

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Tavvavuoma

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 68°30'N 20°45'E

General location: in the county of Norrbotten, 85 km north-north-east of the town of Kiruna, about 30 km east of the border of Norway and 40 km south of the border of Finland.

Area: 28,700 ha

Wetland type: M O V U W

Altitude: Minimum 541 m, maximum 900 m

Overview: The widespread site of Tavvavuoma has a mixture of wetlands and vegetation types. Connected to the northern mountains. The extensive formations of Palsa-mires are unique for the region. Despite the position the bird life is rich with a particularly high density of ducks and waders.

Physical features: The site consists of a mosaic of mires, watercourses, lakes and pools, lying in a depression in one of the northernmost plateau regions of Lapland. It forms part of the catchment area for the River Lainio, which is one of the two main tributaries of the River Tome. The presence of permafrost has influenced the vegetation, creating unusually extensive formations of Palsa mires which can reach a height of 6-7 m.

Ecological features: The woods consist mainly of thin and low-growing *Betula*.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) **site:** State owned.

b) **surrounding area:** State owned.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation. The site lacks protection by virtue of Nature Conservancy Act.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: The area is proposed as a national park.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) **site:** reindeer farming

b) **surroundings/catchment:** Tavvavuoma and the surrounding areas are parts of the rocket range of ESRO. Otherwise the principal activity in the region is reindeer farming.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) **at the site:** The area is very sensitive to terrain vehicles, especially when the ground lacks a covering layer of snow.

b) **in the surroundings/catchment:** no information supplied.

Hydrological and physical values: In contrast to many areas in the region, the hydrology of the area is still intact.

Social and cultural values: no information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: 70 pairs/km² of waders and ducks nest in the area, a remarkably high figure in this region.

Breeding: *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anas acuta*, *A. crecca*, *Clangula hyemalis*, *Mergus albellus*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Tringa glareola*, *T. erythropus*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, *Anthus cervinus*, *Calcarius lapponicus*, *Acanthis hornemanni*, *Anser erythropus*, *A. fabalis*, *Limicola falcinellus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Falco rusticolus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Numenius phaeopus*, *Limosa lapponica*, *Calidris temminckii*.

Visitors: *Podiceps auritus*, *Anser erythropus*, *A. fabalis*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Falco rusticolus*, *F. peregrinus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Limicola falcinellus*.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied.

Current scientific research and facilities: no information supplied.

Current conservation education: no information supplied.

Current recreation and tourism: The area is remote and is visited by few people.

Management authority: The site has no appointed manager.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Norrbotten.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA information. (English summary).
- Aridsson, B. (1979). Tavvavuoma. Forum, Stockholm (in Swedish).

Reasons for inclusion: 1d, 2b, 3b

Map of site: enclosed.