Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 27 April 2023
Update version, previously published on : 1 January 2005

Finland

Olvassuo Mires

Designation date	2 February 2004
Site number	1524
Coordinates	65°07'24"N 27°11'21"E
Area	27 073,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Olvassuo is one of the most representative mire areas in Finland as a breeding site of mire birds. Glaciofluvial formations are found crossing and bordering the site in many spots, and they harbour valuable groundwater basins which influence the surrounding mires widely. The site represents the mire vegetation region of southern aapa mires as a coherent and extensive area. Sedge fens with flarks and Sphagnum papillosum sedge fens are the most common mire types with nutrient levels varying from raised bogs to rich fens. Alluvial river shores are characterized by meadowy poor fens and spruce mires. Thirteen lakes with several ponds are situated beside the mires, and representative esker formations, wooded dunes and ancient shore banks give variety to the landscape. Most of the coniferous forests are old-growth and dominated by pine.

The flora hosts some strongly threatened vascular plants such as Early Marsh-orchid, Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid and Marsh Saxifrage. About 25 bird species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area. Restoration of the mire areas is consitently carried out under the EU Life funding by filling ditches and cutting trees. In the Strict Nature Reserve visiting is prohibited except for local residents and for purposes of scientific research and education. The site is very important for scientific research and education, being located close to the University of Oulu.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	1) Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland 2) Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Natural Environment Centre
Postal address	1) Akselinkatu 8, FI-57130 Savonlinna 1) tuula.kurikka@metsa.fi 2) PO Box 140, FI-00251 2) aili.jukarainen@ymparisto.fi

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland
Postal address	PO Box 94 FI-01301 Vantaa Finland

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2010
To year	2017

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Olvassuo Mires
Unofficial name (optional)	Olvassuo

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No

(Update) Optional text box to provide further information

Wetland types and species, and ecosystem services have been reassessed according to current knowledge, but there are no changes to the ecological character.

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The site follows the Natura 2000 boundaries Olvassuo (FI1103829)

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Northern Ostrobothnia and Kainuu
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Pudasjärvi / Puolanka / Utajärvi

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No ◉

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 27073

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 27072.58

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Boreal region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Middle boreal forest vegetation zone

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

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. Ympäristöministeriö. Helsinki.

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

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	Virgin aapa mires play an important role in maintenance of water quality and in flood control.
Other ecosystem services provided	As an active and mostly pristine peatland, the site is very valuable for carbon storage and flood control. The site also harbours biodiversity and serves as a source of inspiration and recreation.
Other reasons	A representative example of natural wetland types (dominated by peatlands) in the EU Boreal region, including three priority natural wetland habitat types of the Habitats Directive Annex I (aapa mires, bog woodland, active raised bogs).

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Carex heleonastes*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Dactylorhiza incarnata incarnata*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
BRYOPHYTA / BRYOPSIDA	*Hamatocaulis lapponicus*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - EN; Habitats Directive - Annex II	
BRYOPHYTA / BRYOPSIDA	*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU; Habitats Directive - Annex II	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Saxifraga hirculus*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	National Red List - VU; Habitats Directive - Annexes II, IV	
Fungi								
BASIDIOMYCOTA / AGARICOMYCETES	*Antrodia pulvinascens*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
BASIDIOMYCOTA / AGARICOMYCETES	*Gloeophyllum protractum*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
BASIDIOMYCOTA / AGARICOMYCETES	*Pilatoporus primaevus*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
BASIDIOMYCOTA / AGARICOMYCETES	*Skeletocutis stellae*	☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐	Habitats Directive - Annexes II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lynx lynx*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive - Annexes (II), IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Pteromys volans*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive - Annexes II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Ursus arctos*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☐	Habitats Directive - Annexes (II), IV	
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Actitis hypoleucos*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aegolius funereus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser fabalis*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	Migration
CHORDATA / AVES	*Buteo buteo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Buteo lagopus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus cyaneus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU, Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus cygnus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	Migration
CHORDATA / AVES	*Emberiza rustica*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gallinago gallinago*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Grus grus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	Migration
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limicola falcinellus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐		Breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Lyrurus tetrix*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Perisoreus infaustus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Pernis apivorus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN, Birds Directive - Annex I ´	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalaropus lobatus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU, Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Philomachus pugnax*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - CR	Migration
CHORDATA / AVES	*Picoides tridactylus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Pluvialis apricaria*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	Migration
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tetrao urogallus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa erythropus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Migration, breeding

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa glareola*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive - Annex I	Migration
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa nebularia*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Breeding

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
3210 Fennoscandian natural rivers	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
7110 Active raised bogs	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
7160 Fennoscandian springs and springfens	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
7230 Alkaline fens	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
7310 Aapa mires	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
91D0 Bog woodland	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I
91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsa (Alno-Padion, Alnoin inceanae, Salicion albae)	☑		Habitats Directive - Annex I

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The site represents the Mire vegetation region of Southern aapa mires. The area includes ca. 21 000 ha of mires and ca. 1 000 ha of water. The aapa mires are very extensive and well developed. Sedge (Carex spp.) fens with flarks and Sphagnum papillosum sedge fens are the most common mire types with nutrient levels varying from raised bogs to rich fens. The area is traversed by tributaries and brooks of River Kiiminkijoki. Alluvial river shores are characterized by meadowy poor fens and spruce (Picea abies) mires. Thirteen lakes with several ponds are situated beside the mires. Representative esker formations, wooded dunes and ancient shorebanks give variety to the landscape. Most of the coniferous forests are old-growth and dominated by pine (Pinus sylvestris).

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		4	65	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		4	180	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		3	271	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		0	1	Rare
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		1	19495	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands		0	1	Rare
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		2	3461	Representative
Fresh water > Flowing water >> Y: Permanent Freshwater springs; oases		3	300	Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Western taiga	3160
Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with Picea abies	10

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Castor fiber*				

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Neovison vison*	Actual (minor impacts)	unknown
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Nyctereutes procyonoides*	Actual (minor impacts)	unknown

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfc: Subarctic (Severe winter, no dry season, cool summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 115

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 210

Entire river basin ☐
Upper part of river basin ☑
Middle part of river basin ☐
Lower part of river basin ☐
More than one river basin ☐
Not in river basin ☐
Coastal ☐

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The site is located in the headwaters of the Kiiminkijoki River Basin.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Organic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Mainly peat and glacigenic ground moraine with smaller areas of hummocky moraine and glacifluvial, littoral and fluvial gravel and sand.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	☐	No change
Water inputs from groundwater	☐	No change
Water inputs from precipitation	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Feeds groundwater	No change
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

Aapa mires dependent on ground or surface waters.

Depth of water: Shallow. Water-level high in spring because of melting snow.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown ☑

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

No information available.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Mesotrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Oligotrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Dystrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Oligotrophic–mesotrophic. Lakes, ponds and mire waters dystrophic.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☑

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☑

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	High
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Low
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Low
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Low

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	High
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Significant values include scientific research and reindeer husbandry. The site includes a locally important traditional rural biotope (2 ha) "Traditional rural biotope" is a synonym for a group of biotopes as semi-natural grassland, wooded pastures and grazed forests. They are the most important areas for biodiversity in the agricultural landscape and also unreplaceable for the cultural heritage. They are classified as nationally, provincially or locally valuable. Most of these areas are very small. Most valuable areas are threatened because of e.g. overgrowing and enrichment caused by fertilization.

Within the site: 100s

Outside the site: 100s

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) 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 ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

(a) within the Ramsar site:
State-owned for the major part (94 %).

(b) in the surrounding area:
Private-owned and state-owned.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife Finland

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Mr. Ari Rajasärkkä, conservation biologist

Postal address: P.o. Box 81, 90101 Oulu

E-mail address: ari.rajasarkka@metsa.fi

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	decrease	☑	decrease

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	unknown impact	High impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	Low impact	Low impact	☑	decrease	☐	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Logging and wood harvesting	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	unknown impact	unknown impact	☑	unknown	☐	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Drainage ditching has been carried out in some areas. Hunting may have negative effects on the site.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Kiiminkijoki SAC	http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=FI11012 02	partly
EU Natura 2000	Olvassuo SAC/SPA	http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=FI11038 29	partly

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Esker Conservation Programme	Kälväsvaara HSO110132, Iso Palovaara HSO110133		partly
Mire Conservation Programme	Olvassuon-Oravisuon-Näätäsuon alue SSO110426, Leväsuon aarnialue SSO110449		partly
Mire Protection Area	Oravisuon-Näätäsuon-Sammakkosuon SSA110082, Leväsuon-Kärppäsuon SSA110100		partly
Strict Nature Reserve	Olvassuon luonnonpuisto LPU110009		partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Olvassuo-Oravisuo-Näätäsuo-Sammakkosuo	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/olvassuo-oravisuo-n%C3%A4%C3%A4t%C3%A4suo-sammakkosu o-iba-finland	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☑
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☐
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Partially implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Research	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other:

The site is included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCI. A major part of the site is included in the Finnish Mire Conservation Programme and the hills of Kälväsvaara and Iso Palovaara are included in the Finnish Esker Conservation Programme. Olvassuo Strict Nature Reserve (6 009 ha) was established in 1982. Oravisuo–Näätäsuo–Sammakkosuo Mire Protection Area (6 419 ha) was established in 1982 and Leväsuo–Kärppäsuo Mire Protection Area (2 229 ha) in 1988. The protected areas comprise 14 266 ha.

Restoration of mires has been carried out under three EU Life projects between 1996–2005 and is currently being done in Hydrology LIFE (2017-2023) by filling up ditches and cutting trees. In the Strict Nature Reserve visiting is prohibited all-year, except for local residents when concerning reindeer farming and picking of mushrooms and berries. Special permits to visit the Reserve are given in purposes of scientific research and education. Forestry, ditching, extraction of earth material and damaging of soil or bedrock are prohibited in the Mire Protection Areas. Also construction of new buildings and roads is prohibited in general.

Conservation of the Natura 2000 site outside the already protected areas will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act, Forest Act and Land Extraction Act.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

There are two nature trails, two lean-to shelters, two birdwatching towers and one open wildernes hut at Olvassuo.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

Further information

Lehtelä, M. & Turunen, T. 2005: Olvassuon palojatkumosuunnitelma. -Metsähallitus, Pohjanmaan luontopalvelut, 18 s.

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Plant species	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

The breeding bird fauna was studied in 1985–87 and 1992–94. The volume of bird populations was estimated in 1993–94, 2003-04 and 2014 by using line transect censuses. The vegetation was surveyed in 1996 and 2003. Also lichens, wood decaying fungi and beetles were surveyed in 2003. The impact of restoration measures is monitored.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Ala-Risku, R. 2003: Olvassuon kasvillisuusselvitys. -Metsähallitus, 20 s.

Heikkilä, H. & Lindholm, T. 1997. Soiden ennallistamistutkimus vuosina 1987–96. Metsähallituksen luonnonsuojelujulkaisuja A 81.

Lehtelä, M. 2003: Piltuanjoen niityn kunnostussuunnitelma. -Metsähallitus, 4 s.

Leivo, M. 2000. Suomen kansainvälisesti tärkeät lintualueet. Linnut-vuosikirja 1999. (English summary: Important Bird Areas in Finland).

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.

Metsähallituksen selvitys Olvassuon kansallispuiston perustamisedellytyksistä, 27 s. Diaarinro MH 949/2013/06.02.05.

Palojärvi, E. 1996. Olvassuon luonnonpuisto – kasvisto ja kasvillisuus. Manuscript. Metsähallitus.

Pesonen, M. 2003: Litokairan ja Olvassuon Natura-alueiden epifyyttijäkäläselvitys. -Metsähallitus, 6 s.

Rassi, P. 2003: Yhteenveto Litokaira ja Olvassuon metsäpaloennallistamisalueiden kovakuoriaispyynnistä vuonna 2003. 5 s.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<1 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

A spring in the Olvassuo mires. (*Sakari Rehell, 17-10-2011*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation	2004-02-02