

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 23 June 2023 Update version, previously published on : 7 November 2017

Norway Møsvasstangen



Designation date 18 March 1996

Site number 803

Coordinates 59°48'57"N 08°10'55"E

Area 1 440,90 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

Møsvasstangen is dominated by large areas of different types of mires that express a continuous change between water, bogs, and dry parts with mountainous birch forest. In the central part of the area there is a small water course with Kulingstjern as the largest lake. The northeastern part of the area constitutes a coherent mire stretch of 8 km. Erosion processes have a negative impact for some of the vegetation. There are not recorded any rare or vulnerable plant species in this area.

The location's value as breeding locality for some water-related species (loons, ducks and waders) appears small, however, the area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species with special biotopic demands. The area has some value as a staging area during migrations, but is primarily valuable as a highland breeding area. The site is not an important wintering ground, resulting from continuous snow- and ice cover during this time of year. Møsvasstangen is not known as a moulting area for other species than those breeding here.

A total of 117 bird species are registered in Møsvasstangen, 42 of these registered as breeding within the site and 23 possible breeding species. Red listed species breeding here include velvet scoter (NRL: VU), lapland longspur (NRL: EN) and Northern lapwing (NRL: CR). In sheltered coves and rivers with more extensive vegetation cover one can find some water-related species, such as Eurasian teal, common ringed plover and Northern lapwing. The location is also of importance as feeding grounds for black-throated loon, common merganser and red-breasted merganser. Some fish eating birds and waders also utilize Møsvatn, found just outside of the Ramsar-site.

The whole area constitute living area for reindeer. The regulation of Møsvatn does not appear to have affected the reindeer migration patterns in this particular area.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1	 Name 	and	address	of the	compiler	of this	RIS
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Responsible compiler

Institution/agency
Norwegian Environment Agency
Postal address
Post box 5672 Torgarden, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Postboks 5672 Sluppen
Trondheim
Norway

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

From year 1976

To year 2021

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Møsvasstangen

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 O 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?

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 boundaries are the same as for the Møsvasstangen Landscape Protection Area.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

Telemark County

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

Rjukan, population. est. 3 000 (2021)

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes $\mbox{O}\mbox{ No}\mbox{ }\mbox{\Large @}$

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 1440.9

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

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	2. Alpine
Other scheme (provide name below)	Northern boreal zone (NbOC – transitional section)

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1. Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss). 2. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

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

A large unspoilt area with a wide variety of mires. Unusually fine formations of string mires, the largest mire system in the county.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further The area host a few species that are rare/threatened, such as the ruff (NRL: VU), the Northern lapwing information (NRL: CR) and the Lapland longspur (NRL: EN).

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species

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

Optional text box to provide further The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total information of 117 species have been recorded at this location. Some species are also rare/threatened.

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

There is not recorded any rare or vulnerable species in this area.	

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies un criterior 2 4 6	der cont under	ecies tributes criterio	on Size	Period of pop. Est.	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds											
CHORDATA /	Actitis hypoleucos						LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA /	Anas crecca						LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Aythya fuligula						LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA /	Calcarius Iapponicus						LC			National Red List: Considered as EN	Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species Species	es Pop. Size Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1) IUCI Red List	Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / AVES	Calidris alpina			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Charadrius hiaticula			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA /	Gallinago gallinago			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA /	Gavia arctica			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Grus grus			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Larus canus			LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Melanitta fusca			VU			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Mergus merganser			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Mergus serrator			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Numenius phaeopus			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Phalaropus lobatus			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Philomachus pugnax	ØØ0000		LC			National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Tringa glareola			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA /	Tringa totanus			LC				Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Vanellus vanellus			NT			National Red List: Considered as CR	Criterion 4: The area constitutes the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine bird species and a total of 117 species have been recorded, e.g. this species.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2021.

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

<no data available>

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The sloping face of the area has created one of the largest string-mire areas in southern Norway. These large unspoilt mixed string mires are a rare sight in the southern provinces. Different types of mires exist with a gradient from extremely poor to extremely rich. The area is covered with approx. 50% mires, 30% alpine meadow and 20% forest. Møsvasstangen is of special interest as a breeding site for water birds.

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		
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		3		
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Nonforested peatlands		1		Rare
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic or peat soils >> Va: Montane wetlands		2		Rare

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Betula pubescens pumila	Downy Birch forms the dominating tree cover.
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Carex rostrata	Floristically the lakes are dominated by stands of Bottle Sedge.
TRACHEOPHYTA/EQUISETOPSIDA	Equisetum fluviatile	Floristically the lakes are dominated by stands of Water Horsetail.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Kalmia procumbens	On drier parts snow-bed flora dominate with Trailing Azalea.
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Nardus stricta	On drier parts snow-bed flora dominate with Mat-grass.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Vaccinium myrtillus	On drier parts snow-bed flora dominate with Bilberry.

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/AVES	Cuculus canorus				National Red List: Considered as NT
CHORDATA/AVES	Lagopus lagopus				National Red List: Considered as LC
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Rangifer tarandus				The area is known as an important area for Reindeers Rangifer tarandus in the calving period.

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)

The climate is intermediary of an inland climate with relatively warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is relatively sparse with around 700 mm annually.

,				
4.4.2 - Geomorphic set	ting			
T.T.Z - Geomorphic Set	ung			
a) Minimum elevation ab	pove sea level (in metres)			
a) Maximum elevation ab	pove sea level (in metres)			
	,	tire river basin \square		
	Upper par	t of river basin		
	Middle par	t of river basin 🗹		
	Lower par	t of river basin \square		
	More than o	one river basin		
	No	t in river basin \square		
		Coastal		
4.4.3 - Soil				
		Organic 🗹		
	(Update) Changes		Increase O Decrease O Uni	known O
		le information	moroase o Decrease o Olli	uiomi o
Are soil types subject to	change as a result of changing			
condition	ons (e.g., increased salinity or	acidification)?		
Please provide further inform	nation on the soil (optional)			
The area is dominated	d by extensive bogs and	mires with several sm	ıll lakes. Large quaterna	ry deposits create
4.4.4 - Water regime				
Water permanence Presence?	Changes at RIS update			
Usually permanent water present				
Source of water that maintain	e character of the cito			
Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update		
Water inputs from surface water		No change		
	ı			
Water destination	Changes at DIS undets			
Presence? To downstream catchment	Changes at RIS update No change			
downoubdin batchinent	110 Ghango			
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 de	terminants (if relevant). Use	his box to explain sites with co	mplex hydrology:
Clear water (< 30 mg			·	
, ,	. 5 ,			
4.4.5 - Sediment regim	е			
	Sedimentreg	jime unknown 🗹		
(ECD) Water tu	rbidity and colour Clear wa	iter (STS < 10 ma/L (ir	organic fraction constitut	te at least 80%))
vvaior tu	Oldar Wa	(010 · 10 mg/L (II	gariio iradiidir doribiilat	- at 1040t 00 /0jj
4.4.6 Water 54				
4.4.6 - Water pH				

Unknown 🗹

4.4.7 - Water salinity

RIS for Site no. 803, Møsvasstangen, Norway					
	Fresh (<0.5 g/l)				
	^(Update) Changes at RIS update No change				
	Unknown				
	4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water				
	Unknown ♥				

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 i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different OSurrounding area has greater urbanisation or development \Box Surrounding area has higher human population density lacktriangledownSurrounding area has more intensive agricultural use Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types $\ \square$

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance	
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium	

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	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

More than 100 sites for iron production from the period from the Viking age to the Middle age is discovered in the area. On these sites there are also remains from the houses that were used in this period, and remains of this type are nationally rare.

Fishing and grazing.

The area is used by residents and some tourists for fishing and bird watching.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of Yes O No O Unknown

O ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?

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

	owners	

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):

Within the Ramsar site: Private. In the surrounding area: Private.

5.1.2 - Management authority

agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Please list the local office / offices of any County Governor of Vestfold and Telemark

Statsforvalteren i Vestfold og Telemark

Postal address: Pb 2076

N-3103 Tønsberg

E-mail address: sfvtpost@statsforvalteren.no

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	2	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	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	No change	✓	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	✓	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	/	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	Low impact	Low impact		No change	/	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

In the surrounding area:

The nearby Lake Møsvatn is heavily regulated for hydropower, but this does not affect the nature protection area other than scenically with naked shores which can be seen from the reserve during parts of the year.

Relatively large impact from tourism and recreational activities in Hardangervidda, especially fishing and hunting. Yarn fishing in Hardangervidda most likely constitute a high impact on diving bird species. Hardangervidda is also extensively used as grazing area for sheep.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Species management area	Møsvasstangen		whole
landscape protection area	Møsvasstangen		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected	areas categories	(2008)
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	la Strict Nature Reserve
	lb Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
	Il 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

Legal protection		
Measures	Status	
Legal protection	Implemented	

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other:

The area was given by a Royal Decree status as a Landscape Protection Area. All kind of exploitation in the conservation area is regulated by an official set of regulations specific for the area. Visiting of the area is prohibited in the period 15th May to 15th July. Organized tourism, camping, photographing, etc. is restricted in the period 1th April to 30th September.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning Yes O No

processes with another Contracting Party?

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

Information posters have been established.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

<no data available>

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Biogeographic regionalisation scheme:

Moen, A. 1998. Nasjonalatlas for Norge; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss

Others:

Numerous reports (in Norwegian) and studies have been published on the natural and cultural history of the area, including quaternary studies, vegetation ecology, birdlife, archaeology and landscape studies, only a few are mentioned here:

Alvseike, T. 1984. Møsvannstangen. Vurdering av behovet for fuglelivsfredning. 24 s.

Fylkesmannen i Telemark, Miljøvernavdelingen 1986. Forslag om vern av Møsvasstangen. Notat. 9 s.

Jansen, I. J. 1987. Kvartærgeologiske verneverdige områder i Telemark. Telemark - Kvartærgeologi II. Institutt for naturanalyse 1987.

Moen, A. 1978. Registrering av verneverdige myrer i Telemark. Rapport til MD. Universitetet i Trondheim, Det Kgl. Norske Vitenskabers Selskab, Muséet.

Rask Arnesen, M. 1981. Møsvannstangen rapport 1981. Oppdrag fra naturvernkonsulenten i Telemark. 74 s. Solvang, R. 1997. Ornitologiske registreringer i vernede våtmarksområder i Telemark 1997.

Møsvasstangen, Vinje. Fylkesmannen i Telemark, miljøvernavd. Rapport 05/97. 16pp.

Telemark fylkeskommune. 1976. Verneplan for våtmarksområder i Telemark. Førebels oversikt 1976: 34-36.

Tvemyr, S. 1979. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Telemark fylke. Fylkesmannen i Telemark. 70 s.

Kommunestyremøte, TINN KOMMUNE. 2015

Henriksen, S., Hilmo, O., 2015. Norsk rødliste for arter 2015 (red). Artsdatabanken, Norge - 2015 Norwegian Red List. Artsdatabanken, Norway

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Aerial view of Møsvasstangen (Norwegian Environment Agency, 12-10-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) unloaded>

Date of Designation 1996-03-18