

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes 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. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2012

3. Country:

Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Mellandsvågen
(International No. 808, National No. 21)

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

None

7. Map of site:

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

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List):
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image)
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The border of the Ramsar site is the same as the border of Mellandsvågen Nature Reserve (the adjacent area with wildlife protection is not included in the Ramsar site)

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

63° 21 `N 08° 30`E

9. General location:

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

Mellandsvågen is situated on the west side of Skardsøy in Aure municipality in the county of Møre og Romsdal, about 47 km north-east of Kristiansund and 96 km west of Trondheim.

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

0 – 13 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

95.9 ha, of which 52 ha is sea

12. General overview of the site:

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

Mellandsvågen nature reserve and the adjacent wildlife preservation area (which is not part of the Ramsar site) is a large area of shallow water and associated coast. Part of the site consists of a sheltered shallow bay (Mellandsvågen) whereas parts are more exposed shallow waters, rocky coast and salt marshes.

The area is of great importance as a site for migrating and wintering divers, grebes and diving duck. In addition greylag geese, dabbling ducks and waders occur. Some of these species breed and the area also functions as a moulting site.

The sub-littoral vegetation is considered to be particularly valuable. They are varied and well developed with foreshore, salt marshes, brackish meadows, seaweed communities, and rocky coast.

13. 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

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13. 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).

Criterion 1. The area is a typical representative and well developed example of a relatively unexploited area of shallow water with associated seashore habitats.

Criterion 2: *Rhinanthus minor ssp. Monticola* (VU, Norwegian Red List, 2010) and Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU in national red list and NT in IUCN red list) occur in the site. Red listed species like Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (VU), Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU), Common tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU) and Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (VU) is registered in the site (National Red List, 2010).

Criterion 4. The site is a important wintering site in the region for birds like the Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. It is important as a moulting ground for ducks, such as Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. The area is also important for wetland birds during the summer with reports of up to 3-4000 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* and 1000 Greylag Geese *Anser anser* from the area. See also point 22..

15. 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:

1. Atlantic
2. Southern boreal vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Sb – O3).

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

1. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC
2. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).

16. 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	The bedrock is of foliated quartz diorite, a foliated plutonic rock type from Precambrian to Ordovician times. Quartergeologically one finds mostly bare mountain, although there are some marine deposits and peat and mires in the central part of the site.
Geomorphology	The area is part of a flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass.
Substrate/soil type	Peat and raw humus appear to be the most common soil type on land, whereas there are marine deposits such as rocks, stone, gravel, sand, clay and silt on the beaches and

	tidal areas.
Water depth/ fluctuations	A large and varied area of shallow water. The variation between high and low tides measured at Ålesund averages annually 129 cm.
Climate	The site has a highly oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

17. 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 site is on the north-west side of Skardsøy and is part of a flat coastal landscape. The bedrock is mainly nutrient poor quartz diorite and gneiss, with a small band of richer mica schist. Towards the east are hills and mountains, with the sea and the vast shallow waters in the west. Immediately east of the site lie a few holiday houses and scattered buildings and traditional farming.

18. Hydrological values:

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

There is little freshwater in the area, and then mainly in the form of small streams. The outer beaches are exposed to wind and wave action, but as they are mainly rock and rough loose materials they are stable and withstand erosion.

19. 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: 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, U, H, D, G

20. General ecological features:

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

Most of the area consists of moor and mires. Along the coast are salt marshes, brackish meadows, seaweed communities, coastal swamp, boulder beach and sandy beaches, which are of importance to breeding, staging and wintering waders and wildfowl. The tidal and shallow areas are important for cormorants, divers, grebes, gulls and wildfowl during passage and in winter. The northern part of the reserve is exposed to the open sea, whereas the southern part is partly sheltered by the island of Lesundøya to the south-west.

21. 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.*

A few regionally uncommon species are found, such as Common seablite *Suaeda maritima*, Ray's Knotweed *Polygonum raii*, Greater Sea-spurry *Spergularia media*, Slender-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton filiformis* and Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor ssp. Monticola* (VU, Norwegian Red List, 2010))

22. 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.*

Mammals:

Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU in national red list and NT in IUCN red list) is regularly seen in the area.

Birds:

Around 10 Great Northern diver *Gavia immer* are regular during winter, making this one of the most important and highest aggregations of the species in the region. White-billed diver *Gavia adamsii* (IUCN red list and national red list 2010 categorised as NT), also occurs, although less frequently. Regular counts of 15-20 Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*. Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena* can also be plentiful (up to 40 individuals have been recorded) although their numbers are more irregular. Numbers of diving ducks worthy of mention include up to 800 Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, 400 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, 135 Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (NT), 40 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (NT) and 100 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. In addition there are smaller numbers of red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* and various ducks and waders. The area is also important for wetland birds during the summer with reports of up to 3-4000 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* and 1000 Greylag Geese *Anser anser* from the area. Red listed species like Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (VU), Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* (VU), Common tern *Sterna hirundo* (VU) and Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (VU) is registered in the site. Many of the figures quoted are likely to include flocks counted in the shallow waters outside the Ramsar site boundary. Red list categories is given according to the national red list 2010.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or 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 area is important for leisure fishing, especially from boats. There is also some commercial fishing in the area. To the north are a number of artefacts from the 2nd world war.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

- (a) within the Ramsar site: Private
(b) in the surrounding area: Private.

25. Current land (including water) use:

- (a) within the Ramsar site:

The area is used for walking, hobby fishing and birdwatching. There are a couple of buildings within the site.

- (b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Beside the site are a number of holiday homes, and scattered buildings and traditional (intensive) farming.

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

- (a) within the Ramsar site:

The inner and central parts contain some scrub and young woodland, and it would be considered a positive conservation measure to remove this. Run-off from neighbouring farmland may affect the site. There may have been some livestock grazing in former times, and livestock grazing is today considered to be desirable.

- (b) in the surrounding area:

A number of leisure boats are in use from Easter and throughout the summer. This probably causes much disturbance to water birds in the shallow areas. There may be some disturbance to birdlife in the outer part of the wildlife preservation area. The recent increase in building of holiday homes nearby means that there is reason to believe that disturbance has increased in recent years.

27. Conservation measures taken:

- a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Mellandsvågen nature reserve and wildlife protection area (the latter is not part of the Ramsar site) were established on 27th May 1988. In 2002 an adjacent 50 ha site was designated as a nature reserve (Melland NR) in order to protect important seashore habitats. This additional area does not have status as a Ramsar site. The Ramsar site border is the same as the border of the Mellandsvågen nature reserve.

- b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

- c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

A management plan was approved in 2006, and is currently being implemented.

- d) Describe any other current management practices:

None

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

None

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

The Hemne local branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF) has carried out observations in the area, although these are of a sporadic and unsystematic nature.

30. Current conservation education:

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

An information booklet is produced by the management authorities, comprising all the Ramsar sites(4) in Møre and Romsdal county.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

The area is little used for birdwatching. The area is important as a recreational area for local people.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim

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33. 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.

The site is managed by the County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, which is under the instruction of DN.

Address: County Governor of Møre og Romsdal, Fylkeshusa, 6404 Molde, Norway. Phone +47

71258443. E-mail: postmottak@fmmr.no

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Botanical and management plans.

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I., 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Flora, vegetasjon og verneverdier. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3A: 253 s. (In Norwegian – on flora along the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Lokalitetsbeskrivelser. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3B: 184 s. (In Norwegian – on site descriptions along the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

Birds.

Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga, 1982. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernavdelinga. 224 s. (In Norwegian – Draft management plan for wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Solbakken, K. A. under arbeid. Status for fuglelivet i norske Ramsarområder. NOF-rapport. (In Norwegian – on Birdlife of Norwegian Ramsar sites).

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

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