

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:

Timo Asanti & Pekka Rusanen, Finnish Environment Institute, Nature Division,
PO Box 140, FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland. Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2005

3. Country:

Finland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Lake Kutajärvi Area

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):

61°03' N / 25°27' 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 six separate areas are situated in northern part of the province of Southern Finland, in the municipalities of Hollola and Asikkala. The areas are located 4–15 km north of Hollola village and 7–19 km northwest of Lahti city. The municipalities (1 027 sq.km of land) have ca. 29 000 residents. Lahti city (135 sq.km of land) has ca. 96 900 residents.

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

86 – 81 m, mean 82 m

9. Area: (in hectares)

1 051 ha

10. Overview:

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

The aquatic vegetation of the lakes and bays is the most valuable in Finland. The site forms an important area 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 & 3

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	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 a near-natural wetland type (freshwater lakes) in the EU Boreal region.

2) Threatened vascular plants of Kirkonselkä include naiad species *Najas tenuissima* (EN, Habitats directive Annex II). More than 9 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area (4–10 pairs each), including the Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) and Crane (*Grus grus*). The site supports also 4 nationally threatened bird species, and and 2 nationally threatened algae species (see sections 19 and 20)

4) The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 1 000 pairs of 16–18 species. The importance of both lakes as staging areas during migration and molting periods is considerable, peak numbers including several thousands of ducks.

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 Volcanic sedimentary zone of SW Finland. Bedrock is composed of microline granite, mafic metavolcanic rocks, mica schist and mica gneiss.

Origins: Natural

Hydrology: Lake Vesijärvi dependent on ground water.

Soil type: Mainly silt and clay.

Water quality: General quality good in bays of Vesijärvi, except in Kirkonselkä and Laasonpohja where satisfactory. General quality passable in Lake Kutajärvi. Eutrophic in all areas.

Depth of water: Kutajärvi: maximum 1.4 m. Bays of Vesijärvi: ca. 2–5 m.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 165 days, mean annual temperature ca. +4 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 650 mm. Waters ice-covered normally from December to mid 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).

Some village settlements in the surroundings.

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)
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------

Inland: O, W & U

L	M	N	<u>Q</u>	P	Q	R	Sp	Ss	Tp	Ts	<u>U</u>	Va	Vt	<u>W</u>	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.

O - Permanent freshwater lakes

W – Shrub-dominated wetlands

U – Non-forested peatlands

18. General ecological features:

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

Kutajärvi covers 224 ha. The bays of Vesijärvi include Kailanpohja (117 ha), Kirkonselkä (405 ha), Laasonpohja (129 ha), Lahdenpohja (116 ha) and Teräväiset (60 ha). The area includes ca. 980 ha of water. Kutajärvi is a former bay of Vesijärvi connected to the lake only by an outlet ditch. Helophyte vegetation is abundant and growths of Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Bulrushes (*Typha* spp.) are well developed. Submerged vegetation is rich. Shores are characterized by sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows and bush zones. The bays of Lake Vesijärvi are characterized by extensive growths of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and narrow zones of sedge meadows. Most of the areas are surrounded by agricultural land.

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.***

Eight demanding species of aquatic plants occur in Kutajärvi, and threatened algae include stonewort species *Chara braunii* (VU in Finnish Red List). Vesijärvi is on the basis of its aquatic vegetation the most valuable lake in Finland with ca. 20 demanding aquatic plant species. Threatened algae of Vesijärvi includes stonewort species *Chara braunii* (VU) and *Nitella batrachosperma* (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 Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) with 400 pairs, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*). The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 1 000 pairs of 16–18 species. The importance of both lakes as staging areas during migration and molting periods is considerable, peak numbers including several thousands of ducks.

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 forms a part of a nationally important landscape area. Significant values also include birdwatching.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Private-owned for the most part.

(b) in the surrounding area:

private owned

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn occurs mainly at Kutajärvi. Fishing occurs in most areas. Only few holiday cottages are located on the shores.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Agriculture is 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:

Wastewaters of Lahti city were formerly discharged into Vesijärvi causing strong eutrophication of the lake. Water quality has improved after a sewage treatment plant was started up in 1976, but the waters still contain lots of nutrients. Hunting of waterfowl in autumn causes some disturbance at Kutajärvi. Increased boating and fishing cause disturbance in some areas. The prohibition of motor-boating is insufficiently obeyed at the bays Kailanpohja and Laasonpohja. Shore meadows of Kutajärvi are drying and getting overgrown by bushes. Building of holiday cottages has increased at Kirkonselkä, and unauthorized dredging has destroyed the habitat of Slender Naiad, *Najas flexilis* (EN in Finnish Red List). American Mink (*Mustela vison*) and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) may cause damage to the breeding of birds.

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 site is included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI, and in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme. The water quality has improved after a sewage treatment plant was started up in 1976. Private protected areas cover 192 ha at Lahdenpohja, Kailanpohja and Teräväiset.

Hunting of waterfowl is prohibited at Laasonpohja. Motor-boating is prohibited at Kutajärvi, Kailanpohja and Laasonpohja. Clearing of bushes was started at the meadows of Kutajärvi in 1998 and mowing of meadows at Kirkonselkä and Lahdenpohja. Water purification measures have been implemented to improve water quality of Vesijärvi. An ecological management program has been in operation at Vesijärvi since 1987 concerning fish-management and nutrients of agriculture. Biomanipulation has succeeded in eliminating of blue-green algae mass developments by removal of Cyprinids, introduction of Pikeperch (*Lucioperca lucioperca*) and other predatory fish and by establishment of buffer zones in agriculture.

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 site will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act and Water Act.

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 of Kutajärvi has been surveyed annually since 1977 and of bays of Vesijärvi quite regularly since the late 1970s. Observation of migratory birds has been regular since the 1970s. The aquatic vegetation of Kutajärvi was surveyed in 1989 and 1997, and of Vesijärvi in the 1960s and 1986–91. The biomanipulation program of Lake Vesijärvi Project has intensified scientific research since 1987.

28. Current conservation education:

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

Kutajärvi is an important education site for the schools of Lahti city.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

A birdwatching tower and a nature trail have been constructed at Kutajärvi, which is a popular birdwatching site especially in spring.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

a) Häme 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.

Häme Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 131, FIN-13101 Hämeenlinna, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:

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

Lammi, E. 1981. Hollolan Vesijärven linnustotutkimuksen tuloksia. Lintumies 16.

Lammi, E., Ahola & Venetvaara, J. 1998. Hollolan Kutajärven vesikasvillisuus v. 1989 ja 1997. Manuscript. Pirkanmaan ympäristökeskus.

Lammi, E., Saikko, P. & Vauhkonen, M. 1999. Hollolan Kutajärven pesimälinnusto 1998. Biologitoimisto Jari Venetvaara ky.

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.

Sammalkorpi, I., Keto, J., Kairesalo, T., Luokkanen, E., Mäkelä, M., Vääriskoski, J. & Lammi, E. (toim.) 1995. Vesijärvi-projekti 1987–1994; Ravintoketjukurinnot, tutkimukset ja toimenpidekoikeilut. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallinnon julkaisuja A 218. (English summary: Lake Vesijärvi Project; Mass Removal of Cyprinids and Traditional Water Protection).

Venetvaara, J. & Lammi, E. 1993. Vesijärven Laasonpohjan ja Hollolan Kutajärven kasvillisuuskartoitus kesällä 1989. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallituksen monistesarja 408.

Venetvaara, J. & Lammi, E. 1993. Vesijärven Lahdenpohjan ja Teräväisten kasvillisuuskartoitus kesällä 1990. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallituksen monistesarja 409.

Venetvaara, J. & Lammi, E. 1993. Vesijärven Kailanpohjan kasvillisuuskartoitus kesällä 1991. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallituksen monistesarja 410.

Venetvaara, J., Lammi, E. & Klinga, J. 1993. Vesijärven Hollolanlahden kasvillisuuskartoitus kesällä 1991. Vesi- ja ympäristöhallituksen monistesarja 411.

**Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 o Fax: +41 22 999 0169 o e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org**
