

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

Note 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. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date Site Reference Number

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

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2005

## 3. Country:

Finland

## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Bird-lakes of Rääkkylä and Kitee

## 5. Map of site included:

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

**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): Yes.

**b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes.

## 6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62° 10' N / 29° 56' E

## 7. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

The five separate areas are situated in southeastern part of the province of Eastern Finland, in the municipalities of Kitee city and Rääkkylä, 1–30 km south–northwest of Kitee city centre. The municipalities (1 291 sq.km of land) have ca. 13 600 residents.

## 8. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

95–76 m, mean 81m.

## 9. Area: (in hectares)

1 227 ha

## 10. Overview:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The lakes form the most important complex in Northern Karelia for breeding and migrating wetland birds.

## 11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline 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).

1, 2 & 4

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	3	<u>4</u>	5	6	7	8
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## 12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. 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).

1) A representative example of near-natural wetland types (dominated by shallow freshwater lakes) in the EU Boreal region, including 1 priority natural wetland habitat type of the EU Habitat Directive (bog woodland).

2) Threatened birds (VU in Finnish Red List) include Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) with more than 500 pairs, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*). About 17 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) with 32 pairs, Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with 17 pairs, Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) with 9 pairs, Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) with 7 pairs, both Marsh Harrier (*Circus areuginosus*) and Crane (*Grus grus*) with 6 pairs and Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) with 5 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*) and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

4) The breeding waterfowl includes about 600 pairs of 18 species, and the breeding waders about 150 pairs of 11 species.

Furthermore the wetlands are of considerable importance as staging areas of waterfowl during migration periods. The highest daily counts of waterfowl reach 500–1 000 individuals at Päätyeenlahti and 350–500 at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi in spring.

**13. 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:**

Southern boreal forest vegetation zone.

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmä. Puheenjohtaja: Ruuhijärvi, R., Sihteerit: Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Metsien suojelun tarve Etelä-Suomessa ja Pohjanmaalla. Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmän mietintö. Suomen ympäristö 437. Ympäristöministeriö. Helsinki.

Working group on the need for forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. Chairman Ruuhijärvi, R., Secretaries Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. The Finnish Environment 437. Ministry of the Environment.

**14. 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:** Geochemically included in Ladoga – Bothnian Bay belt. Bedrock is composed of mica schists and intercalated black schists.

**Origins:** Natural

**Soil type:** Silt and clay, peat, glacial fluvial gravel and sand and glacial ground and hummocky moraines.

**Water quality:** General quality satisfactory in Joki–Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi, passable in Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and poor in Päätyenlahti. Eutrophic in most lakes. Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and Jouhtenuslampi dystrophic.

**Depth of water:** Shallow. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

**Climate:** Duration of growing season ca. 155 days, mean annual temperature ca. +2 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 600 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from mid November to late April. Southern boreal forest vegetation zone.

**15. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The climate and general geological features are much the same in the catchment areas as in the Ramsar sites. Look partly chapter 14.

### 16. Hydrological values:

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

None significant.

### 17. 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)
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#### Inland: O, Ts, W, Xp, Xf & U?

L	M	N	<u>O</u>	P	Q	R	Sp	Ss	Tp	<u>Ts</u>	<u>U</u>	Va	Vt	<u>W</u>	<u>Xf</u>	<u>Xp</u>	Y	Zg	Zk(b)
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#### Human-made:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Zk(c)
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#### 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.

O – Permanent freshwater lakes

Ts – Seasonally flooded meadows

W – Shrub-dominated wetlands

Xp – Forested peatlands

U – Non-forested peatlands

Xf – Seasonally flooded forests

### 18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

Hovinlampi–Ylälampi covers 329 ha, Joki–Hautalampi 289 ha, Jouhtenuslampi 166 ha, Juurikkajärvi 129 ha and Päätyeenlahti 314 ha. The area includes ca. 660 ha of water. Hovinlampi–Ylälampi, Joki–Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi are lake-like bays of Orivesi watercourse. Hovinlampi–Ylälampi is composed of four ponds connected by River Yläjoki. The shores are boggy, but the process of overgrowing is slow and submerged vegetation is scarce. The vegetation of all the three bays is dominated by growths of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), gradually phasing into extensive flood meadows dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.). Lesser Bulrush (*Typha*

*angustifolia*) is common at Joki–Hautalampi and especially at Jouhtenuslampi. Joki–Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi are partly surrounded by smallish areas of agricultural land, the general view of all three lakes still remaining wild.

The bird wetland of Juurikkajärvi is composed of nearly overgrown northern part of the lake. Helophyte vegetation is abundant with Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Common Reed dominating. Sedge meadows are extensive. Päätyeenlahti is a narrow bay of Lake Kiteenjärvi. All the vegetation zones are uniform and extensive and submerged vegetation is rich. Water Horsetail and Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) dominate the vegetation. Extensive sedge meadows, willow (*Salix* spp.) growths and quaking bogs are exceptionally abundant on the shores. The process of overgrowing is slow. There are only small areas of agricultural land around the northern parts of the bay.

### **19. Noteworthy flora:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. 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.**

None significant. The aquatic flora of Lake Kiteenjärvi, which is in contact with Päätyeenlahti Bay, includes naiad species *Najas tenuissima* (EN in Finnish Red List).

### **20. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. 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.**

Threatened birds (VU in Finnish Red List) include Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) with >500 pairs, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*). Ca. 17 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) with 32 pairs, Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with 17 pairs, Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) with 9 pairs, Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) with 7 pairs, both Marsh Harrier (*Circus areuginosus*) and Crane (*Grus grus*) with 6 pairs and Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) with 5 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*) and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 600 pairs of 18 species, and the breeding waders ca. 150 pairs of 11 species.

The importance of the wetlands is considerable as staging areas of waterfowl during migration periods. The highest daily counts of waterfowl reach 500–1 000 individuals at Päätyeenlahti and 350–500 at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi in spring. Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and Joki–Hautalampi are important spawning areas for several fish species.

## **21. Social and 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.

Significant values include birdwatching.

## **22. Land tenure/ownership:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Private-owned for the major part.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned.

## **23. Current land (including water) use:**

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn and fishing in spring is intense in most areas.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry and agriculture are carried out in the surroundings.

## **24. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn is intense especially at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and Päätyenlahti. Intensive fishing in spring disturbs both breeding and staging birds at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi, Joki–Hautalampi and Päätyenlahti. Nets, fyke nets and fih traps are used. Several holiday cottages with boating activities cause disturbance at Joki–Hautalampi. Electric wire-lines cross the wetlands at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and Juurikkajärvi. Clearing of shores have been carried out at Joki–Hautalampi and Päätyenlahti.

Overgrowing is a threat at Joki–Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi. The rivers flowing into lakes Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and Joki–Hautalampi contain lots of humus from ditched mires and the nearby peat mining area. An embankment at Jouhtenuslampi has destroyed a part of meadows and bogs. Water-level of Juurikkajärvi was lowered in the past. American Mink (*Mustela vison*) and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) may cause damage to the breeding of birds in all areas.

## **25. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

The areas are included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated as SPA and in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme. Private protected areas cover 471 ha

(166 ha at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi, 157 ha at Jouhtenuslampi, 52 ha at Juurikkajärvi and 96 ha at Päätyeenlahti).

A restoration plan for Juurikkajärvi was established in 1995.

**26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

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

Conservation of the Natura 2000 sites will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act and Water Act.

Preliminary restoration plans were drafted in 1993–95 for Hovinlampi–Ylälampi, Joki–Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi. Plans include raising of water-level at Hovinlampi–Ylälampi and Jouhtenuslampi and dredging at Joki–Hautalampi.

**27. Current scientific research and facilities:**

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

The breeding bird fauna was surveyed in the 1970s and during 1991–95.

**28. Current conservation education:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None significant, except the Päätyenlahti Bay which is an education site of the schools of Kitee city.

**29. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

Päätyenlahti Bay is the most popular of the wetlands for birdwatching. Five birdwatching towers have been constructed at three of the wetlands and one nature trail at Päätyenlahti.

**30. Jurisdiction:**

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

**a)** North Karelia Regional Environment Centre, **b)** Ministry of the Environment.

**31. 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.

North Karelia Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 69, FIN-80101 Joensuu, Finland.

### **32. Bibliographical references:**

scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Rassi, P., Alanen, A., Kanerva, T. & Mannerkoski, I. (eds.) 2001: The 2000 Red List of Finnish Species. Ministry of the Environment & Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki.

Hottola, P. 1993. Lintuvesiohjelma puntarissa – Linnustoselvityksiä Pohjois-Karjalan lintujärvillä. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallituksen julkaisuja A 158. (English summary: Wetland Conservation Programme Evaluated – Breeding Bird Surveys in North Karelian Wetlands).

Hottola, P. 1995. Kiteen Päätyeenlahden linnustoselvitys – kesä 1992. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallituksen monistesarja 641, Pohjois-Karjalan vesi- ja ympäristöpiiri.

Hottola, P. 1995. Kiteen Juurikkajärven linnuston perusselvitys ja kunnostussuunnitelma. Manuscript. Pohjois-Karjalan ympäristökeskus.

Hottola, P. 1996. Kiteen Hovinlammen linnustoselvitys – kesä 1993. Pohjois-Karjalan ympäristökeskuksen monisteita 5/96.

Leivo, M. 2000. Suomen kansainvälisesti tärkeät lintualueet. Linnut-vuosikirja 1999. (English summary: Important Bird Areas in Finland).

Leivo, M., Asanti, T., Koskimies, P., Lammi, E., Lampolahti, J., Mikkola-Roos, M. & Virolainen, E. 2002. Suomen tärkeät lintualueet FINIBA. BirdLife Suomen julkaisuja 4, Suomen graafiset palvelut, Kuopio.

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