



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Switzerland

11 Ramsar Site(s) covering 14,690 ha

### **Bolle di Magadino**

Site number: 231 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of Ticino  
Area: 663 ha | Coordinates: 46°09'39"N 08°52'01"E | Designation dates: 18-02-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bolle di Magadino is one of the last near-natural river estuary landscapes in Switzerland. The Site encompasses the estuaries of the rivers Ticino and Verzasca into Lake Maggiore, and 3.4 kilometres of the lake shore. Bolle di Magadino is characterized by a natural succession of vegetation types ranging from open water to mesophile forests, including groups of aquatic plants, reed beds, wet meadows and alluvial forests. Habitats such as marshes with tall sedges, Salix thickets, Alnus carr and other riverine woodlands create an interlinked mosaic of remarkably rich habitat of high biodiversity and landscape value. The Site is home to an impressive number of rare and endangered species, including some whose distribution in Switzerland is limited to the canton of Ticino. The Site harbours 54 plant and 154 animal species listed on the red lists of endangered species in Switzerland. An additional 25 plant and 87 animal species are protected at the European level. The Site is an important breeding area for many species of waterbirds as well as a significant stop-over and wintering ground for waterfowl. Human activities influencing the Site include nature conservation, forestry, agriculture, tourism, industry, and an airport. The surrounding areas are characterized by intensively cultivated land and urban zones. The Fondazione Bolle di Magadino manages the site and is responsible for the implementation of projects related to species conservation and habitat restoration.

### **Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin**

Site number: 79 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Cantons de Berne, Neuchâtel, Vaud  
Area: 1,155 ha | Coordinates: 46°59'08"N 07°02'10"E | Designation dates: 16-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the eastern shore of Lake Neuchâtel, to the west of the capital Berne. It is preserved in a natural state and is the last remaining area of a vast wetland that once existed between the lakes of Neuchâtel, Murten and Biel. The Site consists of an open water area of the lake together with sandbanks, two artificial islands (created to encourage nesting birds), low marshes (large reed beds and marshes with small and large sedges) and ponds. The various habitats host a wide range of flora and fauna with some 50 plant and 141 animal species listed in the national red lists, and 110 listed species protected at European level. The Site is important as one of the few places on the Swiss Plateau where various species of wintering and migratory waterbirds can rest and moult. The vast reed beds and sedges are nesting places, and the agricultural areas provide a habitat for many species of rare birds in rural landscapes. Human activities include nature conservation, forestry, fishing, tourism (camping and water sports) and agriculture.

## Kaltbrunner Riet

Site number: 509 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of St. Gall  
Area: 157 ha | Coordinates: 47°12'44"N 08°59'05"E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is the last-remaining area of marshland in the alluvial plain of the river Linth. Marshlands once characterized the floodplain between Lake Walen and Lake Zurich, but they disappeared at the beginning of the 19th century, when floods were confined by the construction of the Escher and Linth canals. Today, the Kaltbrunner Riet is partially maintained and used as litter meadows (in which the vegetation is cut for bedding) and plays a key role in maintaining this traditional land use on the Swiss Plateau. The important diversity of habitats includes reed beds, marshland with fens and ponds as well as wet meadows and transitional bogs with and without sphagnum mosses. The Site is a haven for many plant and animal species in an intensively cultivated area, and harbours an important diversity of rare and endangered species such as amphibians and dragonflies. A total of 31 plant and 90 animal species are listed on the red lists of endangered species in Switzerland and seven plant and 71 animal species are recorded in the IUCN global red list. The Site is an important breeding or stop-over area for many species of waterbirds. The Kaltbrunner Riet is managed by the NGO Pro Natura, which runs a small visitor centre.

## Klingnauer Stausee

Site number: 507 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of Aargau  
Area: 364 ha | Coordinates: 47°35'45"N 08°13'42"E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the alluvial plain of the lower valley of the River Aare, down to the confluence of the Aare with the Rhine. It consists of a reservoir on the Aare, river stretches in a natural state, and periodically flooded fens and alluvial forests. It is protected by the federal inventories of alluvial zones, fenlands and amphibian spawning grounds as well as by a cantonal decree. Despite its location in a densely populated region of the Swiss central plateau, the Site provides a high diversity of habitats such as the open water of the reservoir, watercourses and pond systems, reed beds, marshes and meadows, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities, willow (*Salix*) thickets, alluvial and ash (*Fraxinus*) woodlands. A large number of nationally rare and threatened species can be observed: 393 red-listed plants and 56 threatened bird species. Due to the constant silting of the reservoir, shallow water zones, mudflats and small islands develop which are important feeding grounds for birds, particularly for ducks. The Site is an important overwintering site for birds, and during migration periods it is one of the most important resting places for waders in Switzerland.

## Laubersmad-Salwidili

Site number: 1,444 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Region: Central Switzerland / District: Entlebuch / Commune: Fluehli  
Area: 1,376 ha | Coordinates: 46°47'54"N 07°59'26"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the northern slope of the Brienzer Rothorn mountain range, between 1,060 and 1,900 metres above sea level. The Site of almost 14 square kilometres is characterized by a mosaic of fens, several types of mountain swamp with low, transitional and raised bogs of national importance, as well as wet spruce forests and meadows. It is notable as the contiguous mire landscape with the highest number of bogs under protection in Switzerland. Laubersmad-Salwidili is home to 24 plant and 33 animal species listed on the Swiss red lists of endangered species, while three plant and 24 animal species are listed on the IUCN global red list. The presence of the three-toed woodpecker, the capercaillie, the black grouse and the lynx underlines the important role of the Site as a habitat for wild mammals and birds. In terms of ecosystem services, the Site plays an important role in water retention. Important bog restoration measures have been implemented since 2004. Human activities affecting the Site include cattle grazing and mountain recreational pursuits such as skiing, hiking, and mushroom and berry picking.

## Le Rhône genevois - Vallons de l'Allondon et de la Laire

Site number: 506 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton de Genève  
Area: 1,929.4 ha | Coordinates: 46°11'32"N 06°02'01"E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site contains a section of the Rhône River in Geneva and downstream, extending from the lake south-westward to the French frontier. It includes the shores of Lake Geneva and riverbanks within the city, riverside areas of the Rhône and natural valleys of the Allondon and the Laire, the Rhône's two main tributaries in the area. The Site forms a green corridor with a varied vegetation cover and habitats such as reedbeds, grasslands subject to seasonal inundation, scrub and alluvial woodland. The Site includes some of the last remaining relatively unmodified stretches of the Rhône in Switzerland, and it is one of the most important wintering sites for waterbirds in the country. There are 113 European protected and over 430 Swiss red-listed species including the globally vulnerable common pochard *Aythya ferina* and the globally endangered thick shelled river mussel *Unio crassus*. Given the proximity to the city, the Site is of a high educational and recreational value, but also under many pressures due to recreational and economic activities such as hydropower generation and the presence of two chemical plants. Popular recreational activities include walking, cycling, canoeing, rafting and camping.

## Les Grangettes

Site number: 504 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Valais, Vaud  
Area: 6,342.2 ha | Coordinates: 46°24'58"N 06°51'46"E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the eastern part of Lake Geneva and the natural part of the Rhône river delta, and features open water, reedbeds, marshes, and riparian woodland. Despite the loss of its natural dynamics since the containment of the Rhône, the Site remains an exceptional landscape. The Site is the most evocative remnant of the immense alluvial and marshy zone that occupied a large part of the Rhone plain, and with a surface area of 6,300 hectares, it remains one of the largest natural wetland plain areas in Switzerland. The Site is remarkable for the diversity of its environments, its flora and fauna, as well as its landscape value. It is also of fundamental conservation importance as it shelters a large number of rare and endangered species. It is a prime site for migrating, nesting and wintering birds. Human activities include conservation, agriculture, fishing, limited forestry, gravel extraction, and outdoor recreation. There is a birdwatching tower. The Site is adjacent to the small lakeside city of Montreux, which hosted Ramsar COP4 in 1990. The Site was extended in 2011 from its original area of 330 hectares.

## Niederried Stausee

Site number: 508 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of Berne  
Area: 297 ha | Coordinates: 46°59'14"N 07°15'03"E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Niederried artificial lake dates back to the construction of a river dam in 1913. The Site includes the lake on the River Aare, and natural stretches of the Aare and the River Sarine. The right shore of the lake features sandstone cliffs, while the left shore is dominated by flat water zones, alluvial forests and periodically flooded alluvial fens. Although the lake is of anthropogenic origin, the Site has evolved into one of the richest alluvial landscapes of the Swiss Plateau. The vegetation includes reedbeds, tall sedge marshland, meadowsweet fen meadows, small sedge reed, alluvial forest of silver willow, grey alder and ash, and beech forest. A particularity of the Site is the remarkable thermophilous flora on the sandbanks and sandstone cliffs. The Site is home to eight plant and 77 animal species figuring on the Swiss red lists of endangered species. It is an important wintering and stop-over site for waterbirds and other migratory bird species; however, silting up of the artificial lake and substantial changes in nutrient loads seem to be driving changes in the waterbird community. The other main factors affecting the Site are the artificial regulation of water levels and the warming of the water due to the nuclear power station in Mühleberg. Human activities such as recreation, agriculture and hydroelectricity production also impact the Site.

## Rhonegletschervorfeld

Site number: 1,445 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton de Valais  
Area: 317 ha | Coordinates: 46°34'36"N 08°22'50"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the tongue of the Rhône glacier, which is the source of the Rhône River, and the recent glacier foreland. It is located between 1,750 and 2,485 metres above sea level. The Site is one of the most remarkable alpine alluvial plains in the Western Central Alps, due to its size, structure, and the unregulated dynamics of the Rhône and a long tradition of research. The flat alpine alluvial zone of Gletschbode contains various stages of plant successions from the pioneer associations on raw ground, up to the forests of larches and different types of vegetation developing on wet, moist and even dry ground. A variety of ecosystems provide a habitat for mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates and support many rare and endangered species. More than 280 vascular plant species are present on the Site, with 12 plants and 23 animal species included in the Swiss red lists, and two plant and 16 animal species protected at European level. The glacier foreland is an important place for mountain birds, with 25 nesting species including the rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), the black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) and the common rock thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*). In summer and autumn, the Site is a well-frequented place for recreation, and restricted areas are grazed.

## Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel

Site number: 505 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton de Fribourg (FR) et Canton de Vaud (VD)  
Area: 1,705.9 ha | Coordinates: 46°51'05"N 06°49'51"E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The southern shore of Lake Neuchâtel is the largest swamp lake in Switzerland, with extensive reed beds, sedges and ponds, bordered by a belt of alluvial forest and slope forest. This great diversity of habitats has allowed for the development of an exceptional fauna and flora. 511 species of plants have been identified, with nearly 100 nationally threatened or potentially threatened species. Some 3,200 animal species have been identified, including 144 species which are included in the Swiss Red Lists and 18 protected at European level. The Site is a very favourable location for overwintering and migratory waterbirds. Together with the neighbouring Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin (Ramsar Site no. 79), the wetland forms Switzerland's most important nesting site for wetland birds. The Site is home to an average of 45,000 birds, including more than 1% of the populations of tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, common pochard *Aythya ferina* and red-crested pochard *Netta rufina*. Human activities relate to conservation, hunting, fishing, forest production and tourism. The Pro-Natura centre in Champ-Pittet offers many facilities including a tower and an ornithological observatory, as well as two kilometres of discovery trails in the marsh and forest. Threats mainly relate to invasive species, canalization and regulation of the waters of the lakes along the base of the Swiss Jura mountains. There is a specific management plan for the Site.

## Vadret da Roseg

Site number: 1,446 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Grisons  
Area: 383 ha | Coordinates: 46°24'27"N 09°51'16"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the glacier foreland, between 2,000 and 2,800 metres above sea level, of the two glaciers Vadret da Roseg and Vadret da Tschierva, and the alpine alluvial zone formed where they have retreated. It includes a lake and meanders of the Ova da Roseg, a stream originating from the spurs of ice of the two glaciers. It is home to a rich and diverse wetland flora and fauna, with six plant and 14 animal species listed on the red lists of endangered species in Switzerland. The natural dynamism of the stream and the constant evolution of its network of meanders create the conditions for a rich plant biodiversity with a highly diverse mosaic of succession stages of plant communities typical of alpine alluvial zones. Notable animals present include the nationally threatened bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* and common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. The Site is susceptible to the impacts of climate change: glacier variations are the best indicator of climate fluctuations and both glaciers, which are monitored by the Swiss Glacier Monitoring Network, are retreating year by year, and so influencing a range of ecological factors.