

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

Heidi-Marie Gabler, County Governor of Troms,
box 6105, n-9291 Tromsø
Tlf: +47 77 64 20 00
postmottak@fmtr.no

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

April 2011

3. Country:

Norway

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.

Reisautløpet

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

- a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or 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.

The boundary is the same as for the existing Reisaøppet Nature Reserve.

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.

69°47' N, 21°00' E

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 Nordreisa municipality in Troms County – the nearest town being Tromsø 80 km to the west of the site. Tromsø has a population of approximately 65.000 inhabitants.

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

0 m.a.s.l

11. Area: (in hectares)

600 ha (500 ha brackish water)

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 comprises of a Delta ecosystem which is formed through the discharge of a large sub arctic river into a fjord. Large marine tidal areas of mud and sand flats can be found as well as wet coastal meadows along the shore with interesting flora. It is a staging area for water birds.

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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).

(Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the Norwegian Red List)

Criterion 1. This site is representative for this region as a delta formed by a great river and the appurtenant flora and fauna. The meadows represent an example of passage from northern boreal to sub-arctic seashore meadows. This is the only seashore meadow in the region that exhibits subarctic features.

Criterion 3. This delta supports populations of both southern and northern plant geographic elements and is important for maintaining the biological diversity in the region (see also 21 and 22).

Criterion 4. This is an important staging area for birds both in spring and autumn. Feeding area for ducks and wading birds (see point 22).

Criterion 8. Important river stocks of Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*, anadromous Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus* and Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* migrate through the site.

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:

Middle boreal zone, transition section (Mb-OC)
Arctic²

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).

- 2. Biogeographical Regions, European Environment Agency, 2005

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.

Geology	Within this site the bedrock is mostly covered with deposits like seabed deposits, moraine and deposits from the river.
Geomorphology	Delta formed at the outlet of a large sub arctic river discharging into a fjord. Large marine tidal areas of mud and sand flats. Wet coastal meadows along the shore
Substrate / soil type	These deposits are dominated by sand. Outside the sandy delta there is large area with mud tide.
Water depth / fluctuations	Parts of the delta are drained during the ebb tide.
Climate	The climate is northern coastal with relatively warm and short summers and long but relatively mild winters. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

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 geology is dominated by Caledonian bedrock, and bedrock of gneiss, slate, amphibole and gabbro. The landscape is characterized by a marked valley cut back from a plane mountain plateau approximately 600 m.a.s.l. The valley typically is covered by river deposits but some marine sediments and glacial originated deposits occur. The open country is covered by moraine. Near the coast there are mountain tops with peaks of approximately 1400 m.a.s.l. Some great lakes occur in the catchment area. The river Reisaelva is the central nerve in the landscape and flows through the valley. Great waterfalls fling down the valley from the mountain plateau. The climate near the coast is northern. In the inland more continental climate proceed with warm summer, cold winter and less precipitation (700-1000 mm).

18. Hydrological values:

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

The large river Reisaelva has its outlet within the site. This is a classic delta with active eroding/depositing proceeding.

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.

A, F, G, E, J, H, B

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.

Great seashore meadows and dry heather heaths covered by birch and pine. The seashore meadows are species rich and show a great variation and division in vegetation types. Nearly all the nature types typical for the region are represented. This is the only seashore meadow in the region that exhibits subarctic features. Northern and southern plant communities coexist in this site.

This is an important staging area for birds both in spring and autumn. Feeding area for ducks and wading birds. The watercourse hosts important population of anadromous fish.

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.*

Estuarine seashore meadow. One excellent example of northern boreal seashore meadow and a unique seashore meadow in the region that exhibit subarctic feature. Great areas with typical salt-meadows and brackish water meadow exist. Three rare plant communities occur; Slender-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton filiformis* – puddle, *Triglochin* shore and *Elocharis quinqueflora* (LC) meadows. Species rich meadows where the sub-arctic species Silverweed *Potentilla egedii* (LC) is abundant. Southern limit for *Stellaria humifusa*(LC). Common scurvygrass *Cochlearia officinalis* (LC).

The sea shore meadow in this site is internationally worthy of preservation.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

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., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The site is nationally worthy of preservation as staging area for Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* and Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. It is also a staging area for Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica* (NT), Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (NT), White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT), Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (NT), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU), Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT), Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU). In summer there are abundant populations of ducks and wading birds. Important stocks of anadromous fish migrate through the site, both Atlantic Salmon and anadromous Arctic Char and Brown Trout.

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:

Important stocks of anadromous fish migrate through the site and the river Reisa is important for angling.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Private

b) in the surrounding area:

Private

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Outdoor recreation, berry picking

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The catchment includes all kinds of human activity as built up area, agriculture, forestry and grazing by sheep and cattle. Keeping reindeer. Airport activity. Outdoor recreation, sports fishing and hunting. Roads for common regional traffic.

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:

Sørkjosen Airport is situated close to this Ramsar site and may affect the site both with noise and runoff.

b) in the surrounding area:

In the catchment area there is potential runoff from airport, garbage dump and local sewer. Some enhanced values of nutrients occur due to run off from agriculture and built up surrounding area.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

Established as Nature Reserve December 8th 1995. The boundary for the Ramsar site is the same as for the Reisautløpet Nature Reserve.

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.

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?:

No management plan exists, but the task has been given high priority by the management authority.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

None

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

The site is identified as one of the protected areas where it is necessary to get a management plan.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

None

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.

Information posters have been put up in the area.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

A part of this site is safeguarded for outdoor activity.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim

Ph +47 73580500

Fax +47 73580501

Email: postmottak@dirnat.no

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.

The site is managed by the County Governor of Troms, which is under the instruction of DN. Address: County Governor of Troms, Boks 6105, N-9291 Tromsø, Norway. Phone: +47 77642000. E-mail: postmottak@fmtr.no

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Fjelland, M. Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1983. *Havstrand i Troms, botaniske verneverdier*. Institutt for biologi og geologi, UiTø. Rapport T-551: s 148-149.

Fylkesmannen i Troms, 1989. *Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Troms fylke*.

Hindrum, R. 1982. *Fugle- og pattedyrfaunaen i Reisavassdraget, Troms og Finnmark, Nord-Norge*. Tromsura Naturvitenskap nr 37: 64 pp.

Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å. og Bakken, T. (red.) 2006. *Norsk Rødliste 2006 – 2006 Norwegian Red List*. Artsdatabanken, Norway

Moen, A. 1998. *National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation*. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss

Wartena, E.M.M. 1998. *Vannkvalitet i vassdrag i Troms*. Akvaplan-niva, rapport nr APN512.814.1: 56 pp.

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