

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

---

### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Dr. Andreas Ranner  
Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung, Abt. 5/III  
Europaplatz 1, A-7000 Eisenstadt  
Austria  
[andreas.ranner@bgld.gv.at](mailto:andreas.ranner@bgld.gv.at)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

DI Brigitte Gerger  
Verein BERTA  
c/o Landwirtschaftliches Bezirksreferat  
Stremtalstr. 21A, A-7540 Güssing  
Austria  
[brigitte.gerger@lk-bgld.at](mailto:brigitte.gerger@lk-bgld.at)

---

### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

6 March 2013

---

### 3. Country:

AUSTRIA

---

### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Güssing fishponds (Güssinger Fischteiche)

---

### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

---

### 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

**a) Site boundary and area**

**The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:**

or

**If the site boundary has changed:**

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

**\*\* Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

---

**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an **electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundaries more or less delineate the core area of the former larger wetland area. They follow the outer edge of the ponds, small roads and water courses (channels, creeks). Thus an area is delineated for which long-term conservation seems realistic.

---

**8. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

47°03'N, 16°19'E

---

**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

The site is located in the southern part of Austria's easternmost province, Burgenland. Within southern Burgenland it is located in the district of Güssing, on the southwestern edge of the town of Güssing, the district's main (or capital) town. The town Güssing has approx. 3750 inhabitants, the human population of the whole district of Güssing numbers approx. 26.600.

**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)  
min. 215 m – max. 230 m NN

**11. Area:** (in hectares)  
148 ha

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The Güssing fishponds are situated in the flat valley of the Zickenbach-creek, right on the south-western edge of the picturesque town of Güssing. Here the valley of Zickenbach opens up into the broad valley of river Strem, one of southern Burgenland's main river valleys. The scenery is dominated by the Güssing castle which is built on top of a prehistoric volcano right in the centre of the town. The fishponds alone cover an area of 65 hectares. They consist of one large and three smaller ponds (as well as basins for fish rearing), separated by dams. They are used for aquaculture in an extensive way, mainly for carp, pike, pike-perch and catfish. The ponds are surrounded by a dense reed belt, mainly consisting of reed (*Phragmites*) and bulrush (*Typha*). This reed belt is an important breeding site for several species of water birds; the ponds themselves are an important stop-over site for migratory birds. A small island covered by willows and shrubs in one of the smaller ponds is used as roosting place by herons.

Whereas the ponds partly border the built-up area of the edge of the town of Güssing (including a public bath), they also stretch into the surrounding valley bottom of the Zickenbach-creek. This area still has remnants of a formerly vast marshland although both the Zickenbach and Strem have been regulated in the last century and thus the groundwater level has dropped. The surroundings show a varied landscape consisting of wet meadows with single trees, remnant copses of alluvial forest and willow bushes, small channels but also aforestation (spruce, poplar) and agricultural fields. The upper slopes of the valley edges are covered by mixed forest.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 2: The site is important for several threatened species.

In relation to Criterion 2b it can be considered as being critical for the survival of species identified as being of conservation concern within international frameworks. These are:

*Aythya nyroca* (Ferruginous Duck, CMS Annex I): This species uses this site as a regular migration stop-over site. The species breeds in Austria only on lake Neusiedl (already a Ramsar-site). The Güssing fishponds are used as a staging-site for this population from and on the way to their wintering grounds during spring and autumn migration.

*Haliaeetus albicilla* (White-tailed Eagle, CMS Annex I, CITES Annex I): The Güssing fishponds are the by far most important feeding site for 1-2 breeding pairs of this species, one of them nesting in southwestern Hungary, underlining also the transboundary importance of the site.

Further on, the site hosts several species identified as being threatened on a national level (national red list status according to FRÜHAUF 2005; full reference see section 34), eg. *Ixobrychus minutus* (Little Bittern, national threat status endangered) and *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Night Heron, national threat status critically endangered).

In the ponds several threatened water plants (regional and national red list status according to WEBER 2005) are thriving like *Trapa natans* (water chestnut), *Spirodela polyrhiza*, *Bolboschoenus maritimus* and *Oenanthe aquatica* whereas in the wet meadows we can find *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and *Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus* (all these species are considered as endangered). There is also an occurrence of as *Cicuta virosa* (national threat status endangered, regionally critically endangered) on the ponds.

Criterion 3: The site lies within the south-central part of the continental biogeographic region in the European Union, in a narrow corridor between the Alpine and the Pannonian Biogeographic regions. This part of that region is characterised by few natural standing water bodies, but these are being partly replaced by some fishpond areas. The Güssing fishponds are the most important fishpond system in that area in terms of ornithological and floristical importance.

Criterion 4: For many migratory waterbird species the Güssing fishponds are an important staging site during migration. It lies roughly half-way on the flyway between the Adriatic Sea and lake Neusiedl or the large alluvial wetlands of the rivers Danube and Morava (all existing Ramsar sites). Thus good numbers of waterbirds, especially ducks, waders, gulls and terns can gather at this site. This can be illustrated by some figures recorded during the last three years:

*Ardea cinerea* (Grey Heron): up to 96 birds in autumn (11<sup>th</sup> October 2004, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Casmerodius albus* (Great White Egret): up to 99 birds in autumn (16<sup>th</sup> November 2003, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Aythya ferina* (Pocharde): up to 370 birds in autumn (8<sup>th</sup> October 1996, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Philomachus pugnax* (Ruff): up to 146 birds in spring (25<sup>th</sup> March 1997, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Tringa glareola* (Wood Sandpiper): up to 130 birds in spring (30<sup>th</sup> April 1988, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Larus minutus* (Little Gull): up to 70 birds in spring (30<sup>th</sup> April 2011, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Chlidonias hybridus* (Whiskered Tern): up to 15 birds in spring (29<sup>th</sup> April 2009, SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Chlidonias niger* (Black Tern): up to 300 birds in spring (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2004, SAMWALD et al. 2013)

Other regular migrants in lower numbers include: *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Night Heron), *Ardea purpurea* (Purple Heron), *Egretta garzetta* (Little Egret), *Aythya nyroca* (Ferruginous Duck), *Porzana parva* (Little Crake), *Recurvirostra avosetta* (Avocet), *Numenius phaeopus* (Whimbrel), *Tringa totanus* (Redshank), *Tringa erythropus* (Spotted Redshank), *Tringa nebularia* (Greenishank), *Tringa stagnatilis* (Marsh Sandpiper), *Tringa ochropus* (Green Sandpiper), *Larus melanocephalus* (Mediterranean Gull); *Sterna hirundo* (Common Tern), *Chlidonias leucopterus* (White-winged Black Tern), *Acrocephalus melanopogon* (Moustached Warbler).

As a breeding site for waterbirds the Güssing fishponds are considered by BirdLife Austria (DVORAK et al. 1994) as being of national importance. This is founded on the breeding occurrences of:

*Tachybaptus ruficollis* (Little Grebe): in recent years 15-25 pairs (SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Podiceps cristatus* (Great Crested Grebe): 1989 46 pairs, 1994-1999 22 pairs, 2000-2011 10 pairs (SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Podiceps nigricollis* (Black-necked Grebe): 0-1 pair until 1978 (SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Ixobrychus minutus* (Little Bittern): during most years 4-8 pairs 2010 15 pairs (SAMWALD et al. 2013)  
*Panurus biarmicus* (Bearded Tit): at least 2005 and 2010 1-4 pairs (SAMWALD et al. 2013)

As well as several pairs each of inter alia *Aythya ferina*, *Aythya fuligula* (Tufted Duck), *Rallus aquaticus* (Water Rail), *Locustella luscinioides* (Savi's Warbler), *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Sedge Warbler), *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (Great Reed Warbler).

Additionally as being an important staging site for migratory waterbirds, this site has attracted several vagrant species over the years.

---

**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Continental

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Biogeographical Regions in the European Union.

Reference:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites\\_hab/biogeog\\_regions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm)

---

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The site is situated within one of the typical river valleys of southern Burgenland. The geology of the wider area is characterised by fine sediments from the tertiary age. It lies on the eastern edge of the so-called Styrian volcano land. The small town of Güssing is nestled around one of these volcanoes which active times date back to around 2 million years (Pliocene volcanoes). The fishponds are right on the south-western edge of the town, on the foot of the still impressive volcano which has a landmark castle on its top. This castle is the oldest in the province of Burgenland (which means: land of castles), dating back until the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The fishponds themselves are among the largest in Austria and also their origin dates back several centuries. They comprise one large main pond and three medium-sized ponds as well as a few fish-rearing basins. The ponds are separated by dams and surrounded by a reed belt. Its water is coming from the small creek Zickenbach.

The adjoining valley bottom formerly was the centre of a vast marshland, being drained for centuries by small channels. But still wet meadows and remnants of alluvial forest remain. The landscape is very varied with meadows intermixed with single trees, bushes and small forest patches. Agricultural use inside the site boundaries is not so intense as the dense soils with high ground water levels yield only poor crops in many years. The wider surroundings (outside the site) are more intensely used for agriculture, new settlements and recreation (there is a plan to build a golf course).

For further information on soil types and climate see below.

---

**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Southern Burgenland, including the catchment area of the site, the valleys of Zickenbach and Strem, are under subillyrian climate influence. Lying in a transition zone between pannonian, continental-prealpine and Mediterranean climate it is similar to the pannonian climate with warm summers but has a higher

precipitation. The yearly average temperature lies between 9 and 10°C, the annual precipitation is around 800 mm.

The geomorphology is characterised by low rolling hills intersected by broad river valleys, mainly running in the sector between NW-SE to W-E.

It lies in the colline altitudinal zone. Soil types are dominated by brown soils, pseudogley and in the valley bottoms alluvial soils including ground water-gleys.

### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The whole site has a major role for flood retention, being a shallow basin with the fishponds in its centre. The fishponds themselves – besides being an important local economic factor – are an important refuge for rare and endangered water-living plant and animal species.

### 19. Wetland Types

#### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar “Classification System for Wetland Type” present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

**Marine/coastal:** A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

**Inland:** L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •  
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

**Human-made:** 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

#### b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Wetland-types: 1 (fish-ponds incl. reed-belt): 52 %, Ts (wet meadows): 12 %, W (willow bushes and alluvial forest): 7 %

Non-wetland types (29 %): fields, woodland

### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The fishponds are fringed by a reed belt, mainly consisting of reed (*Phragmites australis*), Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and other species (eg *Glyceria maxima*, bulrush *Schoenoplectus spec.*, *Bolboschoenus* and tall sedges *Carex spec.*). This reed belt is locally bordered by tall sedge marshes. Inside the ponds several species of aquatic macrophytes and swimming plants occur. The pond system is bordered to the north and northwest by a few rows of trees, mainly *Salix spec.*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Quercus spec.* and *Prunus spinosa*. Another row of trees, mainly consisting of willows, is along the southern edge. The fishponds are completely drained in October/November and irrigated again in March.

The surrounding area is mainly characterised by remnants of wet meadows (*Molinieta*) and agricultural fields. Channels bordered by tall herbs and bushes, groups of willow bushes and small copses of alluvial forests represent relics of a former large wetland area but nevertheless still provide a suite of habitats and structure types formerly typical for southern Burgenland. To the north and northeast the town of Güssing is bordering directly to the site.

Anyhow it is the ponds that make up for the importance of the site, with large numbers of waterbirds, amphibians (although these are fishponds!), dragonflies and other water-related species.

Until now the sustainable management of the fishponds served both: the economics of fish farming but also the requirements of the ecosystem. Therefore it can be stated that the current fish farming regime is important for the survival of several threatened species at this site.

For a more detailed description on species of flora and fauna see the relevant chapters in this form.

### 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The site is mainly notable for its aquatic macrophytes and swimming plants, besides those already mentioned the following can be mentioned as characteristic species: *Nuphar lutea*, *Lemna trisulca*, *Potamogeton crispus*, *Potamogeton natans*, *Utricularia vulgaris* and *Ceratophyllum demersum*. The site also still may hold the critically endangered *Marsilia quadrifolia* although it has not been recorded in recent years. *Iris pseudacorus* and *Butomus umbellatus* are typical flowering species of the reed belt, both are classified as vulnerable.

The occurrence of the endangered species *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and *Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus* is one of the main features of the remaining wet meadows. Other noteworthy species, which are all considered as vulnerable, include *Leersia oryzoides*, *Selinum carvifolia*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Thalictrum lucidum* and *Succisella inflexa*.

### 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Besides the many bird species already mentioned the site also regularly attracts the European Otter *Lutra lutra*. It is also a regionally important site for dragonflies, eg it holds an isolated occurrence of the endangered species *Libellula fulva*, whereas the Zickenbach creek hosts a population of the vulnerable *Ophiogomphus cecilia*. The ponds and surrounding wet meadows are also important for amphibians, with the notable occurrence of *Rana arvalis wolterstorffi*.

Among the farmed fish species are Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Pike (*Esox lucius*), Pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*), Catfish (*Silurus glanis*) and Tench (*Tinca tinca*).

The castle of Güssing is an important wintering site for bats. The fishponds and the surrounding area is an highly frequented hunting area of several bat species.

### 23. Social and cultural values:

**a)** Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

The site is important for fisheries production.

The adjacent town of Güssing is the cultural and administrative centre for the whole region.

**b)** Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

---

#### **24. Land tenure/ownership:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:

Private Owners own more than 94 % of the site  
About 2,5 % is public ground (roads and tracks), the rest is government-owned (federal and provincial, approx. 1,5 %, water courses) or belongs to the local church.

- b) in the surrounding area:

The surrounding area is owned in a similar ratio: mainly privately owned, with water courses government-owned and roads, tracks etc as public ground. Inside the town a higher percentage is provincial government-owned or public ground. A larger part, mainly the volcano with the castle on top is owned by a foundation of a local aristocrat.

---

#### **25. Current land (including water) use:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:

The fishponds comprise about half of the area of the site, which is there fore used for fish farming. About 22 % of the area are sued for agriculture and about 15 % for forestry. Roads and tracks, partly also the dams between the fishponds are used for recreation (hiking, cycling, jogging). The whole area is used for hunting. The fishponds are a regional hotspot for birdwatching.

- b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Apart from the town of Güssing and other settlements the surrounding are is mainly used for agriculture and forestry. Hunting and recreation activities (as above) are carried out throughout. Next to the site is a large sports centre with a public bath. A golf course is planned.

---

#### **26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:

Drainage and afforestation of wet meadows may be the main potential threat to the site. A flood prevention dam is being built on the edge of the site which may further drainage of parts of the site. Some meadows suffer from abandonment and following succession. On the ponds itself the current regime of fish farming seems to be sustainable. Any severe changes to that regime could affect the ecosystem.



b) in the surrounding area:

There are plans of creating a golf course next to the site that might lead to a loss of meadows, increased water demand and disturbance. The enlargement of settlements and increased recreational activities may also lead to a higher disturbance rate and a loss of surrounding (buffer) habitats.

---

**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

There is no legally protected area in the site, but conservation measures are promoted through agri-environment payments within the Austrian ÖPUL-programme. There are also payments made for extensive fish farming, so that the fish ponds keep their role as an important wetland for fauna and flora.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

A management plan for the site shall be prepared from 2013 onwards.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Extensive meadow use by eg. late mowing, extensive fish farming including conservation of the water fringe vegetation.

---

**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

A LEADER-project for the management of important areas outside protected areas aims to halt vegetation succession on meadows.

---

**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Regular counts of waterbirds, irregular fieldwork on other taxa (eg. dragonflies, plants), finished study on the potential occurrence of the snail species *Vertigo moulinsiana*

---

**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

A few published data about the birds of the site. Good media presence of the town of Güssing due to its historical and cultural attractions and also due to its role as leading municipality in Austria in the field of energy-autonomy.

---

**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Not at the fishponds itself (except for recreational birdwatching), hiking and bicycling in the whole wider area, adjacent to the site are the sports grounds and public bath of the town of Güssing, forming an important recreation centre. One of the ponds is used for ice-skating in winter.

---

### 32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Bezirkshauptmannschaft Güssing, Hauptstraße 1, A-7540 Güssing (main jurisdiction)

Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung, Abt. 5/III, Europaplatz 1, A-7000 Eisenstadt (provincial conservation department)

---

### 33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Management at the site will be coordinated on behalf of the regional government by:

DI Brigitte Gerger  
Verein BERTA  
c/o Landwirtschaftliches Bezirksreferat  
Stremtalstr. 21A.  
A-7540 Güssing  
[brigitte.gerger@lk-bgld.at](mailto:brigitte.gerger@lk-bgld.at)

---

### 34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Dvorak, M., I. Winkler, C. Grabmayer & E. Steiner (1994): Stillgewässer Österreichs als Brutgebiete für Wasservögel. Monographien des Umweltbundesamtes, Bd. 44. Wien.

Fischer, I., M. Paar & E. Weber (1994): Landschaftsinventar Burgenland. Monographien des Umweltbundesamtes, Bd. 46. Wien.

Fischer, M. A. & J. Fally (2006): Pflanzenführer Burgenland. Eigenverlag Mag. Dr. Josef Fally, Deutschkreutz.

Frühauf, J. (2005): Rote Liste der Brutvögel (Aves) Österreichs. In: Zulka, K.P. (Red.): Rote Listen gefährdeter Tiere Österreichs. Checklisten, Gefährdungsanalysen, Handlungsbedarf. Teil 1. Grüne Reihe des Lebensministeriums. Böhlau Verlag.

Raab, R., A. Chovanec & J. Pennerstorfer (2007): Libellen Österreichs. Springer-Verlag, Wien.

Samwald, O. & F. Samwald (1990): Die Vogelwelt der Bezirke Güssing und Jennersdorf. Natur und Umwelt im Burgenland, Sonderh. 1990/1.

Samwald, O., F. Samwald, A. Gamauf, K. Michalek, M. Nöhner, H. Lauerer & E. Lederer (2013): Die Vogelwelt des Südburgenlandes – Bezirke Oberwart, Güssing und Jennersdorf. BirdLife Österreich, Illmitz. 88pp.

Weber, E. (2005) Liste der Farn- und Blütenpflanzen des Burgenlandes. 3. Auflage. Veröff. Der Internat. Clusius Forschungsgem. Güssing 9. Güssing.

BirdLife Austria database, data published regularly (quarterly to annually) in the magazine „Vogelkundliche Nachrichten aus Ostösterreich“

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites\\_hab/biogeog\\_regions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm)

<http://www.guessing.co.at/>

---

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)