



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: 7.1.1992

3. Ref: office use FAT 006

4. Name and address of compiler:

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Ant der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung
Rechtsabteilung 6, Fachstelle Naturschutz,
Karmeliterplatz 2, 8010 Graz.

5. Name of wetland: PÜRGSCHACHEN MOOR

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 9. September 1991

7. Geographical coordinates: 47°35'N 014°21'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) Province of Styria, District of Liezen, approximately 7,5 km east of the town of Liezen.

9. Area: (in hectares)

62 ha

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

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11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum) The entire area lies at an altitude of approximately 632 m above sea level.

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

Raised peat bog surrounded by developing flat bogland, damp meadows, patches of conifers. Situated in the flood plain of the river Enns, it serves as a good example of the once extensive ancient peatlands of the inneralpine valleys. The central raised peat bog area (46 ha) is currently managed

by WWF Austria.

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)

During the past 10 000 years the Pürgschachen Moor developed out of a postglacial lake. Through a slow process of sedimentation layers of peat were laid down to reach a current average depth of 6 m. Pollen analysis reveals that the early vegetation was dominated by sedges and rushes. The older, deeper layers of peat show remnants of Myrica gale, now extinct in Austria. The upper layers of peat show a dominance of Sphagnum moss. The central raised peat bog area is surrounded by flatter bogland and damp meadows interspersed with areas of conifer woodland. The peripheral areas are influenced by human interference such as drainage ditches, attempts of afforestation and peat extraction.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types) Raised peat bog area: Contains patches of Pinus mugo and areas free of trees and shrubs. Plant communities determined by acidity. Main species are Pinus mugo, Sphagnum magellanicum, Sphagnum fuscum, Sphagnum tenellum, Sphagnum warnstorffii, Sphagnum cuspidatum, Eriophorum vaginatum, Vaccinium oxycoccos, Drosera rotundifolia, Calluna vulgaris, Andromeda polifolia. Area between raised peat bog and peripheral woodland: This area is developing into a raised peat bog and shows the highest species diversity: Main species are: Betula pubescens, Pinus sylvestris, Pinus mugo, Calluna vulgaris, Andromeda polifolia, Sphagnum magellanicum, Sphagnum rubellum, Sphagnum tenellum, Sphagnum warnstorffii. The drainage ditch surrounding the bog harbours a completely different species community. Main species are: Eriophorum vaginatum, Rhynchospora alba,

.....Carex rostrata, Molinia caerulea, Sphagnum cuspidatum, Sphagnum acutifolium, Sphagnum palustre, Sphagnum squarrosum. At the edge of the ditch there are: Rhamnus frangula, Betula pubescens, Picea abies, Pinus sylvestris, Calluna vulgaris, Rhynchospora alba, Vaccinium oxycoccos, Vaccinium-vitis-idaea.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site The entire site is currently under private ownership (several owners). The central area (raised peat bog, 40 ha) is leased to WWF-AUSTRIA until 1996.

(b) surrounding area
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)

The site lies in a protected landscape area. This, however, does not offer sufficient legal protection in order to maintain and secure its ecological character.

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

The conservation authorities together with NGO's are in the process of purchasing the whole site and preparing the necessary steps to achieve full legal protection. A management plan will be drawn up in the near future aiming at reversing the current drainage and afforestation situation.

18. Current land use; principal human activities in:

(a) site The central areas are currently not used. Some peripheral areas are used as hay meadows.

(b) surroundings/catchment The immediate surroundings are used as hay meadows.

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 main potential threat to the site are the current drainage activities. However, these will not be allowed to continue once the site is under full legal protection. A future management plan will include the filling in of existing drainage ditches.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

None known.

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

The site receives its water supply from 3 different sources:

- a) Where the river Enns draws close to the site, the peripheral areas are regularly flooded.
- b) The central area is fed by ground water.
- c) High precipitation and a damp climate provide a regular atmospheric water supply.

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

Important for conservation, education and scientific research, particularly pollen analysis.

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

The site harbours a range of rare, specialised and relic species of invertebrates and is particularly important for Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, Salticidae and pseudoscorpions.

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

Rare and endangered as well as biogeographically important species include Betula nana, Pinus mugo, Vaccinium oxycoccos, Vaccinium uliginosum, Drosera anglica, Drosera rotundifolia, Eriophorum vaginatum, Andromeda polifolia, Molinia caerulea, Scheuchzeria palustris, Drepanocladus fluidans, Polytrichum strictum. Cladonia stygia is at the southern edge of its European distribution.

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

none

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

none

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

none

27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland) *Note:* WWF-Austria is currently managing the central raised peat-bog area. A full management plan will be established after the acquisition of the whole site.

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Rechtsabteilung 6
Karmeliterplatz 2
A-8010 Graz, AUSTRIA

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

Steiermärkische Landesregierung
Rechtsabteilung 6
Fachstelle Naturschutz.

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

BIRKER, R., 1979: Zur Ökologie und Torfstratigraphie des Pürgschachen-Moores.
Diss.-Karl-Franzens-Univ. Graz.

FRANZ, H. u. KLIMESCH, J.: 1947: Das Pürgschachenmoor im Steirischen Ennstal.
Natur u. Land 34, 5/6, 128 - 136.

KRAL, F. u. MAYER, H., 1979: Aus dem Pollenarchiv des WWF-Reservates Pürgschachener Moor
Allgemeine Forstzeitung 2.

see back of this sheet!

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

1(a), 2(a), 2(b).

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 99 Rottermann 1:25.000

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29. Bibliographical references:

- RUOSS, E., MAYRHOFER, H. und FONGRATZ, W., 1987: Eine Rentier- und eine
Becherflechte neu für die Steiermark.
Mitt.naturwiss.Ver.Steiermark 147,
105 - 110.