Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note 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. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.
DD MM YY
Designation date Site Reference Number

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

Timo Asanti & Pekka Rusanen, Finnish Environment Institute, Nature Division,
PO Box 140, FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland. Timo.Asanti@ymparisto.fi

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2005

3. Country:

Finland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Bird Wetlands of Vanajavesi Area

5. Map of site included:
Refer to Annex III of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.

a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List):

Yes.

b) digital (electronic) format (optional):

Yes.

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

61°13' N / 24°15' E

7. General location:
Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

The eight separate areas are situated in east-central part of the province of Western Finland and in northwestern part of the province of Southern Finland, in the municipalities of Valkeakoski city, Hattula, Hauho and Pälkäne, 8–23 km east–south of Valkeakoski city centre. The municipalities (1 250 sq.km of land) have ca. 37 900 residents.

8. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

95–79 m, mean 83 m.

9. Area: (in hectares)

702 ha

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

A representative wetland complex of lakes and bays with a valuable wetland bird fauna (breeding and migrating).

11. Ramsar Criteria:
Circle or underline 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).

1, 2 & 4

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. 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) A representative example of near-natural wetland types (shallow freshwater lakes and bays) in the EU Boreal region.

2) 2 nationally threatened bird species. About 10 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including several pairs of e.g. Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps*

auritus), Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) and Crane (*Grus grus*). (see section 20)

4 The lakes and bays are also important as staging areas for waterfowl during migration and molting periods. (see section 20)

13. 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:

Southern boreal forest vegetation zone.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmä. Puheenjohtaja: Ruuhijärvi, R., Sihteerit: Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. and Eisto, K. 2000. Metsien suojelun tarve Etelä-Suomessa ja Pohjanmaalla. Etelä-Suomen ja Pohjanmaan metsien suojelun tarve-työryhmän mietintö. Suomen ympäristö 437. 284 s. Ympäristöministeriö. Helsinki.

Working group on the need for forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. Chairman Ruuhijaervi, R., Secretaries Kuusinen, M., Raunio, A. And Eisto, K. 2000. Forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia. The Finnish Environment 437. 284; Ministery of the Environment.

14. 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.

Geology: Geochemically included in Volcanic sedimentary zone of SW Finland. Bedrock is composed of mica gneisses, mica schists, granodiorite, tonalite and quartz diorite.
Origins: Natural
Soil type: Mainly peat, silt and clay.
Water quality: General quality satisfactory in bays of Vanajavesi and in lakes Saarioisjärvi and Tykölänjärvi. Eutrophic.
Depth of water: Mostly ca. 1–2 m. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.
Climate: Duration of growing season ca. 165 days, mean annual temperature ca. +4 ºC, mean annual rainfall ca. 600 mm. Waters ice-covered normally from December to mid April. Southern boreal forest vegetation zone.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:
Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The climate and general geological features are much the same in the catchment areas as in the Ramsar sites. See partly chapter 14.

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

None significant.

17. 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: O, Ts & Tp

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.

O – Permanent freshwater lakes
Tp – Permanent freshwater marshes
Ts – Seasonally flooded meadows and sedge marshes

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

The site includes four lakes (Tykölänjärvi, Jokijärvi, Vähäjärvi, Saarioisjärvi) and four bays (Uskilanlahti, Vittiänlahti, Suolahti, Kriipi) in Lake Vanajavesi area. Each lake covers 37–173 ha and each bay 37–110 ha. The area includes ca. 550 ha of water. The vegetation zones of lakes are extensive. Saarioisjärvi is characterized by a vast reed zone with a small open-water area. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Bulrushes (*Typha latifolia* & *angustifolia*) dominate the vegetation, and submerged and floating-leaved vegetation is rich. Sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows are abundant in certain parts. River Oikolanjoki flows through the lake into Lake Vanajavesi. Tykölänjärvi and Vähäjärvi are characterized by extensive growths of Water Horsetail, and by wide sedge meadows at Tykölänjärvi. Open-water area covers over a half of Jokijärvi.

The bays of Suolahti, Uskilanlahti and Vittiänlahti are rather small and sheltered. The vegetation is rich with extensive growths of Common Reed, Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and Water Horsetail. Vittiänlahti is bordered by wide alluvial meadows, and common vascular plants include e.g. Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*).

19. Noteworthy flora:

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. ***Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present - these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.***

The aquatic vegetation of lakes Saarioisjärvi, Jokijärvi and Tykölänjärvi is valuable, including several rare species, such as Water-soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*) and Grass-wrack Pondweed (*Potamogeton compressus*).

20. 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.***

Threatened birds (VU in Finnish Red List) include Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*). Ca. 10 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including several pairs of e.g. Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*) and Crane (*Grus grus*). The breeding waterfowl includes ca. 500–700 pairs of 16 species. The lakes and bays are also important as staging areas for waterfowl during migration and molting periods.

21. Social and 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 site is a part of a nationally important landscape area. Significant values also include outdoor recreation and birdwatching.

22. Land tenure/ownership:
(a) within the Ramsar site:

Private-owned.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Private-owned.

23. Current land (including water) use:
(a) within the Ramsar site:

Hunting of waterfowl in autumn and fishing occur at some of the wetlands.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Agriculture and forestry are carried out in the surroundings.

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

Nutrients dissolving from nearby fields have caused eutrophication of the lakes. Lakes Jokijärvi and Saarioisjärvi are overgrowing, and water-level of Saarioisjärvi was lowered already in the early 19th century. Hunting of waterfowl in autumn and fishing in spring cause disturbance at least at Jokijärvi. American Mink (*Mustela vison*) and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) may cause damage to the breeding of birds.

25. Conservation measures taken:
List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

The areas are included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA, and Tykölänjärvi also as SCI. They are also included in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme. Private protected areas cover 305 ha (72 ha at Jokijärvi and 233 ha at Tykölänjärvi–Uskilanlahti).

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Conservation of the Natura 2000 sites will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act, Environmental Protection Act and Water Act.

27. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The breeding bird fauna was studied in the 1970s and in the early 1990s. The aquatic vegetation of Saarioisjärvi and Tykölänjärvi was studied already in the 1920s–1930s and surveyed in 1980 and 1990.

28. Current conservation education:
e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None significant.

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

A birdwatching tower has been constructed at lakes Tykölänjärvi and Vähäjärvi.

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

a) Häme Regional Environment Centre & Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre (Lake Tykölänjärvi), **b)** Ministry of the Environment.

31. 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.

Häme Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 131, FIN-13101 Hämeenlinna, Finland. Lake Tykölänjärvi: Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre, PO Box 297, FIN-33101 Tampere, Finland.

32. Bibliographical references:
scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Jalkanen, M. & Tornikoski, K. 1996. Pälkäneen linnusto 1859–1995. Pälkäne-seuran Luontojaosto. Vammalan kirjapaino Oy.

Kanerva, H. & Uotila, P. 1980. Tykölänjärvi. Tampereen seutukaavaliiton julkaisuja B 99.

Leivo, M., Asanti, T., Koskimies, P., Lammi, E., Lampolahti, J., Mikkola-Roos, M. & Virolainen, E. 2002. Suomen tärkeät lintualueet FINIBA. BirdLife Suomen julkaisuja 4, Suomen graafiset palvelut, Kuopio.

Rintamäki, P. 1992. Lintuvesien vesikasvillisuus ja pesimälinnusto 1990. Hämeen lääninhallituksen julkaisusarja 13.

Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 o Fax: +41 22 999 0169 o e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org