Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
April 2002

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DD MM YY

Designation date

Site Reference Number

2. Country:
Sweden

3. Name of wetland:
Komosse

4. Geographical coordinates:
57º41'N, 013º42'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 320 - 350 m **6. Area:** (in hectares) 4 070 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
Komosse is probably one of the most valuable peat bog complexes in north-western Europe. It is large, diverse and little exploited. It has representative flora, fauna and wetland types.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: **A · B · C · D · E · F · G · H · I · J · K**

inland: **L · M · N · O · P · Q · R · Sp · Ss · Tp · Ts · U · Va · Vt · W · Xf · Xp · Y · Zg · Zk**

man-made: **1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9**

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: U, Xp, O

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* ☒ -or- *no* ☐
(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:
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***Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages* (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):**

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A representative example of a natural wetland type (non-forested peatland) in the EU Boreal region
2. >5 redlisted bird species
3. Support particular elements of biological diversity that are particularly characteristic of the EU Boreal region

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site consists of a mire complex situated 21 km south-east of the town of Ulricehamn, in the Counties of Jönköping and Västra Götaland, south central Sweden. Municipalities: Jönköping, Tranemo, Ulricehamn.

14. 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)

Komosse is a diverse and highly valued peat bog complex, one of the largest in southern Sweden. Wide soaks are common, and the large pool system in the site is unusual for this part of the country. Komosse is situated in an area where precipitation is high and the ground is flat and it serves as a natural water reservoir. The origin of this particular wetland was a series of lakes in a hilly landscape. The peat bog is thought to have been completely developed around 4000 B.C. There are several traces from the latest Ice Age ice cover. The large quagmire areas were previously managed by hand and by grazing.

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

By large unaffected by human activities which contributes to the maintenance of water quality.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The wetlands in the site are representative and well developed. Most of the entire region's wetland types can be found within the site, although there are no rich fens. Sloping eccentric and concentric peat bogs dominate the site. There is also a mosaic of wet forest, wet meadows and different kinds of fens. The wet forests are both coniferous and deciduous.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

The flora is representative for the area and for the nature types. Because of the diversity of the site, the flora is also varied. One of the species found within the site is the fairly rare bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*.

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

Birdlife is rich with a typical mire bird fauna. Among the nesting species several are included in the national redlist, like the curlew *Numenius arquata*, red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* (EU Birds directive species), yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (EU Birds directive species). Also some other Birds directive species are nesting in the site, such as the golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (around 80 pairs), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and crane *Grus grus* (a few pairs are breeding, hundreds are migrating through the site). Some of the birds nesting in the site are more common in the northern parts of Sweden. The capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (EU Birds directive species), osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (EU Birds directive species), kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, black-throated diver *Gavia arctica* (EU Birds directive species) and heron *Ardea cinerea* are also seen from time to time.

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

None known.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) Protected areas are owned, by the state and by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. Unprotected areas are mainly owned privately.

(b) Mainly owned privately.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) None.

(b) Forestry and agriculture.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) The site is rather unexploited and the degree of human impact is very low. Traces from previous peat digging can be found in a few places. One potential factor is drainage.

(b) The surroundings contain a large amount of ditches, and have a higher degree of human impact than the site itself. Drainage close to the mire may also affect the condition within the mire.

23. 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)

There is one nature reserve within the site:

Komosse Nature Reserve - 2 842 ha. Protected since 1984 and owned privately and by the state. Management plan exists.

The area is included in the National Mire Protection Plan and classified as nationally important for nature conservation.

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

Part of the site is proposed to the European network Natura 2000 as both SPA and SCI-area:

SE0530008 Komosse västra (2 842 ha)

SE0310072 Komosse (1 300 ha)

SE 0310102 Komosse östra (1 101 ha)

There are plans to expand the existing nature reserve with nearly 400 ha.

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

Komosse is very valuable as a research area for both national and international mire researchers (hydrological and botanical). It is one of the most investigated peat bogs in Sweden, and was part of the IHD (International Hydrological Decade) project in 1969-1978.

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

There is a hiking trail through the site and also an outdoor information display. In addition to a nature reserve pamphlet, a visitor guide to the area has been published.

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

The area is popular and frequently visited.

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

County Administrative Boards of Jönköping and Västra Götaland

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

County Administrative Board of Jönköping

S-551 85 Jönköping
Sweden

County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland
S-403 40 Göteborg
Sweden

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Andersson, L. 1976. Komosse norra delen, Jönköpings kommun. Översiktlig naturinventering. Länsstyrelsen i Jönköpings län, naturvårdsenheten.

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Länsstyrelsen i Jönköpings län. 1996. Våtmarker i Jönköpings kommun. Meddelande 18/96.

Malmer, N. 1965. The Southern Mires. Plant Cover of Sweden, Acta Phytogeographica Suecica 50, Uppsala, s. 149 – 158.

Naturvårdsverket. 1983. Våtmarksinventering i sydvästra Sverige. Katalog över samtliga objekt, norra delen. Rapport 1681.

Naturvårdsverket. 1994. Myrskyddsplan för Sverige.

Osvald, H. 1923. Die Vegetation des Hochmoores Komosse. Svenska Växtsociologiska Sällskapets Handl. i Uppsala. 436 s.

Wallentinus, H.-G. et al. 1980. Vegetationskartering av Komosse. Inst. kulturteknik, sekt. lantmäteri, KTH, rapp. Ser. A 3:35. Stockholm. 118 s.

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