glutinosa*), the small archipelago is a representative example of a near-natural wetland type in the European Boreal region, dominated by shallow marine waters and rocky offshore islands. The site forms an important breeding area for archipelago birds, including the most important islet for Alcids in Finland, including the largest Finnish colony of Razorbills with 650 pairs and 150 pairs of Black Guillemot. The main threat is caused by oil pollution, but the American Mink may cause notable damage, especially in the colony of Alcids, and trapping occurs as well. The area is guarded and landing is prohibited during the breeding season of birds, where the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute monitors annually the development of archipelago bird populations. Ramsar site no. 2. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird-lakes of Rääkkylä and Kitee

Site number: 1,502 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland
Area: 1,227 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'38"N 29°57'21"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird-lakes of Rääkkylä and Kitee. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland; 1,227 ha; 62°10'N 029°56'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. Five lake areas distributed in a circumference of about 50km, forming the most important complex in Northern Karelia for breeding and migrating wetland birds. About 600 pairs of 18 species breed in the areas and the wetlands are important as staging areas for waterfowl during migration periods. Hovinlampi-Ylälampi, Joki-Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi are lake-like bays of Orivesi watercourse in a quite pristine state with boggy shores in process of slowly overgrowing. In general, the vegetation is gradually phasing into extensive flood meadows dominated by sedges. Apart from the overgrown northern part, the Juurikkajärvi lake is characterized by extensive helophyte vegetation and meadows at its edges. Päätteenlahti is a narrow lake bay with vast and rich submerged vegetation. Extensive sedge meadows, willow growths and quaking bogs are exceptionally abundant on the shores. Hunting of waterfowl in autumn and fishing in spring is intense in most areas and, with boating activities around holiday cottages, disturbs both breeding and staging birds. Ramsar site no. 1502. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird-Lakes of Rantasalmi

Site number: 1,503 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland
Area: 1,109 ha | Coordinates: 62°00'56"N 28°23'36"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird-lakes of Rantasalmi. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland; 1,109 ha; 62°01'N 028°24'E. Natura 2000, SPA and partly SCI, WHCP, Mire Conservation Programme. A diverse and representative complex characterized by flood meadows, reedbeds and a range of different mire types. All four wetland areas of the site are connected to Lake Haukivesi. Putkilahti-Ruskeaperä is a shallow lake with extensive growths of water horsetail and common reed, with flood meadows and poor fens of about 20 different mire types. Both lakes Kosulanlampi and Pieni Raudanvesi are in process of overgrowing with diverse vegetation. The area of Vaahersalonlampi is a narrow sound of Lake Haukivesi, surrounded by extensive sedge meadows and an alder zone, which gradually transforms into pasturage with diverse meadows and an old-growth silver birch forest. Overgrowing of all lakes is caused by the discharge of effluent waters, and a peat mining area nearby increases the humus contents of the lake. Concurrently American Mink and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) populations may cause damage to the breeding of birds. Overall, the traditional pasturing forms the valuable shape of the cultural landscape and two birdwatching towers have been constructed to serve recreational and natural interests. Ramsar site no. 1503. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird Wetlands of Haapavesi

Site number: 1,504 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu
Area: 3,616 ha | Coordinates: 64°14'47"N 25°25'41"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
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Bird Wetlands of Haapavesi. 02/02/04; Oulu; 3,616 ha; 64°15'N 025°30'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP and Mire Conservation Programme. Eight closely situated lakes and two mires forming a diverse wetland complex with an exceptionally high density of breeding and staging waterfowl and waders in the Middle-Ostrobothnia. In spring or autumn, more than 1,000 individuals of Wigeons, Tufted Ducks and Goldeneyes can be seen and more than 400 Whooper Swans rest at the lakes on peak days. At Lake Ainali the highest daily counts of both waterfowl and waders may reach more than 2,000 individuals in May. The site represents the mire vegetation regions of southern aapa mires and of eccentric bogs and Sphagnum fuscum bogs, but also sedge fens supporting wide growths of water horsetail and nymphheids. The lakes are surrounded mainly by paludified forests of pine and birch. Open mires are separated from each other by various types of pine bogs and spruce mires, which in certain places transform into wet meadows and grassy types. Draining activities are causing an increase of the humus content of the waters and the drying up of some flark areas of the mires in recent years. Significant values of the site also include birdwatching and outdoor recreation. Ramsar site no. 1504. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird Wetlands of Hailuoto Island

Site number: 1,505 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu
Area: 6,512 ha | Coordinates: 65°01'31"N 24°44'32"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
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Bird Wetlands of Hailuoto Island. 02/02/04; Oulu; 6,512 ha; 65°00'N 024°45'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Area, Finnish Waterfowl Habitats, Mires, Eskers and Shores Conservation Programmes. A number of wetlands distributed all over Hailuoto Island in the Bothnian Bay, a unique area for breeding and migrating birds and important threatened and endemic plant communities. According to estimates more than 35% of the over-wintering populations of continental Europe migrate via Hailuoto Island and nearby coasts, and even summer flocks of waterfowl reach 8,000 Goosanders and 2,000 Goldeneyes. The site is characterized by extensive reedy bays, coastal meadows and sandy shores. The northern shore is formed by a wide esker area. Dunes of various types occur on the shores as well as wrinkling flads and gloes, typical forms of lagoons in the Baltic Sea. Former sea bays with extensive sedge meadows and bush zones, sometimes reedbelts and deciduous forests, sandbanks and countless small islets, reefs and shoals are found in the western and southern parts. Significant values include scientific research on fauna and flora and monitoring of restoration measures as well as environmental education, birdwatching and outdoor recreation activities. Ramsar site no. 1505. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari

Site number: 1,506 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 55,196 ha | Coordinates: 59°50'39"N 23°21'38"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 55,196 ha; 59°49'N 023°10'E. National Park, Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Baltic Sea Protected Area. A complex of archipelago, shallow sea bays as well as flads and gloes, two types of lagoons created by land upheaval. Covering a large range of biotopes from limnetic, brackish zones to marine and offshore ones, it includes important natural wetland habitat types such as coastal lagoons, boreal Baltic coastal meadows, bog woodland and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods with a notable amount of nationally threatened flora and fauna species. Tens of thousands of both ducks and waders use the area during migration, and it regularly supports 6% of the biogeographical population of Caspian Tern, which represents Finland's largest colony. Oil pollution damage is the main threat because of shipping routes to the recently-enlarged Hanko harbour and near the southern parts of the area. There is a heavy pressure for recreational usage and building on the shores. Tourist facilities are present, including a visitor centre, nature trails, camping sites as well as an observation tower, because of special interest in birdwatching at Hanko Peninsula. Ramsar site no. 1506. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird Wetlands of Lapväärtti

Site number: 1,507 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland

Area: 1,224 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'33"N 21°27'17"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

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Bird Wetlands of Lapväärtti. 02/02/04; Western Finland, 1,224 ha; 62°11'N 021°26'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. A variety of wetland types forming a very valuable site for both breeding and migrating wetland bird species. Due to a small connection to the open sea, the old sea bay Härkmerifjärden still supports some typical brackish water plant species, surrounded with forests of spruce and Grey Alder at its shores. Other lakes are characterized by a wider variety from growths of common club-rush, water horsetail, water lilies, and common reed. The River Lapväärtinjoki discharges into a long and narrow sea bay, the estuary of which is characterized by extensive, uniform growths of reeds, sedges and willows, surrounded by deciduous and mixed forests and agricultural land in the northern part. Negative influences include overgrowing, increasing acidity (which has caused a few mass destructions of fishes), and the building of holiday cottages; ditching carried out in the early 1990s has drained the area considerably. Ramsar site no. 1507. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird Wetlands of Siikajoki

Site number: 1,508 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu

Area: 2,691 ha | Coordinates: 64°49'31"N 24°44'48"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Siikajoki. 02/02/04; Oulu; 2,691 ha; 64°52'N 024°48'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. The four main adjacent shore areas around Siikajoki consisting of capes, a river estuary, mires and shoals, which together form a unique wetland unit for breeding and migrating bird fauna. At the centre of the site is the Merikylänlahti sea bay characterized by coastal meadows in the process of turning into a gloe lake formation. In general the flora of the site contains two very special groups, the endemic species of the Gulf of Bothnia and the so-called *Primula nutans* (Siberian primrose) group of arctic species in isolation from the main distribution areas of the Arctic Ocean. The importance of the area is exceptional in migration periods. Increased recreation and extension of holiday dwelling constructions, as well as intensive hunting of waterfowl, are causing disturbance. Furthermore the planned road connection to Hailuoto Island threatens the northeastern part of the Ramsar site. Ramsar site no. 1508. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Bird Wetlands of Vanajavesi Area

Site number: 1,509 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western and Southern Finland

Area: 702 ha | Coordinates: 61°12'05"N 24°13'44"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

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Bird Wetlands of Vanajavesi Area. 02/02/04; Western Finland, Southern Finland; 702 ha; 61°13'N 024°15'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Eight separate areas forming a representative wetland complex of four lakes and four bays with a valuable wetland bird fauna. Different wetland types include reed zones with small open-water areas and submerged or floating-leaved vegetation or extensive growths of water horsetail and wide sedge meadows. Bays are rather small and sheltered with vegetation dominated by common reed, common club-rush and water horsetail. During the breeding season the site supports more than 500 pairs of 16 species, among them 10 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I, including several pairs of e.g. Slavonian Grebe, Bittern, Whooper Swan and Crane. The lakes and bays are also important staging areas for waterfowl during migration and molting periods. Eutrophication of the lakes and the impact of American Mink and Raccoon Dog populations on breeding birds affect the ecological character of the site. Visitors enjoy the site for outdoor recreation and birdwatching activities benefiting from facilities such as two observation towers at two different lake areas. Ramsar site no. 1509. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Björkör and Långskär Archipelago

Site number: 4 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Åland

Area: 6,309 ha | Coordinates: 59°54'03"N 20°07'23"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Björkör and Långskär Archipelago. 28/05/74; Åland; 6,309 ha; 59°52'N 020°02'E. Natura 2000 SPA. Two archipelago areas comprising two forested islands with freshwater pools, over 150 treeless skerries and rocky islets, and surrounding marine areas. The vegetation of Långskär Island has recovered after the cessation of grazing in the early 1960s, and is exceptionally diverse considering the harsh archipelago conditions. It is a very important feeding area for waterfowl during migration periods and among the few important wintering areas for Steller's Eider in the Northern Baltic. The underwater banks of Långskär Archipelago are important feeding areas for waterfowl during migration periods. In spring up to 10,000 of both Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks rest in the area on peak days. Amongst the threatened species hosted by the site are also the Ringed and Grey Seal. Negative impacts are caused by oil pollution, and increased boating in the breeding season causes disturbance to birds. A bird station has been in operation since 1964. Ramsar site no. 4. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Kainuunkylä Islands

Site number: 1,510 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 1,005 ha | Coordinates: 66°12'47"N 23°44'28"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

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Kainuunkylä Islands. 02/02/04; Lapland; 1,005 ha; 66°12'N 023°44'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. The most extensive area of alluvial meadows in Finland and the largest pool in the River Tornionjoki, where it is situated in the middle of the river dividing it into numerous small tributaries. On the meadows on the 15 islands vegetation is very diverse but aquatic vegetation is scarce. Sedge meadows are extensive near the waterline, whereas in central areas the vegetation becomes bushy and partly forested on the largest islands. The breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna include about 160 waterfowl pairs of 11-13 species and about 140 wader pairs of 10-12 species that are breeding in the area. The pool area of the river is also an important staging place during migration and moulting periods as well as habitat for some scarce species such as Smew, Hen Harrier, Ruff and Arctic Tern. The River Tornionjoki is also the most important reproductive area of salmon for the Baltic Sea region. Because of the cessation of grazing and hay cutting, the waters are in process of overgrowing and there also occurs some natural erosion along the waterline. Ramsar site no. 1510. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Kauhaneva - Pohjankangas National Park

Site number: 1,511 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Ostrobothnia, Satakunta
Area: 6,849 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'N 22°25'13"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed of mires, which form the largest and most representative raised bog area in the region of concentric bogs in southern Ostrobothnia. Forests are mainly dry pine forests. Large areas of forests are situated on eskers. Kauhaneva is a diverse wetland complex with different mire types and mire bird species are well represented. The Site is an important staging area for geese and cranes, including bean goose (*Anser fabalis*) and common crane (*Grus grus*), and also arctic loon (*Gavia arctica*). Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) are also present. As an active and mostly pristine peat bog, the Site is very valuable for carbon storage and flood control, as well as scientific research, birdwatching and outdoor recreation. There are 38 archaeological sites within the Site. Forestry drainage and peat mining in the surroundings have an impact; in addition, groundwater is abstracted from the connected aquifers and there are initiatives to increase the abstraction which may have a negative impact on the habitat types. Mires were restored from 1996 to 2017 under the European Union's LIFE programme, by filling up ditches and cutting trees.

Kirkon-Vilkkiläntura Bay

Site number: 1,512 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland
Area: 194 ha | Coordinates: 60°30'55"N 27°42'46"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kirkon-Vilkkiläntura Bay. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 194 ha; 60°31'N 027°42'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. A shallow and sheltered sea bay on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, connected to the sea through two narrow sounds. The eastern part, Vilkkiläntura, is characterized by an extensive reed zone and narrow alluvial meadows fringed with a zone of Black Alder; the western part, Kirkontura, has risen above the average sea level and is characterized by extensive sedge meadows with only a small open-water area. The bay is an exceptionally important staging area for waterfowl, as for Whooper Swans, Bewick's Swans and Smews, and waders in migration periods. The breeding waterfowl include 14 species of which 7 are listed in the EU Birds Directive Annex I. Eutrophication and overgrowing are accelerated by agriculture, nearby fish farming and earlier wastewaters. Planned conservation measures include mowing, dredging and increasing of grazing to stop overgrowing of the wetland. The area is a very popular birdwatching site especially in spring. Two birdwatching towers have been constructed and outdoor recreation has a significant value. Ramsar site no. 1512. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Koitelainen Mires

Site number: 12 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland
Area: 48,938 ha | Coordinates: 67°47'35"N 27°10'03"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koitelainen is one of the most representative aapa mire areas of the Central Lapland region. Covering the watersheds of the Luiro and Kitinen Rivers, it features almost 100 kilometres of streams, swamps, fens, ponds and small lakes. The Site is one of the most important areas for the conservation of rich-fen plant species, and hosts several nationally endangered species. These include long seta hump moss (*Meesia longiseta*), slender green feather moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*) and yellow march saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*). Waterbird species protected under the European Union's Birds Directive can also be found, including the nationally critically endangered ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and the nationally vulnerable Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood here, and may have negative effects on the Site, which is untouched by visitors and without any facilities besides a snowmobile track that crosses the eastern part of the area.

Krunnit Islands

Site number: 7 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu

Area: 4,435 ha | Coordinates: 65°22'41"N 24°54'47"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krunnit Islands. 28/05/74; Oulu; 4,435 ha; 65°23'N 024°47'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI. Four disjunct island groups with several large forested islands and 15 small morainic islands forming a unique and virgin series of island land upheaval succession. The northern part of Ulkokrunni Island is crossed by a low esker formation with heath-like vegetation. The area includes about 20 small islands or islets which are either grassy, sandy or bare and rocky skerries. Because of strong land upheaval, the shores are in a continuous stage of succession. The sites host three listed vascular plants species: Hippuris tetraphylla, primrose *Primula nutans*, and water-plantain *Alisma wahlenbergi*. Amongst the threatened bird species are Little Tern, Caspian Tern, Temminck's Stint and Black-headed Gull. Breeding bird populations are the most valuable in the Bothnian Bay archipelago, and the site is one of the most important summer-molting areas of Greylag Goose and Goosanders. Runaways of fur-farmed Arctic Foxes cause occasional damage to the breeding of birds. The site, where landing is prohibited in the breeding season of birds, has been a private protected area since 1936 and an important education site for the University of Oulu. Ramsar site no. 7. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lake Kirkkojärvi and Lupinlahti Bay

Site number: 1,513 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 649 ha | Coordinates: 60°33'27"N 27°13'52"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kirkkojärvi and Lupinlahti Bay. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 649 ha; 60°33'N 027°13'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Kirkkojärvi is composed of several overgrown gloe lakes, and open-water areas cover only 20 percent of the wetland. Gloe lakes are a special type of freshwater lake which have become naturally separated from the sea in recent times; another type, before the separation when it still has some contact to sea, is called flad. These two forms are typical for Finnish coasts because of land upheaval but uncommon elsewhere. Lupinlahti is a long and narrow sea bay with several islands, connected to the sea through four narrow sounds. The site forms a valuable breeding and staging area for a wide variety of wetland birds during migration periods. The main threats are vegetation overgrowing, building pressure on the shores, and plans for constructing a new motorway on the northern side of the bay. The existing causeway with electric lines causes risk especially for large birds; boating activities have increased and cause disturbance to the breeding and migrating birds. Recreational importance of the site is notable in terms of birdwatching and educational activities. Ramsar site no. 1513. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lake Kirkkojärvi Area

Site number: 1,514 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland

Area: 305 ha | Coordinates: 61°26'58"N 24°03'43"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kirkkojärvi Area. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 305 ha; 61°27'N 024°03'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. Five separate lakes in the Kirkkojärvi area, connected to one another by small brooks in a close group. With its diverse aquatic and extensive vegetation zones, it forms the most valuable wetland complex in the Pirkanmaa region, especially for migrating and molting waterfowl. Common reed and bulrushes are abundant and the lakes are for the most part bordered by deciduous shore forests further surrounded by agricultural land. The discharge of wastewater into the lake and downstream waters until the 1980s, as well as the dissolving of nutrients from nearby fields, led to a strong eutrophication in the past. Lowering of the water level of the Taivallampi lake and the dredging of the outlet of Kirkkojärvi have had negative impacts. Presently, negative effects are mainly caused by off-site pressure such as increased building and noise emission of the motorway around the area. In 1991 a management and land use plan was established, and present management includes a range of educational offers as well as birdwatching facilities. Ramsar site no. 1514. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lake Kutajärvi Area

Site number: 1,515 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland
Area: 1,051 ha | Coordinates: 61°03'44"N 25°27'15"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kutajärvi Area. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 1,051 ha; 61°03'N 025°27'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Nationally Important Landscape Area. Comprising six separate areas including some bays of Vesijärvi Lake and the Lake of Kutajärvi, the complex presents a total of 980 ha of water with valuable aquatic vegetation in the form of helophytes, submerged vegetation as well as sedge meadows and bush zones. The site is an important area for breeding for about 1000 pairs of 16-18 species, and both lakes are notable as staging areas during migration and molting periods, with peak numbers including several thousand ducks. Threatened birds include for example Moorhen, Slavonian Grebe, Spotted Crake and Crane. Most of the area is surrounded by agricultural land. Water quality has improved after a sewage treatment plant began operation in 1976, but the waters still contain excessive nutrients. In some areas, disturbances are caused by increasing boating and fishing and hunting of waterfowl in autumn. Other adverse factors are overgrown meadows, increase of holiday cottage building, and unauthorized dredging. An ecological management programme concerning fish-management and nutrients of agriculture has been in operation at Vesijärvi since 1987. Ramsar site no. 1515. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lake Lämpträsket

Site number: 1,516 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland
Area: 199 ha | Coordinates: 60°02'48"N 23°39'37"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Lämpträsket. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 199 ha; 60°02'N 023°39'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Nationally Important Landscape Area. A natural eutrophic lake with valuable flora and both breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna. More than 122 vascular plant species occur in the wetland area. Submerged vegetation is exceptionally rich with about 20 vascular plant species, including several species characteristic of brackish water. The lake is the westernmost known site in the world where the endangered naiad species *Najas tenuissima* exists. The site is an important staging area for waterfowl during migration periods; in autumn, the highest daily counts reach more than 200 Smews, representing the peak numbers in Finland. Negative effects on the ecological character of the site were caused by the lowering of the water level in the 1930s and the discharge of wastewater from Karjaa city until the 1970s, as well as from eutrophication by nutrients dissolving from clayfields. Despite disturbances from recreation fishing to the breeding of some waterfowl species, Lämpträsket is a popular birdwatching site provided with two observation towers and a nature trail. Ramsar site no. 1516. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lakes Aittojärvi and Kongasjärvi

Site number: 1,518 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu
Area: 703 ha | Coordinates: 65°16'44"N 26°54'22"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Aittojärvi and Kongasjärvi. 02/02/04; Oulu, 703 ha; 65°16'N 026°54'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. Very shallow lakes with extensive vegetation zones with growths of water horsetail and sedge meadows and swampy shores, constituted on peat, glacial ground moraine, and glacial gravel and sand ground. Both lakes are important areas for waterfowl and waders in the periods of breeding, molting and migration. Between 13 and 17 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, as well as EU Habitats Directive Annex II mammals such as the otter (*Lutra lutra*). The mires of Aittojärvi have been drained to some extent, and the water level of Kongasjärvi has been lowered earlier and bushes have conquered the alluvial meadows. Overgrowing of both lakes and hunting of waterfowl in autumn is negatively affecting the site. Furthermore the populations of American Mink and Raccoon Dog may cause damage to the breeding of birds. Ramsar site no. 1518. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lakes Heinä-Suvanto and Hetejärvi

Site number: 1,519 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern and Western Finland

Area: 1,224 ha | Coordinates: 63°09'03"N 26°10'02"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Heinä-Suvanto and Hetejärvi. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland, Western Finland; 1,224 ha; 63°09'N 026°08'E; Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. Two lakes dominated by water horsetail, sedge meadows and a mire zone of various types, comprising the most valuable area for both breeding and migrating wetland birds in Central Finland. Amongst the bird population are about 21 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breeding in the area, e.g. Wood Sandpiper, Slavonian Grebe and Black Grouse and some more scarce species such as Hen Harrier and Osprey. In total the breeding waterfowl include about 130 pairs of 14 species and during migration the highest daily counts in spring may reach, e.g., more than 150 individuals of Whooper Swans and more than 100 of Bean Geese with smaller numbers of other species. A restoration plan for Heinä-Suvanto was renewed in the 1990s, new areas of open water have been dredged, management and land use plans are in elaboration, and it is planned to raise the water level by 0.5 m. It is a site with few visitors, but still has some facilities such as two birdwatching towers and one nature trail. Ramsar site no. 1519. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Lake Sysmäjärvi

Site number: 1,517 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: North Karelia

Area: 734 ha | Coordinates: 62°41'12"N 29°03'22"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes about 690 hectares of water and 22 small islands, with alluvial meadows and bush zones on the shores, surrounded by a narrow forest zone and agricultural land. It is the most valuable of the North Karelian lakes for birds and among the ten most important wetlands in Finland, due to the high diversity of breeding and migrating wetland birds. The Site supports notable species during their migrations, such as black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), rustic bunting (*Emberiza rustica*) and pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*). Discharges from sewage plants, mining industries and agricultural land have polluted the Lake's waters and as a consequence some plant species have disappeared during the last ten years. The waters of River Lahdenjoki contain notably high loads of nutrients. A project has been implemented under the the European Union's LIFE Programme, which included the restoration of meadows, removing of aquatic plants and intensifying the removal of predatory mammals such as raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) and American mink (*Mustela vison*). Two birdwatching towers have been constructed.

Lätäseno-Hietajoki Mires

Site number: 1,520 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 43,367 ha | Coordinates: 68°39'35"N 22°19'34"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an important area for conserving palsa mires and the pristine Lätäseno and Hietajoki Rivers at the upper catchment of the Tornionjoki River basin, which is shared between Finland and Sweden. It is the northernmost site for several mire and aquatic plants and it provides a very valuable spawning ground and nursery for a number of migratory fish species, some of which support the fishing stocks of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and vulnerable lavaret (*Coregonus lavaretus*) still spawn here. Among the mammals found are wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) and arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*, while the Site hosts the most abundant and diverse range of breeding waterfowl and waders in the Lapland Region. The northern limit for pine trees crosses the area and mountain birch is the only common tree. The area is an important education site for the Kilpisjärvi Biological Station of Helsinki University. There is also a snowmobile trail, a cross-country track crossing the area and a canoe route on the Lätäseno River. The Site is also used for reindeer husbandry and recreational fishing. Acid deposition, caused by long-distance fallout some years ago, has weakened the buffering capacity of lakes and ponds. A management plan has been implemented.

Lemmenjoki National Park

Site number: 1,521 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 285,990 ha | Coordinates: 68°36'N 25°36'29"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is Finland's largest national park and one of Europe's most extensive roadless and uninhabited wilderness areas, in which all the mire types of northern forest Lapland can be found. There are also wide fell areas surrounded by western taiga forests and mountain birch forests. Aapa mires are located in lowland areas between the fells, and numerous streams flow from the Site into two river basins. The Site hosts a rich bird life as well as mammals such as wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) and European otter (*Lutra lutra*). Several bird species which are threatened in Europe breed in the area, and the globally vulnerable rustic bunting (*Emberiza rustica*) and velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) are found. As an active and mostly pristine peat bog, the Site is very valuable for carbon storage and flood control. It is also important for environmental education, scientific research, reindeer husbandry, outdoor recreation, recreational fishing and gold panning; however increasing tourism and hiking may cause disturbances.

Levaneva Mires

Site number: 1,522 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland

Area: 3,343 ha | Coordinates: 62°46'40"N 22°05'44"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Levaneva Mires. 02/02/04; Western Finland, 3,343 ha; 62°46'N 022°05'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. One of the largest, nearly virgin mire complexes of concentric bogs in southern Ostrobothnia, part of the biogeographic region of the middle boreal forest vegetation zone. The area includes about 3,000 ha of mires and about 240 ha of water surrounded by forests and mires. Levaneva consists of three vast, more or less separated concentric raised bogs with plenty of hollows and ponds and a mosaic of forested islands. It is an important breeding and staging area for numerous threatened bird species in migration periods, and the site provides habitats for threatened mammals in Europe such as lynx, wolf, and Russian Flying Squirrel. In the past impacts were mainly caused by drainage ditching and eutrophication, but water level regulation of the reservoir westwards may still negatively affect mire edges. The first protection statute was achieved in 1993 followed by measures for national and international conservation programmes and regulations. Ramsar site no. 1522. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Liminganlahti Bay Area

Site number: 1,523 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu

Area: 12,275 ha | Coordinates: 64°54'24"N 25°15'29"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Liminganlahti Bay Area. 02/02/04; Oulu; 12,275 ha; 64°56'N 025°21'E. Natura 2000 Network, SPA, SCI, WHCP, HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Area. Basic elements typical of the coast of the Bothnian Bay, such as lagoons, muddy shores, coastal meadows, natural forests of primary succession stages and small islets, form together a wide and varied wholeness. As the shores are low-lying and the water level varies, the vegetation zones are exceptionally extensive. Wrinkling flads and gloe ponds are typical of the area. The flora contains two very special groups, the endemic species of the Gulf of Bothnia and a group of Arctic species in isolation from the main distribution areas of the Arctic Ocean. The breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna is among the richest in Finland. As a result of eutrophication, and decrease of grazing and hay cutting, reeds have increased and the area of coastal meadows has diminished. Intensive hunting prevents the staging of waterfowl during autumn, and there are nearly 50 small boat harbours around the bay. Increased building of holiday cottages, fishing lodges, hunting cabins and roads are causing disturbance. Ramsar site no. 1523. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Martimoaapa - Lumiaapa - Penikat Mires

Site number: 11 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 14,086 ha | Coordinates: 65°50'25"N 25°07'53"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive fenland complex with active raised bogs and other other types of mire, including six extensive and well developed aapa mires, interspersed with small lakes, pools, streams, flarks and old forest. The eccentric bog of Martimoaapa is one of the most valuable mires for birds in Finland. The Site's location near the coast of the Bothnian Bay increases its importance as a staging place for migrating waterfowl and waders as well as for breeding raptors and waterbirds including the vulnerable horned grebe (*Podiceps auratus*). The nationally critically endangered black-eyed rosette lichen (*Physcia phaea*) is found. Human uses of the mires include scientific research, outdoor recreation, mushroom and berry picking, licensed fishing and reindeer husbandry. Four wilderness huts, a birdwatching tower, a 13-kilometre hiking trail and 2.5km nature trail have been constructed in the Mire Protection Area established in 1981. The Site is also used for training by the Finnish Defence Forces. A snowmobile trail has been planned to avoid the impact on sensitive early-breeding species.

Olvassuo Mires

Site number: 1,524 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Northern Ostrobothnia and Kainuu

Area: 27,073 ha | Coordinates: 65°07'24"N 27°11'21"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the most representative mire areas in Finland, for its vegetation and as a breeding site for mire birds. Sedge fens with flarks and *Sphagnum papillosum* sedge fens are the most common mire types, with nutrient levels varying from raised bogs to rich fens. Meadowy poor fens and spruce mires run alongside the rivers, while the 13 lakes and several ponds and eskers, wooded dunes and ancient shore banks give variety to the landscape. Most of the coniferous forests are old-growth and dominated by pine. The Site also features some nationally vulnerable vascular plants such as early marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*) and marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*). Bean goose (*Anser fabalis*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), common crane (*Grus grus*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) use the Site during their migrations. Human uses of the Site include scientific research and reindeer husbandry.

Oulanka National Park

Site number: 1,525 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu and Lapland

Area: 29,390 ha | Coordinates: 66°23'35"N 29°22'59"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oulanka National Park. 02/02/04; Oulu, Lapland; 29,390 ha; 66°27'N 029°20'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire and Esker Conservation Programmes. Representative of the mire vegetation region of main aapa mires of sloping type, which is characterized by deep canyons formed by River Oulankajoki with its tributaries, mires and gently-featured coniferous and herb-rich forests. The Park is rich in small lakes and ponds, extensive sandy areas and rich alluvial meadows. Because of calcareous soil the flora includes more than 23 national threatened and rare vascular plant species such as *Crepis tectorum* subsp. *nigrescens* or Arctic Champion species *Silene furcata* subsp. *angustiflora*. Altogether more than 40,000 pairs of about 100 bird species breed in the Park, which also supports wolf, wolverine, brown bear, lynx and otter populations. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the area and some of the alluvial meadows of rivers were mowed to produce food for wintering. Significant values also include tourism and outdoor recreation with about 150,000 visitors per year. Fish farming operations have changed the abundance ratios of the original fish fauna. Ramsar site no. 1525. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Patvinsuo National Park

Site number: 10 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: North Karelia

Area: 12,727 ha | Coordinates: 63°06'40"N 30°44'10"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated close to the Eastern border with Russia, Patvinsuo National Park is a large complex of aapa mires, raised bogs, swamps and open water bodies. It is an important area for the preservation and study of peatland and water ecosystems of the Boreal region. The Site's active and mostly pristine peat bogs are valuable for carbon storage, flood control and water quality maintenance. Several nationally threatened species can be found, such as the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), the black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and the internationally vulnerable rustic bunting (*Emberiza rustica*). In addition, four priority natural wetland habitat types listed in the European Union's Habitats Directive are found in the Site. There are 38 archaeological sites in the area, including Stone Age dwellings located along the sandy shores of Lake Suomunjärvi. The main threats include earlier drainage activities, dams created by the invasive Canadian beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and recreational pressures. Visitor facilities in the National Park include cabins, campfire sites, three observation towers, three nature trails and a network of marked trails.

Pernajanlahti Bay

Site number: 1,526 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 1,143 ha | Coordinates: 60°27'39"N 25°58'42"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pernajanlahti Bay. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 1,143 ha; 60°26'N 026°00'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Baltic Sea Protected Area, Nationally Important Landscape Area. A narrow, over 10 km long sea bay with numerous islands, one of the longest sea bays on the southern coast of Finland, with a gradually increasing salinity from the two rivers of the estuary to the mouth of the bay. Aquatic vegetation is very abundant and reed zone extensive in the northern parts. Shore areas include coastal meadows and some fine wooded meadows. The bay supports threatened birds including corncrake, crane and Spotted Crake. In the past, the bay has been an important waterway and the earliest settlements date back to the Bronze Age. The western shores are characterized by three medieval manors with traditional cultural characters. Important disturbances are caused by the highway on the northern edge of the bay and a motorboat harbor. A power line crossing the bay causes risk for larger bird species. The conservation of the Natura 2000 site will be carried out including noise reduction measures and management of coastal meadows. Birdwatching is a popular activity during migration periods. Ramsar site no. 1526. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Pilvineva Mires

Site number: 1,527 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland

Area: 3,667 ha | Coordinates: 63°28'47"N 23°59'33"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pilvineva Mires. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 3,667 ha; 63°28'N 023°59'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme, Mire Protection Area. An unusually extensive, unbroken and diverse mire area in Middle Ostrobothnia, in the middle boreal forest vegetation zone with a valuable wetland bird fauna. The site represents the mire vegetation regions of eccentric bogs and Sphagnum fuscum bogs and of southern aapa mires. During the breeding season the site supports about 19 Europe-threatened bird species, e.g. Black Grouse, Osprey and Red-necked Phalarope, and forms an important habitat for many endangered bird species, such as Bean Goose and Crane, for staging and resting during migration periods. Virgin mires like this area support an important hydrological value while playing an important role in maintenance of water quality. Therefore many strict regulations apply to the site, which is without large public and recreation facilities. Ramsar site no. 1527. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Porvoonjoki Estuary - Stensböle

Site number: 8 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 958 ha | Coordinates: 60°21'31"N 25°42'08"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Porvoonjoki Estuary-Stensböle. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 958 ha; 60°21'N 025°42'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP and Mire Conservation Programme, Baltic Sea Protected Area. Situated in the southern boreal forest vegetation zone, the estuary supports an abundant and rich aquatic flora dominated by reeds and rushes and including coastal meadows, Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods, bog woodland and an active raised bog of 118 ha, and vast reed beds. The site is one of the most important staging areas for waterfowl and waders during migration periods in southern Finland. However, the increased outdoor recreation, boating, fishing and building on shores cause disturbance to the birds. The estuary has also become strongly eutrophicated; since 1970, purification measures have improved the water quality, but nutrients still run high in River Porvoonjoki. Restoration of meadows was carried out in 1997-98 with the help of WWF and, under an EU Life Nature project, a planning of management was carried out in 1997-2000. With facilities like observation towers and nature trails, the estuary as a very popular site for outdoor recreation and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 8. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Quark Archipelago

Site number: 6 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland

Area: 63,699 ha | Coordinates: 63°23'09"N 21°26'23"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Quark Archipelago. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 63,699 ha [formerly called Valassaaret and Björkögrunden Archipelago]; 63°26'N 021°25'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Baltic Sea Protected Area, Shore Conservation Programme. Situated in the narrowest and shallowest area of the Gulf of Bothnia at the northern limit for many marine species, such as Eider and Blue Mussel. The archipelago bird fauna is exceptionally rich, e.g., more than 1,700 pairs of Arctic Tern and 3,800 pairs of Black Guillemot are breeding at the site. Shallow waters are important staging areas for waterfowl during migration and molting periods, and the archipelago is habitat for the endangered Grey Seal. The outer archipelago is composed of several groups of islands divided by shallow open sea areas, and the Valassaaret Islands are characterized by Storskär Island surrounded by about 80 small, nearly treeless and stony islands and islets. Because of strong land upheaval, virgin shores, such as coastal meadows and natural forests in primary succession stages, are relatively quickly born. Treeless islets are abundant and morainic ridges are broad. The main threats for the site are damage through oil pollution, followed by notable impacts of the American Mink in bird colonies. The Valassaaret Biological Station on Ebbskär Island is a bird monitoring station and an education site. Significantly extended from 16,730 ha and renamed in February 2004. Ramsar site no. 6. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Riisitunturi National Park

Site number: 1,528 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 12,461 ha | Coordinates: 66°12'49"N 28°27'29"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Riisitunturi National Park. 02/02/04; Lapland; 12,461 ha; 66°12'N 028°27'E. Natura 2000 SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme, Protected Old-Growth Forest. Steep and diverse blanket mires representing the mire vegetation region of Main aapa mires of sloping type. The site is located on the watershed of Maanselkä and the humid climate affects the vegetation, which is exceptionally "maritime" and rich. On the banks of numerous brooks and small rivers, and in the lower parts of hill slopes with springs, there are luxuriant grass-, hay- and fern-rich spruce swamps. The most peculiar mire types are the locally very steep and open blanket mires and hanging bogs, which form the special value of the area. Most of the Park is covered by spruce forests with nearly a hundred small ponds. Threatened species hosted at the site are from both flora, such as the buttercup species *Ranunculus lapponicus*, and fauna, such as the Golden Eagle, and about 13 species of the EU Bird Directive are breeding on the site. Significant values include environmental education, outdoor recreation, reindeer husbandry and scientific research, for which it is among the most important study areas for research on blanket mires. Ramsar site no. 1528. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

River Luiro Mires

Site number: 1,529 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 12,345 ha | Coordinates: 67°16'45"N 27°33'43"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site in Lapland consists of six distinct areas of aapa mires and raised bogs divided by the Luiro River and other small streams. They are among the most important mires in Finland: the area is very biodiverse, containing the most extensive pristine rich birch fen area in the country and the two largest raised bogs in northern Finland. Nationally endangered plant species such as Lapland hook moss (*Hamatocaulis lapponicus*) and long seta hump moss (*Meesia longiseta*) are found. The area is also important for threatened bird species such as the nationally endangered Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), garganey (*Anas querquedula*) and tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*). Four priority wetland habitat types are listed under the European Union's Habitats Directive; these provide carbon storage, flood control and water purification services. The main threats to the area are hunting, and drainage activities carried out on the margins of the Site.

Salamajärvi National Park

Site number: 1,530 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland

Area: 9,261 ha | Coordinates: 63°15'19"N 24°46'08"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salamajärvi National Park. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 9,261 ha; 63°15'N 024°45'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. A complex of mires and water bodies of pristine character, representing the diversity of the aapa mire type. The forests are mostly barren and stony, dominated by pine. Threatened species include the Brown Beak Sedge and Early Marsh-orchid as well as the near-threatened moss species Sphagnum subnitens. Breeding waterfowls are abundant, including more than 400 pairs of 13 wader species, and the site also supports several endangered mammal species such as otter, wolverine and Wild Forest Reindeer, which was re-introduced to the area in the 1970s. Ditches of drained areas, which were dug in the past, are still affecting the quality of running waters in some parts of the site. In 1985 a master plan for the National Park was established, and restoration of mires was carried out under an EU Life project in the 1990s by filling ditches and cutting trees. The different tourist facilities, like accommodation cabins, camping sites, an observation tower and a network of trails, have been accepted very well in recent years. Ramsar site no. 1530. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Sammuttijänkä - Vaijoenjänkä Mires

Site number: 1,531 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 51,749 ha | Coordinates: 69°28'50"N 27°39'49"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is Finland's largest continuous mire area in a natural state. The area is a huge mosaic of pools, ponds and lakes, of which the largest cover about 170 hectares. It is among the most valuable breeding areas for waterfowl and waders in Lapland. The Site supports many breeding species such as red-throated pipit (*Anthus cervinus*), common reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), common redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) and many other threatened birds. Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) and European otter (*Lutra lutra*) are also present. The Site faces relatively limited human impact: there are two archaeological sites with storage pits and possible pitfall traps. The area is important for local reindeer husbandry, hunting, fishing and recreation. It also serves as an education site for the Kevo Research Station of Turku University.

Signilskär-Märket Archipelago

Site number: 5 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Åland

Area: 22,566 ha | Coordinates: 60°14'59"N 19°18'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Signilskär - Märket Archipelago. 28/05/74; Åland; 22,566 ha; 60°14'N 019°17'E. Natura 2000 SPA, Baltic Sea Protected Area. An offshore archipelago near the border with Sweden, consisting of 50 mostly treeless islands. The main island consists of extensive deciduous forest, meadows and a small mire, and the great variation of water-depth creates a rich selection of underwater biotopes. The site represents a diverse and abundant community of archipelago birds for breeding, migrating and over-wintering. Threatened birds include White-tailed Eagle and Lesser Black-backed Gull. It also provides habitat for some threatened vascular plants such as Wall Rue and Fragrant Orchid as well as for some mammal species, e.g., the Ringed Seal and Grey Seal, with more than 200 individuals in the waters near Märket Island. Oil pollution damage is the main threat, mainly from two shipping routes crossing the area. Fishing and increased boating in the breeding season also cause disturbance to birds, as well as hunting of waterfowl. Since 1927 a station for the study of migratory birds has been in operation on Signilskär Island. Ramsar site no. 5. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Siikalahti Bay Area

Site number: 1,532 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 682 ha | Coordinates: 61°34'22"N 29°34'01"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Siikalahti Bay Area. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 682 ha; 61°33'N 029°33'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Three separate areas situated in the northeastern corner of Southern Finland just 5 km west of Russian border. Siikalahti and Rautalahti are inlets of Lake Simpelejärvi; Sammallampi is a small lake with an outlet to the same lake. These are characterized by extensive growths of Common Reed and thereby in the process of overgrowing, in a transitional stage in the succession of water ecosystems, with the vegetation and bird fauna most diverse and richest at the present stage. Siikalahti Bay is the most valuable bird-lake in Finland as habitat for many threatened bird species. The ecological character of the site is affected negatively by rapid overgrowth as a result of eutrophication. Regulations of water levels and drainage ditches caused a decrease of wetland species in southern parts to one third of previous numbers; nonetheless, the area is very appreciated for environmental education, birdwatching and outdoor recreation activities. Ramsar site no. 1532. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Söderskär and Långören Archipelago

Site number: 3 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 18,219 ha | Coordinates: 60°07'25"N 25°41'05"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Söderskär & Långören Archipelago. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 18,219 ha; 60°08'N 025°39'E. Natura 2000 SPA, Baltic Sea Protected Areas, Protected Area for Grey Seal. Comprising four main areas, with a total water surface of more than 99%, which freeze during the winter. Different coastal wetland types characterize the areas with small islands and islets in the outer archipelago as well as a low esker island. Most of the islands are treeless, but others are partly overgrown by Common Juniper or characterized by sandy beaches and herb-rich forests or formed by skerries. The bird sanctuary, founded in 1930, is one of the first areas to thaw, making it important for early spring migrants. A major population of Grey Seal stays at the site, with the highest counts reaching more than 200 individuals. The main threats are damage from oil pollution and increased shipping near the area due to the planned harbour of Vuosaari. Intensive boating affects the site as well during summer months. A few small islands of the archipelago are popular birdwatching sites during the migration of arctic waterfowl and waders in May. Ramsar site no. 3. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Sotkavuoma Mires

Site number: 1,533 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 2,602 ha | Coordinates: 68°20'22"N 23°16'37"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sotkavuoma Mire. 02/02/04; Lapland; 2,602 ha; 68°20'N 023°16'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. Lake Sotkajärvi is the most valuable bird-lake in Northern Lapland as a breeding, molting and staging area. Migrating waterfowl favour it as a staging area and in autumn several hundreds of e.g. Wigeons, Tufted Ducks, Goldeneyes and Goosanders can be observed with tens of e.g. Whooper Swans, Bean Geese and Smews. The site represents the mire vegetation region of northern aapa mires, typically very wet and non-forested. The vegetation zones of several small ponds and two lakes are very extensive with sedge meadows and growths of water horsetail dominating. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the surrounding areas and is permitted also in the Mire Protection Area. As it is a rather wet area the livestock numbers are not high. Hunting of waterfowl occurs in some amount in autumn and has negative effects on the site. Forestry, ditching, extraction of earth material and damaging of soil or bedrock, and construction of new buildings and roads are prohibited in the Mire Protection Area. In general there are no significant numbers of visitors on the site. Ramsar site no. 1533. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Suurenaukeansuo - Isosuo Mires and Lake Pohjalampi

Site number: 1,534 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Etelä-Savo region (Southern Savonia region)

Area: 1,640 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'13"N 27°03'21"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site in the Lake District of Finland is representative of the mire vegetation region with its eccentric bogs, oligotrophic pine bogs and poor fens, and *Sphagnum fuscum* raised bogs. The mires are restricted to the unmodified River Naarajoki with its rich alluvial meadows and dense growths of yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). Pohjalampi is a small lake in the south of the Site, characterized by extensive growths of water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and sedge meadows on its shores. Several species listed for protection in the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), horned grebe (*Podiceps auratus*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*). The Site also provides habitat for European otter (*Lutra lutra*) as well as the green snaketail dragonfly (*Ophiogomphus cecilia*). Drainage ditches have diminished the natural condition of some mires in the eastern area of the Site, and there is a canoe route on River Naarajoki, but there are no significant land use activities or visitors, so the Site remains undisturbed for wildlife.

Teuravuoma - Kivijärvenvuoma Mires

Site number: 1,535 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 5,788 ha | Coordinates: 67°20'20"N 24°05'24"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is the most representative mire complex in western Lapland and an important protection area with its rich fens and the largest unbroken aapa mire in the area of River Tornionjoki. Much of the mire consists of representative grass or flark fens. On the margins of the Site are *Sphagnum fuscum* bogs and spruce and poor pine bogs traversed by small rivers, and there are three small lakes and numerous ponds. The mires are important for breeding birds, including threatened species such as rustic bunting (*Emberiza rustica*) and velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). The Site also provides habitat for significant species such as goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) and Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*) during their migration and staging periods. Human activities include reindeer husbandry, an important livelihood in the surrounding area, and hunting, fishing and mushroom and berry picking. Otherwise the area has few visitors and is untouched by tourism. The Site's alluvial meadows were overgrowing as of 2023 because of diminished hay cutting. A plan to restore the Site's mire and freshwater habitats was included in 2017 in Finland's FRESHABIT project funded by the European Union's LIFE programme.

Torransuo National Park

Site number: 1,536 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland
Area: 3,093 ha | Coordinates: 60°44'14"N 23°37'36"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Torransuo National Park. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 3,093 ha; 60°44'N 023°37'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, National Park. The largest mire area still in natural state in Southern Finland, including a complex of five interconnected active raised bogs, bog woodland and pools. The middle parts are characterized by ombrotrophic, pine and hollow bogs. Wet fenny strips alternate with elongated dry hummocks, together with hundreds of small pools. Sedge fens and shrub-pine swamps occur on edges of mires and of forested islands. Only small areas of forest with mineral soil occur in the National Park. The site supports a valuable wetland bird fauna and is an important staging area for Cranes during migration periods, peak counts reaching 1,000 individuals in autumn. The lowering of water level and nutrients leaching from surrounding fields have caused eutrophication and overgrowing of Lake Talpianjärvi, which has been reduced by drainage to a marsh. Restoration of mires was carried out under an EU Life project in 1996-99 in an area of 150 ha. The wetland provides significant services such as maintenance of water quality, environmental education, scientific research, outdoor recreation and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 1536. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Valkmusa National Park

Site number: 1,537 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland
Area: 1,710 ha | Coordinates: 60°33'40"N 26°42'05"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valkmusa National Park. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 1,710 ha; 60°34'N 026°40'E. Natura 2000 SCI, Finnish Mire and Esker Conservation Programmes, National Park. A large and varied mire complex including more than 1,400 ha of mires with numerous small ponds, flarks and small forested islands. It consists of two nearby areas: the Munasuo Mire, a raised plateau bog, and the Kananiemensuo Mire composed of several mire types. The site is an especially valuable habitat for threatened and near-threatened butterfly species. The name Valkmusa comes from the Swedish for Falcon Moss, but the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) disappeared from the southern parts of its breeding range in Finland in the 1960s due to the use of toxic chemicals. Virgin mires play an important role in maintenance of water quality. Significant values include outdoor recreation and birdwatching. The general land use in the catchment area is shaped mainly by private forestry and agriculture. Drainage ditches nearby may negatively affect the site. A management and land use plan for the National Park has been elaborated but not yet implemented. Ramsar site no. 1537. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

Vanhankaupunginlahti, Laajalahti

Site number: 9 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Uusimaa
Area: 508 ha | Coordinates: 60°12'17"N 24°56'16"E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site consists of two separate bay areas in the metropolitan areas of Helsinki and Espoo, forming a wetland complex comprising shallow estuarine waters with marshlands and small ponds. Vegetation includes coastal meadows, submerged vegetation and a few forested swamps. The Site represents an important staging area during migration periods for ducks and waders. Bird species such as bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), great snipe (*Gallinago media*), horned grebe (*Podiceps auratus*) rest at the Site during the migration seasons. Both areas are of great importance for outdoor recreation and birdwatching, being within easy reach of population centres with around a million inhabitants, and a nature information centre, several birdwatching towers, nature trails and a hide have been constructed. The main adverse factors are building along the Site's margins, and wastewater discharge. Expansion of a ring road beside Laajalahti has increased noise pollution and reduced the area of meadows and forests. The last management plan was implemented in 2016.

Vassorfjärden Bay

Site number: 1,538 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Ostrobothnia

Area: 1,537 ha | Coordinates: 63°11'35"N 21°59'11"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest estuaries in Finland, formed by the River Kyrönjoki, an exceptionally wide reed zone, and a large area of open water which remains shallow because of silt brought by the river. The wetland is for the most part surrounded by forests and on the northwestern and southern sides by farmland. It is an important breeding and staging area for waterfowl and waders during their migration and moulting periods. The vulnerable lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) and the common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) visit during their migrations. The estuary is an important fish spawning area, despite the inflow of sediments, nutrients and occasional acid river waters. Dredging of boating channels, the building of embankments and acid waters leaking from the embankments have destroyed vegetation in many places, and the wetland area has diminished by hundreds of hectares. Its former significance as a spawning area has reduced as fish and benthic species have disappeared in certain areas. The eastern shores are densely built and a main road crosses the southern edge of the Bay. Nonetheless, birdwatching remains popular. A Site management plan was being prepared in 2023, while a restoration plan has been implemented to prevent overgrowing of open grasslands.

Veneneva-Pelso Mires

Site number: 1,539 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu

Area: 12,039 ha | Coordinates: 64°28'48"N 26°11'08"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Veneneva - Pelso Mires. 02/02/04; Oulu; 12,039 ha; 64°28'N 026°10'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Mire Conservation Programme, Strict Nature Reserve. An extensive unit of various types of aapa mire complexes representing the mire vegetation region of Southern aapa mires, constituted of extensive flark fens and pine bogs typical of Ostrobothnia aapa mires. Spruce mires and patches of rich fens also occur in the area. For the most part the mire types are mesotrophic and oligotrophic. The waters consist of small ponds and headwaters of rivers. In the middle of mires there are barren esker formations which are in the process of changing into mires. Virgin aapa mires play an important role in the maintenance of water quality and in flood control, and in some aapa mires restoration was carried out in the 1980s. The breeding wetland bird fauna is valuable, including about 14 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I. In the Strict Nature Reserve visiting is prohibited except for scientific research and education purposes. Under the EU Life Nature project in 2002-2007, restoration of forests will be carried out in an area of 180 hectares. Ramsar site no. 1539. Most recent RIS information: 2005.