



7SE025

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: SWEDEN
2. Date: Dec. 1991 3. Ref: office use only 7SE025
4. Name and address of compiler: Tiina Laantee
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5. Name of wetland: LAKE ÖSTEN
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 12 June 1989
7. Geographical coordinates: 58° 35' N 13° 57' E ✓
8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) Between the Lakes Vänern and Vättern in the County of Skaraborg, about 20 km north of Skövde.
9. Area: (in hectares) 1,010 ha ✓
10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
(O), S
11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
Average of 66 m above sea level.
12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
Lake Östen is a shallow, eutrophic lake. It has its greatest importance as a resting place for birds, particularly in spring. Cygnus cygnus and Anser fabalis appear in numbers that are internationally significant.
13. 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 predominate soil types are fluvial deposits of clay and organogenic sediments (mud). Lake Östen has been lowered several times, most recently about 100 years ago, and is today slowly becoming overgrown. There are, however, great natural variations in the water level which means that the lake becomes free from ice early and that it is regularly flooding large tracts of adjacent land in the spring. These factors are of great importance for the birdlife.
14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
The lake has rich underwater vegetation and is surrounded by Phragmites and Scirpus, which are replaced by Carex or grass species. It also has a rich bottom fauna. Parts of the shore meadows are still grazed. Along the shores in the middle and southern end of the lake there are Salix thickets and Alnus.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site The area is primarily privately owned, with small parts owned by the state.

(b) surrounding area

16. 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)

Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation.

Part of Logården Nature Reserve (20ha), established 29 Jan 1979, is included.

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

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site Livestock grazing
Fishing
Nature conservation

(b) surroundings/catchment Agriculture and some forestry are the main activities.

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

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site As a nesting area Lake Östen has declined in recent years. The lake is in danger of becoming overgrown due to leakage of plant nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) from surrounding agriculture and communities. Large fish populations can mean increased competition for nesting ducks in their search for food.

Dredging at the outlet and inlet can also entail a threat to the lake's natural values, by affecting the natural water regime.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment Grazing in the area has declined and resulted in overgrowth, which especially influences the conditions for shore-birds negatively. Grazing therefore has to be intensified.

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Lake Östen is rather unique in the region in terms of having a natural water regime, which gives a large amplitude over the year.

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

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

Figures refer to 1988.

Resting: Both Cygnus cygnus and Anser fabalis appear in the area in numbers that are significant on an international scale; up to 4,500 birds in the spring and 10,000 birds during autumn. Other noteworthy birds include Philomachus pugnax (about 150), Crex crex, Anser albifrons (5-15), A. brachyrhynchus (5-15), Gallinago media, Anas crecca (500-1500 birds in spring), A. penelope (200-500 birds in spring). Other visitors include threatened species like Anser erythropus, Limosa lapponica, Chlidonias niger, Sterna caspia, Larus minutus and Haliaeetus albicilla. These species all appear in small numbers.

Nesting: Anas crecca, A. clypeata, Rallus aquaticus, Gallinago gallinago and Numenius arquata.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

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

Research on vegetation development in relation to water regime has been carried out.

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

There is an observation tower.

26. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

The manager of Logården Nature Reserve is the County Administration of Skaraborg.

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

Territorial and functional: County Administration of Skaraborg.

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Grimmett, R.F.A. and Jones, T.A. (1989). Important bird areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Srenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse. (1989). Swedish EPA Information. (English summary).
- County Administration of Skaraborg (1979): Management plan for Logården Nature Reserve.
- Vegetation maps (1974, 1988)

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

1b, 1d, 2a, 3b, 3c

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

enclosed

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