

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

Ann Wahlström, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel. +46 8 698 14 51, fax +46 8 698 10 42. E-mail: [ann.wahlstrom@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:ann.wahlstrom@naturvardsverket.se)

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

Lars-Åke Flodin, County Administration of Halland, S-301 86 Halmstad, Sweden

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

15 January 2009

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## 3. Country:

Sweden

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## 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.

Träslövsläge-Morups Tånge

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## 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

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## 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:**

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#### 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 .

**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 largely follows the physical boundary of the shore habitat, but also includes part of the sea.

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#### 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.

56°59'N 012°20'E

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#### 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.

The Träslövsläge-Morups Tånge site is situated on the southwest coast of Sweden, between the towns of Varberg and Falkenberg, about 80 km south of the city of Göteborg, in the county of Halland (population 291 393), municipalities of Varberg (pop. 56 114) and Falkenberg (pop. 39 145).

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

No elevation – the area is at sea level.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

1 990 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 site is comprised of a complex of shallow marine waters and adjacent low-lying wet meadows. Important habitats at the site include shallow bays, lagoons and islands of varying sizes, stretches of rocky shore, sand dunes, salt meadows and moors. The shore meadows are partly grazed and have high botanical values. The area is very important for breeding and staging birds, especially waders. The shallow waters within and outside the site are very productive in terms of fish and marine invertebrates.

**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. The flat sea shore meadows are rare and unique for the biogeographic region. They are of great ecological importance for staging and breeding waders, as well as for the flora. The area include the Natura 2000-habitats 1150 (Coastal lagoons), 1170 (Reefs), 1220 (Perennial vegetation of stony banks), 1310 (*Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand), 1330 (Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*)), 2110 (Embryonic shifting dunes), 4010 (Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*), 4030 (European dry heaths) and 5130 (*Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands).

2. Nationally red listed species include e.g. little tern (*Sterna albifrons*)\* (VU) and ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)\* (VU). Previously, the area has hosted kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)\* (RE) (1 pair bred in 1992) and southern dunlin (*Calidris alpina ssp. schinzii*)\* (EN) (bred until 1991).

\* = listed in the EU Birds directive, Annex I

3. The site supports a rich avian fauna, including species like arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)\*, avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*)\*, common tern (*Sterna hirundo*)\*, curlew (*Numenius arquata*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)\*, grasshopper warbler (*Locustella naevia*), red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*)\*, shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)\* and yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava*). It is very important to birds breeding on the shore meadows, as well as to staging waders and ducks.

\* = listed in the EU Birds directive, Annex I

**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:**

Continental

**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.

Undulating moraines and shifting sand form a coastline with shallow water. In some parts there are end moraines running out in the sea. There are also areas with shingles. In Morups Tånge there are low white sand dunes. The site has almost no tidal water fluctuations and a coastal climate. Most of the area is grazed by cattle.

**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 consists of a coastal plain, with farmland on sandy soils.

**18. Hydrological values:**

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

No particular values are known

**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.

A, D, E, G, 4

**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 shore meadow vegetation is dominated by red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and saltmarsh rush (*Juncus gerardii*). Close to the seawater you find patches of common saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). At the rivermouths you find freshwater vegetation with creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and slender spike-rush (*Eleocharis uniglumis*). Where the grazing

pressure is lower there is sea club-rush (*Scirpus maritimus*) and vegetation dominated by orache (*Atriplex*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium*).

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### 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.*

On the shore meadow you can find common sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), nationally protected and listed as near threatened (NT), as well as adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), seaside centaury (*Centaureum littorale*) and branching centaury (*C. pulchellum*).

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### 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.*

In addition to species mentioned above ([point 14](#)), sparrow hawk (*Accipiter nisus*) and merlin (*Falco columbarius*) can be seen regularly during migration. Strong western winds bring sea birds like pomarine skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) and Sooty shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) to the area.

Rare birds include king eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), pectoral sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*), dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) and little egret (*Egretta garzetta*).

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### 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 shallow water serves as a nursery for fish.

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:

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### 24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is mainly privately owned.

b) in the surrounding area:

The surrounding area is also mostly privately owned.

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The wetland is used mainly for livestock grazing, fishing and general recreation. The area is important for birdwatching, with many visitors from Sweden and other countries. Parts of the area are used for swimming and other recreational activities.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Adjacent areas are mainly used for agriculture.

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**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:

Recreational activities (e.g. camping and windsurfing) are believed to cause some local disturbance to waterbirds. Dredging and waste dumping may also create problems. Continued grazing by cattle on the shore meadows is essential in order to maintain meadow quality.

b) in the surrounding area:

Run-off water from cultivated areas contributes to the eutrophication of the sea water.

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**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 covered by the special provisions in the Swedish Environmental Code, (Chapter 4, section 2: Special provisions concerning land and water management in certain areas in Sweden), which states that "special consideration shall be given to the interests of tourism and outdoor recreation, in particular outdoor recreational exercise, in connection with assessments of the permissibility of development projects or other environmental intrusion".

The wetland is listed as being of national importance for nature conservation. State subsidies have been used to encourage continuation of traditional grazing regimes. The site includes nature reserves, all of which have approved management plans:

- Gamla Köpstad Södra Nature Reserve – total area 265 hectares, thereof 110 hectares on land. The reserve was established in 1972. The area is mainly privately owned, a smaller part is owned by the municipality of Varberg. A management plan was approved in 1977. The area is managed by the Regional Forestry Board in consultation with the landowners.
- Morups Tånge Nature Reserve – total area 210 hectares, thereof 90 hectares on land. Part of the area has been protected since 1946, but the reserve was expanded in 1969. It is privately owned. An officially approved management plan exists. The area is managed by the Regional Forestry Board in consultation with landowners and ornithological expertise.
- Digesgård Nature Reserve – total area 101 hectares, thereof 14 hectares on land. The area is protected since 1998 and is privately owned. The management plan was approved in 1998. The area is managed by the County Administrative Board of Halland.

Parts of the site have been included in the EU Natura 2000 network, with separate management plans:

- SE0510081 Morups Tånge (208 ha) – SPA, pSCI
- SE0510082 Gamla Köpstad (321 ha) – SPA, pSCI

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?:

Yes, see above (a).

d) Describe any other current management practices:

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

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

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

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

The breeding birds on the meadows are monitored every 5<sup>th</sup> year. At Morups Tånge, the vegetation is part of a sand dune vegetation surveillance performed by the County Administration of Halland.

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**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.

There are no special trails in the area. An information booklet describes the most important birdwatching areas and information signs are placed at Morups Tånge and Gamla Köpstad. In Galtabäck there is an observation tower from which there is a view over the Galtabäck bay.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

The site is used for bird watching, angling, camping and wind surfing.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

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

County Administration of Halland, Sweden. E-mail: lansstyrelsen@n.lst.se, phone: +46-35-13 20 00.

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**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 Administration of Halland, S-301 86 Halmstad, Sweden. E-mail: lansstyrelsen@n.lst.se, phone: +46-35-13 20 00.

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

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

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.

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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](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)