



## Regulations relating to the protection of the Ossian Sars Nature Reserve

Date	FOR-2003-09-26-1188
Ministry	Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
Dep/Dir	Department of International Cooperation
Published	In 2003, booklet 13
Entry into force	26 September 2003
Last amended	FOR-2021-12-03-3395
Amends	FOR-1984-02-17-434
Applicable to	Svalbard
Legal basis	LOV-2001-06-15-79-Section 12, LOV-2001-06-15-79-Section 17, LOV-2001-06-15-79-Section 21, LOV-2001-06-15-79-Section 22
Published announcement	30 September 2003
Abbreviated title	Regulations relating to the Ossian Sars Nature Reserve

---

**Table of Contents**

**Regulations relating to the protection of the Ossian Sars Nature Reserve .....1**  
**Table of Contents .....2**

**Legal basis:** Adopted by Royal Decree on 26 September 2003 pursuant to the Act of 15 June 2001 no. 79 relating to the protection of the environment in Svalbard (Svalbard Environmental Protection Act), Section 12, Section 17, Section 21 and Section 22. Proposed by the Ministry of Environment (now the Ministry of Climate and Environment).

**Amended** by the Regulations of 15 March 2013 no. 284, 19 December 2013 no. 1757, 4 April 2014 no. 378, 3 December 2021 no. 3395.

**Amended** by the Regulations of 9 February 2024 no. 230 (entry into force on 1 January 2025).

## **Section 1. *Protection***

Ossian Sarsfjellet near Kongsfjorden in Svalbard is protected as a nature reserve under the name Ossian Sars Nature Reserve.

## **Section 2. *Boundary delimitation and scope***

The protected area comprises the entire Ossian Sarsfjellet, delimited by the shoreline facing Kongsfjorden to the west and side arms of Kongsbreen to the north, east and south.

The Nature Reserve comprises approximately 11.4 km<sup>2</sup> of land area and affects cadastral unit number 1.

The boundaries of the National Reserve are shown in the attached map at a scale of 1:75,000, dated September 2003 by the Ministry of Environment. Coordinates shall be given for the break points.

The protection regulations, including the map, shall be stored with the Governor of Svalbard, the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Ministry of Climate and Environment.

## **Section 3. *Purpose***

The purpose of the protection of the area is to preserve a virtually untouched nature area, Ossian Sarsfjellet, with lush vegetation and with several rare and selective plant species, and to protect the area as a location of scientific interest.

## **Section 4. *Protection provisions***

### **1. *Landscape and natural environment***

1.1 No activities may be undertaken that may affect the natural environment, such as the construction of buildings, installations, including tank farms, and permanent installations, the installation of barracks or similar structures, laying of pipes and cables, extraction, deposit, relocation, and storage of earth masses, levelling, construction of roads, quays, landing sites, etc., dredging of the seabed or scraping of the soil surface, draining and other forms of reclaiming, boring, blasting, or similar activities, and the extraction of minerals, oil, and fossils.

### **2. *Flora and fauna***

2.1 The flora is protected against all forms of harm and destruction that are not caused by permitted access and passage.

2.2 The introduction of plant species, including genetically modified species and forms, is prohibited.

2.3 The fauna is regulated by Chapter IV of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act and related decisions.

### **3. *Cultural Heritage***

3.1 Cultural heritage in the area is regulated by Chapter V of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act and related decisions.

### **4. *Access and passage (non-motorised and motorised)***

- 4.1 All access and passage shall occur in such a manner that it does not harm or in any other way damage the natural environment or cultural heritage or result in unnecessary disturbance to people or fauna.

Any person accessing or staying in the protected area shall prevent the occurrence of new, permanent tracks or wear and tear to the terrain or cultural heritage. Rocks, logs and other items used at the site shall be cleared and returned to the location where they were found. Sufficient distance shall be maintained in relation to:

- fauna, to avoid unnecessary disturbance;
- protected cultural heritage that is not in use, to ensure that such sites are not exposed to trampling or other activities resulting in a risk of damage.

- 4.2 Erecting tents and camping activities are regulated by the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act and the regulations issued pursuant to the Act.

- 4.3 All motorised off-road driving is prohibited.

- 4.4 Landing of aircraft is prohibited. It is prohibited to fly closer than one nautical mile from large, known concentrations of mammals and birds. This prohibition also applies to overflight of the areas above at altitudes below 500 metres. The prohibition against overflight applies to the extent weather conditions permit.

- 4.5 Landing in connection with tourist activities is prohibited.

- 4.6 Ships that call in the marine area of the Nature Reserve may not have more than 200 passengers on board.

- 4.7 The Norwegian Environment Agency may issue regulations prohibiting/regulating any access and passage in all or parts of the National Reserve if this is considered necessary in order to avoid wear and tear of vegetation or plants.

## 5. *Pollution*

- 5.1 All pollution to air, water or soil that causes or may cause damage or nuisance to the environment is prohibited, except for pollution that is caused by permitted motor traffic.

- 5.2 Leaving behind/discarding waste is prohibited.

- 5.3 Substances and objects that may harm the flora and fauna, which are unsightly or that may entail a risk of pollution must not be stored or abandoned.

6. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and other remote-controlled or autonomous unmanned devices in the air, on the ground, on and beneath the surface of the water is prohibited.

## **Section 5. *General exceptions***

The provisions in Section 4 do not preclude:

- emergency response for fire, police or rescue services and inspection or supervision in accordance with the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, Section 77 and Section 87.
- the use of unmanned vehicles (drones) and devices as mentioned in Section 4(6), for the same purposes as mentioned in the previous sub-item and for use in the tasks of the management authority.

### **Section 6. *Exemptions/permits***

When scientific or special reasons so indicate, the management authority may grant exemptions from the protection provisions in Section 4 provided this does not conflict with the purpose of the protection regulations and will not have a significant impact on the conservation value of the area.

The management authority may issue permits for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and devices as mentioned in Section 4(6) for purposes other than recreational and hobby activities.

In an exemption/permit, the grounds for the decision shall include an account of how the management authority has assessed the impact the exemption/permit may have on the environment and the weight that has been attached to this.

### **Section 7. *Management***

The management authority or the instance so authorised by the management authority may implement management measures to promote the purpose of the protection. A plan containing more detailed guidelines for the implementation of such measures may be drawn up. The plan shall be approved by the Norwegian Environment Agency in consultation with the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

### **Section 8. *The management authority***

The Governor of Svalbard is the management authority pursuant to these Regulations.

### **Section 9. *Penalties***

Any person who wilfully or negligently contravenes provisions laid down in or under these Regulations is liable to fines or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year. If a risk of substantial environmental damage has occurred or been caused or if there are especially aggravating circumstances, a term of imprisonment not exceeding three years may be imposed. An accomplice is liable to the same penalties.

### **Section 10. *Entry into force***

These Regulations enter into force immediately. From the same date, the Regulations of 17 February 1984 no. 434 relating to protection – Ossian Sars plant protection area in Svalbard are repealed.