

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Michaela Bodner, UnterWasserReich GesmbH,  
Moorbadstraße 4, A-3943 Schrems, Austria

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

30<sup>th</sup> April 2008

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### 3. Country:

Austria

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Waldviertel ponds, peat bogs and floodplains

### Waldviertel ponds, peat bogs & floodplains

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### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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### 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

#### a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or

- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

**\*\* Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

Some areas within the Ramsar site are permanently exposed to drainage (old but still partly effective drainage canals and schemes implemented years or even decades ago) which over the years leads to a slow dehydration.

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**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

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**8. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

15°59' E longitude

48°46' N latitude

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**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

District: Gmünd; federal state: Lower Austria;

North, east and south of the town of Gmünd

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**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

472 – 870 m a.s.l.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

13.000 ha

### 12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland. The site is situated in the south-easternmost part of the central European mountain region, and contains a number of small and large riverine, peat bog and pond wetlands. All together, it represents the area's water regime with the Lainsitz as common river forming a direct connection to the Czech Ramsar sites "Trebon fish ponds" and "Trebon peat bogs", is of prominent commercial value (ponds for fish production) and consists of semi-natural (river planes, peat bogs) or man-made (fish-ponds) habitats essential for the survival of endangered plant and animal species.

Rivers: Lainsitz, Reißbach, Braunaubach, Romaubach, Schwarzabach and Elexenbach (all contributors to the Lainsitz);

Peat bogs: Karstifter Moore, Gemeindeau, Rottalmoos, Schönauer Moor, Haslauer Moor, Schremser Moor;

Ponds: Bruneiteich, Winkelauer Teich, Haslauerteich, Gebhartsteich and the pond area Pürbach-Hoheneich.

### 13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	•	2	•	3	•	4	•	5	•	6	•	7	•	8	•	9
X		X		<input type="checkbox"/>		X		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		X		X

### 14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

#### Criterion 1:

The site contains two rivers of national importance, with one of the largest floodplain forest areas in Lower Austria by the river Lainsitz. Furthermore, it contains a number of peat bogs representative for the area. These peat bogs vary in size and ecological status and represent the majority of peat bogs still existing in the region today. Finally, it contains a representative choice of fishponds that are many centuries old.

#### Criterion 2:

The Ramsar site is characterised by a high species diversity, especially in the groups of plants, dragonflies, amphibians and birds. With reference to the EU's habitats and species directive 92/43, rare species as the mammal *Lutra lutra*, the mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Unio crassus*, the crustacean *Astacus astacus* and the dragonfly *Ophiogomphus cecilia* have to be specially mentioned. As for plants, a number of *Carex* and *Sphagnum* species which are endangered according to the national Red List, occur in the site's peat bogs.

#### Criterion 4:

The lifecycles of a number of species such as of the mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Unio crassus*, the crustacean *Astacus astacus* completely depend on the site's wetlands. Others, such as *Lutra lutra*, depend on the site's ponds and rivers as their food source, furthermore the site contains a relevant otter population that is the source population for the recolonisation of areas where the otter had already disappeared.

Criterion 8:

Many of the occurring fish species exclusively depend on the existence and maintenance of the fish-ponds. Traditionally, in the fishponds, mainly *Cyprinus carpio*, *Tinca tinca*, *Esox lucius*, *Coregonus sp and*, *Stizostedion lucioperca* are produced. In addition, the fishponds are an essential refuge for species such as *Cobitis taenia* or *Noemacheilus barbatulus*, small fish species that are economically unrelevant and depend on the fishponds for their population's survival. The same is true for *Phoxinus phoxinus* and *Lampetra planeri*, two other small fish species that live in the site's rivers.

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**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

continental

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Natura 2000 regionalization scheme

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**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The high plateau of the north-west Waldviertel is dominated by granite and gneiss.

The annual precipitation is around 700 mm.

Downstream of the Lainsitz area in Gmünd, the two Ramsar sites "Trebon fish ponds" and "Trebon peat bogs" are situated, around the town of Trebon and along river Lusnice (Czech word for Lainsitz) The fish-ponds date back as far as the 13<sup>th</sup> century and mostly have been used for fish-production continuously ever since. The ponds are drained annually in autumn, refilled and restocked immediately after harvesting. The production is extensive, the annual net growth of fish between 300 and 500 kg/ha. The depths of the ponds mostly does not exceed 5m.

The peat bogs have been exploited by man over the past 200 years, draining peat bogs was common to make digging easier. The peat soil was mainly used as heating material in the glass industry till the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The climate is continental, the temperature in summer is approx. between 25 and 30°C, temperatures higher than 30°C are rare. In winter, temperatures can reach -20°C and more, ponds and sometimes even rivers are frozen over. Snow is common in winter.

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**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The area is situated along the European water shed, the Lainsitz river is contributing to the north via the Moldau and Elbe into the North sea. Due to the underground, mäanders even in upstream river regions are characteristic.

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**18. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The rivers' and ponds' main value is flood control and water retention. Ponds and rivers act as hydrological buffer zone.

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**19. Wetland Types**

**a) presence:**

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va •  
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:

Most dominant: 1, U, M

Less dominant: Tp, Ts, Xp, 4

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

## 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The site contains the following main vegetation types and habitats (as classified in the Dir. 92/43/EEC mentioned under pt. 12), **printed in bold letters are priority habitats under the Dir. 92/43:**

- oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Litorettea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*
- water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay-silt-laden soils (Molinion careuleae)
- Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels
- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)
- Active raised bogs
- Transition mires and quaking bogs
- Bog woodland
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, *Salicion albae*)

## 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Surveys of the site have found the following species, endangered according to the national Red List)

### Mosses

*Aulacomnium palustre*

*Calliergon cordifolium*

*Calliergon stramineum*

*Polytrichum strictum*

*Riccia fluitans*

*Sphagnum angustifolium*

*Sphagnum cuspidatum*

*Sphagnum fallax*

*Sphagnum fimbriatum*

*Sphagnum flexuosum*  
*Sphagnum papillosum*  
*Sphagnum russowii*  
*Sphagnum squarrosum*  
*Sphagnum subsecundum*

**Vascular Plants:**

*Achillea ptarmica*  
*Agrostis canina*  
*Alchemilla filicaulis*  
*Alopecurus geniculatus*  
*Betula pubescens*  
*Bromus racemosus* agg.  
*Calamagrostis canescens*  
*Calla palustris*  
*Callitriche palustris* agg.  
*Calycocorsus stipitatus*  
*Cardamine matthioli*  
*Carex canescens*  
*Carex echinata*  
*Carex elongata*  
*Carex lasiocarpa*  
*Carex pseudocyperus*  
*Carex rostrata*  
*Carex tumidicarpa*  
*Carex vesicaria*  
*Carex vulpina*  
*Carlina acaulis*  
*Cerastium arvense* subsp. *arvense*  
*Cicuta virosa*  
*Drosera rotundifolia*  
*Eleocharis acicularis*  
*Eleocharis palustris* ssp. *palustris*  
*Epilobium obscurum*  
*Epilobium tetragonum*  
*Equisetum pratense*  
*Eriophorum angustifolium*  
*Eriophorum vaginatum*  
*Glyceria fluitans*  
*Glyceria maxima*  
*Hypericum tetrapterum*  
*Iris pseudoacorus*  
*Juncus conglomeratus*  
*Juncus filiformis*  
*Juncus squarrosus*  
*Ledum palustre*  
*Lotus uliginosus*  
*Lycopus europaeus*  
*Lysimachia thrysiflora*

*Menyanthes trifoliata*  
*Myosotis nemorosa*  
*Nardus stricta*  
*Nuphar lutea*  
*Nuphar pumila*  
*Nymphaea candida*  
*Oenanthe aquatica*  
*Parnassia palustris*  
*Pedicularis palustris*  
*Pedicularis sylvatica*  
*Peplis portula*  
*Persicaria bistorta*  
*Peucedanum palustre*  
*Phyteuma nigrum*  
*Pinus rotundata*  
*Potamogeton natans*  
*Potentilla palustris*  
*Ranunculus auricomus*  
*Ranunculus circinatus*  
*Ranunculus flammula*  
*Ranunculus polyanthemos*  
*Rhinanthus serotinus*  
*Salix pentandra*  
*Salix viminalis*  
*Saxifraga granulata*  
*Scorzenera humilis*  
*Scutellaria galericulata*  
*Senecio aquaticus*  
*Sparganium emersum*  
*Spergularia rubra*  
*Spiraea salicifolia*  
*Stellaria palustris*  
*Trifolium spadiceum*  
*Typha angustifolia*  
*Utricularia australis*  
*Vaccinium oxycoccus*  
*Vaccinium uliginosum*  
*Veronica scutellata*  
*Viola palustris*

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## 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Surveys of the site have found the following species (**species printed in bold letters are protected under the Birds Directive or Habitat and Species Directive (see pt. 12) and/or included in the European Red List**):

**Dragonflies:**

**Zygoptera**

**Fam. Calopterygidae**

*Calopteryx splendens*

*Calopteryx virgo*

**Fam. Lestidae**

*Lestes barbarus*

*Lestes virens*

*Lestes sponsa*

*Lestes dryas*

*Lestes viridis*

**Fam. Platynemididae**

*Platynemis pennipes*

**Fam. Coenagrionidae**

*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*

*Coenagrion hastulatum*

*Coenagrion puella*

*Coenagrion pulchellum*

*Erythromma najas*

*Ischnura elegans*

*Ischnura pumilio*

*Enallagma cyathigerum*

**Anisoptera**

**Fam. Aeshnidae**

*Brachytron pratense*

*Aeshna juncea*

*Aeshna grandis*

*Aeshna cyanea*

*Aeshna mixta*

*Aeshna affinis*

*Aeshna isosceles*

*Anax imperator*

**Fam. Gomphidae**

*Gomphus vulgatissimus*

***Ophiogomphus cecilia* ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex II and IV  
of the Habitats and Species Directive)**

*Onychogomphus forcipatus*

**Fam. Cordulegastridae**

*Cordulegaster boltonii*

**Fam. Corduliidae**

*Cordulia aenea*

*Somatochlora metallica*

*Somatochlora arctica*

**Fam. Libellulidae**

*Libellula quadrimaculata*

*Libellula depressa*

*Orthetrum cancellatum*

*Sympetrum vulgatum*

*Sympetrum danae*

*Sympetrum flaveolum*

*Sympetrum sanguineum*

*Leucorrhinia dubia*

***Leucorrhinia pectoralis* (Species of Annex II and IV of the habitats and Species Directive)**

**Amphibians:**

***Bufo bufo***

*Bufo calamita* (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

*Bombina variegata* (Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

*Hyla arborea* (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

*Pelobates fuscus* (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

*Rana arvalis* (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

*Rana dalmatina* (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

***Rana esculenta***

*Rana lessonae* (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

***Rana temporaria***

***Triturus vulgaris***

**Fish:**

*Abramis brama*

*Alburnus alburnus*

*Blicca bjoerkna*

*Carassius carassius*

*Chondrostoma nasus*

***Cobitis taenia* (Species of Annex II of the Habitat and Species Directive)**

*Cottus gobio*

*Cyprinus carpio*

*Esox lucius*

*Gibio gobio*

*Gymnocephalus cernua*

***Lampetra planeri* (Species of Annex II of the Habitat and Species Directive)**

*Leucaspis delineatus*

*Leuciscus cephalus*

*Leuciscus leuciscus*

*Lota lota*

*Misgurnus fossilis*

*Noemacheilus barbatulus*

*Oncorhynchus mykiss*

*Perca fluviatilis*

*Phoxinus phoxinus*

*Rutilus rutilus*

*Salmo trutta f. fario*

*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*

*Stizostedion lucioperca*

*Thymallus thymallus*

*Tinca tinca*

Birds:

**Podicipediformes**

Fam. Podicipedidae

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

*Podiceps cristatus*

*Podiceps nigricollis*

**Pelecaniformes**

Fam. Phalacrocoracidae

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

**Ciconiiformes**

Fam. Ardeidae

*Ardea cinerea*

*Casmerodius albus*

Fam. Ciconiidae

*Ciconia ciconia* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Ciconia nigra* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

**Anseriformes**

Fam. Anatidae

**Cygnus olor**

*Anser anser*

*Anas strepera*

*Anas crecca*

*Anas platyrhynchos*

*Anas querquedula*

*Netta rufina*

*Aythya ferina*

*Aythya fuligula*

**Falconiformes**

Fam. Pandionidae

*Pandion haliaetus*

Fam. Accipitridae

*Haliaeetus albicilla* ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Circus aeruginosus* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Circus cyaneus*

*Accipiter nisus*

*Accipiter gentilis*

*Buteo buteo*

Fam. Falconidae

*Falco tinnunculus*

*Falco subbuteo*

Galliformes

**Fam. Phasianidae**

*Coturnix coturnix*

*Phasianus colchicus*

*Perdix perdix*

Gruiformes

**Fam. Rallidae**

*Rallus aquaticus*

***Porzana porzana*** (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

***Crex crex*** ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Gallinus chloropus*

*Fulica utra*

**Charadriiformes**

Fam. Charadriidae

***Vanellus vanellus***

Fam. Scolopacidae

***Calidris alpina***

***Gallinago gallinago***

***Numenius arquata***

*Tringa totanus*

***Tringa nebularia***

***Tringa ochropus***

***Actitis hypoleucos***

Fam. Laridae

***Larus ridibundus***

Fam. Sternidae

*Sterna hirundo* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Chlidonias niger* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

**Columbiformes**

Fam. Columbidae

***Columba livia***

***Columba palumbus***

***Streptopelia decaocto***

***Streptopelia turtur***

**Cuculiformes**

Fam. Cuculidae

***Cuculus canorus***

**Strigiformes**

Fam. Strigidae

***Glaucidium passerinum***

***Aegolius funereus***

**Coraciiformes**

Fam. Alcedinidae

*Alcedo atthis* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

**Fam. Piciformes**

*Fam. Picidae*

*Picus canus* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Picus viridis*

*Dryocopus martius* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

*Picoides major*

*Picoides minor*

**Passeriformes**

*Fam. Alaudidae*

*Alauda arvensis*

*Fam. Hirundinidae*

*Riparia riparia*

*Hirundo rustica*

*Delichon urbica*

*Fam. Motacillidae*

*Anthus trivialis*

*Anthus pratensis*

*Motacilla flava*

*Motacilla cinerea*

*Motacilla alba*

*Fam. Troglodytidae*

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

*Fam. Prunellidae*

*Prunella modularis*

*Fam. Turdidae*

*Erithacus rubecula*

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

*Saxicola rubetra*

*Turdus merula*

*Turdus pilaris*

*Turdus philomelos*

*Turdus viscivorus*

*Fam. Sylviidae*

*Locustella naevia*

*Locustella fluviatilis*

*Locustella luscinioides*

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Acrocephalus palustris*

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Hippolais icterina*

*Sylvia curruca*

*Sylvia communis*

*Sylvia borin*

*Sylvia atricapilla*

*Phylloscopus bonelli*

*Phylloscopus collybita*

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

*Regulus regulus*

*Regulus ignicapillus*

Fam. Muscicapidae

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

Fam. Aegithalidae

*Aegithalos caudatus*

Fam. Paridae

*Parus palustris*

*Parus montanus*

*Parus cristatus*

*Parus ater*

*Parus caeruleus*

*Parus major*

Fam. Sittidae

*Sitta europaea*

Fam. Certhiidae

*Certhia familiaris*

Fam. Remizidae

*Remiz pendulinus*

Fam. Oriolidae

*Oriolus oriolus*

Fam. Laniidae

*Lanius collurio* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Fam. Corvidae

*Garrulus glandarius*

*Pica pica*

*Nucifraga caryocatactes*

*Corvus monedula*

*Corvus frugilegus*

*Corvus corone*

*Corvus corax*

Fam. Sturnidae

*Sturnus vulgaris*

Fam. Passeridae

*Passer domesticus*

*Passer montanus*

Fam. Fringillidae

*Fringilla coelebs*

*Serinus serinus*

*Carduelis chloris*

*Carduelis carduelis*

*Carduelis spinus*

*Carduelis cannabina*

*Loxia curvirostra*

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Fam. Emberizidae

*Emberiza citrinella*

*Emberiza schoeniclus*

Other endangered species:

**Fam. Potamobiidae**

*Astacus astacus* ("Endangered" in the European Red List)

**Fam. Unionidae**

*Margaritifera margaritifera* ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

*Unio crassus* (Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

**Fam. Mustelidae**

*Lutra lutra* ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

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### 23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

see below (5b)

The digging of peat, traditionally used for heating in the glass industry, has stopped, more or less altogether, some decades years ago.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box **X** and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide 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:

The very existence of the ponds in the long run (and thus the business of the fish-farmer) depends to a large extent on their wise use

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

The fish production in the ponds is a tradition that dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Until today, it is an important source of income for part of the local population.

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples.

The fish ponds are all man-made habitats. They are very shallow, their existence depends to a large degree on their use as fish production sites, as otherwise they would become overgrown by mosses and higher plants.

iv) sites where 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:

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### 24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

ponds: private big landowners

peat bogs: partly big landowners, partly public property of the local communities, partly private small land owners (farmers and their descendants)

rivers: water bodies: partly public ownership (local communities, federal and national authorities);  
fishing rights privately owned

b) in the surrounding area:

Surrounding grassland meadows and (mainly spruce) forests: mostly private owners (farmers)

**25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

ponds: extensive fish production

peat bogs: no traditional land use, part of one peat bog currently used as nature trail

rivers: angling

meadows: hay production

b) in the surrounding area:

meadows: hay production

forest: production of wood

hunting is common both within and in the surroundings of the Ramsar site a) within the Ramsar site:

**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

past: drainage of peat bogs, digging turf soil

present: drainage canal still effective in peat bogs; afforestation of wet meadows (single farmers giving up agriculture)

potential: large scale afforestation of wet meadows (as a result of "restructuring" agriculture in the EU); further intensification of farmer's draining activities (co-financed by the EU); intensification of fish-production and agriculture (co-financed by the EU); mismanagement of angling in rivers (stocking to much fish or wrong species)

**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

rivers:

Alte Lainsitzschlinge	NM
Gabrielental	NM
Lainsitztal	(NCS)
Blockheide Eibenstein	NCS
Reitzenschlägerbach	NM

peat bogs:

Gemeindeau	NCS
Karlstifter Moore (5 sites)	NCS
Rottalmoos	(NCS)
Schremser Moor	(NCS)

ponds:

<b>Bruneiteich</b>	<b>NCS</b>
Gebhartsteich	NCS

NM .... Nature Monument, NCS .... Nature conservation site, ()....in planning

All sites mentioned above are part of the Natura2000 site "Waldviertler Heide-, Teich- und Moorlandschaft".

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Management plans exist for: Lainsitz floodplane, Reißbach, Rottalmoos, Gemeideau, Winkelauer Teich, Gebhartsteich and Bruneiteich and Schremser Moor; their implementation is ongoing

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Since 1999, the peat bogs "Rottalmoos" and "Schremser Moor" and the Lainsitz floodplane" have become nature conservation sites under national law.

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### 28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

The implementation of the management plans is ongoing, for some areas, they need to be reviewed and updated.

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### 29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

scientific research:

- surveys, development of management plans and monitoring as part of the project "Wetland management in the upper Waldviertel (co-financed by the EU-Life-Nature program, carried out by WWF Austria) have been carried out in the past;
- annual bird surveys of the ponds, (Bird Life Austria);
- surveys and applied research on *Lutra lutra* with the aim to minimize the conflict between otters and fish-farming);

the UnderWaterWorld Ramsar Centre (opened 2006) offers basic research facilities, a research group is currently being built up

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### 30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

4 peat bogs (Karlstifter Moore, Heidenreichsteiner Moor, Haslauer Moor, Schremser Moor) with nature trails (of varying educational quality);

UnderWater World Ramsar Centre as environmental education and visitor centre focussing on Ramsar, wetlands and their plant and animal inhabitants

a major Ramsar communication project is in preparation, on accordance with CEPA (by UnderWaterWorld Ramsar Centre)

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### 31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

peat bogs:

Heidenreichsteiner and Schremser Moor: nature trail, medium intensity in summer season,

Haslauer Moor: nature trail, low intensity in summer season

Karlstifter Moore: very low intensity in summer season

ponds:

swimming is allowed in some of the ponds (mainly local people, mainly June to August)

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### 32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

#### **Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung**

Landhausplatz 1/Building 16

Dr. E. Neumeister

Tel: ++43 2742 200 5235

Fax: ++43 2742 200 5220

e-mail: [e.neumeister@noel.gv.at](mailto:e.neumeister@noel.gv.at)

(formal legal responsibility for nature conservation in Lower Austria)

#### **Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft**

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### 33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

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### 34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Böhm, P. (1999): Managementpläne ausgewählter Waldviertler Teiche. LIFE-Projekt Feuchtgebietsmanagement Oberes Waldviertel. Studie im Auftrag des WWF, 5 Teile.

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Steiner, G.M. (1992): Österreichischer Moorschutzkatalog. Grüne Reihe des BMUJF, Bd. 1, 509 S.

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