Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 9 March 2018
Update version, previously published on : 1 January 2012

Norway

Dunøyane

Designation date	24 July 1985
Site number	314
Coordinates	77°03'14"N 14°58'09"E
Area	1 191,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Dunøyane is located in the Svalbard archipelago, just outside the south-western section of the Wedel Jarlsberg Land in south-western Svalbard. The Site consists of three islands covered with rich Arctic vegetation, several freshwater ponds, and a number of barren and rocky skerries (small, rocky islets). The surrounding sea area is shallow and nutrient-rich. The Site is one of Spitsbergen's most important breeding and molting grounds for barnacle geese and common eider and supports several other species of breeding waterbirds, such as glacous gulls. The polar bears regularly visit the Site. Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area. The Site is located within the borders of Sør-Spitsbergen National Park.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Pernille Kvernland
Institution/agency	Norwegian Environment Agency
Postal address	Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
E-mail	post@miljodir.no
Phone	+47 73580500

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	1984
To year	2015

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Dunøyane

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update)	A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update)	B. Changes to Site area	No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update)	6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The boundary is the same as for Dunøyane Nature Reserve established July 1th 1973.
The site is composed of three separate islands and a large number of islets and small skerries. Sea areas in a distance of 300 m from all islands and skerries at lowest tide are enclosed in the site.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Svalbard
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Longyearbyen, approx pop. est. 2 100 (2015)

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes ○ No ◉
b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?	Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	1191

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 1192.35

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	1. NATZ – northern arctic tundra zone
EU biogeographic regionalization	2. Arctic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1. Zonal division based on the distribution of thermophilius vascular plant species. Vascular plants abundant on Svalbard are divided into five groups based on temperature demands and the distribution of these groups of species have been surveyed in 163 areas (In: Elvebakk, A. (1997): Tundra diversity and ecological characteristics of Svalbard. In: Wiegolaski, F.E. (ed.): Polar and alpine tundra. Ecosystems of the world 3: 347-359. Elsevier.
2. Biogeographical regions, Europe 2005, European Environment Agency, (http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/biogeographical-regions-europe-2005-with-national- boundaries)

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons: This is a small marine archipelago with shallow waters, numerous skerries and small islands. It is a typical archipelago for this biogeographic region.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification: This group of islands and skerries are traditional and important breeding sites for barnacle geese, pink-footed goose, common eider and glacous gull, species characteristic for this kind of archipelago in this biogeopgraphic region.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser brachyrhynchus*	Pink-footed Goose	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Criterion 3 & 4: This group of islands and skerries are traditional and important breeding sites for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta leucopsis*	Barnacle Goose	☑	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1050	1995	3.5	LC	☐	☐	Ann. II Berne Convention	454 nests in 1995 and 792 nests in 1992, usually 450- 600 pairs breeding) Criterion 3 & 4: The site is a traditional and important breeding site for this species. Criterion 6: Biogeographic Region: Svalbard/South-west Scotland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris maritima*	Purple Sandpiper	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gavia stellata*	Red-throated Diver; Red-throated Loon	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	30			LC	☐	☐	Ann. II Berne Convention	(10-20 pairs, approx. 20 pair reported in 1995) Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus hyperboreus*	Glaucous Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	990			LC	☐	☐	Svalbard Red List: Considered as NT	(495 pair in 1995) Criterion 3 & 4: This group of islands and skerries are traditional and important breeding sites for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus marinus*	Great Black-backed Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	6			LC	☐	☐		(1-5 pairs) Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalaropus fulicarius*	Red Phalarope	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	101			LC	☐	☐	Svalbard Red List: Considered as NT	(101 ind. in 1995) Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Somateria mollissima*	Common Eider	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1566	1995	2.7	NT	☐	☐		783 pairs (1995) Criterion 3 & 4: This group of islands and skerries are traditional and important breeding sites for this species. Criterion 6: Biogeographic Region - Svalbard & Franz Joseph (bre)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	Parasitic Jaeger	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Stercorarius skua*	Great Skua	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	40			LC	☐	☐		(>20 pairs) Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna paradisaea*	Arctic Tern	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	400			LC	☐	☐	Ann. II Berne Convention	(>200 pairs) Criterion 4: This species annually breeds at Dunøyane.
Others																		
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Ursus maritimus*	Polar Bear	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐	Svalbard Red List: Considered as VU	This species is known to visit these islands to prey upon eggs.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the Svalbard Red List 2015.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Situated in the Arctic and characterized by:
• Archipelago in the coastal zone with rock or sand/gravel dominated shores.
• Sparse grass vegetation and some small ponds. All vegetation on the islands are influenced by seawater.
• Drift ice occur during winter and spring, however the archipelago is normally not icebound.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		2		Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		3		Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
E: Polar climate with extremely cold winters and summers	ET: Tundra (Polar tundra, no true summer)

The climate is characterised by low temperatures and low precipitation. Average temperature in July is 4,0°C. Annual average temperature is -5,4°C. Annual average precipitation is 405 mm. Drift ice occur during winter and spring, but the archipelago is normally not icebound.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 9

- Entire river basin ☐
- Upper part of river basin ☐
- Middle part of river basin ☐
- Lower part of river basin ☐
- More than one river basin ☑
- Not in river basin ☐
- Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Norwegian Sea

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The shoreline around the islands consists partly of cliffs and partly of sandy shores. The land areas consist of bare rock and some areas covered with marine deposits. The three islands are grass covered with small ponds.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	☑	No change
Marine water	☐	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

Middle tidal amplitude is approx. 1,5 m (Longyearbyen harbour).
All fresh water on the islands originates from precipitation.
Shallow marine waters mostly less than six metres deep at low tide, includes sea bays and straits. Some deeper areas.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown ☑

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The surrounding sea areas are shallow and nutrient rich.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

No human activity except for ships passing.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Some value in shoreline stabilisation.

Harvest of eggs and eider down has been performed with various intensity in Svalbard from the 18th century and until today. Trappers using this part of Spitsbergen as hunting grounds have also collected eggs and eider down also in this archipelago in the past, this collecting is not practiced in the nature reserve today.

Within the Ramsar site:
Trappers living on the West coast of Spitsbergen have occasionally been given permission to collect eider down after nesting birds have left the islands.

Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area. There is no field research stations in the area.

There is no use of the Ramsar site for recreational purposes or tourism. The regulations for the nature reserve ban visits from May 15th to August 15th because of the birds breeding season.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Within the Ramsar site: State owned (100%)

In the surrounding area: State owned (100%)

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Governor of Svalbard

Postal address: PO Box. 633, N-9171 Longyearbyen

E-mail address: firmapost@sysselmannen.no

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Commercial and industrial areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Unspecified development	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Industrial and military effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Unspecified	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

In the surrounding area:
Increasing tourism, oil spill from ships and oil/gas development projects in this part of the Arctic is a possible threat.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Park	South Spitsbergen		partly
Nature Reserve	Dunøyane		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☑

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☑

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☐

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Other:

There is an ambition to present a management plan in near future.

The nature reserve lies within South Spitsbergen National Park (established in 1973) where hunting of all birds and mammals are permanently prohibited.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

No such activities have been conducted, mainly due to the remoteness of the area and difficulty of access.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Plant community	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented

Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area. There is no field research stations in the area.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Bangjord, G. (ed.) 1997. Pattedyr- og fugleregistreringer på Svalbard i 1995. Norsk Polarinstitutt. Rapportserie Nr. 99 – Oslo 1997 (in Norwegian). In Norwegian – Survey of mammals and birds on Svalbard 1995.

Bustnes, J.0., Persen, E. & Bangjord, G. 1995. Results from the survey of the Ligth-Bellied Brent Goose and Barnacle Goose populations on Tusenøyane and southwestern Svalbard in July 1995.. - NINA Oppdragsmelding 378: 1-13.

Henriksen, S., Hilmo, O., 2015. Norsk rødliste for arter 2015 (red). Artsdatabanken, Norge - 2015 Norwegian Red List. Artsdatabanken, Norway

The Governor of Svalbard – unpublished material from a survey in 1992.

Prestrud, P. and Børset, A. 1984. Status of the goose populations in the bird sanctuaries in Svalbard.
Norsk Polarinsitutt Skr. 181: 129-133.

Prestrud, P. and Mehlum, F. 1991: Population size and summer distribution of the Common Eider Somateria melissima in Svalbard 1981-1985. Norsk Polarinsitutt Skrifter 195. 9-20.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Aerial view of Dunøyane (*Norwegian Polar Institute, 26-10-2017*)

Dunøyane (*Georg Bangjord, 23-06-2015*)

Dunøyane (*Gunhild Lutnæs/Governor of Svalbard, 16-07-2015*)

Dunøyane (*Gunhild Lutnæs/Governor of Svalbard, 16-07-2015*)

Dunøyane (*Gunhild Lutnæs/Governor of Svalbard, 16-07-2015*)

Dunøyane (*Gunhild Lutnæs/Governor of Svalbard, 16-07-2015*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 1985-07-24