

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note 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. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date Site Reference Number

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

Timo Asanti & Pekka Rusanen, Finnish Environment Institute, Nature Division,
PO Box 140, FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland. Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2005

3. Country:

Finland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Bird Wetlands of Haapavesi

5. Map of site included:

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

a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List):

Yes.

b) digital (electronic) format (optional):

Yes.

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

64° 15' N / 25° 30' E

7. General location:

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

The nine separate areas are situated in southwestern part of the province of Oulu, in the municipalities of Haapavesi city and Pulkkila, 4–16 km north of Haapavesi city centre. The lakes are distributed in an area of 200 sq.km. The municipalities (1 431 sq.km of land) have ca. 9 800 residents.

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

135–114 m, mean 123 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

3 616 ha

10. Overview:

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

The closely situated lakes and mires form a diverse wetland complex. The density of breeding waterfowl of the lakes is exceptionally high. Köyryrimpi Mire is among the best bird-mires in the area of Middle-Ostrobothnia.

11. 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 & 4?

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | 3 | <u>4</u> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----------|----------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. 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).

1) A representative example of near-natural wetland types (shallow freshwater lakes, peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, including 2 priority natural wetland habitat types of the Habitats Directive of the EU (aapa mires, active raised bogs).

2) National threatened birds include at least Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (VU in Finnish Red List) with more than 400 pairs and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) (VU in Finnish Red List).

About 20 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with more than 100 pairs, Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) with more than 50 pairs and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) with more than 40 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Slavonian Grebe

(*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Hen Harrier (*C. cyaneus*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The breeding waterfowl of the lakes includes 500–700 pairs of 17 species and the breeding waders of the area also include a few hundreds of pairs of 10 species. Mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

4) The group of lakes form a very important area as a staging area for waterfowl and waders during migration and molting periods. In spring or autumn more than 1 000 individuals of both Wigeons (*Anas penelope*), Teals (*A. crecca*), Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*), Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) (all Finland's responsibility species), Ruffs and Wood Sandpipers can be seen at the lakes. In autumn more than 400 Whooper Swans rest at the lakes on peak days. At Lake Ainali the highest daily counts of both waterfowl and waders may reach more than 2 000 individuals in May.

13. 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:

Middle boreal forest vegetation zone.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmä. Puheenjohtaja: Ruuhijärvi, R., Sihteerit: Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Metsien suojelun tarve Etelä-Suomessa ja Pohjanmaalla. Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmän mietintö. Suomen ympäristö 437. Ympäristöministeriö. Helsinki.

Working group on the need for forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. Chairman Ruuhijärvi, R., Secretaries Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. The Finnish Environment 437. Ministry of the Environment.

14. 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: Geochemically included in Ladoga – Bothnian Bay belt. Bedrock is composed of granite, gabbro, diorite and peridotite, intermediate and felsic metavolcanic rocks.

Origins: Natural

Hydrology: Aapa mires dependent on ground or surface waters and the raised bogs on rain water.

Soil type: Peat and glacial ground moraine.

Water quality: General quality mainly passable. Eutrophic in most areas.

Depth of water: <1.5 m in most areas. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 145 days, mean annual temperature ca. +2 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 550 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from late November to late April. Middle boreal forest vegetation zone.

15. 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 climate and general geological features are much the same in the catchment areas as in the Ramsar sites.

16. Hydrological values:

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

None significant.

17. 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: U, Xp, O, Ts, M, Tp & Xf

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|---|---|---|----|----|-----------|-----------|----------|----|----|---|-----------|-----------|---|----|-------|
| L | <u>M</u> | N | <u>O</u> | P | Q | R | Sp | Ss | <u>Tp</u> | <u>Ts</u> | <u>U</u> | Va | Vt | W | <u>Xf</u> | <u>Xp</u> | 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.

U – Non-forested peatlands

Xp – Forested peatlands

O – Permanent freshwater lakes

Ts – Seasonally flooded meadows and sedge marshes

Xf – Seasonally flooded forests

M – Permanent rivers and streams

Tp – Permanent freshwater pools

18. General ecological features:

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

The site represents the Mire vegetation regions of Southern aapa mires and of Eccentric bogs and *Sphagnum fuscum* bogs. The site is composed of eight lakes (Ainali, Apaja, Haapolampi, Korkatti, Kypärä, Litukka, Suojärvi and Köyrylampi) and two mires (Köyryrimpi–Ollikkaanrimpi and Porerimpi). Ainali covers 839 ha and each of the other lakes 18–175 ha. Köyryrimpi–Ollikkaanrimpi covers 1 536 ha and Porerimpi 631 ha. The area includes ca. 2 000 ha of mires and ca. 1 400 ha of water.

The vegetation zones are extensive and well-developed. Wide growths of Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and nympehids are typical of the lakes. Unbranched Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*) is very common in most lakes. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and Bulrushes (*Typha* spp.) occur sparsely only in some of the lakes. The shores are characterized by wide sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows. The lakes are surrounded mainly by paludified forests of Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Birch (*Betula* spp.). Ainali is classified as a lake of *Typha-Alisma* -type. Because of its large size, Ainali is an exception among the most valuable bird-lakes in Finland. The length of the shoreline is increased by numerous small capes, bays and islands. The shores are very low, and dense growths of Water Horsetail cover a quarter of the lake.

Köyryrimpi–Ollikkaanrimpi Mire is a wide and comparatively virgin entity of several adjacent mire complexes of different mire types. It is composed mainly of aapa mires with flarks or slightly drier sedge fens or *Sphagnum papillosum* fens and includes also a barren raised bog in the eastern part. Open mires are separated from each other by various types of Pine bogs and Spruce (*Picea abies*) mires, which in certain places transform into wet meadows and grassy types affected by flowing waters.

Porerimpi Mire is a wide and virgin raised bog. It reaches the shores of Lake Pirnesjärvi with old forests of Aspen (*Populus tremula*) on the edges.

19. 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 flora of Lake Ainali includes rare and demanding species such as Ivy-leaved Duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*).

20. 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.***

Threatened birds include at least Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (VU in Finnish Red List) with >400 pairs and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) (VU). Ca. 20 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, of which the most common are Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) with >100 pairs, Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) with >50 pairs and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) with >40 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Slavonian Grebe (*P. auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Hen Harrier (*C. cyaneus*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The breeding waterfowl of the lakes includes 500–700 pairs of 17 species and the breeding waders of the area also include a few hundreds of pairs of 10 species.

Mammals of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II include Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

21. Social and 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 site includes three locally important traditional rural biotopes (5 ha), Korkatti sheep pasturage, Kalmasaari Island of Ainali and Säynäjaniemi Cape of Ainali. Significant values also include bird-watching and outdoor recreation.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

State-owned (56 %) and private-owned.

(b) in the surrounding area:

private-owned

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn is very intense at the lakes, with at least 500–700 hunters at the start of hunting. Fishing occurs mainly in spring with fyke nets and fish traps.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry and peat mining are carried out in the surroundings.

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

Intense hunting of waterfowl in autumn affects negatively on the site. The drainage areas around the lakes increase humus contents of the waters. The drainage on the edges of Köyryrimpi Mire has dried up some flark areas in recent years. Lake

Haapolampi is overgrowing. American Mink (*Mustela vison*) and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) may cause damage to the breeding of birds.

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

The site is included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI. The lakes are also included in the Finnish Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme and Köyryrimpi Mire is included in the Mire Conservation Programme.

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

Conservation of the Natura 2000 site will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act and Water Act.

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

The breeding bird fauna has been studied since the 1950s, e.g. in 1993–95. The volume of bird populations of Köyryrimpi–Ollikkaanrimpi Mire was estimated in 1996 by using line transect censuses.

28. Current conservation education:

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

None significant.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

One bird-watching tower has been constructed at Lake Ainali.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

a) North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre, **b)** Ministry of the Environment.

31. 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.

North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 124, FIN-90101 Oulu, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:

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

Leivo, M. 2000. Suomen kansainvälisesti tärkeät lintualueet. Linnut-vuosikirja 1999. (English summary: Important Bird Areas in Finland).

Leivo, M., Asanti, T., Koskimies, P., Lammi, E., Lampolahti, J., Mikkola-Roos, M. & Virolainen, E. 2002. Suomen tärkeät lintualueet FINIBA. BirdLife Suomen julkaisuja 4, Suomen graafiset palvelut, Kuopio.

Rassi, P., Alanen, A., Kanerva, T. & Mannerkoski, I. (eds.) 2001: The 2000 Red List of Finnish Species. Ministry of the Environment & Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki.

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