



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**  
**LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

*8th Session – 2022-2023*

**APPLICATION FORM**

## **Presentation**

*The Council of Europe Landscape Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of landscape: natural, rural, urban and peri-urban. It represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives. By taking into account the value of landscapes, with their natural and human components, the Council of Europe acknowledges that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas.*

*Article 11 of the Convention establishes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Resolution [CM/Res\(2008\)3](#) on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Award and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development.*

*Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.*

*At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.*

***Each State Party to the Convention is thus invited to send by post to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe (Council of Europe Landscape Convention), before 31 January 2023, via its Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe, a completed application form in paper format, together with a digital copy on a USB key of the form and additional material.***

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*Please note that:*

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution [CM/Res\(2008\)3](#), Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*
- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;*
- files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.*

*For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website:*

[Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur le paysage / Site web officiel \(coe.int\)](#)

[Council of Europe Landscape Convention / Official website \(coe.int\)](#)

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## I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

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## II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJCT

### 3. Name of the Project

Orland – FindingHome  
The Rusaset Project and the Austrått landscape

### 4. Location of the Project

Ørland, Trøndelag region, NORWAY

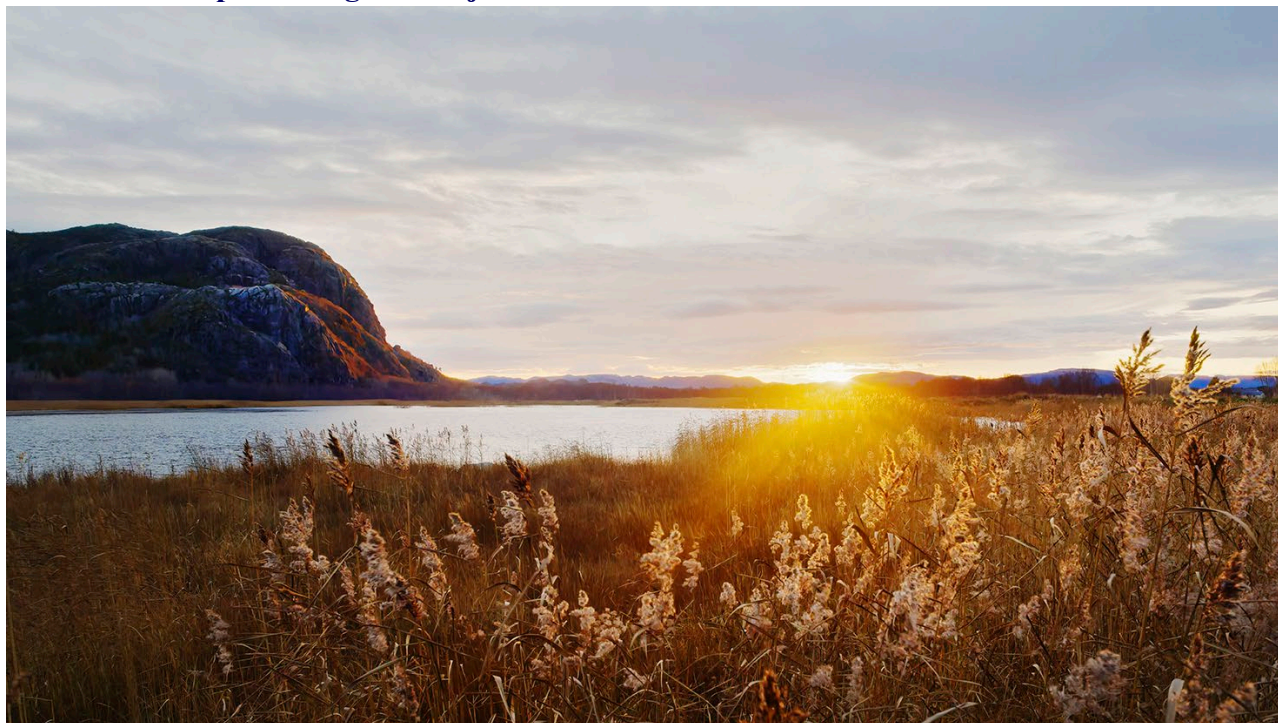
### 5. Summary of the Project

The project, which involved the rehabilitation of Rusasetvatnet lake on a site covering 24 ha. and the creation of both a habitat for birds and wildlife and an outdoor recreation area, was carried out in the period 2014–2017.

The project has resulted in several follow-up projects throughout the area referred to as the Austrått landscape, including the construction of hiking trails linking all nearby communities with the lake, along with the rehabilitation of marshes.

The project, which has opened up the landscape and made it accessible to the general public, has been carried out in close consultation with those who live in and use the area, in particular landowners.

### 6. Photo representing the Project



«Early morning by the lake»

Photo: Morten Warholm Haugen/BERRE

### 7. Website of the Project

There is no dedicated project website, but the Ørland Wetland Visitor Centre provides information about this and other projects: <https://vatmarkorland.no/> (Norwegian only)

### III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

8. **Start of the Project** month:  year:

9. **Partners**

10. **Financing bodies**

#### 11. Central aims of the Project

The key aims of the project were: 1) Rehabilitation of the Rusasetvatnet lake to improve the hydrotechnical conditions in the area 2) Nurturing and further development of the area's biodiversity 3) Development of the lake and surrounding land into an attractive outdoor recreation area 4) Imaginative dissemination of the area's natural and cultural history 5) Safeguarding of hunting interests in the area. All these aims have been achieved.

#### 12. Outcome

The project has resulted in the rehabilitation of a landscape for the future. A zoning plan has been prepared for the area and agreements have been entered into with landowners in order to secure public rights to use the area. The hiking trails that have been constructed are nationally protected outdoor recreation areas.

Rusasetvatnet has been part of Austrått's selected cultural agricultural landscape since 2019. It is part of the Ørland wetland system and is particularly important as it is the only fresh water in this area. The Ørland wetland system is an IPA (Important Plant Area), which is of importance for bird life and biodiversity. Extensive voluntary work has been performed and there has been a strong political will to provide significant funding for the project.

The outcome is a restored cultural landscape that is of major importance to many as a recreational area – in particular children and young people who use the area for nature-based play and outdoor education. Constructing hiking trails that bind the landscape together has given the general public access to previously inaccessible spaces. The landscape has been opened up, and extensive communication measures have been arranged to make the landscape's natural and cultural history more accessible to visitors.

## IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

### 13. Sustainable territorial development

All the landscape measures have contributed to an improvement in biodiversity in the Austrått landscape. The landscape now has now been designated an SCL (Selected Cultural Landscape), which forms the basis for the area management plan. This means that the local residents protect its biodiversity and cultural history, and farm the land, through both traditional and contemporary patterns of use. Support from the authorities will help ensure that these values are preserved for future generations.

The establishment of hiking trails in the area has opened up new recreational areas for the general public, which have proved popular with all age groups. This is of major importance from a public health perspective. The establishment of the new national combat aircraft base at the Ørland main air base exposed large areas of the municipality to high noise levels, which in turn created a need for new recreational areas. The measures carried out at Rusaset and in the Austrått landscape essentially addressed this challenge by facilitating the sustainable use of a landscape that was previously largely inaccessible to the general public.

### 14. Exemplary value

In a Norwegian context, this is a very large nature rehabilitation project, and many of those involved in the project have been invited to share their experiences with audiences across Norway. Ørland Municipality played an active role in the implementation of the Rusaset project in the period 2014–2017 and has been heavily involved in the management of the Austrått landscape for several decades. This has ensured broad local support, which is now being followed up through the administration of Austrått's status as a Selected Cultural Landscape (SCL).

The work has been carried out in accordance with the wishes of the local residents, and with a high degree of involvement from all affected parties. The successful creation of both a habitat to promote biodiversity and an outdoor recreation area has attracted the interest of several research communities. Many local residents have found that they can influence and help improve their local environment by contributing to the project. They feel that this engagement and the measures are effective, generating hope in a time of major challenges around the climate crisis and loss of nature.

### 15. Public participation

Neither the rehabilitation of the Rusasetvatnet lake nor the construction of the hiking trails in the Austrått landscape would have been possible without the participation and involvement of local residents. Initially, thorough planning processes were carried out, to which all local landowners were invited. Their contribution subsequently had a major impact on how the various measures were carried out.

The residents of Ørland have generally shown a great deal of interest in the project, which became increasingly positive as plans were drawn up and the outcome of the work became clear. When the rehabilitation of Rusaset was completed in 2017, as many as 700 of the municipality's 5,000 residents attended the opening ceremony. Extensive voluntary work has been performed on the various projects and there has been a strong political will to provide significant funding for the undertaking.



## 16. Awareness-raising

A wide-range of communication measures have been implemented in connection with the project. Prominent notice boards have been set up at all entrances and car parks providing information about the landscape, its history and the natural environment. Making the landscape visible and teaching people to read it were conscious aims of the project. Clearing areas to reveal cultural monuments (including old dam edges, stone walls and peat extraction sites) was one of the measures taken in this context.

Creative solutions for picnic areas and a service building contribute to a feeling of well-being and encourage visitors to stay longer in the landscape, including children and students from various educational establishments. Ørland Wetland Visitor Centre, located in Ørland Cultural Centre, is now responsible for following up the project and carries out extensive direct information activities in the local area, at the cultural centre and via the website.

## V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

**Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one USB key, and returned by post to:**

*Secretariat General of the Council of Europe*

*Council of Europe Landscape Convention*

*8th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe*

*F-67075 STRASBOURG, Cedex*

- Text (20 pages max.): *PDF format in two different layouts on page view*

Orland – FindingHome\_Brochure\_Spreads

Orland – FindingHome\_Brochure\_Pages

- Photos representing the Project:

01: «Early morning by the lake» - Morten Warholm Haugen/BERRE

02: «Barley fields and the Austrått Manor» - Airphoto Fosen AS

03: «The Pyramid at Austrått» - Daniel Johansen

04: «Newly restored lake» - Airphoto Fosen AS

05: «Wetlands» - Airphoto Fosen AS

06: «Children in a snowy landscape» - Morten Warholm Haugen/BERRE

07: «Wintering Whooper Swans» - Harald Dahlby

08: «Biking trip» - Marius Rua

09: «Hiking trail at dusk» - Harald Dahlby

10: «Man and sheep by the fjord» - Morten Warholm Haugen/BERRE

- Posters: Orland – FindingHome\_Poster01

Orland – FindingHome\_Poster02

- Video: Orland - FindingHome

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