

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

April 2002

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DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Sweden

3. Name of wetland:

Storkölen

4. Geographical coordinates:

61°47'N, 012°13'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.)

700 - 770 m

6. Area: (in hectares)

7 040 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Storkölen is an undisturbed area, highly valued for its scenic beauty, old forests and high ornithological values. The site displays large wetland diversity and is rich in lakes and waterlogged areas.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . Q . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: U, Xp, O

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

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

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A representative example of a natural wetland type (non-forested peatland) in the EU Alpine region
 2. >10 nationally redlisted plant species, 1 nationally redlisted bird species
 3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are characteristic of the EU Alpine region
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site consists of a mire complex 200 km north-west of the city of Falun, in the County of Dalarna, north-western Sweden. Municipality: Älvdalen.

Being linked to a proposed Norwegian Ramsar site (Kvisleflået), the area will constitute a transboundary site.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The site is a large mire complex rich in lakes. There are large flark systems (flark = seemingly bottomless pool) within the site, and pools and fen soaks are common. The soil cover is formed of what is known as 'dead-ice' moraine, created during the latest ice age. In the northern parts of the site, the moraine is rich in rocks.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

By large unaffected by human activities which contributes to the maintenance of water quality.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Storkölen is part of the Drevdagen Nature Reserve, which is the largest continuous old forest area in the county. The Storkölen site displays a wide variety of wetland types; topogenous and soligenous fens, string flark fens, string mixed mires and different kinds of peat bogs. On the border between soft ground and solid ground there are wetland pine *Pinus sylvestris* forests. The mires are in some parts surrounded by spruce *Picea abies* forests, rich in herbs. The varied nature displays both species-richness and species-poorness. In some parts, cloudberry *Rubus chamaemorus*, dominates.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

There are botanically valuable lime fen areas, rich in species. Among rarities, the Hudson Bay sedge *Carex heleonastes* and *Epipogium aphyllum* (both nationally redlisted) could be mentioned. The site contains mire types representative for the region, as well as areas with a flora unusual for the region. Locally, an extremely rich fen is found, holding a species-rich flora of a composition unusual for this part of the county. Other redlisted species include *Fomitopsis rosea*, *Trichaptum laricinum* and *Bovista paludosa* (fungi), *Letharia vulpine*, *Hypogymnia bitteri*, *Cyphelium tigillare* (lichens) and *Tayloria tenuis* (moss). *Vertigo geyerii* (mollusc) is a EU Habitats directive species. Water vegetation can be found in the lakes – quite unusual for the region.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Ornithological values are high and mainly linked to areas holding water. The ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, crane *Grus grus* (both EU Birds directive species), bean goose *Anser fabalis* (nationally redlisted), yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* and golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (EU Birds directive species) should be mentioned.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The area is extensively used for fishing, hunting and picking of cloudberry.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) State-owned (through Swedish EPA).

(b) State-owned (through Forestry company Sveaskog).

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) Some fishing and hunting.

(b) Forestry and hunting.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) The mires have been subject to haymaking until the Second World War. Large parts of the forest are completely unexploited, but traces of old time forestry can still be seen in some areas, as well as signs of old time forest fires, formerly an important ecological factor. One lake within the site has been regulated, which has affected areas close to the shore.

(b) Forestry.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The site constitutes the north-western part of the Drevdagen Nature Reserve (protected since 1993, management plan exists). It is included in Natura 2000, the National Mire Protection Plan and classified as an Area of National Interest for Nature Conservation.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

No measures proposed apart from those emanating from the Natura 2000 designation

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Re-introduction of bean goose *Anser fabalis* has been carried out successfully.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

None known.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Current recreation and tourism are negligible, although the "Kungsleden" trail passes through the area.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

County Administrative Board of Dalarna

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

County Administrative Board of Dalarna

S-791 84 Falun

Sweden

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Sjörs, H. et. al. 1973. Skyddsvärda myrar i Kopparbergs län. Växtekologiska studier. Svenska Växtgeografiska Sällskapet. Uppsala.

Skyddsvärda fågelmyrar i Kopparbergs län. 1982. Länsstyrelsen i Kopparbergs län. N1982: 4.

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