



Ramsar Information Sheet

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Switzerland Rhonegletschervorfeld



Designation date	2 February 2005
Site number	1445
Coordinates	46°34'36"N 08°22'50"E
Area	317,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Le site se compose de la langue du glacier du Rhône (source de la rivière Rhône) et de la zone de marge proglaciaire récente jusqu'au hameau de Gletsch. Cette dernière s'étend de front abrupt de la langue glaciaire à la zone alluviale plate de «Gletschbode» et se trouve entre 1,750 et 2,485 m altitude. Par sa taille, sa structure, la dynamique libre du Rhône et sa longue tradition en matière de recherches, la marge proglaciaire du Glacier du Rhône est une des plaines alluviales alpines les plus remarquables des Alpes centrales occidentales.

Le site comporte les différents stades de successions (associations pionnières sur sols bruts jusqu'aux forêts de mélèzes). Les associations de sols humides se développent en étroite mosaïque avec celles préférant des sols frais voire secs. Les différents types d'écosystèmes présents abritent une série d'espèces animales et végétales rares et menacés. 15 alliances phytosociologiques et plus de 280 espèces de plantes vasculaires y ont été recensées.

La marge proglaciaire est un lieu important pour l'avifaune de montagne et 25 espèces d'oiseaux nichent sur place, y compris le Perdrix bartavelle, le Tétraz lyre et le Monticole de roche. Le site présente également l'habitat pour plusieurs animaux (mammifère, batracien, reptiles et invertébrés). 12 espèces de plantes et 23 espèces animales figurent dans les listes rouges suisses ; 2 espèces de plantes et 16 espèces animales sont protégées au niveau européen.

En été et en automne, le site est un lieu fréquenté pour les loisirs (randonnée, alpinisme, la visite de cave glaciaire) et des zones restreintes sont pâturées.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Dr. Reinhard Schnidrig
Institution/agency	Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2005
To year	2014

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Rhonegletschervorfeld
Unofficial name (optional)	Originally designated as 'Marge proglaciaire du Glacier du Rhône'

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Canton de Valais
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Capitale administrative: Sion (environ 33'000 habitants en 2013)

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 317

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 317.24

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Freshwater Ecoregions of the World (FEOW)	Central & Western Europe
Other scheme (provide name below)	Alpes centrales occidentale*

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

*Les régions biogéographiques de la Suisse. Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV, 2001.

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification














- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons

Par sa taille, sa structure, la dynamique libre du Rhône et sa longue tradition en matière de recherches, la marge proglaciaire du Glacier du Rhône est une des plaines alluviales alpines les plus remarquables des Alpes centrales occidentales.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
 <i>Andreaea frigida</i>	Icy Rock Moss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Bryophytes 2004)	
 <i>Calliergon cordifolium</i>	Heart-leaved Spear-moss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Bryophytes 2004)	
 <i>Catabrosa aquatica</i>	Whorl-grass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Ferns and Flowering Plants 2002)	
 <i>Cephaloziella grimsulana</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Bryophytes 2004)	
 <i>Gymnomitrium alpinum</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Bryophytes 2004)	
 <i>Hygrohypnum alpinum</i>	Alpine Hygrohypnum Moss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	EN (National Red List Bryophytes 2004)	
 <i>Hygrohypnum molle</i>	Hygrohypnum Moss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Bryophytes 2004)	
 <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Marsh Club Mbss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Ferns and Flowering Plants 2002)	
 <i>Montia fontana</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Ferns and Flowering Plants 2002)	
 <i>Salix hegetschweileri</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	EN (National Red List Ferns and Flowering Plants 2002)	
 <i>Salix laggeri</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Ferns and Flowering Plants 2002)	

Egalement sur ce site il y a plusieurs des espèces de Champions qui figurent sur les listes rouges nationales. Une liste de ces espèces est ajoutée au chapitre 6.1.2.

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2006		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2014		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2008		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Common Rosefinch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2001		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2011		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2014		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2014		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Ring Ouzel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2014		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Breeding Birds 2010)	
Others																		
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Aeshna caerulea</i>	Azure Hawker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2002		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Dragonflies 2002)	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2001		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Amphibians 2005)	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Smooth Snake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1996			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Reptiles 2005)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Euchloe simplonia</i>	Dappled White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1984		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Butterflies and Bume Moths 2014)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Hyponephele lycan</i>	Dusky Meadow Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2005			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Butterflies and Bume Moths 2014)	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian Lynx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2012		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endangered (National Red List Mammals 1994)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	Spotted Fritillary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2005			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Butterflies and Bume Moths 2014)	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerable (National Red List Mammals 1994)	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	Eurasian Water Shrew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2010		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerable (National Red List Mammals 1994)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Protonemura algovia</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1999			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (Red List Mayflies, Stoneflies and Caddisflies 2012)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>	Baton Blue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2010		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Butterflies and Bume Moths 2014)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Pyrgus carlinae</i>	Carlinae Skipper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2010			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Butterflies and Bume Moths 2014)	

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Rhabdiopteryx harperi</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		1999			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (Red List Mayflies, Stoneflies and Caddisflies 2012)		
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Stethophyma grossum</i>	Large Marsh Grasshopper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2003			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Orthoptera 2007)		
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Vipera aspis</i>	Asp Viper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2013		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU (National Red List Reptiles 2005)		

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Epilobion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Les communautés végétales, associées aux roches, aux rochers et au limon	Le site figure en partie à l'inventaire fédéral des zones alluviales d'importance nationale.
Adenostyilon alliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Végétation subalpine de forbes à larges feuilles	Le site figure en partie à l'inventaire fédéral des zones alluviales d'importance nationale.
Caricion nigrae	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alliance des peuplements de carex et de linaigrette	Le site figure en partie à l'inventaire fédéral des zones alluviales d'importance nationale.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Extrêmement diversifiée est avant tout la mosaïque fine de la couverture végétale, qui dépend en particulier du substrat sur lequel elle se développe, de l'humidité et de la stabilité du sol, de l'exposition et de la durée de son développement. Le long du cours du Rhône se développe les associations pionnières des bords de torrents alpins de l'alliance du Caricion juncifoliae. Elles se rencontrent avant tout où la glace s'est retirée depuis peu. Largement présentes sont les associations sur rochers, éboulis et d'alluvions (Epilobion). Lorsque le sol est stabilisé, ce sont les brousses de saules arbustifs qui se développent (Salicion pentandrae) et au versant situé à l'ombre, les mégaphorbiaies de montagne hygrophiles à aulne vert (*Alnus viridis*) de l'alliance d l'Adenostylion. Puis vient le domaine des jeunes forêts de mélèzes (*Larix decidua*). A relever encore les parvocariçaies acidophiles (Caricion nigrae) dans la partie la plus inférieure du site, ainsi que les différents groupements de sources acides (Cardamino montion).

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks	Rhone	3		Representative
Fresh water > Flowing water >> N: Seasonal/ intermittent/ irregular rivers/ streams/ creeks		3		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		4		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		4		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic or peat soils >> Va: Montane wetlands		4		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands		4		Representative
Fresh water > Flowing water >> Y: Permanent Freshwater springs; oases		4		Unique

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	Alectoris graeca	Rock Partridge		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Carduelis cannabina	Common Linnet		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Delichon urbicum	Common House Martin		2010		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon		2013		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Lagopus muta	Rock Ptarmigan		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Lyrurus tetrix	Black Grouse		2010		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler		2014		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)
CHORDATA/AVES	Sylvia communis	Common Whitethroat		2011		High Priority Species (List of National Priority Species 2011)

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Mbist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfc: Subarctic (Severe winter, no dry season, cool summer)

En Suisse, les températures moyennes ont augmenté de 1,5 ° C entre 1970 et 2005 (Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV), qui est d'environ 1,5 fois supérieure à l'augmentation moyenne observée pour les zones terrestres de l'hémisphère nord. La récession glaciaire, la réduction de la couche de neige dans les montagnes et les changements dans la végétation sont des évidences du changement climatique. Les communautés d'espèces alpines sont particulièrement vulnérables aux changements climatiques. La retraite du glacier du Rhône en raison de l'augmentation des températures influe le régime des eaux de la zone alluviale, qui dépend de l'eau du glacier.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Entire river basin

Upper part of river basin

Middle part of river basin

Lower part of river basin

More than one river basin

Not in river basin

Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Bassin versant du Rhône

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Organic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Le type de sol dominant est le ranker.
Selon l'âge de formation des sols, on rencontre sur le site des sols bruts, des ranker avec un début de formation d'humus et d'acidification, des stades de transition de sols bruns jusqu'à des sols bruns podzolisés. A cela s'ajoutent des sols de type anmoor et tourbeux.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from rainfall	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

La structure du site est déterminée par un verrou rocheux à Gletsch. L'ombilic en amont a été comblé par du matériel morainique, formant ainsi une plaine (Gletschbode). La fonte des neiges et de la glace, ainsi que de fortes précipitations provoquent régulièrement le débordement du Rhône et la formation de nouveaux lits. La retraite du glacier du Rhône en raison de l'augmentation des températures influe le régime des eaux de la zone alluviale.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Le village de "Gletsch" est adjacent à la partie inférieure du site.
 A l'exception du bas-marais situé à l'extrémité inférieure du site, la plaine de Gletschbode est partiellement utilisée comme pâturage d'été. Le pâturage est régi par un contrat qui traite des aspects naturels et du paysage. L'exploiteur responsable doit clôturer les zones sensibles pour éviter d'endommager les habitats.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Low
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	Medium
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Low
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Low
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium

Within the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

- i) the site provides 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
- ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland
- iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples
- iv) 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

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Provincial/region/state government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Canton du Valais, Service des forêts et du paysage, section nature et paysage

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Peter Keusch, chef de section nature et paysage

Postal address:

Canton du Valais
Service des forêts et du paysage
Bâtiment Mutua
Place des Cèdres
CH-1950 Sion Switzerland

E-mail address:

peter.keusch@admin.vs.ch

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified development	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Water abstraction			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Habitat shifting and alteration	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase
Unspecified	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	increase

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Le village de "Gletsch" est adjacent à la partie inférieure du site. Installations pour la protection contre les avalanches et les inondations sont mises en place au sein du site. A l'exception du bas-marais, la plaine de Gletschbode est partiellement utilisée comme pâturage d'été.
Changement climatique: Retraite du glacier du Rhône. La zone alluviale dépend de l'eau du glacier.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Inventaire fédéral des paysages, sites et monuments naturels d'importance nationale (1977, SR 451.11)	Rhônegletscher mit Vorgelände (object no. 1710)	http://www.bafu.admin.ch/	partly
Inventaire fédéral des zones alluviales d'importance nationale	Rhonegletscher (object no. 1215)	http://www.bafu.admin.ch/	partly
Zone protégée cantonale	Gletschboden und Gletschervorfeld Rhonegletscher	http://www.vs.ch/	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented
Research	Implemented
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Sentier d'expérience Gletsch: Rhone / Glacier / Apron :

Ce sentier de la nature donne une impression de ce qui était autrefois la présence puissante du glacier du Rhône. Cinq points d'information décrivent les murs de moraine datant de différentes époques, des plantes pionnières, la dynamique d'une rivière glaciaire (le Rhône dans ce cas), de la faune dans et à côté des cours d'eau, les zones humides et les tourbières. Feuillet d'information disponible.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but a plan is being prepared

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

Surveillé dans le cadre du projet national « Suivi de l'état des biotopes en Suisse » (projet conjoint de l'Institut fédéral de recherches WSL et Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV).

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Reference list (pdf): See 6.1.2. vi.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<1 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<3 file(s) uploaded>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



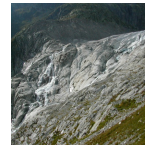
River Rotten (*Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, 01-06-2005*)



Rhône Glacier (*Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, 01-06-2005*)



Rhône le début / The origin of the Rhône (*Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, 01-06-2005*)



Source of the Rhône (*Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, 01-06-2005*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation