

# 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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

## 2. Country:

Sweden

## 3. Name of wetland:

(Lake) Sulsjön - (River) Sulån

## 4. Geographical coordinates:

62°36'N, 016°50'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 235 - 285 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 350 ha

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

The site contains Sweden's probably foremost site for the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, as well as a number of notable or rare animal species.

## 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 · O · 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: O, M, U, Tp, Xp

## 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: 3

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 (permanent freshwater lake and permanent river) in the EU Boreal region.
  2. 1 nationally redlisted bird species, 1 nationally redlisted mammal species and 1 nationally redlisted mollusc
  3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are rare of the EU Boreal region
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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

It is situated some 30 km north-west of the town of Sundsvall, in the County of Västernorrland, north-eastern Sweden. Municipality: Sundsvall.

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**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 consists of a lake, part of a narrow, winding river (about 2 km in length) and surrounding mires including small waterbodies.

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

The area is largely unaffected by human activities, which contributes to the maintenance of water quality.

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

The diversity in nature types is high. Surrounding the southern (outlet) end of the lake is a mosaic-like area, with mires, small lakes and forested ridges. There are also some areas rich in large rocks and bare ground. Dams and other traces of beaver *Castor fiber* give a special touch to the shoreline forest.

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

The forests in the upper parts of River Sulån are about 100 years old. These forests have remained unaffected by 20<sup>th</sup> century forestry and are thought to be the result of natural development after small-scale logging following a forest fire about 100 years ago.

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

The site harbours several species included in the EU Habitats and Birds directives, respectively, as well as nationally red-listed species. Bird species that are regularly seen include the black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*, osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, black woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* and three-toed woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus* (nationally redlisted), all of them EU Birds directive species. Other notable bird species included in the EU Birds directive are the hazel-hen *Bonasia bonasia*, wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Tengmalm's owl *Aegolius funereus* and black grouse *Tetrao tetrix tetrix*. Mammals in the site include the beaver *Castor fiber* and lynx *Lynx lynx* (nationally redlisted). The bullhead *Cottus gobio* (EU Habitats directive species) occurs within the site, and there is also a natural population of trout *Salmo trutta* in the lake and the river. River Sulån is one of the most valuable sites in Sweden for the endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* (nationally redlisted, included in the EU Habitats directive). The population is very dense and large (about 220 000 clams in all) a large proportion being smaller than 50 mm, which indicates that the population is viable. The brook char *Salvelinus fontinalis*, found downstream from Lake Sulsjön, is probably a remainder of previous introductions.

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

Not known

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

(a) Protected land-area is government-owned and the lake, Sulsjön, is private and company owned.

(b) Owned mostly by private landowners and forestry companies.

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

(a) Nature reserve

(b) Forestry

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**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) Potential damaging factors are, clearly, any projects with an impact on the water quality or the river bottom. Potential factors are projects or activities resulting in direct or indirect impact on the river or surrounding forests and wetlands, e.g. introduction of non-natural fish species and acid rain.

(b) Human impact on the immediate surroundings is generally low, although there have been local long-term problems related to gravel extraction nearby the river, downstream the preserved area. As early as in the 1980's, attention was drawn to the fact that dirt linked to the extraction was washed into the river, and locally the riverbank was damaged. The problems have persisted into the 1990's, although measures have been taken to counteract the impact. Through these activities, potential habitats for char and pearl mussel may have been damaged.

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**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 is part of Övre Sulån Nature Reserve (323 ha), established in 1999. Management plan exists, but property formation is not yet completed.

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

The reserve is also a LIFE site and a Natura 2000 site: SE0710131 Övre Sulån (323 ha)

Prescribed burnings of some forest-stands on fire-prone grounds are being planned but are not yet implemented.

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

There are sites for regional monitoring of freshwater pearl-mussel within the reserve.

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

A display of outdoor information is planned.

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

The area has a certain scenic beauty. Trails and shelters are planned to support and canalise visitors. Since snow mobile traffic is common in this part of the country, a preliminary trail for snowmobiles has been marked across the reserve. The trail and its effects on vegetation, fauna etc will be evaluated.

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

County Administrative Board of Västernorrland

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

County Administrative Board of Västernorrland

S-871 86 Härnösand

Sweden

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Eriksson, M. O. G., Henriksson, L. och Söderberg, H. 1998. Flodpärlmusslan i Sverige. Naturvårdsverket Rapport 4887.

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