

# 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.

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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

*05 April 2013*

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### 3. Country:

*Austria*

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### 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.

*Wilder Kaiser*

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

**Designation of a new 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

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


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**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.

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**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.

**Koordinaten (WGS84):****Bottom Left:**

Lat      47°31,5113'      Long      12°12,3799'

**Top Right:**

Lat      47°34,9945'      Long      12°25,4054'

**Centre: WGS84**

Lat      47° 34' 0" N      Long      12° 18' 0" E

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**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.

**Federal country Tyrol; District of Kitzbühel and district of Kufstein; Nearest towns: Kitzbühel (8134 inhabitants) and Kufstein (17.550 inhabitants)**

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**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

480 - 2344 m

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

3.781,44 ha

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**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 Wilder Kaiser (Wild Emperor) is a limestone massif with typical karst hydrology. In the South it adjoins to sandstone hills with a surface hydrology where bogs, fens and wet meadows have developed. Three creeks coming out of the karst have formed canyons into the sandstone and along the border between the two geological formations crop-outs of springs are located. The whole area is a rare combination of different wetland types (bogs, fens, creeks, springs and karst) including a big mountain massif with its typical flora and fauna (see annexes 1-4).*

**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 1:** *The "Wilder Kaiser" is an outstanding karst massif of the Eastern Limestone Alps. Its name was derived from the bizarre shape of the steep and narrow summits reminding on a crown. The mires of the massif and the attached sandstone hills show all typical features of mire types representative for the Northern Limestone Alps. Most of the objects are either cultural landscape elements (litter meadows, wet pastures), near-natural or natural, and for the drained mire "Hüttlmoos" management measures have been applied.*

**Criterion 2:** *The plant communities of the riverine forests, mires and their marginal forests are endangered as are almost all wetland communities in Central Europe. Vulnerable and/or endangered species are e.g. *Carex davalliana* (Davall's sedge), *Carex pauciflora* (Few-flowered Sedge), *Drosera anglica* (Great Sundew), *D. intermedia* (Oblong-leaved Sundew) and *D. rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew), all *Sphagnum* species, and the Green Earthworm (*Allobobophora smaragdina*).*

**Criterion 3:** *The "Wilder Kaiser" represents almost all plant communities typical for the biogeographical region of the Northern Limestone Alps and therefore add an important part to the biodiversity of the region. Typical examples of plant species not occurring outside peatlands are *Carex davalliana* (Davall's sedge), *Carex pauciflora* (Few-flowered Sedge), *Drosera anglica* (Great Sundew), *D. intermedia* (Oblong-leaved Sundew) and *D. rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew) and numerous moss species. An outstanding animal species is the Green Earthworm (*Allobobophora smaragdina*).*

**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:**

Alpine

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

European Environmental Agency (2012)

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/biogeographical-regions-in-europe>

**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 Kaisergebirge is a Karst massif between the Chiemgau mountains to the north and the Kitzbühel Alps to the south. The two mountain ranges run parallel from east to the west with length of about 20 km and a width of 14 km. The northern range, the "Zahmer Kaiser" reaches an altitude of 2001 m (Vordere Kesselschneid) and the southern range, the "Wilder Kaiser", 2344 m (Ellmauer Halt). Bizarr shaped narrow summits and rock faces up to 1000 m are outstanding in the Northern Limestone Alps and responsible for the name of the massif (Wilder Kaiser = Wild Emperor due to the crown like shape of the southern range).*

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

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

*"Wetterstein" limestone forms the upper part of the massif and has a thickness of about 1000 m, in the valleys and lower parts younger rocks such as Dolomite (Hauptdolomit) and moraine are prevailing. The attached hills in the south consist of Triassic sandstone (Buntsandstein)*

#### 18. Hydrological values:

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

*Retention of precipitation especially after thunderstorms or heavy rainfall.*

*Groundwater recharge and improvement in the Karst massif.*

#### 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.

*Zk (b) Karstsystem*

*U Mires*

*M Brooks*

*4 Litter meadows, wet pastures*

*Y Freshwater springs*

*Va Alpine wetlands*

#### 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 site contains a big variety of wetlands including a large Karst massif - different types of mires, brooks, freshwater springs and alpine wetlands. For detailed information see annexes 1-4*

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**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.*

*See annexes 1-4*

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**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.*

*See annexes 1-4*

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**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:

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:

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**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

*Austrian Federal Forestry, Commune of Kirchdorf, one private owner*

b) in the surrounding area:

*Several private owners including common ownership*

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

*Certified forestry (Pan European Forest Certification PEFC 2001/02) outside the mires, hunting, fishing and tourism including nature education*

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

*All possible uses*

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**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:

*A forestry road cuts off some seepage areas from Hüttlmoos*

b) in the surrounding area:

*Not possible to predict. The whole region is one of the biggest skiing areas in Austria*

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**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.

*The "Kaisergebirge" is a nature reserve since 1963.*

*The Ramsar site proposed includes important parts of the attached sandstone hills with their richness in mires in the south which are not protected yet*

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?:

*Yes*

d) Describe any other current management practices:

*In 2004 a rehabilitation project was started in Hüttl-Moos. The ditches were closed and the afforestation removed (for details see annex 2)*

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

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

*no proposals*

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

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

*no projects*

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**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.

*Nature conservation education facilities featuring a nature trail, a special designed playing ground for children, numerous information boards and an information sheet.*

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

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

*Yes, there is a lot of recreation and tourism (mountain climbing, hiking, fishing) but tourist are streamlined to the trails and asked to keep of the peatlands.*

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

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

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**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.

*Nature Protection Unit of the Austrian Federal Forests (ÖBf AG)*

*Forstbetrieb Unterinntal*

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*Together with Mag. Otto Leiner from the Office of the Tyrolean Government*

*K,*

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

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

*Fischer, K. (1962): Naturschutzgebiet "Kaisergebirge" Ja oder Nein? - Jahrb. Ver. Schutz Alpenpfl. und -Tiere, 27*

*Janetschek, H. (1957): Die Tierwelt des Raumes von Kufstein. - Kufsteiner Buch, Schlern-Schriften, Innsbruck, 156: 203-275.*

*Smettan, H. (1981): Die Pflanzengesellschaften des Kaisergebirges/Tirol. - Jubiläumsband des Vereins zum Schutz der Bergwelt, München.*

*Steiner, G.M. (1992): Österreichischer Moorschutzkatalog. Grüne Reihe des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie Bd. 1, 509 pp, Karte 1:500.000, styria medien service, Graz.*

*TIRIS Maps. Tyrolean biotope inventory, communes of Going, St. Johann in Tirol und Kirchdorf (mapped by Mag. Irmgard Silberberger) and Nature reserve "Kaisergebirge*

*<http://www.tirol.gv.at/themen/zahlen-und-fakten/statistik-tiris/tiris-kartendienste/>*

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