

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties*

---

**Note:** It is important that you read the accompanying Explanatory Note and Guidelines document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002

---

2. **Country:**

NORWAY

---

3. **Name of wetland:**

SLETTNES

---

4. **Geographical coordinates:**

71° 5'N - 28° 13'E

---

5. **Elevation:** (average and/or maximum and minimum)

30-40 m.a.s.l.

---

6. **Area:** (in hectares)

1200 (ca. 12km<sup>2</sup>)

---

7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Coastal meadow with mires and numerous ponds and lakes on the arctic shores of northernmost Norway. A number of "fossil" and elevated shorelines (several km long) characterise the landscape.

---

8. **Wetland Type:** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document)

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

<b>inland:</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>Ss</b>	<b>Tp</b>	<b>Ts</b>
	<b>U</b>	<b>Va</b>	<b>Vt</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Xf</b>	<b>Xp</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Zg</b>	<b>Zk(b)</b>		
<b>human-made:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Zk(c)</b>	

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: U, D

---

9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12 below)

**1**                      **2**                      **3**                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site: 1

---

10. **Map of site included? YES**

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits.)

---

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

Senior Adviser Øystein Størkersen, Directorate for Nature Management, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway.

Tel. 47-7358 0737, fax 47-7358 0500, e-mail: oystein.storkersen@dirnat.no

---

*Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):*

12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. An Arctic wetland system dominated of mires and numerous freshwater bodies, which creates an area unusually rich in birds. The site is a coastal lowland plain on the extreme northern tip of Europe.
2. A number of regular and common breeding bird species are characterized as threatened in Europe, eg. Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* and Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.
3. Some bird species occur in unusual high densities, eg. colonies (ca 170 pairs) of Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (a characteristic species of the biogeographical region) which probably is the largest in Norway.

---

13. **General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Finnmark county, Gamvik municipality, nearest village of Gamvik lies adjacent to the reserve in the east, with a population of a few hundred. Administrative town being Vadsø, 50km to the southeast.

---

14. **Physical features:** (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

A coastal mire-system dominated of sandstone and phyllit. Fossilized shorelines/moraine deposits are evident (icefront deposits/land raising). The mires are influenced by the arctic climate, and upheaved frozen mires are common. Numerous ponds and lakes drains the area. Oceanic and alpine climate dominate the area, with long relatively mild winters and high annual precipitation of ca. 1500mm.

---

15. **Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.)

Not known. The vicinity to the sea means that there are no flood problems in this area. The shorelines are characterized by hard stone and not subject to erosion.

---

16. **Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

Situated in the alpine region:

- Main feature is a relatively flat meadow with a mosaic of mires and ponds/lakes. At places the mires may have low shrubs with *Empetrum nigrum* and *Betula nana*. At places bedrock outcrops are evident.
- The lakes are often fringed with *Carex rostrata* and *Equisetum fluviatile*.
- On the coastal side facing the Barents Sea rocky shores and some islets is a dominant feature.

---

17. **Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

Not known.

---

18. **Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Common bird species: The area is well known for its rich birdlife. More than 100 species have been recorded, of these are 66 typical wetland species. The following species breeds (number of pairs in brackets): *Gavia stellata* (12-14 pairs), *Gavia arctica* (8-9 pairs), *Somateria mollissima* (80-120 pairs), *Clangula hyemalis* (20-30 pairs), *Anas acuta* (8-12 pairs), *Melanitta nigra* (8-12 pairs) and *Anas penelope* (2-4 pairs) are other more or less common breeders. During the breeding season more than 100 *Somateria spectabilis* and 150 *Polysticta stelleri* over summers and moult in the area. *Falco rusticolus* breeds in the adjacent area. 24 species of waders have been found of which a few hundred pairs breeds, of those the following is most common: *Pluvialis morinellus*, *Pluvialis apricaria* (25-35 pairs), *Calidris alpina* (>60 pairs), *Calidris minuta* (10-100 pairs), *Phalaropus lobatus* (30-50

pairs), *Philomachus pugnax* (40-60 pairs), *Numenius phaeopus* (15-20 pairs) and *Arenaria interpres* (48-55 pairs). More than 170 pairs of *Stercorarius parasiticus* makes the site important for this species. In addition more than 1200 pairs of *Sterna paradiseae*.

Thousands of *Rissa tridactyla* from the neighbouring colonies use the freshwater pools to bathe. In rodents years up to 5 pairs of *Asio flammeus* breeds. Among the passerines *Anthus cervinus* (>50 pairs), *Oenanthe oenanthe* (40-50 pairs), *Plectrophenax nivalis* (50-100 pairs) and *Calcarius lapponicus* (40-60 pairs) are particularly common.

Among the rare or threatened species *Nyctea scandiaca* as an occasional breeder is noteworthy. Even if *Anthus cervinus* and *Calidris minuta* both are common breeders in this region they do not breed anywhere else further south in Europe.

---

19. **Social and cultural values:** (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

Not known.

---

20. **Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site State (b) surrounding area State

---

21. **Current land use:** (a) site No particular use (b) surroundings/catchment The site lies adjacent to the fishing village of Gamvik.

---

22. **Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site: Increase in visits from birdwatchers and other people has created concerns for the breeding birds which (cf the chicks) may at times be vulnerable due to the harsh conditions. (b) around the site: Since the area recently was connected to the mainland via a new road, this has made an easy access for tourists and consequently increase in disturbance level.

---

23. **Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented):  
Established as a Nature reserve November 7<sup>th</sup> 1996.

---

24. **Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g, management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area, etc.)

No management plan have been produced.

---

25. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g., details of current projects; existence of field station, etc.)

Monitoring of bird populations continue (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research).

---

26. **Current conservation education:** (e.g., visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits, etc.)

A nature trail and some posters have been established.

---

27. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Birdwatching, berry picking and sport fishing at low scale.

---

28. **Jurisdiction:** (territorial, e.g., state/region and functional, e.g., Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

The Ministry of the Environment.

---

29. **Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

The site is managed by the County Governor of Finnmark, which is a subsidiary body of the Ministry of the Environment. Adress: County Governor of Finnmark, Statens Hus, N-9815 Vadsø.

---

30. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Botany:

- Elven, R. & Johansen, V. 1983. Havstrand i Finnmark. Flora, vegetasjon og botaniske verneverdier. Rapport T-541 Miljøverndepartementet. 357pp. (in Norwegian - flora and vegetation of shores in Finnmark).

Birds:

A number of reports exists:

- Strann, K.B. 1996. Verneverdige myrer og våtmarker i Finnmark. Rapport nr. 3:1-57. Fylkesmannen i Finnmark, Miljøvernnavdelingen. (in Norwegian - valuable wetlands and conservation of wetlands in the county).
- Strann, K.B. 1996. Fuglefaunaen på Slettnes, Gamvik kommune 1989-1996. NINA Oppdragsmelding 447:1-19. (in Norwegian with an English summary- status report on the bird life 1989-1996).
- Summers, R.W., Strann, K.B. & Young, J. 1989. Joint Norwegian Scottish field study of waders at Nordkynn-halvøya, Finnmark, summer 1989. Rapport. 28pp.