



7 NO 012

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: NORWAY 2. Date: 24/6-92 3. Ref: office use only NO 012
4. Name and address of compiler: * STEINAR ELDSY
Directorate for Nature Management
Tungskletta 2, N-7005 Trondheim
Norway
5. Name of wetland: KONGSFJORDEN Bird Sanctuary
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 24 July 1985
7. Geographical coordinates: 78°55'N, 12°10'E
8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)
Situated on the north-western part of Spitsbergen, near Ny-Ålesund
9. Area: (in hectares)
140 ha
10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
(V)A
11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
The site consists of about 10 islands of various size. Most of the islands have rich, grassy vegetation, except two islands which until recently were covered by ice. Small freshwater ponds are found on some islands. The site has a high breeding population of Common Eider.
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)
14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
Well developed Arctic vegetation on several of the islands. Small freshwater ponds.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site *State owned*

(b) surrounding area *State owned*

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)

Established as a bird sanctuary in June 1973 (1.6.73)

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

None

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site *None*

(b) surroundings/catchment *Some human traffic and increased tourism on the sea surrounding the sanctuary*

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
None

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

Human activity and increased tourism have resulted in reduced breeding population of the Common Eider

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

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.)

The area has a very dense breeding population of Somateria mollissima (3000-4000 pairs), and large numbers rest in the area before the breeding season. Other breeding species are Anser brachyrhynchos, Phalaropus fulicarius, Stercorarius parasiticus, Sterna paradisica and others.

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.)

Extensive zoological research has been carried out in the sanctuary. Modern facilities are available in nearby Ny-Ålesund

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

None

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

None (except in surrounding areas)

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

Sysselmannen på Svalbard (The Governor of Svalbard)
N-9170 Longyearbyen
SVALBARD, NORWAY

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

29. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

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

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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)
