

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 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 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
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:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

3 November 2006

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.

Hjälstaviken

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:

11. Area: (in hectares)

770 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. The Hjälstaviken site is a shallow, almost completely enclosed freshwater embayment of the lake Mälaren. The bay is largely overgrown and comprises an extensive marshland. The wetland is surrounded by damp meadows and pasture, giving way to drier grassland and arable fields, with some patches of deciduous and coniferous woodland. About 100 bird species nest in the area out of which 40 are linked to wetlands.

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).

- 1) Hjälstaviken contains a representative example of natural wetland types in the boreal region, including the Natura 2000 wetland habitats *Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation* (3150) and *Molinia meadows on peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils* (6410).
- 2) The site supports several bird species which are nationally red-listed and/or included in Annex 1 of the EU Bird Directive, such as Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*), Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) and Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) Four bird species are also included in the international red list of threatened species, namely Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*), Corncrake (*Crex crex*) and White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). In addition, the site supports several nationally red-listed species of fungi, lichens and insects.
- 3) The site supports populations of especially bird species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region, primarily large numbers of ducks, geese and waders. Observations include Greylag goose (*Anser anser*) >10 000 individuals, Bean goose (*Anser fabalis*) >7 000, Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) 1 400, Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) >3 000.
- 4) The site is of crucial importance as a staging area for Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*). Also the large numbers of other geese species and cranes make this site a key area for wetland birds.
- 6) The site supports more than 1% of the subpopulation of Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), peak number 40-50 individuals

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:

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.*

The area supports a number of nationally red-listed species of fungi, namely

- Blekticka- *Pachykytospora tuberculosa* NT
- Brunskaftad blekspik- *Sclerophora farinacea* NT
- Gul dropplav - *Cliostomum corrugatum* NT
- Hjälmbrosklav - *Ramalina baltica* NT
- Jättekamskivling - *Amanita ceciliae* NT
- Lindskål - *Holwaya mucida* NT
- Oxtungsvamp - *Fistulina hepatica* NT
- Parknål - *Chaenotheca hispidula* VU
- Prakttagging- *Steccherinum robustius* VU
- Rodnande lutvaxskivling- *Hygrocybe integrata* VU
- Rynkmussling- *Lentinellus vulpinus* NT
- Rödbrun blekspik - *Sclerophora coniophaea* NT
- Rökfingersvamp- *Clavaria fumosa* NT
- Trådsvaxskivling- *Hygrocybe intermedia* VU

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 bird species which are nationally red-listed (marked with *EN/VU/NT*), included in the IUCN global red-list (marked with *IUCN*) and/or included in Annex 1 of the EU Bird Directive (marked with *), such as

- Eagle owl - *Bubo bubo* NT*
- Honey buzzard - *Pernis apivorus* VU*
- Marsh harrier - *Circus aeruginosus**
- Potchard - *Aythya ferina* VU
- Ruff - *Philomachus pugnax**
- Great snipe - *Gallinago media* NT, IUCN *
- Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus**
- Common tern - *Sterna hirundo**
- Lesser white-fronted goose - *Anser erythropus* CR, IUCN *
- Wood sandpiper - *Tringa glareola**
- White-tailed eagle - *Haliaeetus albicilla* VU IUCN *
- Corncrake - *Crex crex* EN, IUCN *
- Little ringed plover - *Charadrius dubius* NT
- Bittern - *Botaurus stellaris* VU*
- Smew - *Mergus albellus* NT*
- Showeler - *Anas clypeata* NT
- Stock dove - *Columba oenas* VU
- Caspian tern - *Sterna caspia* EN*
- Spotted crane - *Porzana porzana* VU*
- Gadwall - *Anas strepera* NT
- Curlew - *Numenius arquata* NT

Mainly private land.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Livestock grazing is common within the site and some nature conservation and research activities take place.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The surrounding areas are mainly used for agriculture.

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:

Encroachment by emergent vegetation has led to the loss of submerged vegetation and a decline in the numbers of water birds. As a result, the number of ducks using the site has declined in recent years.

b) in the surrounding area:

A potential problem comes from the use of fertilizers in surrounding farmland.

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 Hjälstaviken site is listed as being of national importance for nature conservation, and the whole site is included in a nature reserve:

- Hjälstaviken Nature Reserve – total area 821 ha, thereof 676 ha on land. The reserve was established in March 1948, and expanded in 1982. The reserve is in mixed ownership between the state and private owners. A management plan was officially approved in 1982 and later in 2001. The reserve is managed by the County Administration but has been managed by a private foundation, Skogssällskapet förvaltning AB, until 2004
- Bird protection area or at least is one of the limits in the nature reserve to prohibit people in the wetland area during nesting time (1/4-15/8). Public access is restricted to a trail around the lake, a bird watch tower and a boardwalk over the lake in the reeds in the southern part and the area outside the trail (i.e. away from the wetland area).

The whole site has been included in the Natura 2000 network:

- SE0210077 Hjälstaviken (808 ha) – SPA, SCI

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?:

A management plan was officially approved in 1982 and later in 2001.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Restoration measures (including local dredging, reed-cutting and rotary cultivation) have been carried out at the lake and in some of the adjacent meadows. 1995 a dam was built in order to