

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

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Name of wetland: Ostufer der Müritz

Date of Ramsar designation: 10.10.78

Geographical coordinates: 53°22'-53°27'N 12°40'-12°49'E

General location: Bundesland Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, SE of Waren/Müritz

Area: 4,832 ha

Wetland type: O, U

Altitude: 62.5 - 81.7 m above sea level

Overview: An area of woods, lakes, marshes and sedges, peatlands and pastures on the eastern shore of the largest inland lake in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The Ramsar site was identical to the Nature Reserve of the same name, and now forms part of the National Park Müritz.

Physical features: Large areas of the site lie within a rather feature-less type of glacial moraine typical for the Brandenburg area, mixed with sand formations (??) (exact translation not possible!). Below the Müritz-terrace, there is a 40 m strong layer of clay; formerly there used to be brick-works on site. In some areas the ground of Lake Müritz became terrestrial 200 years ago and now forms the foreland of Müritzhof with pastures and reedbeds. The water level of the Müritz is artificially regulated, and the water level of the smaller neighbouring lakes also depend on it. Due to the large water bodies the climate is cooler than around other inland lakes in Mecklenburg.

Ecological features: Woods, thickets and pine forestry cover ca. 50% of the area. Partially grazed chalk swaps, interspersed with hawthorn bushes, are dominant on the Müritz plateau (terrace); they are over-flowing into natural pasture, but also into intensive pasture. Former *Sphagnum*-peatlands have changed a lot due to peat extraction (?) and drainage. The lakes are of varying depths (0.5 m to 12 m), and of good water quality.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: Bundesland ownership

b) surrounding area: Bundesland ownership

Conservation measures taken: The area has been a Nature Reserve since 1967, and was managed according to governmental plans, the denaturalisation of the pastures, however, could not be prevented.

New management plans are being developed since the site was designated a National Park in 1990.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Many detailed management proposals failed because of political problems (the site was a governmental hunting reserve from 1970 to 1989).

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: agriculture (now declining), forestry, hunting (only cloven-hoofed game).

b) surroundings/catchment: agriculture, tourism, military use (now declining), water sport (illegal).

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: If the conversion from intensive to extensive grazing pasture is not successful or is not intended, a deterioration of the biological diversity has to be expected. Such planification by the National Park authorities is at present hardly on the agenda.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: Conversion of agricultural areas to reforestation cannot be judged as a positive development with regard to the Ramsar site.

Hydrological and physical values: not known.

Social and cultural values: Traditional fishery and hunting have to be judged positively from a cultural point of view.

Noteworthy fauna: breeding area for *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Grus grus*, *Anser anser* and "Nachtschwalbe";

Rich invertebrate fauna: so far little known.

Noteworthy flora: Rare species, for example:

Trichophorum alinum, *Juncus alpinus*, *Schoenus nigricans*, *Eriophorum latifolium*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, 2 *Drosera* spp.

Current scientific research and facilities: Population monitoring in National Park zone II.

Current conservation education: Walking and educational paths, observation hides, walking map of the National Park, information boards.

Current recreation and tourism: see conservation education.

Management authority: National Park authority, O-2061 Speck, Schloss (castle) Speck.

Jurisdiction: Ministerium für Umwelt und Natur Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Bibliographical references: no information supplied.

Reasons for inclusion: 1 (b), 2 (a), 3 (b)

Map of site: not enclosed!