

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:

Miljøfaglig Utredning AS commissioned by Norwegian
Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485
Trondheim
Tlf +47 73580500
Fax: +47 73580501
E-mail: postmottak@dirnat.no

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 2012

3. Country:

Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Giske Wetlands system: Rørvikvågen
(International No. 805, National No. 18)

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.

Boundaries are the same as for Rørvikvågen Bird Sanctuary

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62° 34`N 06° 05`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.

Rørvikvågen is situated on the north-west side of Vigra in Giske municipality, in Møre og Romsdal county, about 12 km north of Ålesund.

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

0 – 3 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)

70.4 hectares, of which 44.8 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.

Rørvikvågen is situated within a west facing open bay. The outer part of the bird protection area has large areas of shallow water and mudbanks, which are exposed at low tide. There is a gradual transition to salt marshes and drift walls, which then graduates into grazed wet meadows and coastal marshes. The area is important for staging and wintering wetland birds including geese, ducks and waders. In addition there are lots of gulls and passerines. This is also an important breeding site for wetland bird species, including a few demanding red-listed species.

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 has representative and well developed mudbanks, salt marshes and drift walls. The grazed coastal marshes and wet meadows are probably representative for a culturally influenced nature type that was formerly more common.

Criterion 2. Several species on the national red-list is present in the site. Among them we find Corncrake *Crex crex* (CR, Ann II Berne Convention), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU, Ann. III Berne Convention), Harbour porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (VU, Ann. II Berne Convention) and *Carex paniculata* (VU). Red list status is given according to the national red list 2010. See also pt 21 and 22.

Criterion 4. The area is a central part of the wetland system of Vigra and Giske, which entails that it is of great importance for the survival of many wetland bird populations throughout the year. Of particular note is the regular occurrence of Corncrake *Crex crex*, a species which otherwise only occurs in the region on a sporadic basis.

The area is important for staging and wintering wetland birds including geese, ducks and waders. In addition there are lots of gulls and passerines. This is also an important breeding site for wetland bird species, including a few demanding red-listed species.

Migrating birds: Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU), Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

Brreeding species: Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU)

See also pont 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. Boreonemoral vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Bn – O3).

2. Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

1. 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).

2. Biogeographical regions of Europe, European Environment Agency, 2005

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	Partly unconsolidated sediments from the earth's younger periods cover the site. Quartergeologically there are marine deposits on the whole site.
Geomorphology	Rørvikvågen is part of a flat coastal landscape formed by rising landmass.
Substrate / soil	Silt, clay, sand, gravel, stone and rocks make up large parts of the site. Peat and raw

type	humus occur in the inner parts towards the east.
Water depth / fluctuations	The area has large areas of shallow water. The variation between high and low tides measured at Ålesund averages annually 123 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 part of a larger open coastal landscape formed by rising landmass, with marine depositions. There are scattered buildings and traditional (intensive) farming with grass production and grazing to the south, east and north of the site. A little to the east is the town of Roald with school and industry. South of the site there are large wet meadows where corncrake occur.

18. Hydrological values:

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

None known

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, G, H, U

20. General ecological features:

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

Salt marshes, brackish communities, seaweed communities, coastal marsh and peat land are the main habitat types at this site and are of importance to waders and wildfowl during the breeding season, and also for staging and wintering. The tidal and shallow zones are vast and varied and are of importance to divers, grebes, waders, gulls, cormorants and wildfowl for staging and wintering.

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.*

The nationally red-listed *Carex paniculata* (VU) occurs, and this is one of only three known sites in Møre og Romsdal, although recently only one individual has been recorded. Two regionally unusual species are also found - *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* and *Ranunculus sceleratus*.

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 RLS.*

Mammals:

Harbour Porpoise *Phoca vitulina* (VU) is resident in the area.

Birds:

A large number of bird species are observed, including several rarities. Concrete good data are lacking, although it is known that there may at times be large concentrations of geese, ducks and waders.:

However, some of the birds that is registered are:

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* wintering, Common Loon *Gavia immer* wintering, Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* 15 ind wintering, Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* (NT) wintering, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* wintering, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* wintering, Greylag Goose *Anser anser* migrating/wintering up to 900 ind, Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 7 breeding couples, Common eider *Somateria mollissima* 27 breeding couples, Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* 30 wintering ind, Velvet Scooter *Melanitta fusca* wintering (NT), Corn Crane *Crex crex* (CR) breeding, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* breeding/migrating, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (NT) breeding/migrating, Red Knot *Calidris canutus* migrating, Dunlin *Calidris alpina* migrating, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT) breeding/migrating

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 recreation as well as farming.

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 recreational activities such as walking, hobby fishing and birdwatching. Cattle graze in the south, and horses in the north, and there is a cattle shed (used in summer) in the area.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The site is surrounded by grazing land and grass fields. There are a few boathouses in the north and south.

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:

A power cable crosses the site. There are a couple of drainage ditches in the area. These may have resulted in the decline of the red-listed species *Carex paniculata* (VU), and the ditches presumably have also a negative effect on wetland bird species. There is some tree planting in the area. This also reduces the sites value for wetland birds. Grazing appears to have ceased in the east. There is some disturbance from boats.

(b) in the surrounding area:

There are several shelter belts bordering the site.

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.

Rørvikvågen was designated a Bird Sanctuary on 27th May 1988.

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?:

No

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Intense grazing pressure has previously resulted in some erosion of the coastal zone. Fencing of the area, as well as some restoration work has helped alleviate the problem.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

A management plan is being developed by the management authority.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

There are no current scientific studies. The area has previously been used for university studies.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

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 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.

There are no organised recreational activities, although members of the Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society visit the site several times a year.

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
Ph +47 73580500
Fax +47 73580501
Email: postmottak@dirnat.no

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.

Kålås, J.A., Viken, Å., Henriksen, S. and Skjelseth, S. (eds.). 2010. The 2010 Norwegian Red-list for Species. Norwegian Biodiversity Information centre, Norway.

Botanical and management plans:

Frøland, T. 2003. Re-evaluering av seks freda våtmarksområder i Giske. Rapport 2003-1. 13 s. + vedlegg. (In Norwegian – on re-evaluation of six protected wetlands in Giske).

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 and vegetation 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).

Holtan, D. i trykk. Biologisk mangfold i Giske kommune. Rapport, Giske kommune. 69 s. (In Norwegian – on biodiversity in Giske).

Birds:

Folkestad, A. O. 1978. Fylkesvis oversikt over ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Norge. Møre og Romsdal. Miljøverndepartementet juni 1978. (In Norwegian – on Ornithologically important wetlands in Norway).

Folkestad, A. O. 1978. Våtmarker i Møre og Romsdal. I. Giske vestside, Giske kommune. Rallus 8: 72-84. (In Norwegian – on Wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Folkestad, A. O. 1995. Kommunepresentasjonen: Giske kommune. Rallus 25:85-96. (In Norwegian – on birdlife in Giske municipality).

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).

Valde, K. 1983. Trekkforløp og habitat hjå enkeltbekkasin, *Gallinago gallinago*, på hausttrekk. Hovudfagsoppgåve i zoologi, Univ. Trondheim. (In Norwegian – On migration of common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*).

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