

## INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

**Country:** Sweden

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**Name of wetland:** Tjålmejaure - Laisdalen

**Date of Ramsar designation:** 5 December 1974

**Geographical coordinates:** 66°15'N 16°11'E

**General location:** Near Pieljekaise National Park (to the north) and the Norwegian border (to the west) in the southwest of the County of Norrbotten.

**Area:** 21,400 ha

**Wetland type:** M S U V L O X

**Altitude:** Maximum 1080 m, minimum 460 m.

**Overview:** Laisdalen is one of the richest mountain valleys in Sweden in terms of animal species. Through this valley the geographical distribution of several species is extended into the mountainous area.

**Physical features:** The site covers two mountain valleys which converge above Lake Yraf, and includes a delta formed in the lake by the combined rivers. The southern of the two valleys contains a series of lakes with wide, flat shores. The northern valley, Laisdalen, is much narrower.

**Ecological features:** Either side of the river is bordered by *Betula* woods with a sparse element of old *Pinus sylvestris*, which brings the characteristics out of a virgin forest.

### **Land tenure/ownership of**

**a) site:** state-owned.

**b) surrounding area:** state-owned.

**Conservation measures taken:** Listed as site of national importance for nature conservation. The designated site includes two Nature Reserves: Plassa (31 May 1988) and Yrafdelta (6 May 1974), totalling 1,290 ha. The major part of the site (17,800 ha) is a Bird Sanctuary (Tjålmejaure, 17 Feb 1967).

**Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** no information supplied.

**Current land use: principal human activities in**

**a) site:** Reindeer husbandry; nature conservation; fishing; hiking (the King's Trail (Kungsleden) passes through the site).

**b) surroundings/catchment:** The site lies between the nature Reserve Vindelfjällen and the National Park Pieljekaise.

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

**a) at the site:** Forestry may be a future threat within parts of the site.

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

**Hydrological and physical values:** The hydrological system is unaffected by exploitation for hydro-electrical purposes.

**Social and cultural values:** no information supplied.

**Noteworthy fauna:** Breeding birds: *Limicola falcinellus*, *Calidris maritima*, *Gallinago media*, *Nyctea scandiaca*, *Anthus cervinus*, *Lagopus lagopus* (extremely productive region), *Bombycilla garrulus*, *Perisoreus infaustus*, *Tetrao urogallus* (usually abundant), *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Buteo lagopus*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Falco rusticolus*, *Turdus torquatus*, *Anser erythropus* (probably due to reintroduction in adjacent areas).  
Other fauna: *Gulo gulo*, *Ursus arctos*, *Lynx lynx*, *Martes martes*.

**Noteworthy flora:** no information supplied.

**Current scientific research and facilities:** no information supplied.

**Current conservation education:** no information supplied.

**Current recreation and tourism:** The King's Trail (Kungsleden), which is a hiking path from North to South through the Swedish mountains, passes through the Laisdalen valley.

**Management authority:** The managers of the Nature Reserves are:  
Plassa NR - County Administration  
Yrafdeltat NR - County Forestry Board  
Outside reserves it's the landowner himself who manages the land.

**Jurisdiction:** Territorial and functional: County Administration of Norrbotten.

**Bibliographical references:**

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

**Reasons for inclusion:** 1b, 2a, 3b

**Map of site:** enclosed