Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

(RIS) - 2009-2012 version

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_			
	2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:		
	May 2012		
	3. Country: Denmark		
	4. Name of the Ramsar site:		
	The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages	(English French or	Spenish) of the Convention
	Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses		
	Nærå Coast and Æbelø area.		
	(International No. 155; National No. 16).		
	5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:	:	
	This DIC is for (tight and how only).		
	This RIS is for (tick one box only):		
	a) Designation of a new Ramsar site \square ; or		
	b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ⊠		
	6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation	ation or earlier ı	update:
	a) Site boundary and area		
	,		
	The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchange	d:□	
	or		
	If the site boundary has changed:		
	i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately 区; c)r	
	ii) the boundary has been extended \Box ; 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)ii) the area has been extended \(\sigma\) ; 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:

Eutrophication of coastal waters with regular blooms of filamentous algae and *Ulva lactuca* is an ongoing problem in the site, but signs of improvement with declining N- and P- and clorophyl a values. Overgrowth of saltmarshes is an increasing problem. New species listed as internationally important.

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): \square ;
 - ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ⊠; Denmark_ramsar16.pdf
 - iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables \boxtimes .

A comprehensive ESRI ArcView GIS 3.1 shapefile named DKRamsar_WGS84geo is submitted in conjunction with the Danish RIS 2008 update files. The shape is geo referenced and projected in datum WGS84. The shape is composed of five files:

- a. DKRamsar_WGS84geo.shp
- $b. DKRamsar_WGS84geo.dbf$
- c. DKRamsar_WGS84geo.shx
- d.DKRamsar_WGS84geo.sbn
- e. DKRamsar_WGS84geo.sbx

and is considered self-explanatory in its database fields.

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.

All Danish Ramsar sites are also designated as Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs) under the EEC Birds Directive, and most of them as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EEC Habitats Directive, hence part of the Danish Natura 2000 network. Generally the delineation of the Ramsar-sites are identical to that of the SPAs, follow coastlines or lake shores, but also includes adjacent salt marshes. This site also includes some farmland areas especially around Gyldensteen Estate.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

55°36'N, 10°13'E

9. General location:

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

Coastal area east and west and water territory north of the town of Bogense on the north coast of Funen. Administrative region is Fyn Region.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

0-25 m

11. Area: (in hectares)

13,161 hectares

12. General overview of the site:

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

Shallow, coastal waters with islands and islets of which Æbelø is forested and the only inhabited island. Drained areas, salt marshes, cultivated areas with scattered habitation.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under 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). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 8 • 9

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 2: The site is a breeding site for waterbirds, including some species on the current Danish red list (DMU 2007), e.g. Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus)(EN)(also Ann. I, EU Birds Dir.), and several other species listed in Annex 1 of the EEC Birds Directive, i.e. Marsh Harrier (Circys aeruginosus), Avocet (Recurvirostra avocetta), Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea), Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis), and Little Tern (Sterna albiforns).

The site also holds a breeding population of Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and is regularly visited by Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*)(Fyns Amt 2006, Teilmann et al. 2008), two species covered by Annex 2 of the EEC Habitats directive.

Criterion 6: The site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species (average of available count data 2004-2009 compared to WPE4):

Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) 98 - 1.4% of the Svalbard/North Greenland breeding flyway-population.

Internationally important numbers of Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*, possibly both subspecies *apricaria* and *altifrons*) occasionally used the site in during 1994-2001 (Clausen *et al.* 2004), but have been recorded in slightly lower numbers during this reporting period.

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:

Continental

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Biogeographical Regions Europe, 2005, European Environment Agency

For Criterion 2, species are listed either:

- i) with reference to their presence on the International lists of species of conservation concern, i.e. listed on the most recent IUCN Red list and according to most recent criteria for conservation concern (IUCN 2007).
- ii) or with reference to their presence on the National lists of species of conservation concern. The latter are under transition from published information to online information which means that for some taxa older IUCN criteria for red listning have been applied (e.g. fish, Stoltze & Pihl 1998), while for other taxa the most recent IUCN criteria are adopted (e.g. birds, amphibians DMU 2007).
- iii) or with reference to their presence on Annex 1 of the EEC Birds Directive, or Annex 2 of the EEC Habitats Directive, and are considered threatened in the European Union

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.

No specific information provided here, but Fyns Amt (2006) lists several of these.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

No specific information.

18. Hydrological values:

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

No specific information.

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: $\underline{A} \cdot \underline{B} \cdot C \cdot D \cdot \underline{E} \cdot F \cdot \underline{G} \cdot \underline{H} \cdot I \cdot \underline{I} \cdot K \cdot Zk(a)$

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 • $\underline{9}$ • 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, B, G, J, H, E, 9

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

No specific information provided here, but Fyns Amt (2006) lists several of these.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, 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*.

No specific information provided here, but Fyns Amt (2006) lists several of these. The flora on Æbelø is very rich.

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.

Breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including several rare species of national or international conservation concern (see paragraph 14 above). Fyns Amt (2006) summarises information on breeding numbers of several of these coastal breeding birds, and provides tables with numbers at site level. The site used to be a breeding site for the endangered Baltic Dunlin (*Calidris alpine schinzii*), but the species disappeared from the area (Thorup 2004). Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) has a large breeding colony at Mågeøerne (numbers tabulated below).

Breeding waterbirds: Table giving the most recent information about breeding waterbirds in the Ramsar site. Published and unpublished data from the NOVANA programme of the Ministry of Environment and DCE, supplemented with data from the Birdlife Denmark citizen science portal DOFbasen on selected breeding species covered by the EEC Birds Directive Annex 1. Numbers given are annual breeding populations of the species listed. Counting intensity varies over the years. Note: 0 does not necessarily mean the species was absent – rather not counted/reported

		Breeding population (pairs)							
Species \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009			
Phalacrocorax carbo	1851	1831	1760	1453	1194	1244			
Circus aeruginosus	0	0	1	0	0	0			
Crex crex	0	0	0	0	1	0			
Recurvirostra avosetta	13	10	9	5	7	7			
Sterna sandvicensis	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Sterna paradisaea	123	218	195	150	1	13			
Sterna albifrons	2	0	2	0	0	0			
Cepphus grylle	0	0	1	0	1	1			

Note: this site has not been subject to intensive monitoring programmes for all species/all years. Missing Marsh Harrier (Circus auruginosus) and tern Sterna numbers in table might thus represent missing coverage rather than absence of these species some years.

Migratory waterbirds: Table giving the most recent information about staging waterbirds in the Ramsar site. Published and unpublished data from the NOVANA programme of the Ministry of Environment and DCE, supplemented with data from the Birdlife Denmark citizen science portal DOFbasen on migratory species of national responsibility (for details see Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1999), and selected migrant species (e.g. some raptors and *Charadrius morinellus*) covered by the EEC Birds Directive Annex 1. Numbers given are annual maxima of the species listed. Counting intensity varies over the years. Note: 0 does not necessarily mean the species was absent – rather not

counted/reported. Averages are thus computed based on years with numbers reported. Offshore species (*) have been counted using transect surveys in 2004 and 2008. Numbers mentioned from 2004 are actual counted numbers, true numbers are probable 3-5 times higher (as demonstrated by Petersen et al. 2006b using spatial modelling for selected species). Numbers for 2008 have been spatially modelled (Petersen & Nielsen 2011).

			Annual	Maxima			Average	
Species \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009		
Gavia stellata	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	
Gavia arctica	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Podiceps cristatus	0	0	0	0	113	230	172	
Podiceps grisegena	10	2	3	5	7	9	6	
Podiceps auritus	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	
Phalacrocorax carbo	2000	1000	500	550	500	500	842	
Ardea cinerea	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Platalea leucorodia	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	
Cygnus olor	163	48	83	67	396	21	130	
Cygnus columbianus	0	1	0	15	26	0	14	
Cygnus cygnus	430	570	300	367	1519	1014	700	
Anser fabalis	0	7	15	12	0	3	9	
Anser brachyrhynchus	2	0	1	1	22	1	5	
Anser albifrons albifrons	115	110	110	218	135	211	150	
Anser anser	1620	1200	1260	1944	2164	1590	1630	
Branta canadensis	52	0	64	21	52	58	49	
Branta leucopsis	260	160	120	105	230	126	167	
Branta bernicla bernicla	195	400	270	230	167	240	250	
Branta bernicla hrota	63	165	90	71	105	95	98	
Tadorna tadorna	39	0	0	0	465	430	311	
Anas penelope	404	558	480	600	924	565	589	
Anas crecca	95	199	303	270	393	550	302	
Anas platyrhynchos	2176	1880	2201	480	1410	1091	1540	
Anas acuta	24	52	44	48	136	99	67	
Anas clypeata	3	9	25	7	5	4	9	
Aythya ferina	26	26	6	0	1	0	15	
Aythya fuligula	20	22	22	8	10	17	17	
Aythya marila	1	0	0	0	1000	0	501	*
Somateria mollissima	1160	1362	1025	2000	7242	1982	2462	*
Clangula hyemalis	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	*
Melanitta nigra	184	210	150	600	1300	412	476	*
Melanitta fusca	30	26	54	8	35	80	39	*
Bucephala clangula	407	440	560	220	770	770	528	
Mergus albellus	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	

Mergus serrator	152	160	305	125	360	490	265	
Mergus merganser	12	8	4	0	9	8	8	
Haliaeetus albicilla	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	
Circus aeruginosus	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	
Circus cyaneus	2	1	4	1	2	2	2	
Pandion haliaetus	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Falco columbarius	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	
Falco peregrinus	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	
Fulica atra	265	427	678	688	431	241	455	
Haematopus ostralegus	39	0	0	0	109	26	58	
Recurvirostra avosetta	32	55	101	56	141	163	91	
Charadrius morinellus	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Pluvialis apricaria	4950	3000	4000	4000	1870	1600	3237	
Pluvialis squatarola	0	0	0	0	46	115	81	
Vanellus vanellus	1	0	0	0	590	267	286	
Calidris canutus	37	106	18	25	32	64	47	
Calidris alba	10	8	8	1	7	12	8	
Calidris ferruginea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Calidris alpina	2022	5099	1500	2500	3700	2900	2954	
Philomachus pugnax	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Gallinago gallinago	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	
Limosa lapponica	1170	740	1078	910	560	680	856	
Numenius arquata	311	0	0	0	530	531	457	
Tringa erythropus	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
Tringa totanus	150	120	116	231	76	80	129	
Tringa nebularia	54	61	298	70	116	63	110	
Larus ridibundus	0	0	0	0	162	0	162	
Larus canus	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	
Larus argentatus	39	0	0	0	247	0	143	
Larus marinus	2	0	0	0	31	0	17	
Sterna sandvicensis	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	
Alca torda	0	0	1	18	1	1	5	
Sum of annual maxima	18735	18236	15801	16480	28167	17379	0	

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:

Several archaeological sites are situated inside the area, e.g. stone age settlements and burial mounds.

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 \square 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:
- 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:

Territorial waters, private, the State represented by the Ministry of Environment and The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

b) in the surrounding area:

Territorial waters. As most other Danish Ramsar-sites, this site is partly surrounded by a rural landscape composed of a mixture of private owned agricultural areas and forests.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

farmland, grazing

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Mainly farmland.

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:

Fyns Amt (2006) lists several current problems, in particular:

- 1) Eutrophication of coastal waters with regular blooms of filamentous algae and *Ulva lactuca*, but N- and P- and clorophyl a values are all declining, giving hope for improvement in the future.
- 2) Overgrowth of saltmarshes is an increasing problem, and more than a third of the saltmarshes have low vegetation (hence suitable for grazing brent geese and breeding waders) on less than 10% of the area

Potential threats are cultivation and overgrowing of fields used by geese.

b) in the surrounding area:

No specific information.

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.

Nature conservation: About 300 hectares on Æbelø, Kisselbjerg – Nørreby Hals, Flyvesandet – Fuglsanggård.

Parts of the Ramsar site are Wildlife reserves. Mågeøerne (37 ha) is a wildlife reserve with no public access in the breeding season. Nærå-Agernæs wildlife reserve was established in 1998, and the 2297 ha new reserve includes areas with no public access in the breeding season of waterbirds on the most important salt marshes for breeding meadow birds and terns, as well as a zonation of shooting restrictions, involving areas with complete shooting bans and areas with restrictions shooting of ducks from motorboats, as well as restrictions on wind-surfing activities and speed boating. The new reserve was established as parts of the new Danish hunting-free network of reserves (Madsen et al. 1998, Clausen et al. 2004).

In accordance with the Game and Wildlife Management Act, White-fronted Geese are fully protected throughout their stay in this Ramsar Site.

The whole Ramsar site is protected under EU legislation, and included in: Natura 2000-site No. 108
Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) No.76, and
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) No. 92

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	Q;	II	Q;	III];	IV		; V		; VI	
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c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

For all Danish Ramsar sites, being part of the Danish Natura 2000 network, concervation status base-line reports were finalised in 2006 by the former counties, and published by the regional Environment Centres of the Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning in 2007. In 2011 Natura 2000 plans were issued by the Danish Ministry of Environment/Danish Nature Agency setting up site-specific nature goals and priorities for all Danish Natura 2000 sites, including all Danish Ramsar sites. Parallel to this initiative on Natura 2000 sites, river basin management plans were likewise issued by the Danish Ministry of the Environment/Danish Nature Agency for all Danish river basins in 2011, aimed at meeting demands from the EU Water Framework Directive, hence to improve water quality and ecological status in wetland catchments and coastal areas.

National Ramsar site No. 16 is covered by Natura 2000 plan No. 108 (Naturstyrelsen 2011a) and river basin management plans Nos. 1.12 and 1.13 (Naturstyrelsen 2011b, 2011c).

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Grazing at Nørreby Hals and Flyvesandet.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

During 2012 the Government and Municipalities will develop site-specific management action plans to meet the goals of the Natura 2000 and river basin management plans.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

In 2003 Denmark launched the NOVANA programme. This programme forms the basis for future nature and water quality assessments in Denmark, and as such also supports the administration of the Ramsar site networks. NOVANA is an acronym that could be translated to English as NMWANA (New Monitoring programme for WAter quality and NAture), and aims at fulfilling the Danish obligations with regards to reporting conservation status of species and habitats covered by the EEC Birds and Habitats Directives annexes, as well as water quality and associated target species covered by the National 3rd Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment (Vandmiljplan 3) as well as the EEC Water Framework Directive. The programme is described by Bijl et al. (2007). A first 'pre'-NOVANA assessment of the national conservation status of birds was published in 2003, and translated to English in 2006 (Pihl et. al 2006). National criteria for assessing favourable conservation status for the listed species and habitats were likewise published in 2003, and translated to English in 2007 (Søgaard et al. 2007), except for marine habitats, published solely in Danish (Dahl et al. 2005a). First assessments of reference conditions and development of Ecological Quality Objectives (EQOs) related to the Water Framework Directive were published in 2005-2006 (Dahl et al. 2005b, Petersen et al. 2006). Water bird monitoring programmes involves complete national mid-winter surveys every third year (e.g. Petersen et al. 2006b), and annual complete counts of selected species groups (e.g. swans, geese, dabbling ducks, rare breeding birds, e.g. e.g. Søgaard et al. 2006, 2007). The dabbling duck monitoring programme is built upon the much more comprehensive reserve monitoring programme from 1994-2001 (Clausen et al. 2004). Annual assessments of water quality are also available (latest summary report, Nordemann Jensen et al. 2010).

The private foundation Aage V. Jensens Naturfond has research facilities on Æbelø.

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.

Information booklet on Æbelø. Information booklet and information board for the wildlife reserve Nærå-Agernæs. Bird tower and information board at Flyvesandet.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

The intensity of recreational activities such as sailing and walking tours is relatively low.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

National legislation on Nature Conservation and Hunting regulations, as well as national administration of the Ramsar Convention and EEC Birds and Habitats Directives: *Ministry of the Environment*. National legislation on Agriculture and Fisheries: *Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries*. Local administration and implementation of Nature Conservation: Municipalities listed below under point 33.

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.

Municipality	Local unit of the Nature Agency
Nordfyns Kommune	Naturstyrelsen, Fyn
Østergade 23	Sollerup
5400 Bogense	Sollerupvej 24
	5600 Faaborg

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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