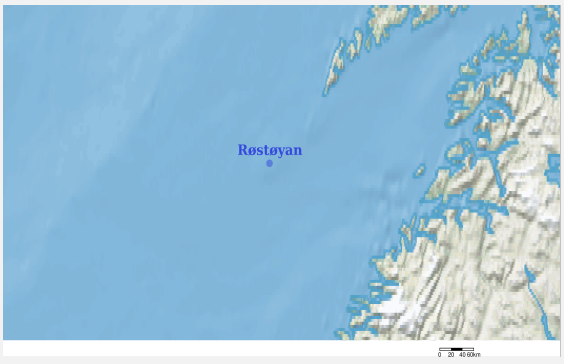
Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 5 April 2018
Update version, previously published on : 1 January 2011

Norway

Røstøyan



Designation date	12 November 2010
Site number	1950
Coordinates	67°27'N 11°56'42"E
Area	6 986,40 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Røstøyene is a large archipelago with hundreds of islands and islets, located in the outermost part of Lofoten Archipelago. The size and topography of the islands vary. Vedøya and Storfjellet in the north are the two largest islands. The site is the most important breeding area for seabirds in Nordland County with many rare and threatened species occuring. There are bird cliffs located on several islands, where breeding populations of the puffin Fratercula arctica, the black-legged kittiwake Rissa tridactyla, the razorbill Alca torda, the common guillemot Uria aalge and the northern fulmar Fulmarus glacialis are located. On the skerries there are breeding colonies of the great cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo, the common shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis and the black guillemot Cepphus grylle. Other breeding birds of special interest are the European storm-petrel Hydrobates pelagicus, the Leach's Storm-petrel Oceanodroma leucorhoa. The Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus has also two known breeding sites within the site.

There are also large populations of more common seabirds such as the common eider Somateria mollissima, the great black-backed gull Larus marinus, the herring gull Larus argentatus and the common gull Larus canus. The white-tailed eagle Haliaeetus albicilla breeds in the area.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Ellen Haakonsen Karr
Institution/agency	Norwegian Environment Agency
Postal address	P.O. Box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
E-mail	post@miljodir.no
Phone	+47 73 58 05 00

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2011
To year	2017

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Røstøyan

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update)	A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update)	B. Changes to Site area	No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update)	6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The boundaries are the same as for Nykan Nature Reserve and Røstøyan Landscape Protected Area.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Nordland
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Bodø

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes ○ No ◉
b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?	Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	6986.4

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 7091.89

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	1. Arctic
Other scheme (provide name below)	2. Middle boreal vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Mb-03)

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1. Biogeographical Regions, European Environment Agency, 2005
2. Moen, A. 1998. National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other ecosystem services provided	The site is a popular tourist destination, and there are guided tours with boats from Røstlandet to Røstøyan in the summer. The area around Røstøyan is also popular for sport fishing, and many tourists come to Røst for this reason.
Other reasons	The landscape at Røstøyan is unique within the biogeographic region. Røstøyan is a large archipelago with hundreds of islands and islets surrounded by shallow marine waters. The ecological character varies within the site between shallow water, caves, skerries, bird cliffs and larger islands. The site is a highly important breeding site for a several species of waterbirds. The bird populations have been monitored since ca 1960.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The site has a high diversity of both nationally common seabirds, and threatened/rare species. Species adapted to bird cliffs like Puffin, Black-legged Kittiwake, Razorbill and Common Guillemot occur in numerous populations.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	444800
Start year	2005
Source of data:	SeaPop

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Alca torda*	Razorbill	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	750			NT	☐	☐	National red list status: VU	App. 750 individuals. Criterion 4: This species breeds on the site.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cepphus grylle*	Black Guillemot	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	400			LC	☐	☐	National red list status: VU	App. 400 individuals. Criterion 4: Røstøyan is breeding area for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Falco peregrinus*	Peregrine Falcon	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☐		Criterion 4: Røstøyan is also breeding area for this species. Two known breeding locations at the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Fratercula arctica*	Atlantic Puffin	☑	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	650000		3		☐	☐	National red list status: VU	App. 650 000 ind. Criterion 4: Important breeding site for the species. Criterion 6: see text box below
CHORDATA / AVES	*Fulmarus glacialis*	Northern Fulmar	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National red list status: EN	Breeding site for the species, but population size is unknown. There has been a decline in the last years.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Hydrobates pelagicus*	European Storm-Petrel; European Storm Petrel	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		A small breeding population at the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus marinus*	Great Black-backed Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Criterion 4: This species breeds on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*	Leach's Storm-Petrel; Leach's Storm Petrel	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Criterion 4: Røstøyan is also breeding area for this species. Small breeding population at the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	European Shag	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		The site has breeding populations of this species, but the numbers vary somewhat between years.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Great Cormorant	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Criterion 4: This species breeds on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Rissa tridactyla*	Black-legged Kittiwake	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	7000				☐	☐	National red list status: EN	App.7000 ind. of Black-legged Kittiwake, Criterion 4: This species breeds on the site, even though the population decrease in number each year. 3400 pairs in 2015.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Somateria mollissima*	Common Eider	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐		Criterion 4: Breeding site for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Stercorarius skua*	Great Skua	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐		Criterion 4: Two breeding couples registred on the site in 2015.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Uria aalge*	Common Murre	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	700			LC	☐	☐	National red list status: CR	7-800 individuals. Criterion 4: This species breeds on the site.
Others																		
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	European Otter	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐	National Red List: VU	Stable population
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Phoca vitulina*	Harbor Seal	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		The siste supports a stable, breeding population of this species.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Additional information on Fratercula arctica, Atlantic Puffin: Most numerous at the site. In 2016 approx. 312 000 couples were breeding. In spite of this high number there has been a dramatic decline in the last years. The population is closely linked to the abundance of herring and other fish species.
Criterion 6: The Norwegian population of Puffin constitutes 5-25 % of the global population (www.artsdatabanken.no). The population of Puffin at Røstøyene constitutes approx. 25 % of the Norwegian population. Out of this one estimates that Røstøyan support 1-5 % of the global population of Puffin.

Additional information on Uria aalge, Common Murre: Dramatic decline since 1960. In 2016 there were app. 400 breeding couples, compared to approx. 16 000 couples in 1960. The decline is related to the decrease in the population of Capelin in the Barents Sea.

The site is a very important breeding area for seabirds and birds of prey. Many of the birds are threatened nationally according to the national red list. The seabirds at Røst have been monitored since 1960-1970. The monitoring data show that the numbers of many seabirds have had a dramatic decline during these years.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Bird cliffs	☑	Bird cliffs are generally characterized by steep and rocky mountain sides that house large colonies of sea birds. The guano from the birds fertilize the ground nearby, and creates a species-rich plant environment.	This nature type has the status VU in the national red list for ecosystems and habitat types. Several of the islands at this site contains this habitat.
Birds cliff meadow	☑	Meadows that form around the bird cliffs. The guano from the birds fertilize the ground nearby, and creates a species-rich plant environment.	This nature type has the status VU in the national red list for ecosystem and habitat types 2011. Several of the islands at this site contains this habitat.
Semi-natural grassland	☑	Nature type that has several sub-types, typically characterized by open, grazed and non-fertilised grassland.	This nature type has the status VU in the national red list for ecosystems and habitat types.

Optional text box to provide further information

The nature type "Bird cliff Meadow" consist of a few specialized plant species that are adapted to the high level of nutrients in the soil around the bird cliffs.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Characterized by:
• Shallow marine waters, with numerous islands and skerries.
• High productive marine areas.
• Bird cliffs at Vedøya, Storfjellet, Ellevsnyken, Trenyken and Hernyken with numerous populations of seabirds.
• Unique landscape.
• Depending on vegetation, there are three main types of islands present on the site:
- Low islands dominated by herbs and grass. On many of these islands, sheep are grazing, and the vegetation is influenced by this.
- Islands with large colonies of puffins and other sea birds. Rocky islands with low peaks (highest 259 m. at Storfjellet), cliffs and grass dominated slopes. Because of the fertilizing from the birds, there is a high production and demanding species are present, but since not many plants tolerate such high level of nutrients, the species diversity is not particularly high.
- Heathland islands where crowberry dominates the vegetation. These islands have usually not been grazed for many years.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Unique
D: Rocky marine shores		2		Unique
Zk(a): Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems		3		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Cochlearia officinalis	Common Scurvygrass	Typical species for the bird cliff meadows.
Silene dioica	Red Campion	Typical species for the bird cliff meadows.
Silene uniflora	Sea Campion	Typical species for bird cliff meadows

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Halichoerus grypus*	Gray Seal				Observed at the site.

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfc: Subarctic (Severe winter, no dry season, cool summer)

The climate is typical Atlantic with high annual precipitation, wet summer and mild winter.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 259

Entire river basin ☐
Upper part of river basin ☐
Middle part of river basin ☐
Lower part of river basin ☐
More than one river basin ☐
Not in river basin ☐
Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Norwegian Sea

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Deposit occurs at Vedøya and Storfjellet, mainly from crumbling and landslides.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	☐	No change
Water inputs from rainfall	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

The marine water in the site consists of shallow water, mostly less than twenty meters deep. Middle tidal amplitude is approx. 174 cm (Bodø harbor).
Because most of the shoreline consists of hard basement rock, erosion is minimal. All freshwater in the area originates from precipitation.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown ☑

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Mainly for leisure with the use of cabins. Traditionally used for collecting seabird eggs.

There is a large research project on seabirds within the site. This work has been ongoing for more than 40 years. Norwegian Institute for Nature Research leads the project and has a research station at Hernyken.

See additional material for further information.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) 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 ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

within the Ramsar site: Private

in the surrounding area: Private

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: County Governor of Nordland

Postal address: Molovn. 10, 8002 Bodø

E-mail address: postmottak@fmno.no

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Industrial and military effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

a) within the Ramsar site:
If the grazing by sheep ends it will affect the vegetation in the area. This will probably not affect the population of seabirds.

b) in the surrounding area:
Over-fishing directly affects the population of many seabirds. For example is the population of Puffin related to the population of Herring in the Norwegian Sea.
Oil spill and fishing equipment also affect the population of many seabirds. Especially Common Guillemot, Puffin and Razorbill are exposed to oil spill.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Landscape Protected Area	Røstøyan		whole
Nature Reserve	Nykan		partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☑

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☐

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☑

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

There is a large research project on seabirds within the site. This work has been ongoing for more than 40 years. Norwegian Institute for Nature Research leads the project and has a research station at Hernyken. Results from this work is puplished in reports on a yearly basis, as well as on their website www.seapop.no.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Fylkesmannen i Nordland. 1994. Utkast til kystverneplan for Nordland fylke. Del 4a: Røstøyene. Rapport 7-94.

Fylkesmannen i Nordland, ved Mia Husdal. 2016. Forvaltningsplan for Røstøyan landskapsvernområde og Nykan naturreservat, Røst. Rapport nr. 3/2016.

Anker-Nilssen, T., Barrett, R.T., Christensen-Dalsgaard, S., Erikstad, K.E., Lorentsen, S., Lorentzen, E., Moe, B., Reiertsen, T.R., Strøm, H., Systad, G. H. Sjøfugl i Norge 2016. Resultater fra SeaPop programmet. 2017.

Anker-Nilssen, T. & Aarvak, T. 2006. Tidsseriestudier av sjøfugler i Røst kommune, Nordland. Resultater med fokus på 2004 og 2005. – NINA-Rapport 133. 85 s.
• A lot of NINA-reports have been created during the last decades. For a complete overview; http://www.nina.no/

Henriksen S. og Hilmo O. (red.) 2015. Norsk rødliste for arter 2015 - 2015 Norwegian Red List. Artsdatabanken, Norway

Lindgaard, A. and Henriksen, S. (eds.) 2011. Norsk rødliste for naturtyper 2011 - Norwegian red list for ecosystems and habitat types 2011. Artsdatabanken, Norway.

Moen, A. 1998. National atlas of Norway. Vegetation. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss.

Myrvoll, M. & Myrvoll, E. R. 2008. Forvaltningsplan for ”Utvalgte kulturlandskap i jordbruket ” Røst kommune. Kulturhistoriske verdier. Landskapsavdelingen – rapport 16/08. Norsk institutt for kulturminneforskning.

Norderhaug, A. Johansen, A. & Karlsen, G. 2008. Innspill til forvaltningsplan for jordbrukslandskapet i Røst kommune. ”Utvalgte kulturlandskap i jordbruket i Nordland”. Lofoten forsøksring og Bioforsk.

www.seapop.no

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Røstøyan. The island Trenyken. (*Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 20-06-2016*)

Puffin at the island Hernyken. (*Fylkesmannen i Nordland, 20-06-2016*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2010-11-12