

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:

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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2005

3. Country:

Finland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Kauhaneva – Pohjankangas National Park

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):

b) digital (electronic) format (optional):

Yes.

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

62° 11' N / 22° 25' 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 nearly unbroken area is situated in central part of the province of Western Finland, in the municipalities of Kauhajoki city, Honkajoki and Karvia, 18 km southeast of Kauhajoki city centre. The municipalities (2 135 sq.km of land) have ca. 20 000 residents.

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

Maximum 190 m, mean 160 m

9. Area: (in hectares)

6849 ha

10. Overview:

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

The mires of Kauhaneva form the largest and most representative raised bog area in Southern Ostrobothnia and one of the key areas for protecting ombrotrophic bogs. A diverse wetland complex with different mire types and bird fauna well represented.

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
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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) The site is a representative example of natural and near-natural wetland types (peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI with two priority natural wetland habitat types (active raised bogs, aapa mires).

2) 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 150 pairs and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) with more than 100 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) and Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) as well as the Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), nationally threatened and species of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II. The site builds furthermore habitat for 3 nationally threatened bird species, 1 nationally threatened mammal species, 1 nationally threatened vascular plant species, 1 nationally threatened moss species.

4) The breeding waders of the mires include more than 400 pairs of 11 species. The mires are also important as a staging area for e.g. Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) (Finland's responsibility species) and Crane during migration periods.

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 Volcanic sedimentary zone of SW Finland. Bedrock is composed mainly of granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite.

Origins: Natural

Hydrology: Raised bogs dependent on rain water.

Soil type: Mainly peat with smaller areas of glacial ground moraine and glacial gravel and sand.

Water quality: Mire waters dystrophic.

Depth of water: Shallow. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 160 days, mean annual temperature ca. +3 °C, mean annual rainfall ca. 650 mm. Ice- and snow-covered normally from early December to mid 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. Look partly chapter 14.

16. Hydrological values:

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

Virgin mires play an important role in maintenance of water quality.

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)
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Inland: U, Xp, Tp, M, Y & Ts

L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	Sp	Ss	Tp	Ts	U	Va	Vt	W	Xf	Xp	Y	Zg	Zk(b)
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Human-made:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Zk(c)
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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

Tp – Permanent freshwater pools

Ts – Seasonal freshwater pools

M – Permanent rivers and streams

Y – Freshwater springs

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 region of Concentric bogs. The area includes ca. 2 900 ha of mires and ca. 60 ha of water. The wetland is composed of several closely situated mires, of which the largest is Kauhaneva, an exceptionally well developed raised bog with large minerotrophic flark and sedge (*Carex* spp.) fens, small brooks and tens of ponds and pools. Aapa mires are uncommon. Pohjankangas and Nummikangas are esker formations beside the mires, characterized by barren Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) heath forests. On the edges of eskers there are springfens. The esker formation of Kolmentuulenlakki includes brook beds with impressive topography.

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.**

Threatened vascular plants include Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*) (VU in Finnish Red List). Near-threatened species include e.g. Brown Beak Sedge (*Rhynchospora fusca*). Threatened bryophytes include moss species *Sphagnum molle* (VU).

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 (VU in Finnish Red List) include 3 species, e.g. Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). 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 >150 pairs and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) with >100 pairs. Scarce species include e.g. Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Crane (*Grus grus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The breeding waders of the mires include >400 pairs of 11 species. The mires are also important as a staging area for e.g. Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) (Finland's responsibility species) and Crane during migration periods.

Threatened mammals include Wolf (*Canis lupus*) (EN). Species of the EU Habitats Directive Annex II also include Lynx (*Lynx lynx*). A natural population of Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta* m. *fario*) occupies small brooks.

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.

Kolmentuulenlakki Esker forms a part of a nationally important landscape area. A medieval trade route winds along the eskers. Significant values also include scientific research, birdwatching and outdoor recreation.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site: State-owned.

(b) in the surrounding area: Private-owned.

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Fishing is permitted only at Kauhalammi Pond. Picking of mushrooms and berries is permitted.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry drainage, agricultural use 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:

Small areas of mire edges were drained still in the late 1970s causing changes in the vegetation. A part of the forests were logged till the early 1960s. Forestry drainage and peat mining in the surroundings affect negatively on the site. Taking of ground water from Nummikangas Esker may lower the level of ground water.

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. Kauhaneva–Pohjankangas National Park (5,879 ha) was established in 1982. A major part of the mires is also included in the Mire Conservation Programme. Pohjankangas and Nummikangas are included in the Esker Conservation Programme.

A master plan for the National Park was established in 1985. Hunting, fishing (in most places) and use of motor vehicles outside the roads are prohibited. The middle parts of Kauhaneva Mire form a restricted area (450 ha) where access is prohibited from April to mid September. Restoration of mires was carried out under the EU Life project in 1996–99 by filling up ditches and cutting trees.

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 outside the already protected areas will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act, Land Use and Building Act, Land Extraction Act, Water Act and Forest Act. The planned extension of the National Park covers 1 000 ha.

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 of the mires was surveyed in 1977–83 and 1996. The volume of bird populations was estimated in 1986 by using line transect censuses. The flora of the National Park was surveyed in 1985 and mires were studied closely in 1994. The impact of restoration measures is monitored. The phytoplankton was studied in the 1990s. The area of Kolmentuulenlakki is an esker research site of the Academy of Finland.

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.

A nature observation tower, a trail with duckboards (2 km) and a camping site have been constructed in the National Park. The park had ca. 6 000 visitors in 2003.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

a) Metsähallitus – Forest and Park Service, Natural Heritage Services, Southern Finland, **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.

Metsähallitus – Forest and Park Service, Natural Heritage Services, Western Finland, PO Box 38, FIN-39701 Parkano, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:

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

Eloranta, P. 1995. Phytoplankton of the nationalpark lakes in central and southern Finland. *Annales Botanici Fennici* 32.

Heikkilä, R., Kuznetsov, O., Lindholm, T., Aapala, K., Antipin, V., Djatshkova, T. & Shevelin, P. 2001. Complexes, vegetation, flora and dynamics of Kauhaneva mire system, western Finland. *The Finnish Environment* 489, Finnish Environment Institute.

Hellemaa, P. 1980. Pohjankangas Kuninkaanlähteeltä Karvianjoelle. M.Sc. thesis. University of Helsinki, Department of Geography.

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.

Metsähallitus 1985. Kauhanevan–Pohjankankaan kansallispuiston runkosuunnitelma. Metsähallitus SU 4:72.

Vähämäki, J. 1983. Kauhanevan pesimälinnusto vuosina 1977–1983. Hippiäinen.

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