

## Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:** 2 June 1998
2. **Country:** Germany
3. **Name of wetland:** Rheinauen between Eltville and Bingen (Fulderaue and Ilmenaue nature reserves)

4. **Geographical coordinates:**

50 North latitude  
8 East longitude

5. **Altitude:** approximately 80 metres above sea level

6. **Area:** 565.75 hectares (341 hectares in Rheinland-Pfalz, Fulderaue and Ilmenaue, and 224.75 hectares in Hessen, Mariannaue and Rüdeshheimerau)

7. **Overview:**

A river wetland with important areas of shallow backwaters acting as a feeding area for waterfowl and a breeding and resting place for waders and other waterfowl. The area is divided into two sections: first a portion of the Rhine among islands and engineering works with shallow river areas; second, orchard and farm land with gullies created by the former Rhine and wooded areas.

8. **Wetland type:** M, N

9. **Ramsar criteria:** 3b

10. **Map of site included?** Please tick yes -or- no

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

Landesamt für Umweltschutz und Gewerbeaufsicht Rheinland-Pfalz  
Amtsgerichtsplatz 1  
55276 Oppenheim  
Tel.: (49 6133) 9450-0  
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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page:** The most important aspect of this area is its role as a rest stop and wintering area (see annex 2).

13. **General location:** In the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, in the Mainz-Bingen district, between Bingen and Mainz.

14. **Physical features:**

The wetlands are formed on river sediments several metres thick. Over coarse sand and gravels, there is a fine sand and

loamy clay layer. Because of late melting of snow in the Alps and heavy summer rains in the basin, water in the Rhine is usually high from spring to early summer. In autumn and winter, the water level is usually low. Average annual precipitation is approximately 550 mm, and the average annual temperature is 9-10 C.

**15. Hydrological values:**

There are water table observation wells.

**16. Ecological features:**

The vegetation of the river wetlands can be divided into three areas: an unforested wetland, a softwood wetlands and hardwood wetlands. The unwooded areas are found only in only a small portion of this wetland. The softwoods develop on the islands and in Sporkenheimer Altrhein as groves of willows. Most of the area is covered with hardwood trees, which is the natural vegetation on the Fulderaue. Except for occasional poplar groves, the hardwood wetlands are used for agriculture for grazing, cultivation or for orchards.

**17. Noteworthy flora:** See annex 1

**18. Noteworthy fauna:** See annex 2

**19. Social and cultural values:** forestry, sport fishing, hunting and water sports

**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** At the site, the federal government is the owner of the shallow water area, the river banks and the islands.

In the surrounding area, land is owned by private owners.

**21. Current land use:**

At the site, forestry, agriculture, sport fishing, recreation and water sports (boating and windsurfing)

In the surrounding area, orchards and agriculture

**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:**

At the site, forestry, agriculture, nature excursions, boating and windsurfing, marinas, fishing and hunting

In the surrounding area, forestry, agriculture, recreational activities, camping sites, hunting, the A 60/E 42 motorway.

**23. Conservation measures taken:**

This area was declared a nature reserve in November 1972. This area was declared a wetland of international importance in 1976.

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

Conservation and development plan for the Fulderaue-Ilmenaue nature area was revised in November 1996.

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

There is a conservation centre of the Naturschutzbundes Deutschland (Nabu) in Bingen-Gaulsheim.

**26. Current conservation education:**

There are information activities on conservation topics held at the Nabu conservation centre.

**27. Current recreation and tourism:**

Sport fishing, boating and windsurfing in the area of shallow water. Camping area in the buffer area.

**28. Jurisdiction:**

Ministerium für Umwelt und Forsten  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse 7  
55116 Mainz

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr, Landwirtschaft und  
Weinbau  
Stiftsstrasse 9  
55116 Mainz

**29. Management authority:**

Bezirksregierung Rheinhessen-Pfalz  
(Obere Landespflegebehörde und Forstdirektion)  
Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse 14  
67433 Neustadt/W

**30. Bibliographical references:**

Hessische Landesanstalt für Umwelt, Wiesbaden, 1988. LfUG Rheinland-Pfalz: Biotopsystem Nördliche Oberrheinniederung (Bestandsanalyse und Entwicklungsvorschläge). Bonn, Karlsruhe, Oppenheim, Wiesbaden.

LfUG Oppenheim, 1996. Pflege- und Entwicklungsplanung (PEP) für das NSG Fulderaue-Ilmenaue (draft).

LfUG (editor), 1991. Artenschutzprojekt "Stromtalwiesen" in Rheinland-Pfalz. Institut für Vegetationskunde und Landschaftsökologie, Oppenheim.