

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

16	04	83
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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

This sheet was updated (completed) in Mai 1998.

2. Country:

Austria

3. Name of wetland:

Untere Lobau

4. Geographical coordinates:

48°10'N, 16°30'E

5. Altitude:(average and/or max. & min.)

151 m / 150-155 m

6. Area:(in hectares)

1039 ha

7. Overview:(general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The site is characterized as historical Danube river flood-plain with forest, meadows and water areas, situated on the western edge of the formerly sprawling Central European riverine forest, since the last century cutoff from the dynamics of the Danube river (embankment). Main characteristics are the different interactions of natural resources and human impacts.

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:

X S T N M

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

1a 1b 1c 1d | 2a 2b 2c 2d | 3a 3b 3c 3d | 4a 4b

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

10. Map of site included? Please tick X -or- no

(Please refer to the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document for information regarding desirable map traits.)

2 maps (1:30.000, 1:50.000; Gauß-Krüger (AT), with boundaries of Ramsar site, National Park and boundaries of the federal district of Vienna

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

*Dr. Jürgen Rienesl
(Agency of) the Provincial Government of Vienna
Municipal Department 22 - Environmental Protection
Ebendorferstraße 4
A-1082 Vienna*

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

1a This wetland could be considered of international importance, because of its outstanding role in natural, biological, ecological and hydrological systems, it is of substantial value in supporting human communities dependent on the wetland (f.e. maintenance of cultural values, support of flood control, water quality and climatic stability).

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

The site is situated within the municipal area of the city of Vienna, on south-east of the centre and thereby a part of the federal district of Vienna.

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)

The site lies within a zone characterized by glacial gravel formations and the riverbed of the Danube river (flat relief, sand and gravel sediments). It belongs to the rest of the formerly sprawling Central European riverine forest system and consists of residual soft wood forest, hardwood forest, reed beds, dry and hot sand and gravel meadows, a system of backwaters, and periodical pools.

The main human impacts on landscape were embankment, forestry and agriculture (e.g. extensive cereal cultures and vegetable-growing).

The hydrological regime depends on the underground water corresponding to the Danube river.

The climate is continental-subpannonic. In summer it is very dry and warm (+9,8°C on average, yearly). Yearly average rainfall is about 500 - 600 mm.

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

The area is used as a reservation area for the drinking water supply of the city of Vienna (four ground water wells).

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

hardwood forest (including partly artificial forest monocultures);

residual alluvial forest;

hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara formations;

floating vegetation of Ranunculus of plane, submountainous rivers;

natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharion-type vegetation; reed beds;

humid and mesophile grasslands;

semi-natural dry grasslands on calcareous substrates (important orchid sites)

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

Species	unique	rare	endangered	biogeographically important
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>		2 sites	local/national	important
<i>Arabis nemorensis</i>			national	important
<i>Apium repens</i>	1 site		local/national	important
<i>Blackstonia acuminata</i>			national	important
<i>Himantoglossum adriaticum</i>		2 sites	local/national	important
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>			national	important
<i>Oenanthe aquatica</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>		rare	national	important
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Orchis coriophora</i>			national	important
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Ranunculus rionii</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Senecio paludosus</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Silene conica</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Stellaria palustris</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	1 site		local/national	important
<i>Thymelea passerina</i>	1 site		local/national	important

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

Mammals	unique	rare	endangered	biogeographically important
<i>Castor fiber</i>		5 families	local/national	important

Birds (breeding)	unique	rare	endangered	biogeographically important
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1-2 pairs		local/national	important
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		5-10 pairs	national	important
<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		15-20 pairs	national	important
<i>Lanius collurio</i>		rare	national	important
<i>Milvus migrans</i>		2 pairs	national	important
<i>Picoides medius</i>		rare	national	important

<i>Porzana parva</i>		2 pairs	local/national	important
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1 pair		local/national	important
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>		rare	national	important

Reptiles	unique	rare	endangered	biogeographically important
<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		rare	local/national	important

Amphibians)	unique	rare	endangered	biogeographically important
<i>Bombina bombina</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Hyla arborea</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Rana arvalis</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Triturus dobrogicus</i>		rare	local/national	important

Invertebrates	unique	rare	endangered	biogeographically important
<i>Lucanus cervus</i>		rare	local/national	important
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	1 site		local/national	important
<i>Granaria frumentum</i>		3 sites	local/national	important
<i>Musculium lacustre</i>		6 sites	local/national	important
<i>Planorbarius corneus</i>		10 sites	national	important
<i>Planorbis carinatus</i>		8 sites	national	important
<i>Viviparus acerosus</i>		4 sites	local/national	important

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

historical: The area has been used by humans since ancient times for agriculture and timber production. Till 1918 it was a hunting area of the austrian imperial family.

today: The area is used as a reservation area for the drinking water supply of the city of Vienna, for hunting and fishing limited by law and management measures fixed by the National Park Donau-Auen, for short-time recreation and nature education in correspondence with the aims of NP Donau-Auen, and for scientific research.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

- a) site the federal district of Vienna
- b) surrounding area several private owners

21. Current land use:

- a) site *nature protection, nature education, extensive agricultural use, forestry, hunting, fishing, scientific research, increasing short-time recreation and tourism (e.g. swimming, biking)*
- b) surroundings/catchment *residential areas 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 *the cutoff from the dynamics of the Danube river (embankment); sinking ground water level; increasing drying up of large parts*
- b) around the site ---

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)

national: (part of the) Nature Protection Area „Lobau“ of the district of Vienna since 9. August 1978 by decree of the territorial authority as a consequence: general forestry management

(part of the) National Park „Donau-Auen“ since 24. October 1996 (Wiener Nationalparkgesetz vom 14. August 1996; Wiener Nationalpark Verordnung vom 30. September 1996)

as a consequence: planning of annual working programmes by the National Park with main focus on management measures for forestry, hunting and fishing, research programmes, long-term monitoring, visitor guidance

international: Biosphere Reserve within the Network of Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO EuroMAB-program) since 1977

(part of the nominated) NATURA 2000 site „Lobau“

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

management plans for forestry, hunting and fishing (annual working programmes by the National Park)

in preparation: a research station for the National Park

designation as NATURA 2000 site „Lobau“

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

There are permanent plots for the following objects: hydrology (ground water) climate (air pollution), soil (VADOS, heavy metal-contamination, etc.)

By the National Park a LIFE-Project titled „Restoration and mangement of the alluvial flood plain of the River Danube (Alluvial Zone National Park)“ was submitted.

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

*Lobau Museum, Information bureau;
teaching programs for National Park-guides (Rangers), teaching staff;
guided tours, educational films, folders, monographs*

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

walking and swimming, biking only on marked ways

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

*City of Vienna (local administration)
Municipal Department 22 - Environmental Protection
Ebendorferstraße 4
A-1082 Vienna*

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

*Municipal Authority of the City of Vienna
Municipal Department 49 - Forestry Office
Forestry Commission Lobau
Elisabethstraße 17
A-2310 Großenzersdorf*

*National Park Donau-Auen
Fadenbachstraße 17
A-2304 Orth an der Donau*

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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R. Ivancsics & Zwicker, E., 1987: Entscheidungsgrundlagen zur Novellierung der Lobau-Verordnung, im Auftrag der MA 22:

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Spindler, 1995: Fischfauna in Österreich - Hrsg. Umweltbundesamt Wien, Monographien Band 53.

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