

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: November '923. Ref: 7 AT001
office use only

4. Name and address of compiler:

G. Dick, A. Grüll,
Biological study group, Lake Neusiedl, A-7142 Illmitz
Tel. 02175-2328

5. Name of wetland: Neusiedlersee, Seewinkel, Hansäg

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 16th April 1983

7. Geographical coordinates: 47°41' - 47°58'N, 16°40' - 17°06'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)
Province of Burgenland (e.g. Illmitz, 72 km SE of Vienna)

9. Area: (in hectares) Neusiedlersee approx. 250 - 300 sq km, Seewinkel 300 sq km,
Hansäg approx. 25 sq km

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

H, Q, R

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

113 m

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

see supplementary sheet

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)

see supplementary sheet

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

Principal vegetation: Phragmites, Halophyten flora

a) aquatic vegetation:

Except of reed, *Utricularia vulgaris*, along the small lakes preponderantly
Potamogeton pectinatus and *Cladophora*.

b) Plant communities in adjacent areas:

Along the borders of small lakes saline communities (*Festuca*, *Artemisia*)
with *Lepidium*, along the lake's border pastures, transition to fen and
Magno-Caricio (large sedge communities)

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

Lease of the southern part of the lake, as well as of all connected pastures by the government; large estates and private property.

(b) surrounding area

Large estates and private property.

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)

see supplementary sheet

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

see supplementary sheet

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

Harvest of reed, hunting of water fowl (goose, duck), fishing, agricultural use in the vicinity of small lakes.

(b) surroundings/catchment

Intensive agriculture, especially viticulture. At present reduced use for viticulture.

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

Hunting of water fowl, water and soil eutrophication, water fowl botulism, tourism, pastures are no longer used (small lakes are overgrowing with reed), interference in the water etat of small lakes further loss of pastoral land to agriculture.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

Strong eutrophication due to agricultural landuse in the catchment area of Lake Neusiedl and the small lakes in the Seewinkel (Lacken), problem of fertilizer transfer during winderosion and running water (Wulka). Decrease of groundwater level with agricultural fountains.

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

Grundwasser s. BFB-Bericht (Biologische Station Neusiedler See) 58, 39-50, 109-125, 63, 5-14. Neusiedler See and most of the smaller lakes of the Seewinkel are drained by "Einserkanal" and a system of smaller channels, so springtime floods are strongly reduced. Sediment trapping (for elimination of nutrients) is planned for the estuary of the Wulka.

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

Economic and social values:

Tourism, ornithologists, area with specific scientific qualities, studies carried out by the Biological Studies Group Neusiedler See and the University of Vienna (numerous ornithological theses). Fishing since ancient times.

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

see supplementary sheet

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

Special floral values:

Aster tripolium pannonicus, *Lepidium cartilagineum*, *Salvia austriaca*, *Iris pumila*, *Astragalus austriacus*, *Triglochin maritima*, *Scorconera parviflora*.

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

Biologische Station Neusiedlersee, A-7142 Illmitz and University of Vienna

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

There is only one information centre at Lange Lacke/Apetlon (Seewinkelhof, WWF); education/information for students, tourists and local people is also provided by the Biologische Station. Some observation towers at the lakes and in Hanság (Great Bustard), new booklets and in summer lectures for tourists in the villages.

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

Typical tourism (sailing - surfing) in almost all villages around Neusiedler See, but no tourism in the southern part of the lake (National Park - nature zone). In most villages also larger holiday settlements in the reedbelt. On small roads around many lakes biking with high intensity.

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

Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung
Abteilung IV - Naturschutz
A-7000 Eisenstadt

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

see 27

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

see supplementary sheet

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

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

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)

please see enclosure *ix* numbers: 78, 79, 108 and 109 (M 1:50000)

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

Telephone: 44 - (0)1453 890634

Telefax: 44 - (0)1453 890827

Telex: 43 71 45 WWF-G

12. Overview:

Lake Neusiedl:

Shallow lake in flat landscape, with wide phragmites belt; a canal, the "Einserkanal", completed in 1910, is an artificial canal, which reins in the floods in spring.

Seewinkel:

Approx. 80 saline small-sized shallow lakes, as well as remains of partly saline humid pastures in an area of intensive agricultural use.

Hanság:

Former fen, however, most of it is cultivated today.

13. Physical features:

a) **Water regime:**

Lake Neusiedl has only one major overground tributary; the water level of the small lakes varies, they dry out quite often.

b) **Water depth:**

Lake Neusiedl 1.5 m, small lakes 30 - 60 cm.

c) **Salinity/acidity:**

Lake Neusiedl approx. 1,200 mg/l, pH 8.5 - 9.1; small lakes: soda concentration of 5 - 50 g/l, pH 8.4 - 11.0.

d) **Fluctuations/permanence:**

Floods of Lake Neusiedl were stopped with the construction of the "Einserkanal". Most of the small lakes dry out in summer.

e) **Climatic conditions:**

Transition towards continental steppe climate. Hot, dry summers, snowless winters, precipitation less than 600 mm, annual average temperature 10 centigrade.

16. Conservation measures taken:

a) **Protected areas:**

Small lakes: Oberstinker, Unterstinker, Illmitzer Zicksee, Kirchsee, Fuchslochlacke, Lange Lacke, Obere Halbjochlacke, Wörtenlacken; Hutweiden/Lange Lacke and grass land/Illmitz; Zitzmannsdorfer Wiesen and Hanság. Lake Neusiedl and Seewinkel are landscape-protected areas with restricted use.

b) Other measures:

Along the Lange Lacke protected area for water fowl, prohibition to hunt for water fowl.

Controlled use of land for cattle grazing in protected areas, planned cultivation of pastures (controlled hay harvest), reduction in the yield of nutritive substances.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Law for National Park Lake Neusiedl exists since November 1992. Restriction of use of reed at Lake Neusiedl. Re-establishment of natural water etat. Extension of area for cattle grazing. Extension of protected area for water fowl. Restriction of fishing. Reduction of soil erosion and thus a reduction of nutritive substances in the water.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Waterfowl:

(Breeding birds/in pairs)

Podiceps cristatus, Podiceps nigricollis (10), Anser anser (400), Aythya nyroca, Netta rufina (5), Anas acuta (5), Anas strepera (30), Anas querquedula (20), Anas clypeata (180).

Migratory birds (Maxima):

Anser anser (6,000), Anser albifrons (3,000), Anser fabalis (20,000), in recent extremely dry years most geese stay overnight in Hungary and partly use arable land in Austria to feed on. Anas crecca (10,000), Anas clypeata (1,500), Anas querquedula (300), Netta rufina (50).

Other fauna:

(Breeding birds/in pairs)

Egretta alba (200 - 400), Ardea purpurea (100), Ardea cinerea (20 - 45), Ixobrychus minutus, Botaurus stellaris, Ciconia ciconia (20), Platalea leucorodia (0 - 20), Circus pygargus (5), Circus aeruginosus (130), Porzana porzana, Porzana parva, Otis tarda (10 - 15), Charadrius alexandrinus (15 - 30), Charadrius dubius (60), Recurvirostra avosetta (70 - 100), Numenius arquata (5), Limosa limosa (40 - 130), Tringa totanus (100 - 200), Gallinago gallinago (5), Sterna hirundo (60), Asio flammeus (max. 10), Upupa epops (30), Motacilla flava (200), Luscinia svecica (150), Lanius minor (5).

Fish: In Lake Neusiedl:

Anguilla anguilla, Cyprinus carpio, Esox lucius, Alburnus alburnus, Blicca bjoerkna, Gymnocephalus cernua, Aspius aspius, Pelecus cultratus, Stizostedion lucioperca.

29. Bibliographical references:

Selection of most recent works:

BÖCK, F. and G. AUBRECHT (1985)

Österreichische Gewässer als Winterrastplätze für Wasservögel. Grüne Reihe des Bundesministeriums für Gesundheit und Umweltschutz, Band 3

DICK, G., HUDEC, K. and P. MACHACEK (1984)

Sommerlicher Zwischenzug der Graugänse (*Anser anser*) des Neusiedler See-Gebietes nach Südmähren. Die Vogelwarte 32, 251 - 259

GRÜLL, A., RAUER, G. and H. SAGMEISTER (1987)

Ökologische Untersuchungen am Wasservogel-Botulismus im Seewinkel (Neusiedler See-Gebiet). Unpubl. Bericht (Copy at IWRB).

HUDEC, K., DICK, G. and J. PELLANTOVA (1986)

Sommerliche Zwischenzugsbewegungen der Graugans (*Anser anser*) in Mitteleuropa 1984. Ann. Naturhist. Museum

LEISLER, B. (1979)

Neusiedler See. Kilda, Greven, 62 pp

LÖFFLER, H. (1979)

Neusiedler See: The Limnology of a shallow lake in Central Europe. Junk Publ. The Hague, 559 pp

LÖFFLER, H. (1982)

Der Seewinkel. Die fast verlorene Landschaft. Verlag Niederösterreichisches Pressehaus, St. Pölten - Wien, 160 pp

WINKLER, H. (1983)

Einwirkungen der Eutrophierung auf die Limikolenfauna im Seewinkel (Neusiedler See-Gebiet). Beitr. Umweltschutz, Lebensmittelangelegenheiten und Veterinärverwaltung, Forschungsbericht 5, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Umweltschutz

WINKLER, H. und B. HERZIG-STRASCHIL (1991)

Die Phänologie der Limikolen im Seewinkel (Burgenland) in den Jahren 1963 - 1972. Egretta 24, 47 - 69

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT GESAMTKONZEPT NEUSIEDLER SEE (1984)

Forschungsbericht 1981 - 1984. Wissenschaftliche Arbeiten aus dem Burgenland, Sonderband 2

SPITZENBERGER, F. (1988)

Artenschutz in Österreich. Grüne Reihe des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie Nr. 8, Wien, 335 pp

MÜLLER, Ch.Y. (1984)

Bestandsentwicklung und Zugverhalten der Löffler (*Platalea leucorodia* L.) im österreichisch-ungarischen Raum. Egretta 27, 45 - 67

RAUER, G. und B. KOHLER (1990)

Schutzgebietspflege durch Beweidung. Wissenschaftliche Arbeit Burgenland, Sonderband 82, 221 - 278