

Irene FISCHER

Reports

UBA-93-076

Dokumentation der österreichischen Ramsar-Gebiete

**Gebiete gemäß dem "Übereinkommen über
Feuchtgebiete, insbesondere als Lebensraum für
Wasser- und Watvögel, von internationaler
Bedeutung" (Ramsar-Konvention)**

Wien, Juni 1993

Bundesministerium für Umwelt,
Jugend und Familie



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Übersetzung (mit Ausnahme der Datenblätter über die Untere Lobau und das Pürgschachen Moor):
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Anhang 1: Klimadaten Sablatnig Moor

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2. Ramsar-Konvention

2.1. Wesentliche inhaltliche Aussagen

1971 wurde das "Übereinkommen über Feuchtgebiete, insbesondere als Lebensraum für Wasser- und Watvögel, von internationaler Bedeutung" (Ramsar-Konvention) in der iranischen Stadt Ramsar beschlossen. Österreich hinterlegte am 16. Dezember 1982 seine Beitrittsurkunde beim Generaldirektor der UNESCO in Paris. Die Konventionsbestimmungen traten in Österreich am 16. April 1983 in Kraft (BGBl. 225/83).

Gemäß Artikel 1 des Übereinkommens sind Feuchtgebiete als "Feuchtwiesen, Moor- und Sumpfgebiete oder Gewässer, die natürlich oder künstlich, dauernd oder zeitweilig, stehend oder fließend, Süß-, Brack- oder Salzwasser sind (...)" definiert.

Zu den wichtigsten Vereinbarungen der Konvention zählen:

- Aufnahme von mindestens einem Feuchtgebiet in die Liste der Feuchtgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung (siehe Artikel 2.4).
- Förderung einer wohlausgewogenen Nutzung in den übrigen Feuchtgebieten (siehe Artikel 3.1).
- Jede Vertragspartei trägt dafür Sorge, daß sie bereits bei jeder absehbaren Veränderung der ökologischen Verhältnisse eines in die Liste aufgenommenen Gebietes so schnell wie möglich informiert wird (siehe Artikel 3.2.)

- Förderung der Erhaltung von Feuchtgebieten durch Ausweisung als Schutzgebiete (siehe Artikel 4.1).
- Gegenseitige Absprache der Vertragsparteien über die Umsetzung der mit der Konvention verbundenen Verpflichtungen, vor allem über die mehrere Länder übergreifenden Feuchtgebiete und Einzugsgebiete (siehe Artikel 5).

2.2. Erfolgte Änderungen der Ramsar-Konvention

Änderungen des Textes der Ramsar-Konvention sind u.a. im Pariser Protokoll (1982) enthalten. Es trat 1986, nach Ratifizierung durch mehr als die Hälfte der Vertragsstaaten, in Kraft. Mit dem Pariser Protokoll wurden neue Verfahren zur Änderung des Konventionstextes beschlossen (siehe Artikel 10 bis;). Die Änderungen werden mit Zweidrittelmehrheit der anwesenden Vertragsparteien einer Vertragskonferenz beschlossen.

Anlässlich der Konferenz der Vertragsstaaten in Regina (1987) wurden folgende weitere Änderungen des Konventionstextes beschlossen:

- * In Abständen von höchstens drei Jahren findet ein Treffen aller Vertragsparteien statt (Artikel 6.1). Die Konferenzen haben das Ziel, die allgemeine Aktionsweise des Abkommens zu verbessern. Dazu werden Empfehlungen, Beschlüsse und Entscheide abgefaßt.
- * Schaffung eines eigenen Budgets durch Zahlungsverpflichtung der Vertragsparteien (Artikel 6.5 u. 6.6).

Als einer der letzten Vertragsstaaten hat Österreich im November 1992 das Pariser Protokoll sowie die bei der Regina Konferenz beschlossenen Änderungen akzeptiert.

Die letzte Konferenz der Vertragsstaaten fand 1990 in Montreux (Schweiz) statt. Die fünfte Konferenz wird im Juni 1993 in Kushiro (Japan) stattfinden.

2.3. Organisation

Das Ramsar-Büro in Gland/Schweiz ist mit der Koordination der im Rahmen der Konvention anfallenden Aktivitäten betraut.

Der Ständige Ausschuß (Standing Committee) setzt sich aus Vertretern der Vertragsparteien aus jeder der großen Ramsar Regionen zusammen und tritt mindestens einmal jährlich zusammen. Aufgabe ist die Umsetzung und Begleitung der von der Konferenz der Vertragsstaaten gesetzten Beschlüsse.

In Österreich wurde zur Wahrnehmung der Ramsar-Agenden ein "Ständiges Nationales Ramsar-Komitee" gegründet. Derzeitiger Vorsitz: ORR Dr. Ernst Zanini.

3. Ramsar-Gebiete in Österreich

Bei Unterzeichnung der Ramsar-Konvention wurden von Österreich fünf Ramsar-Gebiete für die Liste der Feuchtgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung genannt. Mit Stand 31. Juni 1993 sind österreichweit sieben Gebiete in der Liste ausgewiesen (siehe auch Übersichtskarte; nächste Seite):

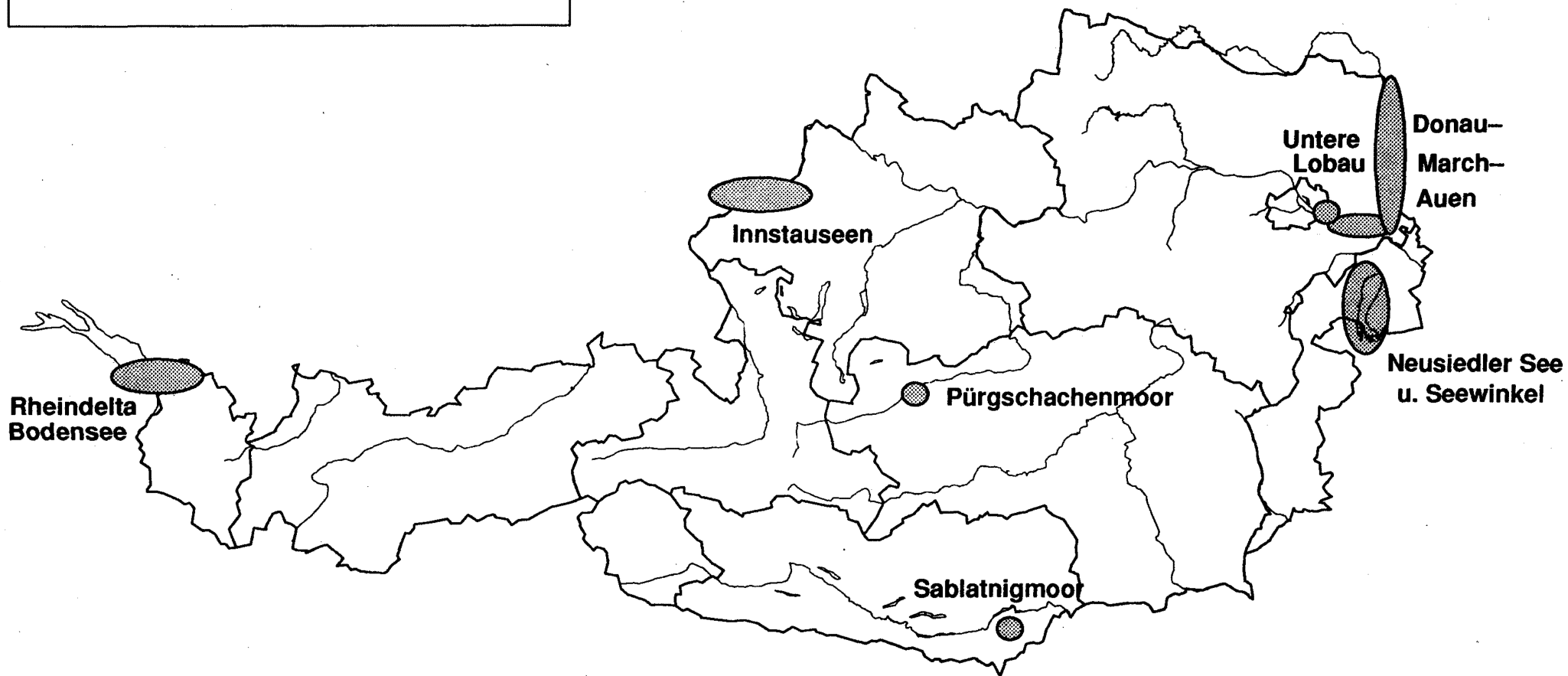
- * Gebiet des Neusiedlersees einschließlich der Lacken im Seewinkel (Burgenland)
- * Donau-March-Auen (Niederösterreich)
- * Untere Lobau (Wien)
- * Stauseen am Unteren Inn (Oberösterreich)
- * Rheindelta (Vorarlberg)
- * Pürgschachen Moor (Steiermark)
- * Sablatnig Moor (Kärnten)

Die österreichischen Ramsar-Gebiete umfassen eine Fläche von ca. 1.000 km². Weltweit zählte die Liste international bedeutender Feuchtgebiete im Jänner 1993 insgesamt 590 Gebiete. Diese liegen in insgesamt 74 Vertragsstaaten.

Die internationale Bedeutung eines Ramsar-Feuchtgebietes soll sich auf ökologische, botanische, zoologische, limnologische oder hydrologische Kriterien beziehen (siehe Artikel 2.2 der Konvention). "Das kann z.B. ein für einen seltenen oder ungewöhnlichen Feuchtgebietstyp repräsentativer Standort in der betreffenden biogeographischen Region sein oder aber ein Standort von besonderem Wert für die Erhaltung der biologischen Vielfalt einer Region oder ein Standort, an dem sich jährlich 20.000 Wasservögel einfinden." (LETHIER, 1992). Über die Größe eines Gebietes als Ausweiskriterium sind in der Ramsar-Konvention keine Angaben enthalten.



Feuchtgebiete von internationaler
Bedeutung (Ramsar-Abkommen)



Umweltbundesamt 1993

Feuchtgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung in Österreich

3.1. Bestandsaufnahmen und Maßnahmen zur Flächensicherung in den Ramsar-Gebieten

Donau-March-Auen (38.500 ha)

In den March-Auen sind insgesamt fünf Naturschutzgebiete ausgewiesen.

Im April 1991 wurden die Donau-March-Auen einem Begutachtungsverfahren durch das Ramsar-Büro unterzogen. Ein vom Ständigen Ausschuß ausgearbeiteter Überwachungsmodus ("Monitoring Procedure" - Kontrolle zur Einhaltung der Ramsar Konvention) gibt dem Ramsar-Büro die Möglichkeit, mit den Vertragsparteien zusammenzuarbeiten "und bei etwaigen ökologischen Veränderungen der Ramsar Gebiete eine Lösung zu finden". (SMART, 1991).

Weltweit wurde eine Liste jener Gebiete erstellt, in denen sich "die ökologischen Verhältnisse geändert haben, ändern oder wahrscheinlich ändern werden" (s.Artikel 3.2.).

Die Donau-March-Auen scheinen als einziges der derzeit sieben österreichischen Ramsar-Gebiete auf der Liste der gefährdeten Ramsar-Gebiete auf.

Eine Expertenkommission "mit internationaler Erfahrung im Schutz von Feuchtgebieten im besonderen von Auwiesen und -wäldern" des internationalen Ramsar Büros erhob im April 1991 den Zustand und die Entwicklung dieses Ramsar-Feuchtgebietes. (SMART, 1991). Die Vorschläge, Kommentare und Empfehlungen wurden in einem Bericht abgefaßt und den zuständigen Behörden vorgelegt.

Aufgrund der Empfehlung dieses Berichtes wurde, initiiert vom Land Niederösterreich, eine Arbeitsgruppe Donau-March-Auen gegründet. An dieser Arbeitsgruppe nehmen, unter der Leitung der Naturschutzabteilung des Amtes der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung, Vertreter der Raumordnung, des BMUJF, des Distelvereins, des WWF-Österreichs und des Umweltbundesamtes teil. 1993 soll für das Ramsar-Gebiet Donau-March-Auen, unter der Bedachtnahme einer wohlausgewogenen Nutzung ("wise use"), ein Managementplan erarbeitet werden.

Im Zuge der Nationalparkplanung Donau-Auen werden umfassende Grundlagenenerhebungen im Auftrag der Bundesländer Niederösterreich und Wien sowie des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie von der Marchfeldbetriebsgesellschaft durchgeführt. Mit einem Abschluß der Arbeiten ist Ende 1993 zu rechnen. Es ist jedoch anzumerken, daß nur das Gebiet der Donau-Auen durch die Aktivitäten der Nationalparkplanung erfaßt wird.

Im Gebiet der March-Auen wurde vom Umweltbundesamt die Situation der Auwiesen erhoben sowie eine Biotopkartierung an der Unteren March durchgeführt. Die Ergebnisse dieser Vorstudie liegen als RAMSAR-Bericht 1, Rheindelta/Marchauen am Umweltbundesamt (Monographien Bd. 18) vor.

Für das gesamte Gebiet der March-Auen wurde 1992 anhand der Grundlagen eines Infrarotluftbildfluges eine luftbildunterstützte Kartierung durchgeführt (GAMPER et al. 1992). Zur Zeit befindet sich am Umweltbundesamt eine Waldbiotopstrukturbewertung in Bearbeitung.

Bezugnehmend auf die Ergebnisse der Monitoring Procedure (vgl. Kap. 3.2.) wird im Auftrag des Landes Niederösterreichs und des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie vom Distelverein und vom WWF ein Managementplan für die Marchauen erstellt.

Einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur Sicherung der in ihrem Bestand gefährdeten Marchwiesen leistet der Distelverein (Orth an der Donau) durch Pachtverträge mit den Bauern (Marchwiesenprogramm).

Untere Lobau (1.039 ha)

Die Untere Lobau ist seit 1978 als Naturschutzgebiet ausgewiesen. Das Schutzgebiet soll in den geplanten Nationalpark Donau-Auen miteinbezogen werden. Grundlagenerhebungen liegen bereits vor.

Stauseen am Unteren Inn (870 ha)

Das Gebiet der Stauseen am Unteren Inn wurde 1978 zum Naturschutzgebiet erklärt. Es deckt im wesentlichen (in der Naturschutzgebietsverordnung wurden die Kraftwerksareale ausgenommen) das Ramsar-Schutzgebiet ab. Die unter Schutz gestellten Flächen sind Eigentum der Inn Kraftwerke AG. Ab dem Frühjahr 1993 wird auf einer 300 ha großen Fläche des Naturschutzgebietes die Jagd auf Wasservögel und Rehwild eingestellt werden.

Im Auftrag des Umweltbundesamtes wurden Grundlagenerhebungen durchgeführt. Neben der Erhebung der naturräumlichen Ausstattung, der Bedeutung für Flora und Fauna, des Zustandes und der Nutzungsintensitäten wurden vor allem Nutzungskonflikte

5. Dokumentation der Ramsar-Gebiete Österreichs

Zur weltweiten Aktualisierung der Datenbank in Slimbridge (England) über die international bedeutenden Ramsar-Gebiete wurden 1992 vom Ramsar-Büro (Gland/Schweiz) auszufüllende Erhebungsblätter an die Mitgliedsstaaten gesandt.

In Absprache mit dem gemeinsamen Delegierten der Bundesländer für das Ramsar-Abkommen, Herrn ORR Dr. Ernst Zanini, und dem BMUJF, wurden die von den Bundesländern Burgenland, Kärnten, Steiermark, Vorarlberg und Wien ausgefüllten Datenblätter vom Umweltbundesamt gesammelt. Die Datenblätter der Ramsar-Gebiete Donau-March-Auen (Niederösterreich) und Stauseen am Unteren Inn (Oberösterreich) wurden vom Umweltbundesamt ausgefüllt. Anhang II umfaßt den Kriterienkatalog, der u.a. die Code-Listen der Feuchtgebietstypen und der Ramsar Kriterien beinhaltet.

Die übersetzten Datenblätter wurden mit entsprechendem Kartenmaterial im Dezember 1992 gesammelt nach Slimbridge (England) übermittelt.

Die Datenblätter beinhalten die wichtigsten Informationen und geben somit einen kurzgefaßten Überblick über die Ramsar-Gebiete Österreichs und sind nachfolgend aufgelistet.

Die bei den Punkten 10 (Wetland type) und 30 (Reasons for inclusion) aufscheinenden Codes sind im Anhang II (Information Sheet on Ramsar-Wetlands) erläutert.

In Hinblick auf die 1993 in Japan geplante 5. Konferenz der Vertragsstaaten der Ramsar-Konvention sind diese nach Slimbridge übermittelten Informationen auch für die Erstellung eines aktuellen weltweiten "Directory of Wetlands" von wesentlicher Bedeutung.

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, WRB, Strimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: **Austria** 2. Date: **2. 4.12.1992** 3. Ref: **office use only**

4. Name and address of compiler:

Ing. Irene Fischer; Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency), Spittelauer Lände 5, A-1090 Wien

Tel.: 0222-31304; Telefax: 0222-31304400

5. Name of wetland: **Donau-March-Auen**

6. Date of Ramsar designation: **16.4.1983**

7. Geographical coordinates: **48°12'N, 16°28'E - 48°11'N, 16°58'E and 48°11'N, 16°58'E - 48°43'N,**

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

The area is situated in the area bordering Slovakia, east of Vienna, Austria.

9. Area: (in hectares)

38500 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

M, N, T

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

148m

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

The Donau-March-Auen (riverine and flood-plain forests) constitute the largest comprehensive riverine and flood-plain forests of Central Europe. The Ramsar site is one of the last natural flowing parts of the river Danube, whereby the dynamics is still intact. The riverine forests represent the transition from the eastern steppe-area to the alpine region of Central Europe. Noteworthy is the high number of species of flora and fauna.

13. 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)

Holocäne riverine and flood-plain forests, pleistocäne terrace (Würm, Riss)

Donau-Auen: Calcareous gravel, heavy and dense; March-Auen: acid sand, porous, light. Average annual temperature: 9,8°C; Average annual precipitation: 550 mm.

The Danube has mountainous character whilst the March has pannonic features. The Danube riverine forest is regularly flooded in June, when the snow melts in the mountains. The spring floods of the March, the Danube's floods in summer, which reach the March area, as well as the high ground water level in the Danube riverine forest, determine the ecological factors in the area. The rude material which was transported from the landscape of the river and riverine forest of the Danube.

The March has a bad water quality, while the Danube shows a biological water quality of II-III.

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

The Ramsar area represents a unique ecological situation: the Danube, a mountain river meets an pannonic river, the March, which shows SE-European character traits.

The site comprises a strip of land either side of the River Danube between the state of Vienna and the Slovakian border; a strip of land along the River March (Morava) from its confluence with the Danube to the south of the Slovakian town of Breclav (Hainburg to Hohenau); and a strip along the Thaya from Bernhardstal to Hohenau. It contains riverine marshes, ponds, oxbow lakes and meadows with vegetation, including alder (*Alnus* sp.) and original woodland. These areas comprise the largest remaining tract of near-natural to natural riverine and flood plain forest in Central Europe.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

Mostly federal forests; some estates, WWF Austria and private property owners.

(b) surrounding area

intensively used private farmland

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which) The site is partly protected within an area of six nature reserves, totalling 2213 ha, including Marchauen-Marchegg Nature Reserve (1.150 ha) with 50% WWF Austria ownership and 50% private ownership. The Landscape Protection Area comprises 2000 ha and the Biosphere Reserve "Untere Lobau" 1000 ha.

To safeguard the typical wet meadows alongside the March, management measures (mowing, hay-harvest) are taken by the landscape management society "Distelverein".

To stabilize the groundwater aquifer an artificial canal was built through the Marchfeld, upstream Vienna, to bring water from the Danube to the Rußbach.

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

The National Park "Donau-Auen" is under preparation, as well as the study of comprehensive management plans. The existing meadow management along the March is to be extended.

Currently a Ramsar working group was set up by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Youth and Family and the state government of Lower Austria to develop a site plan, taking Ramsar rules into consideration.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

Forestry, agriculture, hunting, fishing, filter beds of a sugar-refinery, recreation area for neighbouring settlements, canoeing

(b) surroundings/catchment

agriculture, hunting

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

The sinking ground water level in the riverine forest due to the deepening of the Danube into its river bed, constitutes a danger for the dynamics of the riverine forest. Donau-Elbe-Oder Canal, plans for various power plants at the Danube, increased recreation activities, mowing of the meadows, drastic reduction of meadows and natural wood areas.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

agriculture

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

The complete part of the river Danube east of Vienna was regulated in the last century. Nevertheless, both the groundwater and flood dynamics for large riverine areas remained. Depending of the Danube's bed due to erosion, the fall of the groundwaterlevel and the big flood control dam (Hubertusdamm) already built last century lead to the drying up of large parts of the riverine forests.

During the last century, regulation work along the river March was carried out. The surrounding area of the River March, which is used agriculturally, was protected by dams against flooding.

Danube (Furcation type): Height of fall 40 cm/km

March (Meandering type): Height of fall 16 cm/km

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

The riverine forest and flood-plains of the Donau-March is of great importance for securing a balanced water economy in the region, whose precipitation is rather poor. The riverine forest is also a retention area for floods. A great potential exists for fishing and forestry, and hunting has always played a big role. In recent years, the Donau-Auen have become very popular as recreation area.

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

Breeding species: *Ciconia nigra* (6 pairs), *C. ciconia* (30 pairs), *Pernis apivorus*, *Milvus nigrans* (20 pairs), *Circus aeruginosus* (1), *C. pygargus*, *Crex crex*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Picus canus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Dendrocopos medius*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Lanius collurio*, *Tringa totanus*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Limosa limosa*, *Tachybaptus ruficollis* etc.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Vegetation of the Danube riverine forest: demontan-pannonic, vegetation of the March riverine forest: panonnio-pontic. About 650 plant species can be found in the Donau riverine forests. Some plants of the SE European riverside reach their westerly border in the March riverine forests, e.g. *Acer tartaricum*, *Urtica kioviensis*, *Leucosium aestivum*, *Rumex altissima*, *Eryngium planum*, *Gratiola officinalis* and *Clematis integrifolia*.

-
- 24. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)
The area is a genetic reservoir, and as such it is irreplaceable for research work. Testing methods, as well as studies, have been carried out since 1990, as regards the possibility of setting up a National Park "Donau Auen". Foundation research of the March riverine forest is carried out by the Federal Environmental Agency with the help of aerial photographs. National Park Institute Donau-Auen of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Applied Eco-Ethology, situated in Haringsee.
- 25. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Public relations activities were so far carried out only by the WWF. Information and education possibilities are planned in conjunction with the establishment of the National Park "Donau-Auen".

-
- 26. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

No recreational facilities exist in the area of the March riverine forest. Only temporary tourism in the region of the "Marchfeld Schlösser" (Castles). In the Donau-Auen tourism is increasing rapidly, due to the vicinity of Vienna. The area is used for hiking, biking, as well as for canoeing.

-
- 27. Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung, Abt. II/3, Angelegenheiten des Naturschutzes, Dorotheergasse 7, A-1010 Wien
Tel.: 0222-53110; Telefax: 0222-53110 5280

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

Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung, Abt. II/3, Angelegenheiten des Naturschutzes, Dorotheergasse 7, A-1010 Wien
Tel.: 0222-53110; Telefax: 0222-53110 5280

-
- 29. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

-
- 30. Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

1c, 1d, 2a, 3b, 3c

-
- 31. Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)
ÖK numbers: 26, 43, 59, 60 and 61 (M 1:50000)
-

Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

Telephone: 44 - (0)453 890634

Telefax: 44 - (0)453 890827

Telex: 43 71 45 WWF-G



Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: Austria 2. Date: 29.10.1992 3. Ref: office use only

4. Name and address of compiler:

Townhall of Vienna

Magistrat 22

A-1082 Vienna

Tel.: 0043 222/4000-88219

Fax: 0043 222/4000-88215

5. Name of wetland:

Untere Lobau

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 16. April 1983

7. Geographical coordinates: 48°10'N, 16°30'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)
south-east of the centre of the city of Wien (Vienna).
Untere Lobau is contiguous with Donau-March-Auen Ramsar site.

9. Area: (in hectares)

1039ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

M,N,S,T,U

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

151 m

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

Alluvial riverside with forest, meadows and water areas. Cutoff from the floods of the river Danube since the last century (embankment).

13. 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)

Historical Danube river floodplain with well-developed numerous oxbow lakes, backwaters, sand and gravel banks, reed beds, periodical pools as well as dry gravel ridges ("Heissland").

Flat relief; different hydrological regime corresponding to Danube river; gravel and sand sediments! The climate of this area is very dry and warm (+9.8 °C). Yearly average rainfall is about 500 - 600 mm.

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

Reed beds; Soft wood riverside forest; Hardwood forest; Dry and hot sand and gravel areas meadows.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

Federal district of Vienna

(b) surrounding area Multiple private ownership

16. 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)

Nature reserve since 9. August 1978. It is intended to include this Ramsar site in the planned Nationalpark "Donau-Auen".

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

none

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

(b) surroundings/catchment

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

Rising recreation because of the vicinity of the city of Vienna (short-term recreation!)

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

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

The ground water of this area is used for drinking purposes in the city of Vienna (4 ground water wells)

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

The area has been used by humans since ancient times (fishing, hunting, agriculture, timber production). Scientific research, outdoor recreation!

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Lilium bulbiferum, Lilium martagon, Helleborus dumetorum, Nuphar sp., Nymphaea sp., Sparganium sp., Thypha sp., Stratiotes aloides, Sagittaria sagittifolia
Numerous orchids on the dry gravel ridges!

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

Several research projects have been carried out in the area. Scientific activities are mainly concerned with botanical and limnological problems. Biotope mapping; etc.

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

Folder only!

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

No facilities for recreation, except paths and trails

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

Town hall of Vienna; MA 22
A-1082 Vienna
Tel.: 0043 222/4000-88219
Fax: 0043 222/4000-88215

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

Local administration of nature protection
Townhall of Vienna, MA 22

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Biotope mapping
Several scientific research projects

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

1a, 1c
2a, 2b, 2c
3b

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

Ök number 59

Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

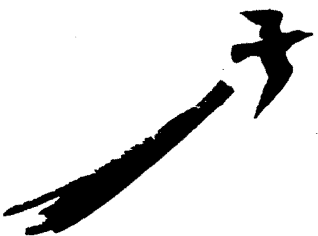
Telephone: 44 - (0)453 890634

Telefax: 44 - (0)453 890827

Telex: 43 71 45 WWF-G

Anhang 2

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands



RAMSAR DATABASE

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Explanatory Note and Guidelines

An Information Sheet should be completed for each Ramsar wetland. A specimen of the basic data sheet is appended. In some cases, insufficient information may be available for entries to be made under all sections of the data sheet. However, compilers are urged to fill out as many sections as possible, and in any event to make some entry under sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. In the case of a wetland which has been well studied and well documented, or which is the subject of special field investigations, far more information may be available than can be accommodated on the data sheet. If this is so, additional information can be provided by attaching additional pages. Whenever possible, copies of published papers or photocopied reports on the site should be appended to the data sheet. Slides or photographs of the wetland are also especially valuable.

In the case of very large and complex wetland systems, two levels of approach may be advisable: a broad approach for the system as a whole, and a more detailed approach for key localities within the system. Thus for a particularly large wetland complex it may be appropriate to complete an Information-Sheet for the site as a whole and a series of sheets for key areas within the complex.

The following notes relate to the various sections on the Information Sheet:

1. Country: The name of the country
2. Date: The date on which the data sheet was completed
3. Ref: A reference number for the site (to be allocated by the Ramsar Database manager).
4. Name and address of compiler: The full name and address of the person compiling the Information sheet, together with telephone, fax and telex numbers.
5. Name of wetland: The name of the designated site (alternative names should be given in brackets)
6. Date of Ramsar designation: The date on which the wetland was officially designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.
7. Geographical coordinates: The geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude; Greenwich) of the approximate centre of the wetland, expressed in degrees and minutes. If the site consists of two or more discrete entities, the coordinates of the centres of each of these entities should be given.

8. General Location: A description of the general location of the wetland including the distance (in a straight line) and compass bearing of the wetland from the nearest significant town or city.
9. Area: The area of the designated site in hectares.
10. Wetland Type: List all the wetland habitats present in the site, using the classification attached as Annex I (approved by Montreux Rec. C.4.7). It is only necessary to list the relevant codes. Please indicate which wetland type is dominant by placing a circle around the relevant code in your list. It is recognised that this may be difficult for large sites with a variety of habitats, but this general indication is invaluable to the database manager and Ramsar Bureau staff.
11. Altitude: The minimum, average, maximum and elevation of the wetland in metres above mean sea level.
12. Overview: A brief summary of the wetland in not more than two or three sentences, mentioning principal physical and ecological features.
13. Physical features: A short description of the principal physical characteristics of the site, covering the following points where relevant:
 - geology and geomorphology
 - origins (natural or artificial)
 - hydrology (including seasonal water balance, inflow and outflow)
 - soil type and chemistry
 - water quality (physico-chemical characteristics)
 - depth, fluctuations and permanence
 - tidal variations
 - catchment area
 - downstream area (especially in the case of wetlands important in flood control)
 - climate

Information on climate need only include the most significant climatic features (e.g. annual rainfall and average temperature range) and any other factors having a major effect on the wetland.

14. Ecological features: A brief description of the main habitats and vegetation types present, listing the dominant plant communities and species present, and describing any zonation, seasonal variations and long-term changes. Include a brief note on the original natural plant communities in adjacent areas, as well as the present plant communities (including cultivation) if different from the original vegetation.
15. Land tenure/ownership: Details of ownership of the wetland and ownership of surrounding areas (e.g. state, provincial, private etc). Give explanatory details for terms having a special meaning in the country or region concerned.

16. Conservation measures taken: Details of any protected areas established at or around the wetland, and any other conservation measures taken at the site, such as restrictions on development, management practices beneficial to wildlife, closures of hunting etc. If a reserve has been established, please give the date of establishment and size of the protected area. State whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented. If only a part of the wetland is included within a protected area, the area of wetland habitat which is protected should be noted. An assessment of the enforcement of legislation and effectiveness of any protected areas should be given whenever possible.
17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Details of any conservation measures which have been proposed for the site, including any proposals for legislation, protection and management. Summarize the history of any long-standing proposals which have not yet been implemented, and make a clear distinction between those proposals which have already been officially submitted to the appropriate government authorities, and those proposals which have not as yet received official government endorsement, e.g. recommendations in published reports and resolutions from specialist meetings. Also mention any management plan which exists (or is in preparation) but has not yet been implemented.
18. Current land use: principal human activities in (a) the Ramsar site itself and (b) in the surroundings and catchment. Give information on the human population in the area, with a description of the principal human activities and main forms of land use at the wetland, e.g. water supply for domestic and industrial use, irrigation, agriculture, livestock grazing, forestry, fishing, aquaculture and hunting. Some indication of the relative importance of each form of land use should be given whenever possible. In section (b) summarize land use in the catchment which might have a direct bearing on the wetland, and land use in any downstream areas likely to be affected by the wetland.
19. Disturbances and threats including changes in land use and major development projects: Information on any human activities at the site or in the catchment area which have had, are having, or may have a detrimental effect on the natural ecological character of the wetland (e.g. diversion of water supplies, siltation, drainage, reclamation, pollution, over-grazing, excessive human disturbance, and excessive hunting and fishing). Distinguish if possible between internal and external threats. List introduced exotic species and give information on why they were introduced.
20. Hydrological and biophysical values: A brief description of the principal hydrological and biophysical values of the wetland, e.g. its role in the recharge and discharge of groundwater, flood control, sediment trapping, prevention of coastal erosion, maintenance of water quality and support of food chains.

21. Social and cultural values: A brief account (more detail can be given in sections 24-26 below) of the principal social values (e.g. tourism, outdoor recreation, education and scientific research, grazing, water supply, fisheries production) and cultural values (e.g. historical associations and religious significance). Whenever possible, indicate which of these values are consistent with the maintenance of natural wetland processes and ecological character, and which values are derived from non-sustainable exploitation or detrimental ecological changes.
22. Noteworthy fauna: A general account of the noteworthy fauna of the wetland, with details of population sizes whenever possible. Particular emphasis should be given to threatened species, economically important species and species occurring in internationally significant numbers. Lists of species and census data should not be quoted in full on this form, but copies should be appended to the information sheet whenever possible.
23. Noteworthy flora: Information on any plant species or communities for which the wetland is particularly important (e.g. endemic species, threatened species or particularly good examples of native plant communities).
24. Current scientific research and facilities: Details of any current scientific research and information on any special facilities for research.
25. Current conservation education: Details of any existing programmes and facilities for conservation education and training and comments on the educational potential of the wetland.
26. Current recreation and tourism: Details of the present use of the wetland for recreation and tourism, with details of existing or planned facilities.
27. Management authority: The name and address of the body responsible for the conservation and management of the wetland.
28. Jurisdiction: The name of the government authority with territorial jurisdiction over the wetland, e.g. state, region or municipality, and the name of the authority with functional jurisdiction for conservation purposes, e.g. Department of Environment, Department of Fisheries.
29. References: A list of key references relevant to the wetland, including management plans, major scientific reports and bibliographies. When a large body of published material is available on the site, only the most important references need be cited, with priority being given to recent literature containing extensive bibliographies. Reprints or copies of the most important literature should be appended whenever possible.
30. Reasons for inclusion: State which of the Ramsar Criteria for identifying features of international importance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Montreux in July 1990, are applicable (e.g. 1(a); 2(b); 2(c) etc. The criteria are attached as Annex II.

31. Outline map of site: Append an outline map of the wetland. Whenever possible, maps should include geographical coordinates, a compass bearing, scale, date, administrative boundaries, the boundary of the Ramsar site, some topographical information, notable hydrological features, the distribution of the main wetland habitat types, main roads and other notable features. The map should be as detailed and up-to-date as possible; 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 should be regarded as the minimum acceptable scale for most sites.

Completed information sheets should be returned to T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BX, England.
Tel: 44 (0)453 890634 Fax: 44 (0)453 890697 Telex: 437145 IWRB G

ANNEX I

WETLAND TYPE

Please list all the wetland types present within the designated Ramsar boundaries according to the codes listed below. Please remember to indicate which wetland type is dominant by placing a circle around up the relevant code when you enter wetland types on the datasheet.

The codes are based upon the 'Classification Wetland Type' approved by Rec. C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Montreux, 1990). The categories listed are intended to provide only a very broad framework to aid rapid identification of the main wetland habitats represented at each site. This framework should not be considered as an attempt at a comprehensive wetland classification.

Natural and Semi-natural Wetland Habitats

Shallow marine waters.....	A
Marine beds.....	B
Coral reefs.....	C
Rocky shores.....	D
Sand/shingle shores (including dune systems).....	E
Estuarine waters.....	F
Tidal mudflats (including intertidal flats and saltflats).....	G
Salt marshes.....	H
Mangrove/tidal forest.....	I
Coastal brackish/saline lagoons.....	J
Coastal fresh lagoons.....	K
Deltas.....	L

Rivers/streams/creeks:	permanent.....	M
	seasonal/intermittent.....	N
Freshwater lakes:	permanent.....	O
	seasonal/intermittent.....	P
Saline/brackish lakes/marshes:	permanent.....	Q
	seasonal/intermittent.....	R**
Freshwater marshes/pools:	permanent.....	S
	seasonal intermittent.....	T**
Peatlands (including peat bogs, swamps, fens).....		U
Tundra/Alpine wetlands.....		V
Shrub-dominated wetlands.....		W
Tree-dominated wetlands (including swamp forest).....		X**
Freshwater springs (including oases).....		Y
Geothermal wetlands.....		Z

** to include floodplain wetlands such as seasonally inundated grassland or forest

Man-made Wetland Habitats

Fish/shrimp ponds.....	1
Farm ponds, small tanks.....	2
Irrigated land, (including rice fields).....	3
Seasonally flooded agricultural land.....	4
Salt pans, salines.....	5
Reservoirs/barrages/dams.....	6
Gravel/brick/clay pits.....	7
Sewage farms.....	8
Canals.....	9
No information.....	0

ANNEX II

REC. C.4.2 (Rev.) Annex I from: Montreux Proceedings, Vol. 1

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Introduction

Article 2.1 of the Convention states that "Each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a "List of Wetlands of International Importance". The guidance provided by the Convention text on identification of "wetlands of international importance" is in Article 2.2, which refers to "international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology" and indicates that "In the first instance, wetlands of international importance to waterfowl at any season should be included". The Criteria set out below, which have been approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, are for identifying wetlands of international importance.

Criteria

A wetland is identified as being of international importance if it meets at least one of the criteria set out below:

1. Criteria for representative or unique wetlands

A wetland should be considered internationally important if:

(a) it is a particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland, characteristic of the appropriate biogeographical region;

or (b) it is a particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland, common to more than one biogeographical region;

or (c) it is a particularly good representative example of a wetland which plays a substantial hydrological, biological or ecological role in the natural functioning of a major river basin or coastal system, especially where it is located in a trans-border position;

or (d) it is an example of a specific type of wetland, rare or unusual in the appropriate biogeographical region.

2. General criteria based on plants or animals

A wetland should be considered internationally important if:

(a) it supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plant or animal, or an appreciable number of individuals of any one or more of these species;

or (b) it is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a region because of the quality and peculiarities of its flora and fauna;

or (c) it is of special value as the habitat of plants or animals at a critical stage of their biological cycle;

or (d) it is of special value for one or more endemic plant or animal species or communities.

3. Specific Criteria Based on Waterfowl

A wetland should be considered internationally important if:

(a) it regularly supports 20,000 waterfowl;

or (b) it regularly supports substantial numbers of individuals from particular groups of waterfowl, indicative of wetland values, productivity or diversity;

or (c) where data on populations are available, it regularly supports 1 % of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterfowl..

Guidelines for Application of the Criteria

To assist Contracting Parties in assessing the suitability of wetlands for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, the Conference of the Contracting Parties has formulated the following guidelines for application of the Criteria:

(a) A wetland could be considered of international importance under Criterion 1 if, because of its outstanding role in natural, biological, ecological or hydrological systems, it is of substantial value in supporting human communities dependent on the wetland. In this context, such support would include:

- provision of food, fibre or fuel;
- or maintenance of cultural values;
- or support of food chains, water quality, flood control or climatic stability. The support, in all its aspects, should remain within the framework of sustainable use and habitat conservation, and should not change the ecological character of the wetland.

or (b) A wetland could be considered of international importance under Criterion 1, 2 or 3 if it conforms to additional guidelines developed at regional (e.g. Scandinavian or West African) or national level. Elaboration of such regional or national guidelines may be especially appropriate:

- where particular groups of animals (other than waterfowl) or plants are considered more suitable as a basis for evaluation;
- or where waterfowl and other animals do not occur in large concentrations (particularly in northern latitudes);
- or where collection of data is difficult (particularly in very large countries).

or (c) The "particular groups of waterfowl, indicative of wetland values, productivity or diversity" in Criterion 3 (b) include any of the following:

- loons or divers: Gaviidae;
- grebes: Podicipedidae;
- cormorants: Phalacrocoracidae
- pelicans: Pelicanidae
- herons, bitterns, storks, ibises and spoonbills: Ciconiiformes;
- swans, geese and ducks (wildfowl): Anatidae;
- wetland related raptors: Accipitriformes and Falconiformes
- cranes: Gruidae
- shorebirds or waders: Charadrii; and
- terns: Sternidae.

or (d) The specific criteria based on waterfowl numbers will apply to wetlands of varying size in different Contracting Parties. While it is impossible to give precise guidance on the size of an area in which these numbers may occur, wetlands identified as being of international importance under Criterion 3 should form an ecological unit, and may thus be made up of one big area or a group of smaller wetlands. Consideration may also be given to turnover of waterfowl at migration periods, so that a cumulative total is reached, if such data are available.