



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 2 September 2024

Update version, previously published on : 1 January 1992

Germany Upper Lake Krakow



Designation date	31 July 1978
Site number	171
Coordinates	53°36'43"N 12°17'04"E
Area	893,00 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

The Krakower Obersee is a lake embedded in a hilly landscape with several islands and peninsulas. The western part is rather deep (more than 20 m), whereas the eastern part is shallow. The shores are characterized by reed belts in most parts.

The islands provide favorable breeding conditions for black-headed gulls (*Larus ridibundus*), common terns (*Sterna hirundo*, largest inland colony in Central Europe), greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and different species of ducks. One of the islands hosts a cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) colony with c. 750-820 breeding pairs during the years 2011-2014. The white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) breeds on another island. During migration, the lake is an important resting site for waterfowl and waders. Furthermore, it is an important moulting site for tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) and pochard (*Aythya ferina*). For the tufted duck, it is the most important moulting place in Central Europe.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Agency for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania
Postal address	Goldberger Straße 12 18273 Güstrow

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
Postal address	Division N 14 / International Matters of Biological Diversity Postfach 12 06 29 53048 Bonn Germany

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2002
To year	2020

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Upper Lake Krakow
Unofficial name (optional)	Krakower Obersee

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 <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?	No
--	----

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

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

Former maps	0
-------------	---

Boundaries description

The border follows the shore line of the lake "Krakower Obersee". The Ramsar site includes several islands and in the north-eastern part a small peninsula (Burgberg). The area is protected as a nature reserve.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	District: Landkreis Rostock; State: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; Federal Republic of Germany
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Krakow am See, Güstrow

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

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

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

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 ecosystem services provided The site is important as a monitoring and study site (see section on ES).

Other reasons The Krakower Obersee is a representative example of meso- to eutrophic lakes of glacial origin of the Vistula glacial in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

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

<no data available>

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

Phylum	Scientific 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								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</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"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II, IV Habitat Directive	
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	70	2003-2014		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I, EU Birds Directive	breeding

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Tufted duck and Common pochard reached the 1 % criterion in the past, however, the numbers have decreased.

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

<no data available>

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Habitats: water surface, reedbeds along the shore, islands covered with tall trees, island with grazed meadows
 Animal communities: Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) colony, mixed colony of Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*, 5,500-7,000 bp), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), graylag goose (*Anser anser*), and ducks
 Breeding and feeding site of White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), important wintering site for this species (up to 30 ind. gathering around the lake during winter time)
 Very important resting/moulting site for Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Graylag geese (*Anser anser*, 2,000-3,000 ind.), and nordic geese (*Anser albifrons/A. fabalis*) – up to 10-18,000 ind.

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 > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		1	804	Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Islands covered with trees or pastures	89

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	100	2012-2014		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	7000	2012-2014		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	7000	2007-2014		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	485	2002-2012		

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Actual (major impacts)	increase
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>	Actual (major impacts)	increase
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Actual (major impacts)	increase

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfb: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)

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.

River Nebel (a contributory to the river Warnow which flows into the Baltic Sea)

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(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

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

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

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

The lake does not have a special function in terms of groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, or shoreline stabilization.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

There is probably some sediment influx into the lake due to erosion from the surrounding hills, which have been converted into cropland in recent times (formerly meadows), but there is no study allowing any kind of quantitative description.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

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

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

Eutrophic

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

Mesotrophic

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

Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The lake Krakower Obersee is mesotrophic to eutrophic. The trophical situation has worsened during the second half of the 20th century, but improved during the 1990s and after 2000. In most recent times, the pastures of the hill slopes towards the lake have been converted into cropland, especially for maize production. It is expected that this land use change leads to stronger erosion and nutrient influxes into the lake.

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:

The Ramsar site consists of the lake, its shoreline and the islands. The surrounding area is formed by gently sloping hills covered with cropland, grassland and forests.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Low
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Low

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Low
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study 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	Low
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	Low
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium

Outside the site: 10.000s

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

RIS for Site no. 171, Upper Lake Krakow, Germany

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
Provincial/region/state government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<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:

Landeamt für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Geologie

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

Ralf Koch

Postal address:

Goldberger Strasse 8
18273 Güstrow

E-mail address:

poststelle@lung.mv-regierung.de

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Annual and perennial non-timber crops		Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Livestock farming and ranching	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species		Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Problematic native species	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Eutrophication (within site), Unspecified agricultural runoff (in surrounding area)
Breeding birds are threatened by predatory mammals, especially foxes and alien predators like mink, raccoon and raccoon dog. The increasing nutrient load from agricultural runoff as a consequence of conversion of grassland into cropland has a strong impact on the aquatic ecosystem.
The fish stock of the lake is exploited, though the intensity of fishery has decreased in recent times.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	SPA Nossentiner/Schwinzer Heide; SCI Nebeltal mit Zuflüssen, angrenzenden Seen und Wäldern		whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Park	Nossentiner-Schwinzer Heide		whole
Nature reserve	Krakower Obersee		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

Species

Measures	Status
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	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:

There is a visitors centre of the nature park Nossentiner-Schwinzer Heide. This nature park includes the Ramsar site, the visitor centre supplies information accordingly.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant):

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Neubauer, W. (2001): Die Vögel des Naturschutzgebietes Krakower Obersee. Natur und Naturschutz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 36, 3-70.
Umweltministerium MV (ed.) (2003): Die Naturschutzgebiete in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Demmler-Verlag, pp. 544-545.
Zentrale für Wasservogelforschung und Feuchtgebietsschutz in Deutschland / Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten (1993): Die Feuchtgebiete Internationaler Bedeutung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. 110-114.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

<no file available>

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

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Glaver Koppel waterside in Winter (*Sebastian Lorenz, 06-08-2015*)



Air view of Krakower Obersee (*Inis Kossow, 06-08-2015*)



View from the observation pulpit to the north over the Großer Werder in Krakow Upper Lake (*Sebastian Lorenz, 04-05-2024*)



View from the Großer Werder to the Rauwerder in the Krakow Upper lake (*Sebastian Lorenz, 04-05-2024*)



View to the southeast over the black-headed gull colony in the south of the Großer Werder in Krakow's Upper Lake (*Sebastian Lorenz, 04-05-2024*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation