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.

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 Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari

5. Map of site included:
Refer to Annex III of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.

The two areas excluded in the middle are military areas. The two isolated parts included in the east are strictly protected areas. The boundaries of the site are the same as designated in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas (this concerns most of the Ramsar sites).
a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): Yes.

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

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

59º49' N / 23º10' 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 nearly unbroken area is situated in the western part of the Gulf of Finland, in the province of Southern Finland and in the municipalities of Hanko city, Tammisaari city, Pohja and Inkoo. The area is restricted to the main population centres. The municipalities (1 409 sq.km of land) have ca. 34 500 residents.

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

51–0 m

9. Area: (in hectares)

55 196 ha

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

The Ramsar site consists of a diverse complex of archipelago, shallow sea bays, flads and gloes with valuable wetland bird fauna and flora, including a notable amount of threatened species in the area of the Gulf of Finland. It covers a large range of biotopes from limnetic, brackish zones to marine and offshore ones.

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**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**

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 archipelago in shallow marine waters, shallow sea bays) in the EU Boreal region, including 4 priority natural wetland habitat types (coastal lagoons, boreal Baltic coastal meadows, bog woodland, Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods).

2) 1 globally and 9 nationally threatened bird species, 1 in Northern Europe threatened mammal species, 19 nationally threatened invertebrates species (mainly butterflies and beetles), 6 nationally threatened vascular plant species, 1 nationally threatened agaricales species, 1 nationally threatened algae species, 1 nationally threatened aphyllophorales species, 1 nationally threatened lichen species (see Section 19 and 20).

4) The importance of the areas is notable during migration periods. The coastal waters are among the best staging areas for swans both in spring and autumn. In peak days, several hundreds of Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus)* stage along shallow waters of Hanko Peninsula. Also tens of thousands of ducks and thousands of waders, such as Ruffs (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola)* utilize the areas during migration. Eider is the most numerous duck in early spring and during the molt migration of males in early summer, and >20 000 individuals rest in outer archipelago during both periods.

5) Supports regularly more than 20 000 waterbirds.
The exact numbers are not available from the whole site, but counts of staging Eiders from one point in a comparatively small area (Halias Bird Station) in the 1990s have reached regularly 5 000–10 000 birds on the peak days in April. Thus, more than 20 000 staging waterbirds consist of Eiders in spring and also in summer-molt migration (May–June); additionally the site is used by several thousands of other duck species during migration periods.

6) Regularly supports 6% of the biogeographical population of Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) with >200 pairs (Finland's largest colony).

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:

Hemiboreal 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 South Finland high metamorphic area. Bedrock is composed of microline granite, granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite, and mafic metavolcanic rocks.
Origins: Natural.
Soil type: Bedrock terrain, silt and clay, glacifluvial and littoral gravel and sand, glacigenic ground moraine.
Water quality: General quality satisfactory, in outermost archipelago general quality good. Salinity 0–7 ‰.
Depth of water: Variable, mostly 1–5 m near shores, up to ca. 37 m in Pojo Bay and up to ca. 65 m in open sea. Water-level usually low in spring and high in autumn and winter.
Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 175 days, mean annual temperature ca. +5 ºC, mean annual rainfall ca. 550–700 mm. Waters of outer archipelago ice-covered normally only in January–March. Hemiboreal 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).

General geology and geomorphological features as well as soil types and climate are of same type than in the site. General land use includes mainly private forestry and agriculture, and also two towns with surrounding suburban areas.

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, D, E , J, H, I

A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**Zk(a)**

Inland: O, Tp, Xp & Xf

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 – Shallow marine waters and sea bays
D – Rocky marine shores
O – Permanent freshwater lakes
Tp – Permanent freshwater ponds and marshes
Xp – Forested peatlands
J – Coastal brackish lagoons
H – Brackish alluvial meadows
E – Sand shores and dunes
I – Black Alder swamp forests
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.

Ekenäs Archipelago National Park extends from the open sea of small skerries and islets to the labyrinth of inner archipelago where sheltered sounds and narrow inlets separate islands. Larger islands are forested mainly by Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and mixed forests and include flads, small lakes and bogs. The surrounding archipelago shares similar characters. The site extends in north to the sheltered and more eutrophic bird-wetlands of Tammisaari city waters and Pojo Bay, which is formed by a long and narrow fracture valley.

The shores of Hanko Peninsula are sandy and shallow. Various types of dunes, sea bays and coastal lagoons such as flads and gloes are typical of the area. Helophyte vegetation is scarce but submerged vegetation is abundant. The area of Svanvik–Henriksberg is composed of several capes and shallow bays with diverse sandy beaches and small coastal meadows. Täktbukten–Österfjärden is characterized by wide coastal meadows with a flad and a gloe lake surrounded by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). Långören is an esker-cape with a rocky reef. The area of Uddskatan forms the southernmost cape of the Salpausselkä glaciofluvial esker formation in continental Finland.

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.***

Threatened vascular plants include Thrift (*Armeria maritima* ssp. *elongata*-EN in Finnish Red List), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) (EN), Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*) (VU), fern species *Botrychium matricariifolium* (VU), Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) (VU) and European Wild Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) (VU). Algae includes *Nitellopsis obtusa* (VU). Fungi includes agaricales species *Mycena tintinabulum* (VU). Aphyllophorales include *Skeletocutis stellae* (VU). Lichens include *Platismatia norvegica* (VU).

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 9 species, e.g. White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) with >100 pairs, Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. f. fuscus*) with >20 pairs, Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) with >200 pairs (Finland's largest colony), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*). Ca. 23 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) with >1 000 pairs and Common Tern (*S. hirundo*) with >400 pairs. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is abundant with ca. 15 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Corncrake (*Crex crex*) (globally VU) and Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*). Finland's responsibility species also include e.g. >4 000 pairs of Eiders (*Somateria mollissima*). An increasing population (>700 pairs) of Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) was established in 1996.

The importance of the areas is notable during migration periods. The coastal waters are among the best staging areas for swans both in spring and autumn. In peak days, several hundreds of Whooper Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) (Birds Directive) stage along shallow waters of Hanko Peninsula. Also tens of thousands of ducks and thousands of waders, such as Ruffs (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola*) (Birds Directive), utilize the areas during migration. Eider is the most numerous duck in early spring and during the molt migration of males in early summer, and >20 000 individuals rest in outer archipelago during both periods.

Threatened invertebrates include at least 19 species, e.g. 9 butterfly species (5 EN, 4 VU), 3 beetle species (VU), 2 hymenopteran species (VU), 2 heteropteran bug species (VU), dragonfly species *Nehalennia speciosa* (EN), homopteran bug species *Kelisia sabulicola* (VU) and cricket species *Sphingonotus caerulans* (VU). Invertebrates of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include mollusc species *Vertigo angustior* and dragonfly species *Leucorrhinia pectoralis*, and mammals include Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) (EN in Northern Europe) with 10–30 individuals.

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.

The site includes a nationally important landscape area (600 ha) and six nationally (138 ha), five provincially (20 ha) and ten locally (26 ha) important traditional rural biotopes.

The nationally important landscape areas and traditional landscapes have been analyzed by the Landscape Working Party in 1992, commissioned by Ministry of the Environment, to stress the urgency of organizing management for this type of landscape. Although the areas are classified, they are not officially protected by law.

Significant values also include scientific research, environmental education, outdoor recreation and birdwatching.

22. Land tenure/ownership:
(a) within the Ramsar site:

Private-owned and state-owned

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned and state-owned

23. Current land (including water) use:
(a) within the Ramsar site:

Outside the protected areas: e.g. fishing, hunting of waterfowl in autumn (e.g. male Eiders also in early summer), forestry, agriculture. The area is used for training by Finnish Defence Forces.(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

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

Oil pollution damage is the main threat because of shipping routes to Hanko harbour and near the southern parts of the area. Hanko harbour has weakened the natural state of Tulliniemi Cape and traffic has intensified since the recent enlargement measures. There is a heavy pressure for recreational usage and building on the shores. Hunting of waterfowl both in autumn and early summer causes disturbance in several places outside the protected areas. American Mink (*Mustela vison*) has caused damage to the breeding of birds on several islands. The coastal meadows of Hanko Peninsula are getting overgrown.

The impact of training of Defence Forces is not significant. Additional threats: Pollution from industry and mariculture (fish-farming).

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 sites are included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI. Several areas are included in the Conservation Programmes of Waterfowl Habitats, Herb-rich Forests, Shore and Eskers. The wetland is designated as the Baltic Sea Protected Area of Helsinki Commission (HELCOM).

Ekenäs Archipelago National Park (5 487 ha) was established in 1989; a master plan was established in 1992. Uddskatan Protected Area (32 ha) was established in 1989; a management and land use plan was established in 1992. Tulliniemi Protected Area (2247 ha) was established in 1933; a management and land use plan was established in 1995. The site includes nearly 40 private protected areas totaling 9 536 ha, and additionally to the National Park also 224 ha of other state-owned protected areas.
The site includes several private protected areas, most of which situate in archipelago, such as Tvärminne Marine Reserve (716 ha) and Nothamn bird sanctuary (3 528 ha, established in 1926). Tens of restricted areas, where access is prohibited in the breeding season of birds, have been established both in the National Park and in private protected areas. Mowing of meadows has been carried out in Täktbukten and in Jussarö Island during the 1990s.

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, Land Use and Building Act, Water Act and by agreement. A management and land use plan for Täktbukten–Österfjärden–Västerfjärden is under preparation. Grazing of Täktbukten meadows will be started in 2004.

27. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The fauna and flora of coastal waters and archipelago have been studied in detail since the early 20th century by Tvärminne Zoological Station (TZS) of Helsinki University. Over a thousand scientific publications dealing with Hankoniemi Peninsula and the surrounding waters have been catalogued in the series of Tvärminne Studies by the TZS. The breeding bird fauna of Tvärminne archipelago has been studied since 1914. The reseach area includes >1 300 islands and islets in an area of 500 sq.km.

Hanko Peninsula is an important site for varied research. The breeding bird fauna of Täktbukten–Österfjärden–Västerfjärden was surveyed in 1994 and of Uddskatan Protected Area in 1990. The flora of Hanko Peninsula has been studied since the 1920s. The flora of Tulliniemi Cape was surveyed in the 1970s and 1990. Studies on lepidopteran fauna at Hanko Peninsula and the mapping of threatened insect species at Uddskatan Protected Area were carried out in the 1990s.

The Halias Bird Station is situated in Uddskatan Protected Area, and the migrating bird fauna has been studied intensively since 1979. In autumn, Tulliniemi Cape is the most important place in Nordic countries for the migration studies of irruptive bird species. The seasonal data on bird migration of both the bird station and other areas is published in the magazine Tringa of the Ornithological Society of Helsinki and Western Uusimaa. In the National Park, e.g. the flora, bird fauna and underwater nature were surveyed in the 1990s. Several studies (e.g. bird fauna, flora) have been carried out in the 1980s and 1990s in the surrounding areas and in northern areas up to Pojoviken Bay.

28. Current conservation education:
e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Various educational themes are carried out in Tvärminne Zoological Station, Ekenäs Archipelago Visitor Centre and in the National Park's nature cabin.

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

Ekenäs Archipelago Visitor Centre is situated in the vicinity of the National Park. A nature cabin, three nature trails, an observation tower and two camping sites have been constructed in the Park. Facilities have been provided for school camps. Guided tours are arranged. Spoon fishing is licensed. In 2001, the Park had ca. 22 000 visitors and the Visitor Centre around 24 000 visitors. The high season takes place in summer and boating is very popular in the whole area. A birdwatching tower has been constructed at Svanvik Bay and one nature trail at Henriksberg–Högholmen Protected Area. Birdwatching is very popular especially at Hanko Peninsula.

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

a) Metsähallitus – Forest and Park Service, Natural Heritage Services, Southern Finland & Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre, Hanko & Tammisaari cities 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.

Metsähallitus – Forest and Park Service, Natural Heritage Services, Southern Finland, PO Box 94, FIN-01301 Vantaa, Finland.
Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 36, FIN-00521 Helsinki, Finland

Hanko city & Tammisaari city

32. Bibliographical references:

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

Bonn, T. 1990. Hangon Tulliniemen alueen kasvillisuus- ja kasvistoselvitys. Manuscript. Metsähallitus.

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