

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th 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 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
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:

Josef Faas Unit Nature Protection
district-board (Landratsamt) Miesbach
Rosenheimer Strasse 1-3
D-83714 Miesbach

Tel.: 049-8025-704-254, Fax: 049-8025-704-289
e-mail: josef.faas@lra-mb.bayern.de

Anton Mayer Unit 53 – Basics of Nature Conservation
Bavarian Environment Agency
Bürgermeister-Ulrich-Str. 160
D-86179 Augsburg

Tel.: 049-821-9071-5081, Fax: 049-821-9071-5621
e-mail: anton.mayer@lfu.bayern.de

Manfred Gerber Unit 63 - landscape planning, biotop-connections and protected areas
Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
Rosenkavalierplatz 2
D-91925 München

Tel.: 049-89/9214 - 3320; Fax: 089/9214 - 3497
e-mail: manfred.gerber@stmugv.bayern.de

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

26 June 2006

3. Country:

Federal Republic of Germany

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.

Bayerische Wildalm

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 .

Topographical map 1:50.000 L8336 Miesbach, topographical map 1:25.000 8336/84 Rottach-Egern – Quadrant 2, local map 1:5000 SO.027.08

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 southern border follows the state boundary of the Federal Republic of Germany versus the boundary of the Republic of Austria

The northern border is situated on the southern slopes between Halserspitz and Schaftlahnerkopf and thus is providing a buffer-zone for the whole fen- and mire area on the Bavarian side of the area "Bayerische Wildalm". This border is following some slope-springs, which feed the fen.

The western border is excluding the pasture-huts.

The eastern border ends before the little footpath from Wildbad Kreuth to Aschenbrenner Hütte.

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.

Geographical coordinates of the centre of the site = 47° 35' N 011° 47' E

Limits of the site = 011° 47,42' E 47° 35,32' N in western direction

Limits of the site = 011° 47,86' E 47° 35,27' N in eastern direction

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.

Country: Federal Republic of Germany, State: Bavaria, District: Regierungsbezirk Oberbayern, **Landkreis** Miesbach; local authority Gemeinde Kreuth

Nearest large town: Bad Toelz

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

The average elevation of the site is between 1.425 m and 1.470 m

11. Area: (in hectares)

The site includes approx. 7 hectares

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 northernmost part of the Bayerische Wildalm belongs to Bavaria and in geological terms to the area of the Northern Limestone Alps, the by far greater southern part belongs to Austria. (This part forms the Austrian RAMSAR-Area "Bayerische Wildalm and Wildalmfilz").

The site is a combination of a big fen area covering the whole bottom and the slopes of a Polje (Karst depression with a natural brook that vanishes into a Ponor) and a saddle bog connected by fens and wet meadows. The southern slope of the saddle is also covered by fens (in Austria).

The fens are mostly calcareous except for the bottom of the Polje where they tend to be more acidic (up to 2 m peat).

The mire concentration in this area is caused by a complicated geology with a mixture of marl (Kössener Schichten), dolomite (Hauptdolomit), different sorts of limestone (Plattenkalke, Jurakalke, Kreidegesteine, Rhätalk) and glacier deposits combined with the typical suboceanic mountain climate of the northernmost chains of the Limestone Alps.

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 Bayerische Wildalm area is a remarkable peatland concentration in the state of Bavaria. The mires show typical features of mire types representative for the Limestone Alps. The objects are near-natural or natural, only affected by horse grazing

Criterion 2:

The plant communities of the mires are endangered as are almost all wetland communities in Central Europe.

Annex I Habitat: Type 7110 (Active raised bogs (see also point 20 and 21)

Criterion 3:

The mires of Bayerische Wildalm represent a great and representative part of the plant communities typical for both the biogeographical region of the Northern Limestone Alps as well as the Prealps and therefore add an important part to the biodiversity of the region. Typical examples of plant species not occurring outside peatlands are *Carex limosa*, *Drosera cophocarpa*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Hierochloa odorata* and numerous moss species. (see also point 20 and 21)

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 (EEA regionalization scheme EU Habitats Directive)

Northern Alps – Northern Prealps nature area Mangfallgebirge – Blue Mountains

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Dietmair, G. (2001): Kare, Karst und Poljen. Geologisch-geomorphologische Beobachtungen im Ammergebirge und im südlichen Mangfallgebirge. Ber. Naturwissenschaftl. Verein. F. Schwaben e.V. Bd. 105: 9 – 40, Augsburg

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 Bayerische Wildalm Polje is a Karst depression with a natural brook that vanishes into several small and one big Ponor (swallow hole). The bottom of the Polje is covered completely by a fen which is hydrologically controlled by both water coming from the sloping fens along the Polje slopes and periodically floods of the brook. This happens usually in spring during the snow melt period when the Ponor is unable to let the whole amount of water pass trough. In the past this inundations even caused a periodical lake.

The slopes of the Polje are built up by different kinds of calcareous bedrock (Hauptdolomit in the northwest, Rāthkalke in the south, and Plattenkalk in the northwest) and the bottom is marl (Kössener Schichten). The Polje lies exactly at a transversal tectonic fault, that separates the Hauptdolomit from the limestone and marl formations (Dietmair 2001).

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

The catchment area of the Bayerische Wildalm is the Halser Spitze (1.800 m), which is part of the Mangfall Mountains and situated in the Northwest of the Polje. The prevailing land use there is forestry and some horses grazing in the pastures around the Polje. On the Austrian side there is some cattle grazing

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 limestone 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) Karst system
U Mires
M Brooks

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.

Due to the water regime of the Bayerische Wildalm described in Pt. 14 the hydrogenetic mire type of the fen on the Polje is outstanding. It is and has always been a mixture of paludification mire, terrestrialisation mire and inundation mire.

But the hydrology has changed during the last century. Floods and the formation of a lake in spring became rarer. This might be caused by a combination of

- land use in the past (up to the nineteenth century the forests of the region have been overused in order to provide enough fuel for the salt production in Hall and grazing was more intensive),
- a change in the runoff regime through the Ponders and
- of course the climate change itself since the last warmth-time with a change in the growth of the mire
- extraordinary cold micro-climate in the alpine kettle-situation of the Bayerische Wildalm (inversion of the temperature between the bottom of the site and its slopes)

At present, the vegetation indicates both - inclining precipitation influence resulting in bog initials and acid fen communities – as well as ongoing influence of groundwater maintaining communities typical for extremely wet calcareous fens (large areas of Bog Sedge Community subassociation of Drepanocladus revolvens).

Plant communities of the mires of Bayerische Wildalm are:

Sphagnetum magellanici (Peatmoss Community), Eriophoro vaginati-Trichophoretum cespitosi (Hairstail Cotton-grass-Deergrass Community), Caricetum limosae (Bog Sedge Community), Caricetum rostratae (Bottle Sedge Community), Caricetum nigrae (Common Sedge Community) on the bottom of the Polje and Caricetum davallianae (Davall Sedge Community) in the spring and percolation mires of the slopes.

Plant communities of the slopes in the buffer zone of Bayerische Wildalm are:

Seslerio-Caricetum sempervirentis (Alpine Grassland Community), Poion alpinae (Alpine Pastureland Community)

Annex I Habitat: Type 7110 (Active raised bogs)

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.*

Wet land flora:

Carex limosa, Drosera intermedia, Drosera rotundifolia, Eriophorum latifolium, Eriophorum angustifolium, Hierochloa odorata, Menyanthes trifoliata

Flora on the slopes:

Gentiana pannonica, Gentiana lutea, Gentiana clusii, Orchis ustulata, Traunsteinera globosa

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.*

Triturus spec.

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 Bayerische Wildalm and the surrounding landscape was only used for forestry, grazing and hunting. Because the use of the area as pasture is a very old right of the farmers, they are reluctant to give up these rights.

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:

Bavarian state Forestry - forest institution responsible for the area Forest division (Forstbetrieb)
Schliersee
Mesnergasse 3
D-83727 Schliersee

b) in the surrounding area:

Bavarian state Forestry - forest institution responsible for the area Forest division (Forstbetrieb)
Schliersee
Mesnergasse 3
D-83727 Schliersee

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Forestry outside the mires, hunting and pasturing

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry, hunting and pasturing

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:

Pasturing (horses)

b) in the surrounding area:

Pasturing

27. Conservation measures taken:

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

Protected area by Bayerisches Naturschutzgesetz article 13 d (Geschütztes Biotop ID-number 8436-0042)

See also:

Flora-Fauna-Habitat ID-number 8336-371.01 and Special-Protected-Area ID-number DE8336-471

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.

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?:

no

d) Describe any other current management practices:

no

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

no field-study in preparation and therefore no further proposals existing at this time

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

An information folder “Wandern und Bergsteigen umweltfreundlich im Rofan und um die Blauberge” published by the Section Kaufering of the DAV (German Alpine Society – deutscher Alpenverein e.V.)

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.

no

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Hiking, mountain biking (very low frequency - area is not suitable for biking)

32. Jurisdiction:

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

Bavarian State Forestry

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.

Stefan Pratsch

Forstbetrieb Schliersee

Mesnergasse 3

D-83727 Schliersee

T.: 08026/9293-200

mailto: stefan.pratsch@baysf.de or mailto: info-schliersee@baysf.de

and

Markus Kölbl

Bayerische Staatsforsten

Zentrale

Tillystr. 2

D-93053 Regensburg

T.: 0941/6909507

mailto: markus.koelbel@baysf.de or mailto: info@baysf.de

Josef Faas Unit Nature Protection

district-board (Landratsamt) Miesbach

Rosenheimer Strasse 1-3

D-83714 Miesbach

Tel.: 049-8025-704-254, Fax: 049-8025-704-289

e-mail: josef.faas@lra-mb.bayern.de

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Dietmair, G. (2001): Kare, Karst und Poljen. Geologisch-geomorphologische Beobachtungen im Ammergebirge und im südlichen Mangfallgebirge. Ber. Naturwissenschaftl. Verein. F. Schwaben e.V. Bd. 105: 9 – 40, Augsburg

Niklfeld, H. (1999): Rote Liste gefährdeter Pflanzen Österreichs. Grüne Reihe des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie Bd. 10: 292 pp., styria medien service, Graz

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

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