

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes 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. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

Henrik Sporrong
Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län,
S-901 86 Umeå, Sweden.
henrik.sporrong@lansstyrelsen.se

Jenny Lonnstad
Naturvårdsverket (Swedish EPA),
S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden.
jenny.lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

July 2013

3. Country:

Sweden

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Blaikfjället

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or

b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site:

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

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .
Included in the GIS file for all Swedish Ramsar sites version 2013.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary corresponds to the boundaries of the nature reserve Blaikfjället except in the most northern part that is within the Gitsfjället nature reserve which includes larger areas than what is part of the Ramsar site.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

64°35'N 16°07'E

9. General location:

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

Blaikfjället is situated in northern Sweden, in the western part of the county of Västerbotten (population 256 000), in the municipality of Vilhelmina (7 000), 20 km W of the town of Vilhelmina.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

490-810 meter above the sea level.

11. Area: (in hectares)

43 611 hectares.

12. General overview of the site:

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

Blaikfjället is a vast high plateau east of the Fennoscandian mountain range. The site covers a large area covered with large aapa mires and primeval spruce forest. The site is one of the largest unexploited mire complex areas in Scandinavia and is of significant importance for preserving intact biological diversity of north Scandinavian mire and taiga forest ecosystems, such as mire bird fauna, and fungi and insects depending on dead wood.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under 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). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 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).

Criterion 1: Blaikfjället is one of the largest areas with north Scandinavian pristine mire and forest ecosystems, almost completely untouched by human exploitation. It contains wetland types such as Non-forested peatlands (U), Forested peatlands (Xp), Freshwater tree-dominated forests (Xf) and Permanent rivers and streams (M) found in the EU boreal and alpine regions. The mires follow the land surface and covers large areas including slopes of a mountain in a way that is unique for the EU boreal region. Otherwise the vegetation and the wetland types are representative for the region. The mires in the area have good possibilities to continue function as a carbon sink and storage.

Criterion 2: The site supports species which are nationally red-listed, such as otter *Lutra lutra* (VU), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU), *Skeletocutis odora* (VU) and *Amylocystis lapponica* (VU).

Criterion 3: The site is of importance for maintaining the biological diversity of pristine mire and taiga ecosystems in the EU alpine and boreal regions. The bird life is rich in species for mires and forests in the boreal region, almost all northern boreal mire and forest species are present.

Criterion 4: The site is important for maintaining viable populations of plant and animal species representative of the alpine and boreal regions, for example large populations of wood-inhabiting fungi and insect species, as well as undisturbed areas for nesting and moulting bean goose *Anser fabalis* and other wetland birds.

15. 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:

About 80 % of the site is located in the boreal region and 20 % in the alpine region.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

European Environment Agency 2003. Europe's environment: the third assessment, p 231. Environmental assessment report No 10. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

16. 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.

Blaikfjället is a sub-mountainous high-level plateau situated slightly east of the Fennoscandian high alpine mountains. In the central parts the terrain consists of plateaus and undulating hills with long slopes in the outer parts in NE and SW direction. The underlying bedrock is mainly mountainous quartzite and shale. Several small streams are running through the conifer forest down the slopes. The climate is somewhat continental with cold winters and warm summers. Surrounding area is situated at significantly lower altitude (400 m above the sea level), with forested hills and several large mires.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The catchment area is undefined, because the site consists of a high plateau with the most of the surrounding landscape at significantly lower altitude. However, towards NW, the site borders the alpine mountain Gitsfjället.

18. Hydrological values:

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

Many natural small streams are flowing from the central parts of the area towards the outer edges of the Ramsar site, mainly in NE and SW directions.

There are not any investigations about in what way the river and the tributaries contribute to hydrological ecosystem services. The peatlands store and sequester carbon.

19. 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: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • 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, Xp, W, Xf

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The site contains a mosaic of habitats, mostly aapa mires and western taiga. The site contains the following habitats in the EU Habitats Directive: Aapa mires (7310), Western taiga (9010), Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub (4080), Bog woodland (91D0), Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with Picea abies (9050), Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds (3160), Alpine rivers and the herbaceous vegetation along their banks (3220), Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-siltladen soils (Molinion caeruleae) (6410), Alkaline fens (7230) and Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea (3130).

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, 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.*

Within the site most of the north Swedish mire vegetation types can be distinguished; from poor fens and bogs to rich alkaline fens and herb-rich swamp forest. The high altitude mires supports mainly boreal wetland species but with a characteristic alpine influence. Example of alpine plant species within Blaikfjället is *Carex bigelowii*, *Arctostaphylos alpinus* and *Bartsia alpina*. Interesting swamp forest plants within the site is *Ranunculus lapponicus* and *Calamagrostis chalybaea*.

Moreover, a large number of red-listed species connected with virgin forest, such as wood-living bryophytes, fungi and lichens have stable populations within the site, for example *Phellinus nigrolimitatus* (NT), *Amylocystis lapponica* (VU), *Skeletocutis odora* (VU), *Pseudographis pinicola* (NT), *Lobaria pulmonaria* (NT) and *Tholurna dissimilis* (NT).

22. 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.*

The site supports several animal species which are nationally red-listed, and/or included in the Annex I of the EU Bird Directive and Annex II of the Habitat Directive (marked with *), such as lynx *Lynx lynx* NT, wolverine *Gulo gulo* VU, Tengmalm's owl *Aegolius funereus**, pintail *Anas acuta* NT, bean goose *Anser fabalis* NT, black grouse *Tetrao tetrix tetrix**, capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus**, hazel hen *Bonasa bonasia**, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus** NT, three-toed woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus** NT, black woodpecker *Dryocopus martius**, smew *Mergus albellus*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus**, merlin *Falco columbarius**, red-throated diver *Gavia stellata** NT, crane *Grus grus**, red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus**, ruff *Philomachus pugnax** VU, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria**

wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola**, hawk owl *Surnia ulula**, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus** NT, and pygmy owl *Glaucidium passerinum**.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or 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 mires within the site have been used for hay-making during long period. Remains from the hay-making period are several paths and barns. The land has been used for reindeer farming for several hundreds of years.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is state-owned.

b) in the surrounding area:

Private and state-owned land.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Mature conservation, recreation, fishing, hunting and research.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The surrounding areas are mainly used for forestry or nature conservation.

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

Potential threats are being dealt with in the nature reserve regulations.

b) in the surrounding area:

None identified.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The site is of national importance for nature conservation. The entire site is included in the Natura 2000 network (SE0810054). The site is protected within two strict nature reserves - Blaikfjället and Gitsfjället.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia Ib II ; III ; IV V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

An official management plan is approved and implemented for the Natura 2000 site. There are also established management plans for the nature reserves.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

There management is based upon the nature reserve and its provisions and management plan. The nature reserve includes provisions against forestry, drainage, building, road constructions etc. And they are considered to be enough to protect the conservation values in the area. No other measures are done.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

The site has been proposed to become a National Park.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

Smaller research projects are conducted.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

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

The site can be reached by car from several locations. There are both summer and winter trails in the area, although it is a sparse trail system. General information and maps are available at the internet.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

There are a few visitors in the area, mainly in the winter time (snowscooter driving, hunting, fishing, that is light recreation and tourism).

32. Jurisdiction:

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

County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, S-901 86 Umeå

33. 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.

County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, S-901 86 Umeå, Sweden.

Tel. +46 90 10 70 00. E-mail: vasterbotten@lansstyrelsen.se (to the registry).

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Backman, J. 1976. Blaikfjällsområdet. En översiktlig naturinventering och områdesbeskrivning.

Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län. PM.

Gärdefors, U. (ed.) 2010. Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 - The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species.

Artdatabanken, SLU, Uppsala.

Kullman, L. 1980. Naturskogar inom Blaikfjällsområdet. Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län.

Meddelande 18:1980.

Lext, I & Tedeholm, A. 1985. Naturinventering Gitsfjället. Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län.

Meddelande 1: 1985.

Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län. 1993. Våtmarker i Västerbottens län. Meddelande 1:1993, Bilaga 1A.

Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län. 1995. Inventering av hotade arter i de fjällnära naturreservaten i

Västerbottens län. Länsstyrelsen i Västerbotten.

Länsstyrelsen i Västerbottens län. 2001. Riksintressen för naturvård Västerbottens län. Länsstyrelsen i Västerbotten, meddelande 4:2001.

Naturvårdsverket. 2007. Myrskyddsplan för Sverige – Delobjekt i Norrland. Naturvårdsverket rapport 5669. Stockholm.

Naturvårdsverket. 2008. Nationalparksplan för Sverige.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org